



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL



Spokane Police Department
2019 Annual Comprehensive Analysis of Reviewable
Use of Force Incidents



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Executive Summary

The Spokane Police Department (SPD) is committed to protecting people, their property, and their rights. The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use objectively reasonable force in carrying out their duties. The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use objectively reasonable force and to protect themselves and the public requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.

The primary purpose of the Comprehensive Analysis of Reviewable Use of Force Incidents is to provide the Spokane Police Department information about officers' use of force and trends associated with use of force. The analysis provides information on many factors involving the subjects and involved officers, as well as environmental details. The document also describes the training issues identified during the incident review. SPD's Training Unit and the Training Plan Committee use the information in the report to assist in their development of training curriculum.

The report also serves to inform the community about use of force. The analysis and prior year analysis reports, along with narratives about each use of force incident, are available on SPD's website at the following link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/accountability/use-of-force/>

Trends Identified in the Annual Comprehensive Analysis

Ratio of Use of Force Incidents per Citizen Contacts Is Low

The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (00.70%). In 2019, SPD officers were involved in 116,168 incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 117 incidents in 2019.

Use of Force Incidents versus Arrests Ratios are Low across Demographics

Comparing the 2019 City of Spokane Police Department arrest demographics with the use of force demographics shows that officers used force on 1.1-4.3% of subjects arrested.

- 267 Hispanic individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 1.1%.
- 5,444 White individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 1.5%.
- 738 Black/African-American individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 1.8%.
- 368 Native American individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 2.5%.
- 161 Asian/Pacific Islander individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 4.3%.



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Most Incidents Associated with Calls for Service

Use of force incidents continue to stem most often from officers responding to a call for service, rather than officer-initiated contacts, or contact from assisting another agency. 2019 data showed that 87 (74%) of the 117 use of force incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 or Crime Check calls. In 28 (24%) of incidents, the officer initiated contact, often during proactive police work involving stolen vehicles. Two incidents (2%) originated from involved officers assisting other agencies, such as security at a grocery store and Spokane County Detention Services. This trend has continued over the past five years, and confirms the majority of uses of force are associated with calls for service requests.

Prevalence of Incidents Related to Domestic Violence (DV) Calls

Domestic Violence (DV) calls continue to be the most common type of call resulting in a use of force. In 2019, DV-related calls (including a wide variety of classifications from DV protection order violations to DV Assault) made up 17% of use of force incidents. In 2018, DV-related calls made up 23% of incidents. DV-related calls have been the most common type of call involving a use of force incident for the past six years.

Due to the prevalence of domestic violence in Spokane, and the dangers associated with responding to these types of calls, SPD trains officers using Reality Based Training (RBT) scenarios that involve responding to DV calls. RBT sessions provide officers opportunities to apply de-escalation, crisis intervention, use of force, and patrol procedures training in the context of a domestic violence call.



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2019 Use of Force – At a Glance

- **2019 Annual Total of Non-deadly UOF:** 117 use of force incidents.
- **2019 Annual Total of Deadly UOF:** 4 deadly use of force incidents.
- **UOF Frequency per Incidents:** The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low. In 2019, SPD officers were involved in 116,168 incidents, and used non-deadly force in 117 incidents.
- **Origin:** Incidents most often develop from a call for service (911 call).
- **Call type:** Most commonly a Domestic Violence (DV) call.
- **Reason for Force:** Most commonly, involved person was assaulting officers.
- **Type of Force used:** Most frequently, a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint.
- **Environment:** Most often occurring in Downtown.
- **Day and Time:** Most often occurring on Thursdays and Sundays, and during Noon-3:00 pm and 9:00 pm-Midnight.
- **Intoxication:** Drugs and/or alcohol played a part in 66% of incidents.
- **Mental Status:** Subjects were documented as appearing to be mentally unstable in 35 (30%) of the 117 use of force incidents in 2019. Specifically, individuals were identified as mentally unstable without drug and alcohol intoxication in 9 of those 35 cases. In 26 of the 35 cases, officers noted possible mental health issues along with alcohol and/or drug intoxication.
- **Incident Outcome:** Most often a felony arrest of the involved subject.
- **Officer Demographics:** Most often a White officer, average age 39 years old, with 10 years of experience with SPD.
- **Investigation Outcome:** One incident was found to be in violation of the Use of Force policy. The other 116 incidents were determined to be within policy.
- **Secondary Review:** Each UOF incident receives a secondary review by the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB). The UOFRB debriefs incidents to evaluate training, equipment needs, and policy/standard operating procedure (SOPs) in place or practiced department-wide.
- **Training Issues:** Issues addressed on the individual level and department-wide level included tactical issues, such as the need to wait for backup officers; report writing; criminal procedures; professional language; and activating body-worn cameras before exiting the car.



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Introduction

Total Use of Force Incidents

This report analyzes non-deadly applications of force (e.g., Lateral Neck Restraint, TASER™ device deployment). There were 122 reviewable non-deadly uses of force in 2019. After removing five duplicate tracking numbers, the finalized total is 117 non-deadly use of force incidents. Four deadly force incidents occurred in 2019; those incidents are not part of this analysis.

Reviewable Use of Force with Chain of Command Review

Reviewable uses of force involve an officer's deployment of control tactics and/or control devices for which officers have successfully completed department-required training. When a person allows himself/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed or restrained, it is not considered a reviewable use of force; it is considered compliance. Less intrusive control tactics are not normally deemed a "Reviewable Use of Force." For example, when an officer uses his body weight to control a suspect while handcuffing the person in the prone position, that situation would not require a use of force investigation. However, if an injury occurred that is not consistent with an applied control technique or tactic, or if the subject complains of injury, a use of force investigation would occur. Most reviewable use of force incidents occur when an officer uses a physical tactic or device, such as a Lateral Neck Restraint or TASER™ device. Spokane Police Department also categorizes the intentional pointing of a firearm at a subject as a reviewable use of force incident, although it does not involve the application of physical force.

Reviewable Non-Deadly Use of Force Applications

- Any application causing a visible injury (with the exception of minor marks on the wrist consistent with being handcuffed or minor marks as a result of prone handcuffing)
- The subject claims an injury resulted from a use of force, even if no injury is visible (with the exception of minor marks on the wrist consistent with being handcuffed and/or minor marks or abrasions to portions of the body consistent with prone handcuffing)
- All applications of Lateral Neck Restraint (Level I and Level II)
- All applications of a Conducted Energy Weapon (e.g., TASER™)
- The intentional discharge of firearms (with the exception of training or recreation)
- Intentional pointing of a firearm - where the officer is intentionally "pointed in" (muzzle is covering the subject) with their firearm, with the intent to use the firearm in defense of themselves or another



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- Any deployment of chemical agents OC or CS by means of spray or by means of physically or mechanically delivered techniques where a person is exposed to the substance
- Any application of an impact weapon whether personal, issued or improvised to a subject (e.g., baton strikes, knee strikes)
- Any K9 deployment where a reviewable contact has occurred
- When an individual alleges any of the above has occurred

Use of Force Policy Update

Spokane Police Department updated the existing Use of Force policy and added a De-Escalation Policy in October 2019. The changes reflect what the department's training philosophy on de-escalation has been in place but was not officially listed in policy.

The De-Escalation policy defined de-escalation as: "De-escalation tactics and techniques are actions used by officers, when safe to do so, that seek to minimize the likelihood of the need to use force or reduce the level of necessary force during an incident and increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance. Mitigating the immediacy of a threat gives officers time to utilize extra resources and increases time available to call more officers or specialty units."

This policy provides the Spokane Police Department's core principles relating to the use of de-escalation tactics. "When encountering a non-compliant subject, officers shall, when safe and feasible, use de-escalation tactics in an effort to reduce the need for, or degree of, force necessary to safely resolve a situation. It is recognized that every situation is unique and fact-specific; not all tactics are appropriate in every circumstance. It is not required that officers use every technique below during every incident. The over-arching objective of de-escalation is to make a situation less dangerous for the public, the officers, and the subject involved. The subject's actions, type of weapon(s), presence of hostages, and overall risk to the general public and the involved officers will be important considerations in determining which tactics are appropriate in a particular scenario."

The policy lists different options that are available to officers, such as:

- Allow subjects the opportunity to submit to arrest before force is used.
- Attempt to isolate and contain the subject.
- Create time and distance from the subject by creating a buffer zone (reactionary gap) and utilize cover to avoid creating an immediate threat that may require the use of force.
- Request the arrival of specialty units / additional resources, such as the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers, Crisis/Hostage Negotiation Team, or extended range impact weapons.
- The number of officers on scene may increase the available force options and may increase the ability to reduce the overall force used.
- Communication from a safe position intended to gain the subject's compliance using verbal persuasion, advisements, and warnings.
- Avoidance of physical confrontation, unless necessary.



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- Designate an officer to establish rapport and engage in communication and apply verbal techniques with the subject.
- Tactically reposition, if safe to do so, as often as reasonably necessary to maintain a reactionary gap.
- Continue de-escalation techniques as reasonably necessary to resolve the incident.
- Any other tactics and approaches that attempt to achieve law enforcement objectives by gaining the compliance of the subject.

Both the De-Escalation and Use of Force policies include language that emphasize the department's commitment to de-escalation. "Police officers have been delegated the responsibility to protect life and property and apprehend criminal offenders. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission with respect and a minimal reliance on the use of force by using rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force, when circumstances permit."

Investigation and Administrative Review of Use of Force

When a use of force incident occurs, the involved officer's supervisor utilizes Blue Team software to generate the use of force report. Blue Team reports contain the administrative review and supplemental documents such as police reports, radio transmissions, and investigative summary narratives. The chain of command (sergeant, lieutenant, captain) reviews the Blue Team report before sending to a Major for the final determination. This review process guarantees multiple levels of review and ensures that the application of force is in compliance with policy and law, and meets department expectations. See "Non-Deadly Use of Force Investigation" flow chart at the end of the report for more information.

This review process measures the objective reasonableness of each application of force considering the following:

- The threat factors pertaining to victims, public, officers and the involved subject
- The subject's resistance level/ability and attempts to flee officer control efforts
- The severity of the crime or community care-taking elements of the incident

The review also takes into consideration the involved officers' level of training and experience and the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions during situations that are often tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving. After the final determination, the use of force report is then distributed to the involved officer(s)' chain of command, and executive-level leadership (Major, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Assistant Chief, and Chief).

The Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) conducts a secondary review of all non-deadly use of force incidents. The UOFRB meets monthly to debrief use of force incidents with the intent to evaluate training, equipment needs, and policy/standard operating procedure (SOPs) in place or practiced department-wide. The UOFRB only reviews incidents that have received a final determination from the Chief or designee, and the UOFRB does not recommend discipline or conduct investigations in unresolved use of force incidents. UOFRB members include SPD's Training



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Director, Assistant Training Director, Range master/Firearms Instructor, Internal Affairs Lieutenant, Defensive Tactics Instructors (subject matter experts), Program Professional, and Police Ombudsman representative.



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Use of Force Data: January 1, 2019-December 31, 2019

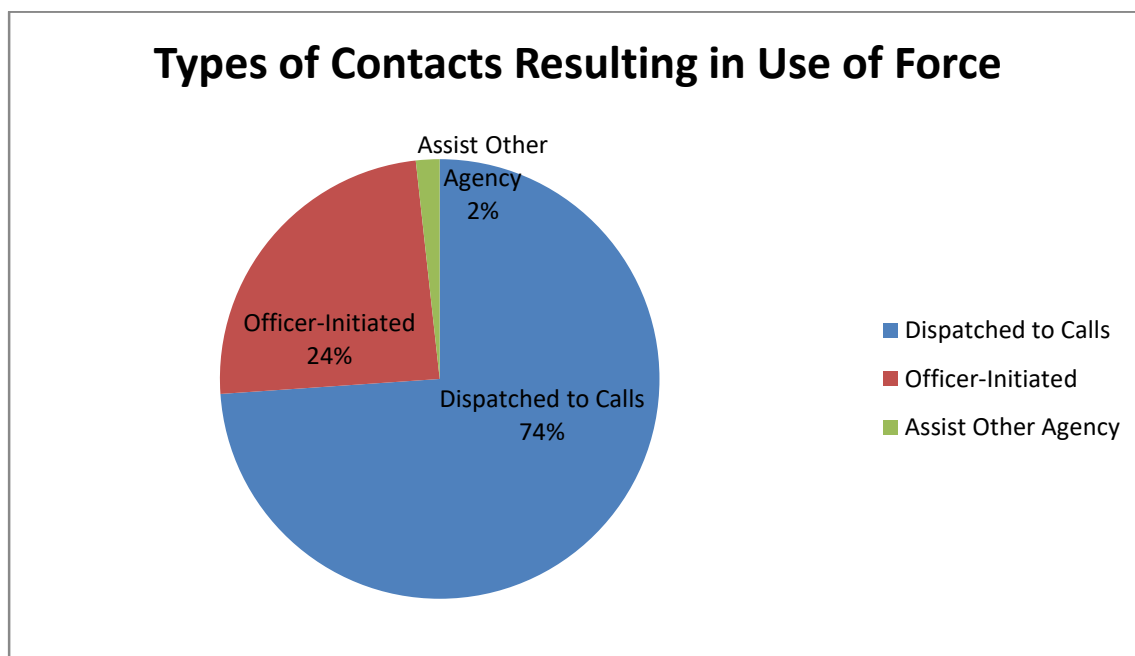
Total Reviewable Use of Force Incidents versus Citizen Contacts

Use of force numbers are often compared against the total number of police-citizen contacts. It is difficult to provide a definitive number of police-citizen contacts, as there are many informal contacts and non-enforcement contacts with citizens (e.g., partnerships, meetings, business contacts, and outreach). Examining total calls for service numbers can be helpful, as these numbers provide context to the large quantity of interactions between SPD and the community that occur every year. While we know most incidents involve multiple parties, and contacts per incident, the number of incidents provides the absolute minimum number of community contacts.

In 2019, officers were involved in a total of 116,168 incidents. This number includes calls for service and officer-initiated incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 117 incidents in 2019. The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (00.70%). In 2018, SPD officers used non-deadly force in 113 incidents. At 117 total non-deadly use of force incidents in 2019, SPD's annual total is 22% less than 2013, which had 147 non-deadly use of force incidents, despite an increase in personnel since 2013.

Calls for Service versus Officer-Initiated Contacts

Figure 1



Use of force incidents continue to stem most often from officers responding to a call for service, rather than court-ordered contacts, officer-initiated contacts, or contact from assisting another agency. 2019 data showed that 87



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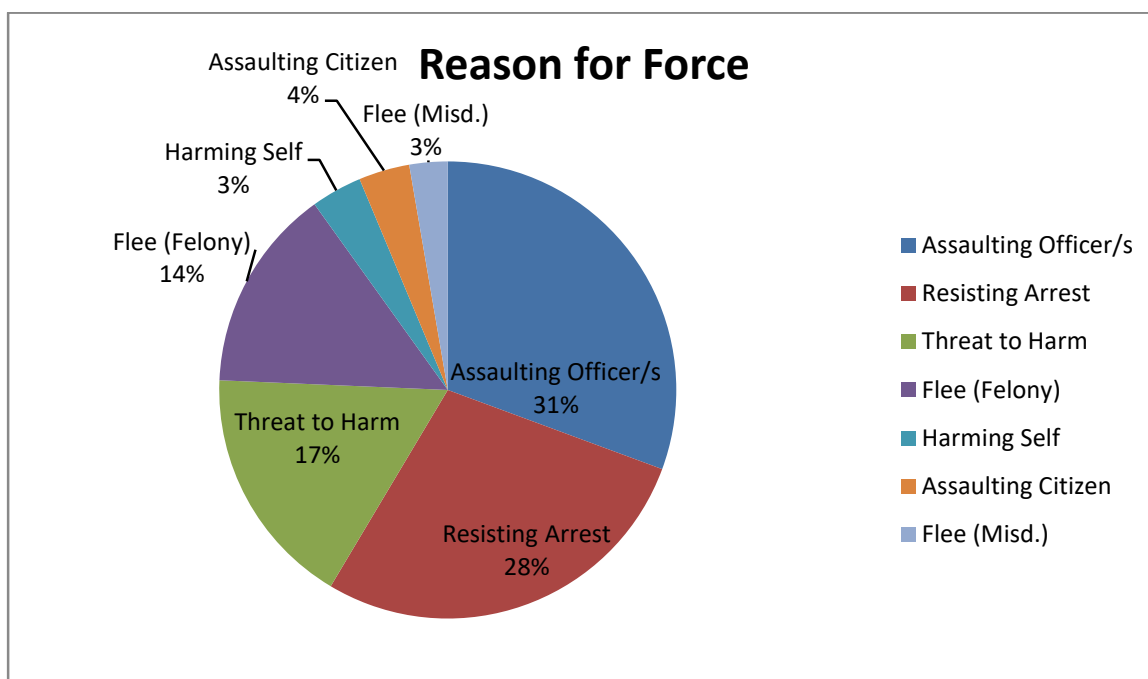
(74%) of the 117 use of force incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 or Crime Check calls. In 28 (24%) of incidents, the officer initiated contact, often during proactive police work involving stolen cars. Two incidents (2%) originated from involved officers assisting other agencies, such as security at a grocery store and Spokane County Detention Services. This trend has continued over the past five years, and confirms the majority of uses of force are associated with calls for service requests. See Figure 1.

Type of Call

Domestic Violence-related calls were the most common type of call resulting in a reviewable use of force. DV-related calls (including a wide variety of classifications from DV protection order violations to DV Assault) made up 17% of incidents. Other common types of calls resulting in force included Burglary/Alarm (8%), Person with a Weapon (8%), Assault (5%), Traffic Stop (5%), and Fight (5%). Other incidents involving use of force included call classifications such as Argument, Assist Other Agency, Stabbing, Check Welfare, Accident, Suspicious Circumstances, etc.

Reason for Force

Figure 2



Spokane Police officers are required to document the circumstances of use of force incidents and articulate the reason that they used force. The most common reason was assaulting officer/s, followed by resisting arrest. An example of a Felony Flee would be a situation in which an armed robbery suspect flees the scene and hides in a nearby abandoned building, and patrol officers request K9 assistance. The K9 then locates and apprehends the suspect. See Figure 2.



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Resistance Threshold Guidelines

During the process of choice and application of reasonably applied force, officers are trained to identify, interpret, predict and evaluate resistance from a subject(s). Resistance thresholds will assist as a guide in force decision-making. However, resistance thresholds alone will not determine the reasonableness of applied force whether excessive or insufficient.

Level of Resistance

Objectively Reasonable Officer Response

Compliant:

Presence
Verbal Commands/Draw and Direct
Compliant Handcuffing
Cursory Search for Weapons
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Passive:

Escort Compliance Techniques (Joint Locks)
Neuromuscular Control
Passive Resistant Handcuffing
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Active:

Active Resistant Handcuffing
Takedown Techniques
Roll Over Techniques
Level I Neck Restraint
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Assaultive:

Impact Techniques
Level II Neck Restraint
OC / CS spray
TASER™
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Life Threatening:

Firearms
Weapon Retention Techniques
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Level of Resistance Definitions:



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- Compliant: Cooperative response to lawful commands.
- Passive: Noncompliance to lawful authority without physical resistance or mechanical enhancement.
- Active: Use of physical effort or mechanical resistance in achieving and/or maintaining noncompliance.
- Assaultive: Noncompliance perceived as, or resulting in, an actual assault on an individual or officer. The scope and severity of the attack would support the reasonable assumption that the actions would not result in death or serious bodily harm.
- Aggravated Assaultive/Life Threatening: Noncompliance perceived as, or resulting in, an actual assault on an individual or officer. The scope and severity of the attack would support the reasonable assumption that the actions would result in death or serious bodily harm.

Tactical Interaction Commitment

Interaction with citizens is a primary function for the officers of the Spokane Police Department. It will be the intent of every officer to demonstrate five interaction tactics. The first tactic will be maintained regardless of the situation. The next four will be implemented when safety of the officer, subject, citizens and property allow.

- Treat all people with dignity and respect.
- When practical, ask people instead of order.
- When practical, explain why we are asking.
- When practical, give them options that will allow them to save face yet achieve the desired goal.
- When practical, give the subject at least one additional chance to comply.

Tips for Safety

The ACLU Washington published a wallet card entitled "Know Your Rights When Stopped by the Police." The card includes the following Tips for Safety:

- Stay calm and stay put. Don't run or suddenly move.
- Keep your hands where the officer can see them and free of any objects if possible.
- Never touch any police officer.
- Follow instructions. You can always make a complaint later if you feel your rights were violated.



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Law Enforcement and ACLU Washington agree on the need to educate people on these safety tips. Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, says, "As we talk about de-escalation, better training, and all the things we in law enforcement can do to reduce uses of force... this list can and should provide the basis for a wide-ranging public education effort. This would likely have an even greater effect on safety for everyone, including suspects, bystanders, and law enforcement." SPD instructors convey these safety tips to the public at community presentations and classes at the Citizens Academy.

The wallet card is available at this link: <https://www.aclu-wa.org/docs/what-do-if-you-are-stopped-police-0>.



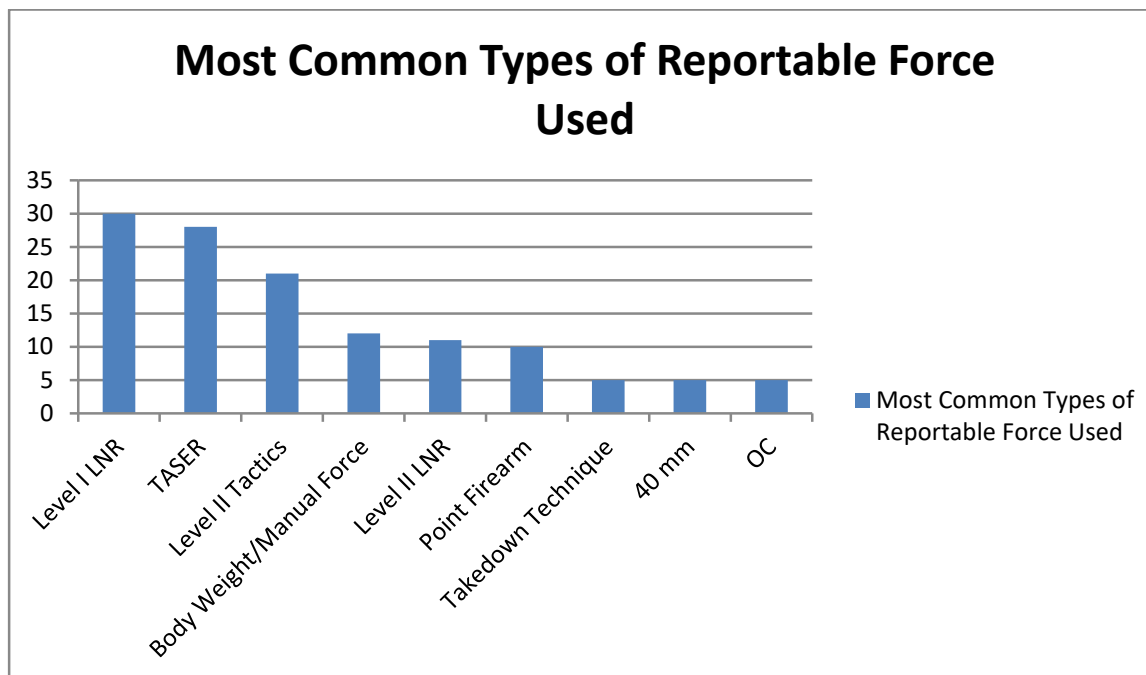
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Type of Force

Figure 3



Many of the incidents involved multiple officers and more than one type of force. For example, while taking a subject into custody, one officer might use a Takedown Technique while another officer uses a TASER™ device.

The use of a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint and use of TASER™ device were the most frequent types of reviewable force used by officers in 2019. Officers used these two types of force most frequently from 2016-2018 as well. See Figure 3.

Frequently Used Applications of Reviewable Force

- Officers used the Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR)* in 30 incidents.
- Officers deployed a TASER™ device in 28 incidents.
- Officers used Level II tactics in 21 incidents.
- In 12 incidents, body weight/manual force and/or handcuffing techniques causing minor injury was reported as the sole type of force used.



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Less Frequently Used Applications

- Officers used the Level II LNR application in 11 incidents.
- The intentional pointing of a firearm application was utilized in ten incidents.
- Takedown techniques causing injury were used as a reviewable use of force in five incidents.
- Impact weapons (40 mm/beanbag shotguns) were deployed in five incidents. Other impact weapons (baton) was used in one incident.
- Officers deployed OC/CS spray, commonly known as pepper spray, in five incidents.

*A Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) is a control technique that involves an officer placing pressure on the sides of the subject's neck, compressing arteries and veins. The LNR affects the circulatory system while leaving the airway unobstructed and protected during the deployment of this control technique. The Level I LNR involves lighter pressure, as the officer does not intend to render the subject unconscious; in many cases, the subject is compliant once placed in the hold. An officer deploying a Level II LNR control technique does so with the intention of rendering the subject temporarily unconscious.

K9 Applications

Use of force incidents involving K9 contacts totaled 25 for the year 2019. K9 applications are only an option for the six SPD officers partnered with K9s. SPD uses K9s extensively and often deploys K9s to help other law enforcement agencies. The K9 team at the end of 2019 had the following results: 1168 deployments to assist with tracking, building searches, perimeter security, evidence finds, and suspect apprehension; 257 arrests with K9 involvement, with a contact ratio of 8%. Industry best practices suggest that the contact to apprehension ratio should be below 20%, based on *Kerr v City of West Palm Beach*.

Effectiveness of Frequently Used Techniques

For the last four years, the SPD training unit has been tracking how often the TASER™ device and Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) applications were effective in the safe apprehension of subjects.

In 2019, officers used the Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) more frequently than any other type of application- in 30 incidents. In 26 (87%) of those incidents, officers used a Level I LNR application with body weight and handcuffing techniques. No other application of force was needed in order to take the subject into custody.

Four incidents involved other force applications in addition to the Level I LNR.

- In one incident, the technique was not successful due to body positioning of the officer and subject during the struggle; another officer used a TASER™ device to take the individual into custody.



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- In one incident, the officer began with a Level I LNR application and then transitioned to a Level II LNR application. He was unable to render the subject unconscious due to the subject's level of resistance, but other officers came on scene and helped handcuff him.
- In one incident, the officer transitioned from a Level I application to a Level II application when he noticed the subject pull a rock out of his pocket. The assisting officer used a modified shoulder joint lock technique to control the male's arm that was holding the rock. The suspect dropped the rock and they handcuffed him without further incident.
- In one incident, an officer used a TASER™ on the subject, which temporarily incapacitated him and he fell to the ground. He continued to resist, and a second officer attempted a Level I LNR. He was not able to successfully apply the technique. The other officer used Level II strikes to gain compliance.

The Level I LNR technique resulted in a high level of success and very low level of injury. The Level I LNR is considered a control hold, and a less-intrusive force option that officers can use when subjects are actively resisting. It can be an excellent option, but requires close proximity to the subject, and ideal body positioning. If the subject is holding a weapon, officers need to use a different force option that is effective from a distance (i.e., TASER™, OC, K9, firearm). Going "hands on" with an armed person greatly increases the risk to the subject and the officer.

In 2019, TASER™ device applications were the second most frequent type of force used; officers used the TASER™ device in 28 incidents.

In 17 (61%) of the incidents, the application was successful. 11 incidents experienced issues with the application. In six of the cases, application of the TASER™ device was eventually successful but the first application failed. In five incidents, the TASER™ was not effective at all, most often due to probes not making desired contact with the subject because of the subject's heavy clothing or other inadequate probe connections.

The TASER™ device can be an excellent tool in situations where distance is present between the officer and subject, thereby increasing the officer's reactionary and/or decision-making time. Ideally, officers should be 12-15 feet from the subject for an accurate deployment, but factors of movement and heavy clothing also affect the accuracy of the deployment. Generally, officers are authorized to use the TASER™ device when confronting assaultive behavior rather than active resistance (see Resistance Threshold Guidelines), so this application is not always an option.

SPD provides annual in-service training on use of force policies and decision-making. During the annual Defensive Tactics training, officers re-certify with control tactics and devices, such as the LNR and TASER™ device. In all situations involving use of force decision-making, law enforcement's goal is to minimize injury and maximize control.



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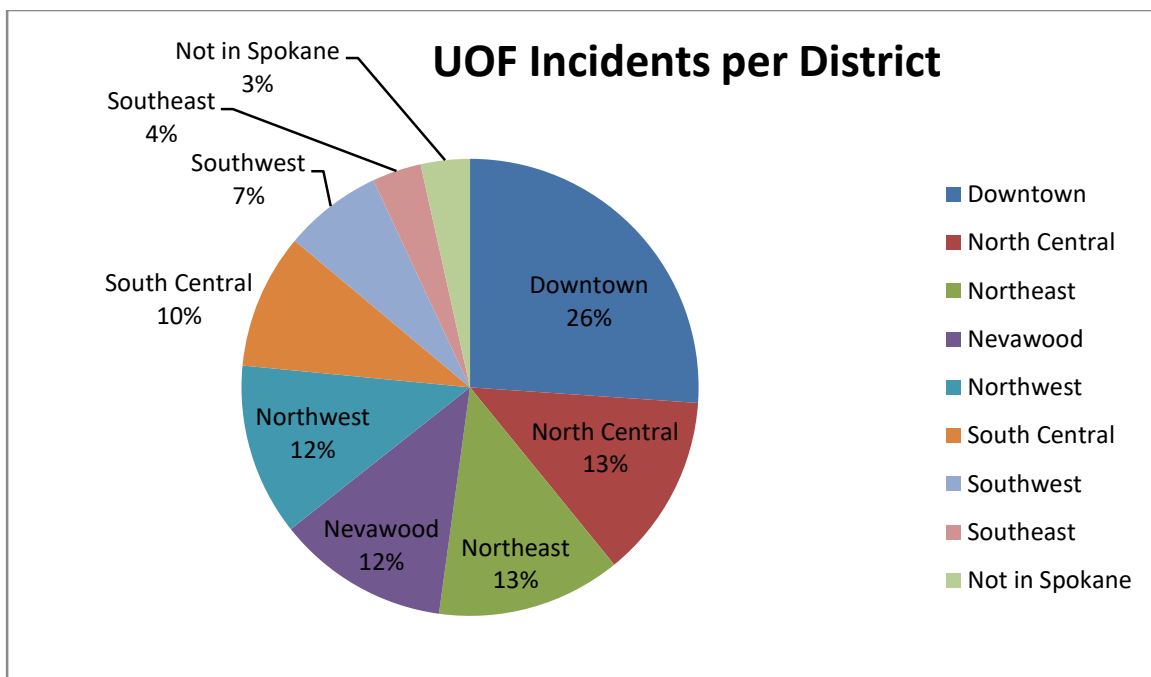
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Environmental Characteristics

Police District (Neighborhood)

Figure 4



Use of force incidents took place most often in the Downtown police district in 2019. Use of force incidents also occurred most frequently in the Downtown police district from 2016-2018. See Figure 4.



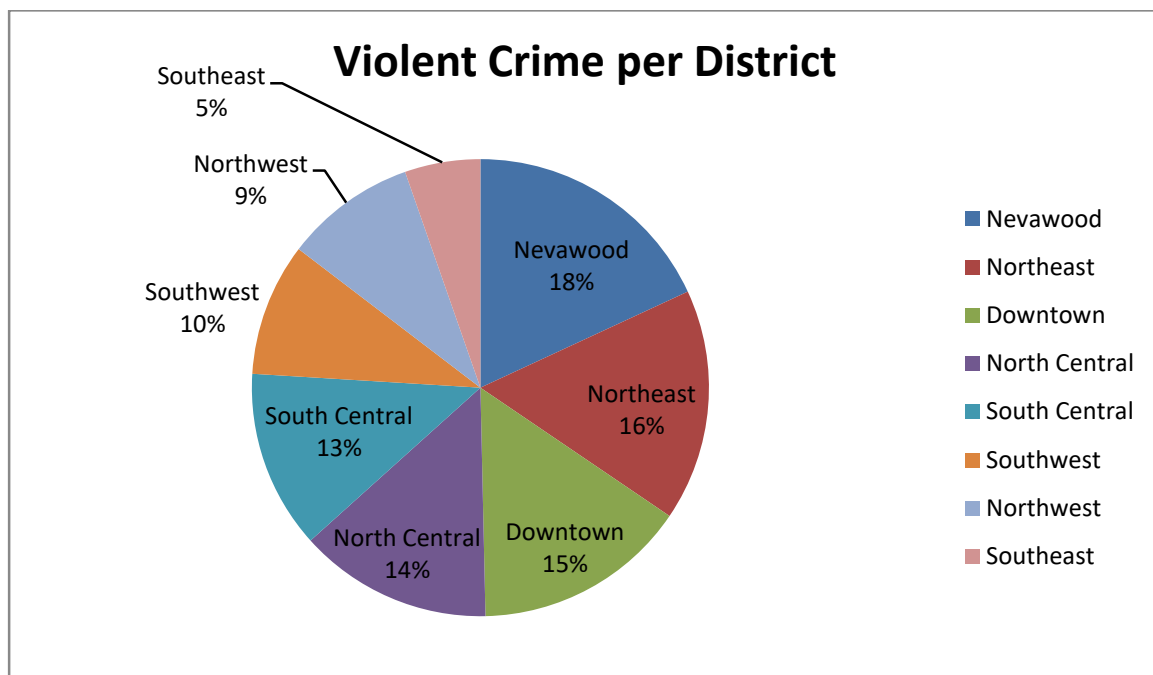
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Violent Crime per District (Neighborhood)

Figure 5



Violent crime statistics were the highest in Nevawood, Northeast, and Downtown police districts. Refer to Figures 4 and 5, and to the attached map of the districts.



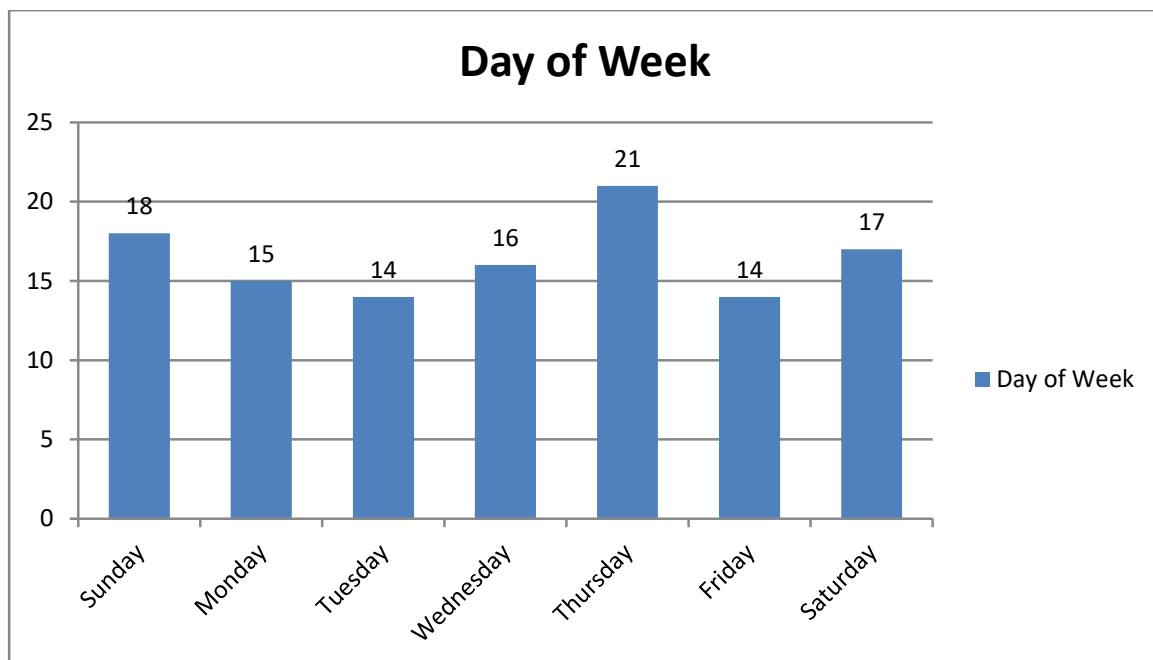
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Day of the Week

Figure 6



2019 data indicated that use of force incidents occurred most frequently on Thursdays and Sundays. See Figure 6.



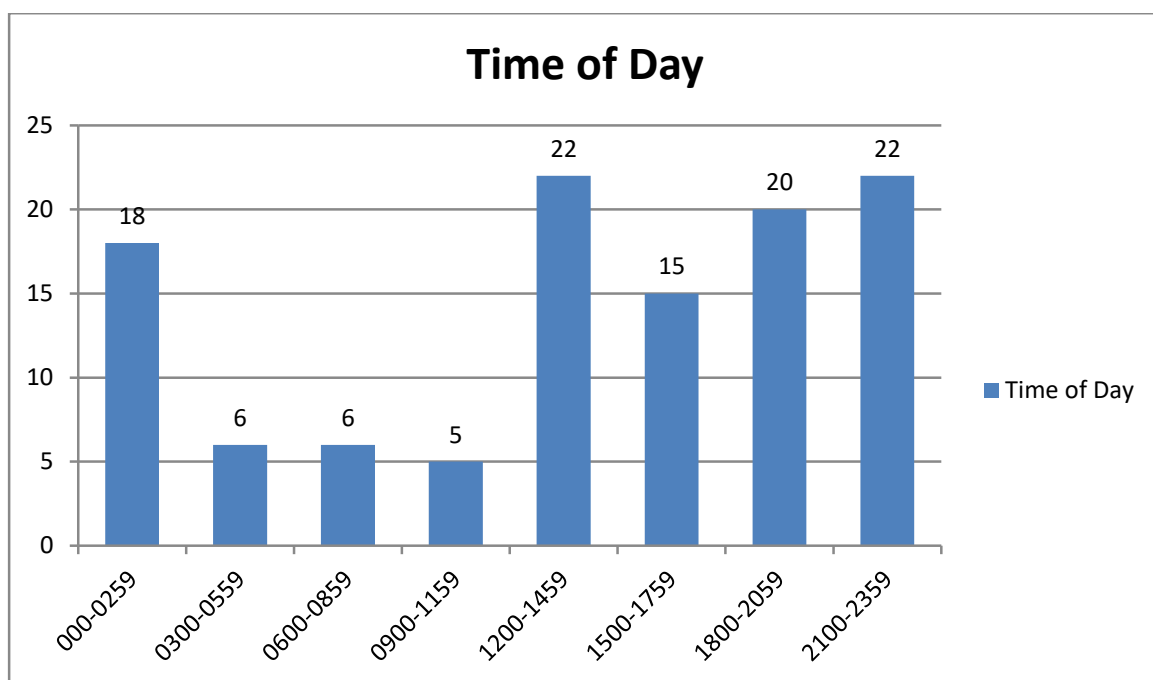
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Time of Day

Figure 7



2019 use of force incidents occurred most often between 1200-1459 (noon-3:00 pm), which includes Day and Swing shifts, and the time frame of 2100-2359 (9:00 pm-Midnight), which includes Power and Grave shifts.

Day Shift Patrol hours are from 0600-1640. Swing shift hours are from 1000-2040. Power Shift hours are from 1600-0240. Grave Shift hours are from 2000-0640. See Figure 7.



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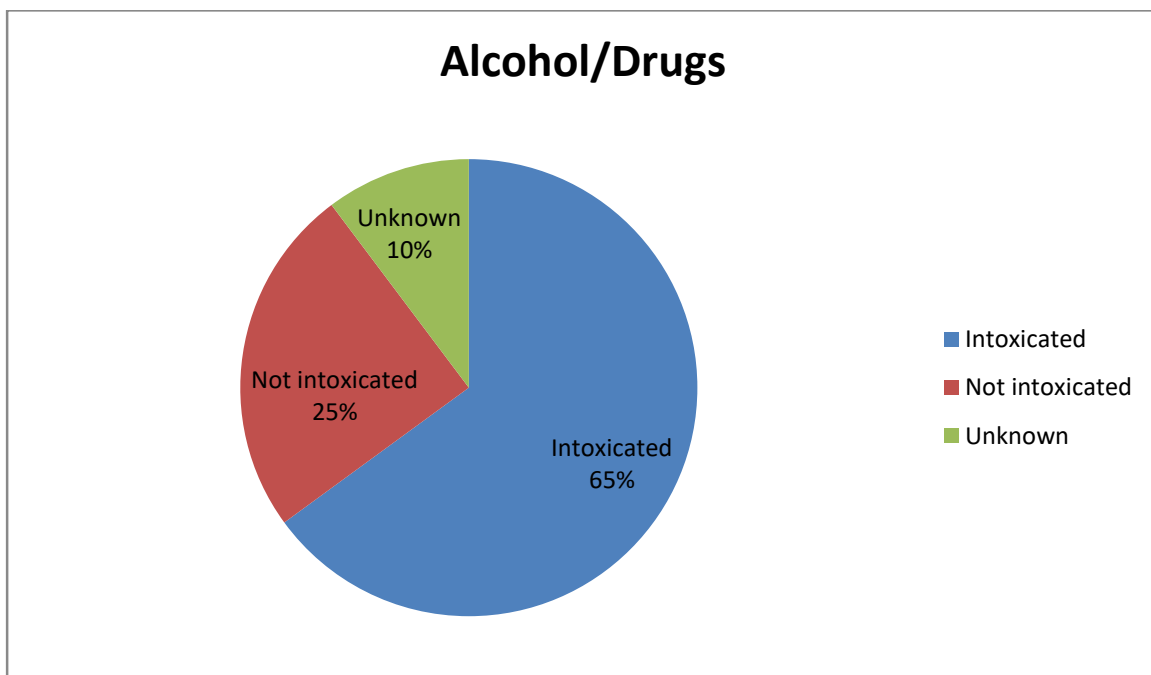
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Subject Characteristics

Subject under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs

Figure 8



76 of the 117 (65%) of the involved subjects were documented to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. It is difficult to determine the extent of drug and alcohol use in the incidents, as sometimes subjects are in possession of drugs but claim not to be under the influence at the time of the incident. It is also difficult to discern which drug/s or which combination of drugs that subjects are using. In twelve (10%) incidents, the supervisor reported that the subject's behavior was unusual due to unknown reasons (alcohol, drugs, mental health issues, or a combination of those factors). See Figure 8.



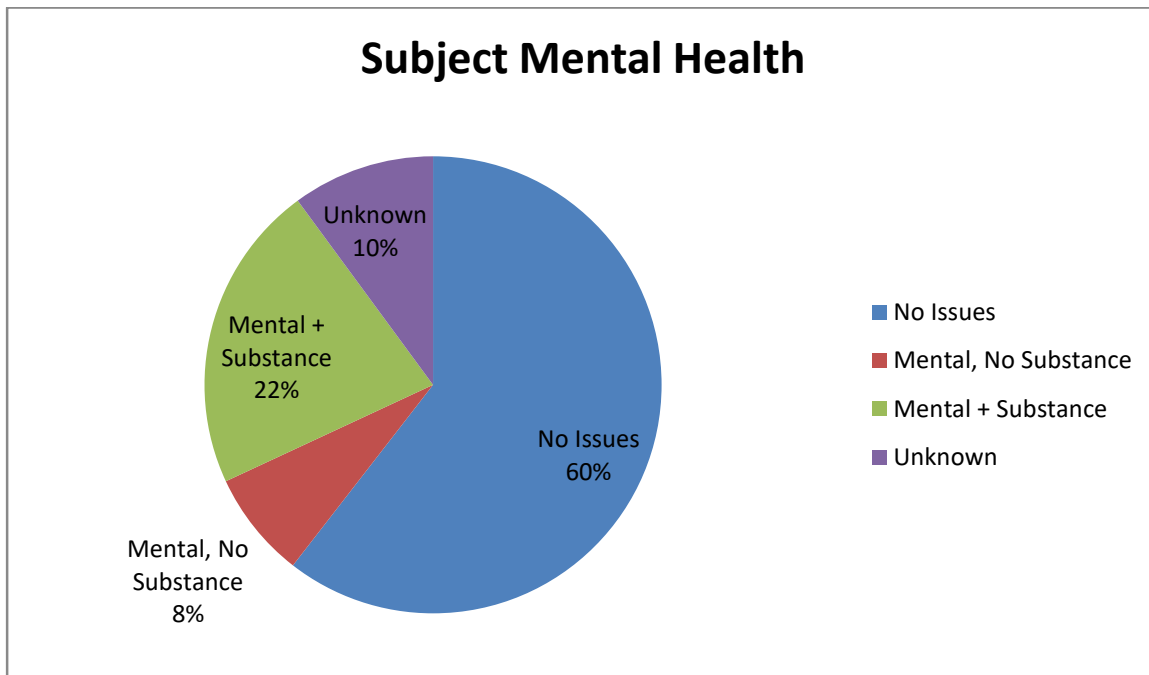
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Mental Health Status

Figure 9



Unusual behavior by the subjects is very common in situations that result in a use of force. Subjects were documented as appearing to be mentally unstable in 35 (30%) of the 117 use of force incidents in 2019. Specifically, individuals were identified as mentally unstable without drug and alcohol intoxication in 9 of those 35 cases. In 26 of the 35 cases, officers noted possible mental health issues along with alcohol and/or drug intoxication. Some of these incidents involved people who were actively harming themselves. In these situations, force is used in a community caretaking function, with the need to take the person to the hospital rather than arrest the person. In twelve (10%) incidents, the supervisor reported that the subject's behavior was unusual due to unknown reasons (alcohol, drugs, mental health issues, or combination of those factors). It is difficult to know if a person exhibiting signs of intoxication and speaking incoherently has underlying mental health issues, or if the behavior is solely due to the intoxicating substance. In 72 (62%) incidents, officers were not aware of any mental health issues. See Figure 9.

Warrant Status

In 30 (26%) of the incidents, subjects had outstanding warrants.



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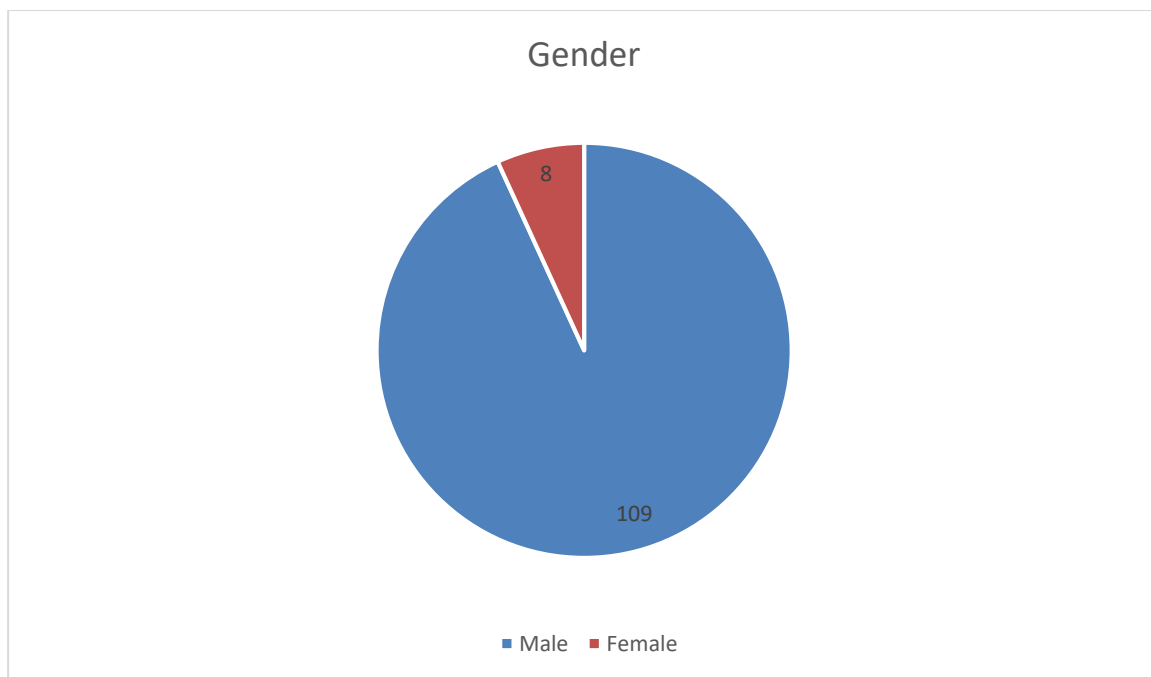
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Subject Age

The average age of the subjects was 34 years old. Five subjects were juveniles.

Subject Gender

The vast majority of involved subjects in use of force incidents were male. Eight subjects were female.





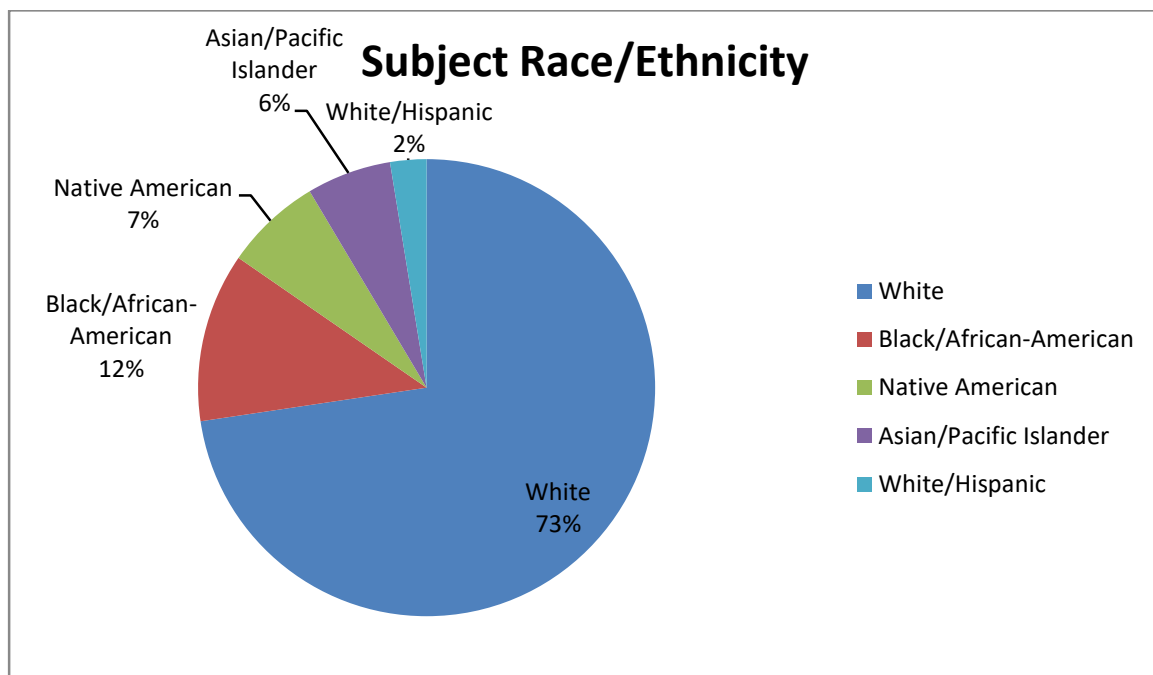
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Subject Racial/Ethnic Demographics

Figure 10



85 of the 117 (73%) of individuals involved in use of force incidents were White, 14 (12%) were Black/African-American, eight (7%) were Native American, seven (6%) were Asian/Pacific Islander, and three (2%) were Hispanic. See Figure 10. Note: In F19-056, the individual was listed as Native American on the official charging documents. A supervisor listed him as Black on the administrative review. The individual was classified as Native due to the classification of the official charging documents.



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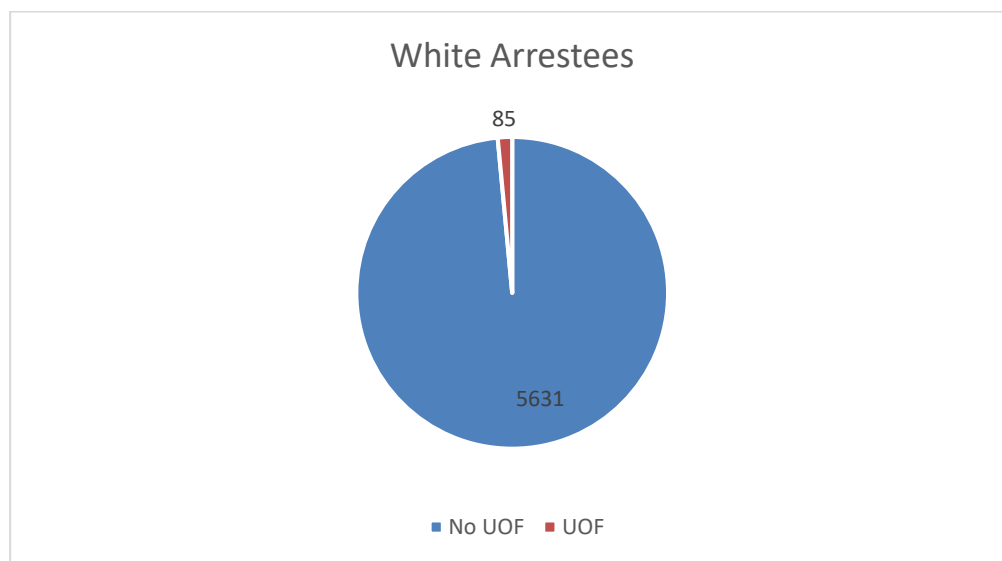
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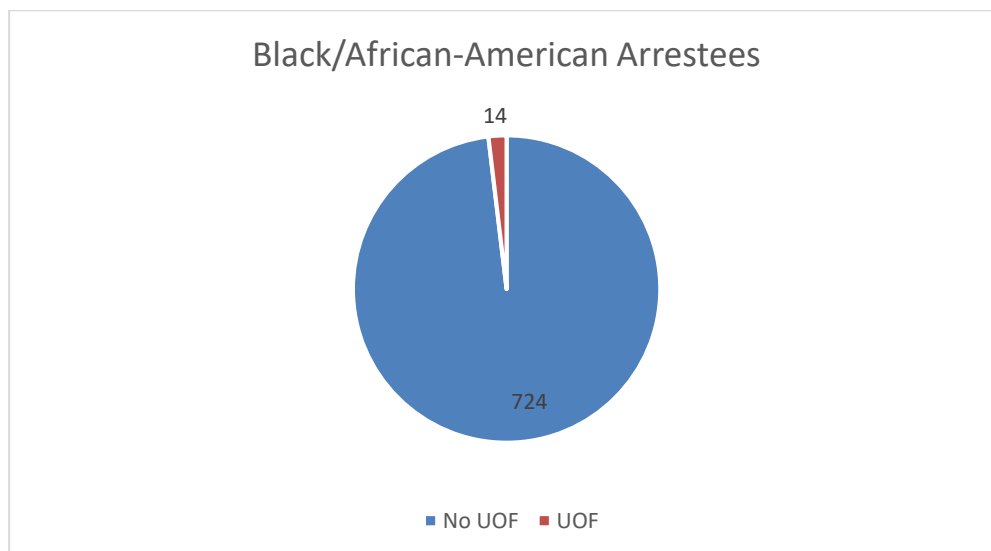
Arrest Demographics Compared to Use of Force Demographics

Comparing the City of Spokane Police Department arrest demographics with the use of force demographics shows that officers used force on 1.1-4.3% of subjects arrested.

5,444 White individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 1.5%.



738 Black/African-American individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 1.8%.



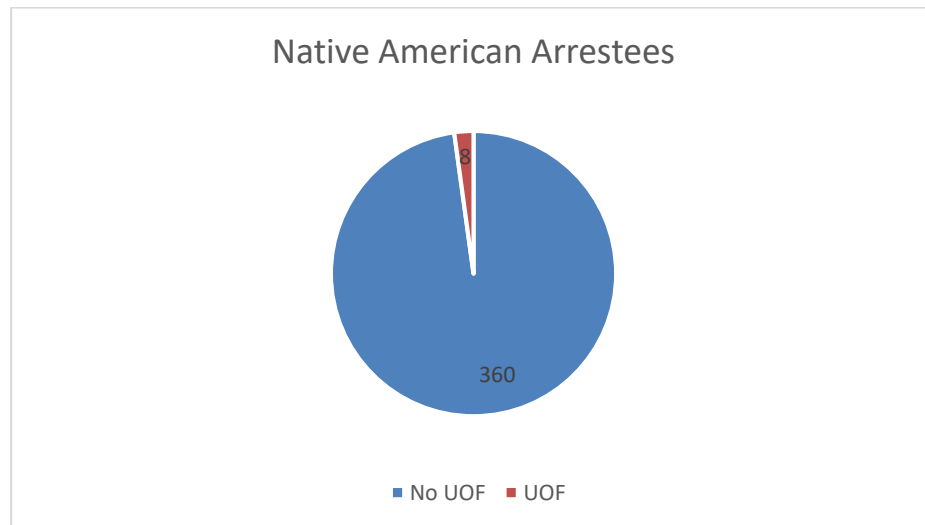


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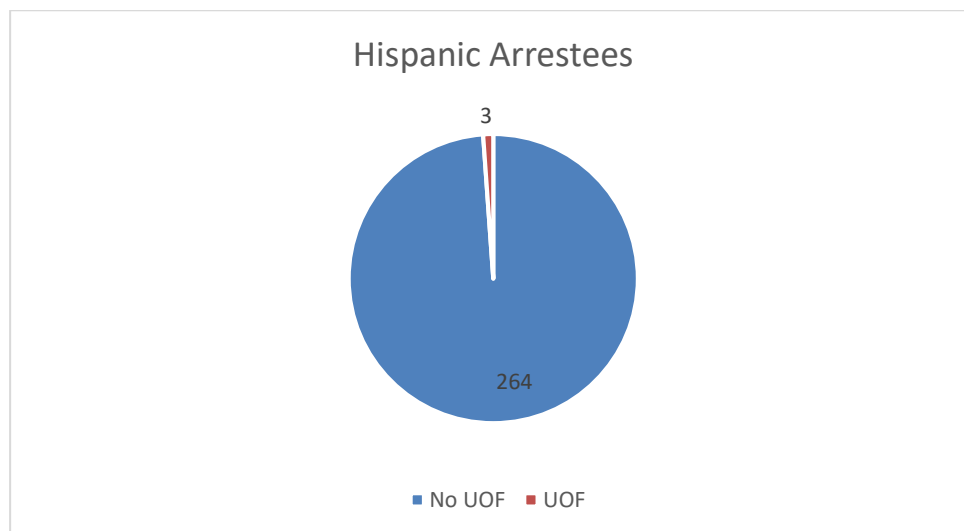
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368 Native American individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 2.5%.



267 Hispanic individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 1.1%.



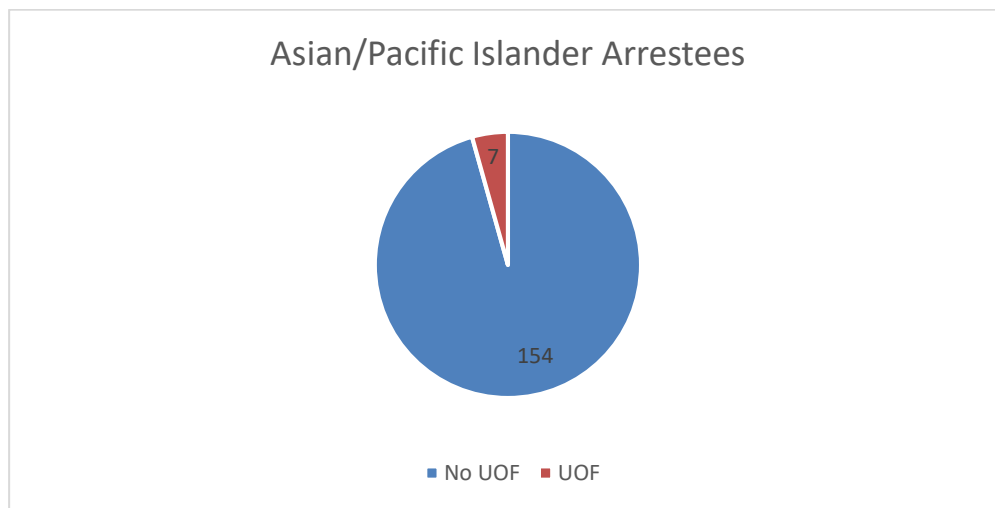


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161 Asian/Pacific Islander individuals were arrested. The force to arrest ratio is 4.3%.



117 arrested individuals' race was listed as Unknown.

Narratives about each use of force incident are available on SPD's website at the following link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/accountability/use-of-force/>

Incidents Involving White Individuals

Of the 85 incidents involving White individuals, 62 developed from a call for service. In three cases, SPD assisted another agency such as Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Fred Meyer Security and Spokane County Detention Services. In 20 cases, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

- F19-007: Officers stopped a vehicle for Reckless Driving.
- F19-019: An officer attempted to make a traffic stop on a driver with a felony warrant.
- F19-031: Officers made a traffic stop on a vehicle containing a Domestic Violence perpetrator and victim who had a No Contact Order with the perpetrator.
- F19-036: An officer was patrolling Downtown when he saw a male brandish a firearm.
- F19-044: An officer made a traffic stop on a driver with an expired vehicle registration.
- F19-049: An officer tried to apprehend a suspect with multiple warrants.
- F19-057: Two off-duty officers were at a restaurant when a male caused a disturbance and refused to leave (arrest for Disorderly Conduct).
- F19-058: An officer was patrolling a "hot spot" Downtown when he saw narcotics use.



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- F19-060: Officers attempted to stop a suspect with warrants.
- F19-064: An officer was patrolling when he observed an altercation.
- F19-065: An officer conducted a bike stop.
- F19-067: Officers contacted a person with a felony warrant.
- F19-068: Officers observed firefighters trying to restrain an individual who was running into the roadway. They offered their assistance.
- F19-075: An officer observed an intoxicated male walking in traffic on Main and Division.
- F19-091: Detectives recognized a suspect wanted for Carjacking/Assault and contacted him to arrest him.
- F19-094: An officer was assisting with a call when he noticed a person trying to avoid police. He contacted her and she had a warrant.
- K19-002: Officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop with a wanted suspect with a stolen vehicle. A K9 officer was summoned for help when the suspect fled on foot.
- K19-003: A K9 officer and his partner assisted the SPD Patrol Anti-Crime Team with apprehending a suspect who was wanted on Domestic Violence charges.
- K19-007: A K9 officer and his partner assisted the SPD Patrol Anti-Crime Team with apprehending a suspect wanted by the U.S. Marshals.
- K19-013: Patrol officers requested K9 assistance with searching for a suspect who ran from a confirmed stolen vehicle.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F19-002	Disorderly	Level I LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-003	Suicide	TASER™	CFS	Hospital
F19-005	Assault	Level II Tactic	CFS	Felony
F19-006	Welfare	Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-007	Traffic stop	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	SI	Felony
F19-008	DV w/ Weapon	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-009	Trespassing	Level I LNR/Handcuffing/BW	AOA	Misdemeanor
F19-014	Warrant	Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-018	Stabbing	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-019	Traffic stop	Level I LNR	SI	Felony
F19-021	Suspicious Circumstances	OC	CFS	Felony
F19-023	Assault	Impact Weapon- Baton	CFS	Felony
F19-025	DV	Level II LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-026	Assault	Body weight/Manual force	CFS	Felony
F19-028	Suspicious Person	TASER™	CFS	Felony



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F19-031	Traffic stop	OC	SI	Felony
F19-033	Person w/ Weapon	40 mm	CFS	Felony
F19-034	Person w/ Weapon	Level II Tactic	CFS	Felony
F19-035	Person Bothering	Takedown Technique	CFS	Felony
F19-036	Suspicious Person	40 mm	SI	Misdemeanor
F19-037	Suspicious Person	Level I LNR/Body Weight/Manual Force /Handcuffing	CFS	Felony
F19-039	DUI	Takedown Technique	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-040	Welfare	Body Weight/Manual Force	CFS	Felony
F19-041	DVOPV	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-042	Person w/ Weapon	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-043	Suspicious Person	OC	CFS	Felony
F19-044	Traffic stop	Level II Tactic	SI	Felony
F19-047	Suspicious Person	Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-048	DUI	Body Weight/Manual Force	CFS	Felony
F19-049	Suspicious Person	Level I and Level II LNR, body weight	SI	Felony
F19-050	Carjacking	Level II Tactic	CFS	Felony
F19-051	Person Bothering	Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-052	Person w/ Weapon	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Felony
F19-053	Check welfare	Level II Tactic	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-055	Suspicious Person	Level II LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-057	Disorderly	Takedown Technique	SI	Misdemeanor
F19-058	Suspicious Person	Level I LNR	SI	Felony



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F19-059	Suspicious Person	Level II LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-060	Suspicious Person	Level I LNR	SI	Misdemeanor
F19-061	Suicidal	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-062	Shooting	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-063	Fight	Level II LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-064	DV	Level I LNR	SI	Felony
F19-065	Bike	Level II Tactic	SI	Felony
F19-067	Suspicious Person	TASER™	SI	Felony
F19-068	Assist other Agency	Level I and Level II LNR	SI	Misdemeanor
F19-070	Person Bothering	Level II LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-073	Argument	Level II LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-074	Argument	Body Weight/Manual Force	CFS	Felony
F19-075	Suspicious Person	Level II LNR	SI	Misdemeanor
F19-076	Assist other Agency	Level I LNR	AOA	Misdemeanor
F19-077	DV	Wrist lock	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-078	Argument	Level II Tactic	CFS	Felony
F19-079	Person with weapon	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-080	DV	Level II Tactic	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-081	Suicide	TASER™	CFS	Still open
F19-082	Disorderly	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-085	Assault	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-087	Suspicious Person	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-088	DV	Body Weight/Manual Force	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-089	DV	Body Weight/Manual Force	CFS	Felony
F19-090	DVOPV	Level I LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-091	Warrant	Level I LNR	SI	Felony



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F19-093	Fight	Level I LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-094	DVOPV	Level I LNR	SI	Misdemeanor
F19-095	Medics	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-096	Armed barricaded	OC/40mm/beanbag	CFS	Felony
F19-097	Armed barricaded	OC/CS	CFS	Felony
K19-002	Vehicle Theft	K9	SI	Felony
K19-003	Warrant	K9	SI	Felony
K19-004	Alarm	K9/40 mm/ Body Weight	CFS	Felony
K19-005	Res Burg	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-007	Warrant	K9/Level II Tactic/Point Firearm	SI	Felony
K19-009	DV	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-010	Suspicious Vehicle	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-011	Res Burg	K9	AOA	Felony
K19-012	Person w/ Weapon	K9/Pointed Firearm/Noise Flash Device	CFS	Felony
K19-013	Vehicle Recovery	K9	SI	Felony
K19-016	DV	K9/40 mm/TASER™	CFS	Felony
K19-018	Fight	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-019	Neighbor Issue	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-020	Burglary	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-021	Alarm	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-024	Assist other Agency	K9	CFS	Felony

Incidents Involving African-American Individuals

Of the 14 incidents involving African-American subjects, nine developed from a call for service. In five cases, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

- F19-010: The officer initiated a bike stop and the suspect fled.
- F19-027: The officer initiated a vehicle pursuit after observing reckless driving.
- F19-071: The officer initiated contact with a wanted suspect.
- F19-072: Officers observed a fight break out while they were on bar patrol.
- K19-001: The officer initiated a traffic stop on a reckless driver and a vehicle pursuit ensued.



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Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F19-001	Accident	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-004	Disorderly	Level I LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-010	Bike stop	Body Weight / Handcuffing	SI	Felony
F19-013	Assault	Level II Tactic / Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-027	Reckless Driving	Level I LNR	SI	Felony
F19-046	DV	Level II Tactic / Level II LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-066	Argument	Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-071	Traffic Stop	Level I LNR	SI	Felony
F19-072	Fight	TASER™	SI	Felony
F19-086	DV w/ Weapon	Intentional Pointing of a Firearm / TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-092	Disorderly	TASER™ / Level II Tactic / Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
K19-001	Reckless Driving	K9	SI	Felony
K19-008	DV	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-015	Disorderly	K9	CFS	Felony

Incidents Involving Native American Individuals

Of the eight incidents involving Native American subjects, six were calls for service contacts. In two cases, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

- F19-056: An officer made a traffic stop for Reckless Driving. Note: the individual was listed as Native American on the official charging documents. A supervisor listed him as Black on the administrative review. The individual was classified as Native due to the classification of the official charging documents.
- K19-006: A K9 officer assisted the Patrol Anti-Crime Team with stopping a stolen vehicle. The suspect had fled on foot.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F19-011	DUI	Takedown Technique	CFS	Felony
F19-017	Argument	Handcuffing	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-022	Disorderly	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-024	DV	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-056	Reckless Driving	Exceptional Technique	SI	Felony
K19-006	Surveillance	K9	SI	Felony
K19-017	Burglary	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-024	Person w/ Weapon	K9	CFS	Felony



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Incidents Involving Hispanic Individuals

Of the three incidents involving Hispanic subjects, all stemmed from calls for service.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F19-029	DV	Body Weight / Level II Tactic / TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-032	DVOPV	Level II Tactic / Level I LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F19-045	Check Welfare	Level I LNR	CFS	Hospital

Incidents Involving Asian/Pacific Islander Individuals

Of the seven incidents involving Asian/Pacific Islander subjects, six originated as a call for service. In the other case, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

F19-020: Officers initiated a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle (DUI).

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F19-015	Burglary	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F19-020	Suspicious Person	Level I LNR	SI	Misdemeanor
F19-030	DV	Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F19-083	Fight	Level II Tactic	CFS	Felony
F19-084	Fight	TASER™	CFS	Felony
K19-022	Alarm	K9	CFS	Felony
K19-023	Alarm	K9	CFS	Felony

Officer Characteristics

82 different officers were involved in use of force incidents in 2019. With the exception of two detectives, officers were working in a patrol function at the time of the incident. A patrol assignment may include the role of Neighborhood Resource Officer or Patrol Anti-Crime Team member, or a Detective serving on the SWAT team when SWAT assists patrol with a situation such as an armed barricaded suspect. Some of the officers changed shifts during the year for a variety of reasons, such as moving a probationary officer to various shifts as part of training.

Excluding the K9 team officers, the majority of officers were involved in one or two incidents, but there were a few exceptions. One patrol officer was involved in nine incidents, one was involved in five, and three officers were involved in four incidents.



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The majority of the involved officers held the rank of officer, but a few involved officers were supervisors. Two officers held the rank of detective, four officers held the rank of corporal, six officers held the rank of sergeant, and two held the rank of lieutenant. One officer was a Reserve Officer working with officers on a call.

Involved officers averaged 10 years of service with the Spokane Police Department. Officers' previous law enforcement experience at other agencies was not factored (only their time with SPD). The average age of officers involved in use of force incidents was 39 years old. Two of the involved officers were female; the rest were male. SPD officer demographics are 10% female and 90% male.

Of the 82 officers involved in use of force incidents in 2019, 76 of the involved officers identified their race/ethnicity as White, two as Hispanic, two as Multi-Racial, one as Native American, and one as Black/African-American. Of officers employed in 2019, the majority have identified as White. Eleven officers identified as Hispanic; five as Native American; four as Multi-Racial; three as Black/African-American and one as Asian/Pacific Islander. Some officers did not provide race/ethnicity information. Note: It is important to note that these numbers do not reflect current staffing numbers. The numbers above included officers employed by SPD in 2019 regardless of hire, retirement, or separation date.

Outcomes of the Investigation and Review of Use of Force

One of the 117 Use of Force incidents was found to be in violation of policy. The officer applied an exceptional technique, a kick to the subject's groin. Internal Affairs viewed the bodyworn camera video and opened an internal complaint, referring the investigation to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office for a criminal review. Spokane County Sheriff's Office investigated the officer for 4th degree Assault. Spokane County Prosecutor's Office declined to file charges as it did not meet the prosecution standards of RCW 9.94A.411. Once the criminal investigation was complete, Internal Affairs conducted an administrative investigation. The final allegations were violations of the following SPD policies.

- Policy 340.3.5(x): Any failure or refusal of an employee to properly perform the function and duties of an assigned position. Policy 340.3.2(k): Discourteous or disrespectful treatment of any member of the public or any member of this department or another law enforcement agency.
- Policy 2.1: Officers of the Spokane Police Department shall be aware of their lawful authority to use that force reasonably necessary in securing compliance with their lawful enforcement duties.
- Policy 340.3.5(ac): Conduct Unbecoming.
- Policy 340.3.5(p): Failure to disclose material facts or the making of any false or misleading statement on any application, examination form, or other official document, report, form, or during the course any work-related investigation.

All allegations were determined to be Sustained. The employee was terminated. In the same internal investigation, the employee's supervisor was investigated for allegations of Improper Supervision and Inadequate Response. The



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determination was Sustained for both allegations. The supervisor received a Letter of Reprimand and one day suspension (suspended for one year assuming no similar violations during that time).

Note: the individual in this case was listed as Native American on the official charging documents. A supervisor listed him as Black on the administrative review. The individual was classified as Native due to the classification of the official charging documents.

The other 116 incidents were found to be in compliance with policy.

During the review, the chain of command examines the entire incident and all officer actions. In several cases, leadership identified a secondary policy violation although the use of force application was found to be within policy. In one case, the officer received a documentation of counseling (DOC) for failing to have all of his equipment while on duty. In another case, the officer received a DOC because he should have waited for backup officers prior to going hands-on with the subject. Three officers received DOCs for body-worn camera violations. One use of force incident was investigated by Internal Affairs. Both officers' use of force was determined to be within policy but there were secondary policy violations for the K9 officer. It was determined that he violated the standards for Demeanor and the Bodyworn Camera policy. He received a one-day suspension without pay and a one-day suspension held in abeyance pending no further violations from 12 months of the incident.

In 2019, there were no instances of an intentional pointing of a firearm being out of compliance with policy. This was the first year in several years without a policy violation related to the technique. The department had provided extensive training on this application from 2015-2019, resulting in improved use of the technique. In 2018, two incidents were determined to be out of compliance with policy. In both 2018 incidents, the involved officers reverted to prior training when they utilized the Intentional Pointing of a Firearm application. Both officers received instruction on "On Target, On Trigger" SPD firearms training philosophy, and one of the officers also received training on report writing.

Training Issues Identified During the Review Process

SPD's extensive reviews of incidents often identify opportunities for training, both on an individual basis and for the entire department. The Chain of Command review identified several training issues while reviewing non-deadly force incidents, recommending individual training in the areas of report writing, criminal procedures, professional language, and defensive tactics. Reviewers identified several tactical issues, such as the need to wait for backup officers. In each case where reviewers identified issues, they arranged for training. The secondary review by the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) also generated suggestions for future training. Several incidents were debriefed as a team or shift at roll call and several were debriefed during Supervisor Training. Three complex incidents were used to create reality-based training scenarios for In-Service training.



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Body-worn camera activation was a common training issue. In August 2018, SPD implemented the revised body-worn camera policy, directing officers to activate their cameras prior to exiting the vehicle. In many use of force incidents, the review of footage showed that officers had activated their cameras but had done so on-scene rather than prior to exiting the vehicle. These secondary policy violations were addressed depending on the officer's history, with informal counseling and documentation of counseling (DOC). Two involved officers and one witness officer received DOCs for body-worn camera violations.

Conclusion

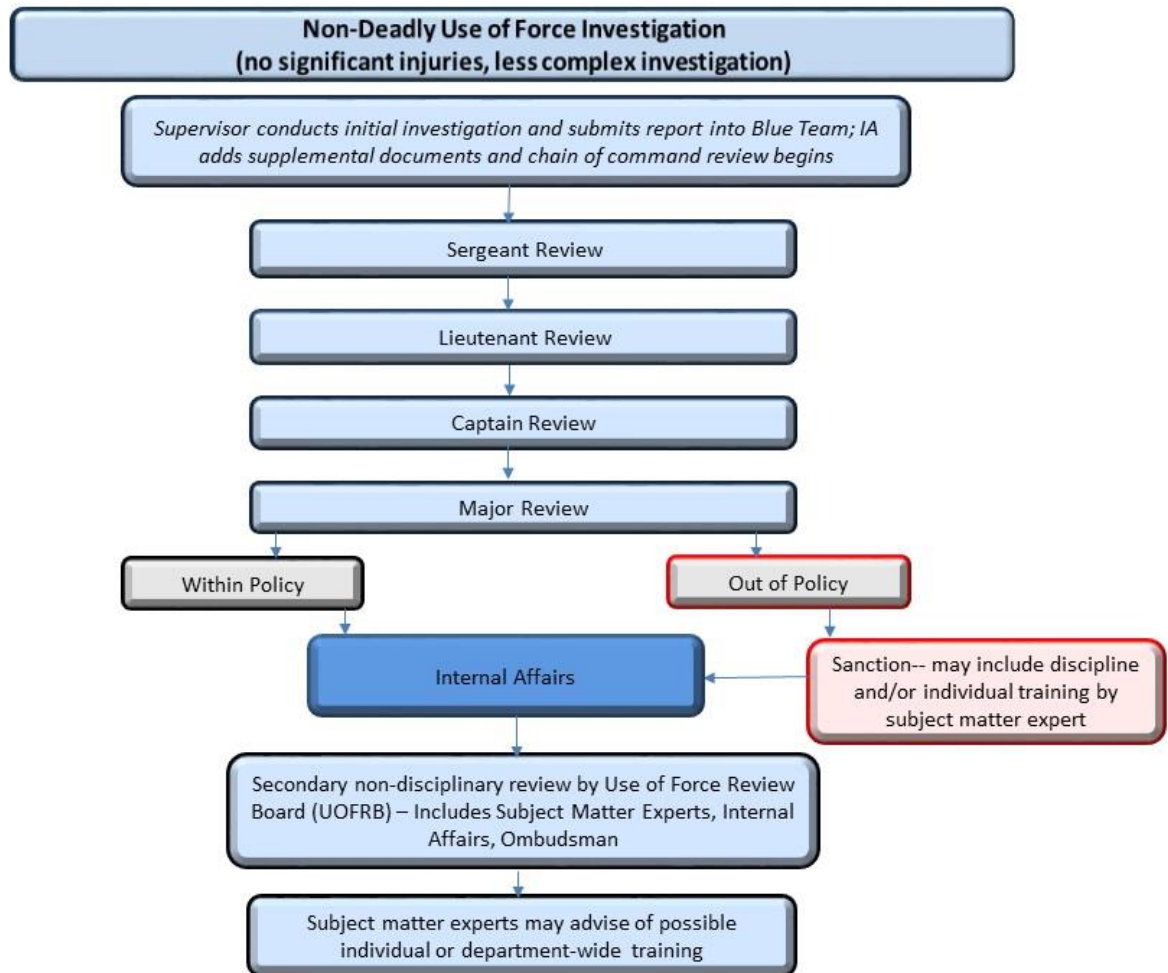
Thorough review of use of force incidents is critical to the Spokane Police Department. These reviews provide a comprehensive analysis of all incidents that have been individually reviewed and reveals trends that inform future training decisions. A proper review also helps improve the police department's legitimacy and relationship with the community. Police departments derive their authority from legal and constitutional principles designed to uphold the safety and dignity of the public, and unreasonable use of force undermines the community's trust. Therefore, thorough evaluation is required when vesting officers with the authority to use objectively reasonable force. The Spokane Police Department is committed to providing a comprehensive annual review of incidents and making that review available to the public.



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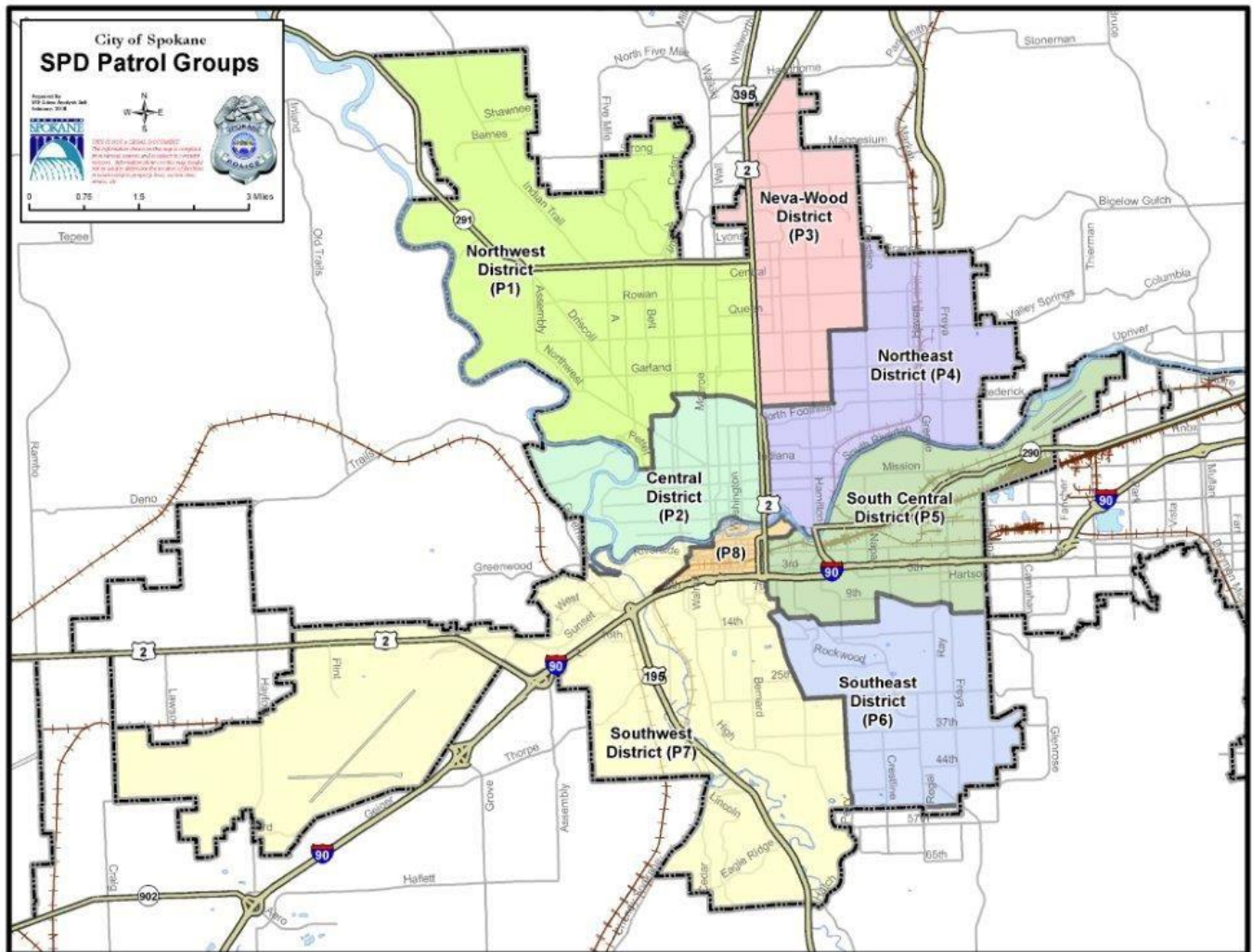




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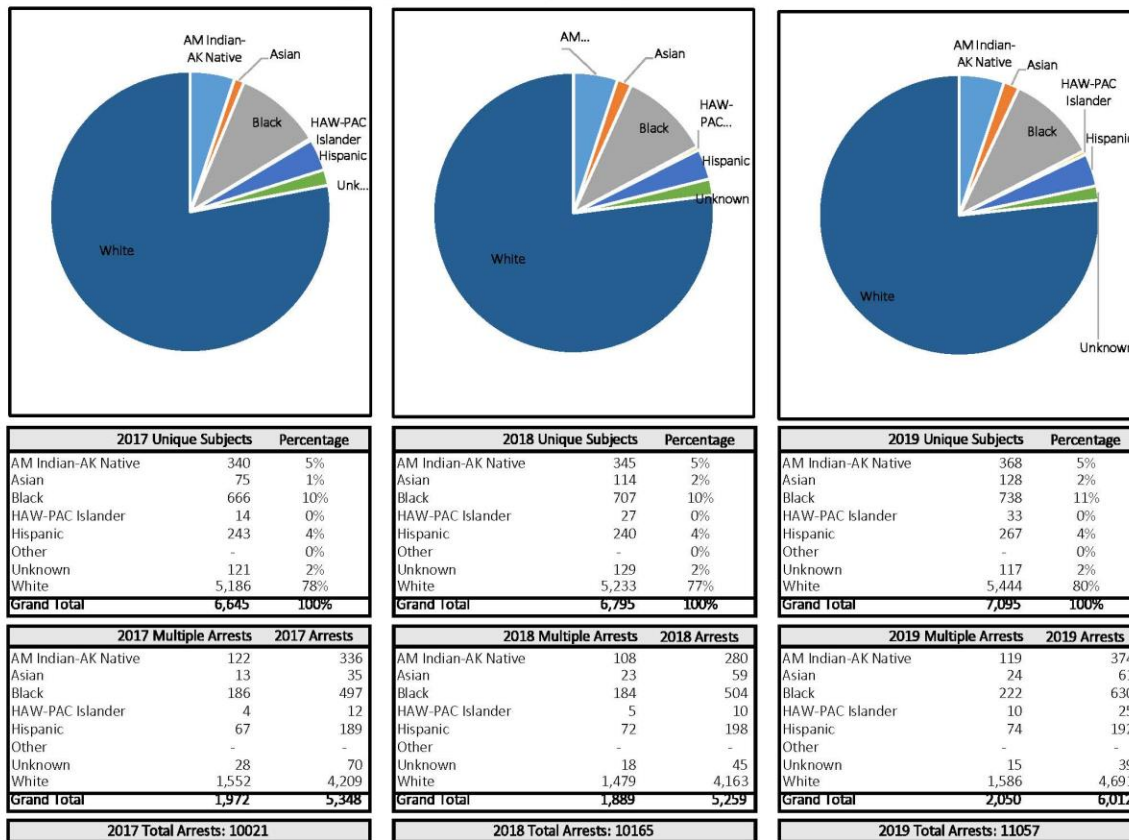


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Arrest Demographics for City of Spokane Police Department



*data is a compilation of arrests entered on arrest sheets in New World and non-custodial arrests from tickets