



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL



Spokane Police Department
2020 Annual Comprehensive Analysis of Reviewable
Use of Force Incidents



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	Page 3
2020 Use of Force – At a Glance	Page 5
Introduction	Page 6
Use of Force Data, January 1-December 31, 2020	Page 9
Environmental Characteristics	Page 15
Subject Characteristics	Page 19
Officer Characteristics	Page 29
Outcomes of the Investigation and Review of Use of Force	Page 30
Training Issues	Page 30
Conclusion	Page 30
Appendix A: Non-Deadly Use of Force Investigation Flow Sheet	Page 31
Appendix B: Police Districts	Page 32
Appendix C: Arrests by Sex and Race	Page 33
Appendix D: Arrests by Sex, Ethnicity, and Race	Page 34



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 (0.07%). In 2020, SPD officers were involved in 100,468 incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 71 incidents in 2020.

Use of Force Incidents Decreased by 39% in 2020

SPD officers used non-deadly force in 71 incidents in 2020. In 2019, SPD officers used non-deadly force in 117 incidents. Non-deadly use of force incidents decreased by 39%.

Force Rates are Low across Demographics

Comparing the City of Spokane Police Department arrest demographics with the use of force demographics shows that officers used force on 1.1-3.8% of subjects arrested.

- White Force Rate: 1.1%
- Black Force Rate: 1.7%



- American Indian/Native Alaskan Force Rate: 1.3%
- Asian Force Rate: 3.8%
- Unknown Race Force Rate: 0.0%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Force Rate: 0.0%
- Hispanic Ethnicity Force Rate: 1.1%

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. 2020 data showed that 59 (83%) of the 71 use of force incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 or Crime Check calls. In seven (10%) of incidents, the officer initiated contact, often during proactive police work involving stolen cars. Four incidents (6%) originated from involved officers assisting other agencies, such as security at a grocery store, Spokane County Detention Services, Frontier Behavioral Health and U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force. One incident (1%) began with a citizen flagging the officer over. 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 2020, DV-related calls (including a wide variety of classifications from DV protection order violations to DV Assault) made up 23% of use of force incidents. DV-related calls have been the most common type of call involving a use of force incident for the past seven 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.



2020 Use of Force – At a Glance

- **2020 Annual Total of Non-deadly UOF:** 71 use of force incidents.
- **2020 Annual Total of Deadly UOF:** Three deadly use of force incidents.
- **UOF Frequency per Incidents:** The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low. In 2020, SPD officers were involved in 100,468 incidents, and used non-deadly force in 71 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 TASER™ device deployment.
- **Environment:** Most often occurring in the Northeast police district.
- **Day and Time:** Most often occurring on Thursdays, from 1500-1759 (3:00 pm-5:59 pm).
- **Intoxication:** Drugs and/or alcohol played a part in 61% of incidents.
- **Mental Status:** Subjects were documented as appearing to be mentally unstable in 29 of the 71 use of force incidents in 2020. 79% of those incidents involved drugs and/or alcohol as well. Specifically, individuals were identified as mentally unstable without drug and alcohol intoxication in six of those 29 (9%) cases. In 23 of the 29 (79% of cases with mental issues), officers noted alcohol and/or drug intoxication along with possible mental health issues.
- **Incident Outcome:** Most often a felony arrest of the involved subject.
- **Subject Demographics:** Most often a White male, average age of 34.
- **Force Rate:** The force rate was low across racial demographics; officers used force on 1.1-3.8% of subjects arrested.
- **Officer Demographics:** Most often a White male officer, average age of 41 years old, with 10 years of experience with SPD.
- **Investigation Outcome:** Two incidents were found to be in violation of the Use of Force policy. The other 69 incidents were determined to be within policy.
- **Secondary Review:** Each UOF incident receives a secondary review by the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB).
- **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.



Introduction

Total Use of Force Incidents

This report analyzes non-deadly applications of force (e.g., Lateral Neck Restraint, TASER™ device deployment). There were 71 reviewable non-deadly uses of force in 2020. Three deadly force incidents occurred in 2020; 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
- 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, including Level 2 strikes (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 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.
- 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."



Equipment Update

In 2020, Spokane Police Department upgraded the TASER™ devices for officers, transitioning from the X26P model to the TASER™ 7 model. The major improvements of the upgrade include increased deployment accuracy, the capability to discharge twice, improved efficiency in regards to preventing disconnects due to clothing, rechargeable batteries, and improved data collection through evidence.com. The Training Unit provided training and certification on the device.

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 and then the Chief/Assistant Chief 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 debrief includes discussion of the following:

- Tactical Plan (approach, cover, concealment, containment, verbal commands, etc.)
- Training
- Warning of impending force application
- Demeanor
- Report writing (completeness, etc.)
- Proper Tool/Equipment Selection, if applicable
- Policy/Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- Post-care/First Aid
- Peer Assistance Team care, if appropriate



The UOFRB only reviews incidents that have received a final determination, and the UOFRB does not recommend discipline or conduct investigations in unresolved use of force incidents. UOFRB members include SPD's Training Director, Assistant Training Director, Range master/Firearms Instructor, Internal Affairs Lieutenant, Defensive Tactics Instructors (subject matter experts), Program Professional, and the Police Ombudsman/Assistant Ombudsman.

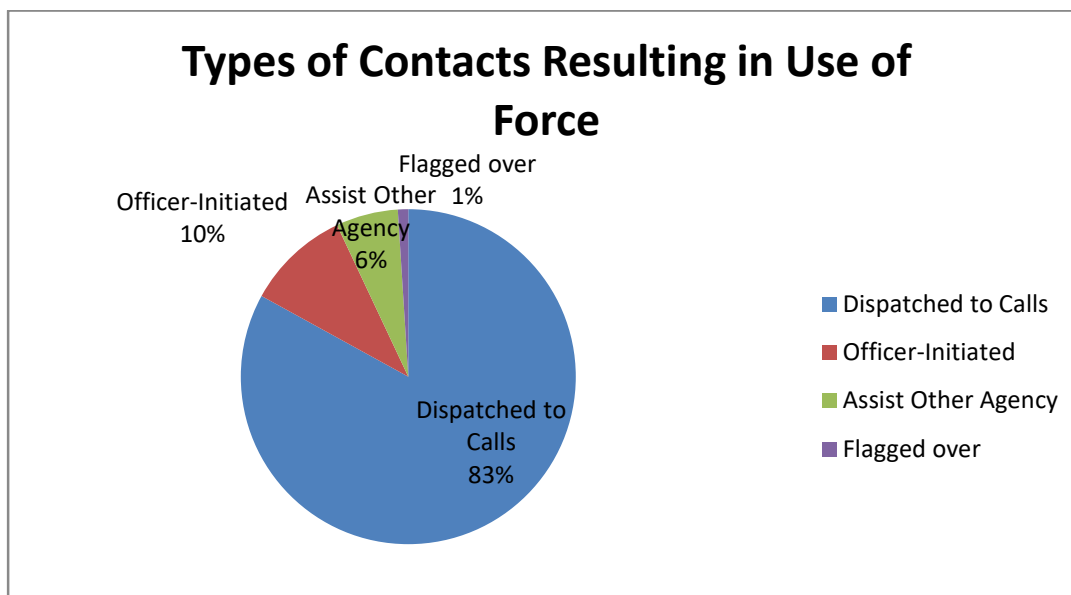
Use of Force Data: January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020

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 2020, officers were involved in a total of 100,468 incidents. This number includes calls for service and officer-initiated incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 71 incidents in 2020. The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (00.07%). In 2019, SPD officers used non-deadly force in 117 incidents. Non-deadly use of force incidents decreased by 39%.

Calls for Service versus Officer-Initiated Contacts

Figure 1



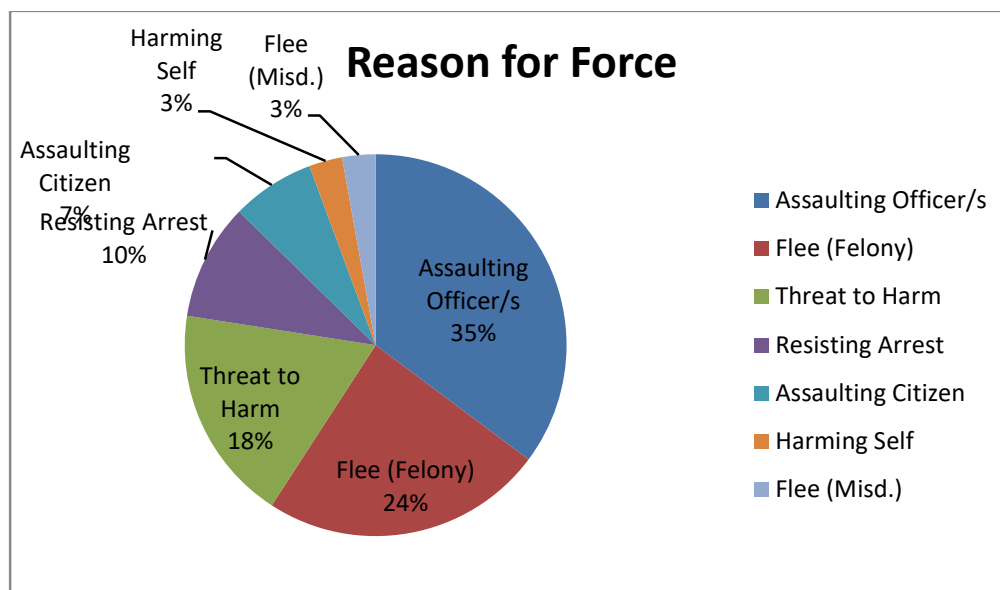
Use of force incidents continue to stem most often from officers responding to a call for service, rather than court-ordered contacts, officer-initiated contacts, or contact from assisting another agency. 2020 data showed that 59 (83%) of the 71 use of force incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 or Crime Check calls. In seven (10%) of incidents, the officer initiated contact, often during proactive police work involving stolen cars. Four incidents (6%) originated from involved officers assisting other agencies, such as security at a grocery store, Spokane County Detention Services, Frontier Behavioral Health, and the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force. One incident (1%) began with a citizen flagging the officer over. 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 23% of incidents. The second most common type of call was Person with a Weapon (8%). Other incidents involving use of force included call classifications such as Assault, Assist Other Agency, Fight, Stabbing, Check Welfare, Accident, Traffic Stop, 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 Felony Flee. 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.

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:

- 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.

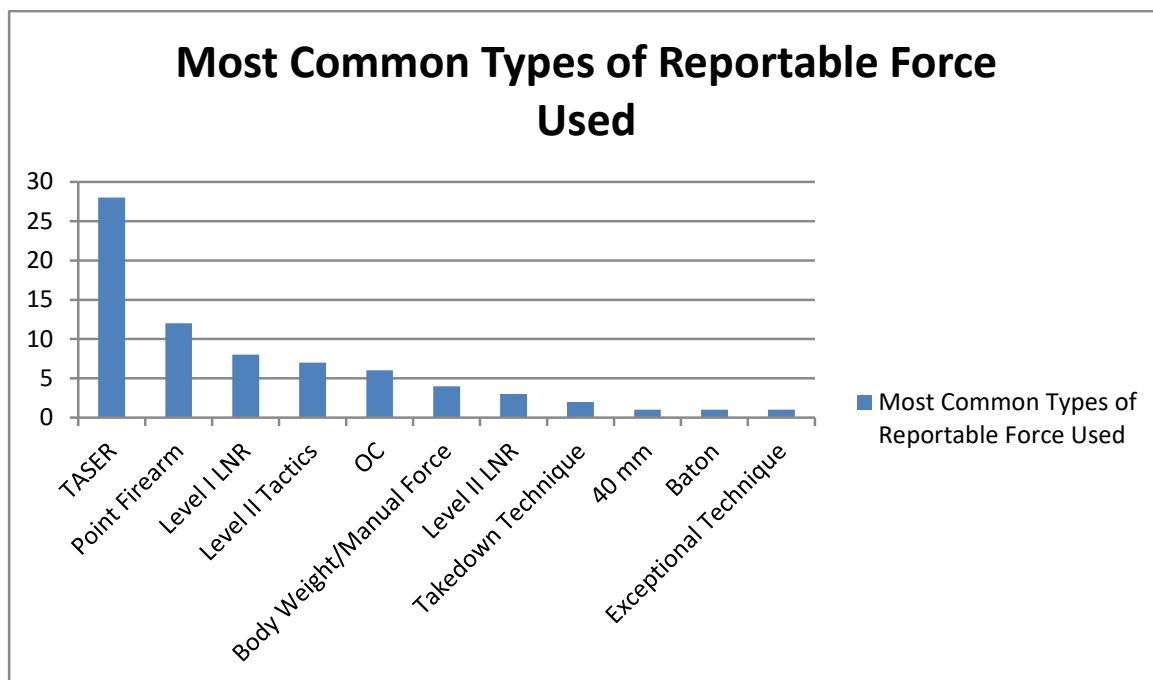


Law Enforcement and ACLU Washington agree on the need to educate people on these safety tips. Steven D. Strachan, Executive Director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, says, “As we talk about de-escalation, better training, and all the things we in law enforcement can do to 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>.

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.

TASER™ deployments were the most frequent types of reviewable force used by officers in 2020. Officers used Level I LNRs and TASER™ deployments most frequently from 2016-2019. See Figure 3.

Frequently Used Applications of Reviewable Force

- Officers deployed a TASER™ device in 28 incidents.
- The intentional pointing of a firearm application was utilized in 12 incidents.
- Officers used the Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR)* in eight incidents.
- Officers used Level II tactics in seven incidents.

Less Frequently Used Applications

- Officers deployed OC/CS spray, commonly known as pepper spray, in six incidents.
- In four incidents, body weight/manual force and/or handcuffing techniques causing minor injury was reported as the sole type of force used.
- Officers used the Level II LNR application in three incidents.
- Takedown techniques causing injury were used as a reviewable use of force in two incidents.
- A special impact weapon (40 mm/beanbag shotguns) was deployed in one incident.
- An Exceptional Technique was used in one incident.
- A baton was used in one incident.

*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. The Spokane Police Department prohibits the use of choke holds, except in situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law. NOTE – a choke hold is not a Lateral Neck Restraint; it is a physical maneuver or technique that restricts an individual's ability to breathe for the purpose of incapacitation.

K9 Applications

Use of force incidents involving K9 contacts totaled 12 for the year 2020. The K9 Unit had 1229 Patrol deployments in 2020, locating 396 people. To be clear, the instances of the K9s locating people are the "captures" from which the bite ratio is calculated. The K9 Unit does not just count the arrests. In order to be classified as a capture, the dog has to be a factor in the finding or apprehension of the individual—regardless if the apprehension results in an arrest or not. A good example is this: the K9 Unit responds to a Residential Burglary called in by a neighbor. They set up on the house, bring a dog up to the open front door and make K9 announcements inside with the dog barking. Three people exit the home and surrender to police with no force used. That is three captures. If the investigation then shows that two of the people told the third person that they were just house sitting and forgot a key, and the third person really had no idea he shouldn't be there then he isn't arrested, but the other two people are arrested. The fact that the dog played a role in his peaceful surrender is still a valid capture, whether there was an arrest or not. Of the 396 people located, the K9 Unit had 12 K9 contacts. The unit "bite ratio" for 2020 was 3.03%. Industry best practices suggest that the contact to apprehension ratio should be below 30%, based on *Kerr v City of West Palm Beach*.

- 76% of the K9 deployments were "non-search" deployments
- 12% were building searches
- 9% were tracking
- 3% were evidence or human searches

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 2020, TASER™ device applications were the most frequent type of force used; officers used the TASER™ device in 28 incidents.

- In 13 (46%) of the incidents, the application was immediately successful.
- 15 incidents experienced issues with the application. In seven (25%) of the cases, application of the TASER™ device was eventually successful but the first application failed.
- In eight (29%) 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.

In 2020, officers used the Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) in eight incidents. In three 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.

Five incidents involved other force applications in addition to the Level I LNR to gain control of the subject.

- In one incident, the officer used other force options due to body positioning of the officer and subject during the struggle. Once he was able to get the subject in the proper position, the technique was successful.
- In one incident, the officer attempted a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) control hold twice which resulted in the suspect elbowing the officer in the mouth on the first attempt and biting his forearm on the second attempt. The suspect broke away from the officer and continued to flee. The officer deployed his TASER in probe mode and used multiple drive stuns to gain compliance. Other officers arrived on scene and helped place the male into handcuffs.
- In one incident, one officer attempted to apply a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint but she was unable to control the suspect's movements enough to apply the technique. The second officer applied a Level 2 Tactic, a closed fist punch to the suspect's back. Officers were then able to detain her in handcuffs, and applied leg restraints due to the suspect's kicking.
- In one incident, there were two types of force used. An officer deployed his TASER™ and it had the desired effect of disrupting the male's actions. Once on the floor, the male did not comply with instructions. The officers eventually were able to move him on to his stomach. The male moved his hand under his body and resisted officers' attempts to secure his hands. An officer tried to move into position to apply a Level I Lateral Neck Restraint but was unable to achieve the correct position. Officers had called for backup and held him until more officers arrived. With the help of arriving officers, the suspect was handcuffed.

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

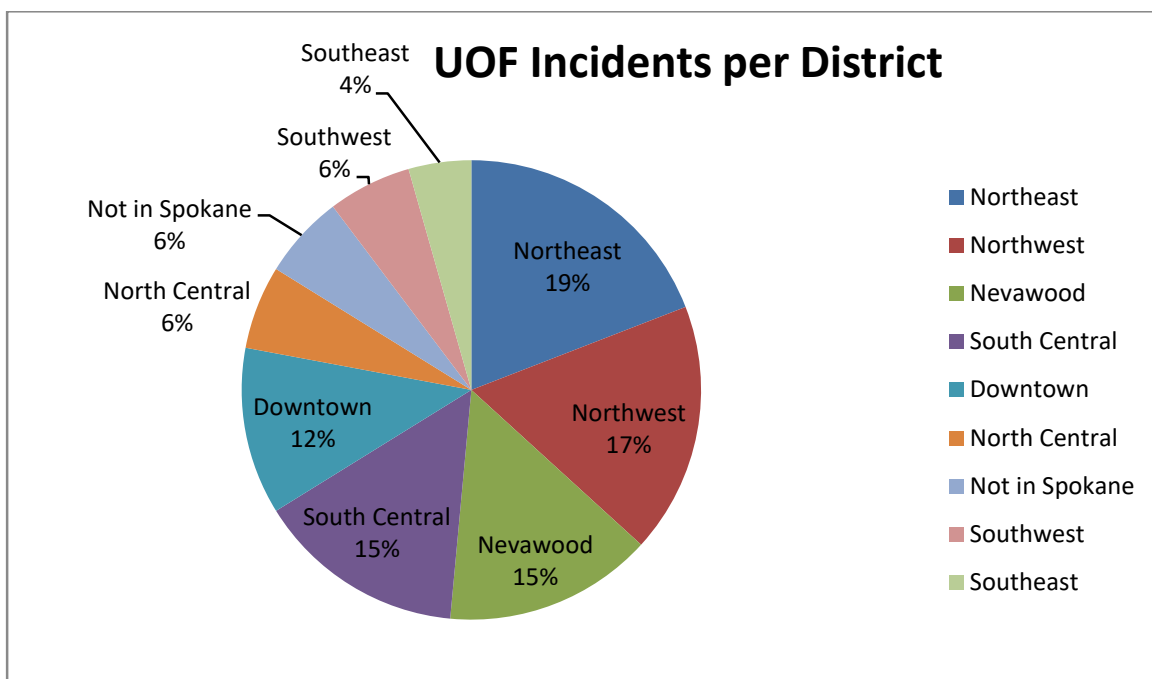
weapon, officers need to use a different force option that is effective from a distance (i.e., TASER™, OC, K9, firearm). Going “hands on” with an armed person greatly increases the risk to the subject and the officer.

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.

Environmental Characteristics

Police District (Neighborhood)

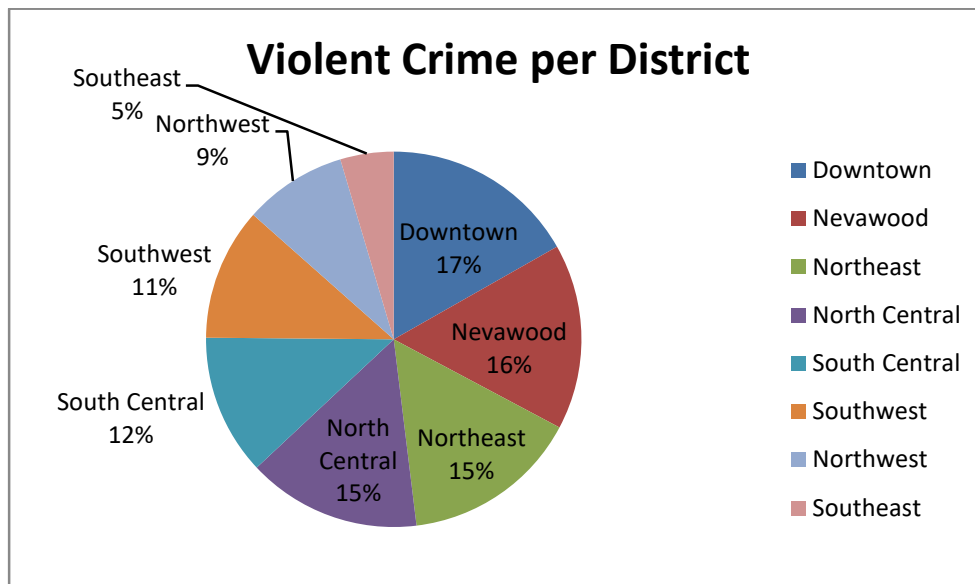
Figure 4



Use of force incidents took place most often in the Northeast police district in 2020, followed by the Northwest, Nevawood, South Central, and Downtown districts. See Figure 4.

Violent Crime per District (Neighborhood)

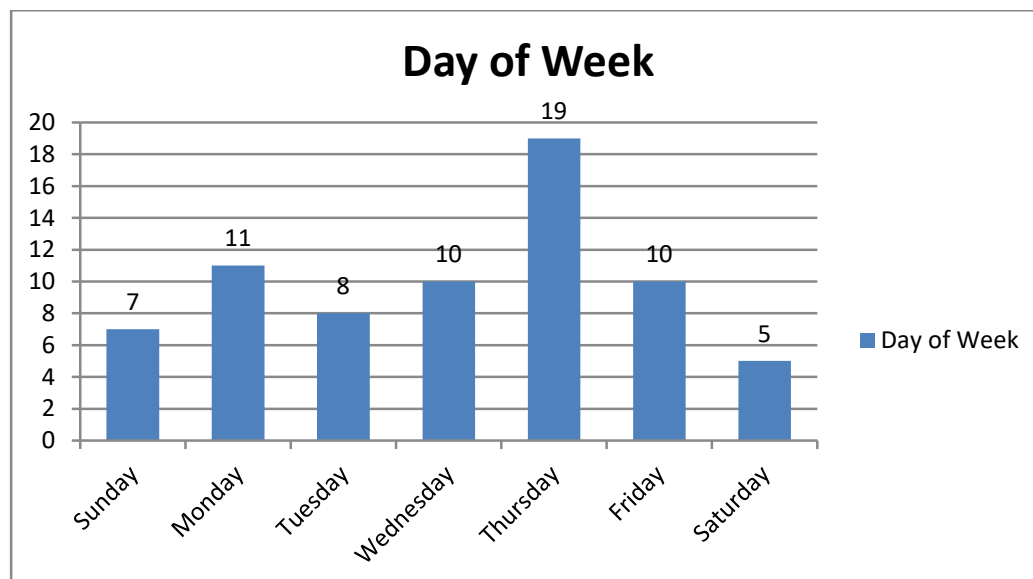
Figure 5



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

Day of the Week

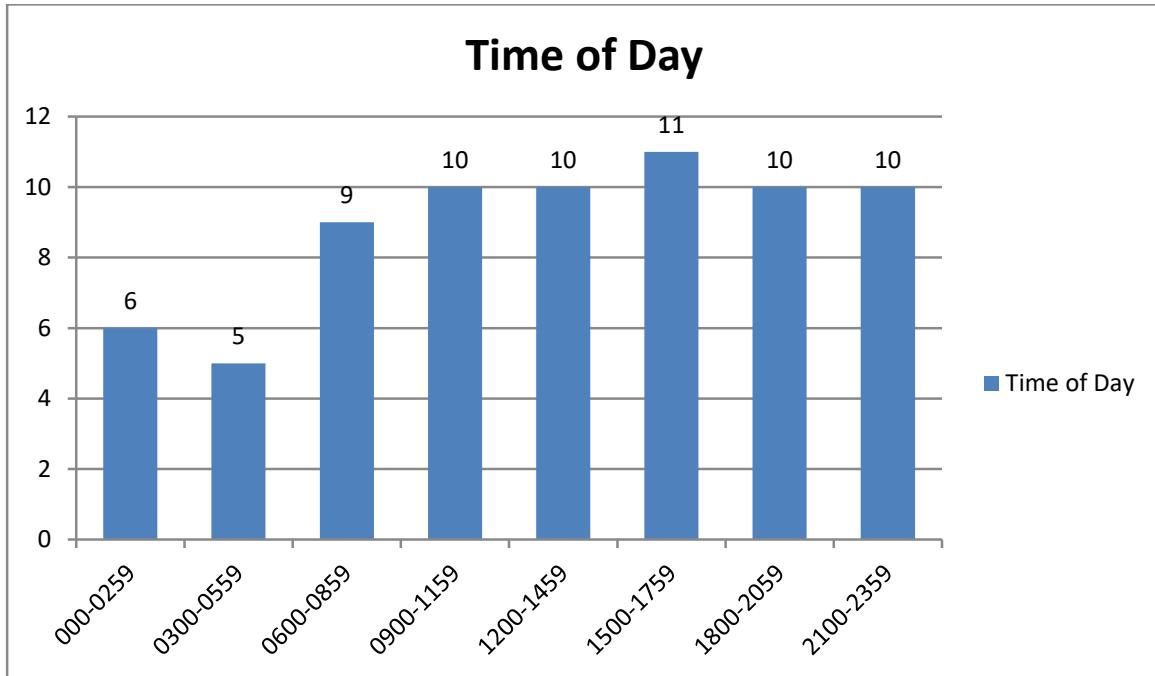
Figure 6



2020 data indicated that use of force incidents occurred most frequently on Thursdays. See Figure 6.

Time of Day

Figure 7



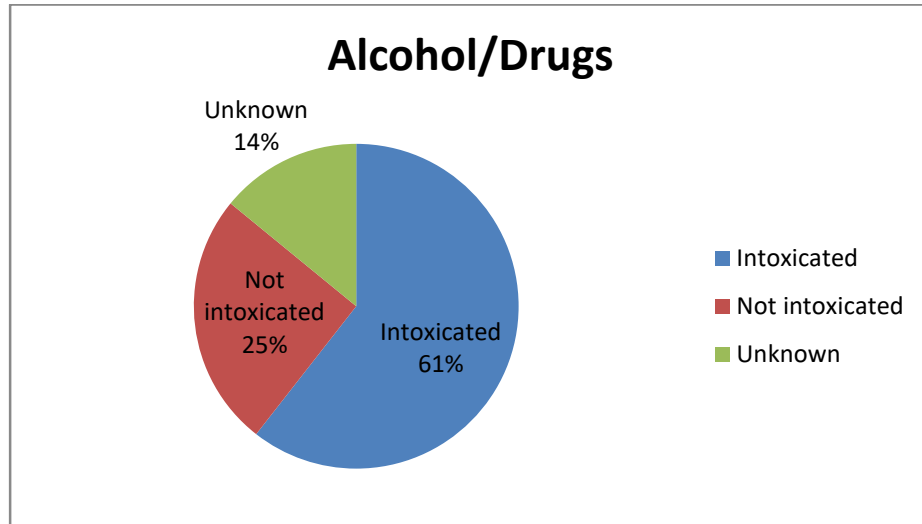
2020 use of force incidents occurred most often between 1500-1759 (3:00 pm-5:59 pm). They also happened frequently between 0900-1159 (9:00 am-11:59 am), 1200-1459 (noon-2:59 pm), between 1800-2059 (6:00 pm-8:59 pm), and 2100-2359 (9:00 pm-Midnight).

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.

Subject Characteristics

Subject under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs

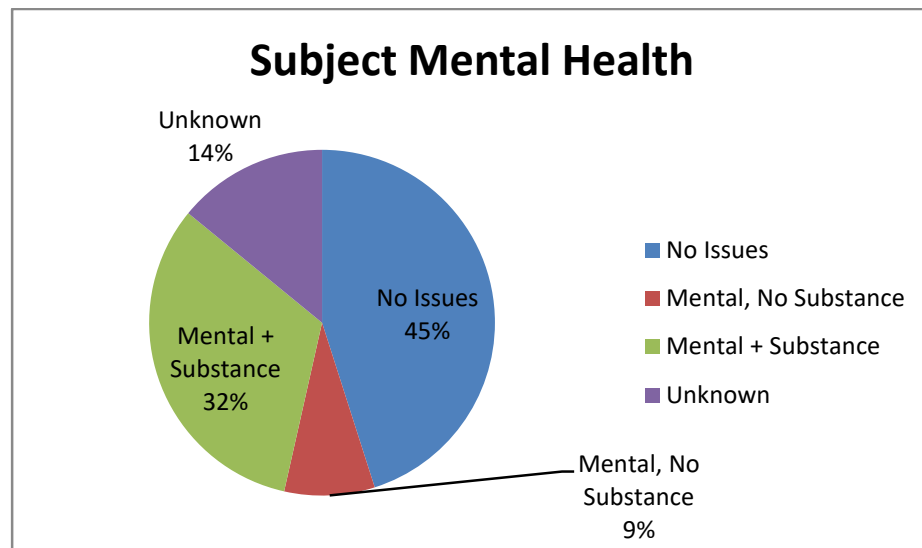
Figure 8



43 of the 71 (61%) 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 ten (14%) 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.

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 29 of the 71 use of force incidents in 2020. 79% of those incidents involved drugs and/or alcohol as well. Specifically, individuals were identified as mentally unstable without drug and alcohol intoxication in six of those 29 (9%) cases. In 23 of the 29 (79% of cases with mental issues), officers noted alcohol and/or drug intoxication along with possible mental health issues. 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 ten (14%) 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 32 (45%) incidents, officers were not aware of any mental health issues. See Figure 9.

Warrant Status

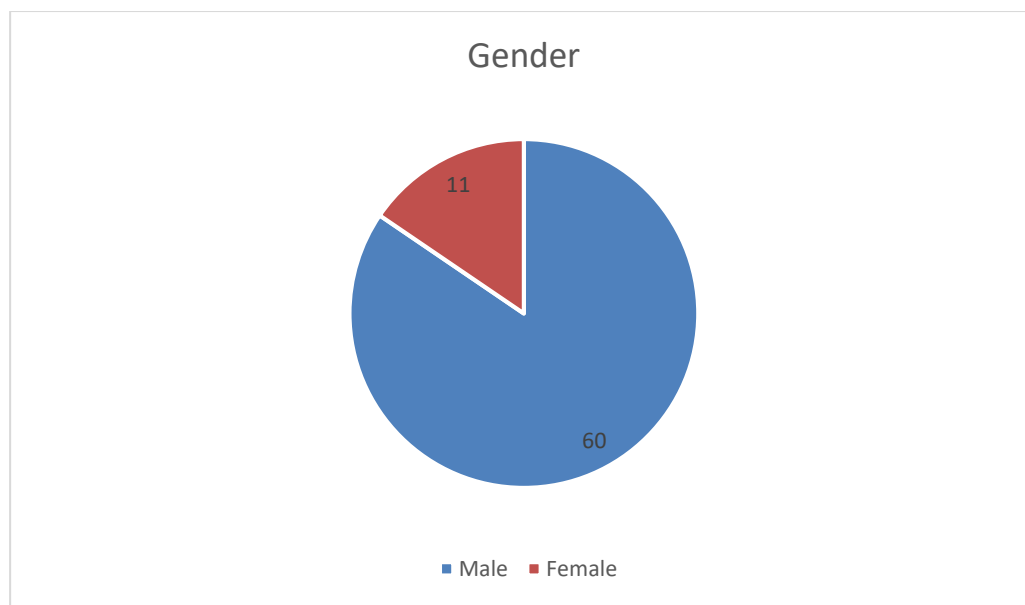
In 11 (15%) of the incidents, subjects had outstanding warrants.

Subject Age

The average age of the subjects was 34 years old. One subject was a juvenile.

Subject Gender

Figure 10

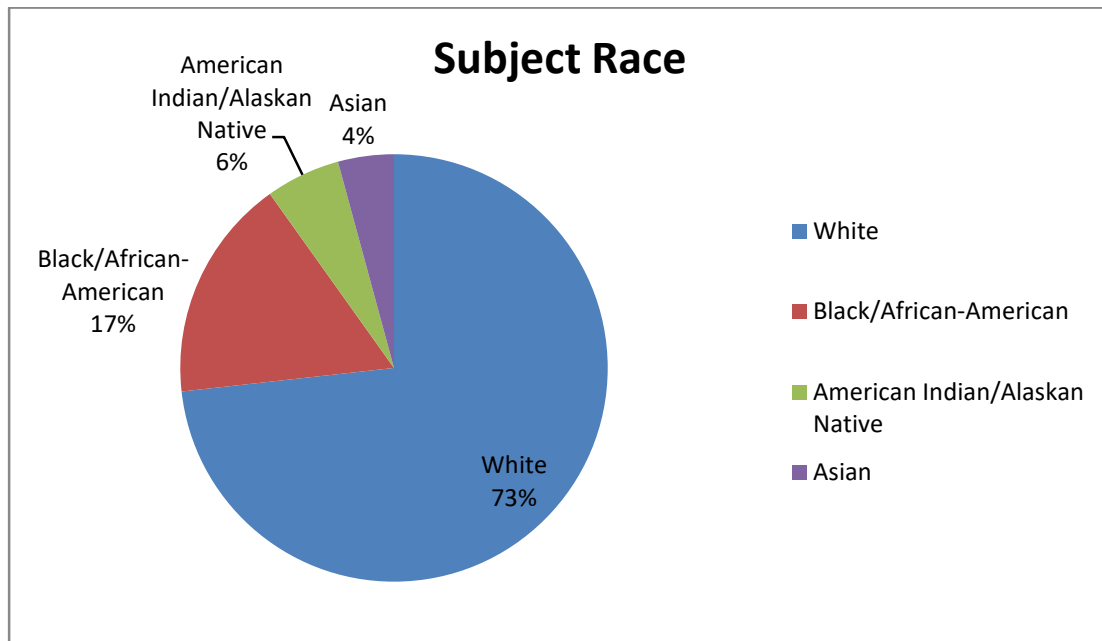


The vast majority of involved subjects in use of force incidents were male (85%). Eleven subjects (15%) were female. See Figure 10.

Spokane Police officers arrested 4255 males, 1410 females, and 8 persons of unknown gender. See Appendix C for arrest demographics.

Subject Racial Demographics

Figure 11



52 of the 71 (73%) of individuals involved in use of force incidents were White, 12 (17%) were Black/African-American, four (6%) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and three (4%) were Asian. See Figure 11.

Ethnicity: Two of the White individuals were listed with Hispanic ethnicity in the Blue Team administrative report.

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 1.1-3.8% of subjects arrested.

- White Force Rate: 1.1%
- Black Force Rate: 1.7%
- American Indian/Native Alaskan Force Rate: 1.3%
- Asian Force Rate: 3.8%
- Unknown Race Force Rate: 0.0%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Force Rate: 0.0%

- Hispanic Ethnicity Force Rate: 1.1%

To keep data presentation consistent with prior years, arrestees were not separated by gender for each racial group. See Appendices C and D on Arrests by Race and Ethnicity.

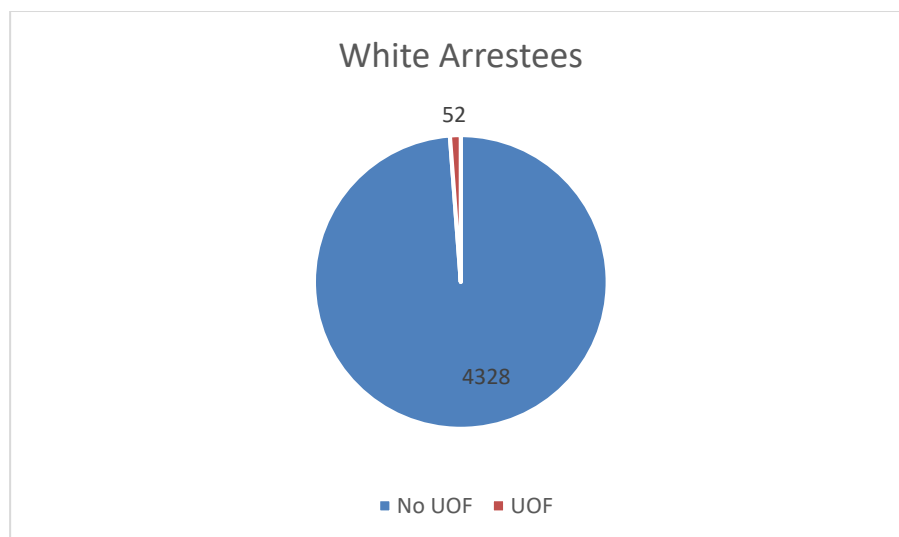
Total Arrests: 5,673

Race	Number of Arrests in 2020
White	4380
Black/African American	713
American Indian/Alaskan Native	298
Unknown	169
Asian	80
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	33

Of all the races, those arrested who indicated their ethnicity as Hispanic totaled 241 out of 5673.

Force Rate for White Arrestees

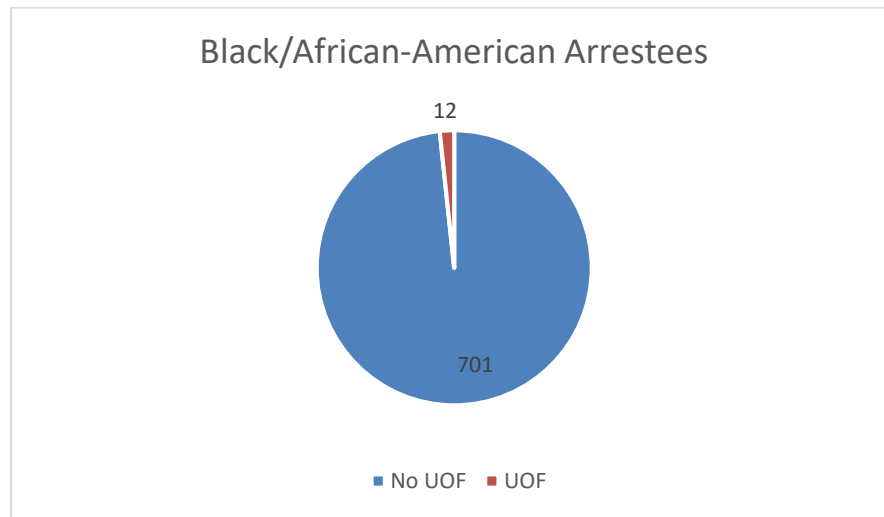
Figure 12



4380 White individuals were arrested. 52 White individuals were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.2%. See Figure 12.

Force Rate for Black/African American Arrestees

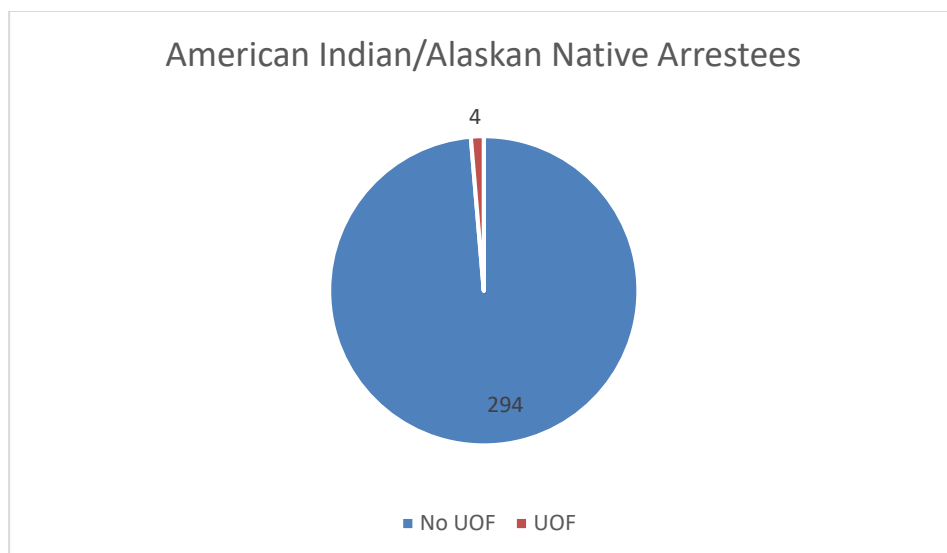
Figure 13



713 Black/African-American individuals were arrested. 12 Black/African-American individuals were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.7%. See Figure 13.

Force Rate for American Indian/Alaskan Native Arrestees

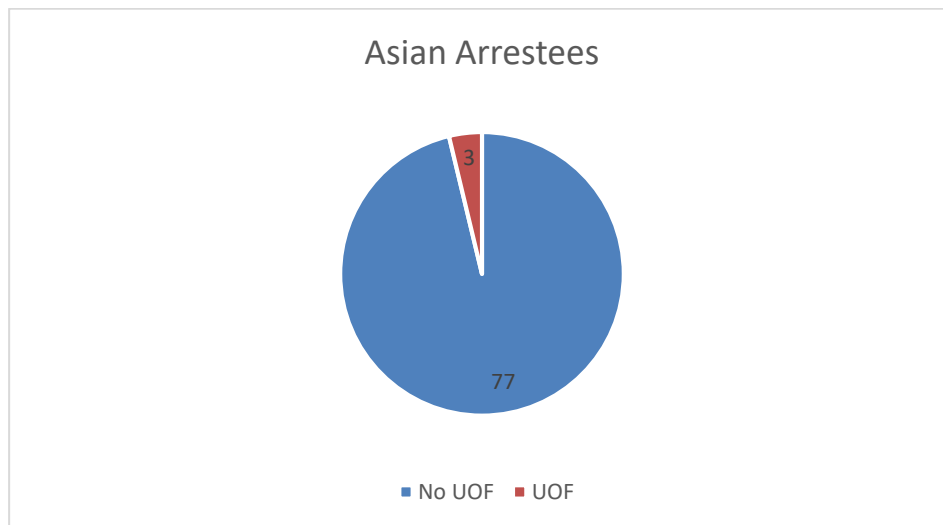
Figure 14



298 American Indian-Alaskan Native individuals were arrested. Four American Indian-Alaskan Native individuals were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.3%. See Figure 14.

Force Rate for Asian Arrestees

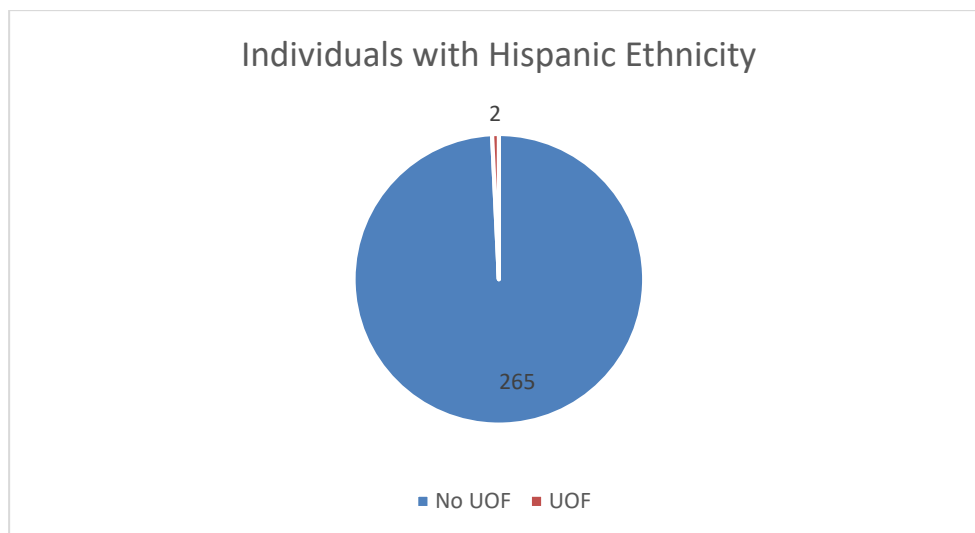
Figure 15



80 Asian individuals were arrested. Three Asian individuals were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 3.8%. See Figure 15.

Force Rate for Individuals with Hispanic Ethnicity

Figure 16



267 individuals listed as Hispanic ethnicity were arrested. Two White individuals listed as Hispanic ethnicity were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.1%. See Figure 16.

Summaries 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 52 incidents involving White individuals, 45 developed from a call for service. In two cases, SPD assisted another agency, Frontier Behavioral Health and the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force. In five cases, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

- F20-004: An officer attempted to stop a vehicle for no license plate and the driver fled.
- F20-018: An officer tried to initiate a traffic stop for reckless driving, but the driver fled and then crashed into another vehicle approximately ten blocks away.
- F20-031: An officer observed a female using a metal bar to break a window at a business. He confronted the female and she refused to drop the bar. She approached the officer with the bar.
- F20-052: An officer encountered an individual while conducting a vehicle prowler check. She had probable cause for Possession of a Controlled Substance (Heroin) from her last contact with him, and he had a felony DOC warrant.
- F20-053: An officer made a traffic stop for reckless driving.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F20-001	Person with Weapon	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-003	Suspicious Person	Level 2 Tactic - closed fist strike to face, elbow strike/ Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F20-004	Reckless Driving	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Felony
F20-005	BHU	Level II LNR, Body Weight/Manual Force	AOA	ITA- Hospital
F20-008	Person with Weapon	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFA	Felony
F20-009	Disorderly	Level II LNR	CFS	Felony
F20-010	Person with Weapon	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Felony
F20-011	Special Patrol	Level I LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-014	Trespass	Level 2 Tactic - knee strike to thigh	CFS	No charges
F20-015	Vehicle Theft	TASER™	CFS	Felony

F20-016	DV	Level I LNR	CFS	Felony
F20-017	Suspicious Person	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-018	Traffic Stop	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	SI	Felony
F20-019	Person with Weapon	TASER™, 40 mm	CFS	Felony
F20-021	Stabbing	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-023	DV	Ordered force to be used, OC/CS	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-024	Fight	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-025	DV	Takedown Technique	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-026	DV with Weapon	TASER™, Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Felony
F20-028	Person Bothering	Level I LNR, TASER™	CFS	Felony
F20-029	DV with Weapon	OC	CFS	Felony
F20-031	Malicious Mischief	TASER™	SI	Misdemeanor
F20-033	Suicidal	TASER™	CFS	ITA- Hospital
F20-034	Person Bothering	Handcuffing	CFS	Warrant only
F20-035	Robbery	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Felony
F20-036	DV	OC	CFS	Felony
F20-037	Person Bothering	Handcuffing	CFS	Felony
F20-038	Suspicious Circumstances	Pointed Firearm	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-040	Disorderly	Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-041	Commercial Burglary	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F20-042	Crisis	TASER™	CFS	ITA- Hospital
F20-043	Traffic Hazard	Level I LNR, Level 2 Tactic-closed fist punch to back	CFS	Felony
F20-045	Malicious Mischief	Level II LNR, TASER™, Level 2 Tactic - knee strikes	CFS	Felony
F20-046	DUI	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F20-047	DV	Level I LNR, TASER™,	CFS	Felony

F20-048	Suicidal	TASER™, Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	ITA- Hospital
F20-049	Fight	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F20-050	Person with Weapon	TASER™, Intentional Pointing of Firearm	CFS	Felony
F20-052	Prowl Check	Level I LNR, TASER™	SI	Felony
F20-053	Traffic Stop	OC	SI	Misdemeanor
F20-056	Assault	Level 2 Tactics- closed fist strike to face. Listed as Exceptional Technique	CFS	Felony
F20-057	Suspicious Person	Takedown Technique	CFS	Felony
F20-058	DV	Level 2 Tactic - Front kick	CFS	Felony
F20-059	DV	TASER™, Level 2 Tactic - knee strike	CFS	Felony
K20-001	Hit and Run	K9	CFS	Felony
K20-004	Vehicle Theft	K9	CFS	Felony
K20-005	DVOPV	K9	CFS	Felony
K20-006	Burglary Alarm	K9	CFS	Felony
K20-008	Surveillance	K9	AOA	Felony
K20-011	Burglary Alarm	K9	CFS	Felony
K20-012	DV	K9	CFS	Felony

Incidents Involving Black/African-American Individuals

Of the 12 incidents involving Black/African-American subjects, nine developed from a call for service. In three cases, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

- F20-020: The officer tried to initiate a traffic stop for reckless driving, but the suspect continued to drive away. The driver came to a stop and was assaultive.
- K20-002: An officer and his K9 partner assisted patrol officers who were apprehending a suspect who had fled from a traffic stop and then committed an occupied Burglary with Assault.
- K20-010: Patrol officers located a stolen vehicle in a parking lot. When the officer began to exit his vehicle, the driver fled from police. A K9 was used to track the fleeing suspect.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F20-002	Assault	TASER™	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-007	Disorderly	TASER™ / Level 2 Tactic	CFS	Felony
F20-020	Traffic Stop	TASER™	SI	Felony
F20-027	Suspicious Person	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F20-030	BHU	TASER™	CFS	Involuntary Treatment Act hold

F20-032	Disorderly	Level I LNR	Flagged over	Misdemeanor
F20-051	DV	Baton / TASER™	CFS	Felony
F20-055	DV	TASER™	CFS	Felony
K20-002	Traffic Stop	K9	SI	Felony
K20-003	Burglary	K9	CFS	Felony
K20-009	DV	K9	CFS	Felony
K20-010	Vehicle Recovery	K9	SI	Felony

Incidents Involving American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native American Individuals

Of the four incidents involving American Indian-Alaskan Native subjects, all were calls for service contacts.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F20-006	Disorderly	Handcuffing	CFS	Warrant
F20-012	DV	TASER™	CFS	Felony
F20-039	Vehicle Prowl	OC	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-044	Person with Weapon	Pointed Firearm	CFS	Felony

Incidents Involving Asian Individuals

Of the three incidents involving Asian subjects, two originated as a call for service, and one was assisting another agency.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F20-013	Vehicle Prowl	OC	CFS	Misdemeanor- Involuntary Treatment Act Hold
F20-022	Accident	Body weight	AOA	Traffic
K20-007	Domestic Violence with Weapon	K9	CFS	Felony

Incidents Involving White Individuals with Hispanic Ethnicity

Of the two incidents involving White Individuals with Hispanic Ethnicity, both stemmed from calls for service. These incidents are also listed under White Individuals.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	CFS or SI	Outcome
F20-011	Special Patrol	Level I LNR	CFS	Misdemeanor
F20-038	Suspicious Circumstances	Pointed Firearm	CFS	Misdemeanor

Officer Characteristics

71 different officers were involved in use of force incidents in 2020. With the exception of one detective, 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.

The majority of officers were involved in one or two incidents, but there were a few exceptions. One patrol officer was involved in four incidents and one officer was involved in three incidents.

The majority of the involved officers held the rank of officer, but a few involved officers were supervisors. One officer held the rank of detective, five officers held the rank of corporal, three officers held the rank of sergeant, four held the rank of lieutenant, and one held the rank of captain. Two of the lieutenants and the captain had ordered another officer to use force, which counted as a use of force, even if they did not use physical force. 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 in (only their time with SPD). The average age of officers involved in use of force incidents was 41 years old. Two of the involved officers were female; the rest were male. SPD officer demographics are 10% female and 90% male.

Of the 71 officers involved in use of force incidents in 2020, 60 of the involved officers identified their race/ethnicity as White, six as Hispanic, two as Native American, two as Other/Not Indicated, and one as Black/African-American. Of officers employed in 2020, the majority have identified as White. 18 officers identified as Hispanic; six as Black/African-American; six as Native American; six as Other/Not Indicated; four as Multi-Racial; 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 2020 regardless of hire, retirement, or separation date.

Outcomes of the Investigation and Review of Use of Force

Two of the 71 Use of Force incidents were found to be in violation of policy. In the first incident, the officer was in a foot pursuit with the suspect. The suspect presented a level of resistance that is considered active resistance. The officer deployed his TASER when he was approximately 25 feet away from the suspect, but the probes did not connect with the suspect. The TASER deployment had no impact on the fleeing suspect. The officer was able to catch the suspect and take him into custody without further incident. The use of a TASER in this situation does not comply with SPD policy and training. The actions of the suspect did not rise to an assaultive level, the level of resistance required to authorize the use of a TASER. The officer received a Documentation of Counseling as a sanction.

In the second incident, officers encountered a male on a traffic stop. The male refused to exit the vehicle, so the officer asked for additional resources. Officers attempted to negotiate with the male for thirty minutes before a supervisor gave the order to break out the rear passenger window. He then he deployed one flameless OC (pepper spray) canister to the rear of the car furthest away from the suspect. The suspect exited the vehicle, but he was still not complying with officers' commands. The supervisor requested that another officer apply additional OC in order to gain compliance. The OC application was effective and officers took him into custody without further incident. The Chain of Command reviewed the incident and determined that although it was an objectively reasonable use of force, there were issues with the application of OC, including decontamination after OC exposure and appropriately documenting the incident with photographs. Both officers who deployed the OC received Documentation of Counseling as a sanction, as did their supervisor.

The other 69 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 one case, SPD leadership identified a secondary policy violation although the use of force application was found to be within policy. The involved officer received a documentation of counseling (DOC) for a bodyworn camera violation.

Training Issues Identified During the Review Process

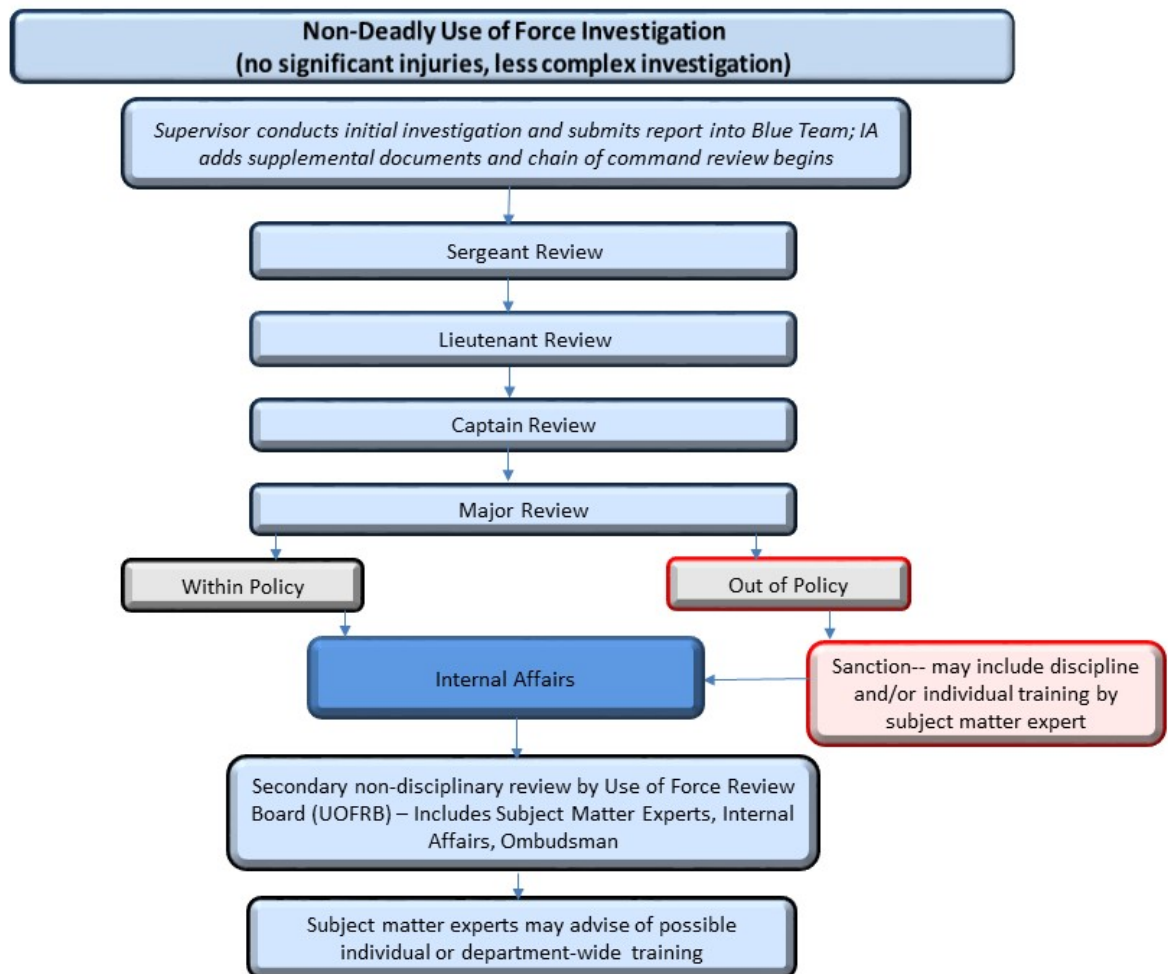
SPD's extensive reviews of incidents often identify opportunities for training, both on an individual basis and for the entire department. The Chain of Command review identified several training issues while reviewing non-deadly force incidents, recommending individual training in the areas of report 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.

Conclusion

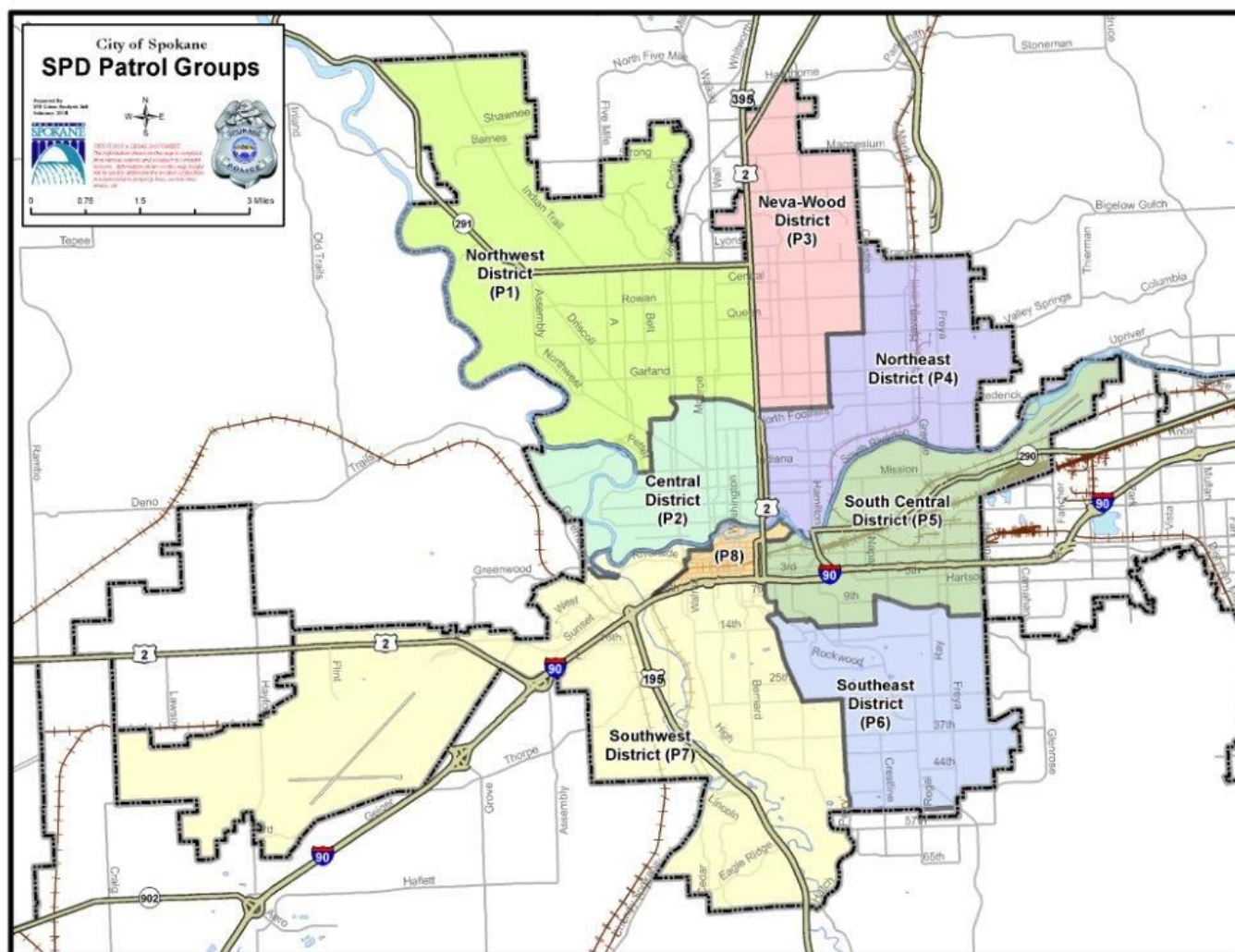
Thorough review of use of force incidents is critical to the Spokane Police Department. These reviews provide a comprehensive analysis of all incidents that have been individually reviewed and reveals trends that inform future training decisions. A proper review also helps improve the police department's 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.



Appendix A: Non-Deadly Use of Force Investigation Flow Chart



Appendix B: Police Districts



Appendix C: Arrests by Sex and Race

Arrests by Sex and Race (where an Arrest Report was written)

Female	Arrests	Percent of Total
American Indian-Alaskan Native	101	7.16%
Asian	18	1.28%
Black	121	8.58%
Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	2	0.14%
Unknown	56	3.97%
White	1112	78.87%
TOTAL	1410	

Male	Arrests	Percent of Total
American Indian-Alaskan Native	195	4.58%
Asian	62	1.46%
Black	592	13.91%
Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	31	0.73%
Unknown	111	2.61%
White	3264	76.71%
TOTAL	4255	

Unknown	Arrests	Percent of Total
American Indian-Alaskan Native	2	0.05%
Unknown	2	0.05%
White	4	0.09%
TOTAL	8	

Appendix D: Arrests by Sex, Ethnicity, and Race

Arrests by Sex, Ethnicity, and Race (where an Arrest Report was written)

Arrest Number	(Multiple Items)
Row Labels	Distinct Count of Arrest Number
Female	
Hispanic	
American Indian-Alaskan Native	2
Unknown	13
White	21
Non-Hispanic	
American Indian-Alaskan Native	84
Asian	17
Black	112
Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	1
Unknown	13
White	996
Unknown	
American Indian-Alaskan Native	15
Asian	1
Black	9
Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	1
Unknown	30
White	95
Male	
Hispanic	
American Indian-Alaskan Native	5
Asian	1
Black	3
Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	2
Unknown	55
White	138
Non-Hispanic	
American Indian-Alaskan Native	148
Asian	57
Black	536

Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	26
Unknown	25
White	2778
Unknown	
American Indian-Alaskan Native	42
Asian	4
Black	53
Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	3
Unknown	31
White	348
Unknown	
Non-Hispanic	
American Indian-Alaskan Native	2
Unknown	1
White	3
Unknown	
Unknown	1
White	1
Grand Total	5673