



2021 - Use of Force Summary and Analysis Report

**Office of Accountability
Bellevue Police Department
5/12/2022**

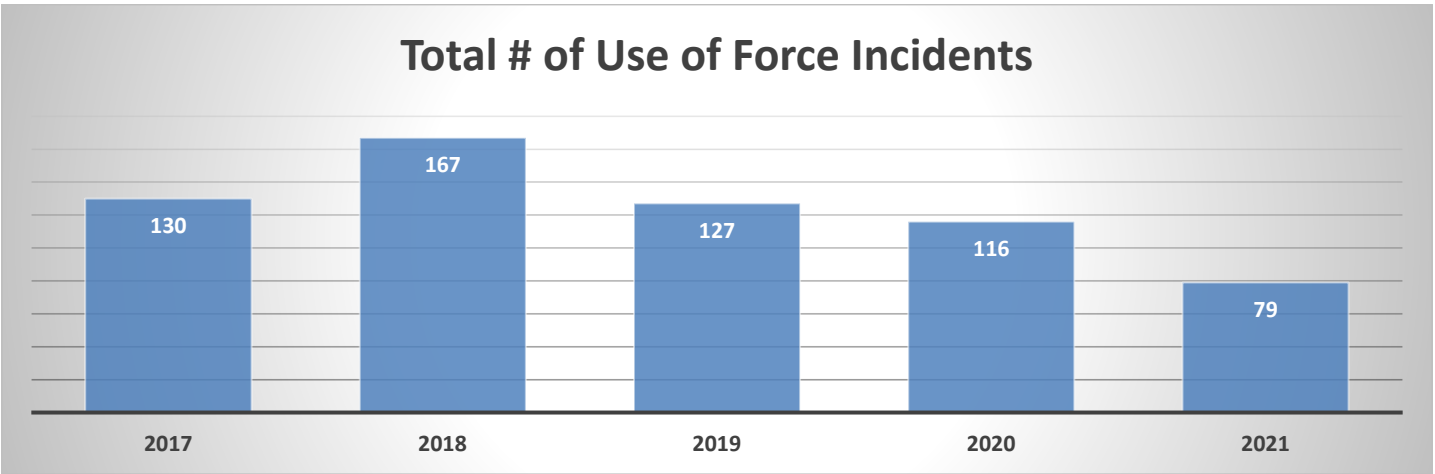
This report summarizes and analyzes the Department's "Use of Force" by its officers during the past year to include statistics, trends and training that occurred. In 2021, Bellevue police officers responded to 62,023 calls for service. During the year the number of incidents where BPD officers responded with some type of reportable force was 79, which was down from 116 in 2020. This number represents a decrease of approximately 32 percent. The data shows that in 2021, officers used force approximately 1.27 times for every 1000 calls for service, or 0.13 percent of the time.

The number of force incidents since 2018 (where there were 167) has decreased each year since to a low of 116 in 2020. In 2021, the decrease in the number of force incidents was the largest in over 20 years. One possible reason for this large decrease may in some part be attributed to the significant changes in state laws that were modified in July 2021 that limited situations when an officer could lawfully use force. Specifically, one of the new laws enacted as a result of HB 1310 restricted officers from using force to detain suspects during an investigative detention (i.e., Terry Stop), where there was reasonable suspicion that a crime had occurred or was about to occur. This meant that if an officer did not have probable cause at the time of contact with a suspect of a crime, the officer could not lawfully use any physical force to keep a subject from fleeing or walking away from the scene. In March of 2022, this law was changed back to allow officers to once again be able to use force in these situations.

1. Force Incidents/Types of Force Used

The table below shows the different types of force used by officers and the number of times each type was applied during an incident. It should be noted that in many incidents, more than just one type of force was used during a single incident and often more than one officer involved in an incident responded with some type of reportable force.

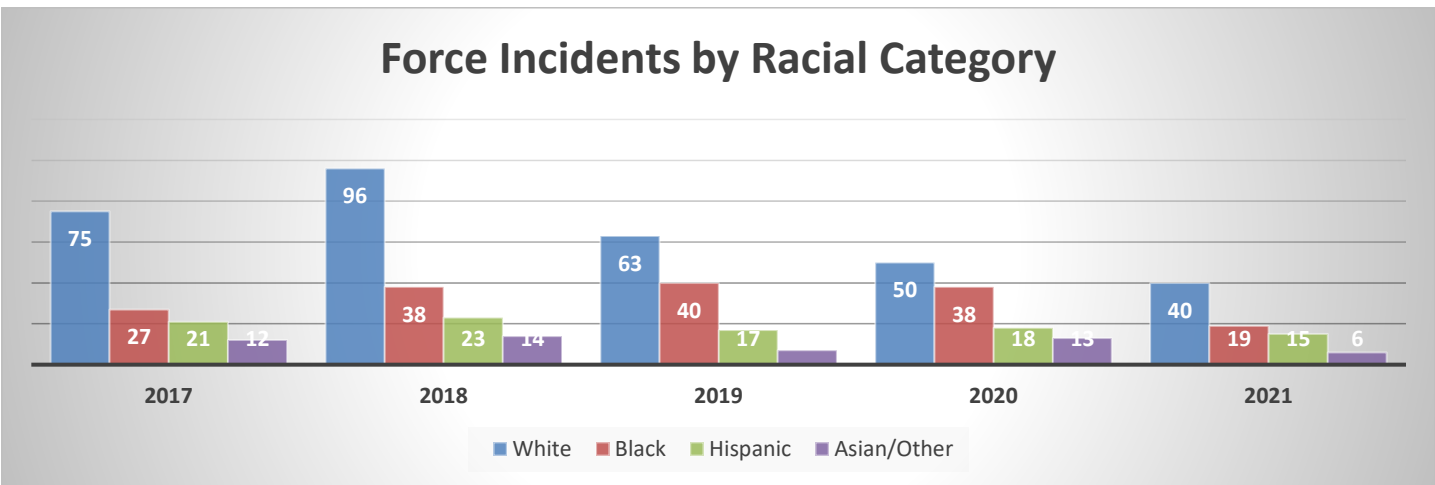
Type of Force Response	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Empty Hand Control/Restraint	115	137	102	96	63
Pepper Spray (OC)	1	0	0	3	2
Taser	11	12	10	8	7
Personal Impact Tools	16	15	14	9	8
Impact Weapons	1	0	0	1	0
Firearm Pointed at Person	12	13	11	4	5
Vascular Neck Restraints (VNR)	8	4	7	5	0
Firearm Discharged at Person	0	0	0	0	0
Total # of Use of Force Incidents	130	167	127	116	79



2. Force Incidents by Subject Racial Category

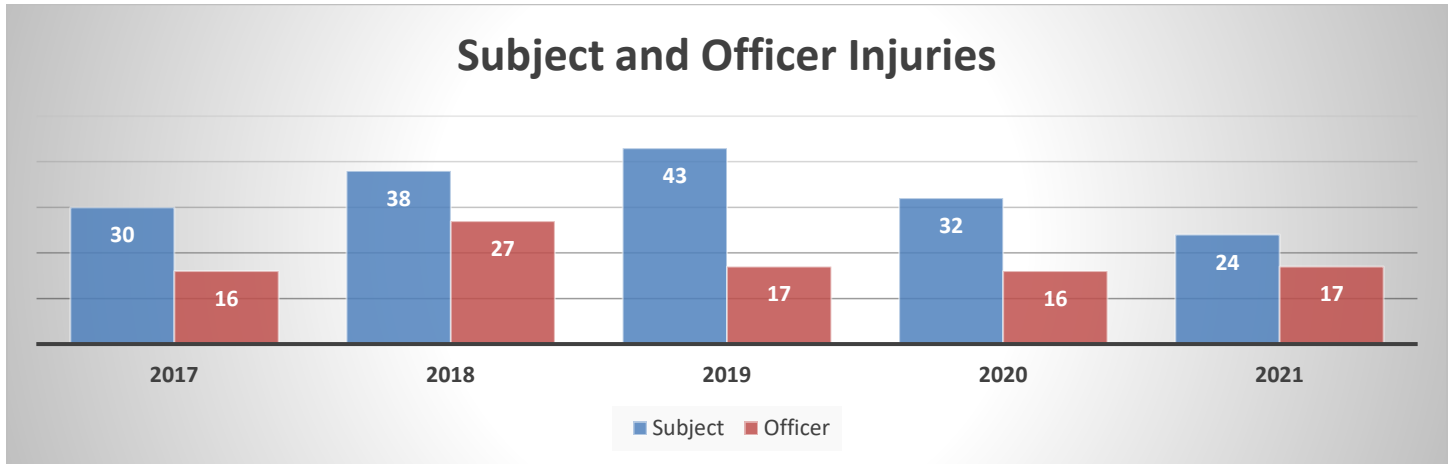
The below table displays the number of subjects that force was used against belonging to each of the different listed racial categories. The data shows an 8 percent increase where force was used on a white subject which went from about 43 percent of the total force incidents in 2020 to 51 percent in 2021. Conversely there was a decrease of about 9 percent in the black racial category. For the Hispanic category there was a slight increase in percentage of the total of about 4 percent. The last racial category includes Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Eskimo, and individuals of mixed race where there was a decrease in about 4 percent from the previous year. For a more detailed breakdown of racial demographics with regard to use of force and arrest data, please refer to Appendix A and B of this report.

Race	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
White	75	96	63	50	40
Black	27	38	40	38	19
Hispanic	21	23	17	18	15
Asian/Other	12	14	7	13	6



3. Force Incident Injuries

The below table displays the recorded number of injuries to officers and to subjects (resulting from the subject's resistance and police force response). The numbers show that the overall percentage of incidents involving injuries to both subjects and officers increased from 2020 to 2021. Subject injuries saw a small increase of two percent over the previous year. Whereas the percentage of injuries to officers increased by approximately eight percent last year.



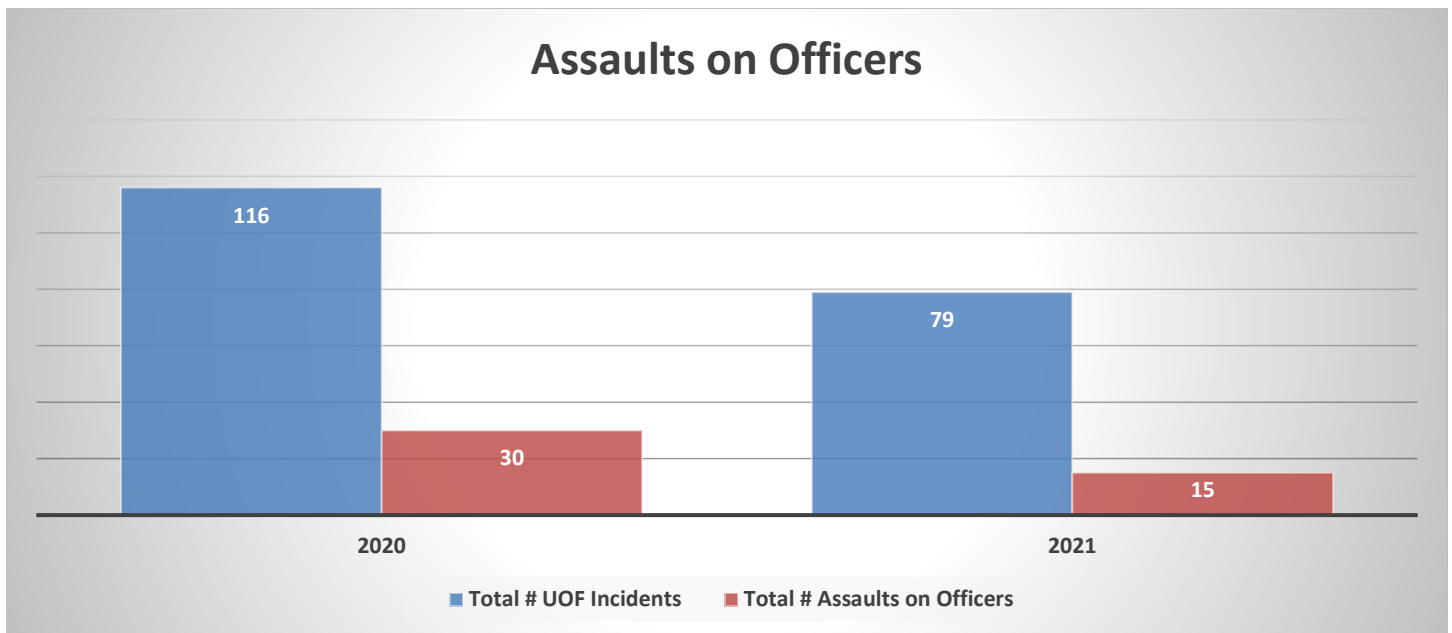
4. Assaults on Officers

In 2021, an annual review of subject assaults on officers was conducted in accordance with new CALEA 6th Edition standard “4.2.5 – Assault on Sworn Officer Review.” This review looked at assaults against officers that occurred in calendar year 2020. The review for 2021 is now being incorporated as part of this overall use of force analysis. The table below compares the numbers from 2020 to 2021. In 2020, there were a total of 116 incidents in which force was used. In 30 of these, or 26 percent of them, an officer was assaulted by the subject. In 2021, the overall number of incidents was down and so was the percentage of assaults against officers, down to 19 percent. However, the total number of officer injuries remained the same (ten each year), even though the total number of assaults was half of the number occurring in 2020.

Assaults on Officers	2020	2021
Total # UOF Incidents	116	79
# Assaults on Officers	30	15
Percentage of Total	26%	19%
Officer Injuries related to Assaults	10	10
Drug/Alcohol Influence on Assaults	6	5
Mental Health Influence on Assaults	3	2

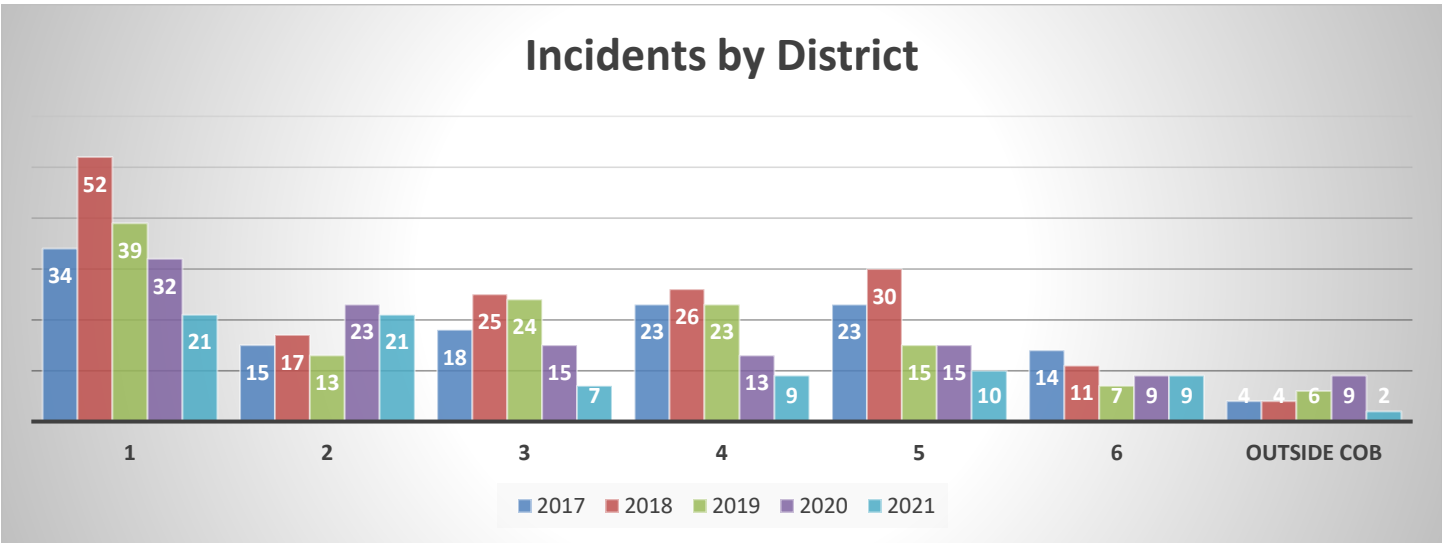
Although there are currently only two years of data for comparison, it can be seen from the table below that the percentage for white subjects went from 33 percent in 2020 and up to 47 percent in 2021. In contrast, the number of assaults on officers by black subjects went from 40 percent in 2020 and down to 27 percent in 2021. For the Hispanic and Asian/Other categories the changes were less significant. Without additional information, it is difficult to attribute these changes to any specific cause. Additional data in future years may reveal trends or patterns in this area.

Subject Racial Category/Assaults on Officers	2020	2021
White	10 (33%)	7 (47%)
Black	12 (40%)	4 (27%)
Hispanic	3 (10%)	2 (13%)
Asian/Other	2 (7%)	2 (13%)
Unknown	1 (3%)	0 (0%)



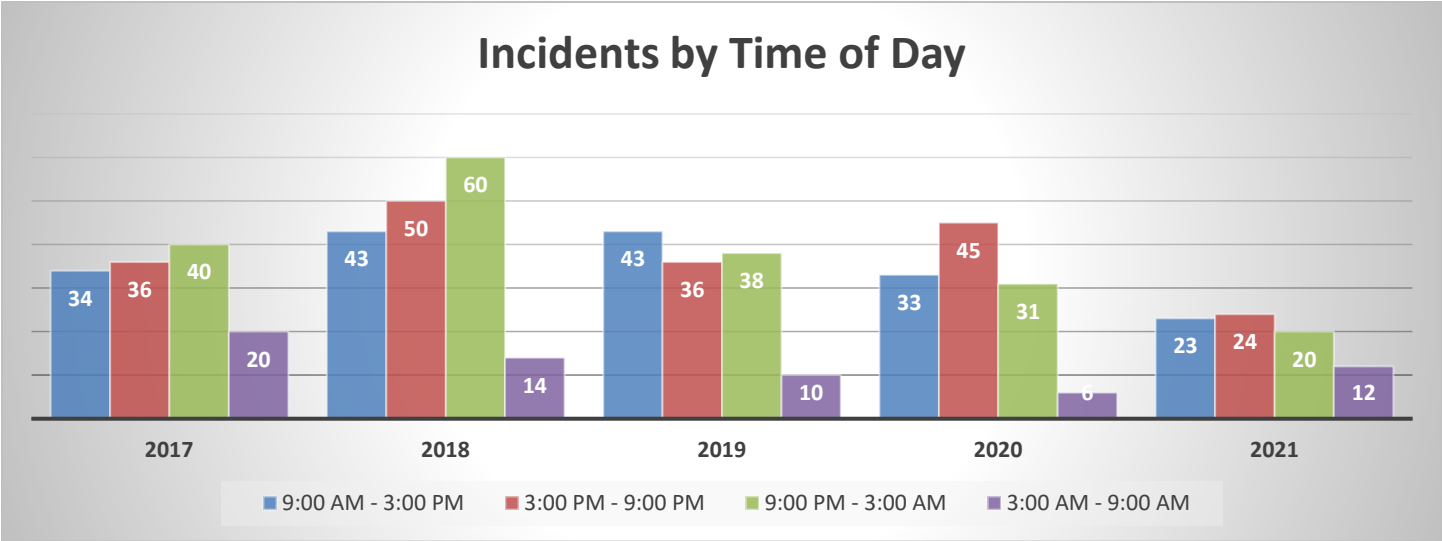
5. Force Incidents by District

The below table shows the number of force incidents that occurred in each of the six districts over the last five years, with the light blue bar displaying 2021 totals. Each of the six districts in the city saw a decrease in the number of incidents except for District 6 which stayed the same at nine incidents. The last category listed is “Outside COB” and includes those incidents where various units or officers were involved in contacts outside of the City of Bellevue (SWAT, Crowd Control, SOG, etc.). There were only two of these incidents in 2021 (down from nine in 2020). The highest frequency of force incidents continued to be in Districts 1 and 2 which is consistent with previous years. These two districts cover the downtown residential and business core areas where the population is most concentrated.



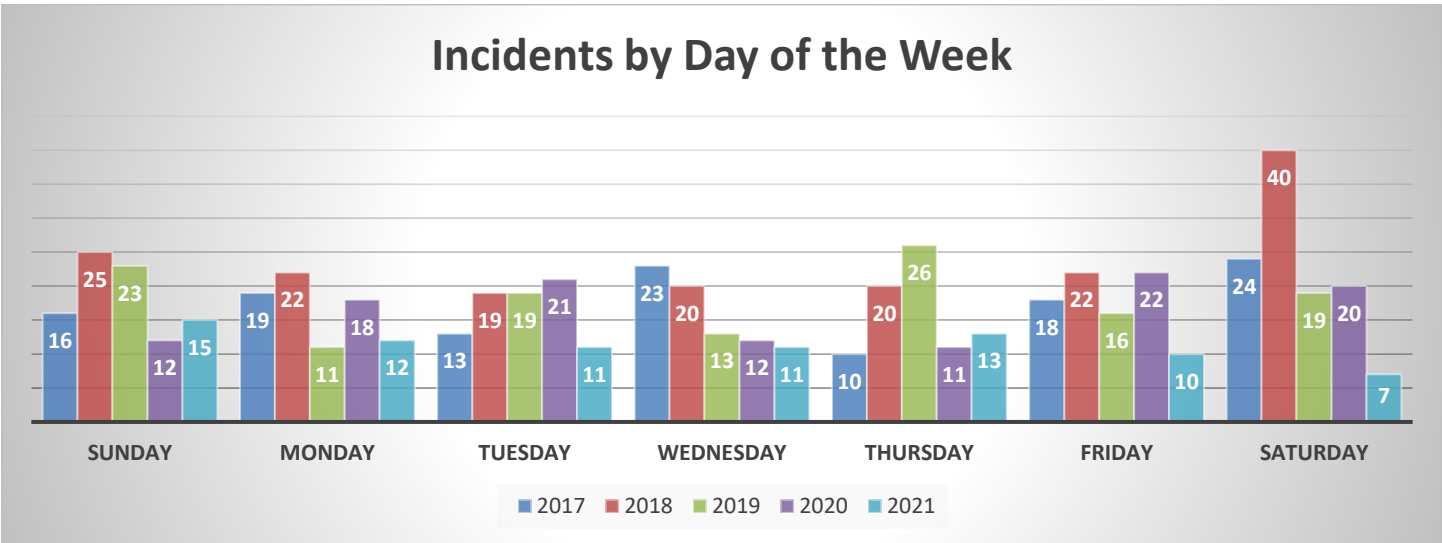
6. Force Incidents by Time of Day

This table displays force incidents that occurred during four different 6-hour time periods throughout the day for each year. The numbers below are fairly consistent with previous years with the highest frequency of incidents occurring during the hours between 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM (24 incidents) followed closely by the period between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (23 incidents). One interesting piece of information was the period from 3:00 AM to 9:00 AM (12 incidents) was the highest it's been since 2018 (14 incidents).



Force Incidents by Day of the Week

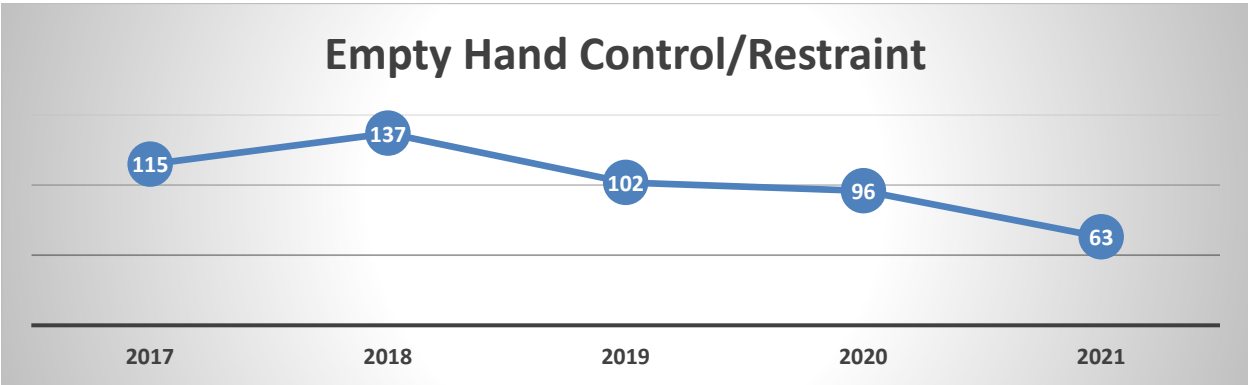
This table shows the days of the week and the corresponding number of force incidents that occurred on each day. Five of the seven days of the week decreased in the number of total incidents. The only two days of the week that increased in frequency were Sunday (increased from 12 to 15) and Thursday (increased from 11 to 13). There is no known reason for this increase.



7. Individual Force Usage Breakdown

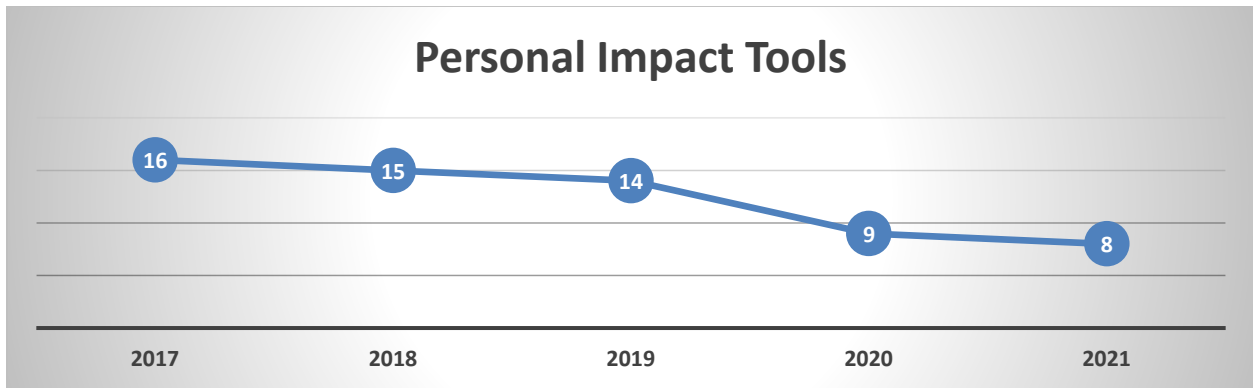
A. Low Level Force Tactics

Empty Hand Control/Restraint- The number of incidents where Empty Hand Control and Restraint Tactics (control holds, takedowns and other low level physical restraint tactics) were utilized in 2021 was 63 out of a total of 79 incidents. This high percentage is consistent with previous years since when an officer uses some other weapon or tool to counter or overcome various levels of threat or resistance, there is usually also a need to follow up with some type of “empty hand” control tactic to finish taking the subject into custody. Instances where this may not happen is when a firearm (or TASER) is displayed to direct or compel a subject during a high risk situation (e.g. Stolen Vehicle, Burglary, Robbery, etc.) and the subject complies and follows the commands of the officer throughout the arrest process.

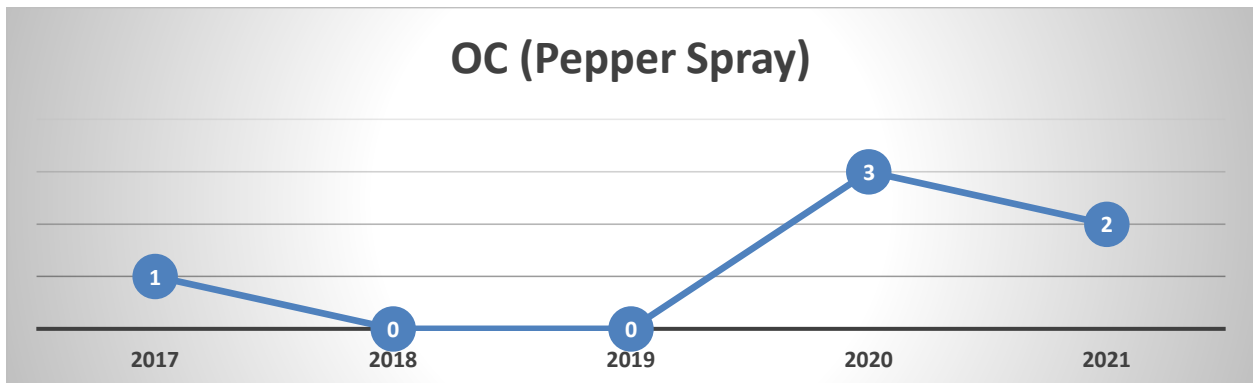


B. Intermediate/Less-Lethal Force:

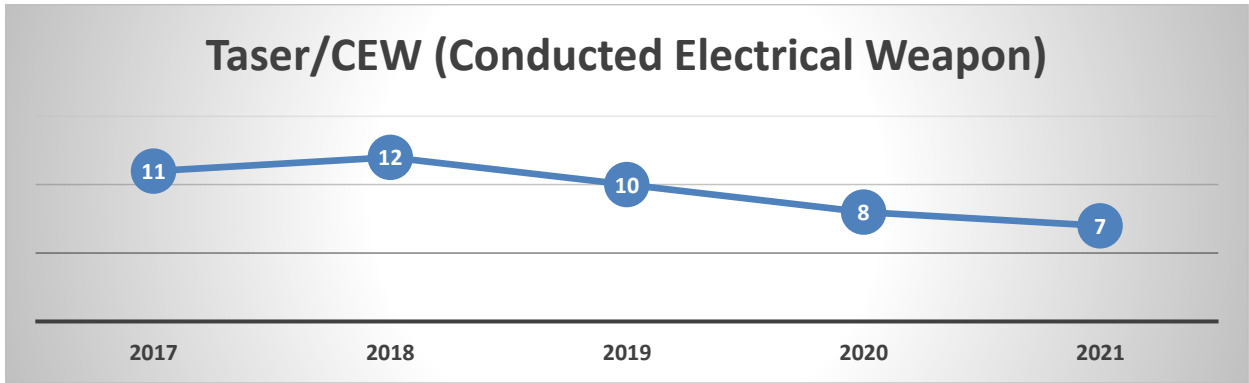
Personal Impact Tools- During 2021, officers used a part of their body as an impact tool (i.e. hands, elbows, knees or feet) in 8 separate incidents (down from 9 from 2020).



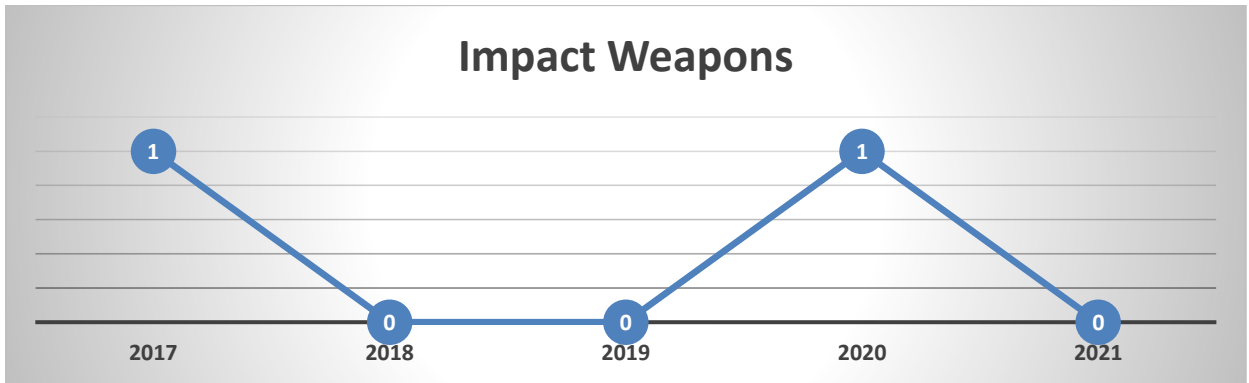
OC/Pepper Spray- There were two incidents in which OC/Pepper Spray was used in 2021. The first incident involved an in-progress DV at an apartment residence where the female suspect had assaulted an officer at the front door and an aggressive dog was attempting to get at the officers. An officer deployed his pepper spray at the dog inside the apartment to stop the dog's threatening behavior. The second incident involved a DV in a vehicle where a father was physically assaulting his adult daughter who was trying to get out of a vehicle he was in. An officer deployed his pepper spray against the father in response to him grabbing his daughter around the neck. In 2020 there were a total of three incidents where OC was applied to a subject- two of which occurred during civil disturbances.



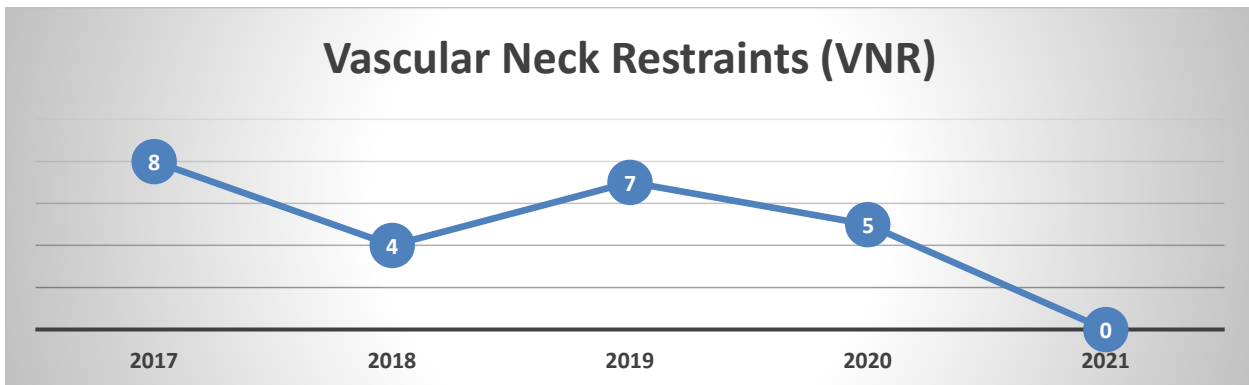
TASER- The TASER was used as a force option in seven different force incidents in 2021. This was down one from the previous year. In all seven incidents the TASER was fired using the probe mode with five incidents involving a Drive Stun follow up tactic that was applied in order to complete the circuit in accordance with department training. The highest number of applications (or cycles) of the TASER during one incident was four cycles used on a single subject who had a TASER device of his own and was attempting to use it on the officers as they attempted to arrest him from inside of his vehicle for a DV felony crime.



Impact Weapons- In 2021, there were no incidents where impact weapons (i.e. batons, impact projectiles, etc.) were used which has been the case in three of the last five years as shown below.



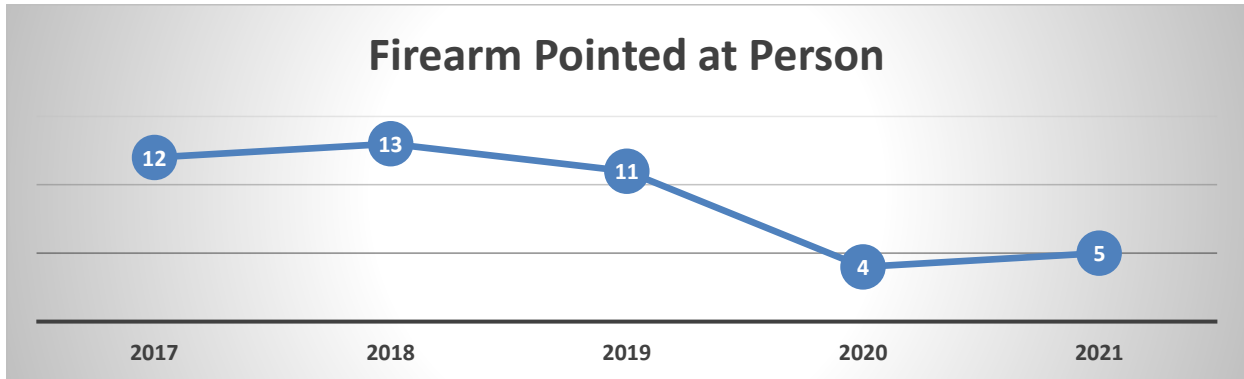
Vascular Neck Restraints- There were no incidents in which the Vascular Neck Restraint (VNR) was used on a subject. This is mainly due to a policy change in 2020 that restricted the use of the VNR to situations where Deadly Force would be justified. This was then followed by new WA state legislation in 2021 that prohibited it's use by law enforcement officers in this state, except to protect the life of the officer or others.



C. Deadly Force/Firearms

There were no incidents involving the use of firearms or any other type of deadly force against a person during 2021.

There were only five documented incidents where one or more officers pointed a firearm at a person during a detention and/or arrest. The number of incidents was up one from the previous year but was down significantly from the previous three year average of twelve per year. This is believed to be related to improved training at the academy and continued emphasis within the department that the pointing a firearm at a person should only be done in limited circumstances where there is an immediate threat of serious harm or death to the officer or others.



2021 General Use of Force Related-

Use of Force Training

TASER Recertification Training- Annual TASER Recertification training was conducted during January and February of 2021. There were a total of 12 sessions conducted with all uniformed personnel (Corporal and below) required to carry and recertify on the TASER. The recertification consists of an online refresher training and test along with a two-hour practical/hands on training involving demonstration of critical skills and role playing scenarios.

Defensive Tactics Training- In 2021 there were three sets of Defensive Tactics Training sessions during the year which was limited in part due to COVID-19 restrictions. The training covered several topics including TASER device retention tactics, review of handcuffing techniques and control tactics as well as in-depth training on the July 2021 state legislative update on use of force. There were approximately 45 sessions (2.5 hrs each) conducted by members of the Defensive Tactics Instructor cadre. In addition to annual In-Service Defensive Tactics training, each new officer received more than 20 hours of defensive tactics training prior to starting their Field Training in Patrol.

Force Scenario Training- The department conducted approximately 4 hours of force scenario training during the 2021 Spring In-Service training. The training at a local and recently closed hotel within the city, incorporated a variety of micro scenarios using role players that focused on de-escalation tactics and transitioning up or down in force levels depending on the perceived threat to the officer. During this training, officers were able to practice appropriate de-escalation tactics of using time, distance and cover when possible as well as demonstrating proper decision making during deadly force as well as low-level force scenarios. In

addition to the above training objectives, as a result of administrative and training reviews of recent incidents it was determined that there was a need to emphasize and practice scenarios that focused on two-officer takedown tactics, involving the use of high-low principles. This is where two or more officers can effectively and safely take a resisting subject to the ground. One officer should go low and control the legs while the other one or two officers should simultaneously control the upper body/limb(s) as they guide the subject to the ground.

Other Issues

The OIR Group's Use of Force Policy Review and Report- In September 2020, the City hired a private consulting company, the Office of Independent Review (OIR) Group to conduct a review of the police department's use of force policies and to recommend any changes to that policy if necessary. Engagement with the community and various department members occurred during October and November of 2020. A final report was issued in April of 2021 where a total of 47 recommended policy changes were made. Between June and December of 2021, approximately 30 of these recommendations were addressed with the majority implemented through policy and/or practice updates. The remaining recommendations are expected to be addressed with a final status report to the City Council by the end of June, 2022.

Updated Use of Force related Policies- as a result of the above review by the OIR Group and due to numerous police reform laws, the below use of force/police tactics related policies were created or revised in 2021:

- 1.00.010 - Use of Force (revised)
- 1.00.011 - De-escalation (new policy)
- 1.00.012 - Duty to Intervene and Report (new policy)
- 1.00.020 - Use of Firearms-Authorized (revised)
- 1.00.030 - Use of Firearms-Prohibited (revised)
- 1.00.050 - Neck Restraints (revised)
- 1.00.070 - Use of Chemical Agents (revised)
- 2.00.060 - Special Firearms, Weapons and Less Lethal Devices (revised)
- 2.00.090 - Department Armorer/Armory (revised)
- 3.00.010 - Vehicular Pursuits (revised)
- 3.00.020 - Ramming/Forcing Vehicles Off Roadway (revised)

2022 Use of Force Related

State Legislative Updates in Police Use of Force- two primary police use of force reform bills (HB 1735 and HB 2037) were passed by the state legislature in March 2022 that were an attempt to fix the numerous issues and problems with the previous year's legislative changes related to police tactics and use of force. The following are some examples of the changes and updates that were made to the laws:

- Allows for the use of force during civil/community caretaking situations
- Allows for the use of force to enforce a court order
- Allows for the use of force to execute a search warrant
- Allows for the use of force to prevent a suspect from fleeing during an investigative detention
- Allows for the use of Less Lethal Weapons (Bean Bag Shotguns, Impact Projectiles, etc.)
- Provided a definition for "Physical Force"
- Modified when de-escalation tactics are required to be used



Use of Force Summary and Analysis Report

Appendix A Use of Force Data By Race and Arrests 2012-2021

White	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Avg.
<i>Total Use of Force Incidents</i>	159	151	127	122	152	130	167	127	116	79	133
<i>Total Use of Force by Race</i>	105	105	74	82	88	75	96	63	50	40	78
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	66%	70%	58%	67%	58%	58%	57%	50%	43%	51%	58%

Arrest Data

<i>Total Number of Arrests</i>	3784	3531	3422	3492	3702	3961	4180	4476	3339	2905	3679
<i>Arrests by Race-White</i>	2407	2278	2180	2225	2311	2339	2332	2328	1822	1490	2171
<i>Percentage of Total Arrests</i>	64%	65%	64%	64%	62%	59%	56%	52%	55%	51%	59%
<i>Percentage of Arrests-Force Used</i>	4%	5%	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%
<i>Percentage of Arrests-No Force Used</i>	96%	95%	97%	96%	96%	97%	96%	97%	97%	97%	96%

Black	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Avg.
<i>Total Use of Force Incidents</i>	159	151	127	122	152	130	167	127	116	79	133
<i>Total Use of Force by Race</i>	35	27	26	21	25	27	38	40	38	19	30
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	22%	18%	20%	17%	16%	21%	23%	31%	33%	24%	23%

Arrest Data

<i>Total Number of Arrests</i>	3784	3531	3422	3492	3702	3961	4180	4476	3339	2905	3679
<i>Arrests by Race-Black</i>	674	582	613	607	724	834	1006	1037	747	617	744
<i>Percentage of Total Arrests</i>	18%	16%	18%	17%	20%	21%	24%	23%	22%	21%	20%
<i>Percentage of Arrests-Force Used</i>	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%
<i>Percentage of Arrests-No Force Used</i>	95%	95%	96%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	97%	96%

Appendix A
Use of Force Data
By Race and Arrests 2011-2020

Hispanic	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Avg.
<i>Total Use of Force Incidents</i>	159	151	127	122	152	130	167	127	116	79	133
<i>Total Use of Force by Race</i>	15	10	15	7	19	21	23	17	18	15	16
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	9%	7%	12%	6%	13%	16%	14%	13%	16%	19%	13%

Arrest Data

<i>Total Number of Arrests</i>	3784	3531	3422	3492	3702	3961	4180	4476	3339	2905	3679
<i>Arrests by Race- Hispanic</i>	245	271	255	293	303	336	401	485	341	298	322
<i>Percentage of Total Arrests</i>	6%	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%	10%	11%	10%	10%	9%
<i>Percentage of Arrests- Force Used</i>	6%	4%	6%	2%	6%	6%	6%	4%	5%	5%	5%
<i>Percentage of Arrests- No Force Used</i>	94%	96%	94%	98%	94%	94%	94%	96%	95%	95%	95%

Asian/Other	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Avg.
<i>Total Use of Force Incidents</i>	159	151	127	122	152	130	167	127	116	79	133
<i>Total Use of Force by Race</i>	14	12	14	13	20	12	14	7	13	6	13
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	9%	8%	11%	11%	13%	9%	8%	6%	11%	8%	9%

Arrest Data

<i>Total Number of Arrests</i>	3784	3531	3422	3492	3702	3961	4180	4476	3339	2905	3679
<i>Arrests by Race- Asian/Other</i>	416	350	310	305	306	347	327	399	429	499	369
<i>Percentage of Total Arrests</i>	11%	10%	9%	9%	8%	9%	8%	9%	13%	17%	10%
<i>Percentage of Arrests- Force Used</i>	3%	3%	5%	4%	7%	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	4%
<i>Percentage of Arrests- No Force Used</i>	97%	97%	95%	96%	93%	97%	96%	98%	97%	98%	96%



Use of Force Summary and Analysis Report

Appendix B

Use of Force Data

By Race and Type of Force 2012-2021

<i>White</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Total Use of Force Incidents</i>	159	151	127	122	152	130	167	127	116	79
<i>Total Use of Force by Race</i>	105	105	74	82	88	75	96	63	50	40
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	66%	70%	58%	67%	58%	58%	57%	50%	43%	51%
Types of Force Used										
<i>Control/Physical Restraint</i>	96	92	71	78	85	65	82	47	43	33
<i>Body Impact Strikes</i>	11	11	4	2	6	10	10	7	1	5
<i>Vascular Neck Restraints</i>	6	6	3	6	4	6	2	4	2	0
<i>Pepper Spray (OC)</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>TASER</i>	4	3	2	4	3	7	7	6	5	1
<i>Impact Weapon</i>	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Firearm Pointed</i>	11	15	3	4	1	7	6	7	2	2
<i>Firearm/Deadly Force</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Black</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Total Use of Force Incidents</i>	159	151	127	122	152	130	167	127	116	79
<i>Total Use of Force by Race</i>	35	27	26	21	25	27	38	40	38	19
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	22%	18%	20%	17%	16%	21%	23%	31%	33%	24%
Types of Force Used										
<i>Control/Physical Restraint</i>	31	24	23	21	24	25	28	34	31	18
<i>Body Impact Strikes</i>	4	0	1	0	2	5	3	5	2	1
<i>Vascular Neck Restraints</i>	3	0	3	3	3	2	2	1	0	0
<i>Pepper Spray (OC)</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
<i>TASER</i>	2	1	0	2	1	3	1	3	1	2
<i>Impact Weapon</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
<i>Firearm Pointed</i>	3	3	3	0	0	1	3	1	0	1
<i>Firearm/Deadly Force</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix B
Use of Force Data
By Race and Type of Force 2012-2021

<i>Hispanic</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Total Use of Force Incidents</i>	159	151	127	122	152	130	167	127	116	79
<i>Total Use of Force by Race</i>	15	10	15	7	19	21	23	17	18	15
<i>Percentage of Total</i>	9%	7%	12%	6%	13%	16%	14%	13%	16%	19%
Types of Force Used										
<i>Control/Physical Restraint</i>	13	9	11	7	16	12	17	14	13	9
<i>Body Impact Strikes</i>	1	1	3	0	2	2	1	1	3	0
<i>Vascular Neck Restraints</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Pepper Spray (OC)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>TASER</i>	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	2
<i>Impact Weapon</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Firearm Pointed</i>	2	1	2	0	3	3	4	3	2	2
<i>Firearm/Deadly Force</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Types of Force Used										
<i>Control/Physical Restraint</i>	13	12	13	12	19	7	12	5	8	7
<i>Body Impact Strikes</i>	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	2
<i>Vascular Neck Restraints</i>	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	0
<i>Pepper Spray (OC)</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>TASER</i>	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	2
<i>Impact Weapon</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Firearm Pointed</i>	2	0	3	1	1	2	1	1	0	0
<i>Firearm/Deadly Force</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0