



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION
CHIEF OF POLICE
CRAIG N. MEIDL



Spokane Police Department
2018 Annual Comprehensive Analysis of Reportable
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 Reportable 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 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 Remains Low

The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (00.06%). In 2018, SPD officers were involved in 170,170 incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 113 incidents in 2018.

In 2017, officers were involved in 152,823 incidents. The total number of use of force incidents was 109 (00.07%).

At 113 total non-deadly use of force incidents in 2018, SPD's annual total is 24% less than 2013, which had 147 non-deadly use of force incidents. SPD has increased the number of officers by 14% since 2012.



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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 court-ordered contacts, officer-initiated contacts, or contact from assisting another agency. 2018 data showed that 77 (68%) of the 113 use of force incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 or Crime Check calls. In 26 (23%) of incidents, the officer initiated contact, often during proactive police work involving stolen cars. 10 incidents (9%) originated from involved officers assisting other agencies, such as the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force, Washington State Patrol, Department of Corrections, Geiger clean-up crews, Stevens County Sheriff's Office, and Spokane County Sheriff's Office. This trend has continued over the past five years, and confirms the majority of uses of force are associated with calls for service requests or requests for assistance from other agencies.

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 2018, DV-related calls (include a wide variety of classifications from DV protection order violations to DV Assault) 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 five 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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2018 Use of Force – At a Glance

- **2018 Annual Total of Non-deadly UOF:** 113 use of force incidents; 170,170 calls for service.
- **2018 Annual Total of Deadly UOF:** 1 deadly use of force incident; 170,170 calls for service.
- **UOF Frequency:** The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (00.06%). In 2018, SPD officers were involved in 170,170 incidents, and used non-deadly force in 113 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, use of TASER™ device or Level I Lateral Neck Restraint
- **Environment:** Most often occurring in Downtown, South Central, Northeast, and Northwest police district. Violent crime statistics were the highest in Nevawood, Northeast, and Downtown police districts.
- **Day and Time:** Most often occurring on Wednesdays and Mondays, and during Noon-3:00 pm and Midnight to 3:00 am.
- **Intoxication:** Involved persons were intoxicated 53% of the time.
- **Mental Status:** Subjects were documented as mentally unstable in 39 (35%) of the 111 use of force incidents in 2018.
- **Incident Outcome:** Most frequently felony arrest of involved subject.
- **Officer Demographics:** Most often a White officer, average age 39 years old, with 10 years of experience with SPD.
- **Investigation Outcome:** 98% of incidents were determined to be in compliance with policy. Two incidents were determined out of policy; both involved remedial training on SPD's current training philosophy on intentional pointing of a firearm.
- **Secondary Review:** Each UOF incident receives a secondary review by the Use of Force Review Board. 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, scene safety, activating bodyworn cameras before exiting the car, and review of SPD's current training philosophy on intentional pointing of a firearm.



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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 114 reportable uses of force in 2018, including one deadly force incident. This report analyzes the non-deadly uses of force. After removing the deadly force case, the finalized total is 113 non-deadly use of force incidents.

Reportable Use of Force with Chain of Command Review

Reportable 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 reportable use of force; it is considered compliance. Less intrusive control tactics are not normally deemed a "Reportable 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 reportable 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 reportable use of force incident, although it does not involve the application of physical force.

Reportable 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



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- 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 reportable contact has occurred
- When an individual alleges any of the above has occurred

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 SPD's Training Director, Defensive Tactics subject matter experts, Internal Affairs Lieutenant, Patrol Captain, Major, Chief, Assistant Chief, Director of Strategic Initiatives, City Attorney's Office, and the Office of Police Ombudsman.

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 is not utilized to recommend discipline or conduct investigations in unresolved use of force incidents. UOFRB members include SPD's Training Director, Assistant Training Director, Rangemaster/Firearms Instructor, Internal Affairs Lieutenant, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Program Professional, officer peer representative, and the Police Ombudsman.



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Use of Force Data: January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

Total Reportable Use of Force Incidents versus Citizen Contacts

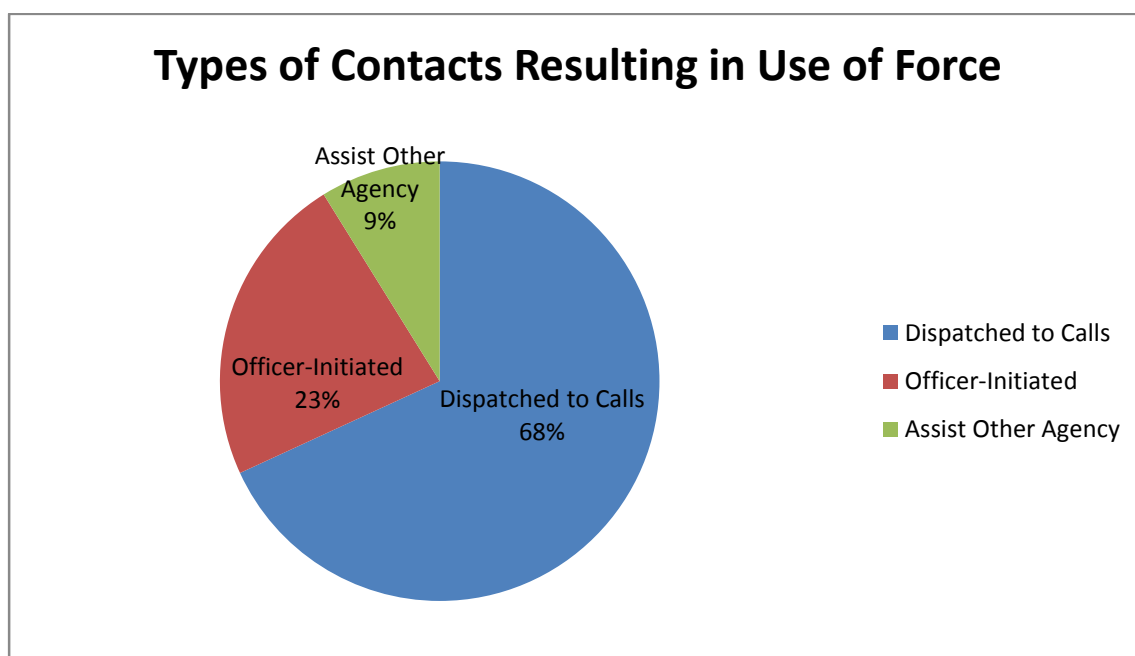
Use of force numbers are often compared against the total number of police-citizen contacts. It is difficult to provide a definitive number of police-citizen contacts, as there are many informal contacts and non-enforcement contacts with citizens (e.g., partnerships, meetings, business contacts, and 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 2018, officers were involved in a total of 170,170 incidents. This number includes calls for service and officer-initiated incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 113 of the incidents in 2018. The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (00.06%). 113 incidents is a slight increase from 109 incidents in 2017. However, SPD officers were involved in 17,347 (10%) more calls and officer-initiated incidents in 2018. In 2017, officers were involved in 152,823 total incidents. The 2018 ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is slightly lower than 2017's ratio of 00.07%.

At 113 total non-deadly use of force incidents in 2018, SPD's annual total is 23% less than 2013, which had 147 non-deadly use of force incidents, despite an increase in personnel.

Calls for Service versus Officer-Initiated Contacts

Figure 1





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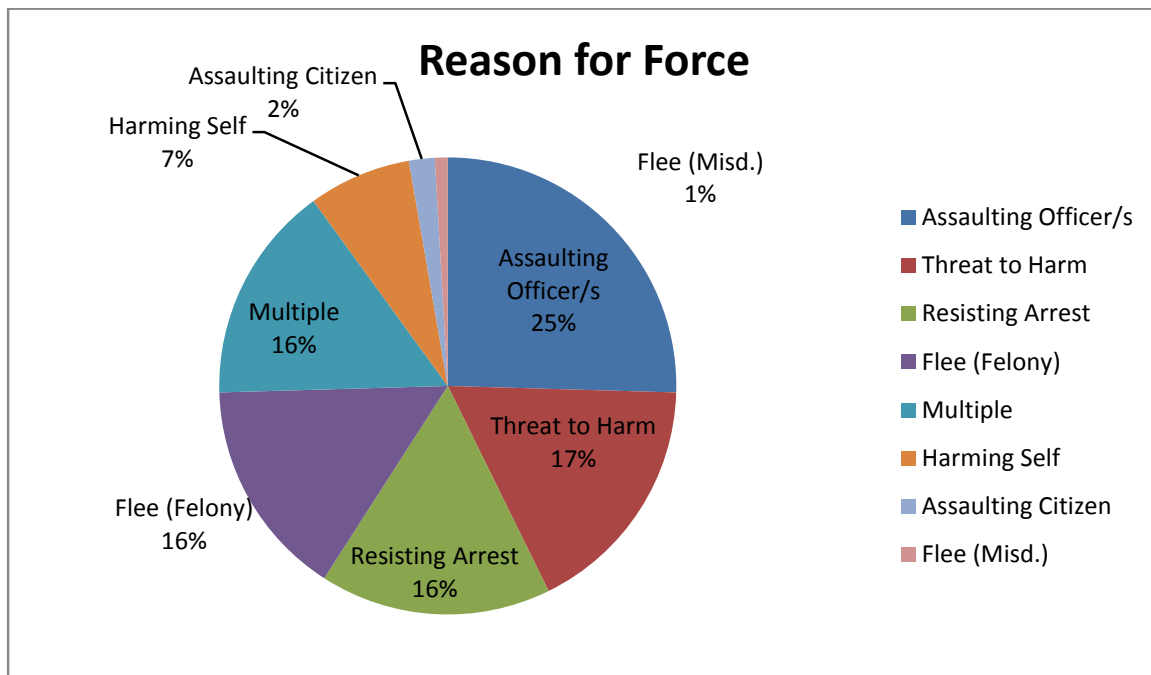
77 (68%) of the 111 use of force incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 or Crime Check calls. In 26 (23%) of incidents, the officer initiated contact, often during proactive policing involving stolen cars. 10 incidents (9%) originated from involved officers assisting other agencies, such as the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force, Washington State Patrol, Department of Corrections, Geiger clean-up crews, Stevens County Sheriff's Office, and Spokane County Sheriff's Office. See Figure 1.

Type of Call

Domestic Violence-related calls were the most common type of call resulting in a reportable 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. Other common types of calls resulting in force included Assault (7%), serving a court-ordered warrant (6%), and Vehicle Theft/Recovery (6%). Other incidents involving use of force included classifications such as Argument, Assist Other Agency, Burglary, Check Welfare, Disorderly Conduct, Fight, 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 threat to harm others. 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



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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 recently 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>.



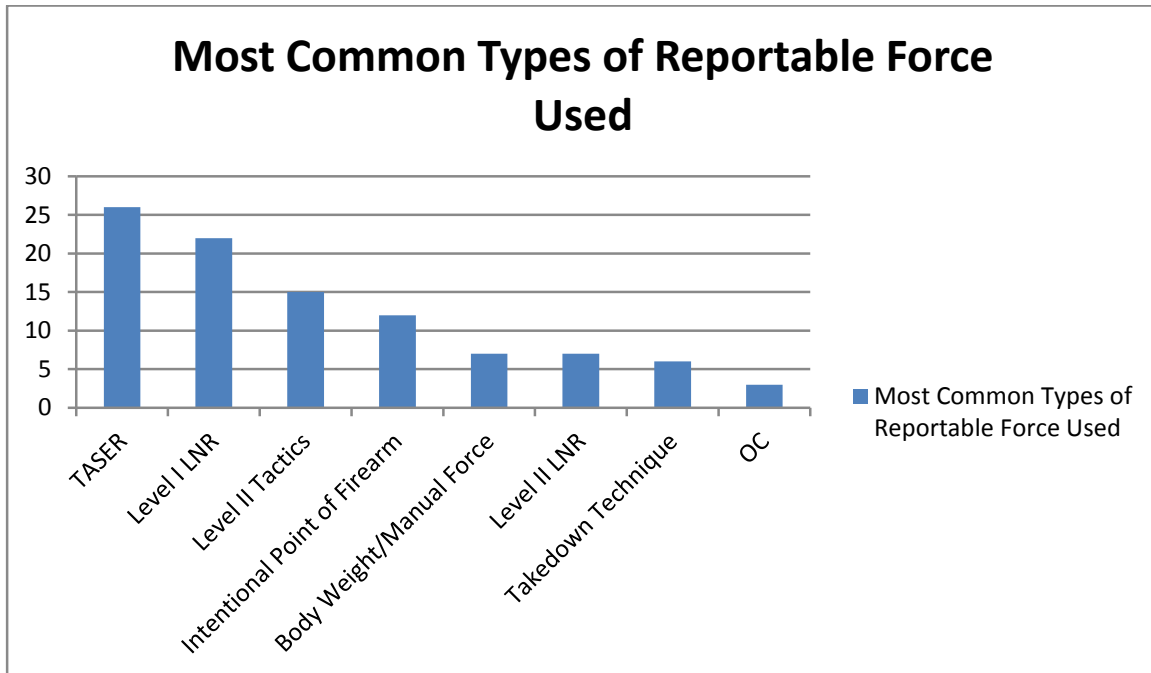
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Type of Force

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 TASER™ device and Level I Lateral Neck Restraint were the most frequent types of reportable force used by officers in 2018. Officers used these two types of force most frequently in 2016 and 2017 as well. See Figure 3.

Frequently Used Applications of Reportable Force

- Officers deployed a TASER™ device in 28 incidents.
- Officers used the Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR)* in 23 incidents.
- Officers used Level II tactics in 15 incidents.
- The intentional pointing of a firearm application was utilized in 12 incidents.
- In eight incidents, body weight/manual force and/or handcuffing techniques causing minor injury was reported as the sole type of force used. In 21 incidents, officers used these techniques in addition to other applications of force.



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Less Frequently Used Applications

- Officers used the Level II LNR application in seven incidents.
- Takedown techniques were used as a reportable use of force in six incidents.
- Officers deployed OC/CS spray, commonly known as pepper spray, in three incidents.
- Impact weapons (40 mm/beanbag shotguns) were deployed in two incidents. Other impact weapons were used in two 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 29. K9 applications are only an option for the six SPD officers with K9s. SPD uses K9s extensively and often deploys K9s to help other law enforcement agencies. In 2018, SPD K9s were deployed 1066 times to assist with tracking, building searches, perimeter security, evidence finds, and suspect apprehension. K9s were involved in 265 captures. K9 contacts occurred 30 times within 29 incidents, representing a unit average bite ratio of 11.3%. Industry best practices suggest that the bite to apprehension ratio should be below 20%, based on *Kerr v City of West Palm Beach*.

Effectiveness of Frequently Used Techniques

For the last three 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 2018, TASER™ device applications were the most frequent type of force used; officers used the TASER™ device in 28 incidents. In 14 (50%) of the incidents, the application was successful. The other 14 incidents experienced issues with the application. In eight (29%) of the cases, application of the TASER™ device was eventually successful but the first application failed. In six (21%), 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.



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In 2018, officers used the Level I Lateral Neck Restraint (LNR) in 23 incidents. In 19 of those incidents (83%), officers used a Level I LNR application with no other force needed in order to take the subject into custody, avoiding serious injury to the subject. Four incidents involved other 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. In one incident, the officer began with a Level I LNR application but released it. While the subject began assaulting him, he applied a Level II LNR application. Another incident required a Level II tactic in addition to the Level I LNR. One incident involving a large, fit individual with prior military experience required multiple applications of force to take him into custody.

This 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.



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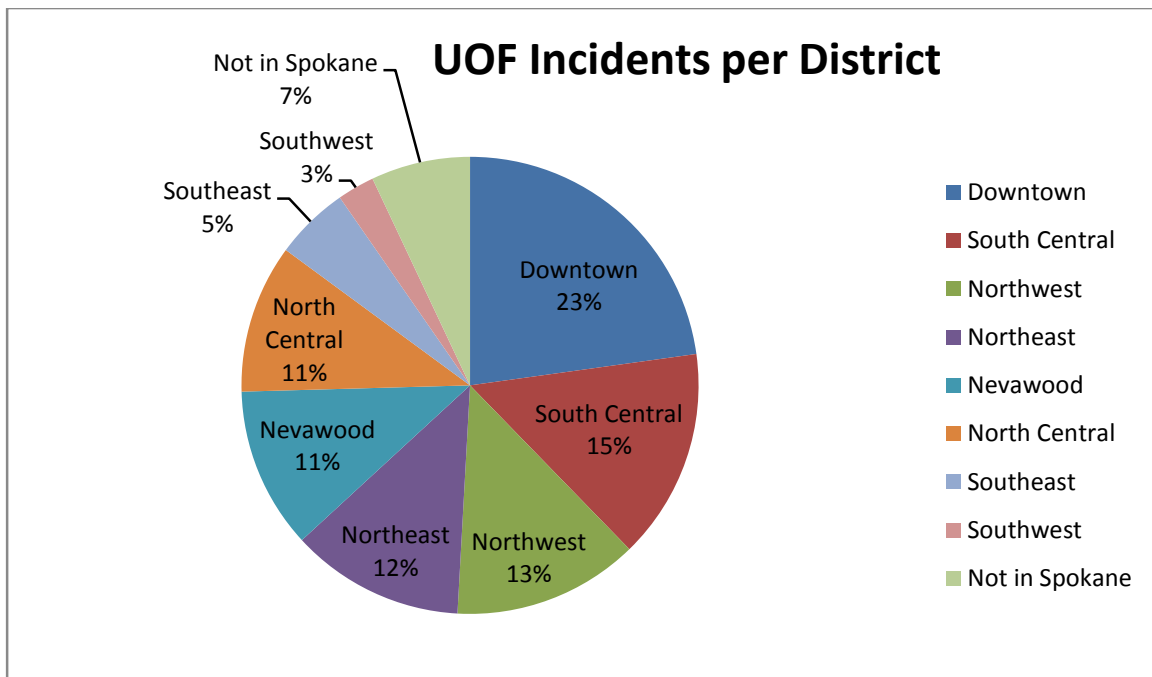
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Environmental Characteristics

Police District (Neighborhood)

Figure 4



Use of force incidents took place most often in the Downtown police district in 2018. Use of force incidents also occurred most frequently in the Downtown police district in 2017 and 2016. During 2017, the Nevawood, Northeast, and Downtown police districts had the most violent crime incidents. See Figure 4.



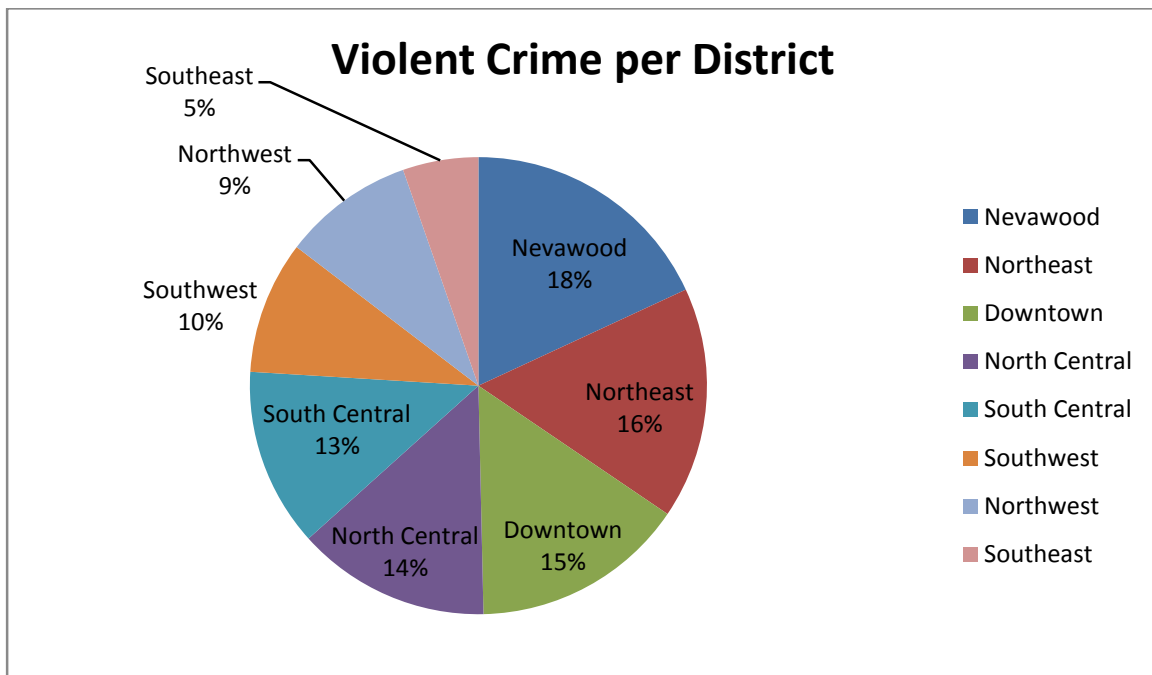
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Violent Crime per District (Neighborhood)

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.



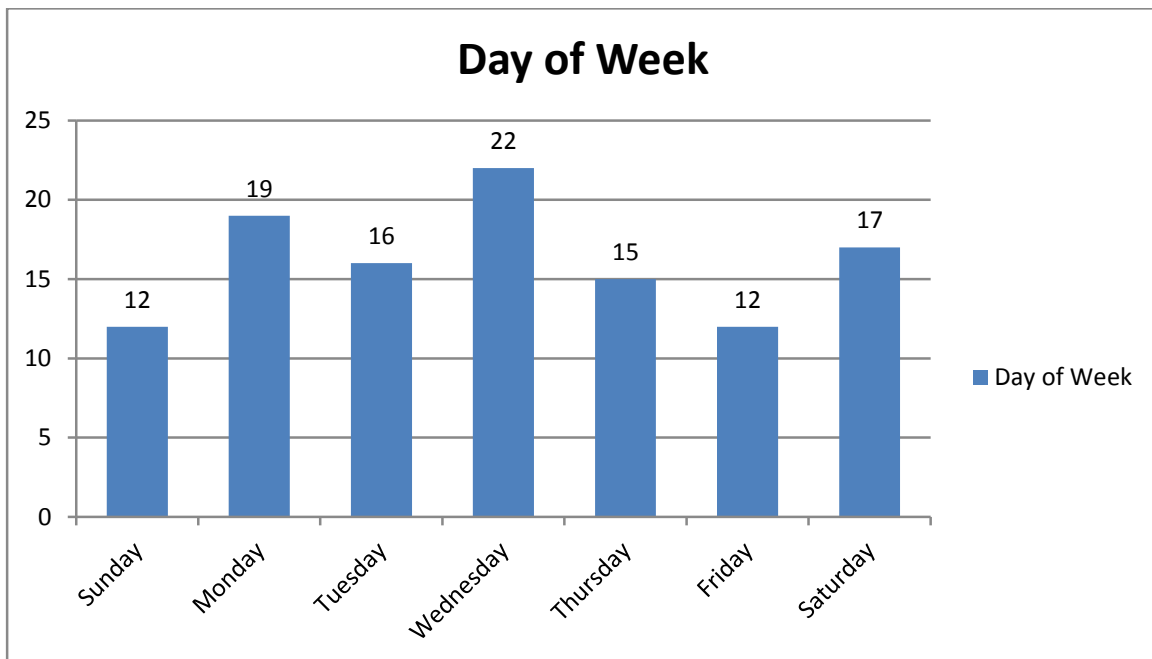
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Day of the Week

Figure 6



2018 data indicated that use of force incidents occurred most frequently on Wednesdays and Mondays. See Figure 6.



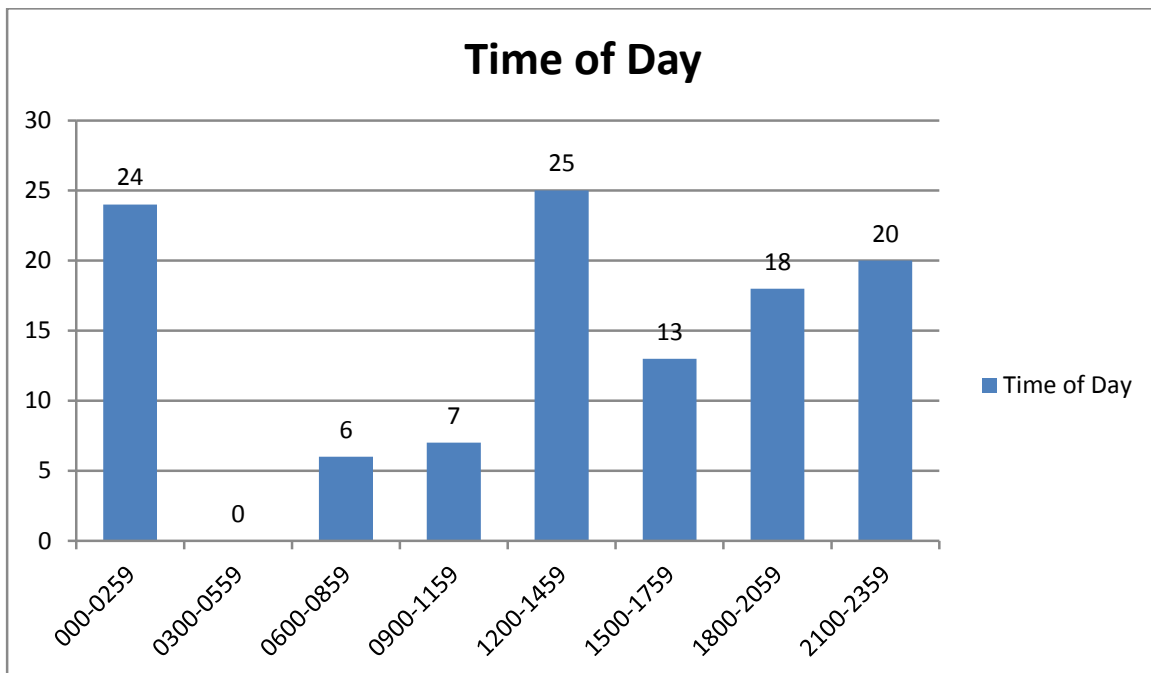
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Time of Day

Figure 7



Use of force incidents occurred most often between 1200-1459 (noon-3:00 pm), which includes Day, Swing, and Power shifts, followed by the time frame of 000-0259 (Midnight-3:00 am), 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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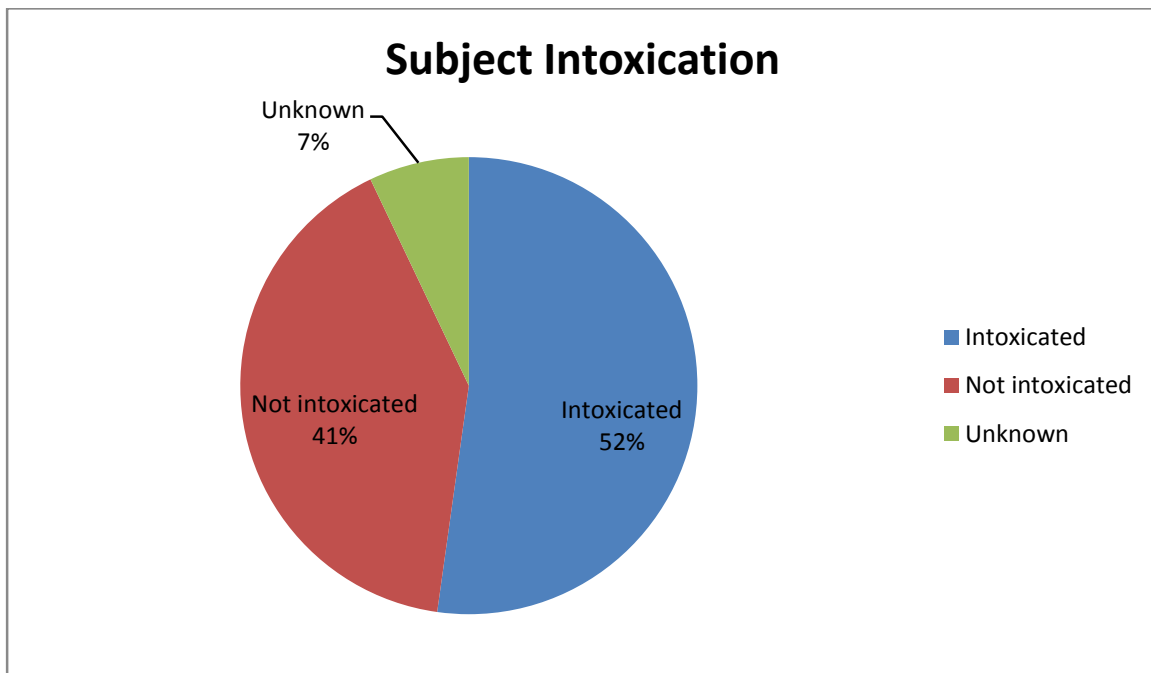
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Subject Characteristics

Subject Drug and Alcohol Impairment

Figure 8



59 of the 113 (53%) 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 eight (7%) 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.



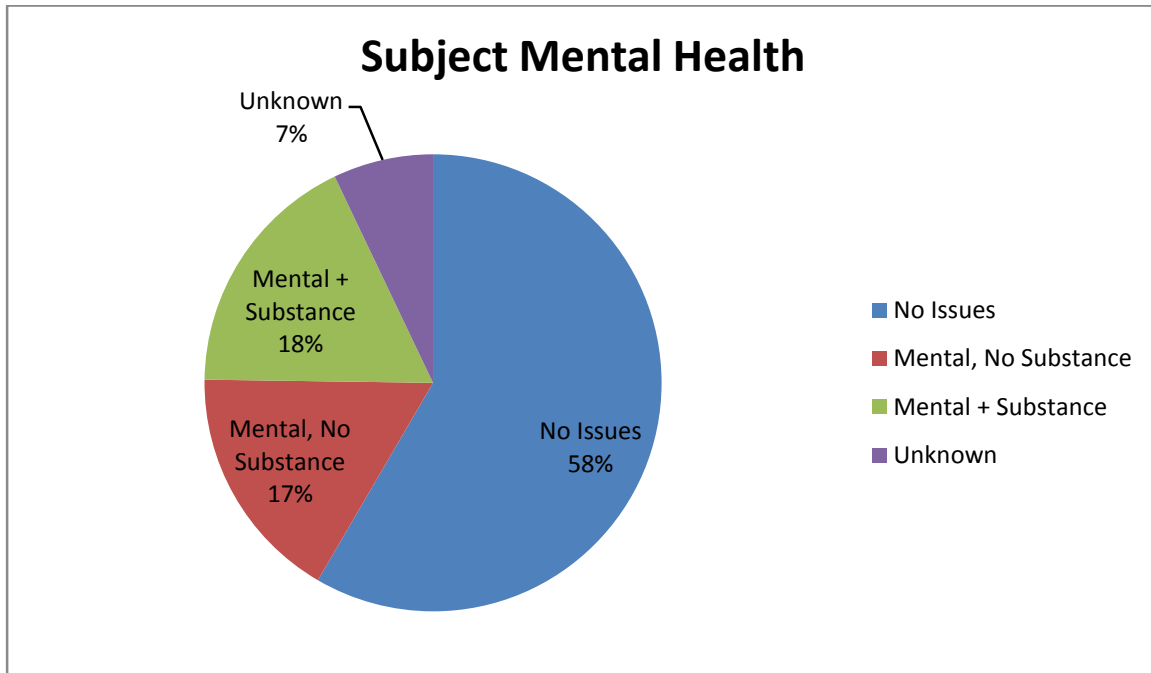
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Mental Health Status

Figure 9



Unusual behavior by the subjects is very common in situations that result in a use of force. Subjects were documented as mentally unstable in 39 (35%) of the 113 use of force incidents in 2018. Specifically, individuals were identified as mentally unstable without drug and alcohol intoxication in 19 of those 39 cases. In 20 of the 39 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 eight (7%) 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 66 (58%) incidents, officers were not aware of any mental health issues. See Figure 9.

Warrant Status

In 33 (31%) of the incidents, subjects had outstanding warrants.



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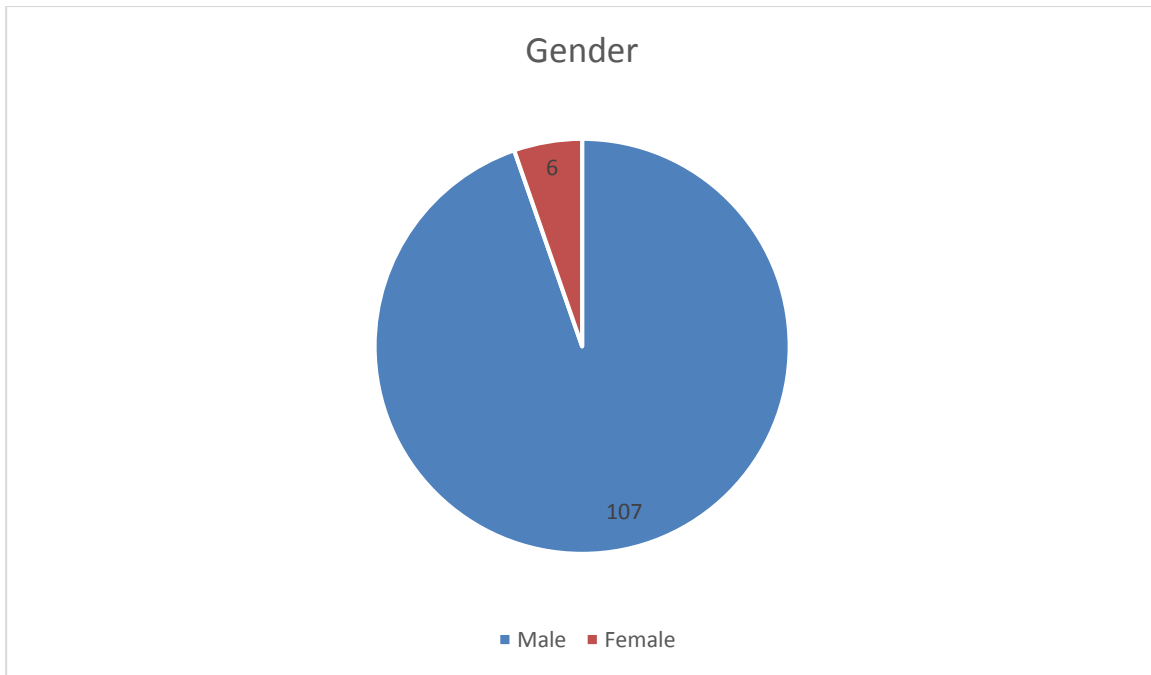
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Subject Age

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

Subject Gender

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





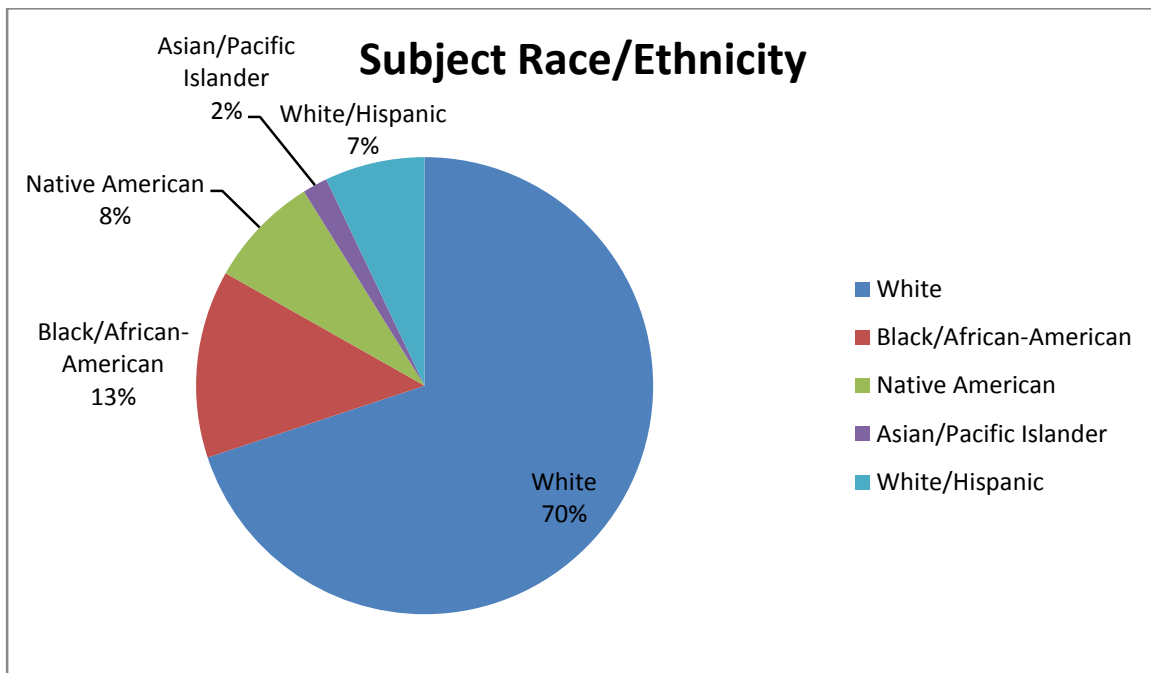
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Subject Racial/Ethnic Demographics

Figure 10



79 of the 113 of subjects involved in use of force incidents (70%) were White. 15 (13%) subjects were Black/African-American, nine (8%) subjects were Native American, eight (7%) of subjects were White/Hispanic, and two (2%) subjects were Asian/Pacific Islander. See Figure 10.

Incidents Involving White Individuals

Of the 79 incidents involving White individuals, 50 developed from a call for service. In ten cases, SPD assisted another agency such as the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force, Washington State Patrol, Department of Corrections, Geiger clean-up crews, Stevens County Sheriff's Office, and Spokane County Sheriff's Office. In 19 cases, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

- F18-012: An officer stopped a vehicle for Reckless Driving. The driver tried to flee.
- F18-013: Officers recognized a male with a felony DOC warrant. Upon contact, the male resisted arrest.



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- F18-014: Officers made a traffic stop on a stolen vehicle. An officer pointed a firearm at the occupants until removed from the vehicle.
- F18-022: An officer attempted a traffic stop involving a suspicious vehicle. The driver tried to start the car in an effort to flee.
- F18-025: An officer recognized a male with a felony warrant. Upon contact, the male resisted arrest.
- F18-032: An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic infraction and the male provided a false name. The subject began fighting.
- F18-058: An officer stopped a male for a pedestrian violation. The male provided a false name. During the officer's attempt to detain him, the male began fighting.
- F18-081: An officer stopped a potential subject while investigating a possible crime. The male fled on foot and was assaultive when the officer caught him.
- F18-082: Officers attempted to arrest a male on a felony warrant. The male was combative.
- F18-083: An officer was assisting in a pursuit of an armed robbery suspect.
- F18-084: Officers located a stolen car and attempted a traffic stop. The suspect fled on foot.
- K18-001: Officers located a stolen car and attempted a traffic stop. The suspect eluded police. A K9 officer assisted with apprehending the suspect after he fled on foot.
- K18-002: Officers were searching for a barricaded suspect with a felony warrant. A K9 officer assisted with detaining the suspect.
- K18-007: Officers conducted surveillance on a subject and obtained a search warrant. The male fled when officers arrived with the warrant. A K9 officer assisted with apprehending the suspect.
- K18-008: While officers were serving a search warrant, the suspect fled the scene. A K9 officer deployed a K9 to locate the suspect.
- K18-011: Officers conducted surveillance on a suspect of a residential burglary of involving approximately 40 firearms. When officers approached the residence and identified themselves, the armed male retreated and barricaded himself in the house, firing a gunshot as officers were near the door. It became a standoff situation with SWAT and hostage negotiators. A K9 officer assisted with apprehending the suspect.
- K18-014: Officers attempted a bike stop. The male dropped a handgun and ran. A K9 officer assisted with locating the suspect.
- K18-024: Officers were working a stolen vehicle investigation. The suspect eluded police in the vehicle. A K9 officer assisted with detaining the suspect after he fled on foot.
- K18-026: An officer recognized a male with a felony warrant. The male fled into another homeowner's garage. A K9 officer assisted with apprehending the suspect.

Incident	Type of Call	Reason Force was Used	Type of Force	Outcome
F18-001	DV w/ weapon	Threat to harm others	40 mm impact weapon	Felony arrest
F18-003	DV	Multiple (threat, resisting, assaultive, flee, etc.)	Level II LNR, TASER™, Level II Tactic	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-004	DV	Assaulting citizen	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-006	DV	Multiple	Level I LNR	Felony arrest
F18-007	DV w/ weapon	Harming Self	Pointing of firearm	Suicide
F18-010	Check Welfare	Resisting Arrest	Takedown technique	Felony arrest
F18-011	Assault	Assaulting Officer	Takedown technique	Institutionalized



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F18-012	Reckless Driving	Misdemeanor flee	Body Weight / Manual Force	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-013	Warrant	Assaultive	Level II Tactic	Felony arrest
F18-014	Accident	Threat to harm others	Pointing of firearm	Institutionalized
F18-015	DV Violation	Assist other agency	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-016	Disorderly	Resisting arrest	Takedown technique	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-019	Burglary	Felony flee	TASER™, Pointing of firearm	Felony arrest
F18-020	Eviction	Assaulting officer	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-021	DV	Multiple	TASER™	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-022	Suspicious Vehicle	Multiple	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-023	Disorderly	Threat to harm others	Exceptional Technique	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-024	Assault	Assaulting officer	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-025	Warrant	Resisting arrest	Level I LNR	Felony arrest
F18-027	Person with a weapon	Harming self	Pointing of firearm	Institutionalized
F18-029	Assist other agency	Resisting arrest	Body Weight / Manual Force, Handcuffing	Felony arrest
F18-030	Malicious Mischief	Assaulting officer	TASER™	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-031	Person Bothering	Threat to harm others	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-032	Traffic stop	Assaulting officer	Level II LNR	Felony arrest
F18-033	Burglary	Assaulting officer	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-036	Suspicious Vehicle	Assaulting officer	Level I and II LNR	Felony arrest
F18-038	DV Violation	Assaulting officer	Level I LNR, Level II Tactic	Felony arrest
F18-040	Disorderly	Assaulting officer	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-042	Vehicle Recovery	Resisting arrest	OC	Felony arrest
F18-043	DV	Harming self	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-046	DV	Misdemeanor flee	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-047	DV	Assaulting officer	Level I LNR, Level II Tactic, TASER™, Exceptional Technique	Felony arrest
F18-049	Assault	Resisting arrest	TASER™	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-050	DV	Resisting arrest	Level I LNR	No crime
F18-052	Disorderly	Assaulting officer	TASER™, Level II Tactic, Exceptional Technique, Level II LNR	Felony arrest
F18-053	Accident	Resisting arrest	Body Weight / Manual Force	Felony arrest
F18-054	Domestic Standby	Threat to harm others	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-055	Trespassing	Resisting arrest	Level II LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-056	Assault	Assaulting officer	Level I LNR	Felony arrest
F18-057	DV	Assaulting officer	Level II Tactic, TASER™	Felony arrest



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F18-058	Pedestrian Violation	Assaulting officer	Level II Tactic	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-060	Burglary	Assaulting officer	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-061	Assist other agency	Harming self	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-062	Check Welfare	Assaulting officer	OC	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-063	DV	Misdemeanor flee	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-064	Check Welfare	Resisting arrest	OC	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-067	Assist other agency	Felony flee	Pointing of firearm, Level II Tactic	Felony arrest
F18-070	Assault	Assaulting officer	Level II Tactic	Felony arrest
F18-072	Suspicious Person	Resisting arrest	Body Weight / Manual Force	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-073	DV w/ weapon	Assaulting officer	Pointing of firearm	Felony arrest
F18-074	DV	Resisting arrest	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-075	Vehicle Recovery	Threat to harm others	Pointing of firearm	Felony arrest
F18-076	Suicidal	Assaulting officer	Body Weight / Manual Force, Handcuffing technique	Institutionalized
F18-078	Check Welfare	Assaulting officer	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-079	Person with a weapon	Assaulting citizen	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-081	Suspicious Person	Assaulting officer	Level II Tactic	Felony arrest
F18-082	Warrant	Assaulting officer	Level II LNR, TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-083	Vehicle Theft	Felony flee	Handcuffing technique	Felony arrest
F18-084	Vehicle Recovery	Felony flee	Level I LNR	Felony arrest
K18-001	Reckless Driving	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-002	Warrant	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-003	DV Violation	Threat to harm others	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-004	Warrant	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Misdemeanor arrest
K18-006	Assist other agency	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-007	Surveillance	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-008	Warrant	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-009	DV	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-011	Surveillance	Threat to harm others	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-013	Warrant	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-014	Bike stop	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-016	DV	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-017	Assist other agency	Threat to harm others	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-018	Assist other agency	Threat to harm others	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-022	Burglary	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-023	DV Violation	Threat to harm others	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-024	Vehicle Recovery	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-025	DV Threat	Threat to harm others	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest



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K18-026	Suspicious Person	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Misdemeanor arrest
K18-029	Vehicle Theft	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest

Incidents Involving African-American Individuals

Of the 15 incidents involving African-American subjects, 11 developed from a call for service. In four cases, the officer initiated contact with the subject.

- F18-035: An officer noticed a man urinating in public and approached him. The man refused to take his hands out of his pockets and get on the ground.
- F18-071: An officer attempted to stop a bicyclist for a traffic infraction and the man ran from the scene and fought with officers.
- K18-010: An officer located a stolen vehicle and maintained surveillance on the vehicle until a person got in the vehicle. A K9 officer assisted officers with apprehending the suspect after he fled on foot.
- K18-012: Officers approached a reported stolen vehicle and the suspects fled. A K9 officer assisted in locating the suspect.

Incident	Type of Call	Reason Force was Used	Type of Force	Outcome
F18-002	DV	Multiple	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-008	Assault	Multiple	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-009	Assault	Resisting arrest	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-028	DV	Resisting arrest	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-035	Suspicious Person	Resisting arrest	Level I LNR	Felony arrest
F18-037	Argument	Assaultive	Level II Tactic	Felony arrest
F18-039	Alarm	Felony flee	Level I LNR	Felony arrest
F18-041	Fight	Assaultive	Level II LNR	Felony arrest
F18-048	Suicidal	Assaultive	Level I LNR	Institutionalized
F18-069	DV Violation	Assaultive	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-071	Bike stop	Assaultive	Level II Tactic	Felony arrest
K18-010	Vehicle recovery	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-012	Surveillance	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-027	DV Violation	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-028	Assault	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest

Incidents Involving Native American Individuals

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

- K18-005: An officer approached a stolen vehicle. A K9 officer assisted to locate the suspect, who had fled on foot.



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- K18-019: A K9 officer located a stolen vehicle and followed it. He deployed his K9 to locate the fleeing suspects.

Incident	Type of Call	Reason Force was Used	Type of Force	Outcome
F18-034	Medics	Subject harming self	Handcuffing Technique	Institutionalized
F18-045	Person with a Weapon	Threat to harm others	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-059	DV	Subject harming self	Level I LNR	Institutionalized
F18-068	Disorderly	Threat to harm others	TASER™	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-077	Check Welfare	Resisting arrest	Body Weight/Manual Force	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-080	Suicidal	Harming self	Pointing of firearm	Institutionalized
K18-005	Suspicious Vehicle	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-015	Check Welfare	Threat to harm others	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-019	Vehicle Recovery	Multiple	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest

Incidents Involving White/Hispanic Individuals

Of the eight incidents involving White/Hispanic subjects, all stemmed from calls for service.

Incident	Type of Call	Reason Force was Used	Type of Force	Outcome
F18-005	Person with a Weapon	Threat to harm others	Pointing of Firearm	Felony arrest
F18-017	Suicidal	Harming self	TASER™	Institutionalized
F18-018	Follow Up	Resisting arrest	Pointing of Firearm	Felony arrest
F18-026	Argument	Multiple	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-044	Argument	Resisting arrest	Level I LNR	Misdemeanor arrest
F18-051	Disorderly	Assaultive	TASER™	Felony arrest
F18-065	Trouble Unknown	Threat to harm others	Pointing of Firearm	Institutionalized
F18-066	Fight	Misdemeanor flee	Takedown Technique	Misdemeanor arrest

Incidents Involving Asian/Pacific Islander Individuals

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

K18-020: Officers were tracking a stolen car. When the suspect fled the car on foot, a K9 officer assisted with detaining the suspect.

Incident	Type of Call	Reason Force was Used	Type of Force	Outcome
K18-020	Vehicle Recovery	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest
K18-021	Burglary	Felony flee	K9 apprehension	Felony arrest



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Officer Characteristics

88 different officers were involved in use of force incidents in 2018. All of those 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 the involved officers held the rank of officer, but a few involved officers were supervisors. Six officers held the rank of corporal, four officers held the rank of sergeant, one held the rank of lieutenant, and one held the rank of captain.

Involved officers in use of force incidents 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 9% female and 91% male. Of the 89 officers involved in use of force incidents in 2018, 85 of the involved officers have identified their race/ethnicity as White; three as Hispanic, and one as Multi-Racial. Of officers employed in 2018, the majority have identified as White. Ten officers identified as Hispanic; five as Native American; four as Multi-Racial; three as African-American/Black; 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 all officers employed by SPD in 2018 regardless of hire, retirement, or separation date.

Excluding the K9 team officers, the majority of officers were involved in one or two incidents. No patrol officers were involved in four or more incidents.

Outcomes of the Investigation and Review of Use of Force

Of the 113 non-deadly use of force incidents in 2018, two incidents were determined to be out of compliance with policy. In 2017, four 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.



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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, and defensive tactics. Reviewers identified several tactical issues, such as the need to secure safety at a domestic violence scene, and the need to wait for backup officers. In each case where reviewers identified issues, they arrange for training.

Bodyworn camera activation was a common training issue. In August 2018, SPD implemented a revised bodyworn 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 while in the vehicle. These secondary policy violations were addressed depending on the officer's history, with informal counseling, documentation of counseling, and a letter of reprimand in one case.

Conclusion

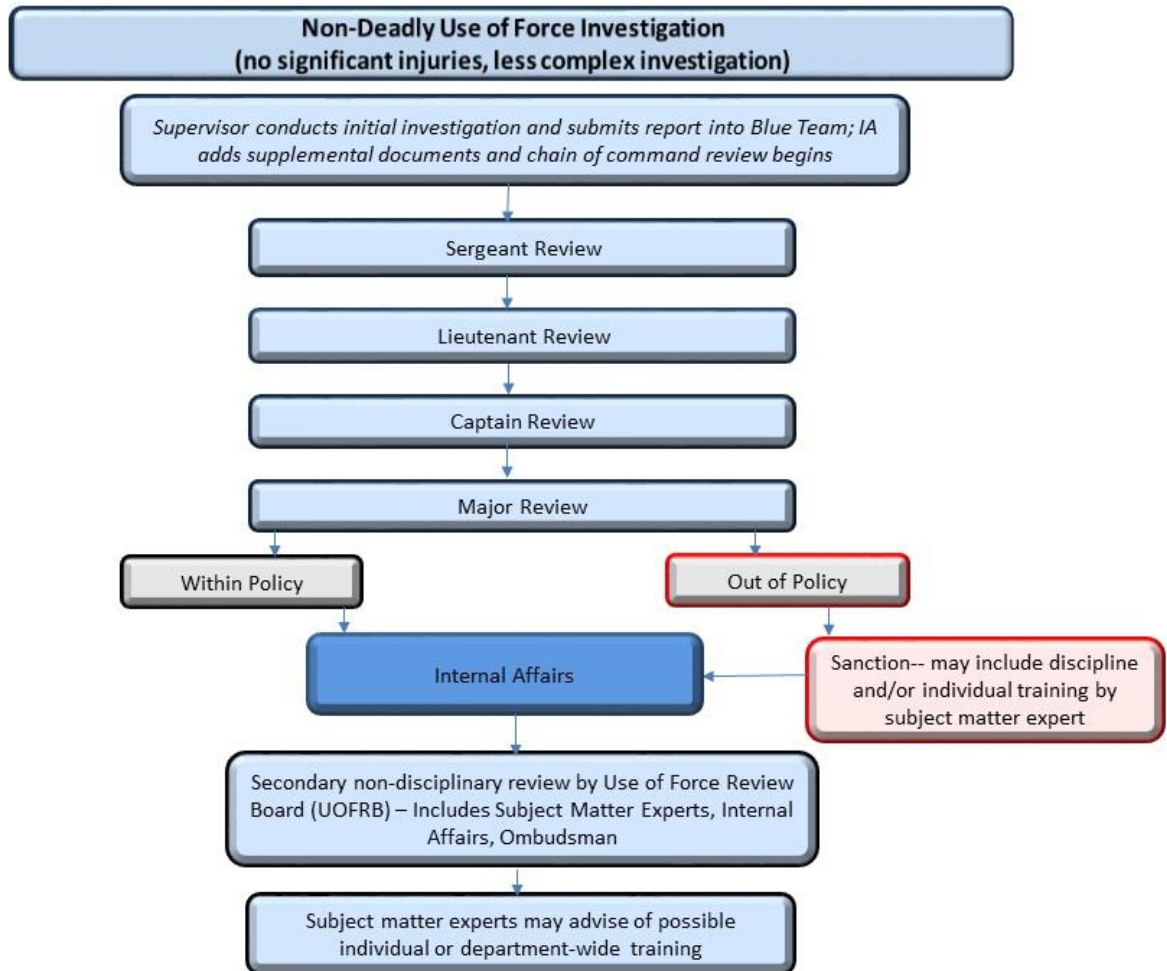
Thorough review of use of force incidents is critical to the Spokane Police Department. These reviews provide a comprehensive analysis of all incidents that have been individually reviewed and reveals trends that inform future training decisions. A proper review also helps improve the police department's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