

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020 Annual Use of Force & Assault on Sworn Officer Report



Prepared by the Staff Inspections Unit



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Anne Arundel County Police

Staff Inspections Unit

Annual Use of Force Report / Assault on Sworn Officer Review 2020

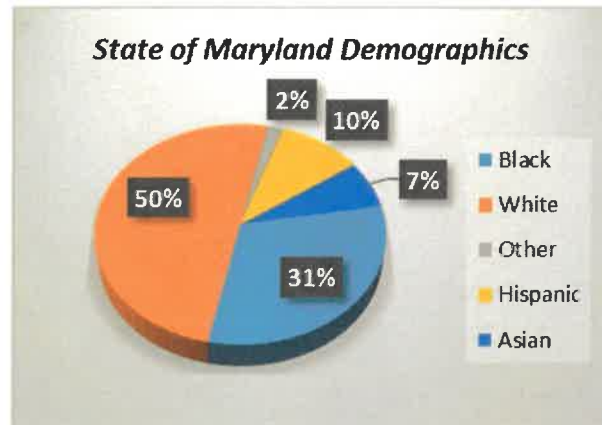
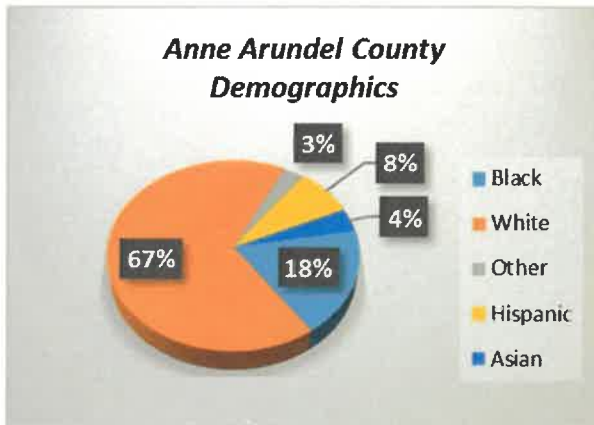
CALEA Standard 4.2.4 & 4.2.5

February 22, 2021

Assigned SIU # 2021-008

The following review is an analysis of all documented Use of Force incidents involving officers from the Anne Arundel County Police Department during the year 2020. The Staff Inspections Unit is responsible for collecting and reviewing all Use of Force reports and data throughout the year, which is the initial step in the review process. Upon collecting the year end data, an annual review and analysis is conducted of the incidents with the purpose of monitoring any patterns or trends which could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades and/or policy modifications.

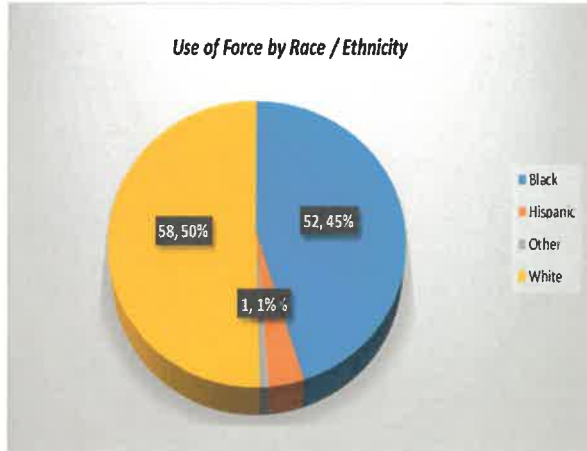
Demographics: US Census Bureau Data:*



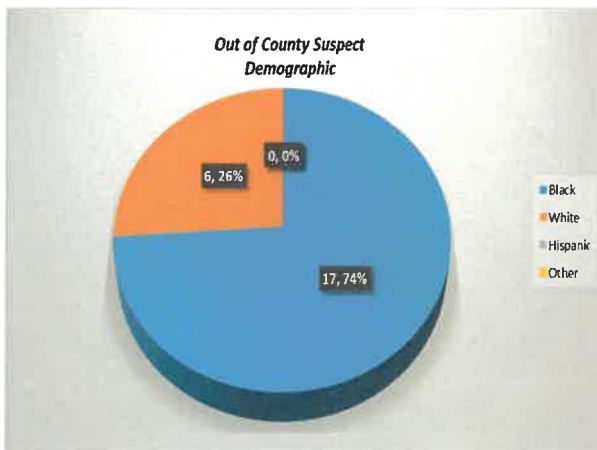
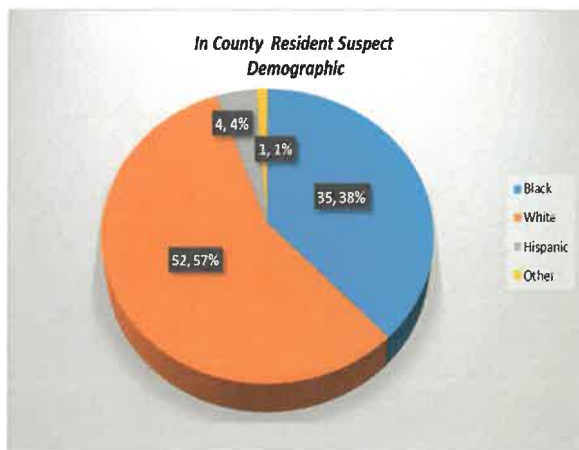
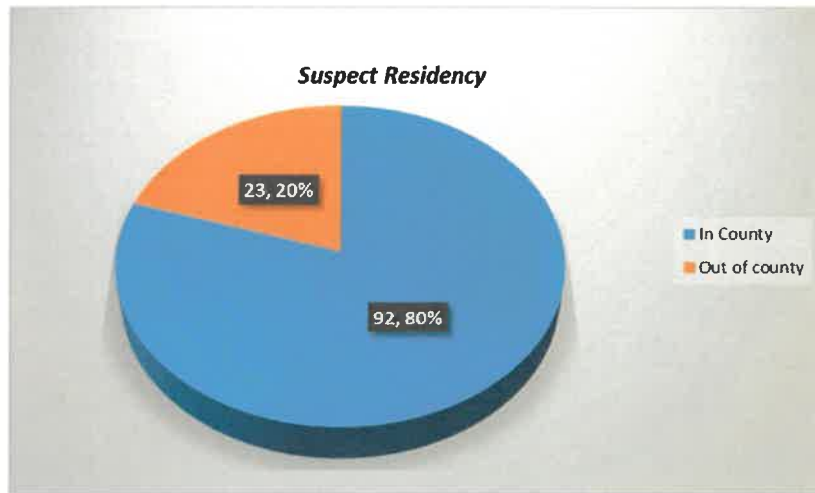
Use of Force reports are continually reviewed by the Staff Inspections Unit to ensure there are no use of force trends indicating that sex, age, race or any other discriminatory element are factors in the application of force.

In 2020, ninety-two (92) Use of Force incidents involved suspects who reside in the county and twenty-three (23) incidents involved suspects who reside out of the county or out of state. Ninety-six (96) incidents involved male suspects and nineteen (19) incidents involved female suspects. There were fifty-eight (58) incidents involving White suspects, fifty-two (52) incidents involving Black suspects, four (4) incidents involving Hispanic suspects, and one (1) incident involving "Other" Race/Ethnicity entries.

*US Census Data estimates did not change from 2019 to 2020



Use of Force by Residency Demographics:



Index Code 401, Use of Force:

The Blue Team reporting system is used to enter and track Use of Force incidents from the initial report through all phases of the Chain of Command review and the final review by the Staff Inspections Unit. The data for this review was acquired from the Blue Team Use of Force entries submitted to the Staff Inspections Unit (SIU) in accordance with **Index Code 401, Use of Force**.

The purpose of **Index Code 401** is “to provide officers with guidelines on the use of force, including deadly, less-lethal and non-lethal force. A reverence and respect for the dignity of all persons and the sanctity of human life shall guide all training, leadership, and procedures, as well as guide officers in the use of force.” **Section III** states, “Officers shall use only the degree of force that is objectively reasonable, necessary under the circumstances and proportional to the threat or resistance of a subject.”

A Use of Force report entered into Blue Team is required whenever:

1. An employee discharges a firearm, except in the following circumstances:
 - a. The firearm was discharged for training purposes.
 - b. The firearm was discharged for recreational purposes.
 - c. The firearm was discharged for destroying an aggressive or seriously injured animal
 - d. The firearm was unintentionally discharged;
2. An employee takes an action that results in (or is alleged to have resulted) any injury or death of another person;
3. An employee applies force through the use of a lethal, less-lethal, non-lethal, personal weapon (i.e., punches, elbow strikes, knee strikes, kicks), or a weapon of opportunity.
4. A departmental canine bites or inflicts injury to an individual.

A Use of Force report is not required in those instances where a firearm is displayed to assure officer safety or when using weaponless, hand-to-hand control techniques that have little or no chance of producing injuries when gaining control over, or subduing, non-compliant or resisting persons.

Overview:

The population estimate for Anne Arundel County in 2020 (2019 Census estimate) was 579,234 individuals, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In 2020, officers generated and responded to 359,114 incidents* and made 8,884 arrests*. Force was only used in 115 of these incidents. This translates to force being used in approximately 0.03% of the total incidents and 1.29% of all arrest situations. The data reflects that for the majority of calls for service and arrest situations officers are rarely required to use force to resolve the incident.

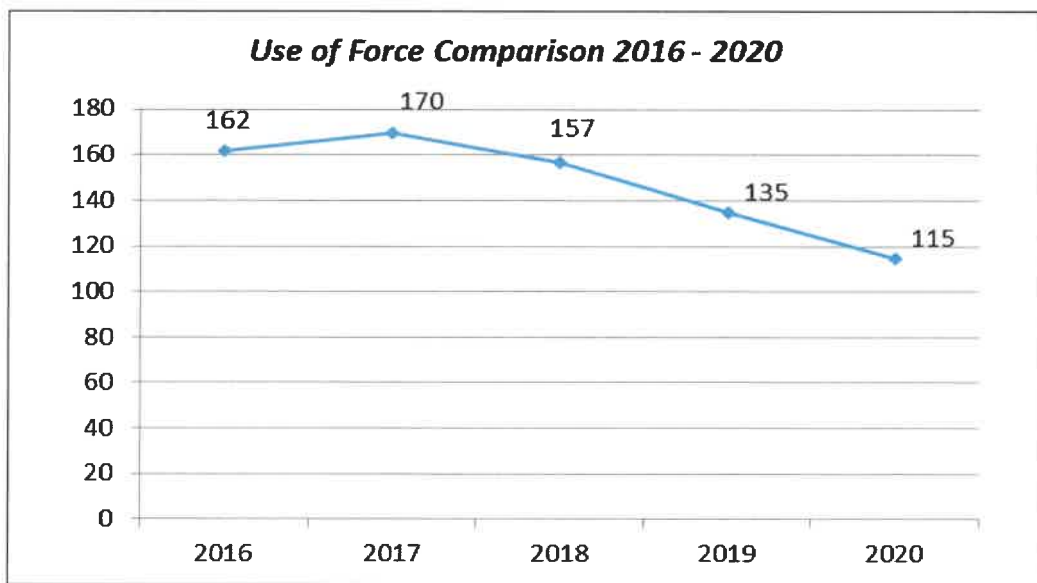
Our Use of Force policy requires one Use of Force Blue Team entry (report) for each individual force was used upon in an incident, instead of an entry by each individual officer involved. The report will capture all involved officers within the report for data collection and analysis. Each

**these numbers are affected daily based on personnel, data and record updates, as well as record and arrest expungements.*

involved officer will submit a report or supplement to document their force justification for the incident. Each individual use of force is then determined to be in or out of policy.

The chart and graph shown below indicates the number of Use of Force reports submitted over the past five years, including 2020, and the year to year changes.

Year	Use of Force Reports	Change from Previous Year
2016	162	5%
2017	170	5%
2018	157	-8%
2019	135	-14%
2020	115	-15%

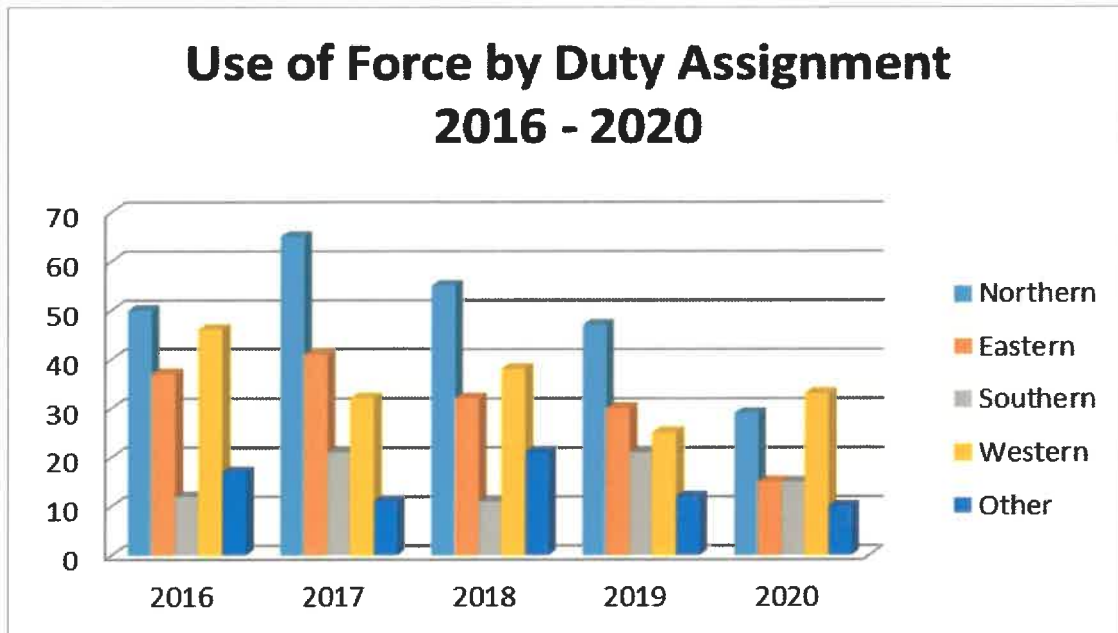


Use of Force by Assignment:

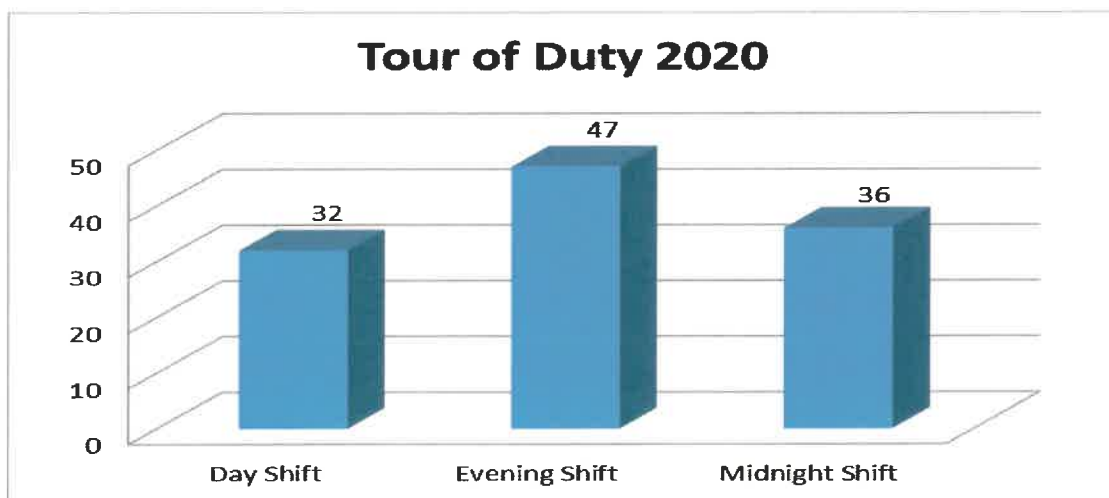
Use of Force reports in 2020 were submitted by officers from Units in nine (9) different Division assignments, including the four (4) Districts. The average Use of Force reports submitted by assignment for 2016-2020 were as follows: Northern District averaged forty-nine (49) reports, Eastern District averaged thirty-four (34) reports, Southern District averaged sixteen (16) reports and Western District averaged thirty-five (35) reports. The other units including the Community Relations, Criminal Investigation Division, Special Operations and the Training Academy averaged fourteen (14) Use of Force reports.

The Use of Force breakdown shows the totals by assignment for 2020 and the five year average.

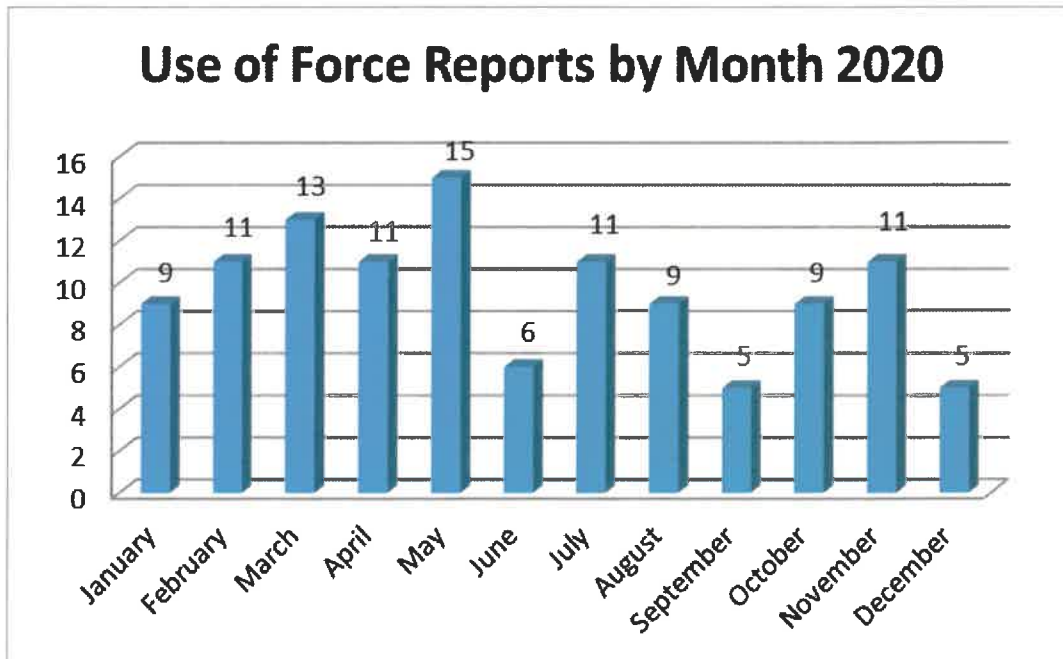
Duty Assignment	Total Incidents for 2020	Five Year Average
Northern	29	49
Eastern	28	34
Southern	15	16
Western	33	35
Other Units	10	14



Use of Force incidents for the day shift increased from thirty (30) in 2019 to thirty-two (32) in 2020. The evening shift decreased from fifty-seven (57) in 2019 to forty-seven (47) in 2020. The midnight shift decreased from forty-eight (48) in 2019 to thirty-six (36) in 2020.



While conducting the analysis, it was found that the number of Use of Force incidents per month averaged just under ten (9.6), with May being the largest spike at fifteen (15), while September and December were the lowest at five (5) each.



Service/Offense Types and Weapons:

The next section of the analysis focuses on police response, suspect activity and/or the weapon(s) used by officers and/or suspects at the time of the Use of Force incidents.

Index Code 401, Section IX. Only weapons and ammunition meeting department specifications may be used by police officers carrying out law enforcement responsibilities, both on or off duty.

Definitions:

Deadly Force:

- A. A police officer may use deadly force when the officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in defense of any person who is in immediate danger of serious physical injury.
- B. A police officer may use deadly force to prevent the escape of a suspect fleeing from a felony of violence that the officer has probable cause to believe will pose an immediate threat to human life should escape occur.
- C. A police officer may not use an intentional chokehold, neck hold, stranglehold, lateral vascular neck restraint, carotid restraint or any other use of physical force that restricts oxygen or blood flow to the head or neck, except in the case of the use of deadly force in the defense of human life.

- D.** The circumstances surrounding every use of deadly force will be highly examined during post-incident review.
(Sections C and D were added during 2020)

Less-Lethal Force:

Less-lethal weapons are designed to provide officers with options during use of force incidents. Less-lethal weapons may be used to resolve incidents in a less-lethal manner, to protect officers and other persons from harm, to protect a suspect/subject from self-inflicted injury, or to end incidents involving combative, or violent suspects. Officers shall not interpret this policy to mean that a less-lethal weapon replaces the use of deadly force when deadly force is justified. During situations where less-lethal weapons are deployed and deadly force is justifiable, lethal cover must be provided for the less-lethal weapon operator.

Non-Lethal Force:

Police officers are authorized to use department approved non-lethal force techniques/personal weapons to protect themselves or others from physical harm, to restrain or subdue a resistant individual, and to bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control. This does not authorize the use of non-lethal force/personal weapons because a subject is resistant through mere non-compliance unless the subject's actions present an obvious safety threat.

Less-Lethal Weapon:

The less-lethal weapons authorized for use by all trained officers of this department are the less-lethal bean bag shotgun, Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) such as the TASER, defensive impact weapons, and defensive aerosol sprays. SOS/QRT personnel are allowed various other less-lethal weapons as specified in Index Code 402.2, Section XV.C.2.

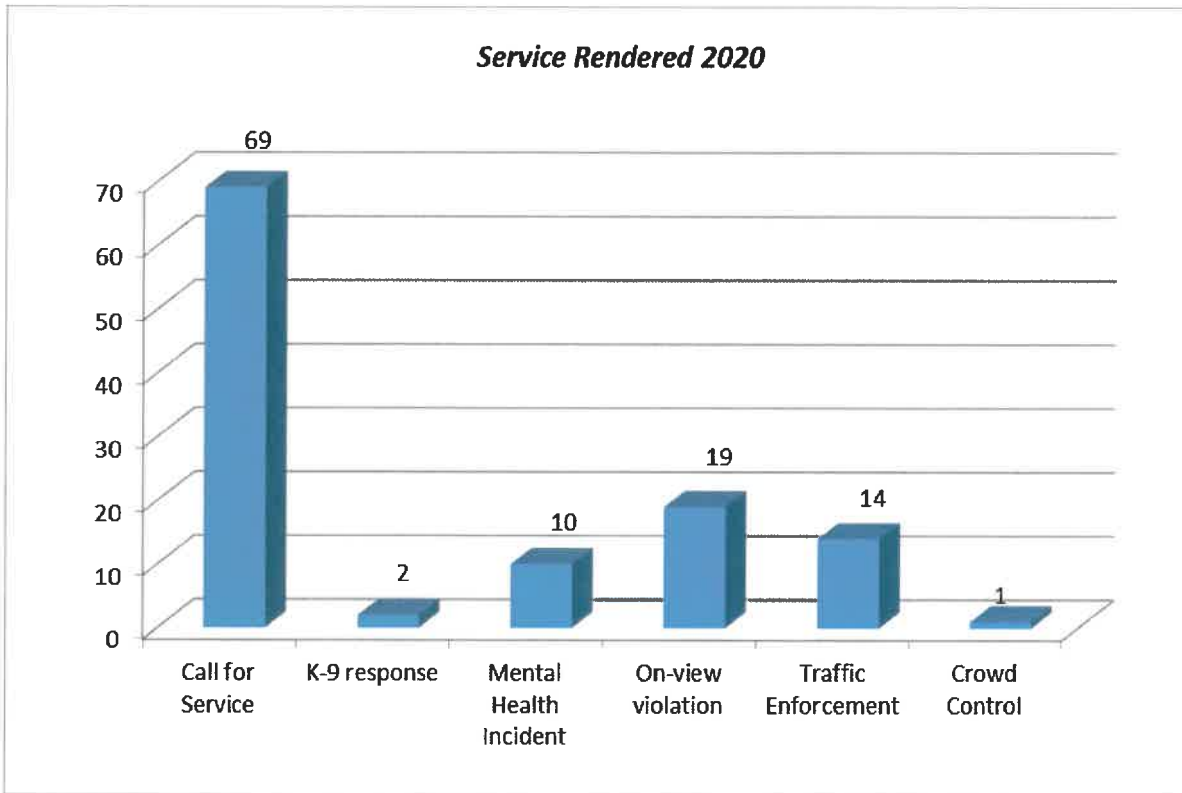
Personal Weapon:

Hands, arms, legs, feet when used as a weapon (i.e. punches, elbow strikes, knee strikes & kicks).

Weapon of Opportunity:

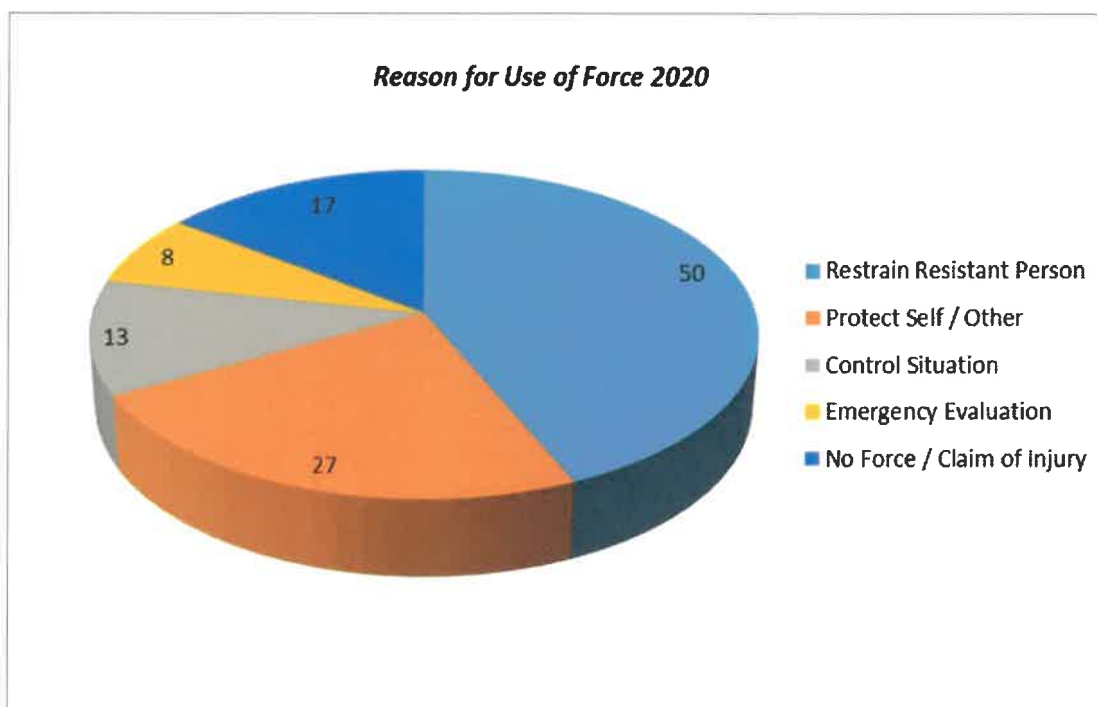
Any other object that an officer uses to apply force to another individual. Examples of weapons of opportunity are handcuffs, portable radios, and flashlights.

Below is a breakdown of the Service being rendered by officers at the time force was used. Officers used force while responding to a routine "Call for Service" sixty-nine (69) times. In addition, force was used two (2) times during a K-9 response, ten (10) times while responding to a Mental Health incident, nineteen (19) times during an On-View Violation, fourteen (14) times during a Traffic Stop and one (1) time during a Crowd Control Situation.

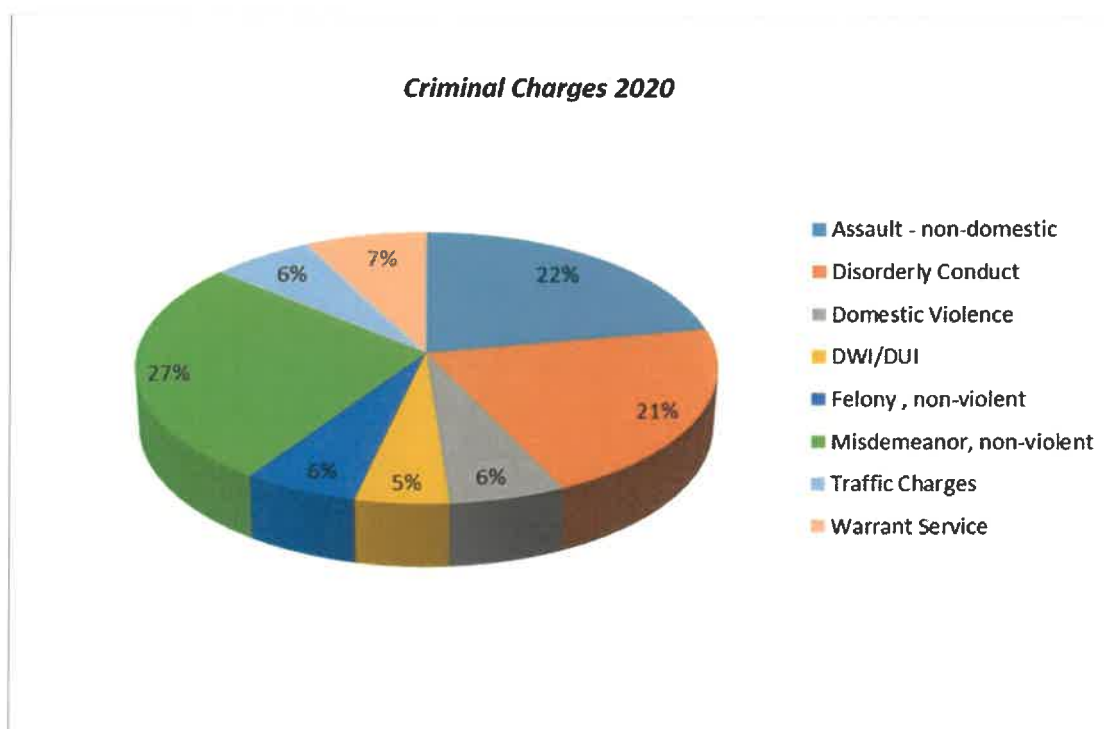


Below is a breakdown of the five “Reason” classifications for Use of Force, as collected by Blue Team. “Restrain Resistant Person” was the primary reason for Use of Force incidents in 2020, accounting for fifty (50) of the one-hundred and fifteen (115) incidents. Protecting “Self or Others” from harm accounts for twenty-seven (27) of the incidents, “Controlling Situation” accounts for thirteen (13) incidents, “Emergency Evaluation” calls accounts for eight (8) incidents and “No Force/Claim of Injury” accounts for seventeen (17) incidents.

2020	TOTALS
Restrain resistant person	50
Protect self or other	27
Control Situation	13
Emergency Evaluation	8
No Force/Claim of Injury	17

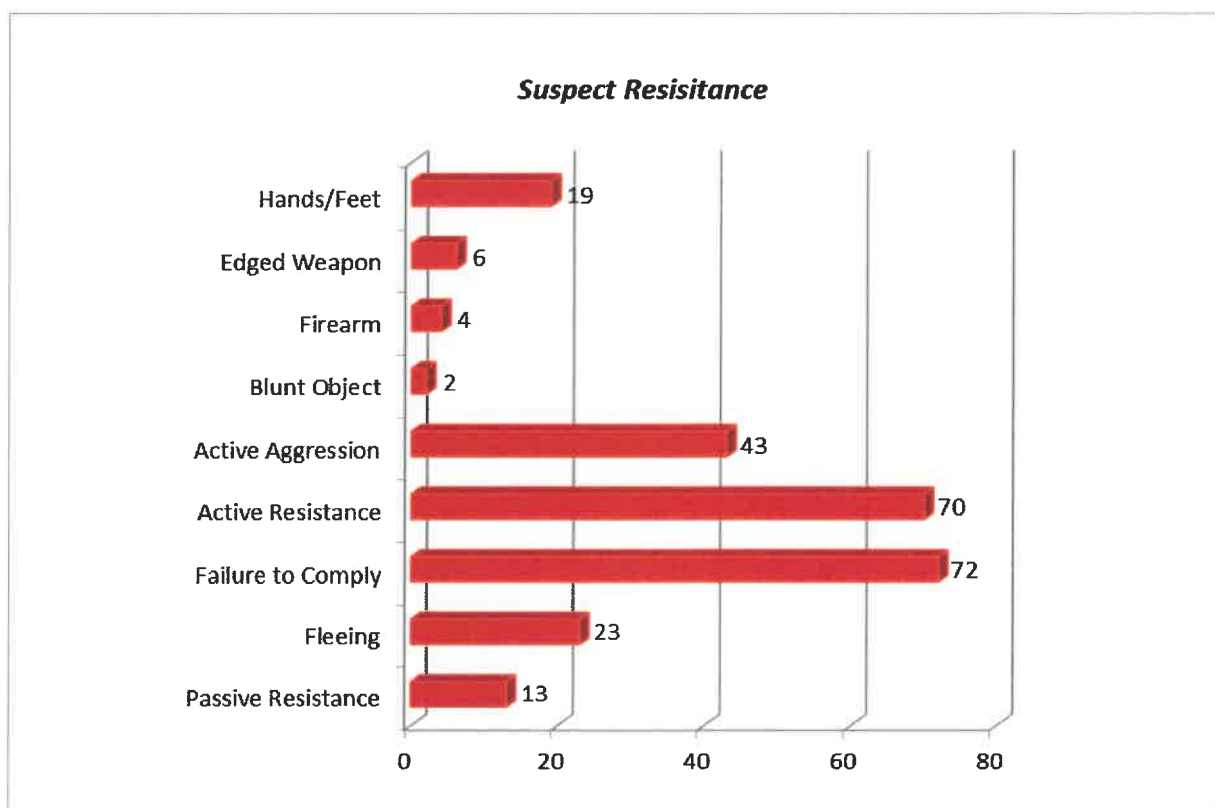


Blue Team collected criminal activity data, divided into eight (8) categories, for the 115 use of force incidents in 2020. Non-violent Misdemeanor and Non-domestic Assault crimes account for the majority of criminal activity at 27 % and 22%, while Disorderly Conduct accounted for another 21% of criminal charges.



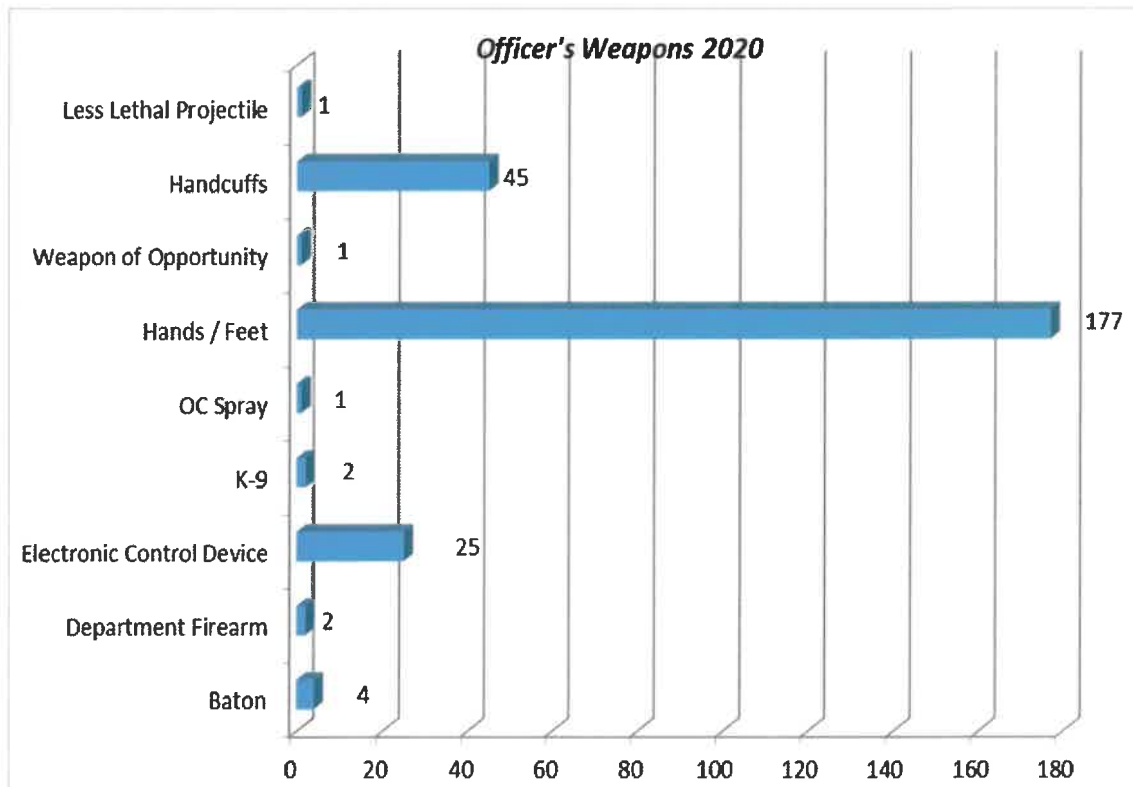
Multiple types of resistance and/or weapons are often utilized by a single suspect, during a single incident. Upon review of the resistance and/or weapons used by suspects in the 115 incidents of Use of Force in 2020, there were a total of two hundred and sixty-three (263) entries, indicating a form of resistance. Officers reported hands/feet as the weapon used by suspects in nineteen (19) incidents. Suspects used a firearm in four (4) incidents, an edged weapon in six (6) incidents and blunt object in two (2) incidents.

In addition to the use of a weapon, additional non-weapon resistance was recorded in the Blue Team Use of Force Reports, including No Force/Claim of Injury (11), Active Aggression (43), Active Resistance (70), Failure to Comply (72), Fleeing (23) and Passive Resistance (13). There were a total of 232 instances of Non-Weapon resistance reported in the 115 Use of Force incidents.



In 2020, officers used force a total of two hundred and fifty-eight (258) times, in 115 incidents. Officers primarily used a Hands/Feet technique to control/subdue suspects in the majority of Use of Force incidents. Hands/Feet is reported as the tool used by officers one hundred and seventy-seven (177) times in the 115 Use of Force incidents. Handcuffs were used forty-five (45) times, Electronic Control Devices (Taser) were used twenty-five (25) times, a Baton was used four (4) times, a Departmental K-9 was used two (2) times, a Less Lethal Projectile was used one (1) time, OC spray was used one (1) time, and a weapon of opportunity (vehicle) was used one (1) time. Department issued firearms were used in four (4) incidents.

Officers often listed handcuffs as the weapon causing injury when a suspect complains of wrist pain and/or injury after an arrest/transport. Our department policy requires Officers to complete a Use of Force report anytime a suspect alleges an injury during contact with an officer. Handcuffing is required for transporting an arrestee. Although handcuffs were not utilized as an intended weapon, Officers are reporting the handcuff as a weapon as a result of a complaint of injury caused by the handcuff. This would account for the high number of Handcuffs listed as a weapon.



Injuries:

Index Code 401, Section VIII. Medical Aid requires police officers to obtain medical aid for individuals who complain of, or show signs of injury as a result of any use of force.

The majority of injuries reported by suspects are minor in nature including lacerations and abrasions, OC exposure, Taser probe impacts, and complaints of pain. In 2020, one (1) suspect sustained a gunshot wound, one (1) suspect reported a broken bone, and one (1) suspect reported a fractured hip, although that injury occurred prior to police contact. Departmental canine bites (2) accounted for 1 % percent of all Use of Force Incidents in 2020.

Officer’s injuries consisted of strains/sprains, bruises, lacerations, scrapes/abrasions, and being spit upon. In addition to the minor injuries, one (1) Officer sustained a gunshot wound, one (1) Officer sustained a broken bone, and one (1) Officer sustained nerve damage.

Assault on Officer:

Assaults on law enforcement officers are critical events that significantly impact the safety and wellbeing of sworn officers. By tracking these incidents, the agency can monitor any trends and patterns in real time to make any necessary operational adjustments as needed. In compliance with CALEA Standard 4.2.5 requirements, the agency is required to complete an annual review of incidents involving assaults on sworn law enforcement officers with the purpose of identifying any patterns which can be used in determining actions the agency may take to enhance officer safety, maintain training curriculums that are predicated on real data from field-based events, and complete a review of best policy and practices. The data for these incidents is collected by the Central Records Section monitoring all police reports, and utilized in completing monthly FBI JCR reporting for law enforcement officers killed or assaulted. The Staff Inspections Unit also monitors daily commander's reports, and Use of Force reports for cases involving assaults on sworn officers.

During the course of 2020, the agency reported one-hundred and ninety-nine (199) incidents where a sworn officer was assaulted. Of those cases, officers suffered injury in Thirty-four (34) incidents, there were no officers killed in the line of duty; however, two (2) officers were shot while on duty. In the majority of the incidents (164), officers were assaulted with a weapon described as "hands, fists, feet, etc." The officer activity type reporting the highest amount of officer assaults is "Responding to disturbance calls" (domestic disturbances, person with firearm, etc.), which accounted for ninety (90), followed by "Others", which accounted for forty-three (43) incidents. The majority of the assault incidents occurred during the evening hours. Seventy-seven (77) occurred between 1600-2400 hours, sixty (60) incidents occurred between 0001-0800 hours, and sixty-two (62) incidents occurred between 0800-1600 hours. Our agency reported no incidents involving officers being ambushed without warning.

In reviewing the Assault on Officer data, there are no areas identified as requiring immediate attention or alteration of agency policies, practices or training.

Internal Affairs Review:

Index Code 303.1, Internal Affairs, states "the goal of Internal Affairs is to ensure that the department's integrity is maintained through a system that provides an objective and fair investigation and review of complaints against department employees." Complaints of excessive force are recorded, registered, investigated and reviewed by Internal Affairs.

A review of Internal Affairs records indicates there were fifteen (15) allegations of excessive Use of Force in 2020. Investigations may be closed by several different dispositions.

Dispositions of 2020 complaints:

- Sustained (1)
- Open / Suspended pending Excessive Force Packet return -366 days (11)
- Not Sustained (1)
- Closure by failure to return packet-366 days (1)
- Unfounded (1)

Personnel Early Warning System:

Index Code 303.5, Personnel Early Warning System (PEWS), states, “It is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Police Department to establish and maintain a system for tracking and reviewing incidents of potential risk to the public, the Department, and involved employees.” PEWS) is activated if an employee has six (6) or more documented use of force incidents within a twelve month period.

In 2020, the PEWS system was not activated by employees of the Department in regards to Use of Force incidents.

Conclusion:

In accordance with **Index Code 401** and **CALEA Standard 1.3.13**, the Staff Inspections Unit maintains record of all Use of Force Reports and prepares an annual analysis of reportable uses of force by agency personnel for agency wide and public review. Each Use of Force report is reviewed by the chain of command ending with the involved officer’s Bureau Commander to ensure accountability and adherence to departmental policy with a final review completed by the Staff Inspections Unit.

Departmental policy, training and equipment practices are continuously reviewed throughout the year and updated as necessary to ensure compliance with all laws and best law enforcement practices. Use of Force policy and procedure are covered annually at in-service training for all departmental personnel in order to maintain a training curriculum of best practices and annual review.

In early 2021, the Anne Arundel County Police Department will be conducting an upgrade to the current IAPro and BlueTeam programs, which will allow better analysis of Use of Force, Internal and Citizen Complaint data, as well as other statistical information related to the Agency and personnel. Shortly after the upgrade, the Department will be going operational with a public access, internet based Dashboard, which will provided current data related to Use of Force by Departmental personnel. Future plans are to include Internal and Citizen Complaint data to the public Dashboard.

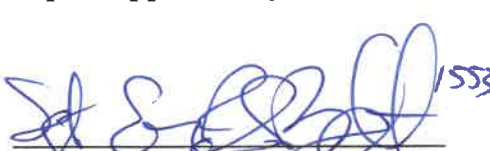
After a complete review and analysis of all uses of force and subsequent data, no further modifications to training, equipment and/or policy are recommended at this time.

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