

**Government of the District of Columbia
Police Complaints Board
Office of Police Complaints**



**2022 Report on Use of Force by the
Washington, D.C.
Metropolitan Police Department**

July 6, 2023

KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

- MPD officers reported discharging their firearms at seven people and two dogs in 2022; three people were fatally injured in these incidents
- UFRB reviewed nine neck restraint cases in 2022, which took place in 2021 and 2022
- Reported use of force incidents increased by 13% from 2021 to 2022; the number of uses of force increased by 11% from 2021 to 2022
- The number of officers who reported using force increased by less than 1% in 2022; roughly 29% of MPD officers reported using force in 2022
- 82 officers reported using force five times or more in 2022; 11 officers reported using force 10 times or more
- Subjects reportedly assaulted officers in 26% of reported use of force incidents in 2022
- 24% of uses of force involved subjects who were reportedly armed with some type of weapon in 2022, 18% of uses of force involved subjects who were reportedly armed with a firearm
- Subjects in 27% of incidents were reportedly under the influence of alcohol or drugs or reportedly exhibited signs of mental illness
- The Third, Sixth, and Seventh Districts reported the most uses of force in 2022, each accounting for 14% to 25% of uses of force
- The five Police Service Areas with the most reported uses of force were in the Sixth, Third, Seventh, and Fifth Districts
- As of June 2023, MPD has fully implemented eight of OPC's use of force recommendations, partially implemented four, and not implemented two

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The mission of the Office of Police Complaints and its volunteer community board, the Police Complaints Board, is to improve community trust in the District's police through effective civilian oversight of law enforcement. As a government agency that functions completely independently of the Metropolitan Police Department, we strive to help the community and its police department to work together to improve public safety and trust in the police.

This report serves our mission by helping our community and police department understand the circumstances in which force is used by the police in the District of Columbia. At the conclusion of this report we offer recommendations that will further enhance community trust and improve future editions of this report. Several key findings from this report are:

- Officers discharged their firearms at seven human subjects in 2022 which resulted in three fatalities
- The total number of reported use of force incidents increased by 11% over the previous year
- Subjects were reportedly armed with some type of weapon in 24% of reported uses of force, with 18% involving a subject armed with a firearm
- Officer use of force was reported most in the Third, Sixth, and Seventh Districts, which together accounted for 59% of all reported use of force incidents
- 90% of all reported use of force subjects were Black community members
- 46% of all use of force incidents occurred in census tracts that are 81-100% Black
- Takedowns and control holds were the most common types of force used in 2021, accounting for 66% of all uses of force

We hope you find this report informative. We believe that making this information readily available to our community will contribute to increasing public trust in the Metropolitan Police Department, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Tobin

Michael G. Tobin

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INTRODUCTION

Report Overview

This document is the sixth annual report on Washington D.C.'s Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) use of force, produced by the D.C. Office of Police Complaints (OPC). On June 30, 2016, the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act of 2015 (NEAR Act),¹ a comprehensive public safety bill, became law in the District. One requirement of the NEAR Act was that OPC produce an annual report on MPD's use of force in the District.

Police use of force remains a major topic of discussion and concern throughout the country. Police officers are empowered to use force to maintain the peace, but with that power comes high standards and responsibility. This report details the standards and policies regarding MPD officers' use of force, including the types of force used, the procedures for determining the appropriate amount of force for a given situation, as well as the oversight and review of use of force incidents. It also highlights the practices of MPD officers in the District – how often force is used, what type of force is used, and whom it is used against.

OPC's inaugural FY17 Use of Force Report² was the first comprehensive use of force report produced in the District since at least 2007, and it was the first of its kind produced by an agency independent of MPD. The 2018 Use of Force Report changed the reporting period from a fiscal year to a calendar year and was a continuation and extension of the inaugural report. The 2018 report also updated the statistics presented in the inaugural report and contained new data and information. Among the new statistics presented in the 2018³ report were; the

number of uses of force per officer; whether subjects were reportedly under the influence; whether subjects reportedly exhibited signs of mental illness;⁴ whether the subjects reportedly assaulted officers during the use of force incident; and a comparison of the average age of officers by police district. For more information regarding the changes in the Use of Force data collection and reporting please visit <https://policecomplaints.dc.gov/page/use-force-reports> to see OPC's previous Use of Force Reports. This 2022 report maintains the calendar year reporting period.

Metropolitan Police Department

MPD is the primary police force in the District of Columbia. D.C. is also home to many other law enforcement agencies – including the U.S. Capitol Police, U.S. Park Police, U.S. Secret Service, the Metro Transit Police Department, and others. However, MPD has the general responsibility of enforcing the law in the nation's capital except where those other law enforcement agencies have primary jurisdiction. MPD also maintains cooperation agreements with these other agencies allowing MPD to assist in law enforcement actions where the federal agencies have primary jurisdiction.

MPD maintains a police force of approximately 3,579 sworn officers, along with a non-sworn support staff of approximately 532 personnel.⁵ MPD is one of the 10 largest metropolitan police forces in the United States in terms of the number of officers.⁶ MPD's service area is divided into seven police districts, along with various special divisions including a Special Operations Division, a Narcotics and Special Investigations Division, and a Crime Investigations Division. MPD officers received 542,124

1: "Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act of 2015." Available [here](#)

2: "Report on Use of Force by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department Fiscal Year 2017." D.C. Office of Police Complaints; 23 January 2018. Available [here](#)

3: "Report on Use of Force by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department Calendar Year 2018." D.C. Office of Police Complaints; 3 March 2019." Available [here](#)

4: For the purposes of this report, subjects were categorized as exhibiting signs of mental illness if the responding officer(s) explicitly reported suspecting the subject(s) of being mentally ill; if the officer(s) mentioned completing a Form FD-12 (Application for Emergency Hospitalization) for the subject; or if the officer(s) described the subject as being suicidal. For more information on Forms FD-12 and MPD policies regarding subjects suspected of being mentally ill, see GO-OPS-308.04, "Interacting with Mental Health Consumers," available [here](#)

5: Numbers of 2022 MPD sworn officers and non-sworn support staff are based on the December 2022 reports OPC received from MPD

6: Information gathered [here](#)

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calls for service in 2022, there were 27,057 reported crimes in 2022 in the District, with MPD officers conducting 16,692 arrests in 2022.⁷

Office of Police Complaints

OPC is an independent D.C. government oversight agency whose mission is to increase community trust in the police forces of the District of Columbia. All OPC personnel are D.C. government employees, and the agency functions entirely separately and independently from MPD.

The primary function of OPC is to receive, investigate, and resolve police misconduct complaints filed by the public against sworn officers of MPD and the D.C. Housing Authority Police Department (DCHAPD). OPC has jurisdiction over complaints alleging seven types of police officer misconduct: harassment, inappropriate language or conduct, retaliation, unnecessary or excessive force, discrimination, failure to identify, and most recently, failure to intervene.

OPC also reviews police policies, procedures, and practices to assist in ensuring the District police forces

are using the best practices available, with a special emphasis on constitutional policing methods. These policy reviews often result in formal and informal recommendations for improvement. The policy recommendations may involve issues of training, procedures, supervision, or general police operations. OPC's mission also includes helping bridge the gap in understanding that often exists between community members and our police forces. OPC's mediation program helps facilitate conversations to eliminate misunderstandings between complainants and officers, while its community outreach programs include activities focused on both the public and police officers to improve mutual understanding and awareness throughout the District of Columbia.

With respect to the Use of Force Report, the OPC's goal is to enhance the transparency regarding MPD's use of force. Another goal of this report is to strengthen the public trust in MPD. Further, the Use of Force Report can aid in MPD's accuracy with respect to reporting uses of force, thereby enhancing the validity of the data.

7: MPD has not published their 2022 annual report, but the number of calls for service in 2022 were provided to OPC by IAD. Arrest data available [here](#)

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Police Complaints Board

OPC is governed by the Police Complaints Board (PCB), which, along with OPC, was established in 2001. The PCB is an oversight board composed of D.C. volunteer community members. One member of the PCB must be a member of MPD, while the other four members must be residents of the District. PCB members are nominated to staggered three-year terms by the Mayor, and confirmed by the D.C. Council (the Council).

In July of 2020 there were changes made to the PCB enacted by emergency legislation. The emergency legislation states: “The Board shall be composed of 9 members, which shall include one member from each Ward and one at-large member, none of whom, after the expiration of the term of the currently serving member of the MPD, shall be affiliated with any law enforcement agency.”⁸ The emergency legislation also grants more decision making power to the Executive Director of OPC.

The PCB actively participates in the work of OPC, offering guidance on many issues affecting OPC’s operations. The PCB is also charged with reviewing the Executive Director’s determinations regarding the dismissal of complaints; making policy recommendations to the Mayor, the Council, MPD, and DCHAPD to improve police practices; monitoring and evaluating MPD’s handling of First Amendment assemblies and demonstrations held in the District; and reviewing and approving reports released by OPC. The PCB approved this report.

To learn more about OPC and the PCB, and to see examples of their work and services, please visit <http://policecomplaints.dc.gov/>.

Police Complaints Board Members

The current PCB includes the following members:

Paul D. Ashton II, appointed chair of the PCB on October 4, 2016, is the Interim Executive Director for the Justice Policy Institute (JPI), a national nonprofit dedicated to criminal justice reform. As Interim Executive Director, Mr. Ashton directs organizational operations and leads a team of staff and consultants to promote fair and effective public safety policies. He has authored several publications at JPI, including: *Gaming the System*; *Rethinking the Blues*; *Moving Toward a Public Safety Paradigm*; *The Education of D.C.*; and *Fostering Change*.



Prior to joining JPI, Mr. Ashton spent time conducting research examining intimate partner violence in the LGBTQ community and served as a sexual assault victim advocate at the University of Delaware. He is an active member in the Washington, D.C. community, having served on the Young Donors Committee for SMYAL, an LGBTQ youth serving organization, and on the Board of Directors of Rainbow Response Coalition, a grassroots advocacy organization working to address LGBTQ intimate partner violence.

Mr. Ashton received his bachelor’s degree in Criminology from The Ohio State University, a master’s degree in Criminology from the University of Delaware, and completed an Executive Program in Social Impact Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania. He was appointed by Mayor Vince C. Gray, confirmed by the Council in October 2014, and sworn in on December 22, 2014. Mr. Ashton was re-nominated by Mayor Muriel Bowser and appointed on December 18, 2018, for a new term that ended January 12, 2022.

Earl Fowlkes II, currently serves as the President, CEO, and Founder of the Center for Black Equity (CBE), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of Black LGBTQ+ people worldwide. In that role, he oversees the membership of thirty-five Black LGBTQ Prides in the United States, Canada, South Africa, and the United Kingdom and

8: To see the emergency legislation please visit this [site](#) and see section 105

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managed federal, state, and local grants. Mr. Fowlkes has more than twenty-five years' experience related to HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy. Prior to his leadership at CBE, he served as the Executive Director to the D.C. Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education (DC CARE) Consortium, which supports the HIV/AIDS continuum of care in the District. While at the DC CARE Consortium, he oversaw staff, managed homelessness prevention programs, and convened the HIV/AIDS Food Bank and HIV/AIDS Prevention committees.



He briefly worked in Philadelphia as Interim Administrator for the COLOURS Organization, which empowers LGBTQ+ communities, especially those of the African Diaspora. He managed twenty paid staff and volunteers in that role and was responsible for grant writing and evaluation. Before that time, Mr. Fowlkes served as the Executive Director of Damien Ministries, a faith-based HIV/AIDS service organization in the District, through which he monitored all pastoral care activities at the D.C. Jail.

Mr. Fowlkes has been politically active in the District for over two decades and has served as President of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club since 2014, Chair of the Democratic National Committee's LGBT Caucus since 2013, and Chair of the Mayor's LGBT Advisory Board since 2012.

He has also served on several task forces and boards related to racial, gender, and sexual equity and HIV/AIDS prevention, including the Victory Fund's Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute Board, 100 Black Men, and the Transgender Health Empowerment Board of Directors. He is currently a member of the Washington AIDS Partnership Steering Committee, a role he has held since 2010. Mr. Fowlkes holds a bachelor's degree in History from Rutgers University and a master's degree in Social Work from City College of New York. He is a Ward 6 resident.

Bobbi Strang, is an Insurance Examiner with the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES). She was the first openly transgender individual to work for DOES where she provided case management for Project Empowerment, a transitional employment program that provides job readiness training, work experience, and job search assistance to District residents who face multiple barriers to employment.



Ms. Strang is a consistent advocate for the LGBTQ community in the District of Columbia. She has served as an officer for the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, a board member for Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence, and a co-facilitator for the DC LGBT Center Job Club. Ms. Strang was also awarded the 2015 Engendered Spirit Award by Capital Pride as recognition for the work she has done in the community. Currently, she volunteers at the D.C. Center as the Center Careers facilitator.

Ms. Strang holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and English Literature from S.U.N.Y. Geneseo as well as a Master of Arts in Teaching from Salisbury University. She was first appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser and confirmed by the District Council on November 3, 2015. Ms. Strang was reappointed on March 17, 2020, for a term that ended in January 12, 2023.

Jeff H. Tignor, is a lawyer at the Federal Communications Commission focusing on rules and regulations affecting wireless broadband providers. Mr. Tignor has over 20 years experience working on wireless broadband issues, wireline broadband issues, and consumer protection, including three years leading a division of 85 plus staff members resolving consumer complaints. Mr. Tignor is also the former Chairman of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 4B. He was elected as the ANC Commissioner for ANC 4B-08 in November 2002 and served as the Chairman of ANC 4B during 2003 and 2004, often



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working on issues affecting public safety. Mr. Tignor is currently the Chair of the Board of Washington Episcopal School and Immediate Past President on the Board of the Harvard Club of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tignor graduated from Harvard with an AB in Government in 1996 and from the Duke University School of Law in 1999. He moved to Washington, D.C. to live in his grandfather's former home in Ward 4, where he still lives today with his wife, Kemi, and son, Henry. Someone in the Tignor family has been living in Washington, D.C. continually, as far as he knows, since just after the Civil War. Mr. Tignor was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser on November 15, 2018 and confirmed by the Council for a term ending January 12, 2021. On July 8, 2021, Mr. Tignor was confirmed by the Council for a second term ending January 12, 2024.

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MPD Reporting System

All use of force data used in this report was provided by MPD. For use of force reporting through 2017, officers completed hard copies of UFIRs and RIFs, and the information from those forms was then entered into the Personnel Performance Management System (PPMS) by the officer, their supervisor, or an administrator. Upon OPC's recommendation, in December 2017, MPD indicated they were beginning to capture all use of force data electronically. On January 2, 2018, MPD issued Executive Order 18-001, requiring that all UFIRs and RIFs be completed electronically in PPMS. The requirement that officers complete all UFIRs/RIFs electronically in MPD's Personnel Performance Management System (PPMS) added new data reporting capabilities in 2018.⁹

As of January 1, 2020, MPD's use of force reporting now consists of one format: Force Incident Report (FIR), the form officers complete following any use of force. Previously, MPD officers completed: (1) the Use of Force Incident Report forms¹⁰ (UFIRs, MPD form 901-e) and (2) the Reportable Incident Forms (RIFs, MPD form 901-g). RIFs were a less comprehensive form, which, according to MPD's General Order RAR 901.07 "Use of Force," are substituted for UFIRs for two particular types of force: (1) when an officer points a firearm at a subject but no other force is used and no injuries are sustained; or (2) when an officer uses a tactical takedown, no other force is used, and the subject is not injured and does not complain of pain or injury. As of January 1, 2020, all uses of force are reported in one form, the FIR. The information from the FIRs is stored in PPMS. PPMS is MPD's electronic database for tracking adverse incidents and personnel

performance, and is used for predictive analysis of officer performance, including misconduct or other at-risk behavior. PPMS is also used for performance evaluations and performance improvement plans.¹¹

July 2019 PPMS Enhancement

In July 2019 MPD updated its data collection, referred to as the July 2019 enhancement here, which improved the efficiency and accuracy of data collection and storage. Three of the improvements were directly related to use of force and are discussed below.

1. Many of the UFIRs/RIFs completed in 2018 were missing data in essential fields such as type of force used and level of subject behavior. To resolve this problem, OPC recommended that MPD make these essential fields on UFIRs/RIFs required fields in 2018.¹² According to MPD, 91 out of the 99 fields on UFIR/RIF became mandatory after the July 2019 enhancement.¹³ Without filling out the mandatory fields, officers would not be able to complete a UFIR/RIF. This change significantly improved MPD data collection process and the missing essential data.

2. According to MPD, prior to the July 2019 enhancement, if an officer had reported using different types of force on different subjects in one use of force incident, PPMS would indicate that

9: For more information regarding the 2018 changes see the 2019 Use of Force Report, available [here](#)

10: MPD does not require officers to complete FIRs for the lowest level of force, forcibly handcuffing a resistant subject, though some officers do complete these forms for such incidents

11: More information regarding PPMS is available [here](#)

12: See OPC's recommendation 5A in the 2018 Use of Force Report, available [here](#)

13: MPD provided OPC a list of fields on the post-July 2019 enhancement version of UFIR/RIF in May 2020, with the information regarding whether a field is a required field. The number 91 includes the fields that require an answer only when the previous question has a specific answer. For example, if the answer for the question regarding whether an officer is injured is "yes," the question regarding whether the officer is hospitalized becomes a required field. The non-required fields are all regarding subjects': name, address, social security number, phone, pre-existing injury/condition, ambulance number, medic number, and whether photos are taken

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the officer used all the types of force against all the subjects. For example, if an officer used three types of force against three subjects (e.g., an officer uses hand controls to subject A, ASP to subject B, and OC spray to subject C), the data in PPMS would show that the officer used all three types of force on all three subjects.¹⁴ This was a significant data inaccuracy and the July 2019 enhancement resolved this problem for newly entered data. If a use of force incident occurred after the July 2019 enhancement with an officer using the same three types of force against three subjects, PPMS would show that the officer used hand controls against the Subject A, ASP against Subject B, and OC spray against Subject C.

3. Three answer choices for the Specific Type of Force Used field within the UFIR form were added: (1) ASP-arm extraction, (2) canine bites(s), and (3) shield. OPC therefore incorporated these new types of force into the new use of force hierarchy. See Appendix B on page 56 for more discussion about the three types of force and the use of force hierarchy.

January 2020 Enhancement

On December 31, 2019, MPD issued Executive Order EO-19-009, “Force Incident Report.” The executive order stated its purpose was to “announce that effective January 1, 2020, the force incident report (FIR) shall replace the PD Form 901e [Use of Force Incident Report (UFIR)] and the PD Form 901g [Reportable Incident Form (RIF)] in the Personnel Performance Management System (PPMS).”

This enhancement required that the arrest information of the subject against whom force was used be automatically uploaded to the FIR. This information is extracted from the arrest report, which must be

completed by the officer prior to drafting the FIR. MPD also incorporated an “impairment” field where officers can report whether the subject was suspected to have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol or suffering from a mental health crisis. The watch commander is also required to report on the FIR whether the body-worn camera (BWC) was reviewed, who it was reviewed by, and if the use of force requires further investigation. Information available in the FIR includes:

- The time, date, and location of the incident;
- Officer and subject demographic information;
- The type of force used;
- The subject behavior during the use of force incident;
- Injuries to the officer(s) and/or subject(s);
- Whether the use of force resulted in property damage;
- Subject impairment;
- Subject weapons; and
- A narrative description of the incident.

See Appendix A on page 53 for the updated FIR after MPD’s January 2020 enhancement.

14: This example is provided by MPD as part of the 2019 use of force data explanatory notes in February 2020

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Data Collection and Scope

The scope of this report includes all types of uses of force involving MPD officers, all MPD divisions, and all MPD officer ranks. The data collection process for this report involved receiving three types of data from MPD: (1) PPMS data in an Excel spreadsheet, (2) FIRs in PDF form, and (3) the exported FIRs electronic data completed by officers in an Excel spreadsheet for closed use of force cases.¹⁵ Similar to last year, MPD exported the data from the electronically completed FIRs and provided that data to OPC. OPC did not need to manually enter the data from the FIR PDFs to create a consistent dataset.

OPC also conducted an audit of the FIR PDFs against the electronically exported data to ensure consistency. Specifically, OPC first randomly selected a quantitatively sufficient number of FIRs from the 2,068 FIR PDFs MPD provided to OPC.¹⁶ OPC then manually compared the randomly selected FIR PDF data to the PPMS spreadsheet.¹⁷ The audit of 121 FIRs showed data inconsistencies for the following fields:¹⁸

1. Subject pre-existing injuries not exported to the Excel sheet until the very last quarter
2. Neck restraints in PPMS did not appear in the FIRs
3. Vehicle pursuits in PPMS did not appear in the FIRs

When completing the 2021 UOF report OPC had many discussions with MPD regarding how they close their uses of force. OPC learned that MPD has a 90 day close out process for reviewing all uses of force for that year.

Therefore, March 31st of each year is when most uses of force for the previous year will be closed out. In order to optimize the data used, OPC has agreed going forward to wait until after March 31st of each year to receive the totality of the previous years, use of force data. In 2021, OPC received the totality of the UOF data on April 21, 2022. In 2022, OPC received the totality of the UOF data on April 21, 2023.

OPC ultimately received a FIR for 2,068¹⁹ reported uses of force, representing 99% of the total 2,107 reported uses of force in 2022. MPD did not provide OPC with PDFs for the remaining 16 reported uses of force. This percentage is higher than the 97% in 2021 and the 92% in 2020. OPC did not receive the PDFs for reported uses of force that are still considered open, pending investigation as of March 31, 2023. These open investigations represent 16 uses of force and 4 incidents. Nevertheless, OPC did receive the PPMS data of the 16 uses of force that were still open.

15: OPC only receives the PDFs and full PPMS data for closed use of force cases. Open cases are those that are still under investigation

16: OPC manually audited 121 FIRs

17: The PPMS data is extracted from the FIRs officers fill out after they use force

18: Not all FIRs had these inconsistencies

19: 2,068 FIR PDFs represent 1,029 use of force incidents

USE OF FORCE OVERVIEW

MPD's Definition of Use of Force

Police officers are given the authority to use physical force when appropriate. The type of force, and when it may be used, is governed by statutes, case law, departmental policy, and training. MPD defines the use of force as “any physical coercion used to affect, influence, or persuade an individual to comply with an order from a member.”²⁰ This includes any type of force from hand controls or forcibly handcuffing a noncompliant subject to deadly force, such as discharging a firearm.

MPD's use of force General Order²¹ explicitly states that MPD “members shall minimize the force that is used while protecting the lives of members and other persons” and “members shall attempt to defuse use of force situations with de-escalation techniques...” This General Order also includes the Use of Force Framework, comprised of four levels of subject behavior and four levels of officer response (see Subject Behavior Categories and MPD Officer Force Response Categories on page 15).²²

Although the Use of Force Framework provides guidance on the appropriate level of force to be used in a given situation, in 2002 MPD no longer encouraged the Use of Force Framework as a continuum of sequential behaviors and responses. Rather, the Use of Force Framework is fluid and officers are encouraged to de-escalate a scenario and constantly reassess what force is needed²³ and can be used within the officer's individual discretion during an incident. On April 27, 2023, MPD updated their Use of Force General Order to reflect the possibility of Use of Force indicating potential criminal conduct.²⁴

Use of Force Training

The Metropolitan Police Department asserts they utilize a use of force framework which states in part that officers are to value and preserve the sanctity of human life at all times, especially when involved in a situation that requires any type of force. Therefore, MPD officers shall use the minimum amount of force to bring an incident or person

under control while keeping the public and the officers safe.²⁵ MPD's use of force training comprises numerous components including critical incident management, situational awareness, firearms training, de-escalation, scene management, and other topics.²⁶ MPD officers receive mandatory retraining every year to ensure officers are up to date on case law and policy updates. Every use of force is investigated thoroughly and impartially, with the Use of Force Review Board process informing academy training.

MPD states it operates under the fundamental expectation that use of force is only used proportionally to the threat faced and in a manner consistent with legal and agency policies. While many police academies teach use of force as a standalone block of instruction, MPD integrates these skills throughout the curriculum. The Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA) instills a police culture equipping officers with the skills they need to safely intervene before problems occur or escalate. Use of force training is woven into training topics in the context of safety and a means of last resort. For example, during training on how to handle calls regarding domestic violence, officers are primarily taught D.C. laws, civil rights, victims' rights, Constitutional law, and implicit bias. In this context, MPD teaches patrol tactics, pre-arrival, and on-scene tactical considerations all with the intention to reduce the need for the use of force. Training also encompasses emotional and mental health de-escalation techniques. In 2016, MPD changed the diagram of the use of force continuum from a triangle to a circular framework to visually highlight de-escalation.²⁷

At the MPA, Recruit Officers complete 80 hours of training in firearms. Because the majority of the recruits do not have prior experience with firearms, MPD's training curriculum is designed to provide

20: Metropolitan Police Department General Order RAR-901.07: “Use of Force.” Metropolitan Police Department; 27 April 2023. Available [here](#)

21: MPD General Order RAR-901.07 Use of Force Framework

22: In their most recent General Order there are only four levels of both subject behavior and officer response as they no longer include cooperative/compliant behavior and officers cooperative controls

23: This change was made in 2002

24: Available [here](#)

25: MPD's General Order RAR-901.07

26: MPD provided information regarding use of force training and certification on 9 July 2020

27: For the information about the circular framework, see MPD General Order Go-RAR-901.07

USE OF FORCE OVERVIEW

sworn officers with the knowledge and skills necessary for safe, proper, and effective operation of police-issued equipment. It is the policy of the MPD to provide basic law enforcement service training that includes extensive de-escalation training. Officers receive firearm training during the basic recruit training and are required to recertify in firearms twice a year. MPD teaches de-escalation in various forms: communication techniques, mental evaluation and assessment, victim and suspect emotional understanding, and sensitivity.

Firearms training at MPA also includes scenario and range simulation training which allows recruit officers to experience complex and nuanced scenarios that adapt in real time, responding to officers' actions. With scenarios reinforcing every facet of training, simulations teach officers to de-escalate themselves and the situation at every stage through presence, communication, tone of voice, judgement, and situational awareness. During scenario training, instructors again reinforce a culture of peer intervention wherein officers are encouraged to step in if they witness a situation escalating.

MPD aims to teach communication, service, and conflict resolution so that use of force is a last resort. MPD states that in the rare instances when use of force is necessary to protect human life, officers are taught to render medical attention as soon as the scene is safe. As part of this mandate, all officers are also certified in Tactical Emergency Casualty Care.²⁸

28: See the definition of Tactical Emergency Casualty Care [here](#)

Subject Behavior and Prescribed Force Response

Category of Perceived Threat

MPD Officer Force Response Categories

Passive Resister – Subject displays a low level of noncompliant, passive resistance. Noncompliance offers no physical or mechanical energy. Subject does not respond to the member’s lawful requests or commands and may be argumentative.



Contact Controls – Low-level physical tactics to gain control and cooperation (examples include soft empty hand controls, leaning on a subject’s legs to hold them down, and firm grip).

Active Resister – Subject is uncooperative and will not comply with member’s requests or commands. Subject exhibits physical and mechanical defiance or behaves in such a way that causes the member to believe that subject may be armed with a weapon, including evasive movements to defeat member’s attempt at control, including bracing, tensing, pushing, or verbally signaling an intention not to be held in custody, provided that the intent to resist has been clearly manifested.



Compliance Techniques – Actions that may induce pain or cause discomfort to the subject who is actively resisting until control is achieved, but will not generally cause an injury when used in accordance with department training and standards. Examples include oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, wrist locks, takedowns, ASP baton arm extractions, use of an ASP baton to conduct a wrist lock, and use of a patrol shield to pin a subject down.

Threatening Assailant - Subject has gone beyond the level of simple non-cooperativeness, and is actively and aggressively assaulting (e.g., striking, kicking) the member, themselves, or others, or the threat of an aggressive assault is imminent. Subject has demonstrated a lack of concern for the member’s safety; however, subject does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to member or others.



Defensive Tactics – All force options other than deadly force. Although a range of force options are generally available, members shall adhere to policy requirements governing the use of specific force options and less lethal weapons. Defensive tactics are employed to forcibly render the subject into submission; however, these actions are not likely nor designed to cause death or serious bodily injury. Defensive tactics are primarily used to ensure the safety of the member and others [examples include strikes, ASP baton strikes, use of a police mountain bike as an impact weapon, electronic control devices (ECDs), and 40mm extended impact weapons in accordance with department training and standards].

Active Assailant – Subject poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to member or another person (other than the subject). Subject’s actions demonstrate subject’s intent to inflict imminent death or serious bodily injury upon member or another person.



Deadly Force – All force options. Deadly force shall only be used if the member reasonably believes that deadly force is immediately necessary to protect the member or another person (other than the subject of the use of deadly force) from the threat of serious bodily injury or death, the member’s actions are reasonable given the totality of the circumstances, and all other options have been exhausted or do not reasonably lend themselves to the circumstances (examples include the use of a firearm or a strike to the head with a hard object).

USE OF FORCE FINDINGS

Number of Uses of Force

There are three distinct ways to report the number of uses of force per year:

- The number of incidents in which officers used force per year;
- The number of uses of force per year, which includes all officers using force in all use of force incidents; and
- The total number of individual officers using force per year.

In 2022, there were 1,034²⁹ reported use of force incidents involving 2,107 reported uses of force by 1,044 officers. There are more uses of force than incidents or officers because many use of force incidents involve multiple officers using force and an officer may use force more than once per incident.³⁰

Use of Force Incidents

The number of reported use of force incidents increased considerably between 2015 and 2019, from 678 in 2015 to 1,246 in 2019. From 2015 to 2019, there was an 84% increase in use of force incidents. From 2019 to 2021 there was a 27% decrease in the number of use of force incidents. As shown in the Use of Force Incidents chart on the next page, there were 1,034 use of force incidents in 2022 which is a 13% increase from the 915 incidents in 2021.³¹

Uses of Force

Similar to the trend of the increase in reported use of force incidents, the number of reported uses of force increased until 2018, from 1,393 in 2015 to 2,873 in 2018. In 2019, however, the number decreased to 2,471, 14% less than 2018.³² 2020 continued this trend with a 19% decrease in uses of force in 2020 as compared to

2019. In 2020 there were 2,011 uses of force. In 2021 there were 1,896 reported uses of force, which is a 6% decrease from 2020.³³ In 2022 there were 2,107 uses of force, which was an 11% increase in uses of force from 2021.

Officers Using Force

A total of 1,044 MPD officers reported using force in 2022, which is roughly 29% of all MPD officers.³⁴ This is less than a 1 percent increase in the number of officers using force from 2021, and a 64% increase from 2013, when a total of 636 officers reported using force. In 2018, MPD reported the highest number of officers who reported using force since 2013. Seventy-eight percent of all officers who reported using force in 2022 reported doing so one or two times, while 14% of officers reported using force three or four times. Eight percent of officers who used force reported doing so five times or more in 2022. See chart Uses of Force Per Officer in 2022 on page 17. The reported use of force incidents involving only one officer was the largest use of force incident group, reflecting 46% of the total incidents in 2022. The percentage of incidents involving two officers in 2022 was 29%. Incidents involving 3 or more officers comprised 25% of all use of force incidents.

Officers Using Force on Duty, in Uniform

Ninety-eight percent of officers who reported using force did so while they were on duty, the same percentage as in 2021, 2020, and 2019. Similarly, 95% of officers who reported using force in 2022 did so while in full uniform, similar to 2021. Three percent of officers who reported using force in 2022 did so in plain clothes, less than 2% reported using force while in casual clothes, and less than 1% reported using force while not in uniform.

29: This section reports on all use of force incidents regardless of if the case is still considered open. So this number includes the 4 open incidents

30: The uses of force discussed in this report only include those reported in all FIRs. In 2021 MPD still did not consider the pointing of a firearm to be a use of force, but OPC does report the pointing of a firearm as a use of force. On January 1, 2022 MPD revised their use of force general order to include pointing of a firearm as a use of force

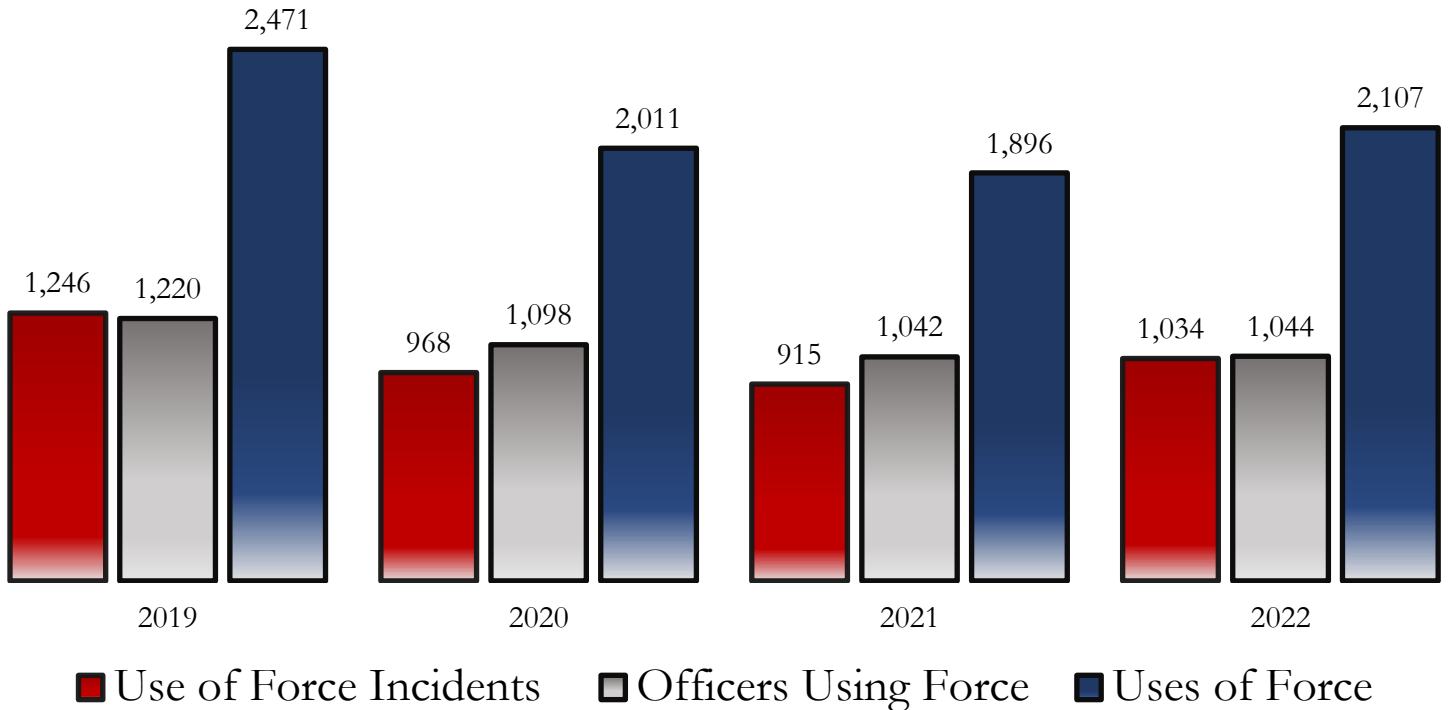
31: See “Report on Use of Force by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department 2021”, District of Columbia Officer of Police Complaints; 13 June 2022. Available [here](#)

32: “Report on Use of Force by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department 2018”, District of Columbia Officer of Police Complaints; 19 March 2019. Available [here](#)

33: OPC no longer includes officer misconduct and non-MPD personnel uses of force (i.e., special police officer) in their use of force estimates. These accounted for 9 uses of force in 2020

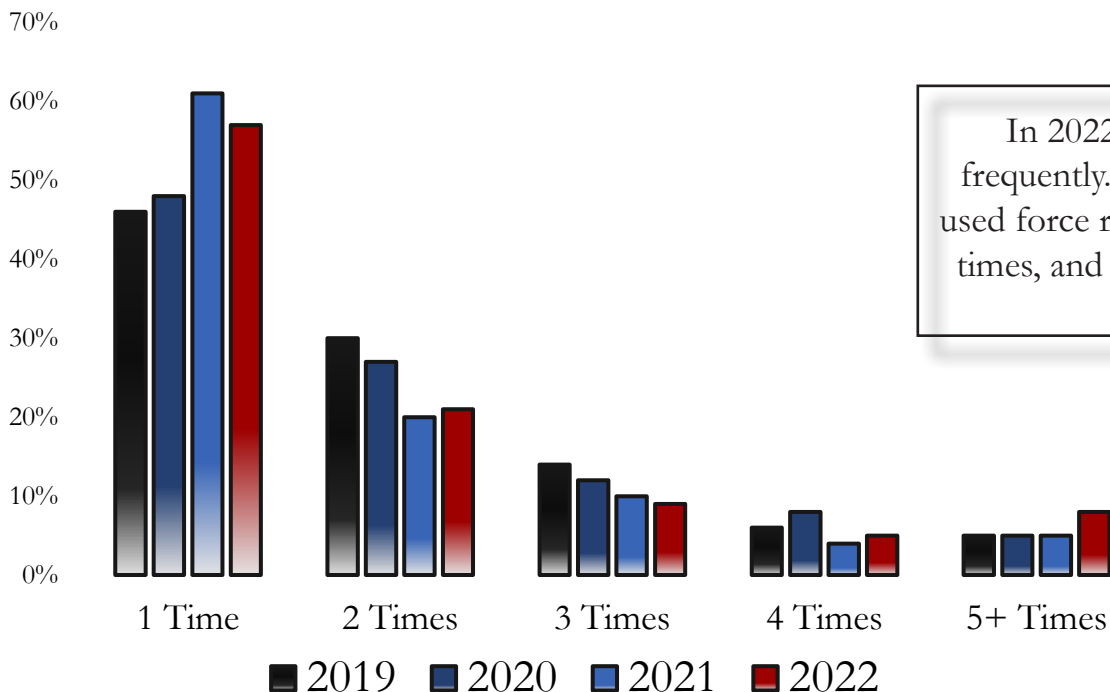
34: This number does not include the civilians employed by MPD

Number of Uses of Force



- Average 2.8 use of force incidents per day in 2022
- 11% Increase in uses of force in 2022
- 29% of MPD officers used force in 2022

Officers Using Force



In 2022 officers used force more frequently. In 2021 5% of officers who used force reported using force 5 or more times, and in 2022 this increased to 8%.

USE OF FORCE FINDINGS

Subject Behavior in Force Incidents

For this report OPC refers to the four categories of subject and officer behavior as shown on page 15. Subject behavior is broken down into four categories:³⁵ passive resister; active resister; threatening assailant; and active assailant. Subject behavior can escalate and de-escalate over the course of a given encounter, and the highest level of subject behavior reported for each use of force is reported in this report. Officers' responses are categorized in four levels that correspond to MPD's five levels of subject behavior.³⁶ From FIR data, most subjects in 2022 were reported by MPD as being active resisters, accounting for 59% of subjects. The second most common subject behavior was threatening assailant, which accounted for 17% of subjects against whom officers reported using force in 2022.

Officers followed MPD's prescribed level of force^{37, 38} in response to the subjects' behavior in 65% of reported uses of force in 2022. MPD's prescribed level of force is described in MPD's Use of Force Framework, in General Order RAR-901.07, "Use of Force." Officers used a lower level of force than prescribed in roughly 30% of the total reported uses of force in 2022.

Officers used a higher level of force than prescribed in 81 uses of force, or 5% of the total reported uses of force in 2022. Of the 81 instances of officers using a higher level of force than prescribed in 2022: 32 officers reported using hand controls, 27 officers reported using tactical takedowns, 11 officers reported using fist/knee

strikes, 3 officers reported pointing their firearm, 2 reported using an ASP-strike, 2 officers reported using OC spray, and 2 officers reported firearm discharges, 1 officer reported a canine bite, and 1 officer reported using a 40mm extended impact weapon.

Officers Pointing Firearms at Subjects

MPD previously did not consider officers pointing their firearms at subjects a use of force, but now requires it be reported in a FIR. Officers reported pointing their firearms at subjects 390^{39, 40} times in 2022, a 2% increase over the 381 times officers reported pointing their firearms at subjects in 2021. Officers reported that the subjects were cooperative/compliant in 0%, passive resister in 25%, active resister, in 32%, threatening assailant in 16%, or active assailant in 27% of the reported uses of force involving officers who pointed their firearms at subjects in 2022.

Armed Subjects in Uses of Force

Subjects were reportedly armed in 500 (24%) reported uses of force⁴¹ in 2022, a 7% increase from the 467⁴² armed subjects in reported uses of force in 2021. The most common type of weapon in 2022 was a firearm, which subjects were reported as possessing in 368 uses of force in 2022 (18%). Subjects were armed with knives in 90 reported uses of force (4%) in 2022, and with blunt weapons in 29 reported uses of force (1%). Subjects were armed with miscellaneous other weapons in 28 reported uses of force (1%) in 2021. These weapons included but were not limited to a BB gun, liquid chemical, vehicle, pizza cutter, and a rock in a sock.

Officers pointed firearms at subjects in 20% of uses of force	In 2022 MPD did not specify where in the prescribed force used framework pointing a firearm falls	Subjects were reportedly armed in 26% of use of force incidents in 2022
--	---	--

35: In the most recent General Order MPD did not include the cooperative/compliant subject behavior and officer response. Metropolitan Police Department General Order RAR-901.07: "Use of Force." Metropolitan Police Department; 27 April 2023. Available [here](#)

36: See page 15 for further discussion of the levels of subject behavior and officer response

37: Because there are still reported uses of force that are pending investigation, and MPD does not consider when the highest reported use of force was an officer pointing their firearm, OPC was only able to include 1,759 reported uses of force in this section

38: Because MPD does not specify where in the subject behavior and prescribed force response an officer pointing their firearm falls, it is not included in the table regarding the subjects' behavior and the officers' level of force

39: The number of instances of officers reportedly pointing their firearms only includes instances in which the pointing of a firearm was the highest level of force reported by the officer. This is because the data in this report are based on the highest level of force used in each use of force

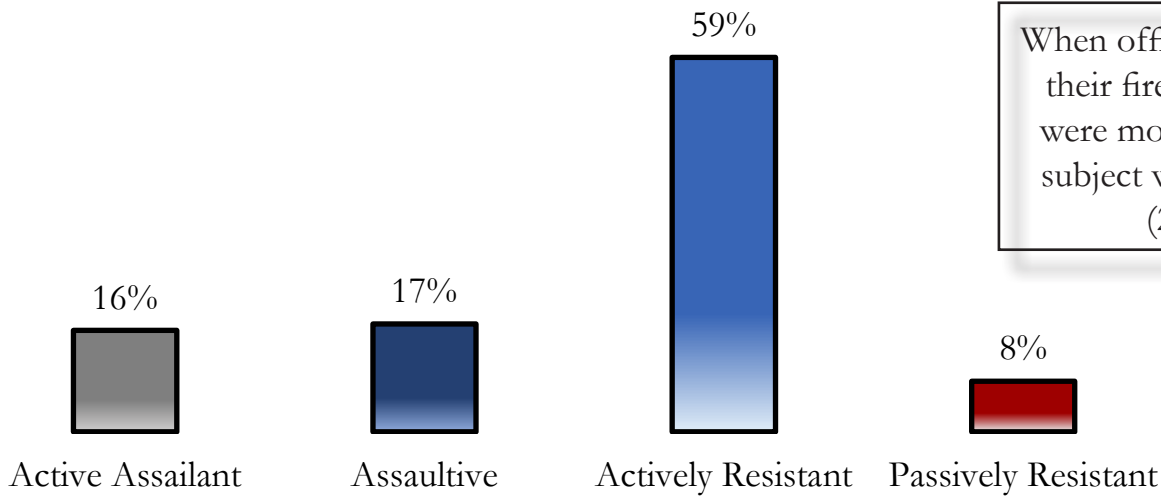
40: Even with open cases, all officer force information is available to OPC so the total number of use of force incidents is 2,107 for this number

41: OPC did not have information regarding whether the subject was armed for the 6 uses of force. Therefore, the number of uses of force used for this calculation was 2,101

42: OPC included 22 additional uses of force to the reported 445 in 2021 where a subject was armed

Subject Behavior and Level of Officer Force

Subject Behavior

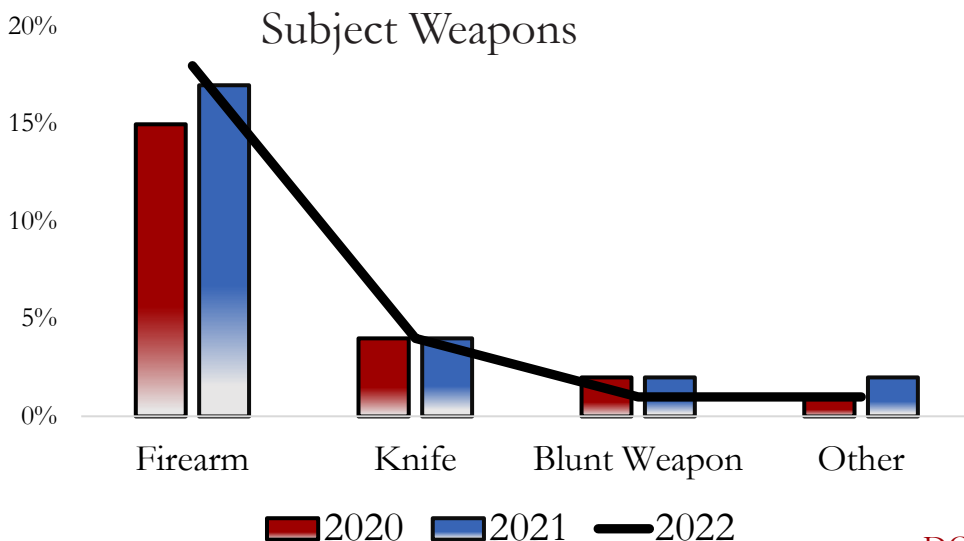


When officers reported pointing their firearm at subjects, they were more likely to report the subject was an active assailant (27% vs. 16%).

Subject Behavior and Officer's Level of Force

	Passive Resister	Active Resister	Threatening Assailant	Active Assailant
Contact Controls	--	<1%	<1%	<1%
Compliance Techniques	4%	63%	16%	11%
Defensive Tactics	<1%	1%	1%	1%
Deadly	--	--	<1%	<1%
Use of force was higher than the Use of Force Framework prescribed response: 5%		Use of force met the Use of Force Framework prescribed response: 65%	Use of force was lower than the Use of Force Framework prescribed response: 30%	

Subject Weapons



89% of subjects who were armed were ultimately arrested and charged with an offense.

USE OF FORCE FINDINGS

Types of Use of Force

Tactical takedowns were the most frequent type of force reported in 2022, accounting for 43% of uses of force. Control holds were the highest level of force used in 23% of reported uses of force.

The hierarchy of force⁴³ used in this report, from lowest to highest, is:

1. Control holds (including hand controls, firm grip, joint locks, pressure points, ASP controls, ASP-arm extraction, and handcuffing)
2. Tactical takedown
3. Firearm pointed
4. OC spray
5. Fist/knee strike, 40mm extended impact weapon (foam or sponge rounds), or shield
6. ASP strike, canine bite(s)
7. Taser/ECD
8. Firearm discharged

Firearms pointed at subjects were the highest level of force used in 20% of reported uses of force, while OC spray was the highest level of force used in 10% of reported uses of force in 2022. Fist or knee strikes/40mm extended impact weapons and shields were the highest level of force used in 3% of reported uses of force in 2022, and ASP strikes and canine bites were the highest level of force used in <1% of reported uses of force in 2022. Firearm discharges were the highest level of force used in <1% of reported uses of force in 2022. Tasers/ECDs were the highest level of force in roughly <1% of 2022 uses of force. Although all officers receive familiarity training with Tasers/ECDs, only sergeants are fully trained and equipped with Tasers/ECDs.

There were 10 intentional firearm discharges in 2022: 8 involving firearm discharges at people and 2 involving firearm discharges at animals. These 10 firearm discharges account for <1% of reported uses of force in 2022, and is similar to 2021. For further discussion of the 2022 firearm discharge incidents, see page 31.

Rate of Injuries in Use of Force Incidents

Officers reported receiving injuries in 10% of reported uses of force in 2022. Subject injuries were reported in 47% of uses of force⁴⁴ reported in 2022.

The injury rates for the same type of force categories in 2022 were similar to 2021.⁴⁵ The following percent of incidents resulted in reported subject injuries or complaints of pain:

- 82% of control holds;
- 86% of firearm discharges;
- 66% of fist/knee strikes/40mm extended impact weapons;
- 83% of ASP strikes;
- 44% of OC spray uses; and
- 46% of tactical takedowns.

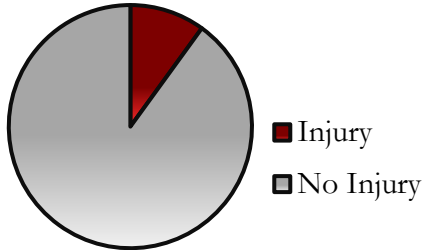
43: Not all cases had specific information regarding the specific use of force, therefore the number of uses of force used for this calculation was 2,181

44: Uses of force that are still considered open do not include information regarding officer or subject injury. Therefore, not all injuries from uses of force are included in the analysis

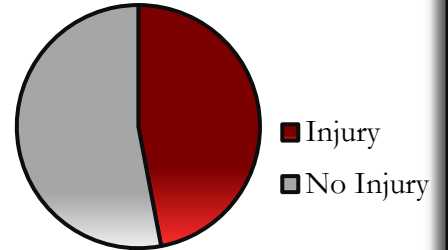
45: Reporting the injury rate by type of force used is complicated by a few factors. First, the injury rate reported here is based on the highest level of force used by each officer, but this may not be the type of force that caused the injury. Second, when multiple officers use force in a given incident, all of the officers may list an injury to the subject even if the injury resulted from only one of the officers' use of force. Third, the subject injury rate is based on complaint of injury by the subject rather than by officer or medical observation. Any subject, therefore, could claim injury or complain of pain, and it would be recorded as an injury. Despite these concerns, OPC determined that it was relevant to present the reported rate of injuries sustained based on each type of force used. Further, injuries are not known in open cases

Level of Force and Injury Rate

10% of 2022 uses of force resulted in a reported officer injury

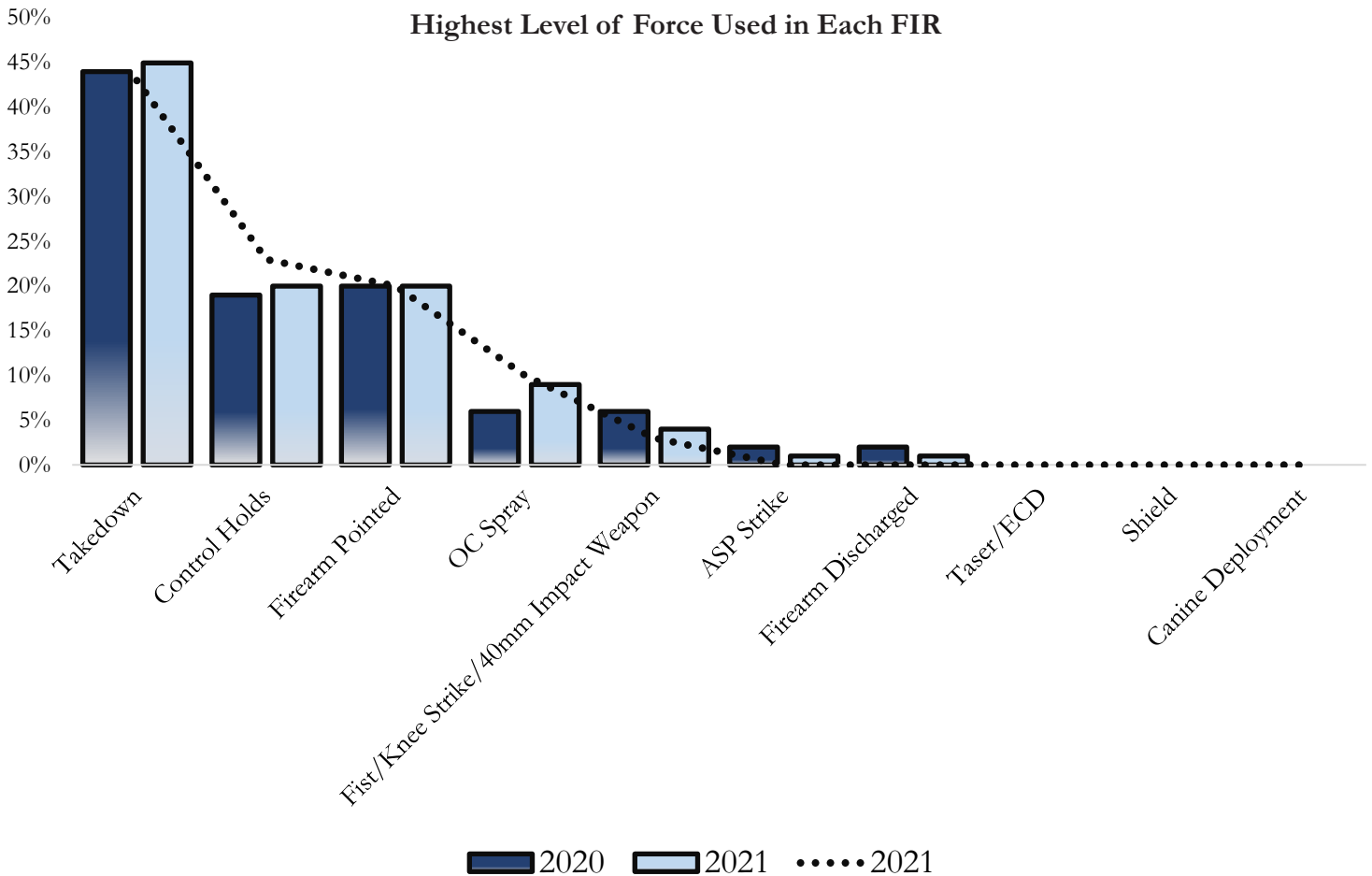


47% of 2022 uses of force resulted in a reported subject injury



1% of Uses of Force Required an Officer to be Transported to the Hospital

17% Percent of Subjects had Visible Injuries



DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics of Officers Using Force

A total of 1,044 MPD officers reported using force in 2022, with 43% of those officers using force in more than one incident. The demographics of officers who reported using force in 2022 were similar to the demographics of officers using force in 2021. In 2022 45% of officers who reported using force were Black (same as 2021), 36% were White (38% in 2021), 14% were Hispanic (12% in 2021), and 6% were members of other races and ethnicities (same as 2021). The demographics in 2022 were also similar to the demographics since 2014. In 2022, 87% of officers who reported using force were men and 13% were women, similar to the gender demographics of 2021.

Compared to the overall population of MPD officers,⁴⁶ White officers, male officers, and younger officers reported using force in a disproportionately higher number of times:

- 33% of MPD's officers are White, but White officers accounted for 36% of officers who reported using force in 2022;
- 77% of MPD's officers are male, but male officers accounted for 87% of officers who reported using force in 2022; and
- 35% of MPD's officers are under 35 years of age, but these officers accounted for 55% of officers who reported using force in 2022.

Black officers and female officers used force in a disproportionately lower number of times:

- 51% of MPD's officers are Black, but Black officers accounted for 45% of officers who reported using force in 2022; and
- 23% of MPD officers are female, but female officers accounted for 13% of officers who reported using force in 2022.

Demographics of Subjects of Force

Black community members made up 90% of the total subjects MPD reported using force against in 2022, while White community members made up 4% of the total subjects in 2022 and Hispanic community members made up 5% of the total subjects in 2022. Males were 86% of the total subjects MPD officers reported using force against in 2022, while females were 14% of the total subjects in 2022.

Community members in their late teens and early 30s were more likely to be the subjects of reported uses of force, with 59% of the subjects between 18 and 34 years old in 2022.

Compared to overall District demographics,⁴⁷ Black community members, male community members, and younger community members were the subjects of reported uses of force in a disproportionately higher number of incidents:

- 46% of District residents are Black, but Black community members were 90% of the total subjects MPD officers reported using force against in 2022;
- 48% of District residents are male, but males were 87% of the total subjects MPD reported using force against in 2022; and
- 51% of District residents are less than 35 years old, but community members in this age range accounted for 71% of the total subjects MPD used force against in 2022.

Officer and Subject Demographic Pairings

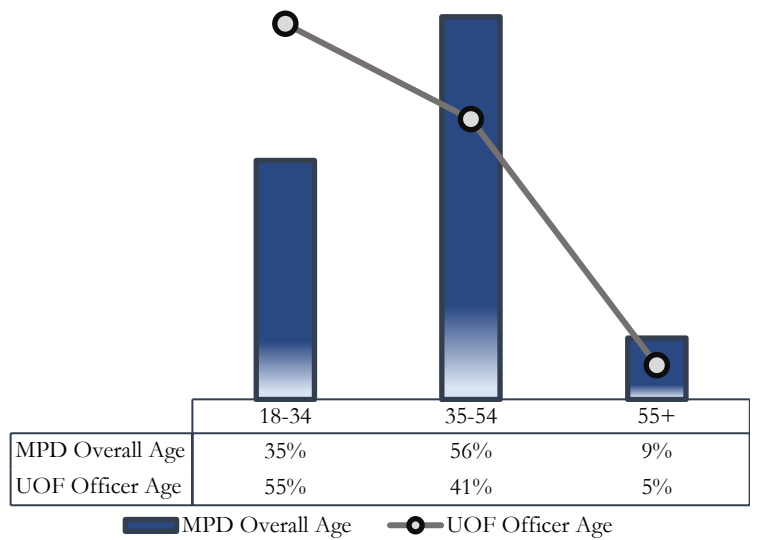
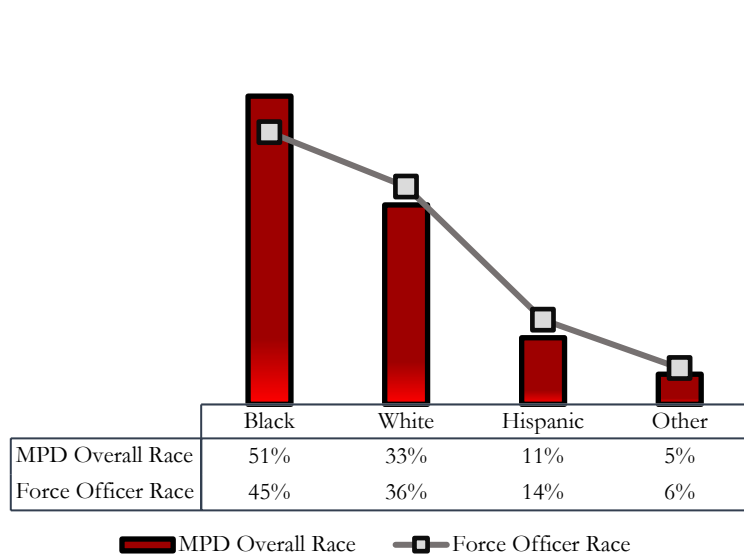
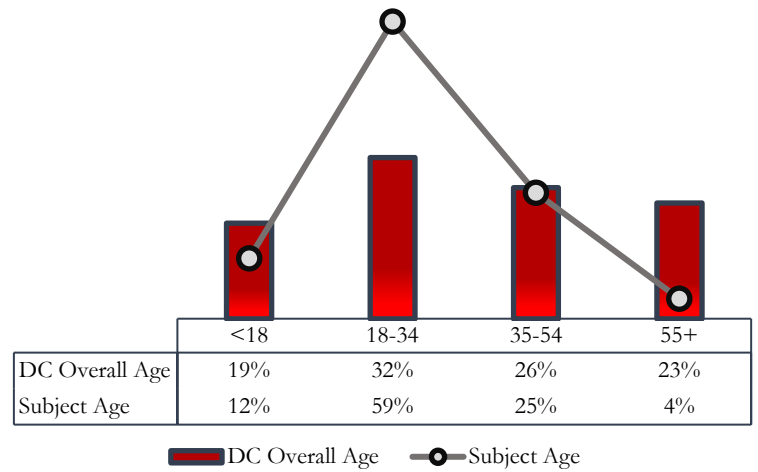
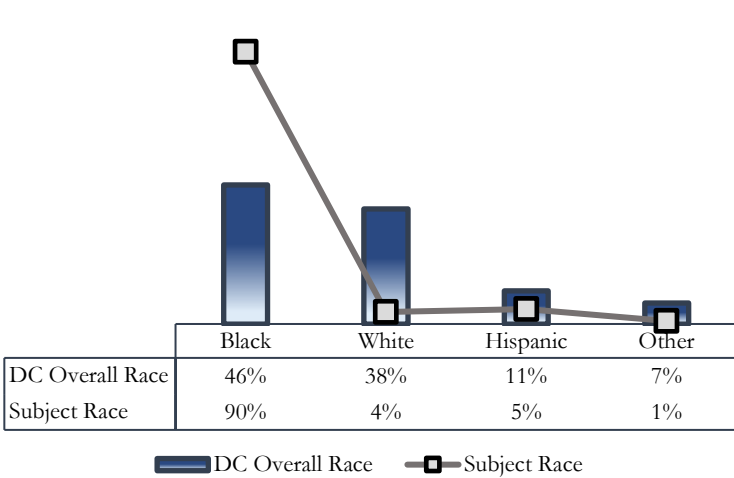
The most frequent officer-subject pairings were Black officers using force on Black subjects, which accounted for 38% of the total reported officer-subject pairings in 2022. Similarly, White officers using force on Black subjects accounted for 35% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2022, while Hispanic or officers of other races and ethnicities using force against Black subjects accounted for 17% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2022.

White officers used force against White subjects in 1% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2022 and Black officers used force against White subjects in 2% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2021. Hispanic or other officers used force against White subjects in 1% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2022 and Hispanic or officers of other races and ethnicities used force against Hispanic or subjects of other races and ethnicities in 1% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2022. Remaining percentages are White and Black officers using force against Hispanic and subjects of other races and ethnicities.

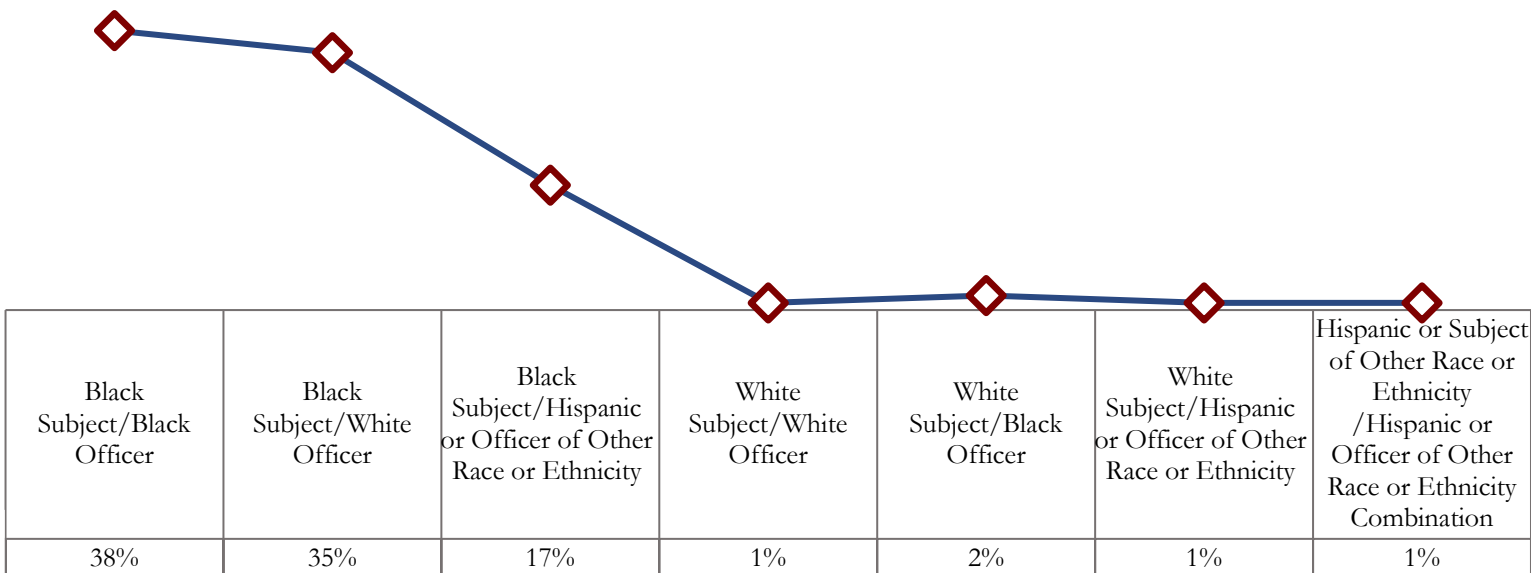
46: The number of 2022 MPD sworn officers is based on the December 2022 reports OPC received from MPD

47: D.C. demographics from the [Census](#) and [DC Health](#)

2022 Officer and Subject Demographics



Subject and Officer Demographic Pairings



CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFICERS AND SUBJECTS

Ranks of Officers Using Force

MPD officers are promoted through a series of 12 ranks. The ranks officers can achieve, in ascending order of seniority, are; probationer, officer, master patrol officer, detective 2, detective 1, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, inspector, commander, assistant chief, and chief. MPD officers who reported using force were on average of lower ranks. Probationers and officers comprised 60% of MPD's sworn personnel, but accounted for 88% of the officers who reported using force in 2022. Probationers increased from 1% of officers who reported using force in 2013 to 10% in 2021. In 2022, probationers accounted for 6% of all officers who reported using force. In 2022, the number of officers who reported using force was 82%. Sergeants accounted for 6% of officers who reported using force in 2022. Master Patrol Officers, Detectives, and Lieutenants accounted for 5% of officers who reported using force in 2022.⁴⁸ Please see the graph on page 25 for more information.

Years of Service and Age of Officers Using Force

Officers who reported using force in 2022 were also on average younger and had fewer years of experience at MPD compared to the average age and years of service of officers for the districts to which they were assigned. Officers aged 32 had the highest percentage of uses of force (65 officers) out of all ages. The median age of officers who used force in each district was 33, with a minimum age of 21 and a maximum age of 63. In regard to years of service, officers with 3 years of experience reported the highest number of uses of force (120 officers). The median years of service per district was 5 years with a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 38.

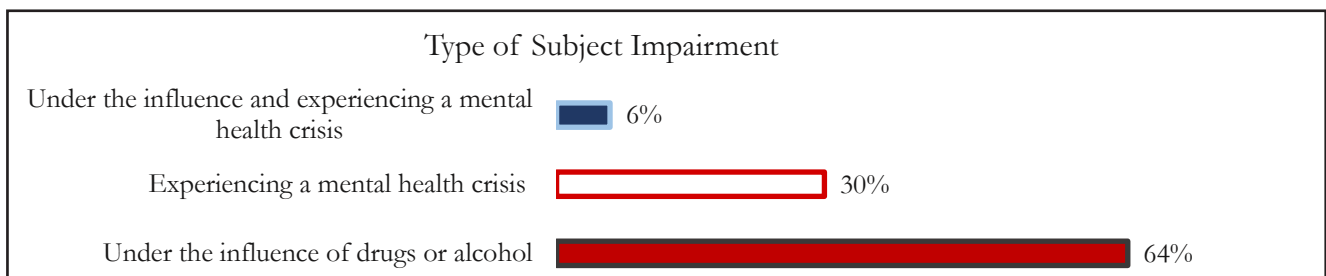
Subjects Impaired or Assaulting Officers

MPD officers record when subjects commit an assault on a police officer (APO). They also record when subjects are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or are exhibiting signs of mental illness.⁴⁹

Officers reported that subjects assaulted officers in 274 use of force incidents, 26% of the total use of force incidents in 2022, a 2 percent decrease from 281⁵⁰ incidents with subject assaulting officers in 2021. Officers also reported that subjects appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or appeared to be exhibiting signs of mental illness in 276 incidents, 27% of the total use of force incidents in 2022. This is a 5% increase from the 263 use of incidents with subjects appearing to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or exhibiting signs of mental illness in 2021.

In 174 of the 636 uses of force where officers were assaulted by a subject (27%), officers reported an APO by subjects who appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or who appeared to be exhibiting signs of mental illness.⁵¹

When officers encountered subjects they believed were under the influence of drugs or alcohol or exhibiting signs of mental illness, officers used hand controls and tactical takedowns, the two lowest levels of force, in 75% of those uses of force in 2022. Other types of force used in 2022 when a subject was impaired were pointing firearms (10%), OC spray (8%), and fist/knee strikes (2%).



48: Please see the graph on page 25 regarding the ranks of officers using force

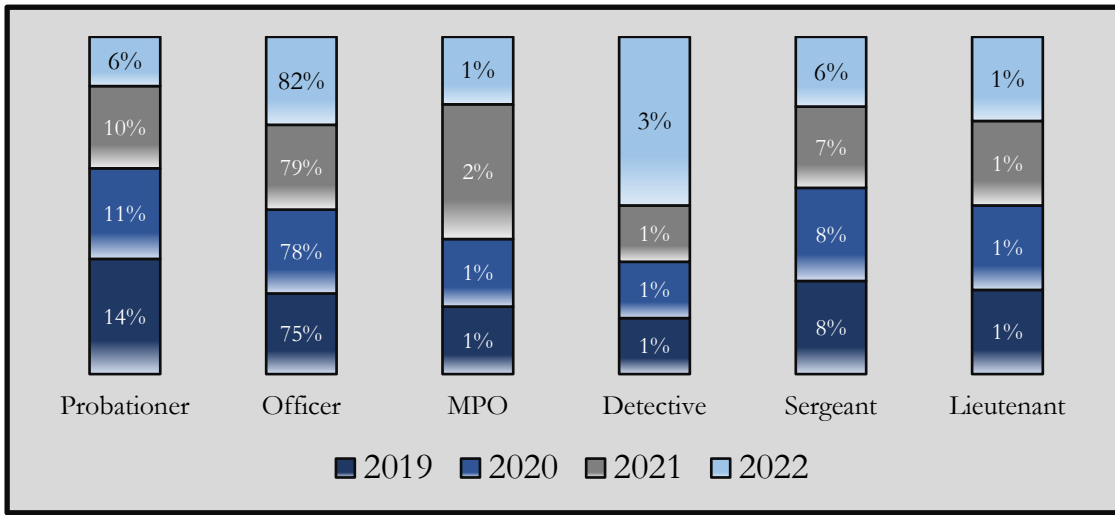
49: This section reports on 1, 032 incidents because there were two incidents where this information was not available

50: OPC included 12 additional use of force incidents to the 269 reported incidents in 2021 where subjects were charged with APO but officers did not specify the APO in subject actions

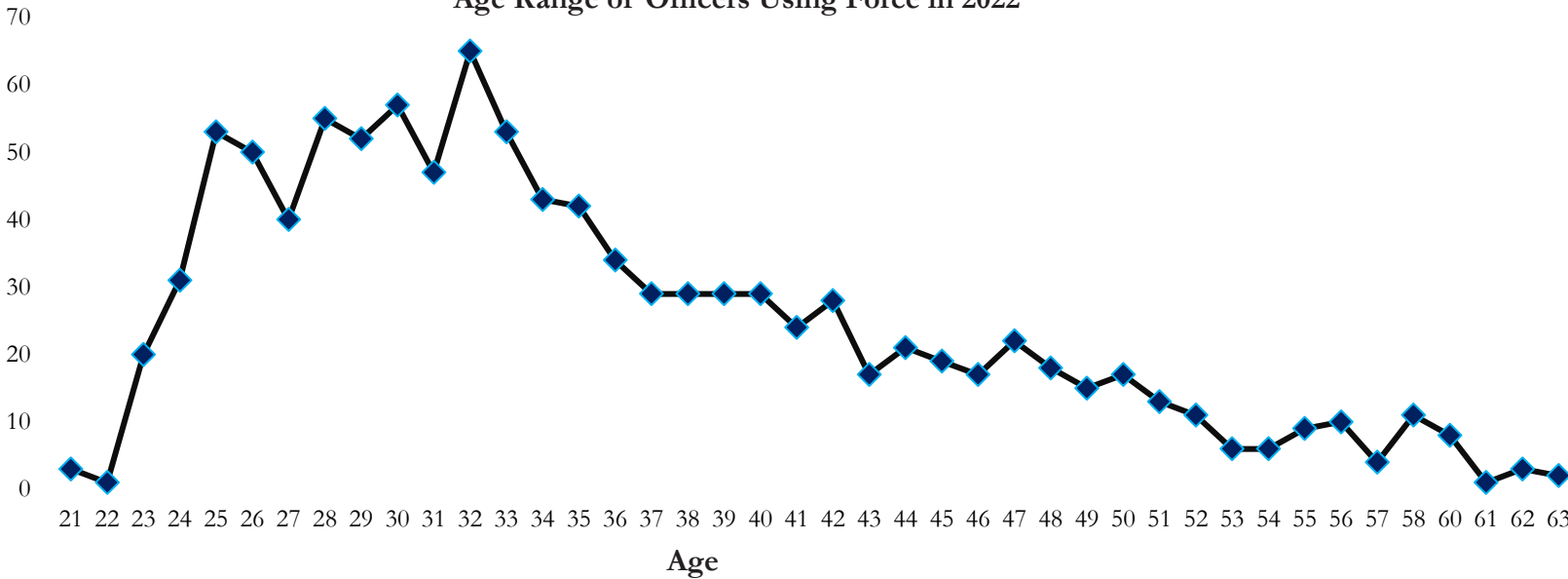
51: In 2019, MPD made it mandatory for officers to report on the subjects' possible impairment

Officer Characteristics

Rank of Officers who Reported Using Force



Age Range of Officers Using Force in 2022



Officer Years of Service in 2022



USE OF FORCE BY DISTRICT

Overview

MPD divides D.C. into seven service districts, and has a number of special divisions, including the Harbor Patrol and Criminal Interdiction Unit.

The Third, Seventh, and Sixth Districts had the greatest proportion of reported use of force incidents in 2022. In 2017-2021 the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Districts had the greatest proportions.

The Third District includes neighborhoods such as Adams Morgan, Cardozo-Shaw, Columbia Heights, and Dupont Circle; the Sixth District covers the northeast half of the District that is east of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers; and the Seventh District covers the southeast half of the city east of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers.

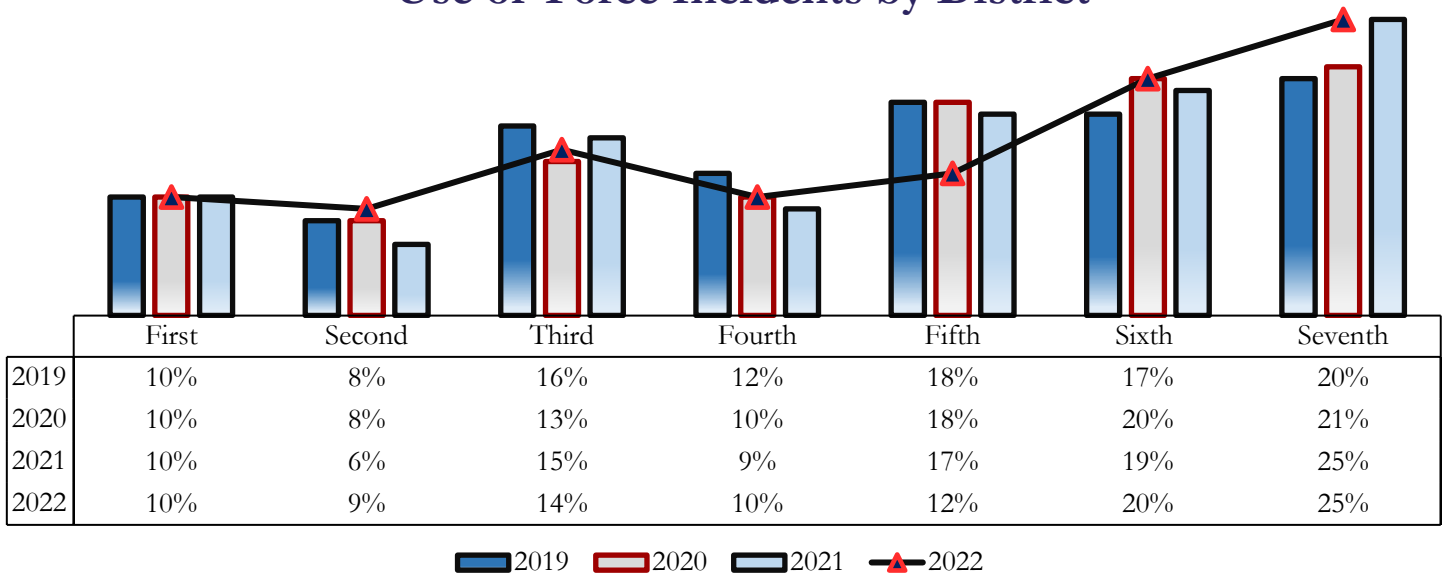
The proportion of incidents occurring in the Third District was the third highest in 2022 with 14% of all incidents. The Sixth District had the second highest percentage of incidents in 2022 with 20%. The Seventh District had the highest percentage of incidents with 25%.

The Second District regularly has the lowest proportion of reported use of force incidents, 9% in 2022, followed by the Fourth and First Districts, each with 10% in 2022. The First District includes the National Mall, the downtown business district, and the Southwest Waterfront. The Second District covers the northwest section of the city, including neighborhoods such as Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Georgetown, and Foggy Bottom. The Fourth District covers the upper northwest portion of the District, including the Fort Totten, Takoma, and Petworth neighborhoods.

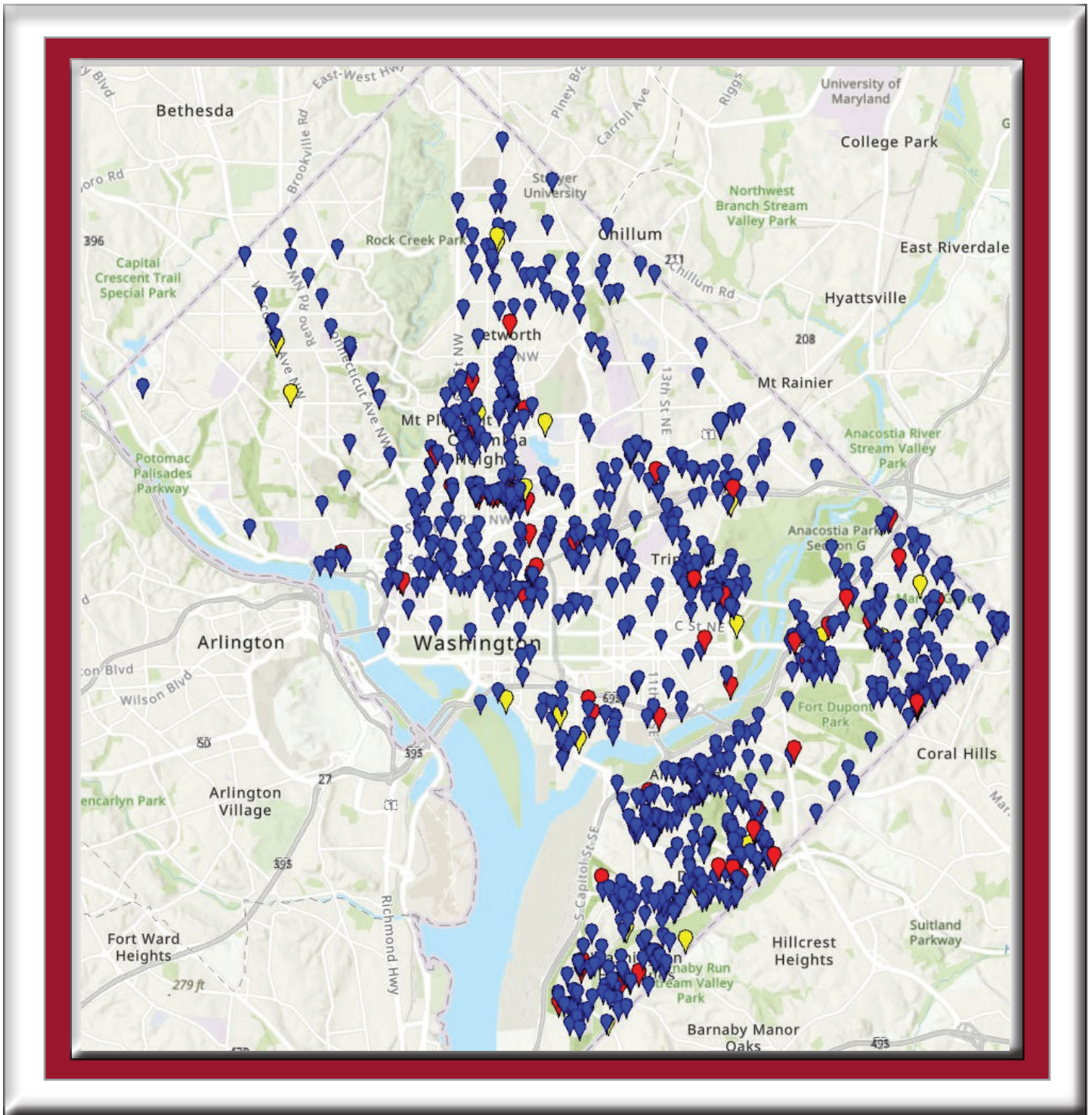
MPD further divides the seven districts into 57 Police Service Areas (PSAs), to which officers are assigned. The five PSAs with the most reported uses of force in 2022 were in the Sixth, Third, Seventh, and Fifth Districts – PSAs 603, 305, 604, 704, and 507. Out of these five PSAs, 603, 305, and 507 were also among the five PSAs with the most reported uses of force in 2021. The five PSAs with the most reported uses of force accounted for 21% of all uses of force in 2022 – more than one out of every five uses of force. This percentage is similar to 2021.

- PSA 603: 51 use of force incidents**
- PSA 305: 46 use of force incidents**
- Sixth District: 210 use of force incidents**
- Seventh District: 255 use of force incidents**

Use of Force Incidents by District



Where 2022 Use of Force Incidents Occurred



The above map depicts the locations of the use of force incidents in 2022. The blue icons represent a location that had only 1 use of force incident, the red indicates that the location had 2 use of force incidents, and the yellow indicates the location had 3 or more use of force incidents. As the map depicts, there are few use of force incidents in the northwest quadrant of the district. There is also a cluster of use of force incidents in the Sixth and Seventh Districts.

2022 CENSUS TRACTS

Overview

In the 2022 Use of Force Report OPC included the census tracts where use of force incidents occurred. This section will discuss what census tracts are, as well as demographic information compiled from the census tracts.

Census tracts in the United States are geographic areas described by the Census as “small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or statistically equivalent entity...” with the purpose being “to provide a stable set of geographic units for presentation of statistical data.”⁵²

For the purpose of this report, census tracts compile demographic data for the location where use of force incidents occurred. Specifically, census tracts were used to identify any potential racial and ethnic patterns in the geographic areas where force was used.

There are a few important factors to note regarding this data. First, not all use of force incidents in 2022 had addresses that were easily identifiable and therefore were not included in the analysis (4 incidents did not have an easily identifiable census tract). Additionally, when officers use force it is not always a static scene. Meaning, when multiple officers are using force in one incident they may be using force at different addresses. This can lead to an incident involving more than one census tract in which force was used. In this analysis the multiple census tracts in one use of force incident were included (19 use of force incidents had more than one census

tract involved). In 2021 there were 26 incidents with an address that was not identifiable, and 60 incidents where multiple census tracts were used.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2020 D.C. had 206 census tracts throughout the district. In 2022 there was at least 1 use of force incident in 170 of the 206 census tracts. Therefore, 83% of all census tracts in D.C. had at least 1 use of force incident occur within its boundaries. In 2021 there was at least one use of force incident in 168, or 82%, of all the census tracts in the District.

In regard to the racial and ethnic make-up of the census tracts, it was found that 46% of all use of force incidents occurred in census tracts with a demographic make-up of 81-100% Black community members. Specifically, 23% occurred in census tracts with 81-90% Black residents and 22.8% occurred in census tracts that were 91-100% Black residents. This is a 3% increase from the 43% of all use of force incidents occurring in census tracts with 81-100% Black residents in 2021. Roughly 60% of 2021 use of force incidents occurred in census tracts that were 51-100% Black residents. In 2021, this number was 70%, so there was a 10% decrease. The findings also illustrated that in 2022, 50% of Black subjects had force used against them in census tracts that were 81-100% Black residents. In 2021, this number was 47%, so there was a 3% increase. These results illustrate how MPD is using force in predominately Black neighborhoods and against predominately Black community members.



52: For more information, please see this Census glossary [site](#).

SERIOUS USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Use of Force Review Board

MPD maintains a Use of Force Review Board (UFRB), which has existed since 1999. The purpose of the UFRB is to review all use of force investigations conducted by the Internal Affairs Division (IAD);⁵³ all firearm discharges at subjects, including animals; all vehicle pursuits resulting in a fatality; and any other chain of command investigations forwarded to the UFRB by the assistant chief or the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB).⁵⁴ General Order RAR-901-09, which established the UFRB, mandates that the UFRB review certain types of force and vehicular pursuits, as described above.

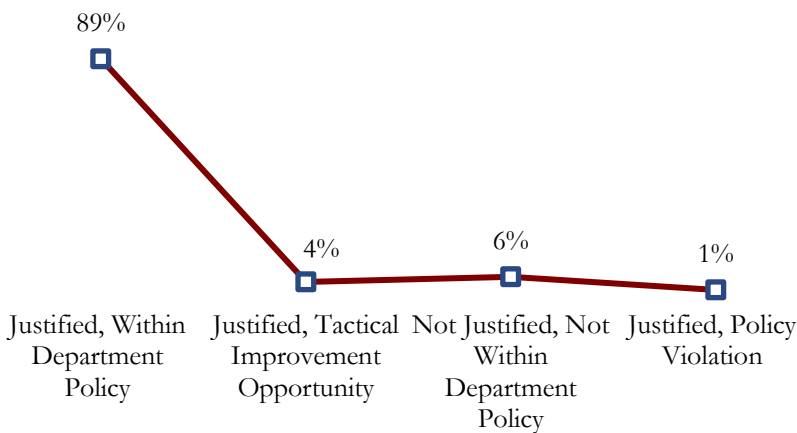
Originally, MPD’s UFRB General Order required that the UFRB be composed of seven MPD officials – including an assistant chief, five commanding officials of various departments, and one commander or inspector – and two non-MPD members: OPC’s executive director, and one member from the Fraternal Order of Police. Only the seven MPD members had voting power.

In July 2020, the D.C. Counsel passed emergency legislation that changed the composition of the board and the length of service for certain members. The UFRB now has 13 voting members. The new voting members include three civilian members appointed by the Mayor; 1) One who has personally experienced use of force by law enforcement; 2) One who is a

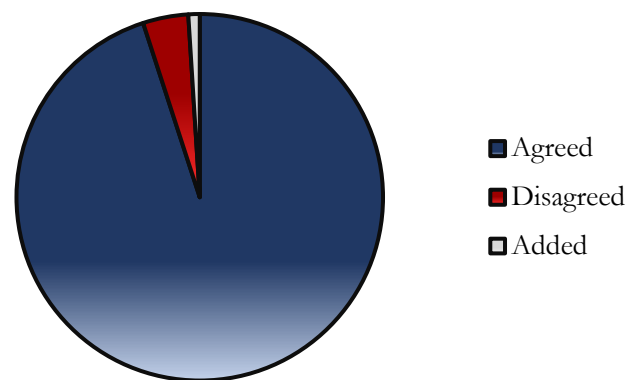
member of the D.C. Bar and is in good standing; and 3) One D.C. community member who is a resident. There are two additional civilian members appointed by the council: 1) One member with subject matter expertise in criminal justice policy; and 2) One member with subject matter expertise in law enforcement oversight and the use of force. These 5 civilian members must not have any current or previous affiliation to law enforcement. As of the date of this report, these civilian members have not yet been appointed to the UFRB board. The last additional voting member is the Executive Director of the Office of Police Complaints.⁵⁵ The Mayor also has the discretion to add non-voting members to the board.⁵⁶

The UFRB categorizes its reviews into different types of cases. These include serious uses of force, allegations of excessive force, vehicle pursuits, electronic control device (ECD) deployment, and neck restraints, among others. It also categorizes some instances as policy violations. The UFRB considers any violation of MPD’s directives as a policy violation. In reviewing use of force investigations, the UFRB now has two primary considerations of whether the use of force was 1) justified or 2) not justified. If a policy violation or a tactical improvement opportunity is also identified, these are noted in the investigation and are independent of the justified or not justified finding. MPD vehicle pursuit determinations are now 1) the pursuit was with MPD policy or 2) the pursuit violated MPD policy.

2022 UFRB Use of Force Determinations



UFRB Decisions Compared to IAD



53: The IAD is a sub-unit of the IAB, and is responsible for handling complaints against MPD personnel and investigating lethal and nonlethal uses of force. The IAB also contains the Court Liaison Division and the Equal Employment Opportunity Investigations Division. Please visit this [site](#)

54: Metropolitan Police Department General Order RAR-901-07: “Use of Force.” Metropolitan Police Department; 27 April 2023. Available [here](#)

55: The Executive Director of OPC has had UFRB voting powers since July 2020

56: Members without voting powers voice their opinions and they are documented if they disagree with the UFRB’s decision

SERIOUS USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Most excessive force investigations are initiated by officers' supervisors, though some are initiated by a complaint. For allegations of excessive force or other misconduct, the UFRB determines whether the allegations are unfounded, sustained, exonerated, or whether there were insufficient facts to make a determination. For vehicle pursuits, the UFRB determines whether the pursuit was justified or not justified. The definitions for Use of Force and Excessive Use of Force disposition types are listed on page 29.

For each decision, the IAD investigator provides a recommended disposition, but the UFRB ultimately makes the final determination through a majority vote of the members. When the UFRB determines that the actions of an officer or officers did violate MPD policy, the case is referred to the director of the MPD Disciplinary Review Division, who then recommends the appropriate discipline to impose. Beyond reviewing individual cases, the UFRB may also make recommendations to the Chief of Police regarding use of force protocols, use of force investigation standards, and other policy and procedure revisions.

The UFRB convened 16 times and issued 228 determinations in 2022; compared to 24 meetings

issuing 558 determinations in 2021, a 59% decrease in determinations. The decrease in determinations is likely due to the decrease in number of protest related force incidents in the District. In 2021, there were 281 determinations made directly involving MPD's Civil Disruption Unit, which is deployed during protests.

The 228 determinations in 2022 involved a total of 97 different officers. Of the 228 determinations:

- 217 (95%) were regarding uses of force;
- 8 (4%) were regarding allegations of excessive force; and
- 3 (1%) were for policy violations, all of which were sustained.

Eighty-nine percent of the 217 use of force determinations in 2022 were considered *Justified, Within Department Policy*, while 4% were considered *Justified, Tactical Improvement Opportunity*. The UFRB determined that officers' actions in 14 of the 217 uses of force (6%) in 2022 were *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*. There was also one UFRB determinations of *Insufficient Facts* and 4 determinations of *Unfounded*.

The UFRB concurred with the recommendations of the IAD investigator in 95% of the 228 determinations in 2022. In 4% of cases, the UFRB did not concur with the IAD's recommendations. The other 1% of allegations were not proposed by the IAD investigator but added by the UFRB.

Use of Force Determinations

- **Justified:** A use of force is determined to be justified, and during the course of the incident the officer did not violate an MPD policy.
- **Not Justified:** A use of force is determined to be not justified, and during the course of the incident the officer violated an MPD policy.

Independent Determinations

- **Policy Violations:** Are determined and addressed separately from the determinations of justified and not justified.
- **Tactical Improvement:** If the department identifies a need for additional training, the investigator recommends that the member be re-trained at the academy which is documented in the investigation.

Excessive Force and Other Misconduct Determinations

- **Unfounded:** The investigation determined there are no facts to support the assertion that the incident complained of actually occurred.
- **Sustained:** The investigation determined that the allegation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence to determine that the incident occurred, and the actions of the officer were improper.
- **Insufficient Facts:** The investigation determined there are insufficient facts to decide whether the alleged misconduct occurred.
- **Exonerated:** The investigation determined that a preponderance of the evidence showed that the alleged conduct did occur, but did not violate MPD policies, procedures, or training.

OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES

Overview

The highest level of force an officer can use is discharging their firearm. The summaries and data analysis in this section may help the community understand the circumstances of an officer-involved firearm discharge in a more transparent detailed context than provided to the public via media outlets. Tracking the specific circumstances of how, when, where, and why officers discharge their firearms is an important tool for any police department and the community they serve.

Data in this section is another opportunity for this report to increase community trust in the Metropolitan Police Department and allows MPD to better ensure that deadly force is the only appropriate and necessary option in every instance that it is utilized. All the information regarding firearm discharges in this report was provided by the UFRB and MPD.

In 2022, 10 MPD officers intentionally discharged their firearms in 9 incidents – 7 incidents at people and 2 incidents at animals. The number of officer-involved firearm discharge incidents at people decreased from fifteen in 2015 to three in 2018. The number of incidents increased to eight in 2019 and then to nine in 2020. In 2021, that number increased to 20. In 2022, the number of officer involved firearm

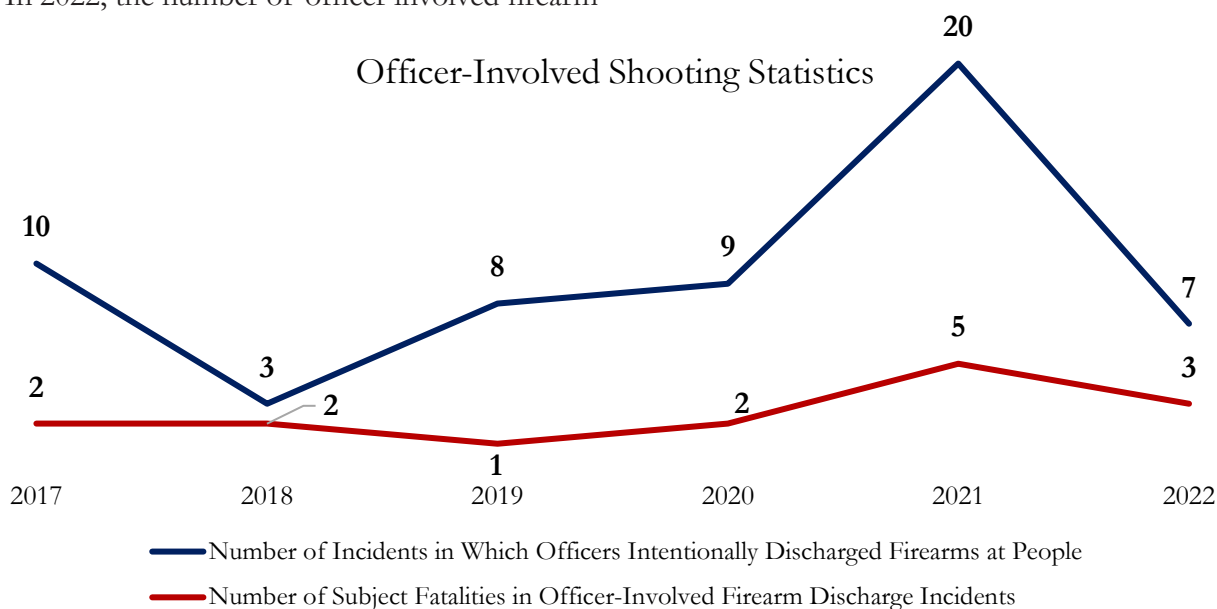
discharge incidents at people decreased to 7.

Out of all the seven reported officer firearm discharge incidents⁵⁷ at people in 2022, one took place in the First District, two took place in the Fourth District, one took place in the Fifth District, and three took place in the Seventh District. Six of the subjects fired at were Black, and one subject fired at was White. There was one female subject fired at, and six fired at were male subjects.

Fatal Officer-Involved Firearm Discharges

The seven incidents in which officers discharged their firearms at people in 2022 involved 8 officers in total discharging their firearms. Three of the subjects at whom officers discharged their firearms in 2022 were fatally injured. One of these subjects pointed a weapon at another person, one pointed a weapon at an MPD officer, and the last subject was in possession of a firearm and had shot two other individuals prior to MPD’s fatal force. Between 2014 and 2020, MPD officer-involved firearm discharges resulted in one to four reported fatalities each year. 2019 was the year with the lowest subject fatality caused by MPD officer firearm discharges since 2014. In 2021, there were five fatal MPD shootings, and this number decreased to three in 2022.

Officer-Involved Shooting Statistics



57: This report will not release the names of officers involved in shooting incidents. While D.C. Act 23-336, requires the Mayor to “publicly release the names and body-worn camera recordings of all officers who committed the officer-involved death or serious use of force,” this power and responsibility is vested specifically with the Mayor, not OPC. Further, this section of D.C. Act 23-336 is currently involved in pending litigation, see this [site](#)

OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES

Non-Fatal Officer-Involved Firearm Discharges

MPD officers discharged their firearms and caused subjects' non-fatal injuries in two incidents in 2022. In one incident, the subject was in possession of a firearm. In the other incident, the officers reported the subject pointed their weapon and shot at the officers. Between three and five people were non-fatally injured in officer-involved firearm discharge incidents per year from 2014 to 2017. In 2018, there were no non-fatal officer-involved firearm discharges; all firearm discharges by officers were either fatal or missed the subject. In 2019 and 2020, MPD officers discharged their firearms and caused subjects non-fatal injuries in four incidents. In 2021, there were 11 and in 2022 there were two.

Negligent Firearm Discharges

There were no negligent firearm discharges reported by MPD officers in 2022.

Officer-Involved Firearm Discharges at Animals

Two officers discharged firearms at two dogs in two incidents in 2022. In calendar years 2012 through 2022, MPD reported that officers discharged their weapons at animals in 1 to 18 incidents per year.

Subject Behavior in Officer-Involved Firearm Discharges

MPD officers report the level of subject behavior in five categories: cooperative/compliant; passive resistance; active resistance; assaultive; and threatening serious injury or death (see page 15 for definitions and further description of these categories). MPD officers discharged their service weapons at human or animal subjects in 9 incidents in 2022. OPC received FIRs for all of these 9 incidents. Seven documented officer-involved firearm discharges at human subjects, and 2 involved dogs. In 6 of the 7 incidents of firearm discharges at people, the officers reported that the subjects were active assailants. In one of the incidents the subject was reported as a threatening assailant.⁵⁸ In the officer-involved firearm discharge at an animal, the one dog was reported as an active assailant and the other dog as a threatening assailant.

Type	District	# Officers	Officer Injuries	Subject Gender	Subject Race	Threat
Fatal	4D	1	None	Female	Black	Pointed weapon at officer
Fatal	1D	1	None	Male	Black	Pointed weapon at another person
Fatal	4D	1	None	Male	Black	Possession of a firearm/shot two subjects
Non-Fatal Injury	7D	1	None	Male	Black	Possession of a firearm
Non-Fatal Injury	7D	2	None	Male	Black	Pointed/shot weapon at officer
Missed	5D	1	None	Male	Black	Pointed weapon at officer
Missed	7D	1	None	Male	White	Pointed weapon at officer

58: In this incident the officer discharging their firearm would be considered a disproportionate response to the subject's level of resistance. See the table on page 19

2022 OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES AT HUMAN SUBJECTS

Overview

In 2022, MPD provided more detailed information regarding firearm discharges at human subjects. Specifically, MPD provided this additional information; 1) number of rounds discharged; 2) number of rounds that struck the subject; 3) the number of rounds that missed the subject; 4) distance at which the rounds were fired; and 5) other information relevant to the rounds that were discharged. This information was provided in addition to the demographics of the officers and subjects, location of the incident, member injury, subject weapon, subject threat, and UFRB findings. What follows in this section is the discussion of the data MPD provided.

A total of 30 rounds were discharged by 8 officers at 7 subjects. Six of these rounds were determined to have struck a subject, while 24 missed. This translates to a 20% completion rate.

The median number of shots fired at a subject was 2, with a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 12. Furthermore, the average distance that officers were shooting from was 59 feet. The minimum distance was 23 feet, while the maximum was 127 feet. In all of the intentional firearm discharge incidents the subject was either armed with a firearm or pointed a firearm at an MPD officer.

In regard to the fatal firearm discharges, the average distance that the officer fired from was 69

feet. This is in comparison to 64 feet in non-fatal injury discharges and 33 feet in missed discharges. As such, with this limited data it appears as if fatal discharges in 2022 were more likely to occur when the officer is further from the subject. In 2021, the data suggested fatal firearm discharges were more likely to occur when the officer was closer to the subject. In fatal firearm discharges there was an average of 1 discharge, while for non-fatal injury firearm discharges the average was 7 discharges. For those discharges that missed, on average, officers fired 2 shots.

In 2022, MPD provided the positioning of the officer when they discharged their firearm. Three officers reported that they were standing behind a cover when they discharged their firearm. Four officers reported just standing when they discharged their firearm. One officer reported they were standing and crouching when they discharged their firearm. There did not appear to be any differences in regard to the officer position by whether the shooting was fatal, non-fatal, or missed.

Six of the eight MPD personnel who fired a weapon at subjects were officers, one was a sergeant, and one was a commander. Therefore, in 2022, officers were the most likely to be involved in a firearm discharge. Additionally, 9 years on the force was the average for officers who discharged their firearm at a subject while the average age was 34 years old. Seven of the officers who discharged their firearm at a subject were male, and one was female. Three of the officers were Black, three were White, and two were Hispanic.

OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES

2021 Summary of Officer-Involved Firearm Discharge Incidents Updates⁵⁹

- On August 25, 2021, at the intersection of New York and Florida Avenue, NE, officers responded to an individual unresponsive behind the wheel of a vehicle. Once on the scene officers noticed the subject was armed with a handgun. The subject moved their vehicle forward once they became aware of the officers. An officer then discharged their firearm and fatally struck the subject. This case was still under investigation as of June 2023.
- On September 3, 2021, at the 6300 block of 9th Street, NW, officers responded to the sound of gunshots. Once on scene, officers located a subject who was attempting to flee in a vehicle. A vehicle pursuit ensued and the subject's vehicle crashed and overturned. Once officers began attempting to remove the subject from the vehicle, the subject pointed a hand-gun at officers. An officer discharged their firearm, and the subject was non-fatally struck. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*.
- On October 5, 2021, at the Unit block of McDonald Place, NE, officers responded to a scene regarding an aggravated assault. The subject, who had shot a complainant with a BB gun, was also armed with a large knife. When officers attempted to deploy a less-lethal impact weapon, the subject retrieved a handgun and barricaded themselves in the residence basement. Members of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) entered the basement and the subject fired at officers. A member of ERT discharged their firearm, striking the subject non-fatally. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*.
- On October 18, 2021, at the 1300 block of Congress Street, SE, officers responded to a scene where the complainant was attempting to retrieve their belongings. Once on the scene, a struggle ensued between the complainant and the subject. Once officers intervened, a struggle then started between officers and the subject. The subject was fatally shot, and no weapon was recovered from the scene. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*.
- On October 20, 2021, at the 1200 block of 28th Street, NW, an off-duty officer observed what they believed to be two armed suspects attempting to steal a vehicle. Gun fire was exchanged between the officer and the suspects. One subject sustained a non-fatal gunshot wound. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*.
- On October 22, 2021, at the 500 block of Kennedy Street, NW, officers responded to reports of an armed subject chasing another individual. Once the officers stopped the subject, a struggle ensued, and an officer felt a gun on the subject's person. The subject was able to free themselves and get into a vehicle, which the officers attempted to remove the subject from. As this occurred, an officer got into the back seat of the vehicle and the subject drove away. After the officer commanded the subject to stop the vehicle several times, the officer discharged their firearm and non-fatally injured the subject. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On November 27, 2021, at the 2300 block of Chester Street, SE, officers responded to a report of an aggravated assault and a subject with a gun. Once on the scene, officers were confronted with a subject armed with an assault rifle. Officers commanded the subject to drop the weapon, and an officer discharged their weapon at the subject but missed. The subject then got into a vehicle to flee the scene, only to crash a few blocks away. The subject was located and arrested. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*.

59: The summaries regarding officer-involved firearm discharges are based on FIRs, UFRB hearing Decision Action Sheets and the MPD shooting list

OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES

2022 Summary of Officer-Involved Firearm Discharge Incidents

- On February 26, 2022, at the 400 block of Oakwood Street, SE, officers responded to reports that a person had been shot. Once the officers arrived, they observed the individual who had been shot lying on the sidewalk. They also observed an individual lying in the middle of the street with a gun in their hand. Officers commanded the subject to drop the weapon numerous times. The subject pointed their firearm at the officers. The officers and the subject then exchanged gunfire, which resulted in the subject sustaining a non-fatal gunshot wound. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that 19 of the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*, and one was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On April 23, 2022, at the 800 Block of Crittenden Street, NW, officers responded to reports of gunshots. Upon arrival they observed the subject pounding on the door of a residence and they were in possession of a firearm. Officers gave the subject numerous commands to drop the weapon, but the subject did not comply. The subject then pointed their firearm at the officers, and an officer fired two shots at the subject, who was fatally injured. This case was still under investigation as of June 2023.
- On May 9, 2022, at the 700 block of 18th Street, NE, officers conducted a traffic stop and the passenger in the vehicle fled on foot and was observed to be in possession of a firearm. An officer then conducted a foot chase and gave the subject numerous commands to drop their weapon. The subject did not comply and pointed their firearm at the officer. The officer then discharged their firearm twice, missing the subject. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*.
- On July 16, 2022, at the 800 block of Wharf Street, NW, an off-duty and plain-clothed officer observed the subject point their firearm at another individual. The off-duty officer gave the subject commands to drop their weapon but they did not comply. The off-duty officer then discharged their weapon, fatally striking the subject. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified, Within Department Policy*.
- On July 30, 2022, at the 200 block of Madison Street, NW, officers responded to reports of a shooting at the block of Longfellow Street, NW. During their preliminary response, the officers were alerted to a subject with a firearm getting into a vehicle. The subject fled in the vehicle and an officer pursued it. The vehicle became disabled at the 200 block of Madison Street, NW, and the subject fled from the vehicle with a firearm. The officer then discharged their firearm, fatally striking the subject. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified, Within Department Policy*.
- On August 16, 2022, at the 1900 block of Mississippi Avenue, SE, officers responded to a domestic violence call, where the victim was assaulted by a subject with a firearm. The officers were able to locate the subject based on the description the victim provided. The subject fled from the officers and a chase ensued. An officer observed the fleeing subject in possession of a firearm and gave numerous commands for the subject to drop their weapon. The subject did not comply and the officer then discharged their firearm, non-fatally striking the subject. Again, the officer commanded the subject to drop their weapon and the subject still did not comply. The officer discharged their firearm a second time, non-fatally striking the subject once again. The subject then threw the firearm into the wooded area near them. Officers then apprehended the subject, who was transported to the hospital for medical treatment. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the second firearm discharge was *Justified, Within Department Policy* but found the first firearm discharge to be *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On August 25, 2022, at the 3600 block of 6th Street, SE, officers responded to reports of a person with a firearm who had robbed a victim at gunpoint, shot at an occupied passing vehicle, and carjacked a nearby vehicle. Once officers observed the subject, they gave numerous commands to drop the firearm. The subject did not comply and proceeded to point their firearm at an officer, and gunfire was exchanged. Additional officers then arrived on scene and were able to place the subject under arrest. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified, Within Department Policy*.

NECK RESTRAINTS

UFRB Determinations- Neck Restraints⁶⁰

General Order 901.07 states that “Members shall not employ any form of neck restraint except when an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury exists, and no other option is available.”⁶¹ In July 2020, Executive Order 20-044 redefined neck restraints as “the use of any body part or object to attempt to control or disable a person by applying pressure against the person’s neck, including the trachea or carotid artery, with the purpose, intent, or effect of controlling or restricting the person’s movement or restricting their blood flow or breathing.”^{62, 63}

- In 2022, UFRB issued 9 determinations regarding 9 neck restraint incidents that took place in 2021 and 2022. Of these neck restraints, 7 were Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy, 1 was Unfounded, and 1 was determined to have Insufficient Facts.
- On June 12, 2021, an officer observed a single car accident. While the vehicle was disabled, the subject was still attempting to drive away, and the officer could tell the subjects’ eyes appeared glassy. The officer then saw the subject lean over to the passenger seat of the vehicle and the officer then unholstered their service weapon and pointed it at the driver. The officer holstered their firearm and approached the vehicle instructing the subject to exit the vehicle. The subject was slurring their words and the officer then decided to detain the subject. The subject resisted and the officer then pushed the driver back against the vehicle to prevent the subject from fleeing. The officer realized they had inadvertently contacted the subjects’ neck and immediately disengaged. The officer then conducted an arm/shoulder tactical takedown. The UFRB disagreed with IAD’s conclusion of the neck restraint being *Unfounded* and concluded it was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On November 7, 2021, an officer was actively patrolling the 700 block of O Street, NW, when they observed the subject fighting with another individual. The officer stopped their vehicle and commanded the two to stop fighting. The subject then turned their attention to the officer and the subject slapped the officers’ head and hat. The officer exited their vehicle, took down the subject, and placed them under arrest. The UFRB concurred with IAD’s conclusion that the neck restraint was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On March 1, 2022, an officer informed the subject of their transfer to a nearby cell, to which the subject mumbled something. The officer then approached the subject, who began acting erratically and struck the officer in the face. The officer then attempted to execute hand controls and a straight strike. The subject continued to resist and the officer conducted a takedown. The UFRB added this allegation and concluded the neck restraint was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On April 23, 2022, an officer responded to a radio call of a possible B-1. Once officers had investigated the scene and were returning to their vehicles, the complainant notified officers the subject had returned. The officer approached the subject, who was intoxicated, and placed them in handcuffs for everyone’s safety. Once the subject had calmed down, the officer removed the handcuffs, upon which the subject became combative. Officers then used hand-controls to effect an arrest. The UFRB concurred with IAD’s conclusion that the neck restraint was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On April 22, 2022, an officer was transporting a subject to the hospital and the subject was becoming aggressive. The officer then grabbed the front part of the subject in order to keep them seated. The UFRB concurred with IAD’s conclusion that the neck restraint was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*. The officer separated from the department before a FIR could be completed.
- On May 31, 2022, officers were patrolling an area when they made contact with the subject who was in possession of a firearm. Officers began attempting to place the subject under arrest, who was resisting and pulling away. An officer used hand controls and OC

60: Summaries are based on the summaries presented to the UFRB

61: For more information, please visit this [site](#)

62: Executive Order EO-20-044. Available [here](#)

63: For more information on neck restraints please visit this [site](#)

spray to attempt to control the subject. The UFRB disagreed with IAD's *Unfounded* conclusion and found the neck restraint was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.

- On July 20, 2022, an officer responded to radio calls for a subject outside an establishment from which they were barred. The officer arrived to arrest the subject, and the subject became combative and attempted to flee the scene. The subject then punched another officer, so a takedown of the subject was conducted. The UFRB disagreed with IAD's *Unfounded* conclusion and found the neck restraint to have *insufficient facts*.
- On June 29, 2022, officers observed a hand-to-hand drug transaction. Officers approached the subject and attempted to arrest them, but the subject started running away. Another officer was able to stop and takedown the subject, who was still resisting. Officers were eventually able to place the subject in handcuffs. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that the neck restraint was *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.
- On July 14, 2022, an officer was transporting a subject to the Fifth District Cell block. The subject became combative, biting and kicking the officer. Another officer was able to conduct a takedown, but the subject also bit that officer. The first officer was able to conduct an elbow strike to the head of the subject, who released his bite on the other officer. The subject then attempted to grab the officer's leg, so the officer used another straight strike. The UFRB added this allegation and concluded the neck restraint was *Unfounded*.

ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE (ECD) DEPLOYMENTS

Overview

In 2022, the UFRB made 6 determinations regarding ECD deployments in 4 cases. The final determinations the UFRB made are listed below:

- Five ECD deployments were determined *Justified, Within Department Policy*;
- One was determined *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*;

In one incident, officers were investigating an ongoing ADW gun investigation, and while handcuffing the subject, they became combative and eventually an officer deployed their ECD twice. These were ruled *Justified, Within Department Policy*. In another incident, an officer responded to a call for an individual with a knife, and once on scene, the subject ran towards the officer with the blade pointed at the officer. The officer deployed the taser after numerous commands to drop the knife. This was ruled *Justified, Within Department Policy*. During patrol, an officer heard a commotion and went to investigate, where he found two individuals fighting in the back seats of a car. The officer gave multiple commands for the individuals to stop fighting, but they did not listen and one subject used mace on the other subject. The officer then deployed their ECD, which stopped the fighting and allowed for the subjects to be detained. This was ruled *Justified, Within Department Policy*. In the last incident, an officer responded to assist officers with a subject armed with a baton. Once on scene, the officer made contact with the subject who was in their apartment hallway with a fully extended ASP Baton in their hand. The subject was stating they wanted officers to shoot and kill them, and the officer attempted to deescalate the situation by communicating with the subject. The subject insisted on wanting to be shot by officers and did not listen to the numerous commands to drop the ASP Baton. The subject then raised the ASP Baton and charged the officer, who then deployed their ECD. The first ECD deployment was ruled *Justified, Within Department Policy*, and the second was ruled *Not Justified, Not Within Department Policy*.

UFRB RECOMMENDATIONS TO MPD

The UFRB also makes recommendations based on the cases they review. In 2022, the UFRB made the following recommendations to MPD.

1. Tactical scene review at Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA): 22 times.
2. Use of force refresher training at MPA: 2 times.
3. Through Instagram live, officers were made aware of an individual in possession of a gun. CST officers were dispatched to the apartment of the subject and entered through the open front door. The UFRB recommended that the IAB conduct a formal investigation for possible Fourth Amendment violations.
4. Officers responded to reports of a domestic violence incident, and upon arrival the subject pulled out a firearm. An officer drew their firearm and discharged their firearm, fatally striking the subject. The UFRB recommended that MPA develop roll call/ in-service training relating to tactics to help assist members in responding to calls where there is poor or no police radio/cellular coverage. Further, MPD should determine and note what specific locations have poor or no police radio/cellular coverage so officers can be aware when responding to these locations.
5. Officers responded to a call regarding a subject armed with a shotgun. Once on scene, the subject opened the door and pointed a rifle at officers. An officer discharged their firearm and fatally struck the subject. The UFRB directed that the Uniform and Equipment Board review the current policy related to Special Order-14-13, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Program to make the trauma kits readily retrievable.
6. Officers were patrolling an area known to MPD for criminal and drug activity when they observed a hand-to-hand transaction. Once officers approached the subject they observed a firearm. Officers struggled while attempting to arrest the subject. The UFRB recommended that specific training be provided to all members related to techniques for handcuffing individuals that are actively and aggressively resisting being handcuffed, incorporating both tactics involving multiple officers and members that are alone. Additionally, it is recommended that all members be provided with scenario-based training on techniques for removing concealed firearms from armed individuals.
7. While reviewing a use of force incident, the UFRB observed an officer who had violated department orders by wearing an unauthorized shoulder holster. Therefore, the UFRB is directed that the member's element conduct a formal investigation for the violation.
8. An officer was at CPEP and was struggling with an uncooperative subject. The subject was spitting at and verbally abusing staff members. The subject then lunged toward a staff member and the officer conducted an open palm slap to the subject. The UFRB made a recommendation on a use of force incident very similar to this one on August 31, 2021. The UFRB recommended that MPD and DBH revise the current practice of transferring the custody of patients from MPD to CPEP personnel. The UFRB recommended that transfer of patients between MPD and CPEP occur in a secure area and not within the actual medical facility. This is a best practice when transferring prisoners from a vehicle into a secure facility, as it mitigates the possibility of an individual escaping the facility or the transport vehicle. DBH staff and the Special Police Officers working at CPEP should meet the transporting member in the secure area and the individual should be transferred to the care of DBH. Once inside of the actual facility, DBH employees can remove the subject's handcuffs and they can be returned to the MPD member in the secure transfer area. This will also ensure that the DBH staff members receive all required information and forms as it relates to the subject. MPD personnel should not be used to restrain subjects or assist with the administration of medication within mental health facilities, absent exigent circumstances.
9. Officers responded to canvass an area for a specific subject, and at the scene, officers were struggling to get the subject out of the vehicle and away from their firearm. An officer entered the vehicle behind the subject on the driver side rear passenger door. The subject then put the vehicle in drive and took off striking multiple officers, all while the officer was in the back seat. The officer then discharged their firearm from the backseat. The UFRB directed the MPA to incorporate into future in-service training: A) the use of effective communication and directives under high stress situations with multiple officers on the scene; B) De-escalation techniques with an agitated suspect; C) A review and discussion related to the different use of force options that may be more effective for incidents that evolve rapidly and may require a different approach in order to bring the situation under control and increase safety; and D) The training should include scenario-based examples that allow for follow-up discussions and review.

UFRB RECOMMENDATIONS TO MPD CONTINUED

10. An officer responded to a hand-to-hand drug transaction and arrived at the scene to arrest the subject. The subject then took off running and a foot chase ensued. Another officer was able to conduct a takedown, and using hand controls, they were able to place the subject under arrest. The UFRB recommended the MPA incorporate into the Annual In-Service Training curriculum, a review of the provisions in General Order 901.07 related to neck restraints. This training shall explain and demonstrate in detail what exactly constitutes a neck restraint and ensure members demonstrate their knowledge of the policy. The training shall be assigned to all sworn members of MPD. The UFRB also recommended IAD investigate the daily operations and management of the Lieutenant of the CST members.
11. Officers in the Crime Suppression Team were attempting to arrest a subject. During the struggle to arrest, officers used a takedown, hand controls, and OC spray in order to effect the arrest. The UFRB recommended that the Policy and Standard Division review and make recommendations to add into current MPD policy the requirement for members to report and notify an official if it was believed that a suspect was found to be unconscious at any time during their interaction.

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview

In its FY17 and 2018 Use of Force Reports, OPC made eight and three recommendations, respectively, while expanding a FY17 recommendation in 2018, for MPD to improve its use of force policies, reporting, and data collection. In the 2019 Use of Force Report, there were no new recommendations made. In the 2020 Use of Force Report, OPC made two recommendations, and one recommendation in 2021 Use of Force Report. The 2021 recommendation has since been combined with the 2020 recommendation as there is overlap. In the 2022 Use of Force Report, OPC is making two new recommendations. The following is an overview of the progress MPD has made on the recommendations, from both OPC's and MPD's perspectives. OPC's review process included requests to MPD to determine the status of the recommendations. Therefore, the statuses of these recommendations are current as of the date this report was issued. OPC also considered its own observations and experiences in producing this 2022 Use of Force Report to determine the extent to which the recommendations had been implemented.

For simplicity purposes, only included in this report are the two most recent correspondences between OPC and MPD. To find previous correspondence please refer to the 2021, 2020, or 2019 Use of Force Reports⁶⁴. Further, recommendations that have been fully implemented are not included in the updates. Refer to pages 50 and 51 for a table with a timeline of the recommendations and their implementation status.

2022 Recommendations

1. MPD should specify where in the force response pointing of a firearm falls.

On January 1, 2022, MPD issued an updated use of force general order, GO-RAR-901.07 and the revised order clarifies that the pointing of a weapon is a use of force that requires supervisory review (GO 901.07, pg. 9, Part II.D.1). While OPC acknowledges that this is a step in the right direction, MPD has yet to specify where in the prescribed force used framework pointing a firearm falls. Currently, MPD's force hierarchy shows that the pointing of a firearm falls between a tactical takedown and OC spray. A tactical takedown and OC spray are classified as compliance techniques, yet the pointing of a firearm is not classified as a compliance technique. According to the Use of Force Framework, MPD categories oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, wrist locks, takedowns, ASP baton arm extractions, use of an ASP baton to conduct a wrist lock, and use of a patrol shield to pin a subject down as compliance techniques. According to MPD's hierarchy it appears that pointing a firearm is a compliance technique, but MPD never specifically defines it as such. However, MPD should consider where in the prescribed force used framework pointing a firearm should fall. OPC will consider this recommendation fully implemented when MPD categorizes where pointing a firearm falls on the prescribed use of force framework.

2. MPD should work to implement the UFRB voting member provisions of General Order 901.07

On April 27, 2023, MPD issued an updated use of force general order, GO-RAR-901.07., Included in the general order are the additional voting members of the UFRB from recent legislation. The use of force general order specifically states that the UFRB voting members should now include 5 civilian members. Three of which are to be appointed by the Mayor; 1) One who has personally experienced use of force by law enforcement; 2) One who is a member of the D.C. Bar and is in good standing; and 3) One D.C. community member who is a resident. There are also two additional civilian members appointed by Council: 1) One member with subject matter expertise in criminal justice policy; and 2) One member with subject matter expertise in law enforcement oversight and the use of force. These 5 civilian members must not have any current or previous affiliation to law enforcement. As of June 2023, these 5 civilian voting members have not been added to the UFRB. Because MPD explicitly includes these individuals as voting members of the UFRB in their use of force general order, MPD should take steps to work with the Mayor and Council to add these 5 civilians as UFRB voting members. OPC will consider this recommendation fully implemented when these 5 civilians are included as UFRB voting members.

64: For more detailed information on the recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the prior Use of Force Reports. Available [here](#)

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

2020⁶⁵ Recommendations Update

Of the two recommendations OPC made in 2020, MPD has:

- **Fully implemented** one recommendation; and
- **Not implemented** one recommendation

1. MPD should work to reduce the racial disparities in the uses of force as well as the locations of where force incidents occur.⁶⁶

Status according to MPD as of March 2022

AGREE IN PART, IN PROGRESS

While we agree and are committed to continually working to reduce racial disparities in use of force, the myriad of complex social issues that contribute to these disparities extend beyond the ability of the police department to completely control. Unfortunately, the racial disparities identified in use of force are matched by other racial disparities experienced by some neighborhoods and members of our community. These include disparities in education, economic opportunities, as well as contacts with law enforcement, both as victims of violent crime and as offenders. Solving these issues will not be quick or easy, and will require a sustained commitment of resources by our partner agencies and by our community as a whole.

That being said, MPD is committed to doing our part in ensuring that our training, policies, and practices are free from bias. For example, last summer, we engaged with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to conduct an independent organizational cultural assessment of all aspects of our department, from our internal procedures and policies to how we interact with the community, with a particular focus on building and reinforcing diversity, equity, and inclusion. We look forward to the results of that assessment and implementing any recommendations that will improve our agency. Additionally, MPD has launched a national search to hire a Chief Equity Officer for the Department, an important step to help ensure that, moving forward, the Department models the fair and inclusive values that we aspire to. This new position will be focused on ensuring that we are diligent about considering equity in everything we do as an agency, including how we interact with the community. While these efforts do not guarantee a reduction in the racial disparities we have seen in use of force, they are part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that our officers and our department are free from discriminatory practices. We would also ask OPC to share any specific suggestions they have on achieving this recommendation or, based on their research, cities they are aware of that have achieved this goal.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented**. OPC agrees with MPD that the issue of racial disparities in uses of force is complex and cannot be fixed easily. However, policing is a pervasive and persistent contributor to racial disparities. It has been well documented that coming into contact with law enforcement can lead to negative outcomes.⁶⁷ Specifically, research indicates that individuals who have been arrested or incarcerated are more likely to have disadvantaged educational and economic outcomes. In 2021, 70% of MPD's closed uses of force resulted in an arrest. Furthermore, research illustrated that even police contact that does not result in an arrest can contribute to lower educational achievements.⁶⁸ This means that while use of force is not the only contributor to racial disparities in the District, MPD has a large role in its pervasiveness. In 2021 90% of all adult arrests were Black community members. It is unreasonable based on research on crime to assume that Black community members are committing

65: The 2021 racial disparities in use of force locations recommendation was combined with the 2020 racial disparities in uses of force recommendation

66: OPC combined this recommendation with the 2021 recommendation because they are intertwined and MPD combined their response into one.

67: More information regarding the link between criminal justice contact and negative economic outcomes is well documented in *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010)

68: Article available [here](#)

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

90% of all crime in the District. Additionally, in 2019 100% of the subjects involved in a MPD firearm discharge were Black, in 2020 this percentage was 89%, and in 2021 this percentage was 90%. According to 2021 addresses, 43% of all use of force incidents in 2021 occurred in census tracts that are 81-100% Black. These statistics illustrate that uses of force, and policing in general in the District appear to be biased towards Black community members.

MPD should investigate and evaluate the racial biases that are present within the department and held by individual officers. In December of 2021 two former employees, who are Black women, filed to sue MPD “alleging they were retaliated against for speaking out against racism and misconduct by White officers.”⁶⁹ In February of 2022 it was reported that an MPD lieutenant was placed on leave due to accusations of being affiliated with white supremacist groups.⁷⁰ Further, in 2017 an officer was suspended for wearing a racist t-shirt, and as of May 2022 this officer was still employed by MPD.⁷¹ These articles suggest that racial biases permeate MPD and likely influence the racial disparities in uses of force throughout the District.

While looking at potentially biased policies and hiring a Chief Equity Officer for the Department are steps toward reducing these racial disparities, MPD should look to all possible avenues to combat the racial biases potentially held by officers. MPD could work with institutes doing research on how to make changes in law enforcement. An example is the Vera Institute with their Redefining Public Safety Initiative. Additionally, MPD should continually conduct implicit bias courses with their employees to identify any racial or ethnic prejudices. Being the main police force in the nation’s capital, MPD should strive to set an example for police departments across the country in reducing racial disparities.

Status according to MPD as of April 2023

AGREE IN PART, IN PROGRESS

As we noted in our previous response, while we are committed to doing our part to reduce racial disparities in use of force where possible, the complex social issues that contribute to these disparities extend beyond the ability of the police department to control. In 2020, the Lab@DC, and Georgetown and Howard Universities partnered to convene a Workshop on Reimagining Police Stops. The recently released documents from that effort include the “Sample Learning Agendas and Measurement Guide” which notes that “benchmark” analyses relying solely on demographic data “often yield highly imprecise, or even inaccurate, results. As a result, they are insufficient in diagnosing the cause of the disparities in police stops and provide little insight as to what solutions will best fit the needs of the community. More pointedly, if the root cause of bias is structural and socio-economic inequality, the changes that focus on individual-level will best fit the needs of the community. More pointedly, if the root cause of bias is structural and socio-economic inequality, the changes that focus on individual-level police officers or even department-level policy decisions would likely have limited effect and may even be counterproductive.”

In other words, the data provided does not necessarily indicate any bias on the part of officer behavior or MPD policy. To be more precise, in 2021 88% of all adult arrests were Black community members. Indeed, the disparity in some other measures for which most agree there is no officer discretion – such as homicide victims (94% Black in 2022), homicide offenders (97%), and arrests for all major crimes (homicide, assault with intent to kill, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault with intent to rob, aggravated assault, sex abuse, robbery, carjacking, and burglary – 92%) indicates there are complex issues in our community that are contributing to disparities in law enforcement contact. In contrast, police stops are more diverse, whether looking at traffic stops (63%) or all other non-traffic stops (86%).

The characterization that, “policing is a pervasive and persistent contributor to racial disparities” is overly simplistic and prone to misinterpretation. Fair and constitutional policing is necessary for protecting our community from violent crime, and we strive to ensure all of our contacts are fair, constitutional, and professional.

69: Article available [here](#)

70: Article available [here](#)

71: Article Available [here](#)

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

MPD remains committed to doing our part in ensuring that our training, policies, and practices are free from bias. In addition to the annual training we provide our members on recognizing and preventing biased-based policing, we have also been working with our partner agencies to identify ways to reduce police presence in situations more appropriately handled by other professionals. For example, we have continued our close partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) on a variety of programs including the 911 Diversion Program. The District has also been fortunate to be selected for ongoing technical assistance programs to strengthen the 911 diversion efforts by both the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab and the Council of State Governments.

While these efforts do not guarantee a reduction in the racial disparities in use of force, they are part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that our officers and our department are free from discriminatory practices and ensure our officers are focused on preventing violent crime and keeping our communities safe.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented**. OPC agrees with MPD that the issue of racial disparities in police contact in the District is complex and cannot be completely solved by the department alone. However, the engrained and discriminatory history of policing and its contribution to modern disparities also must not be ignored. MPD stated “if the root cause of bias is structural and socio-economic inequality, the changes that focus on individual-level police officers or even department-level policy decisions would likely have limited effect and may even be counterproductive.” However, in the “Sample Learning Agendas and Measurement Guide”⁷² it is pointed out that racial bias can occur at the city/community level because law enforcement actions, “resources, and policies vary across jurisdictions, as do the missions, resources, and policies of non-law enforcement actors.” Similarly, these “variations correspond to differences in the geographic segregation of racial groups in the population.” In 2022, Districts 6 and 7 accounted for 45% of all use of force incidents. These districts also correspond to Wards 7 and 8, and in both are 87% Black residents.⁷³ This indicates that there is a cyclical relationship between the outside societal forces and the police department where policing may be different among underserved communities.

Further, the paper stated, “the geographic variation in crime rates can be attributed, in large part, to the historical underinvestment and biased practices (e.g., redlining, eminent domain, school segregation) that have fostered criminogenic conditions in these communities.” This seems to indicate that focusing on who is arrested for what crimes may not actually be reflective of who is committing crimes. This could be because MPD is policing certain areas of the district differently (i.e., more police presence in historically underserved communities, which in the District are also comprised of majority Black residents). The report further states that departmentally, “bias may enter the process that results in stops through departmental decisions about how many officers to deploy and where, as well as what tactics to use.” This could ultimately be increasing police presence in one area and fewer in another, which can skew crime statistics.

OPC says all of this to point out that MPD should be cognizant of its role in the racial disparities of use of force in the District. Further, OPC would like to work with MPD in the future to gather more data regarding uses of force in order to be able to better analyze the data to get at the cause of racial disparities. Perhaps MPD should add a reporting field where the officer must report what exactly led to the interaction between MPD and the subject of force (ex., traffic stop, call for help, sounds of gunshots, etc.). This would allow OPC to potentially analyze prejudices police officers might have. For example, are Black residents more likely to have force used against them when there is a call for service, or if an officer observes something they deem suspicious. Additionally, many of the subjects of force are subsequently charged with APO, however, OPC cannot discern whether the APO was a result of the force interaction or if it preceded it. If MPD could distinguish between the two that might be helpful for analysis. Because MPD has updated their use of force framework to reflect important changes in uses of force in recent years, a multi-year comparison

72: The Sample Learning Agendas and Measurement Guide paper referred by MPD and OPC can be found [here](#)

73: Data regarding these demographics can be found [here](#)

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

may not be possible. However, in the future this is also something that can be looked at by OPC and MPD. Overall, OPC and MPD should take this next step and work together to create a dataset where it is possible to analyze racial disparities factors in uses of force.

2018 Recommendations Update⁷⁴

Of the three recommendations OPC made in 2018, MPD has:

- **Fully Implemented** two recommendations; and
- **Partially implemented** one recommendation

1. MPD should reduce the upward trend of use of force incidents.

Status according to MPD as of March 2022

AGREE IN PART, IN PROGRESS

“MPD remains committed to providing our officers with the training, tools, and support necessary to avoid the use of force and de-escalate situations whenever possible. While we are pleased that our use of force incidents have decreased again this year, we must also recognize that officers will, when lawful and appropriate, be in situations where it is necessary to use the minimum amount of force necessary to effectively bring an incident or person under control.

Also, as we have previously noted, the increase in use of force reports after 2015 highlighted in your latest findings is in large part attributable to MPD’s change in our use of force reporting policy in August 2016. Specifically, MPD added a requirement that officers complete a force report for all takedowns, regardless of whether there was injury or complaint of pain. As outlined in OPC’s last four use of force re-ports, almost half of all MPD’s force reports taken in the years since the policy change have listed takedowns as the highest level of force used. It is to be expected that our overall use of force numbers would increase based on the number of takedown force reports that are now completed.”

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. MPD stated that in August of 2016 MPD made it a requirement that officers file a FIR whenever a takedown occurs, regardless of injury or complaint of pain by the subject. They argue that this change has influenced the number of uses of force because once that change was made more officers reported takedowns. While OPC agrees this could be a contributing factor, there are data that suggest there could be other contributing factors. Specifically, in 2017 OPC received complete yearly UOF PDF’s dating back to 2013 that were used to compile complete UOF data. Preliminary analysis of the data illustrated that in 2013, prior to the policy change, 48% of the highest uses of force were takedowns, this number was 44% in 2014, 41% in 2015, and 46% in 2016. In 2017, after the policy change, this percentage was 45%, followed by 42% in 2018, 50% in 2019; and 45% in 2020. This suggests that takedowns have always represented roughly half of all uses of force, both before and after the policy change. Therefore, this policy change is unlikely to be the sole contributor to the increase in uses of force.

In 2021 there were 1,896 reported uses of force, which was a 6% decrease from 2020. This also means there was a 34% decrease in uses of force between 2018 and 2021. However, during this time there was also a 46% decrease in overall arrests made by MPD. With 70% of all closed uses of force in 2021 resulting in an arrest it is likely that use of force and arrests are closely linked. Furthermore, in March of 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic led to lockdowns and social distancing. This is likely to have translated to fewer interactions between MPD and community members in the District. So this also may have led to the decrease in uses of force rather than changes within MPD. The UFRB also made recommendations based on cases reviewed in 2021 that are relevant to working to reduce overall uses of force.

74: For more detailed information on the recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the 2018 Use of Force Report. Available [here](#)

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

While reviewing uses of force in 2021 the UFRB recommended MPD do tactical scene reviews at Metropolitan Police Academy (MPA) and conduct use of force refreshers. The UFRB also specified that Special Police Officers (SPO's) and the Gun Recovery Unit (GRU) are not receiving appropriate levels of use of force training and should all be retrained.

With this being said, OPC recognizes that the number of uses of force each year is not completely within MPD's control. There will always be scenarios in which officers will reasonably need to use force to ensure officer and community safety. This is a recommendation that will be continuously looked at in each subsequent Use of Force Report and the status may change based on trends in uses of force.

Status according to MPD as of April 2023

AGREE IN PART, IN PROGRESS

As noted in our previous response, MPD remains committed to providing our officers with the training, tools, and support necessary to avoid the use of force and de-escalate situations whenever possible. For example, we recently partnered with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to incorporate their Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) training into our use of force curriculum. ICAT provides techniques for police officers to de-escalate situations involving persons who may be experiencing a mental health crisis and who are either unarmed or armed with a weapon other than a firearm. Hundreds of police departments around the country have integrated ICAT into their training curriculum. A 2020 study of the Louisville Police Department conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the University of Cincinnati found ICAT training resulted in reductions in uses of force, citizen injuries, and officer injuries by approximately one-third.

MPD will continue to seek out tools and training like ICAT to reduce force whenever possible. However, as noted by OPC, we must also recognize that officers will, when lawful and appropriate, be in situations where it is necessary to use the minimum amount of force necessary to effectively bring an incident or person under control.

Additionally, we disagree with OPC's characterizations that the UFRB specified that the GRU was not receiving appropriate levels of use of force training. The UFRB recommended that GRU receive enhanced training, as a team when possible, to improve their tactics and team operations. However, there was no finding by the Board that the GRU's use of force training was not conducted at an appropriate level. When GRU was disbanded and replaced by the Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) in 2021, all members received training on topics including, but not limited to, the use of confidential informants, preparing arrest and search warrant affidavits, ethics, the Fourth and Fifth Amendment, and testifying in court.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC recognizes the steps that MPD has taken to provide their officers with the training, tools, and support necessary to avoid the use of force and de-escalate situations whenever possible. However, in 2022 there was an 11% increase in uses of force and a 13% increase in use of force incidents as compared to 2021. During this time period there was a 2% increase in stops, a 4% decrease in overall crime, and a 1% decrease in arrests.⁷⁵ While this is still a 27% decrease from 2018, the percentage increases in uses of force and force incidents is higher than expected based on the difference in stops, crime, and arrests between 2021 and 2022.

In 2021 the UFRB reviewed a number of GRU uses of force, and in agreement with IAD recommended that MPD needs to change their curriculum for all new and existing GRU members. The UFRB specified that "at the conclusion of training members should be required to test and demonstrate that they fully understand and have retained what was taught," which indicated to OPC that both the UFRB and IAD saw noticeable issues with the training of the GRU. OPC appreciates that MPD has disbanded the GRU and replaced it with the Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT). The VCIT training listed by MPD included the recommendations brought up by the UFRB in 2021. Further, in 2021

⁷⁵: Stop data can be found [here](#). Crime data can be found [here](#). Arrest data can be found [here](#)

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

the UFRB recommended that MPD re-train all Crime Suppression Team members on scenario training, de-escalation techniques, communication between team members, operational planning for incidents, including tactics. The UFRB also recommended in both 2021 and 2022 that IAD should “conduct a follow-up investigation into the CST official’s lack of supervision and management of the CST members during this operation. The investigation should also look into the daily operations and management by the CST officials.” These statements and recommendations in 2021 and 2022 from the UFRB gives OPC the impression there are gaps in the training provided to the officers most likely to use force.

As mentioned last year, OPC recognizes that the number of uses of force each year is not completely within MPD’s control. OPC understands that it is unreasonable for officers to never use force as officers will reasonably need to use force to ensure officer and community safety. This is a recommendation that will be continuously looked at in each subsequent Use of Force Report and the status may change based on trends in uses of force as compared to stops, arrests, and crime.

2017 Recommendations Update⁷⁶

Of the 8 recommendations OPC made in 2017⁷⁷, MPD has:

- **Fully Implemented** four recommendations;
- **Partially implemented** three recommendation; and
- **Not implemented** one recommendation

1. MPD should collect all use of force data electronically.

Status according to MPD as of March 2022

AGREE, COMPLETE

“The 2021 Excel spreadsheet provided to OPC included data regarding subject impairment and subjects experiencing a mental health crisis. This information will be included in the spreadsheet provided to OPC going forward.”

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. While MPD exported the information regarding subjects’ impairment or mental health crisis status in 2021, OPC noticed that the pre-existing injuries of the subject (injuries sustained prior to the use of force) on the FIR’s were not exported to excel. OPC will consider this fully implemented when this relevant information is exported to the excel document.

Status according to MPD as of April 2023

IN PROGRESS

MPD will include the pre-existing injury field in the next PPMS data export which is currently scheduled for the end of April, and we will be sure the information is included in data exports going forward.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC did receive PPMS data where the pre-existing injury field was exported. However, OPC will need to review the 2023 data to ensure this field is accurately exported.

2. MPD supervisors should carefully review all use of force reports prior to approving them for final submission.

Status according to MPD as of March 2022

IN PROGRESS

MPD is working on modifications to PPMS (1) to ensure that date of birth and start date are automatically transferred as read-only fields from MPD’s personnel system to the FIR/PPMS and (2) assignment information transferred to OPC

76: For more detailed information on the 2017 recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the 2017 Use of Force Report. Available [here](#)

77: This also includes recommendation 5A that originated in the 2018, but is reported with the 2017 recommendations

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

quarterly matches the information captured on the FIR. MPD is also re-enforcing the need for supervisors to carefully review FIRs to ensure all information, including height and weight, are reported accurately.

OPC Response:

OPC still considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. This is because there are discrepancies between the FIR data and the PPMS data. For example, the addresses of the use of force incident are not always consistent between the PPMS data and the FIR data. Additionally, the use of force used by the officer is not consistent between the PPMS data and the FIR data. OPC will consider this fully implemented when the FIRs and PPMS data match, or an explanation is given as to why there are discrepancies.

Status according to MPD as of April 2023

IN PROGRESS

Information captured on the FIR and in the PPMS incident summary module are captured by different people at different times. The FIR is completed by the officer who used force and reflects his or her account of the incident. PPMS data reflects information as captured by the supervisor. Accordingly, there will be times where PPMS data and FIR data will not align. For example, with addresses, a member may list a specific address that reflects where they were located during a use of force, while the supervisor may list the hundred block referring to the same location. For uses of force, a supervisor may add a use of force that was discovered after the member completed their FIR. However, we believe the best way to address these issues going forward is for our Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) to have periodic meetings on PPMS/FIR data with OPC to address any questions and issues as they arise with PPMS data exports. This will provide both agencies with a chance to review and resolve specific cases where the data does not appear to align between PPMS and the FIR.

OPC Response:

OPC still considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC understands that the information captured in uses of force is complex and is captured by different people at different times, however, MPD should still strive to have the utmost accuracy. Another issue that OPC has noticed when analyzing the data is that neck restraints are reported in PPMS but not in the FIRs. During conversations with MPD's IAD, OPC learned that while neck restraints can be reported in PPMS, there is no category for a neck restraint in the FIRs. OPC understands that neck restraints are a prohibited use of force technique, however, they are still being reported in PPMS. In fact, in 2022 there were 6 sustained neck restraints that appeared in the PPMS data, but not in the FIR data. MPD has suggested OPC and MPD meet regularly to go over the PPMS/FIRs data in order to ensure data accuracy. OPC will consider this recommendation fully implemented when the FIRs and PPMS data match.

3. MPD should clarify the definition of contact controls and report contact controls on UFIRs (FIRs).

Status according to MPD as of March 2022

AGREE IN PART, COMPLETE

“MPD's revised use of force general order, GO-RAR-901.07, was issued on January 1, 2022. The order provides a definition for control holds (previously referred to as contact controls) in the use of force framework table on page 4. The order also specifies which types of force require completion of a FIR (see page 9, Part II.D.1-2). However, MPD continues to disagree that control holds should be reported on the FIR. Requiring a FIR anytime an officer has to put their hands on an arrestee (for example, to maintain custody to prevent escape or to escort an arrestee to a police car), when there is neither injury nor complaint of pain, would be an imprudent use of scarce and valuable resources, unnecessarily keeping patrol officers off the street.”

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC was not recommending officer's complete a FIR anytime they put their hands on an arrestee, just to define what contact controls are. In prior orders control holds and hand controls were used interchangeably, and in the order issued on January 1, 2022, MPD clarified that hand controls fall

within the category of control holds. MPD also specified what types of force are included in control holds. OPC will monitor this recommendation over the next year through the use of force data. In the 2021 use of force data MPD officers were categorizing hand controls/control holds as compliance techniques and not as control holds. OPC will consider this complete when officers correctly categorize uses of force that are considered control holds.

Status according to MPD as of April 2023

AGREE, COMPLETE

As noted by OPC, MPD clarified that hand controls fall within the category of control holds and specified what types of force are included in control holds in the updated use of force general order published on January 1, 2022. To the extent that OPC has any additional concerns based on their review of this year's use of force data, we will work to address them.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC appreciates MPD clarifying that hand controls fall within the category of control holds. However, when analyzing the 2022 Use of Force data OPC noticed officers are still categorizing hand controls as compliance techniques as opposed to control holds. OPC will consider this complete when officers correctly categorize uses of force that are considered control holds.

4. MPD should require all officers to complete a UFIR immediately following a use of force incident.

Status according to MPD as of February 2021

Status according to MPD as of March 2022

DISAGREE

“MPD continues to disagree with this recommendation as out-lined in our previous responses. MPD’s current policy governing the completion of UFIRs (now FIRs) was negotiated with and approved by the Department of Justice (DOJ) as part of our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on use of force. Officers cannot be compelled to provide a statement or complete a FIR until they receive a criminal declination from the United States Attorney’s Office or are issued a “Reverse Garrity” warning by the department. For the vast majority of use of force cases, we have a procedure for issuing Reverse Garrity when the force incident occurs so the FIR can be completed immediately. However, in serious use of force cases that are under review for criminal prosecution by the United States Attorney’s Office, re-quiring the officer to provide a statement on the FIR immediately may compromise the criminal investigation.”

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented**. OPC’s opinion remains that MPD officers should complete some type of report immediately following all uses of force. This will ensure officers are correctly describing the event and the subjects’ actions.

Status according to MPD as of April 2023

DISAGREE

MPD continues to disagree with this recommendation for the reasons previously stated.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented**. OPC’s opinion remains that MPD officers should complete some type of report immediately following all uses of force. This will ensure officers are correctly describing the event and the subjects’ actions. This is especially important as a small number of FIRs are completed a year or two after the use of force occurred. Having officers complete some sort of written statement will allow them to more accurately describe the uses of force.

RECOMMENDATIONS

	Policy	Status as of 2020 Report	Status as of 2021 Report	Status as of 2022 Report
1	MPD should create a single use of force General Order that combines all existing guidance into one document	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
2	MPD should eliminate the Reportable Incident Form (901-g)	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
3	MPD should collect all use of force data electronically	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented
4	MPD should increase the amount of information captured in the UFIR	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
5	MPD supervisors should carefully review all use of force reports prior to approving them for final submission	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented
5A	New Recommendation: MPD should make essential fields of the UFIR/ RIF electronically mandatory	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
6	MPD should clarify the definition of contact controls and report contact controls on UFIRs (form 901-e)	Not Implemented	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented

RECOMMENDATIONS

	Policy	Status as of 2020 Report	Status as of 2021 Report	Status as of 2022 Report
7	MPD should resume collection of data from firearm discharge incidents	Partially Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
8	MPD should require all officers to complete a UFIR immediately following a use of force incident	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented
9	MPD should correctly label fist strikes in PPMS	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
10	MPD should provide officers a training update reminding them that fist/knee strikes are not compliance techniques	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
11	MPD should reduce the upward trend of use of force incidents	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented
12	Racial Disparity in Uses of Force and Location of Use of Force Incidents	N/A	Not Implemented	Not Implemented
13	Pointing of Firearm as Use of Force	N/A	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
14	Specification of Where Pointing of a Firearm Falls in the Prescribed Use of Force	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Implement the UFRB voting member provisions of General Order 901.07	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: MPD FORCE INCIDENT REPORT



FORCE INCIDENT REPORT (FIR)



A. REPORTING MEMBER

IS Number	Officer name	Rank	Branch/District
Division	Sex	Race	Ethnicity
Height	Weight	Appointment Date	Duty Status
Uniform	Age		
Were you equipped with BWC		Is BWC activated?	
Supv. Notified	Date Notified	Time Notified	
Supv. Ntfd Name		Supv. Ntfd Rank	
On Scene Supv Name		On Scene Supv. Rank	

B. FORCE INFORMATION

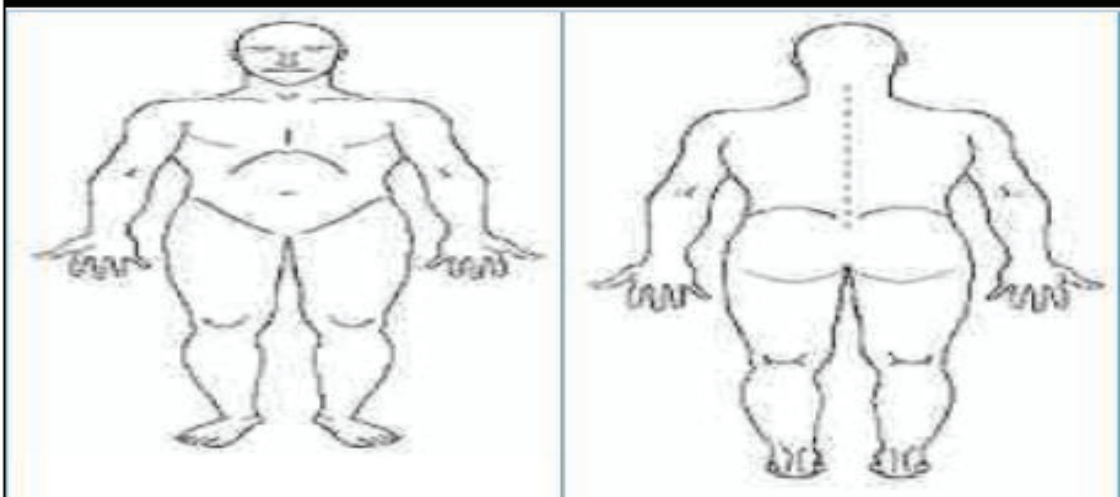
Incident Date	Incident Time	Date of Report	Time of Report
CCN	District of Incident	PSA of Incident	Other Jurisdiction
Street Address of Incident			
Lighting Conditions		Ground Conditions	

C. MEMBER'S INJURY

Member Injured or Complaint of Pain (If yes, Complete Member Injury Section)

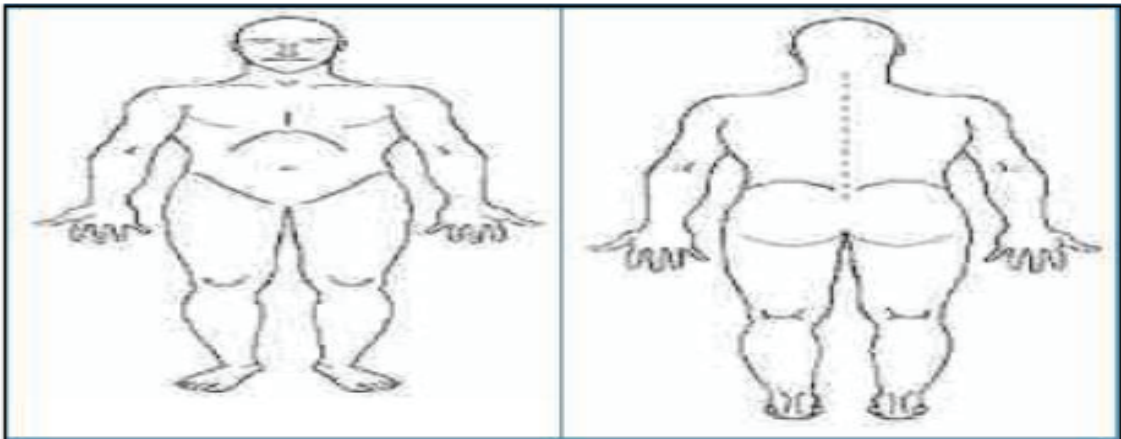
Any visible injuries? Is Hospitalized?

MEMBER INJURY



Body Injury :Ear (s)	
Observations	Complaints
Concussions	
Photos Taken	Photos Stored at

If Other, specify location			
D. SUBJECT INFORMATION			
Total Number of persons on whom force was used :			
SUBJECT - 1			
Is Subject Unknown?		If yes, Age Range	
Name		Address	
DOB	Sex	Race/Ethnicity	SSN
Phone	Height	Weight	
CCN	Arrest Number	Charges	
<u>SUBJECT'S ACTION & ACTIVITY</u>			
Subject Activity		Other Subject Activity (If any)	
Subject Action			
Impairment			
<u>FORCE INFORMATION (Used on Subject)</u>			
Specific Type of Force used on Subject		If other specific type of force used,	
Category of Force		Firearm Information	
<u>SUBJECT WEAPON INFORMATION</u>			
Weapon	Firearm	Blunt Weapon	Edged Weapon
	Type:	Type:	Type:
	Recovered	Recovered	Recovered
	Recovery Location	Recovery Location	Recovery Location
	Discharged		
Other Weapon	Other Weapon Type	Other Weapon Recovered	Other Weapon Recovery loc
<u>SUBJECT INJURY</u>			
Injured or Complaint of Pain due to Force Incident?		Any visible Injuries?	
Pre-Existing Injury/Condition (if any)			



Location of Injuries			
Injuries :			
Observations		Complaints	
Other Observations (if any)		Other Complaints (if any)	
Ambulance No	Medic No	Photos Taken	

E. OTHER MEMBER FORCE INFORMATION

Did any other members use force during this incident?		
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F. PROPERTY DAMAGE

Was the property damaged as the result of the Use of Force?		If Yes, Described below
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G. MEMBER NARRATIVE

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H. OTHER OBSERVATIONS NARRATIVE

--

I. OTHER COMPLAINTS NARRATIVE

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H. REVIEW

Member Signature	Date
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Supervisor Signature	Date
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Watch Commander Signature	Date
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APPENDIX B: HIERARCHY OF FORCE

In every use of force incident there may be a single type of force used or multiple types of force used by each officer. For reporting purposes, this report identifies the highest level of force used for each use of force. The hierarchy of force used in OPC's FY17 Use of Force Report was based largely on MPD's Use of Force ranking as listed on the UFIR form.

MPD UFIR Use of Force ranking:

- (1) Handcuffs
- (2) Hand controls
- (3) Firm grip
- (4) Control holds
- (5) Joint locks
- (6) Pressure points
- (7) Fist strike
- (8) Takedown
- (9) OC spray
- (10) ASP – control
- (11) ASP-strike
- (12) Taser/ECD
- (13) 40mm extended impact weapon
- (14) Firearm pointed
- (15) Firearm discharged

MPD's Use of Force Framework:

- (1) Cooperative Controls – Verbal and non-verbal communication
- (2) Contact Controls – Handcuffing, firm grip, hand controls
- (3) Compliance Techniques – Control holds, joint locks, takedowns, OC spray
- (4) Defensive Tactics – ASP strikes, fist strike, feet kick, 40mm extended impact weapon, Taser/ECD
- (5) Deadly Force – Firearm discharged

OPC evaluated MPD's UFIR Use of Force ranking with MPD's Use of Force Framework, as described in General Order 901-07, "Use of Force." While MPD's Use of Force Framework closely resembled MPD's UFIR Use of Force ranking, the latter does not appear to have been intended as a hierarchy, as there are instances where it does not match MPD's Use of Force Framework. In particular, on MPD's UFIR Use of Force ranking, fist strikes were ranked as a lower level of force than takedowns, which is different than MPD's Use of Force Framework; and ASP-control was ranked as a higher level of force than OC spray and fist strikes, which is different than MPD's Use of Force Framework. MPD did not provide the types of force in each category on the Use of Force Framework until late 2017, and so this discrepancy was not caught before the data was analyzed and the hierarchy published as shown above in OPC's FY17 Use of Force Report.

MPD does not consider pointing a firearm a use of force and therefore does not include it in its Use of Force Framework. On MPD's UFIR Use of Force ranking, firearm pointed was ranked as the second-highest type of force, which does not align with the ranking used by other police departments. NYPD, for example, considers pointing a firearm a higher type of force than a takedown, but lower than OC spray.

The Use of Force Framework also imposes no explicit hierarchy between different types of force at the same level. In particular, there is no explicit hierarchy between takedowns and OC spray (Use of Force Framework level 3), and there is no explicit hierarchy between ASP strikes, fist strikes, Taser/ECD use, and 40mm extended impact weapon (Use of Force Framework level 4).

After analyzing the information provided by MPD in 2017, a new hierarchy was developed in 2018 that follows MPD's Use of Force Framework, and extends the hierarchy to include firearm pointed and to impose an explicit hierarchy between force types that MPD groups together in the five Use of Force Framework categories. The differentiations between types of force in levels 3 and 4 of MPD's Use of Force Framework were based on the likelihood of the force to cause pain; the likelihood of the force to cause injury; and the likelihood of the force to cause serious injury or death. OC spray was therefore ranked higher than takedowns, as neither were likely to cause

APPENDIX B: HIERARCHY OF FORCE

injury, but OC spray was more likely to induce pain. Similarly, of the types of force contained in level 4 of MPD's Use of Force Framework, Tasers/ECDs were ranked highest as their use was most likely to be associated with a subject's death.^{78,79} ASP strikes were ranked next highest as they were the most likely to cause injury or serious injury, and fist or knee strikes were ranked next highest as they were less likely than ASP strikes to cause injury.

MPD's Use of Force Framework:

- (1) Cooperative Controls – Verbal and non-verbal communication
- (2) Contact Controls – Handcuffing, firm grip, hand controls
- (3) Compliance Techniques – Control holds, joint locks, takedowns, OC spray
- (4) Defensive Tactics – ASP strikes, fist strike, feet kick, 40mm extended impact weapon, Taser/ECD
- (5) Deadly Force – Firearm discharged

New Hierarchy

- (1) Control holds (including hand controls, firm grip, joint locks, pressure points, ASP controls, ASP arm-extraction, and handcuffing)
- (2) Tactical takedown
- (3) Firearm pointed
- (4) OC spray
- (5) Fist/knee strike, 40mm extended impact weapon (foam or sponge rounds), or shield
- (6) ASP strike, canine bite(s)
- (7) Taser/ECD
- (8) Firearm discharged

The new hierarchy matches MPD's Use of Force Framework except:

- The new hierarchy does not include cooperative controls (Use of Force Framework level 1), as these are not physical uses of force and are not tracked by MPD;
- The new hierarchy groups all types of control holds together (level 1), rather than splitting them between two levels as on MPD's Use of Force Framework (levels 2 and 3);
- The new hierarchy does include firearm pointed (new hierarchy level 3); and
- The new hierarchy imposes an explicit hierarchy between takedowns and OC spray use; and between fist strikes, ASP strikes, and Tasers/ECDs.

Level 1 of the new hierarchy contains all hand control techniques. These fall into levels 2 and 3 of MPD's Use of Force Framework. The other types of force in level 3 of MPD's Use of Force Framework make up levels 2 (takedown) and 4 (OC spray) of the new hierarchy. Between them is firearm pointed, which is not included in MPD's Use of Force Framework. The placement of firearm pointed on the new hierarchy was based on NYPD's ranking, where firearm pointed falls between "push to ground" and pepper spray.⁸⁰

The types of force in level 4 of MPD's Use of Force Framework make up levels 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the new hierarchy.^{81,82} Firearm discharges are considered the highest level of force on both hierarchies – level 5 of MPD's Use of Force Framework corresponds to level 8 of the new hierarchy.

78: "Reuters finds 1,005 deaths in U.S. involving Tasers, largest accounting to date." Reuters. 22 August 2017. Available [here](#)

79: Zipes, Douglas P. "Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Death Following Application of Shocks From a TASER Electronic Control Device." *Circulation*. 2012;125:2417–2422

80: Fryer Jr, R. G. (2016). An empirical analysis of racial differences in police use of force. NBER Working Papers 22399, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc

81: Although fist and knee strikes and ASP strikes are both considered defensive techniques by MPD, there is an implied hierarchy in MPD's policies in that ASP strikes to the head are not allowed, while fist strikes to the head are used regularly by officers. Therefore, ASP strikes are placed higher on the hierarchy than fist or knee strikes

82: Extended impact weapon strikes are ranked with fist strikes in the new hierarchy. The reason for grouping these types of force is that extended impact weapons are not currently used often enough by MPD to warrant their own rank in the hierarchy. They were therefore placed with the most similar type of force from the same level in MPD's Use of Force Framework

APPENDIX B: HIERARCHY OF FORCE

In 2019, three new types of force were added to the new hierarchy by OPC, as the three types of force – ASP arm-extraction, shield, and canine bite(s) had been added to the answer choices for the Specific Type of Force Used field on UFIR.⁸³ ASP-arm extraction has been added to level 1 because it was considered a type of control holds. The use of a shield is considered as a defensive tactic based on MPD’s Use for Force Framework. While Defensive Tactics are level 4 in the Use of Force Framework, considering that the usage of a shield is unlikely to cause the type of injuries that are as serious as those caused by ASP strikes or canine bites, it has been added to level 5 of the hierarchy. Canine bite(s) has been added to level 6, considering the potential injury level it would cause the subjects of the bites. NYPD also categories both intentional strike with an object and canine bites at the same use of force level.⁸⁴

83: As discussed on page 10, the three new types of force were added as new answer choices for the Specific Type of Force Used field on UFIR as part of MPD’s PPMS July 2019 enhancement

84: Report available [here](#)



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