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

2024 Report on Use of Force by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department

August 22, 2025

KEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

- In 2024, MPD officers reported discharging their firearms at nine people and six dogs; four people and six dogs were fatally injured in these incidents
- UFRB reviewed thirty-six new neck restraint cases in 2024
- Reported use of force incidents increased by 6% from 2023 to 2024; the number of uses of force increased by 9% from 2023 to 2024
- The number of officers who reported using force increased by 6% in 2024; roughly 31% of MPD officers reported using force in 2024
- 114 officers reported using force five times or more in 2024; 20 officers reported using force 10 times or more
- Subjects reportedly assaulted officers in 23% of reported use of force incidents in 2024
- 25% of uses of force involved subjects who were reportedly armed with some type of weapon in 2024; 18% of uses of force involved subjects who were reportedly armed with a firearm
- Subjects in 26% 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 2024, each accounting for 18% to 27% of uses of force
- The five Police Service Areas with the most reported uses of force were located in the Third and Seventh Districts
- As of June 2025, MPD has fully implemented nine of OPC's use of force recommendations, partially implemented five, and has not implemented four

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 nine human subjects in 2024 which resulted in four fatalities
- The total number of reported use of force incidents increased by 6% over the previous year
- Subjects were reportedly armed with some type of weapon in 25% of reported uses of force, with 18% involving a subject armed with a firearm
- Officers reported the most uses of force in the Third, Sixth, and Seventh Districts, which together accounted for 61% of all reported use of force incidents.
- 89% of all reported use of force subjects were Black community members
- 37% of all use of force incidents occurred in census tracts that are 81-100% Black
- Takedowns were the most common type of force used in 2024, accounting for 40% 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,

Marke D. Cross

Marke D. Cross

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INTRODUCTION

Report Overview

This document is the eighth 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 who it is used against.

OPC's inaugural FY17 Use of Force Report[2] 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 2018[3] 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 2024 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 3,392 sworn officers, along with a non-sworn support staff of approximately 584 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 Enforcement Unit, and a Crime Investigations Division. MPD officers received 535,181

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 2024 MPD sworn officers and non-sworn support staff are based on the December 2024 reports OPC received from MPD
6: Information gathered here

calls for service in 2024. There were 29,199 reported crimes in the District in 2024, with MPD officers conducting 22,124 arrests.[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 2024 annual report, but the number of calls for service in 2024 were provided to OPC by IAD. Arrest data available here

INTRODUCTION

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. 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 Deputy Executive Director for the Justice Policy Institute (JPI), a national nonprofit dedicated to criminal justice reform. As Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Ashton directs organizational operations and works to enhance JPI's effectiveness across justice reform projects. Prior to assuming this role, Mr. Ashton has spent over a decade at JPI in a variety of roles, most recently as the Interim Executive Director where he led the organization through a 10-month leadership transition. 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 July 14, 2025 for a new term ending on January 12, 2028.

Earl Fowlkes II, is the President/CEO Emeritus of the Center for Black Equity, Inc. (formerly the International Federation of Black Pride -IFBP) after recently retiring. He founded the IFBP in 1999, as a coalition of organizers in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and South Africa formed to promote a multinational network of Black LGBTQ Pride and community-

8: As of the publication of this report, the emergency legislation is still in effect on a temporary basis. More information is available here

based organizations. There are over fifty plus Black Pride events with over 450,000 attendees each year.

Prior to working at the Center For Black Equity, Earl previously served fifteen years as the Executive Director of the DC Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education Consortium (DC CARE Consortium) and Damien Ministries, organizations that provided services to Person Living With HIV/AIDS in Washington, DC.

Earl has worked on health, political and LGBTQ issues in many communities for over thirty years. Earl currently serves as Chair or Co-Chair of several non-profit Boards of Directors and Advisory Boards including the Damien Ministries and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Communities of Color Initiative. Earl is very much committed to a progressive political agenda and currently serves as the Democratic National Committee (DNC) LGBT Caucus Chair and as an appointed member of the DNC Executive Committee. Mr. Fowlkes was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser on March 2, 2021. Mr. Fowlkes was re-nominated by Mayor Muriel Bowser and appointed on December 17, 2024, for a second term ending January 12, 2027.

Bobbi Strang, is a Claims Examiner with the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) Office of Workers' Compensation. 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.

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 February 6, 2024, for a term to end on January 12, 2026.

Jeffrey H. Tignor, is a practicing lawyer in Washington, DC and an adjunct professor at the Duke University School of Law. Mr. Tignor is 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 working on issues affecting public safety. Mr. Tignor is also currently the Chair of the Board of Washington Episcopal School.

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. Mr. Tignor was re-nominated by Mayor Muriel Bowser and appointed on December 17, 2024, for a third term ending January 12, 2027.

INTRODUCTION

Derrick Colbert, a certified business management professional, is a strategic leader with a wealth of 25 years of experience in the business development, workforce development, and community economic development sectors. His extensive experience has been the cornerstone of providing growth strategies and solutions that enable business enterprises, workforce development organizations, and community economic development organizations to scale their market share, client retention, and social impact.

His prior government professional experience includes Associate—and Director-level positions with the Executive Office of the DC Mayor, including the Workforce Investment Council, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunities, and the Office on Returning Citizens Affairs. In addition to a BS degree in Business Administration from Strayer University, Washington, DC, Derrick holds multiple Certifications, including Business Management Essentials, Continuous Improvement Management, Business Success and Leadership, and Project Management. His community and civic services experience ranges from being the Corresponding Secretary for the Fort Stanton Civic Association, Advisory Committee Member for the Kennedy Street Revitalization Task Force, and Former Vice Chairman for Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8C. Mr. Colbert was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser and confirmed by the DC Council on February 6, 2024, for a term ending January 12, 2026.

INTRODUCTION

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: the Force Incident Report (FIR), which is the form officers complete following any use of force. Previously, MPD officers completed: (1) the Use of Force Incident Report forms[10] (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's data collection process and the inclusion of 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 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 used

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.

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 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 59 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) footage 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 55 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

INTRODUCTION

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. It was not necessary for OPC 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 2,362 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 135 FIRs showed data inconsistencies for the following fields:[18]

1. Neck restraints in PPMS did not appear in the FIRs
2. Subject's date of birth is listed but their age is not calculated in PPMS

When completing the 2022 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 year's use of force data. For the 2023 UOF report, OPC received the totality of data on April 19, 2024. OPC received the totality of the UOF data for the 2024 calendar year on February 24, 2025.

OPC ultimately received a FIR for 2,362[19] reported uses of force, representing 93% of the total 2,519 reported uses of force in 2024. MPD did not provide OPC with PDFs for the remaining 140 reported uses of force. This percentage is lower than the 94% in 2023 and the 99% in 2022. OPC did not receive the PDFs for reported uses of force that are still considered open, pending investigation as of February 24, 2025. These open investigations represent 140 uses of force and 52 incidents. Nevertheless, OPC did receive the PPMS data for the 52 use of force incidents 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 135 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: 2,362 FIR PDFs represent 1,161 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 Order[21] 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 2016 MPD no longer encouraged members to think of 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 while constantly reassessing the appropriate level of force for each specific circumstance.[23] On April 27, 2023, MPD updated their Use of Force General Order to contemplate uses of force as potential criminal conduct.[24]

Use of Force Training

The Metropolitan Police Department asserts it utilizes 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 force should only be 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 about D.C. laws, civil rights, victims' rights, Constitutional law, and implicit bias. In this context, MPD teaches patrol tactics and pre-arrival/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. MPD has since modified their use of force framework from a circular diagram to a table.[27]

20: Metropolitan Police Department General Order RAR-901.07: "Use of Force." Metropolitan Police Department; 28 March 2024. Available here
21: MPD General Order RAR-901.07 Use of Force Framework
22: In the 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 on the use of force framework table, see MPD General Order Go-RAR-901.07

USE OF FORCE OVERVIEW

At the MPA, Recruit Officers complete 80 hours of training in firearms. Because the majority of recruits do not have prior experience with firearms, MPD's training curriculum is designed to provide 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, including: 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 evolve in real time and fluctuate in response 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 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. Subject does not respond to the member's lawful requests or commands and may be argumentative. Noncompliance offers no physical (i.e., caused by the body) or mechanical (i.e., produced by tools or machines) energy.	**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 outlined in GO-RAR-901.04 (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].
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 actually and 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 2024, there were 1,213[29] reported use of force incidents involving 2,519 reported uses of force by 1,043 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] The statistics and calculations used in the 2024 Use of Force report do not include the 52 open use of force incidents.

Use of Force Incidents

The number of reported use of force incidents increased considerably between 2016 and 2020, from 794 in 2016 to 968 in 2020. From 2016 to 2020, there was a 22% increase in use of force incidents. From 2020 to 2022 there was a 7% increase in the number of use of force incidents. As shown in the Use of Force Incidents chart on the next page, there were 1,213 use of force incidents in 2024 which is an 6% increase from the 1,142 incidents in 2023.[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 and then started to decrease in 2019. In 2019, the number of reported uses of force decreased to 2,471, 14% less than 2018.[32] The number continued to decrease in 2020 and 2021.

The number of reported uses of force decreased by 19% from 2019 to 2020, and decreased by 6% from 2020 to 2021. In 2021 there were 1,895 uses of force, however in 2022 there were 2,107 reported uses of force, which is an 11% increase from 2021.[33] Similarly, in 2023 there were 2,312 uses of force, which was an 11% increase in uses of force from 2022. In 2024 there were 2,519 uses of force, which was a 9% increase in uses of force from 2023.

Officers Using Force

A total of 1,043 MPD officers reported using force in 2024, which is roughly 31% of all MPD officers.[34] This is less than a 3% increase in the number of officers using force from 2023, but a 64% increase from the 636 officers reported using force in 2013. In 2018, MPD reported the highest number of officers who reported using force since 2013. Sixty-nine percent of all officers who reported using force in 2024 reported doing so one or two times, while about 18% of officers reported using force three or four times. Thirteen percent of officers who used force reported doing so five times or more in 2024. This information can be found in the Uses of Force Per Officer in 2024 chart on page 17. The reported use of force incidents involving only one officer was the largest use of force incident group, reflecting 49% of the total incidents in 2024. The percentage of incidents involving two officers in 2024 was 28%. Incidents involving three or more officers comprised 22% of all use of force incidents.

Officers Using Force on Duty, In Uniform

Ninety-nine percent of officers who reported using force did so while they were on duty, similar to the number of officers in 2022, 2021, and 2020. Comparably, in 2023 95% of officers who reported using force did so while in full uniform. According to MPD, 6% of officers who reported using force in 2024 did so in "plain clothes," 2% reported using force while in "casual clothes," and less than 1% reported using force while "not in uniform."

29: This number does not include the 52 open use of force 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 its use of force general order to include pointing of a firearm as a use of force

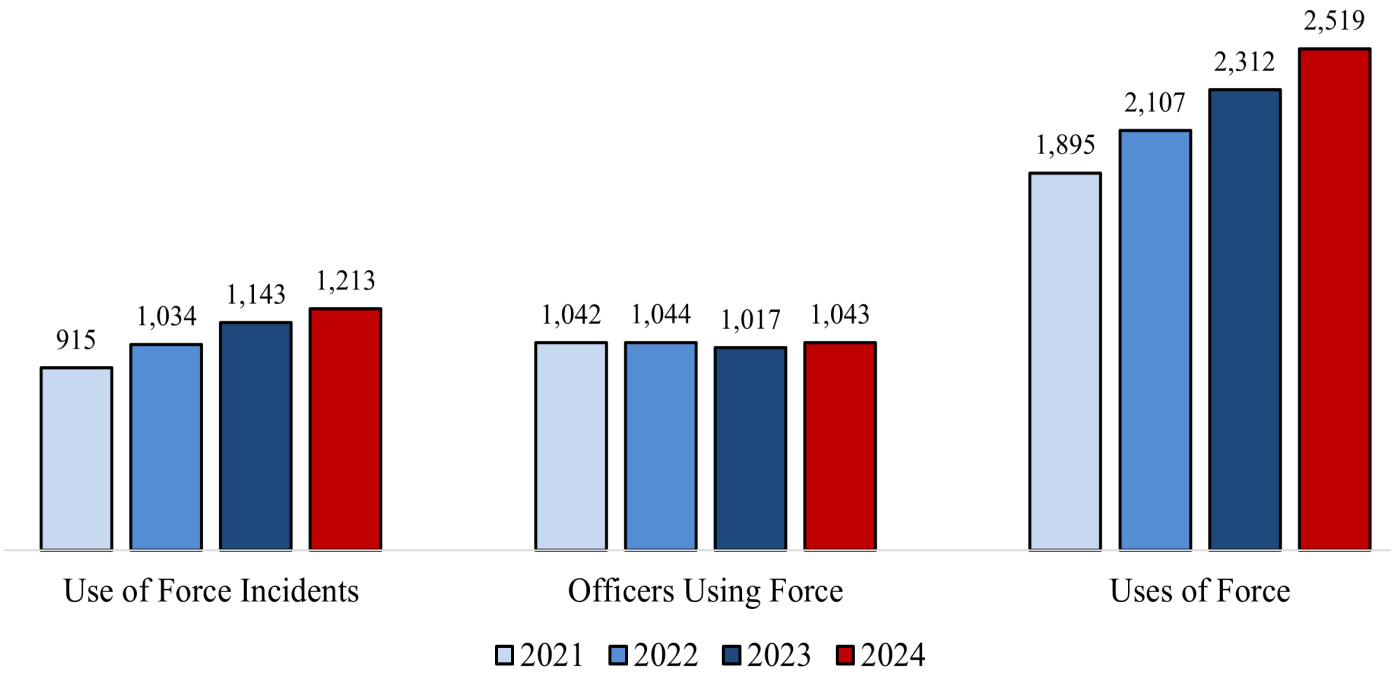
31: See "Report on Use of Force by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department 2022", District of Columbia Officer of Police Complaints; 13 July 2023. Available here

32: "Report on Use of Force by the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department 2018", District of Columbia Officer of Police Complaints; 19 March 2020. Available here

33: Since 2020, 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

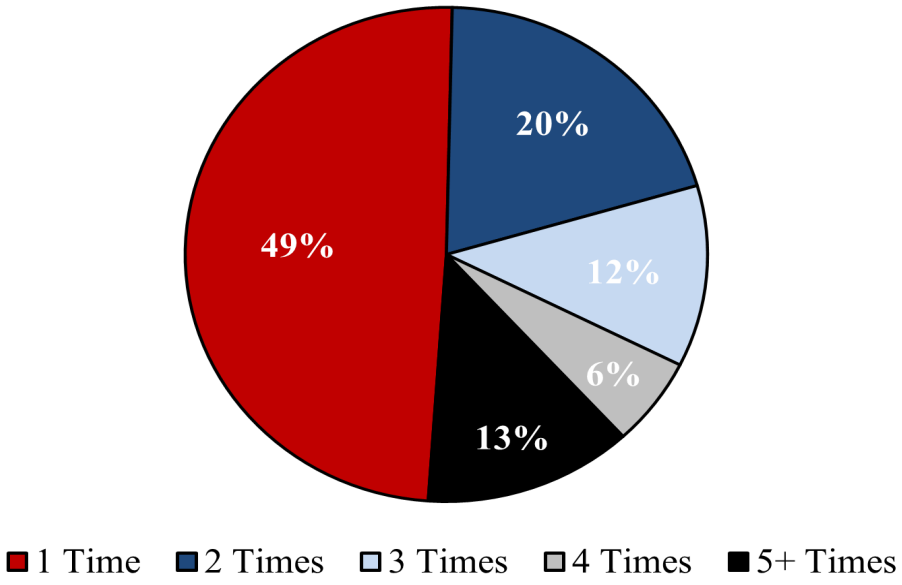
34: This number does not include the civilians employed by MPD

Number of Uses of Force



- Average 3.3 use of force incidents per day in 2024
- 9% Increase in uses of force in 2024
- 31% of MPD officers used force in 2024

Officers Using Force



In 2024, officers used force more frequently. The number of officers who reported using force 5 or more times, increased from 6% in 2023 to 13% in 2024.

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 four levels of subject behavior.[36] From FIR data, most subjects in 2024 were reported by MPD as being active resisters, accounting for 58% of subjects. The second most common subject behavior was threatening assailant, which accounted for 28% of subjects against whom officers reported using force.

Officers followed MPD's prescribed level of force[37, 38] in response to the subjects' behavior in 64% of reported uses of force in 2024. 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 34% of the total reported uses of force in 2024.

Officers used a higher level of force than prescribed in 45 uses of force, or less than 2% of the total reported uses of force in 2024. Of the 45 instances: 28 officers reported using hand controls, 14 officers reported using tactical takedowns and 3 officers reported using OC spray.

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 429[39, 40] times in in 2024, a 4% decrease from the 447 times officers reported pointing their firearms at subjects in 2023. In 2024, officers reported that 16% of subjects were passive resisters, 43% were active resisters, 12% were threatening assailants, and 29% were active assailants.

Armed Subjects in Uses of Force

Subjects were reportedly armed in 632 (25%) reported uses of force[41] in 2024, a 13% increase from the 559[42] armed subjects in reported uses of force in 2023. The most common type of weapon in 2024 was a firearm, which subjects were reported as possessing in 481 (18%) uses of force. Subjects were armed with knives in 75 (3%) reported uses of force, and with blunt weapons in 33 (1%) reported uses of force. Subjects were armed with miscellaneous other weapons in 71 reported uses of force (3%) in 2024. These weapons included but were not limited to bear spray, a spiked rake, boiling water, and a set of hand-held dentures.

Officers pointed firearms at subjects in **15**% of uses of force	In 2024 MPD did not specify where in the prescribed use of force framework pointing a firearm falls	Subjects were reportedly armed in **25**% of use of force incidents in 2024

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; 28 March 2024. 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 2,119 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 is based on the highest level of force used in each use of force

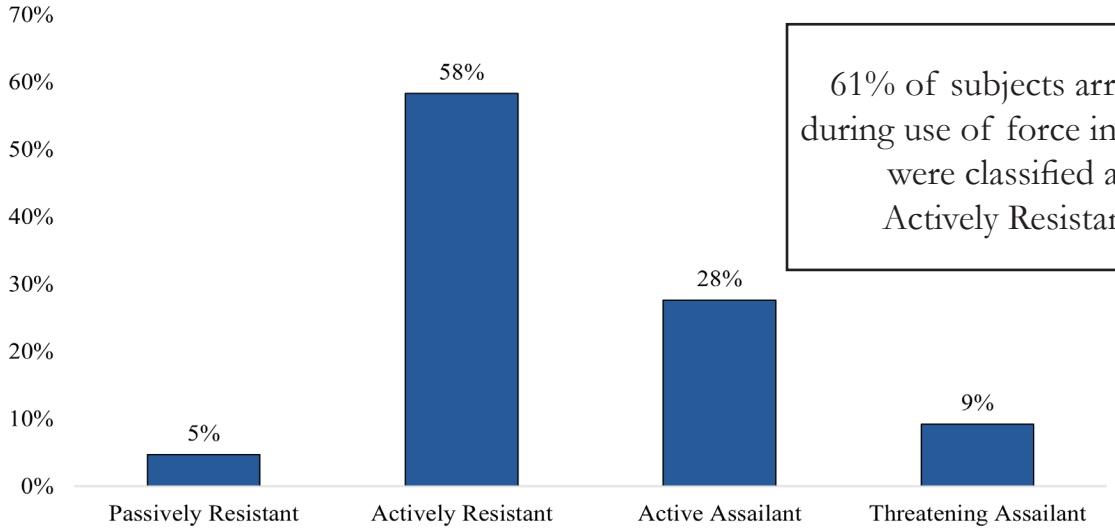
40: Even with open cases, all officer force information is available to OPC so the total number of use of force incidents is 2,519 for this number

41: OPC did not have information regarding whether the subject was armed for the 12 uses of force. Therefore, the number of uses of force used for this calculation was 2,300

42: OPC did not include additional uses of force to the reported 559 in 2023 where a subject was armed

Subject Behavior and Level of Officer Force

Subject Behavior

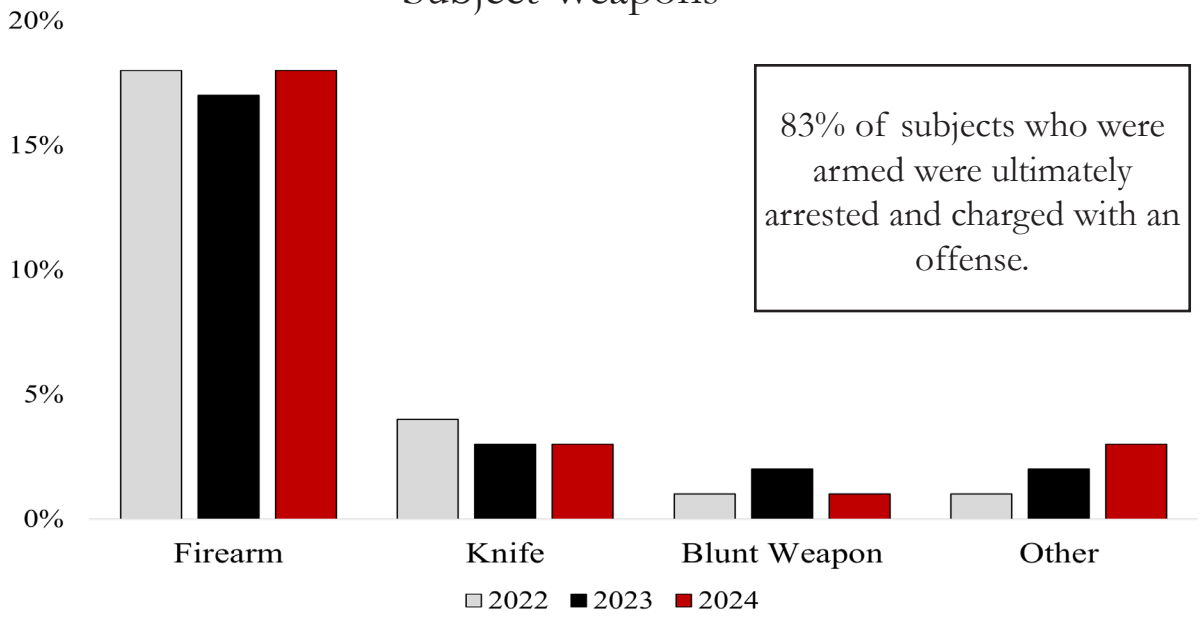


61% of subjects arrested during use of force incidents were classified as Actively Resistant

Subject Behavior and Officer's Level of Force

	Passive Resister	Active Resister	Threatening Assailant	Active Assailant
Contact Controls	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Compliance Techniques	2%	63%	28%	4%
Defensive Tactics	--	--	<1%	<1%
Deadly	--	--	--	<1%

Subject Weapons



83% 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 2024, accounting for 40% of uses of force. Control holds were the highest level of force used in 21% of reported uses of force.

The hierarchy of force[43] 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

Seventeen percent of reported uses of force involved firearms pointed at subjects, while OC spray was the highest level of force used in 18% of reported uses of force in 2024. Fist or knee strikes/40mm extended impact weapons and shields were the highest level of force used in 2% of reported uses of force in 2024, and ASP strikes and canine bites were the highest level of force used in <1% of reported uses of force in 2024. Firearm discharges were the highest level of force used in 1% of reported uses of force in 2024. ECDs were the highest level of force in roughly <1% of 2024 uses of force. Although all officers receive familiarity training with Tasers/ECDs, only sergeants are fully trained and equipped with Tasers/ECDs.

There were 15 intentional firearm discharge incidents involving 21 officers in 2024: 9 incidents involved firearm discharges at people and 6 involved firearm discharges at animals. These 15 firearm discharges account for 1% of reported uses of force in 2024, which is similar to 2023. For further discussion of the 2024 firearm discharge incidents, see page 31.

Rate of Injuries in Use of Force Incidents

Officers reported receiving injuries in 8% of reported uses of force in 2024, while subject injuries were reported in 46% of uses of force.[44]

The injury rates for the same type of force categories decreased from 2023 to 2024, except for the control holds category.[45] The following percent of incidents resulted in reported subject injuries or complaints of pain:

- 95% of control holds;
- 88% of firearm discharges;
- 54% of fist/knee strikes/40mm extended impact weapons;
- 45% of tactical takedowns; and
- 18% of OC spray uses.

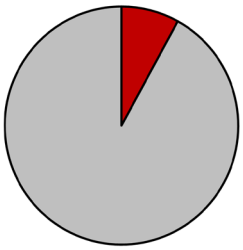
43: Not all cases had specific information regarding the specific use of force, therefore the number of uses of force used for this calculation was 2,500

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

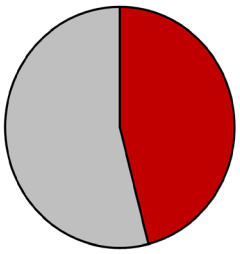
Level of Force and Injury Rate

8% of 2024 uses of force resulted in a reported officer injury



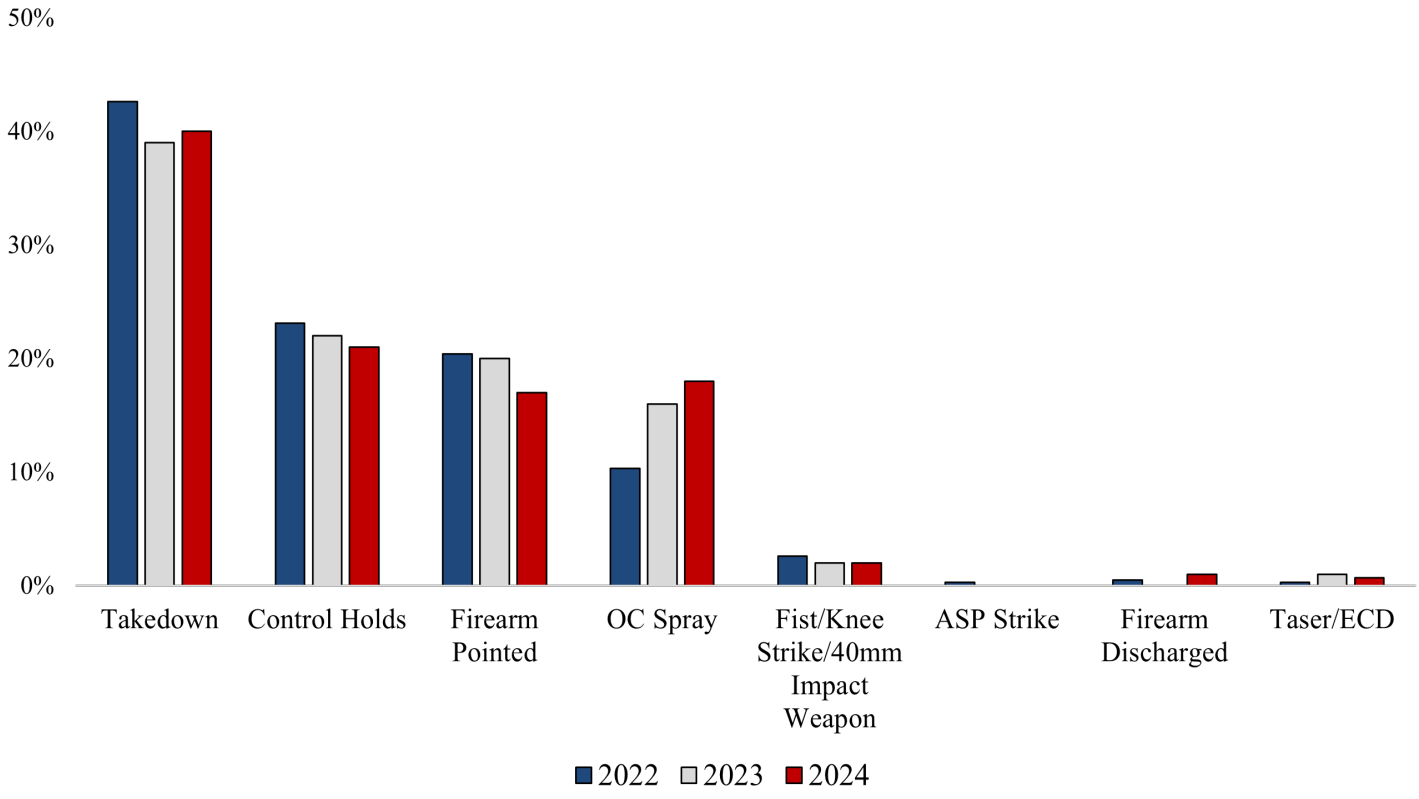
1% of Uses of Force required an Officer to be Transported to the Hospital

46% of 2024 uses of force resulted in a reported subject injury



15% Percent of Subjects had Visible Injuries

Highest Level of Force Used in Each FIR



DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics of Officers Using Force

A total of 1,043 MPD officers reported using force in 2024, with 49% of those officers using force in more than one incident. The demographics of officers who reported using force in 2024 were similar to the demographics of officers using force in 2023. In 2024, 43% of officers who reported using force were Black (45% in 2023), 37% were White (36% in 2023), 14% were Hispanic (same as 2023), and 6% were members of other races and ethnicities (5% in 2023). In 2024, 89% of officers who reported using force were men and 11% were women, similar to the gender demographics of 2023.

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:

- 29% of MPD's officers are White, but White officers accounted for 37% of officers who reported using force in 2024;
- 70% of MPD's officers are male, but male officers accounted for 89% of officers who reported using force in 2024; and
- 33% of MPD's officers are under 35 years of age, but these officers accounted for 60% of officers who reported using force in 2024.

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

- 55% of MPD's officers are Black, but Black officers accounted for 43% of officers who reported using force in 2024; and
- 30% of MPD officers are female, but female officers accounted for 11% of officers who reported using force in 2024.

Demographics of Subjects of Force

Black community members made up 89% of the total subjects MPD reported using force against in 2024, while White community member and Hispanic community members made up 6% and 2%, respectively, of the total subjects in 2024. Males were 80% of the total subjects and females were 20% of total subjects MPD officers reported using force against in 2024. Community members 18-34 years old, were more likely to be the subjects of reported uses of force, at a rate of 54%, in 2024.

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:

- 44% of District residents are Black, but Black community members were 89% of the total subjects MPD officers reported using force against in 2024;
- 47% of District residents are male, but males were 80% of the total subjects MPD reported using force against in 2024; and
- 51% of District residents are less than 35 years old, but community members in this age range accounted for 65% of the total subjects MPD used force against in 2024.

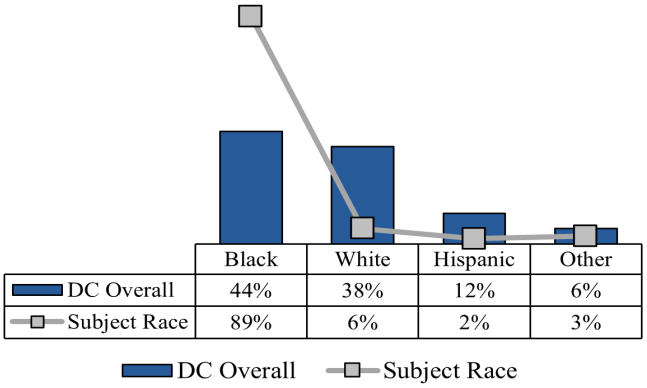
Officer and Subject Demographic Pairings

The most frequent officer-subject pairings were Black officers using force on Black subjects, which accounted for 44% of the total reported officer-subject pairings in 2024. Similarly, White officers using force on Black subjects accounted for 36% of reported officer-subject parings in 2024, while Hispanic or officers of other races and ethnicities using force against Black subjects accounted for 14% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2024.

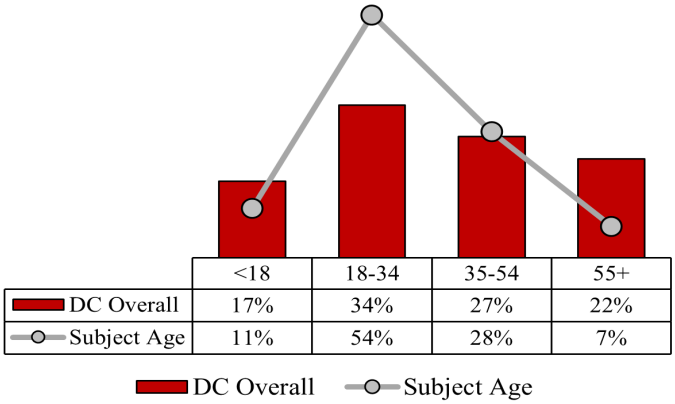
White officers used force against White subjects in 2% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2024 and Black officers used force against White subjects in 2% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2024. Hispanic officers or officers of other races and ethnicities used force against White subjects in 1% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2024 while Hispanic officers or officers of other races and ethnicities used force against Hispanic subjects or subjects of other races and ethnicities in 1% of reported officer-subject pairings in 2024.

46: The number of 2024 MPD sworn officers is based on the December 2024 reports OPC received from MPD
47: D.C. demographics from the Census and DC Health

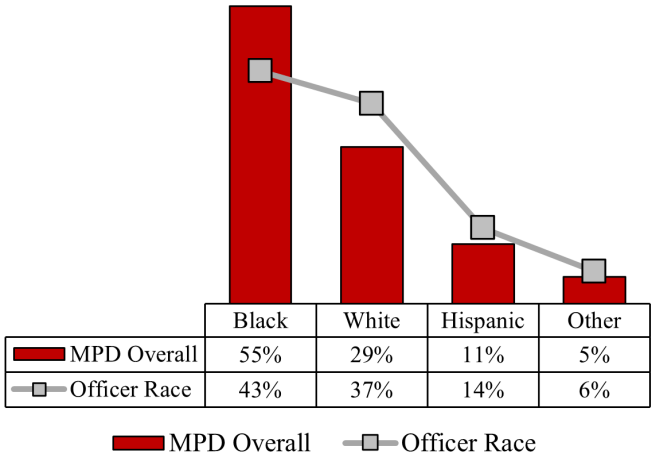
2024 Officer and Subject Demographics



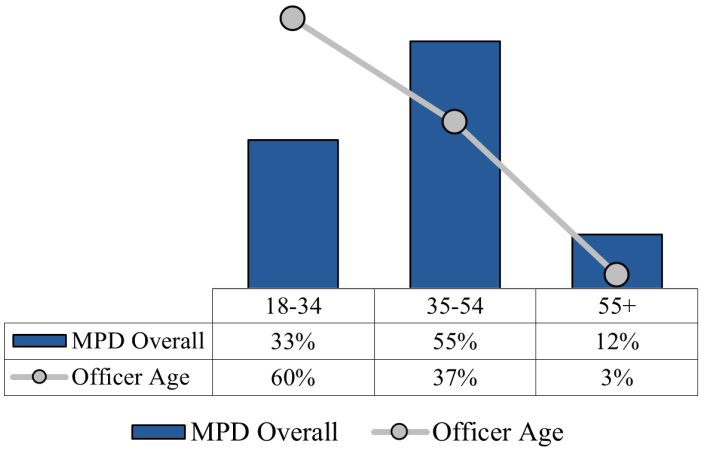
	Black	White	Hispanic	Other
DC Overall	44%	38%	12%	6%
Subject Race	89%	6%	2%	3%



	<18	18-34	35-54	55+
DC Overall	17%	34%	27%	22%
Subject Age	11%	54%	28%	7%

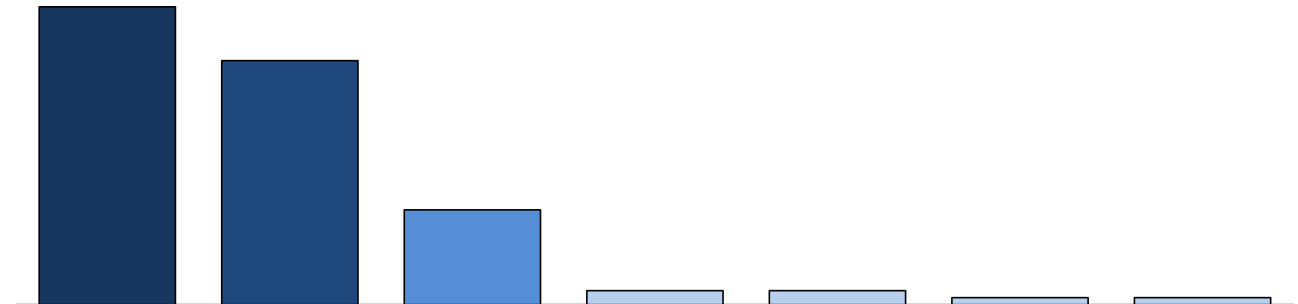


	Black	White	Hispanic	Other
MPD Overall	55%	29%	11%	5%
Officer Race	43%	37%	14%	6%



	18-34	35-54	55+
MPD Overall	33%	55%	12%
Officer Age	60%	37%	3%

Subject and Officer Demographic Pairings



Black Subject/ Black Officer	Black Subject/ White Officer	Black Subject/ Hispanic or Officer of Other Race or Ethnicity	White Subject/ White Officer	White Subject/ Black Officer	White Subject/ Hispanic or Officer of Other Race or Ethnicity	Hispanic or Subject of Other Race or Ethnicity/ Hispanic or Officer of Other Race or Ethnicity
44%	36%	14%	2%	2%	1%	1%

CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFICERS AND SUBJECTS

Ranks of Officers Using Force

MPD officers are promoted through a series of 13 ranks. The ranks officers can achieve, in ascending order of seniority, are; probationer, officer, master patrol officer, detective 1, detective 2, detective 3, 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 62% of MPD's sworn personnel, but accounted for 84% of the officers who reported using force in 2024. Probationers who used force decreased from 9% to 7% in 2024. The number of officers who reported using force was 77%, while sergeants accounted for 7% of officers who reported using force in 2024. Master Patrol Officers, Detectives, and Lieutenants accounted for 10% of officers who reported using force in 2024.[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 2024 were 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 28, 29, and 31 had the highest percentage of uses of force (61 officers for each age) out of all ages. The median age of officers who used force in each district was 34, with a minimum age of 21 and a maximum age of 63. In regard to years of service, officers with 1 year of experience reported the highest number of uses of force (110 officers). The median years of service per district was 6 years with a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 39.

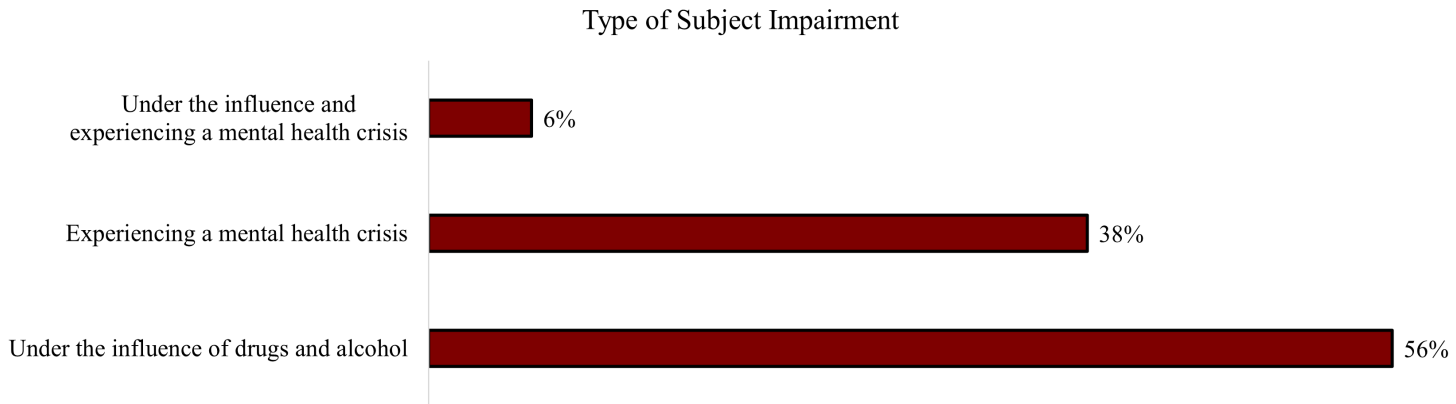
Subjects Impaired or Assaulting Officers

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, or 23% of the total use of force incidents in 2024, a 10% increase from the 248[50] incidents with subjects assaulting officers in 2023. In 180 of the 624 uses of force where officers were assaulted by a subject (29%), 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]

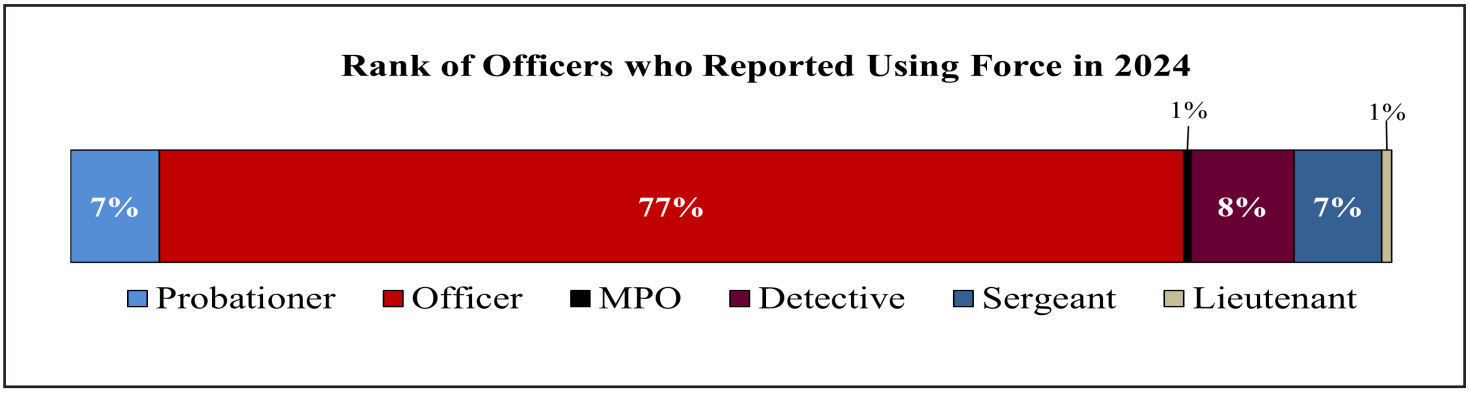
Officers reported that subjects appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or appeared to be exhibiting signs of mental illness in 314 incidents, 26% of the total use of force incidents in 2024. This is the same number of use of force incidents with subjects appearing to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or exhibiting signs of mental illness in 2023.

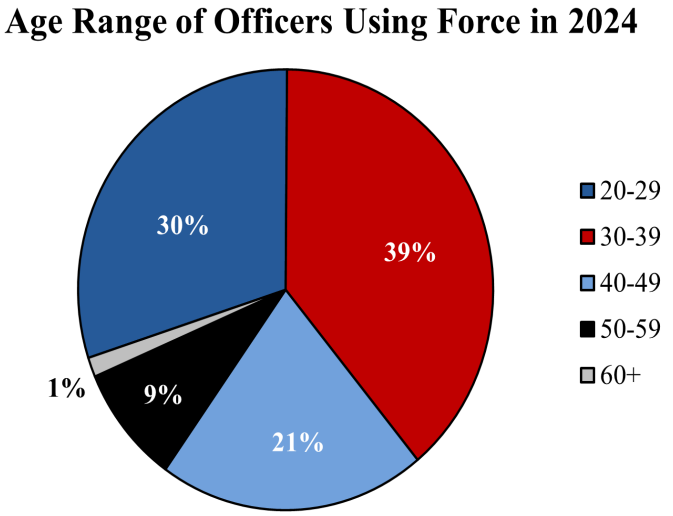
When officers encountered subjects they believed were under the influence of drugs or alcohol or exhibiting signs of mental illness, officers used hand controls and tactical takedowns, the two lowest levels of force, in 65% of those uses of force in 2024. Other types of force used in 2024 when a subject was impaired were pointing firearms (11%), OC spray (19%), and fist/knee strikes (1%).

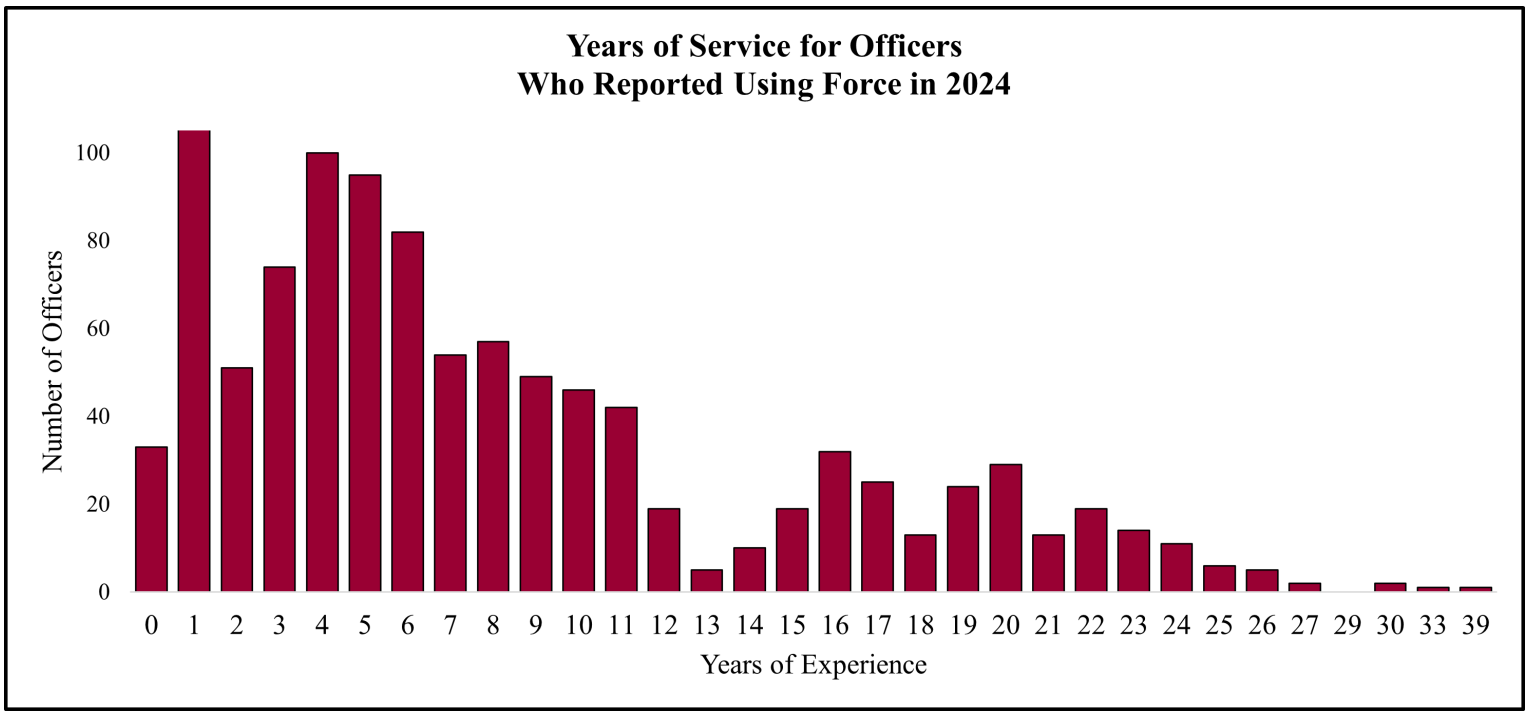


48: Please see the graph on page 25 regarding the ranks of officers using force
49: This section reports on 1,145 incidents.
50: OPC did not include additional use of force incidents to the 248 reported incidents in 2023 where subjects were charged with APO because unlike previous years the officers have included this information in the reports.
51: In 2019, MPD made it mandatory for officers to report on the subjects' possible impairment

Officer Characteristics







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, Sixth, and Seventh Districts had the greatest proportion of reported use of force incidents in 2024. In 2017-2022 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 2024 with 18% of all incidents. The Sixth District had the second highest percentage of incidents in 2024 with 16%. The Seventh District had the highest percentage of incidents with 27%.

The Second District regularly has the lowest proportion of reported use of force incidents, 6% in 2024, followed by the First and Fourth Districts, with 10% and 11%, respectively, in 2024. 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 2024 were in the Third and Seventh Districts – PSAs 305, 706, 704, 703 and 302. Out of these five PSAs, 305, 704, and 706, were also among the five PSAs with the most reported uses of force in 2023. The five PSAs with the most reported uses of force accounted for 21% of all uses of force in 2024.

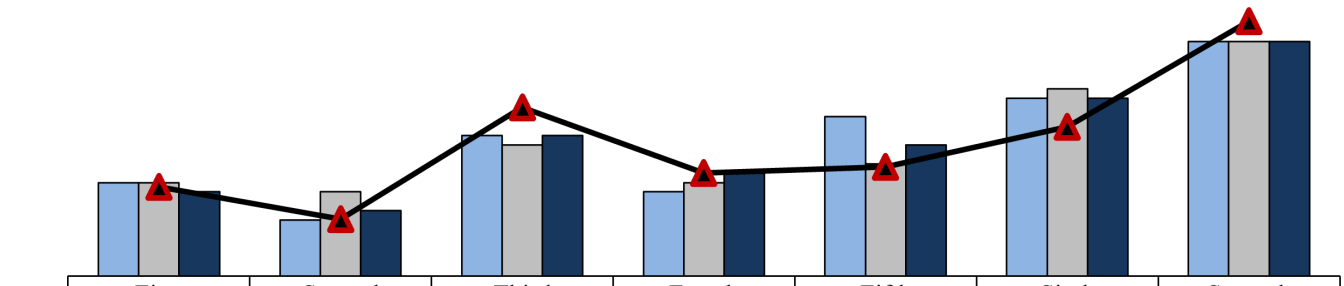
PSA 305: 80 use of force incidents

PSA 706: 48 use of force incidents

Seventh District: 298 use of force incidents

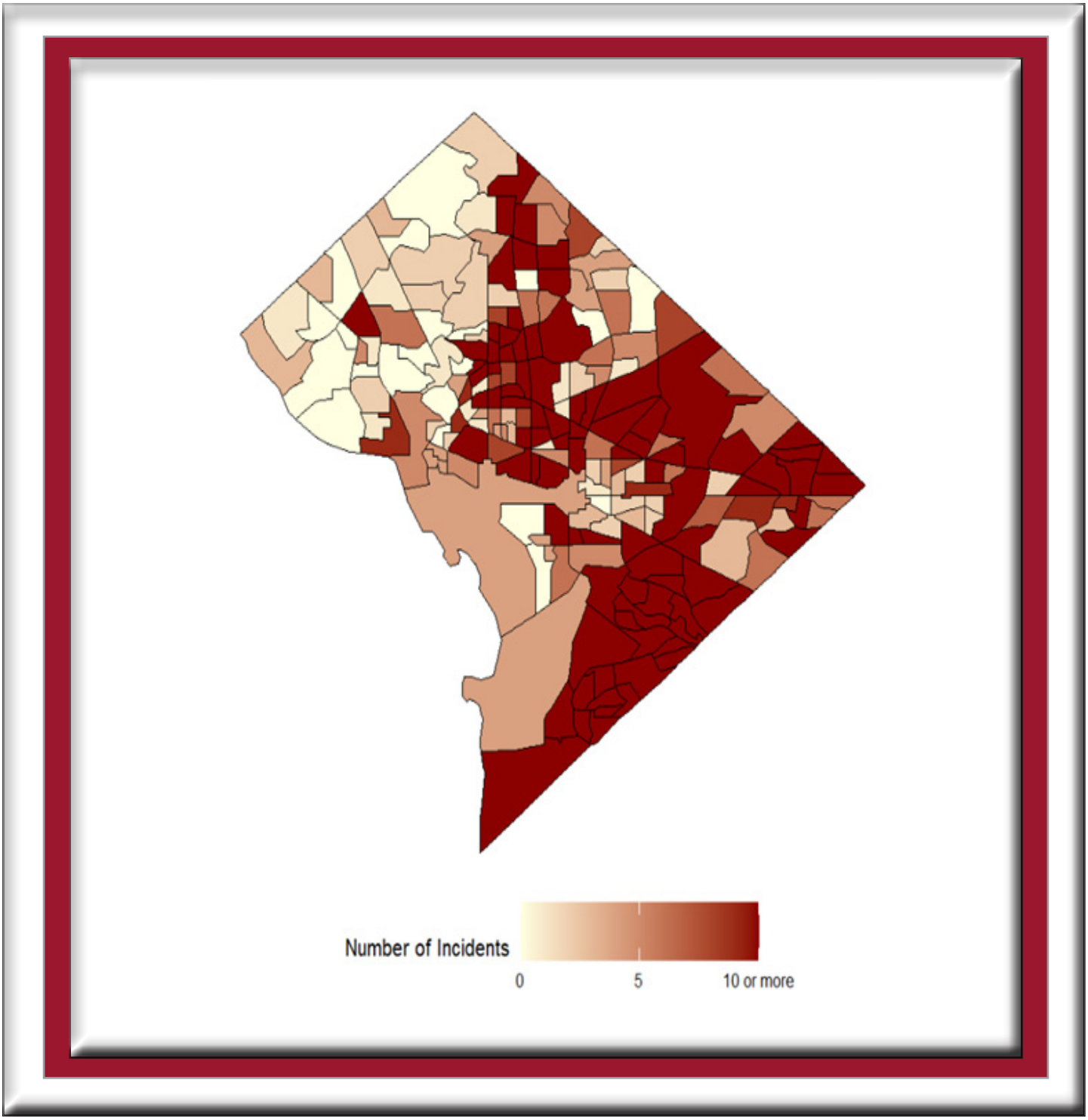
Sixth District: 191 use of force incidents

Use of Force Incidents by District



	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh
2021	10%	6%	15%	9%	17%	19%	25%
2022	10%	9%	14%	10%	12%	20%	25%
2023	9%	7%	15%	11%	14%	19%	25%
2024	10%	6%	18%	11%	12%	16%	27%

Where 2024 Use of Force Incidents Occurred



The above map depicts the locations of the use of force incidents in 2024. The dark red indicates the areas in DC where more than 10 use of force incidents have occurred. The lighter areas indicate whether the area has experienced less than 10 use of force incidents. As the map depicts, there are less use of force incidents in the northwest quadrant of the district compared to the southeast quadrant. There is also a cluster of use of force incidents in the Sixth and Seventh Districts.

2024 CENSUS TRACTS

Overview

In this 2024 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 2024 had addresses that were easily identifiable or addresses within the district, and therefore were not included in the analysis (13 incidents did not occur in the District). 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, all census tracts stemming from one common use of force incident were included (5 use of force incidents had more than one census tract involved).

For comparison, 2022 there were 4 incidents with an address that was not identifiable, and 19 incidents where multiple census tracts were used. In 2023 there were 3 incidents with an address that was not identifiable, and 7 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 2024 there was at least 1 use of force incident in 188 of the 206 census tracts. Therefore, 91% of all census tracts in D.C. had at least 1 use of force incident occur within its boundaries. In 2023 there was at least one use of force incident in 181, or 88%, 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 37% of all use of force incidents occurred in census tracts with a demographic make-up of 81-100% Black community members. Specifically, 19% occurred in census tracts with 81-90% Black residents and 23% occurred in census tracts that were 91-100% Black residents. This is a 10% decrease from the 46% of all use of force incidents occurring in census tracts with 81-100% Black residents in 2023. Roughly 51% of 2024 use of force incidents occurred in census tracts that were 51-100% Black residents. The findings also illustrated that in 2024, 37% of Black subjects had force used against them in census tracts that were 81-100% Black residents. In 2023, this number was 49%, so there was a 13% decrease. These results illustrate how MPD is using force in predominately Black neighborhoods and predominately against Black community members.

52: For more information, please see this Census glossary site.

SERIOUS USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

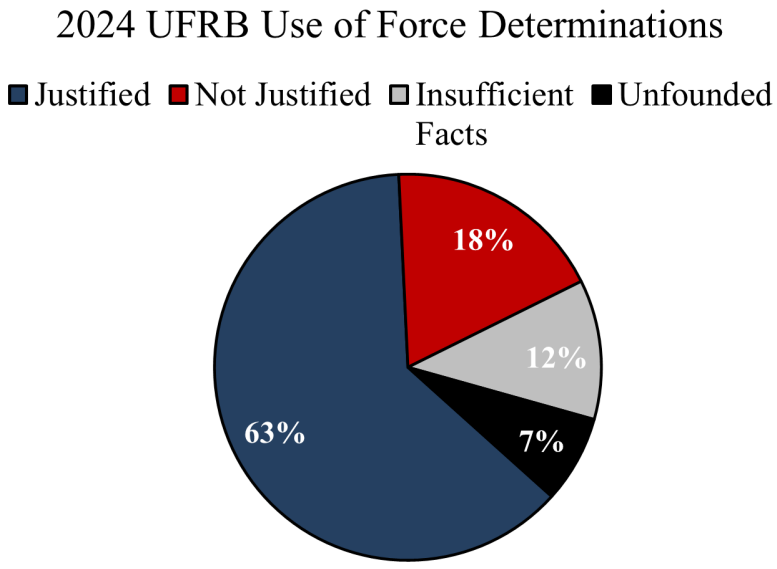
Use of Force Review Board

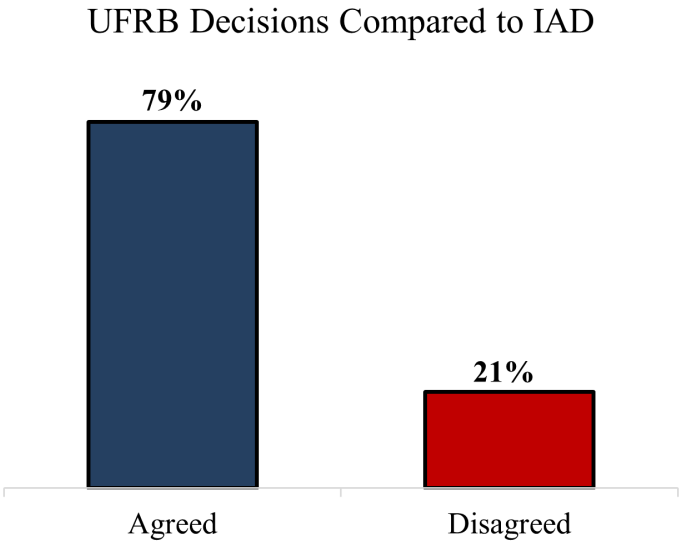
MPD maintains a Use of Force Review Board (UFRB), which has existed since 1999. The purpose of the UFRB is to review all use of force investigations conducted by the Internal Affairs Division (IAD);[53] all firearm discharges at subjects, including animals; all vehicle pursuits resulting in a fatality; 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-901.07, 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. Council 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 five 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. 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 classified as either 1) within MPD policy or 2) a violation of MPD policy.





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 within MPD policy or a violation. The definitions for Use of Force and Excessive Use of Force disposition types are listed below.

For each UFRB case, 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 violated 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 revisions of policies and procedures.

The UFRB convened 22 times and issued 342 determinations in 2024; compared to 22 meetings issuing 216 determinations in 2023, a 58% increase in determinations. The increase in determinations is likely due to the UFRB reviewing its past determinations in light of recent changes to laws, policies, or procedures. In 2021, there were 281 determinations made involving MPD's Civil Disturbance Unit, which is deployed during First Amendment assemblies. In 2022 and 2023, there were zero determinations involving MPD's Civil Disturbance Unit. In 2024, that number increased to 13 determinations.

The 342 determinations in 2024 involved a total of 156 different officers. Of the 342 determinations:

- 264 (77%) were regarding uses of force;
- 2 (1%) were regarding allegations of excessive force; and
- 76 (22%) of UFRB decisions involved neck restraints that were reviewed again to comply with the new guidelines from the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022.

Sixty-three percent of the use of force determinations in 2024 were considered Justified, while 18% were considered Not Justified. The UFRB determined that officers' actions in 40 of the 342 uses of force (12%) had Insufficient Facts and 25 of the uses of force (7%) were Unfounded.

The UFRB concurred with the recommendations of the IAD investigator in 79% of the 342 determinations in 2024. In 21% of cases, the UFRB did not concur with the IAD's recommendations.

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

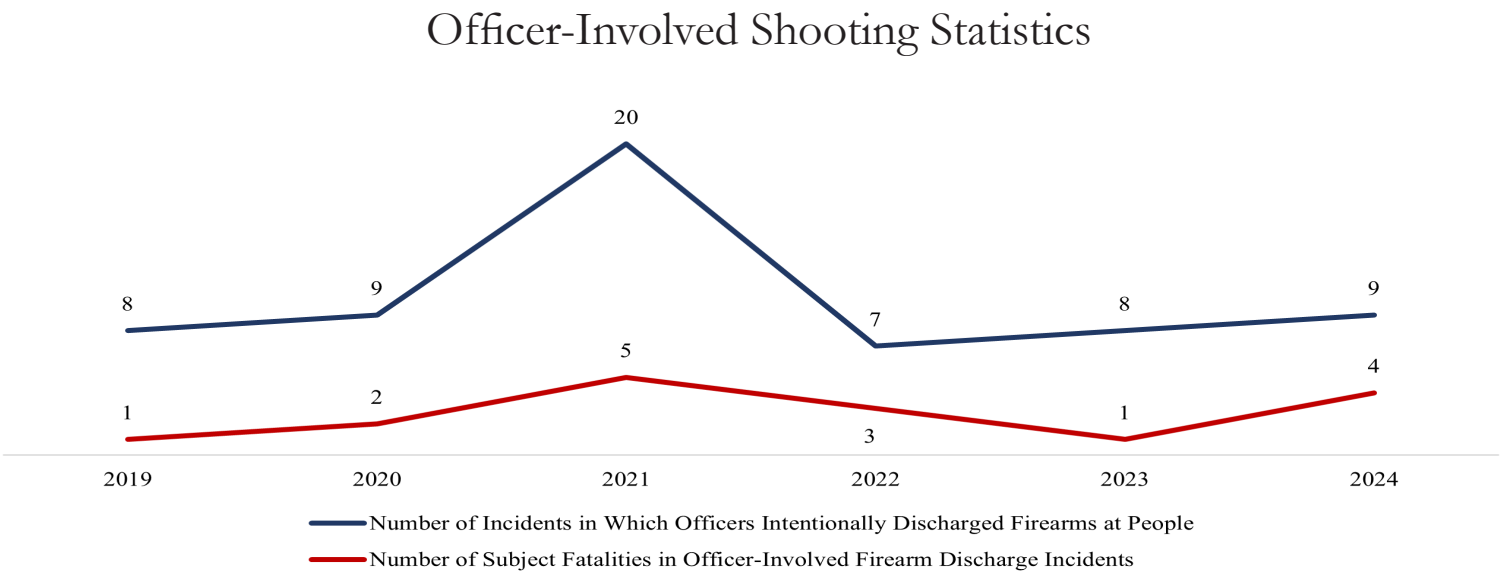
The highest level of force an officer can use is discharging their firearm. The summaries and data analysis in this section may help the community understand the circumstances of an officer-involved firearm discharge in a more transparent detailed context than what is provided to the public via media 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 it is utilized. All the information regarding firearm discharges in this report was provided by the UFRB and MPD.

In 2024, 21 MPD officers intentionally discharged their firearms in 15 incidents – 9 incidents at people and 6 incidents at animals. This is an increase from the eight incidents in 2023. Out of the nine reported officer firearm discharge incidents[57] at people in 2024, one took place in the Second District, one took place in the Third District, one took place in the Fifth District, two took place in the Sixth District, and two took place in the Seventh District. Two incidents occurred outside of the District in Maryland. Eight subjects that were fired upon were Black, and one subject was White. In all nine incidents, the subjects were male.

Fatal Officer-Involved Firearm Discharges

Between 2014 and 2023, MPD officer-involved firearm discharges resulted in one to five reported fatalities each year. 2019 was the year with the lowest number of subject fatalities caused by MPD officer firearm discharges since 2014. In 2024, out of the nine incidents in which officers discharged their firearms at people, four were reported as fatalities. There were two separate incidents where a subject charged at an MPD officer while holding a weapon. One subject attempted to reach for an officer's firearm and one subject was fatally injured due to a firearm accidentally discharging.



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.

OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES

Non-Fatal Officer-Involved Firearm Discharges

MPD officers discharged their firearms and caused non-fatal injuries to subjects in three incidents in 2024. In one incident, an officer was disassembling a firearm and injured themself. In the other two incidents, the subjects were assaulting officers and threatening to harm others in the area. 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 eleven, in 2022 there were two, in 2023 and 2024 there were three, respectively.

Negligent Firearm Discharges

There were three negligent firearm discharges reported by MPD officers in 2024.

Officer-Involved Firearm Discharges at Animals

Seven officers discharged firearms at seven dogs in six incidents in 2024, with two of the incidents waiting to be reviewed by the UFRB as of June 2025. In calendar years 2012 through 2024, 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 four categories: passive resister; active resister; threatening assailant; and active assailant (see page 15 for definitions and further description of these categories). Twenty-one MPD officers discharged their service weapons at human or animal subjects in 15 incidents in 2024. OPC received FIRs for 10 of these 15 incidents. Nine FIRs documented officer-involved firearm discharges at human subjects, and 6 involved dogs. In 5 of the 9 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 discharges at animals, one dog was reported as an active assailant and three dogs were reported as threatening assailants.

Type	District	# Officers	Officer Injuries	Subject Gender	Subject Race	Threat
Fatal	3D	1	None	Male	Black	Charged officer while holding an object that appeared to be a knife
Fatal	N/A	1	None	Male	Black	Charged officer while holding a knife
Fatal	6D	1	Gunshot wound to the head	Male	Black	N/A
Fatal	7D	2	None	Male	Black	Grabbed officer's firearm and grabbed their own firearm
Missed	6D	1	Gunshots to ballistic vest, and gunshot wounds to the leg and arm.	Male	Black	Pointed firearm at officers
Non-Fatal	7D	5	None	Male	Black	Pointed firearm at officers and discharged firearm at officers

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 15

Non-Fatal	5D	1	None	Male	Black	Pointed firearm at officer
Non-Fatal	2D	1	None	Male	Black	Assaulted one officer with a knife and charged other officers with a knife
Non-Fatal	N/A	1	Gunshot wound to the finger	Male	Black	N/A

OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES AT HUMAN SUBJECTS

Overview

In 2024, 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 a discussion of the data MPD provided.

A total of 78 rounds were discharged by 14 officers at 9 human subjects. Twelve of these rounds were determined to have struck a subject, while 32 missed and it is unknown whether 34 missed or if they struck the subject. This translates to a 15% completion rate.

The median number of shots fired at a human subject was 6, with a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 14. Furthermore, the average distance that officers were shooting from was 10 feet. The minimum distance was less than one foot away, while the maximum was 25 feet. In four intentional firearm discharge incidents at humans, 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 two feet. This is in comparison to 13 feet in non-fatal injury discharges and 25 feet in missed discharges. As such, with this limited data it appears as if fatal discharges in 2024 were more likely to occur when the officer was closer to the subject. In 2023, the data suggested fatal firearm discharges were more likely to occur when the officer was further from the subject. In fatal firearm discharges there was an average of 3 discharges, while for non-fatal injury firearm discharges the average was 6 discharges. For those discharges that missed, on average, officers fired 14 shots.

In 2024, MPD provided the positioning of the officer when they discharged their firearm. Ten officers were either standing with no cover or running behind a subject with no cover. One officer was running behind a subject with no cover, while another officer had no cover but had at least one ballistic shield. One officer was bending over and reaching for something when the firearm discharged. One off-duty officer's position was unknown because there was not enough information regarding the incident itself and whether the shooting was fatal, non-fatal, or missed.

Seven MPD personnel who fired a weapon at human subjects were investigators, followed by four officers, two sergeants and one lieutenant. Therefore, in 2024, investigators were the most likely rank to be involved in a firearm discharge. Additionally, 13 years on the force was the average for officers who discharged their firearm at a human subject while the average age was 41 years old. Thirteen of the officers who discharged their firearm at a human subject were male, and one was female. Nine of the officers were Black, three were White, and two were Hispanic.

2023 Summary of Officer-Involved Firearm Discharge Incidents Updates[59]

- On February 10, 2023, at the 1300 block of Good Hope Road, SE, the officer responded to a call that the subject was assaulting another individual with a weapon. The officer attempted to stop the subject from harming the other individual any further. The officer stated that they saw the subject with a handgun, but it was not seen on the BWC footage. The officer discharged their firearm once, striking the subject. The handgun was never recovered or found. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Not Justified.*

- On February 28, 2023, at the 1400 block of Park Road, NW, officers responded to reports of gunshots. Once the officers arrived, they were notified by a shopkeeper that the subject was discharging their firearm towards others. Officers were able to locate the subject and verbally instructed the subject to stop walking. The subject refused and began discharging their weapon at the officers. One officer discharged their weapon four times, and another officer discharged their firearm one time as the subject fled the scene. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all five firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On March 4, 2023, at the 400 block of Mellon Street, SE, officers responded to reports of gunshots. Upon arrival, officers were able to locate shell casings in an alley and determined it was a crime scene. One of the officers ran the tag of a vehicle parked near the alley. As they approached the police cruiser, more gunshots were heard from a nearby alley. The officer ran into the alley to assess any damages and to locate the subject discharging the weapon. The gunshots began again, and the officer, an off-duty and plain-clothed officer, observed the subject point their firearm at another individual. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the fifteen firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On May 6, 2023, on the 4200 block of 4th Street, SE, a uniformed officer heard a young subject screaming from a gated courtyard. The officer responded to the sound and observed a dog biting the subject. The officer discharged their firearm, and fatally killed the dog, ending the attack. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all five firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On July 23, 2023, at 200 Highview Place, SE, a patrol officer observed an unleashed dog attacking another dog, dragging the dog across the street. The officer attempted to separate the dogs, and the unleashed dog turned towards the officer. The officer discharged their firearm, and fatally killed the unleashed dog. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified.*

- On July 25, 2023, at the 200 block of Webster Street, NE, an MPD uniformed patrol officer responded to assist DC Animal Care and Control (DC ACC) with a dog bite complaint. The dog had knocked a subject to the ground and bitten their leg and arm earlier in the day. The dog's owner opened the front door of his residence when the DC ACC representative and officer arrived. The dog ran outside and charged towards the officer. The officer discharged his service pistol four times, fatally killing the dog. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On August 1, 2023, at the 3400 block of 13th Place, SE, officers responded to a ShotSpotter alert that detected gunshots. While canvassing on foot, officers spotted the subject with a firearm pointed at the officers. The subject discharged their weapon, and the officers discharged their weapons at the subject. One of the officers was injured during gunfire and the subject left the scene and could not be located. The weapon was not recovered. Only a rifle cartridge casing was recovered at the scene. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all three firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On August 1, 2023, at the 1700 block of Benning Road, NE, officers responded to a ShotSpotter alert and arrived at the scene. Officers spotted the subject and ordered the subject to put their hands up. The subject discharged their firearm at one of the officers. One of the officers discharged their firearm seven times towards the subject, and they ran into an apartment building. Additional officers arrived at the scene and soon arrested the subject. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all seven firearm discharges were *Justified.*

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 - 2023 UPDATE

- On August 17, 2023, at the 7400 block of Georgia Avenue, NW, an officer responded to a report about a subject near their location. The officer was able to locate the subject based on the description they were given over the radio. The officer ordered the subject to stop. The subject reached into their pocket and pulled out their firearm. The officer verbally warned the subject to drop their weapon. The subject discharged their weapon at the officer and the officer discharged their firearm eight times at the subject. The officer struck the subject, and they dropped their weapon as they fell to the ground. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the eight firearm discharges were *Justified*.

- On August 23, 2023, an officer was dispatched to a residence to make contact with a missing person. When the resident opened the door, a dog ran out and bit the officer on the stomach. The officer discharged their firearm twice, striking the dog and ending the attack. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the two firearm discharges were *Justified*.

- On October 19, 2023, at 2841 Naylor Road, SE, two officers respond to a call that a subject had a firearm. The officers arrived on the scene and were able to identify the subject based on the description that was provided. The subject ran away from the officers. The subject then discharged their weapon at the officers. While the subject and the officers were engaged in gunfire, one of the officers was struck in the back. While the subject was attempting to flee the scene, the other officer discharged their weapon and struck the subject, and the subject later succumbed to their injuries. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the fifteen firearm discharges were *Justified*.

- On December 18, 2023, at the 900 block of F Street, NW, officers made contact with a subject who was in possession of a weapon. While holding their weapon, the subject turned towards one of the officers and one of the officers discharged their firearm, striking the subject. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified*.

2024 OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES

2024 Summary of Officer-Involved Firearm Discharge Incidents

- On January 24, 2024, at the 1300 block of North Capitol Street, NW, officers were following an ambulance that was transporting a subject who recently assaulted a firefighter. The subject fled the ambulance, and one officer attempted to stop the subject. Another officer deployed OC spray before the subject ran into traffic and hid underneath a truck. The subject crawled out from under the truck and ran towards the officer, holding a metallic object, which the officer believed to be an edged weapon. The officer discharged their firearm six times at the subject, and they were fatally injured. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all six firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On February 9, 2024, at the 1400 block of Bangor Street, SE, MPD's Violent Crime Suppression Division (VCSD) investigators were walking through an apartment complex looking for a subject who discharged a firearm at one of the investigators. When investigators found the subject, they began running and pointed their firearm at investigators. Five VCSD investigators discharged their firearms at the subject, and the individual suffered two non-fatal gunshot wounds. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all twenty-five firearm discharges from the five officers were *Justified.*

- On February 14, 2024, at 5032 Hanna Place SE, VCSD investigators were attempting to serve an arrest warrant at a residence. When the investigators tried to make entry, the subject discharged their firearm multiple times through the door and struck three of the investigators. As they retreated to cover, a sergeant discharged his firearm multiple times towards the door. After a barricade was established, investigators negotiated with the subject, and they surrendered themselves to law enforcement. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all fourteen firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On March 25, 2024, on the 800 block of 49th Street, NE, two officers responded to a call to respond to the Sixth District station. As the officers exited the station, they were approached by an individual who stated that a child was being mauled by a dog. The officers arrived at the scene to see two children harmed and another woman screaming in pain while being attacked by the dog. The dog was latched onto the woman's arm and was aggressively biting her, while another dog close by was barking at her. One of the officers drew their firearm and discharged the firearm at the dog that was attacking the woman. The other officer deployed their OC spray to scare the other dog away. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified.*

- On March 27, 2024, at Rt. 301 (Crane Hwy) & Trade Zone Avenue, MD, an off-duty lieutenant was in uniform and driving a marked take-home vehicle, when he decided to check on a Maryland State Trooper who was handling a hit-and-run. The trooper described the subject to the lieutenant and the subject approached the lieutenant's car with a knife. The lieutenant requested back up from Prince George's (PG) County police officers, but by the time officers arrived the subject was walking away and no longer holding the weapon. The subject turned around and flashed his knife to the officers. A PG County officer deployed an ECD, but it did not stop the subject. The lieutenant discharged their firearm at the subject and fatally injured them. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified.*

- On March 27, 2024, at 4501 Clermont Drive, NW, an officer was notified that a dog in someone's apartment was trying to harm an infant. A woman at the residence was holding a knife and yelling for officers to assist with the situation. When the officer slightly opened the door they noticed the dog sitting by the door. The officer discharged their firearm, and the dog ran away to an enclosed balcony. The woman who lived at the residence used the knife to fatally stab the dog. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified.*

- On April 1, 2024, at the 2100 block of Bladensburg Road, NE, VCSD investigators noticed one subject pointing a firearm at an individual. The subject fled the scene and tried to throw the weapon away but picked it back up and pointed it at the investigators. One of the investigators discharged their firearm at the subject and the subject ran away with the weapon in their hand. The subject threw the weapon, and it hit the side of a building before falling to the ground. The subject picked up the weapon and pointed it at investigators again. The investigators then discharged their firearms before taking the subject into custody. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all twelve firearm discharges were *Justified.*

2024 OFFICER-INVOLVED FIREARM DISCHARGES

- On April 25, 2024, at 3637 11th Street, NW, officers responded to a possible stabbing. When officers arrived at a residence, they noticed that the window was broken. Officers walked down an alley to check the back of the residence. As the officers were walking, two dogs pushed open an unsecured gate and charged towards them. One of the officers discharged their firearm three times and fatally injured both animals. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On May 18, 2024, at 2400 Virginia Avenue, NW, one sergeant and one officer responded to a call from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), stating someone was experiencing a mental health crisis. The DBH staff determined that the subject should be involuntarily committed to a mental health treatment facility, to receive a psychological evaluation. While the officer and sergeant tried to secure the subject, the subject resisted. After a struggle to get the subject in handcuffs, the subject pulled out a knife and slashed the officer's neck. The sergeant discharged an ECD, but it did not incapacitate the subject. As the subject began moving towards the sergeant with the knife in their hand, the sergeant discharged their firearm nine times and injured the subject. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On August 6, 2024, at 4020 Minnesota Avenue, NE, detectives arrived at a residence to follow up with a criminal investigation. Detectives made contact with an individual who was a non-resident and asked that their dog be secured before entering. The individual opened the door and the dog bit one of the detective's shoes. After the officer was able to shake the dog off, it turned its attention to the second detective. Out of fear the dog might attack again, the second detective fired one round and fatally injured the dog. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Justified.*

- On August 28, 2024, at I-295 South (at Kenilworth & Quarles NE), a subject fled from VCSD investigators and discarded a pistol in a storm drain before getting on a motorcycle and fleeing the scene. One of the investigators attempted to recover the firearm that was in the storm drain and was fatally wounded. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharge was *Not Justified.*

- On September 1, 2024, at 2529 Marion Barry Avenue, SE, two officers responded to a call about a vehicle that struck a building. The subject fell asleep behind the wheel and collided with the building, with a pistol in his lap. When the subject woke up, officers approached the vehicle and instructed him to put his hands up and not to touch their gun. The subject grabbed one officer's gun with one hand, grabbed his pistol, and lifted them both into the air. Both officers discharged their firearms, and the subject was fatally injured. One officer discharged their firearm once and the other discharged their firearm nine times. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On October 15, 2024, at 1008 Hobbs Drive, Silver Spring, MD, an off-duty officer was disassembling their service pistol to clean it but the pistol was not properly unloaded. The officer pressed the trigger while the gun was loaded and the firearm discharged once, striking the officer's finger. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that firearm discharge was *Not Justified.*

- October 20, 2024, at 2339 25th Street, SE, officers arrived at a residence where the subject was experiencing a medical emergency and needed to be hospitalized. While the officers were in the process of completing an FD-12, a dog was in a nearby cage but escaped and chased an officer down the stairs and out into the courtyard. The officer pointed the firearm at the dog and discharged it four times, fatally injuring the animal. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that all firearm discharges were *Justified.*

- On December 11, 2024, at 6713 Piney Branch Road, NW, officers were responding to a domestic dispute when they heard someone yelling for help from inside the residence. As officers unlocked the door, a pitbull ran out and bit one of the officer's sleeve/arm. The officer discharged their firearm once and the dog ran away. When the dog circled back and charged at the officers, the other officer discharged four rounds and fatally injured the dog. The UFRB concurred with IAD's recommendation that the firearm discharges were *Justified.*

NECK RESTRAINTS

UFRB Determinations- Neck Restraints[60]

General Order 901.07 states that "Asphyxiating restraints and neck restraints are prohibited restraint techniques pursuant to DC Official Code § 5-125.03."[61] In December 2022 the DC Council passed DC Law 24-0345, Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022, which amended the definition of neck restraints and stated that the use of neck restraints constitutes excessive force. The new legislation also redefined neck restraints as "the use of any body part or object by a law enforcement officer against a person with the purpose, intent, or effect of controlling or restricting the person's airway or severely restricting the person's breathing, except in cases where the law enforcement officer is acting in good faith to provide medical care or treatment, such as by providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation; or the placement of a person by a law enforcement officer in a position in which that person's airway is restricted."[62, 63] The legislation applied the amended definition retroactively, so the Use of Force Review Board began reexamining all previous neck restraint allegations that fell under its jurisdiction. This reexamination is still ongoing. Because of this, the number of determinations issued by UFRB with respect to neck restraints increased significantly from the 9 cases it reviewed in 2022. What follows is a summary of the determinations for the reexamined cases and new cases from 2024.

- In 2024, UFRB issued 36 determinations regarding 29 new neck restraint incidents that took place. Of these neck restraints, 4 were *Not Justified*, 11 were determined to have *Insufficient Facts*, and 21 concluded that the neck restraint allegation was *Unfounded*.

- On May 31, 2023, an officer was assisting another officer at the Third District's cellblock with a subject. The officer inadvertently touched the back of the prisoner's neck during the incident. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion and found the neck restraint during this incident was *Not Justified*.

- On June 11, 2023, an officer received a call to assist other officers with a domestic dispute. While conducting an investigation, officers determined which subject was going to be handcuffed. Once the subject was handcuffed, the officers began searching the subject's backpack. The subject was actively resistant and pulled away from the officers, causing both the subject and the arresting officer to fall to the ground. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that there were *Insufficient Facts* regarding the alleged the neck restraint

- On August 25, 2023, an officer responded to a call that another officer needed assistance. The subject was using a blunt object to break windows and was visibly irate. The officer tried to verbally calm down the subject but that made them more upset. The subject became assaultive and attempted to harm the officer. The officer grabbed the subject's arm and lowered them to the ground to handcuff them. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that the neck restraint allegation was *Unfounded*.

- On September 22, 2023, an officer received a call to assist officers with a subject. The officer stepped in to help the other officers restrain the suspect's left arm. The officer used hand controls to adjust the suspect's left shoulder and back, so they could be placed in handcuffs. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that there were *Insufficient Facts* regarding the alleged the neck restraint.

- On September 25, 2023, an officer had to de-escalate a fight amongst 15-20 people in a local grocery store. The officer spread their arms out in order to separate the subjects from fighting each other. While attempting to separate them, the officer touched one of the subject's necks. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion and found the neck restraint during this incident was *Not Justified*.

- On October 16, 2023, an officer responded to a call to assist with an aggravated assault, but the subject was unable to be found. Officers were able to identify the subject and notified them they would be arrested. The subject resisted arrest and attempted to flee but fell to the ground. Officers used OC spray to incapacitate the subject, and they were placed in handcuffs. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that the neck restraint allegation was *Unfounded*.

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

NECK RESTRAINTS

- On October 28, 2023, officers responded to a call about an assault that occurred. While looking for the suspect, a fight broke out amongst the crowd, and the officers in the area stepped in to de-escalate the situation. An officer witnessed a subject fall to the ground and get back up to attack another individual. To keep them separated, the officer inadvertently touched the back of the subject's neck while trying to redirect them. The subject was treated for any injuries they received that evening. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that there were *Insufficient Facts* regarding the alleged the neck restraint.

- On November 1, 2023, officers responded to a request to serve a CPO on behalf of the DC Superior Court. Officers discovered that the subject had two open warrants and notified them when they arrived at their residence. The subject began resisting arrest and officers had to use tactical takedowns to handcuff him. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that there were *Insufficient Facts* regarding the alleged the neck restraint.

- On December 13, 2023, an officer received a call about a subject throwing objects in a pharmacy. The officers used hand controls to detain the subject to place them under arrest. One of the officers placed their hand on the subject's head twice, while attempting to arrest them. After being arrested, the subject remained combative and kicked the officers while they waited for medical personnel to arrive. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that the neck restraint allegation was *Unfounded.*

- On January 14, 2024, an officer responded to a call about a second sighting in reference to a domestic violence dispute. Officers arrived at the scene and notified the subject that they would be arrested. The subject attempted to escape but one of the officer used a tactical takedown to arrest the subject. One of the officers unintentionally placed both of their hands on the subjects neck during the takedown. The UFRB concurred with IAD's conclusion that the neck restraint allegations were *Unfounded.*

ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE (ECD) DEPLOYMENTS

Overview

In 2024, the UFRB made 15 determinations regarding ECD deployments in 10 cases. The final determinations the UFRB made are listed below:

- Thirteen ECD deployments were determined *Justified;*
- Two were determined *Not Justified;*

An Electronic Control Device (ECD) is a device designed primarily to discharge electrical charges into a subject that will cause involuntary muscle contractions and override the subject's voluntary motor responses.[64] Currently, ECDs can only be used by MPD sergeants or higher ranked officers who have completed department-approved ECD training. ECD's may be used when a subject is categorized as a threatening assailant, meaning they are likely to harm themselves or MPD personnel, while an incident is taking place.[65] In 2023, the UFRB reviewed ten ECD deployment cases, and in 2024 the number of ECD deployment cases was also ten. Three out of the ten cases involved negligent ECD discharges.

Examples of 2024 UFRB Determinations for ECD Deployments

Most ECD deployments in 2024 were considered *Justified,* and most of the incidents included subjects who were categorized as threatening assailants or had an object in their possession that could be used as a weapon. In one incident, a sergeant responded to a call about an armed robbery. The subject became assaultive towards the officers, and as the subject approached them, the sergeant deployed their ECD. The use of an ECD in this incident was considered *Justified.* In another incident where the use of an ECD was *Justified*, officers received a call about a subject who was inebriated while holding a knife. It was apparent the subject was also experiencing a mental health crisis and was a danger to themselves. The subject threatened to harm themselves and officers deployed an ECD. There are ECD incidents where an initial determination is issued to an officer but after reviewing the case, the officer is either issued a new determination or has the initial determination sustained. For example, there was an incident where a subject was implicated in a robbery, and they ignored verbal instructions from law enforcement and became assaultive towards the officers and a sergeant. The sergeant deployed the ECD and while trying to remove the cartridge from the subject, they mistakenly sent an additional charge to the subject. The incident was initially considered *Justified*, but was reviewed again by the IAD, and the initial determination was *Sustained.* An example where ECD deployment was ruled *Not Justified* occurred during an incident when officers were notified about a stabbing. When officers arrived, the subject was actively using a knife to harm themselves. To prevent the subject from harming themselves any further, one sergeant deployed one ECD at the subject. The initial ECD deployment was ineffective so the sergeant deployed a second ECD at the subject. The second ECD deployment immobilized the subject but they began resisting when officers tried to handcuff them. The sergeant deployed a third ECD cycle to immobilize the subject. Only the third and final ECD deployment was considered *Not Justified.* In another incident, an officer was called to assist a subject experiencing a mental health crisis. Once the subject revealed they had a knife and made threats to the officers, the officer deployed one ECD at the subject. As officers began to handcuff the subject, the subject ignored the officers' commands and began to resist arrest. The sergeant deployed three more ECD cycles and successfully incapacitated the subject. Only the fourth and last ECD deployment cycle was considered *Not Justified.*

64: Metropolitan Police Department's General Order RAR-901.04: "Less Lethal Weapons." Available here
65: Metropolitan Police Department General Order RAR-901-07: "Use of Force." Metropolitan Police Department; 28 March 2024. Available here

UFRB RECOMMENDATIONS TO MPD

The UFRB also makes recommendations based on the cases they review. In 2024, the UFRB made the following recommendation to MPD.

1. The UFRB recommended that the Policy and Standards Branch review and make recommendations as it relates to General Order 901.07 (Use of Force) and General Order General Order 901.04 (Less Lethal Weapons). Specifically, the UFRB recommended that Part (II), subsection E, section 6, d, of General Order 901.04, be incorporated into the Use of Force General Order 901.07.

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 the 2021 Use of Force Report. The 2021 recommendation has since been combined with the 2020 recommendation as there is overlap. In the 2023 Use of Force Report, OPC made two new recommendations and will not be providing recommendations in the 2024 Use of Force Report. 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 2024 Use of Force Report to determine the extent to which the recommendations were 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 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, or 2019 Use of Force Reports.[66] Further, recommendations that have been fully implemented are not included in the updates. Refer to pages 50-52 for a table with a timeline of the recommendations and their implementation status.

66: 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

2023[67] Recommendations Update

Of the two recommendations OPC made in 2023, MPD has:

- **Not implemented** two recommendations

1. MPD should re-administer the mandated Use of Force Training to all officers who receive sustained allegations of unnecessary or excessive force.

Status according to MPD as of June 2025[68]

AGREE, IN PROGRESS

MPD agrees that officers found by the Use of Force Review Board (UFRB) to have engaged in unjustified or excessive force should receive follow-up training in the form of an individualized scene review conducted by the Metropolitan Police Academy. Scene reviews allow tailored discussion and instruction based on the specifics of the use of force incident.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC is encouraged that MPD continues to conduct individualized scene reviews for officers who have sustained allegations of unnecessary or excessive force. However, the data indicates this strategy alone has not resulted in the desired outcome. The data clearly shows that there was an increase in sustained allegations of unnecessary or excessive force between 2023 and 2024. OPC will not consider this recommendation fully implemented until MPD incorporates remedial or alternative training for officers with sustained allegations to prevent them from engaging in additional unnecessary or excessive use of force incidents in the future.

2. MPD should review and re-assess its firearms training program to improve accuracy and reduce the number of missed targets by officers when they discharge their firearms.

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

AGREE IN PART, IN PROGRESS

MPD will review our firearms training program to ensure it continues to meet national best practices. MPD provides comprehensive firearms training to our officers during recruit training and requires mandatory firearms requalification twice a year. We train to ensure that our officers are as proficient as possible when faced with deadly force situations. However, deadly force encounters are incredibly rare, with the vast majority of officers never discharging their firearm during their career. Incidents where an assailant is threatening an officer's life or the lives of others are complex, high-stress, and rapidly changing life-and-death situations. For this reason, MPD officer-involved shootings receive the utmost scrutiny by our UFRB, including a review to determine whether each bullet discharged was justified and objectively reasonable based on the circumstances.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented**. In 2023 MPD officers had a mere 28% rate of accuracy when discharging their firearms at human subjects, and in 2024, the accuracy rate decreased to 15%. The extremely low accuracy rate strongly suggests a need for improved firearms training among MPD officers. OPC encourages MPD to re-evaluate their firearm training program because low firearms accuracy rate could also potentially result in civil liability for the department and the District from any resulting lawsuits stemming from injuries to human beings or damage to property caused by inaccurate firearms discharges. OPC will consider this recommendation fully implemented when MPD restructures their firearm training and when the accuracy rate increases.

67: For more detailed information on the recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the 2023 Use of Force Report. Available here

68: All responses attributed to MPD, throughout this report, are verbatim as received from the department.

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

2022[69] Recommendations Update

Of the two recommendations OPC made in 2022, MPD has:

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

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

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

DISAGREE

As noted in our previous response, MPD policy provides clear guidance on when the pointing of a firearm may be appropriate and how incidents should be evaluated by managers. GO 901.07 (Use of Force), Part II.A.8.f. states, in part, "Members shall only point a firearm at a subject when circumstances create a reasonable belief that it may be immediately necessary for the member to use deadly force." All "pointing" incidents are reviewed by a supervisor, including body-worn camera recordings, to ensure they comply with MPD policy. MPD disagrees that any additional policy guidance is necessary at this time.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. On March, 28, 2024, 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. 10, Part II.D.1). The revised order contains the same language from the 2022 revision clarifying that the pointing of a weapon is a use of force that requires supervisory review. While OPC acknowledges that this is a step in the right direction, MPD has yet to specify exactly where in the prescribed force used framework pointing a firearm falls. Currently, MPD's force hierarchy shows that the pointing of a firearm falls somewhere between a tactical takedown and OC spray. According to MPD's Use of Force framework, tactical takedowns and the use of OC spray are classified as compliance techniques, yet MPD never specifically defines whether or not pointing of a firearm is a compliance technique.

OPC encourages MPD to consider where in the prescribed use of force 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.

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

N/A

MPD has filled all positions of the UFRB that are under our control.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented**. As of June 17, 2025, the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments has posted vacancies for citizens to be appointed to the Use of Force Review Board but has not posted vacancies for citizens to be appointed by the Council. OPC continues to encourage the importance for MPD to work with the Mayor's Office and the DC Council to fill any additional vacancies on the Use of Force Review Board as soon as possible.

69: For more detailed information on the recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the 2022 Use of Force Report. Available here

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

2020[70] 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.[71]

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

AGREE IN PART, ONGOING

We remain open to discuss any recommendations OPC may provide on addressing this issue. As noted in our previous responses, while MPD is 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 alone.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented**. OPC acknowledges that the issue of racial disparities and police contact in the District is complex and cannot be completely solved by the department alone. However, the extensive discriminatory history of policing and its contribution to modern disparities should not be ignored. In 2023, The Lab published the "Sample Learning Agendas and Measurement Guide,"[72] which points 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." The existence of these disparities in the District were apparently confirmed after the initial publication of the 2017 Use of Force Report. In 2017, Black residents represented 48% of the District's population, while White residents represented 36%.[73] As of 2024, the percentage of Black residents in the District has dropped to 44%, while the percentage of White residents has slightly increased to 38%.[74] Although the percentage of Black residents in District has slowly decreased, they represented 89% of subjects reported in use of force incidents in 2024. From 2017 to 2024, the percentage of White subjects reported in use of force incidents has decreased from 7% [75] to 6%.[76] In 2023 the Sixth and Seventh Districts accounted for 43% of all use of force incidents, and in 2024 they accounted for 43% of all use of force incidents again. These districts also correspond to Wards 7 and 8, which both have about 82% and 83% Black residents, respectively.[77] The data appears to support the fact that there is a cyclical relationship between the outside societal forces and the police department where policing may be different among underserved communities. OPC will consider this recommendation fully implemented when the racial disparities in subjects of force have been significantly reduced or disappeared altogether.

70: For more detailed information on the recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the 2022 Use of Force Report. Available here

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

72: The Sample Learning Agendas and Measurement Guide paper referenced by OPC can be found here

73: For more detailed information on the 2017 demographics of subject reported in use of force incidents please see the 2017 Use of Force Report. Available here

74: For more detailed information on the 2024 demographics of subject reported in use of force incidents please see the chart on page 23

75: For more detailed information on the 2017 demographics of subject reported in use of force incidents please see the 2017 Use of Force Report. Available here

76: For more detailed information on the 2024 demographics of subject reported in use of force incidents please see the chart on page 23

77: More detailed information about Ward 7 and Ward 8 can be found here

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

2018[78] Recommendations Update

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 June 2025

AGREE IN PART, ONGOING

We understand that OPC will examine this recommendation each year. As noted in previous reports, MPD will continue to seek out tools and training to reduce the use of unnecessary force whenever possible. However, officers will, when lawful and appropriate, continue to be in situations that require the minimum amount of force necessary to effectively bring an incident or person under control.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC continues to recognize 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. In 2024, there was a 6% increase in uses of force and an 11% increase in use of force incidents compared to 2023. In 2023 there was a 9% increase in uses of force and an 11% increase in use of force incidents as compared to 2022. During this time period there was a 15% decrease in overall crime in the District.[79] As crime continues to decrease in the District, the number of use of force incidents and uses of force should also decrease. In 2021 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 officials' 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 from the UFRB, along with the increased number of use of force incidents and increased number of officers involved in use of force incidents; has given OPC the impression that there are gaps in the training provided to the officers who are statistically most likely to use force.

As mentioned in previous reports, OPC recognizes that the number of uses of force each year is not completely within MPD's control. OPC understands that it is unreasonable to expect 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 examined in each subsequent Use of Force Report and the status may change based on trends in uses of force, use of force incidents and crime.

78: For more detailed information on the recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the 2018 Use of Force Report. Available here

79: Crime data can be found here.

OPC RECOMMENDATIONS

2017 Recommendations Update[80]

Of the 8 recommendations OPC made in 2017[81], MPD has:

- **Fully Implemented** five recommendations;
- **Partially implemented** two recommendations; and
- **Not implemented** one recommendation

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

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

AGREE, COMPLETE

MPD has added neck restraints as an option to the FIR and will ensure all data fields are exported to the PPMS data Excel sheet. Subject age and race were included in the 2024 data submitted to OPC. To the extent that OPC has any additional concerns based on their review of 2024 use of force data, we will be happy to discuss further.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. OPC did receive PPMS data where information regarding the subject, such as age or race, was included. However, after reviewing the 2023 and 2024 data to ensure this field is accurately exported, there is still information that is not being imported properly to PPMS data. For example, the subject's date of birth being listed in the FIR but their age is not listed or calculated in the PPMS. Another example is neck restraints appearing in PPMS but not appearing in the FIRs. MPD continues to show improvement but should continue to strive for increased accuracy.

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

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

AGREE, COMPLETE

MPD requires supervisory review of all FIRs and will continue to ensure the utmost accuracy of our data. However, for the reasons outlined in our previous response, we disagree with OPC's measure for this recommendation that PPMS and FIR data must match in all cases. Information captured on the FIR and in PPMS incident summary module is captured by different people, at different times, and for different purposes.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **fully implemented**. OPC appreciates that MPD has taken the time to implement this recommendation because it ensures that the FIRs are reviewed for completeness and will include accurate information and narratives surrounding an incident.

80: For more detailed information on the 2017 recommendations and correspondence between MPD and OPC please see the 2017 Use of Force Report. Available here

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

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

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

AGREE IN PART, COMPLETE

To the extent that OPC has any additional concerns based on their review of 2024 use of force data, we will be happy to discuss further.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **partially implemented**. As mentioned in previous years, OPC was not recommending officers complete a FIR anytime they put their hands on an arrestee. OPC merely recommended that MPD clarify their definition of contact controls and categorize them appropriately on FIRs. On January 1, 2022, MPD clarified that hand controls fall within the category of control holds. Based on 2024 use of force data, MPD officers continued to categorize hand controls/control holds as compliance techniques and not as control holds. OPC will continue to monitor this recommendation over the next year through the use of force data and 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 FIR immediately following a use of force incident.

Status according to MPD as of June 2025

DISAGREE

MPD continues to disagree with this recommendation for the reasons previously stated. Officers retain their constitutional rights and cannot be compelled to provide a statement regarding a use of force (including a FIR or other report) until they have been issued a Reverse-Garrity by the department or a declination to prosecute from the United States Attorney's Office.

OPC Response:

OPC considers this recommendation **not implemented.** OPC's stance remains that MPD officers should complete a Force Incident Report (FIR immediately following all uses of force. MPD continues to rely on Reverse-Garrity and USAO declination as their primary justification for not implementing this recommendation. However, federal courts have made it clear that routine paperwork and FIRs are not compelled statements under *Garrity v. State of New Jersey.*[82] Consequently, MPD is not legally required to issue Reverse-Garrity or receive a declination notice from the USAO in order to ensure that its members complete the proper forms to adequately and contemporaneously memorialize use of force incidents.

Requiring officers to complete FIRs immediately following all use of force incidents will ensure officers are contemporaneously and accurately 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 and are thus potentially rendered unreliable due to the passage of time, inaccurate recollection, or loss of memory. Requiring officers to complete a FIR shortly after an incident has occurred will allow them to more accurately describe their uses of force and the behavior of subjects during the events leading up to the incident. This recommendation will not be considered fully implemented until MPD requires members to complete a FIR immediately following all uses of force.

82: More detailed information about Garrity v. State of New Jersey is available here

RECOMMENDATIONS

	Policy	Status as of 2020 Report	Status as of 2021 Report	Status as of 2022 Report	Status as of 2023 Report	Status as of 2024 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	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
2	MPD should eliminate the Reportable Incident Form (901-g)	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
3	MPD should collect all use of force data electronically	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented
4	MPD should increase the amount of information captured in the UFIR	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	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	Partially Implemented	Fully Implemented
5A	MPD should make essential fields of the UFIR/RIF electronically mandatory	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	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	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented
7	MPD should resume collection of data from firearm discharge incidents	Partially Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented

RECOMMENDATIONS

	Policy	Status as of 2020 Report	Status as of 2021 Report	Status as of 2022 Report	Status as of 2023 Report	Status as of 2024 Report
8	MPD should require all officers to complete a UFIR immediately following a use of force incident	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented	Not Implemented
9	MPD should correctly label fist strikes in PPMS	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	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	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented
11	MPD should reduce the upward trend of use of force incidents	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented	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	Not Implemented	Not Implemented
13	Pointing of Firearm as Use of Force	N/A	Fully Implemented	Fully Implemented	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	Partially Implemented	Partially Implemented
15	Implement the UFRB voting member provisions of General Order 901.07	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Implemented	Not Implemented

RECOMMENDATIONS

	Policy	Status as of 2020 Report	Status as of 2021 Report	Status as of 2022 Report	Status as of 2023 Report	Status as of 2024 Report
16	MPD should provide follow-up training to members who have engaged in unjustified or excessive force.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Partially Implemented
17	MPD should re-assess its firearms training program to improve accuracy when discharging firearms	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Implemented

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

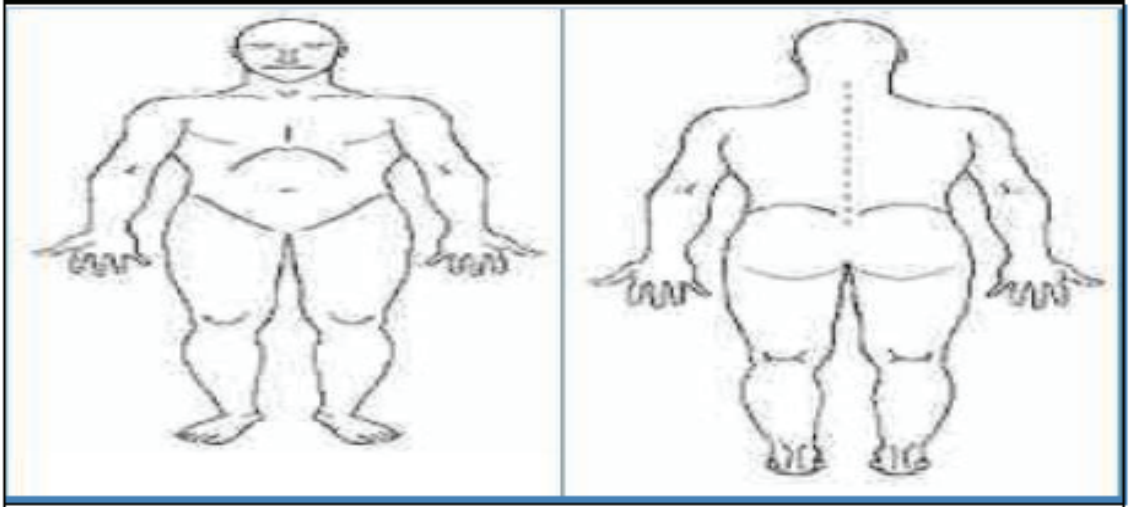
Incident Date	Incident Time	Date of Report	Time of Report
CCN	**District of Incident**	**PSA of Incident**	**Other Jurisdiction**
Street Address of Incident			
Lighting Conditions		**Ground Conditions**	

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 :		

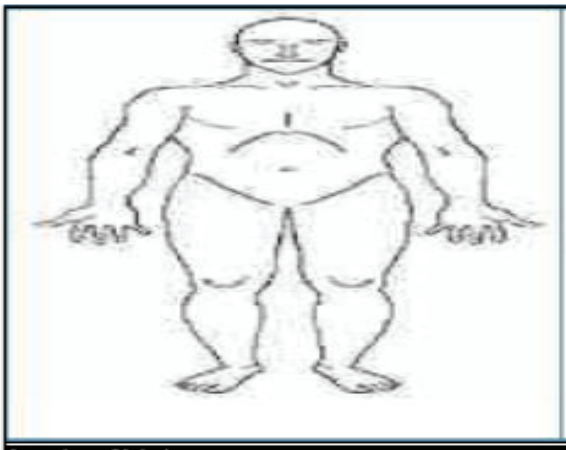
SUBJECT - 1			
Is Subject Unknown?		If yes, Age Range	
Name		Address	
DOB	Sex	Race/Ethnicity	SSN
Phone	Height	Weight	
CCN	Arrest Number	Charges	

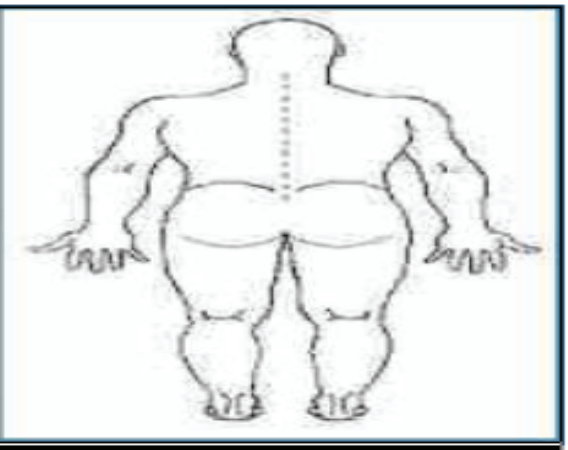
SUBJECT'S ACTION & ACTIVITY	
Subject Activity	Other Subject Activity (if any)
Subject Action	
Impairment	

FORCE INFORMATION (Used on Subject)		
Specific Type of Force used on Subject	If other specific type of force used,	
Category of Force		Firearm Information

SUBJECT WEAPON INFORMATION			
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

SUBJECT INJURY	
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?		
F. PROPERTY DAMAGE		
Was the property damaged as the result of the Use of Force?		If Yes, Described below
G. MEMBER NARRATIVE		
H. OTHER OBSERVATIONS NARRATIVE		
I. OTHER COMPLAINTS NARRATIVE		
H. REVIEW		
Member Signature		Date
Supervisor Signature		Date
Watch Commander Signature		Date

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

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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