



# Force and Tactics Assessment Unit



# 2019 Annual Use of Force Report

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# Department Message

At no point in our history has the documentation and study of use of force by police been more critical to evaluating how we can best serve our community. The Arlington Police Department values and respects all human life, and strives to serve and protect the citizens of our community with the utmost courtesy and professionalism. We also recognize that in serving, our officers place themselves in harm's way, and at times they must take certain actions to defend both the public and themselves. The use of force is the most significant and consequential decision an officer can make and it has a profound impact on the community they are serving. The department places a high priority on giving officers the training, tools, and resources that will put them in the best position to responsibly make these often split-second decisions.

All sworn employees are required to attend a minimum of 40 hours of in-service training each year.

Topics include defensive tactics, firearms, rescue task force (which is the integration of medical staff with officers responding to an active shooter situation), tactical medicine, and de-escalation techniques. Through training and discussion, the department recognizes that de-escalation is a key component of use of force, which aligns with our organizational priority to look for innovative approaches to deal with non-compliant individuals in an effort to reduce or eliminate use of force occurrences. Our department strives to provide excellent service to our community in a procedurally just and fair manner.

The department regularly reviews and evaluates use of force policies to determine if improvements can and should be made. We are nationally recognized for our practices as they relate to tracking data to show when and how officers use force, whether the force was legally applied, and whether it adhered to department policies. In 2017, the department created a Force and Tactics Assessment Unit to review all use of force incidents by officers, and to ensure the department's use of force policy is aligned with industry best practices and current court decisions. Beginning in 2019, we switched from paper reporting to an electronic reporting system to document use of force incidents

which allows for more timely reviews of those incidents, as well as improved analysis of use of force data that helps steer department policy.

We remain committed to an open and transparent dialogue with the community, so that citizens gain a better understanding of what the department is doing to mitigate use of force occurrences. Effective public reporting of use of force incidents is a key aspect of that strategy.



# Summary

This summary provides details related to how the Arlington Police Department (APD) reports and tracks use of force by officers. A Use of Force (UOF) Incident is a singular event where one or more officers utilize one or more types of force applications. A UOF Occurrence happens during a UOF Incident each time an officer applies any type of force which is reportable by policy. For example, if two officers both point their firearm at a felony suspect armed with a knife, that would constitute two UOF Occurrences (pointed firearm) but only one UOF Incident.

## 2019 Use of Force Report Highlights

- APD responded to 298,210 Total Calls for Service, a 4.6% decrease from 2018.
- 1,131 UOF Incidents.
- 1,636 subjects were involved in UOF Incidents.
- 3,860 UOF Occurrences.
- Two UOF Occurrences involved an animal.
- Only 0.4% of the Calls for Service resulted in a reportable UOF incident. That is just under four (3.8) incidents of force for every 1,000 Calls for Service.
- *Firearm – Pointed and Firearm – Drew* were the most frequently used UOF applications, 62.9% of the total UOF Occurrences combined.
- There were 3 incidents in which an officer(s) discharged a firearm at a subject.
- In 2019, the department also began to capture two new UOF categories, *CEW – Pointed and CEW – Drew*, ensuring consistency with APD’s reporting of *Firearm – Pointed and Firearm – Drew*.

## Use of Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW, i.e., Taser) Highlights

In 2018, the Force and Tactics Assessment Unit (FTAU) recommended a UOF policy modification, which elevated the CEW on the APD force continuum, based on the resistance level required before the CEW (Taser) was authorized to be discharged at a subject to “Assaultive Resistance or higher, or to address an immediate safety threat to any person(s)...”. This policy change resulted in a significant drop in the use of the CEW (Taser). In addition to adopting the new policy, focused training from the FTAU occurred during recruit and In-Service training, further emphasizing the UOF policy change.

- In 2017, the department had 156 occurrences in which the CEW (Taser) was discharged at a subject.
- In 2018, CEW (Taser) discharges decreased to 76 occurrences.
- In 2019, the number of CEW (Taser) discharges decreased even further to 43 occurrences (one of which involved an animal), a 72.4% reduction compared to 2017. This category accounts for 1.1% of all force used in 2019.

1,131 Use of Force Incidents

1,636 Subjects, which includes two Animals, involved in Use of Force Incidents

3,860 Use of Force Occurrences

120,717 Dispatched Calls for Service

60,278 Self Generated Calls

117,215 Traffic Stops

298,210 Total Calls for Service  
4.6% Decrease from 2018

3.8 Incidents of Force for every 1,000 Calls for Service

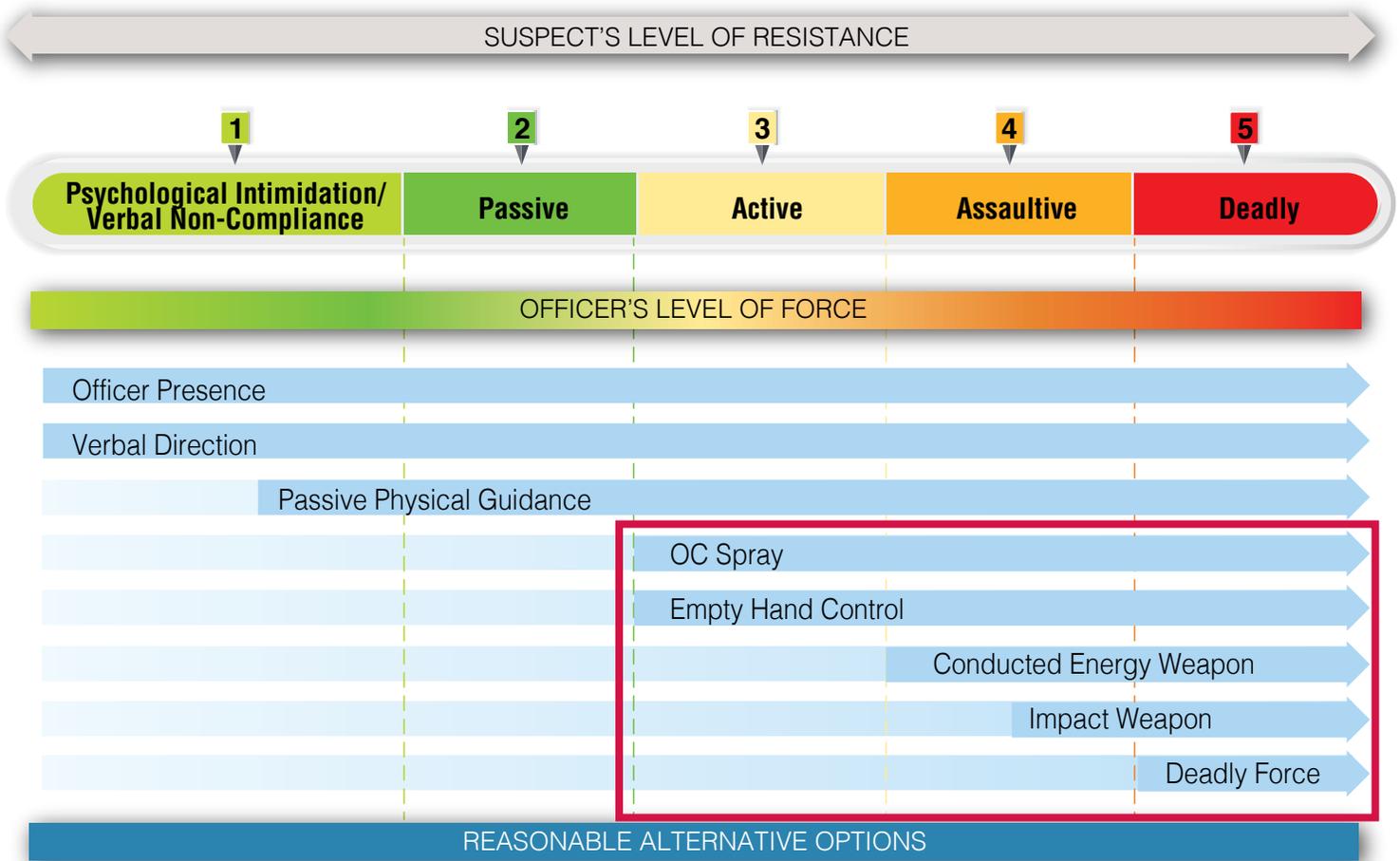
3 Incidents of Firearms being Discharged at Subjects

42 Incidents of CEW (Taser) Discharged at a Subject

1 Incident of CEW Discharge at Animal

72.4% Decrease Since 2017

# Totality of Circumstances Model

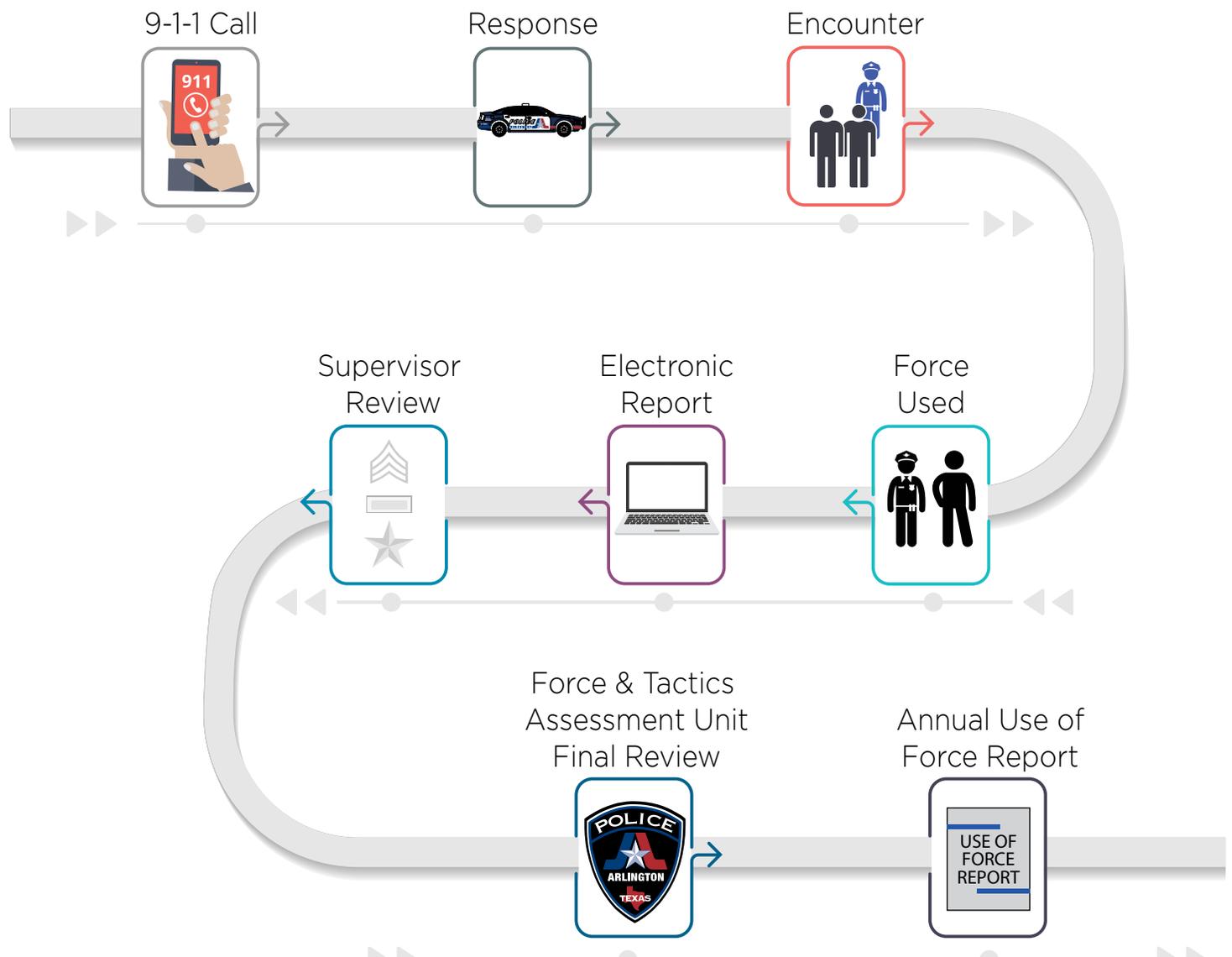


# Workflow of a Use of Force Report

Example: Officers respond to an Armed Robbery Call and make a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle with two individuals that are reported to be armed. Four officers conduct a high-risk traffic stop on the vehicle. All officers point their duty weapons at both occupants inside the car and give them loud verbal commands to exit the vehicle. They handcuff both occupants and only arrest the driver based upon their investigation. The passenger was released.

A Use of Force Report is required based upon officers pointing their firearms and handcuffing the two suspects. Under Arlington's Use of Force Reporting, this incident would be counted as nine occurrences of force and one incident. It breaks down in the following manner: Four officers pointing their weapons at two suspects (eight occurrences), and handcuffing and releasing one of the suspects (one occurrence), equates one incident.

There is then a multi-level supervisory review that occurs, including reviewing all dash camera video and body-worn camera footage to ensure officers complied with all policies and expectations of the department.



# APD Policy on Reporting Force

The Arlington Police Department requires employees who use force to document the force usage on a Use of Force Report. This is in accordance with standards established by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and as a matter of good community-based policing.

CALEA Standard 4.2.1 states, in part, *A written report is submitted whenever an employee:*

- a. *Discharges a firearm for other than training or recreational purposes;*
- b. *Takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person;*
- c. *Applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons; or*
- d. *Applies weaponless physical force at a level as defined by the agency.*

The departmental policy on reporting force is outlined in General Order 401.07.A. and 401.07.E. Specifically, the policies state:

- A. **Use of Force Report Required.** *Unless injury prevents it, before the end of the employee's shift, a Use of Force report will be submitted when an employee:*
  1. *Takes an action that results in or is alleged to have resulted in injury or death of another person;*
  2. *Applies force through the use of:*
    - a. *Empty hand control;*
    - b. *Drawing a firearm or CEW (Taser) directed at or in response to any person(s) within their presence;*
    - c. *Pointing a firearm or CEW (Taser) at any person(s);*
    - d. *Discharging a firearm or CEW (Taser) (drive stun or probe mode);*
    - e. *Handcuffing a person who is released without an arrest;*
    - f. *Oleoresin-Capsicum (OC) spray or (approved chemical irritant);*
    - g. *Impact weapon;*
    - h. *Vascular Neck Restraint;*
    - i. *Diversionsary device;*
    - j. *Apprehension by dog;*
    - k. *Any other method that a reasonable officer would believe to be reportable force but does not fit into an above listed category.*
- E. **Reporting Exception.** *Personnel assigned to a tactical operation who participated in both a pre-operation briefing and a post-operation debriefing or evaluation and whose actions were reviewed according to the procedures of the Special Operations Standard Operating Procedure are exempt from completing the Use of Force Report form.*

# DFW Area Policies on Force

UOF REPORTING STANDARDS					
TYPE OF FORCE	Arlington PD	Larger than Arlington PD		Smaller than Arlington PD	
		PD 1	PD 2	PD 3	PD 4
Apprehension by K9 without Bite	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Apprehension by K9 with Bite	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
CEW (Taser) - Discharged	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CEW (Taser) - Drew	Yes	No	No <sup>4</sup>	No	No <sup>5</sup>
CEW (Taser) - Pointed	Yes	No	No <sup>4</sup>	No	No <sup>5</sup>
Empty Hand Control	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firearm - Discharged	Yes	No / Exception <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firearm - Drew	Yes	No / Exception <sup>2</sup>	No	No	No <sup>5</sup>
Firearm - Pointed	Yes	No / Exception <sup>3</sup>	Yes	No	No <sup>5</sup>
Handcuffed Subject without Arrest	Yes	No	No	No	No
Impact Weapon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jail Restraint Chair	Yes	No	No	No	No
OC Spray	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
VNR	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Report of Occurrences	Yes	No	No	No	No

1 = No UOF report for Firearm – Discharged – IAD Investigates

2 = PD1 policy – only counted as one time regardless of number of officers drawing firearm

3 = Policy excludes reporting Firearm-Pointed on warrant service or felony traffic stop

4 = Unless activated so the arc is displayed

5 = Excludes reporting of back-up officers or when incident is captured by body-worn camera

## 2019 FBI National Use of Force Reporting\*

The Arlington Police Department is committed to transparency. As a result, we voluntarily participate in the FBI National Use of Force Data Collection program.

Reporting of force category, “Firearm - Pointed” is a national best practice and is not captured by all departments. APD exceeds the benchmark for this reporting criteria.\*

The FBI has no legal authority to mandate reporting of any Use of Force data. Submission of data is entirely voluntary.

*\*There is not a national Use of Force Standard across all agencies (except for FBI report), making comparison between cities difficult.*

# Key Analysis Points

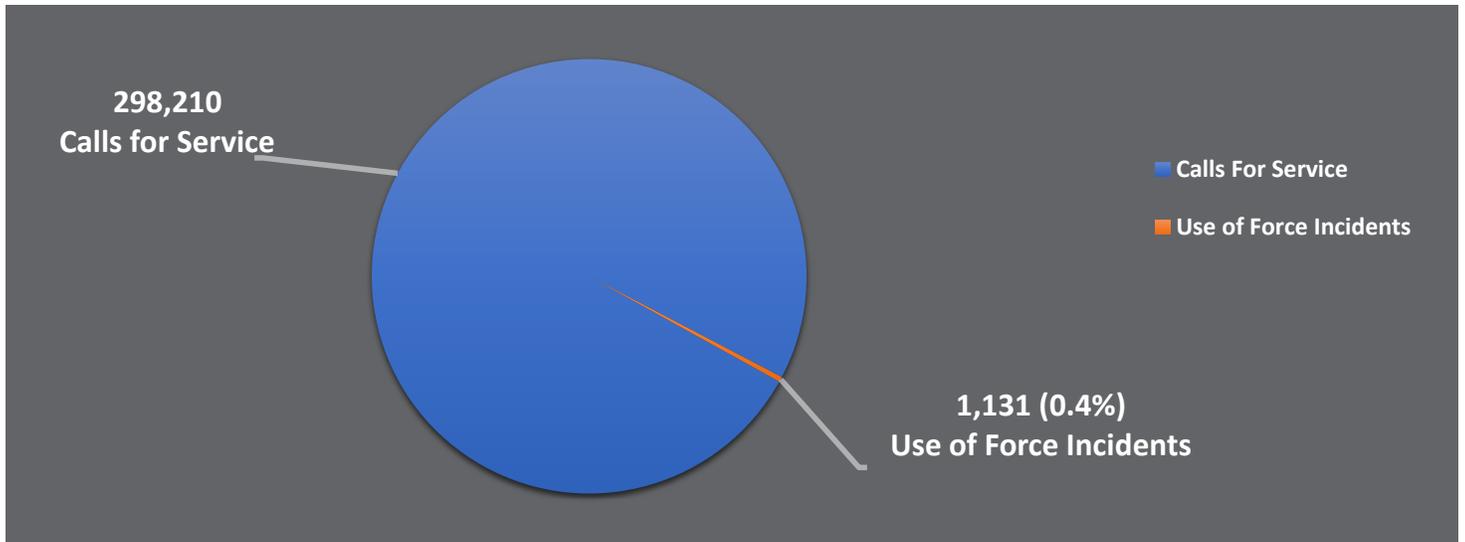
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Difference 2018-2019
Total Sworn Officers Departmentwide	631	617	649	671	673	0.3%
Total Detention Officers Departmentwide	51	44	38	41	44	7.3%
Number of Incidents	877	860	969	1,007	1,131	12.3%
Number of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used	1,790	1,197	1,307	1,384	1,636	18.2%
Number of Occurrences	2,580	2,730	3,177	3,044	3,860	26.8%

# Total Incidents by Call Type

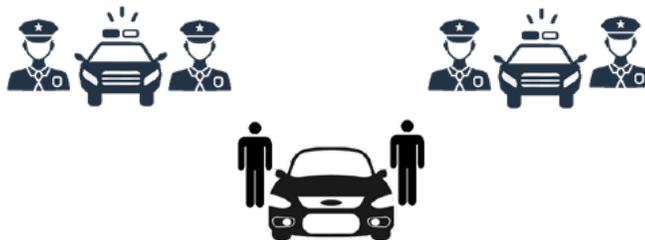
Call Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% for 2019	% Difference 2018-2019
CID Investigative Contact	*	*	*	*	14	1.2%	N/A
Dispatched Call	605	578	661	667	752	66.5%	12.7%
Jail Custody	36	24	19	16	14	1.2%	-12.5%
On-View Call	164	157	188	175	170	15.0%	-2.9%
Traffic Stop	49	74	72	86	115	10.2%	33.7%
Warrant Service	*	*	*	*	66	5.8%	N/A
Other	23	27	29	63	*	*	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12.3%</b>

\* In 2019 we began to capture CID Investigative Contact and Warrant Service. The contact category "Other" was eliminated.

# Calls for Service vs. Use of Force Incidents



## Use of Force Occurrences Example



- Bank Robbery Example
- Traffic Stop – 2 Officers in each Police Car
- 2 Suspects in Vehicle
- Passenger Handcuffed but Released
- All Officers Point Firearm at Both Suspects = 8 Occurrences
- Passenger Handcuffed but later Released = 1 Occurrence
- **TOTAL = 9 Occurrences / 1 Incident**

# Race of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used

Race of Subject	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% for 2019	% Difference 2018-2019
White Male	696	276	300	297	340	20.8%	14.5%
White Female	124	108	100	108	129	7.9%	19.4%
Black Male	518	471	473	497	587	35.9%	18.1%
Black Female	140	82	129	133	177	10.8%	33.1%
Hispanic Male	210	193	214	249	282	17.2%	13.3%
Hispanic Female	70	28	56	69	70	4.3%	1.4%
Asian Male	26	27	21	21	41	2.5%	95.2%
Asian Female	0	6	6	6	5	0.3%	-16.7%
Animal	1	4	4	1	2	0.1%	100.0%
Unable to Determine*	5	2	4	3	3	0.2%	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>

\* There are rare instances in which an officer is unable to determine the race of a subject against whom force was used. This usually involves an officer pointing or drawing a firearm in response to a subject inside a vehicle at night. In these instances, the subject drives away without further officer contact. While the officer did use force, they were unable to determine the race of the subject and/or the sex of the subject.

# Contact Category as a Percentage

Race of Subject	Felony	% of Total Contacts	Misdemeanor	% of Total Contacts	Mental	% of Total Contacts	Jail Custody	% of Total Contacts	Other	% of Total Contacts	TOTAL CONTACTS	% of Total Contacts 2019
White	208	12.7%	177	10.8%	76	4.6%	8	0.5%	0	0.0%	469	28.7%
Black	443	27.1%	282	17.2%	36	2.2%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	764	46.7%
Hispanic	167	10.2%	160	9.8%	23	1.4%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	352	21.5%
Asian	29	1.8%	14	0.9%	2	0.1%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	46	2.8%
Animal	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
Unable to Determine*	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>850</b>		<b>633</b>		<b>137</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>1,636</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# All Force Types Used by Occurrence

Type of Force	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% for 2019	% Difference 2018-2019
Apprehension by K9 without Bite	16	18	9	16	5	0.1%	-68.8%
Apprehension by K9 with Bite	2	3	2	1	0	0.0%	-100.0%
CEW (Taser) – Discharged	140	118	156	76	43	1.1%	-43.4%
CEW (Taser) – Drew	*	*	*	*	100	2.6%	N/A
CEW (Taser) – Pointed	*	*	*	*	160	4.1%	N/A
Empty Hand Control	516	359	424	527	794	20.6%	50.7%
Firearm – Discharged	5	0	11	6	6	0.2%	0.0%
Firearm – Drew	487	487	559	730	994	25.8%	36.2%
Firearm – Pointed	1,198	1,384	1,587	1,323	1,431	37.1%	8.2%
Handcuffed Subject without Arrest	350	291	322	318	287	7.4%	-9.7%
Impact Weapon	4	0	2	0	3	0.1%	N/A
Jail Restraint Chair	**	**	**	3	3	0.1%	0.0%
OC Spray	108	59	94	44	34	0.9%	-22.7%
VNR	0	1	1	0	0	0.0%	N/A
Other	24	10	10	***	***	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>3,177</b>	<b>3,044</b>	<b>3,860</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>

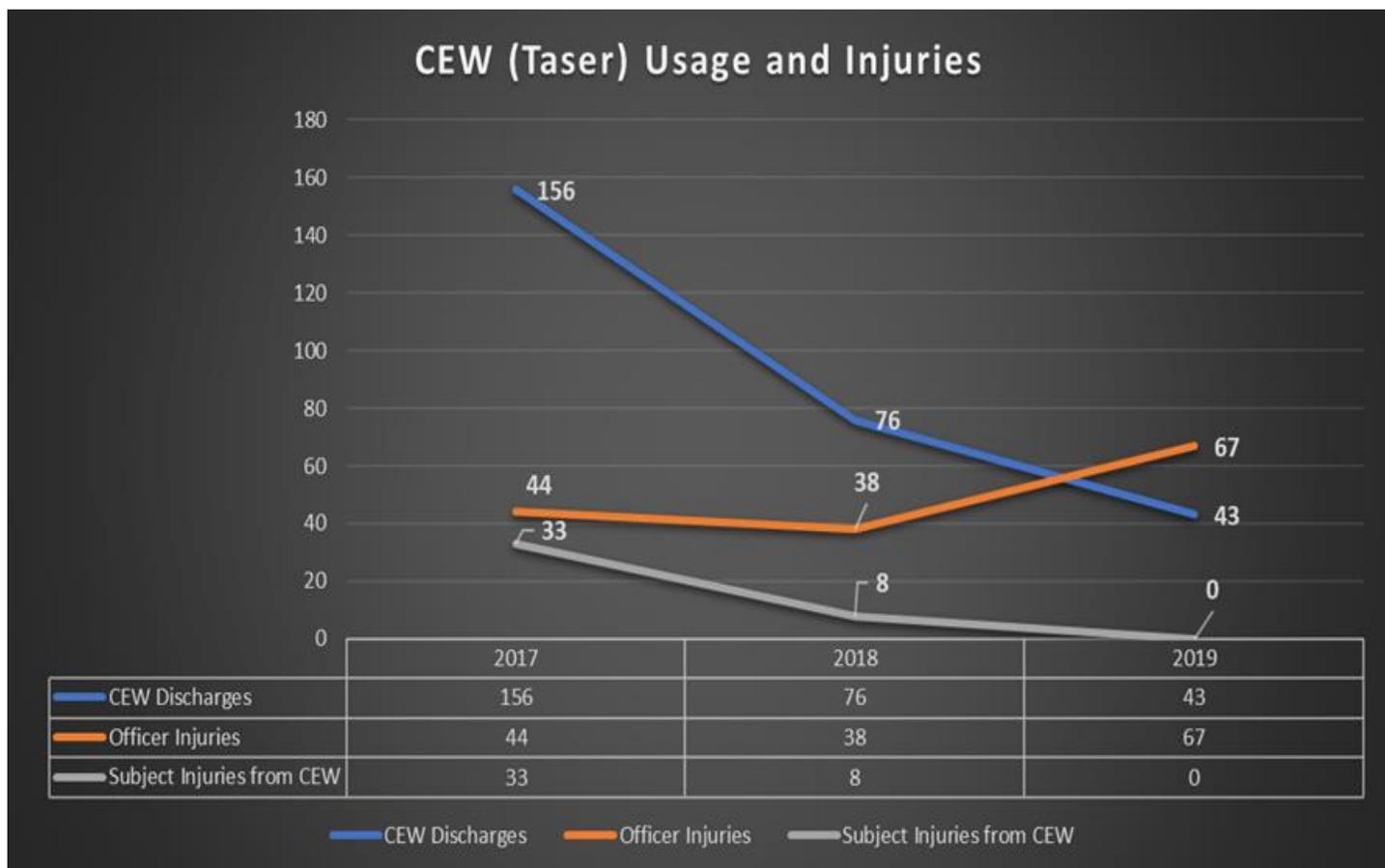
\* CEW (Taser) - Drew and CEW (Taser) - Pointed data was not captured until 2019

\*\* Jail Restraint Chair data was not captured as its own category until 2018. Before that, it was classified as "Other."

\*\*\* Other included Jail Restraint Chain and Leg Restraints in 2015 - 2017. Beginning in 2018, Jail Restraint Chair became its own category and the use of leg restraints was classified as Empty Hand Control.

All of our practices and policies are based from training and best practices of the industry. These policies are created from events we, as professionals, have experienced and learned from in the past.

# Analysis of Taser Usage



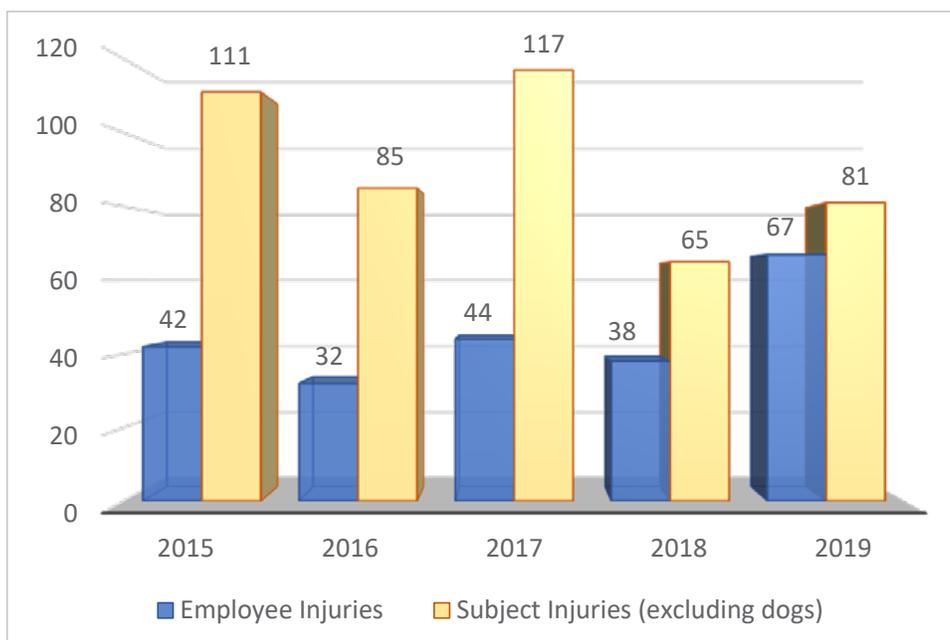
- 2018 – Force & Tactics Assessment Unit
- Recommendation of UOF policy modification to elevate on the APD force continuum
- Assaultive Resistance or higher, or to address an immediate safety threat to any person(s)
- Significant drop in the use of the taser
- 72.4% decrease in taser discharges since 2017

# Injuries of All Participants in Use of Force Incidents

Officer injuries, as documented on a Use of Force Report by “Employee Injured During Force Application,” increased to 67 in 2019 as compared to 38 in 2018. This represents a significant increase of 29 injuries in 2019 (76.3%). Additionally, this number represents the highest number of reported officer injuries over the last five years, the next highest number being 44 reported officer injuries in 2017. Each of the 67 incidents in which an officer reported injury was examined and all were the result of utilizing empty hand control against a subject. Additionally, 65 of the reports described the injury with terms such as “pain, bruising, swelling, scratches, and minor cuts.” The remaining 2 reported injuries of a more serious nature included a torn rotator cuff and breathing difficulty. During 2019, one officer was shot. The officer survived the shooting and the suspect was shot and killed by another officer. This officer’s injury was not captured in the 67 injuries as the officer did not use force.

While reported officer injuries did increase, it is important to note that the use of empty hand control rose from 527 occurrences in 2018 to 794 in 2019. This represents 267 additional occurrences of this type of low-level force, or an increase of 50.7%. This increase could be attributed to the reduction of use of Conductive Electrical Weapon (CEW - Taser), as well as focused training for effective empty hand control tactics. The department always trains its officers to use the lowest level of force needed, even when a higher level of force may be legally justifiable. Empty hand control is the lowest level of force utilized by the department, and with it comes a higher risk of minor injuries such as scrapes, bumps and bruises to both the officer and the subject.

During 2019, the number of subjects upon whom force was used increased to 1,636 (which includes two animals). During 2018, the number was 1,384 (which included three animals). This represents an increase of 252 subjects, or an increase of 18.2%. Reported injuries to subjects, either observed or reported by the force recipient, went from 65 in 2018 to 81 in 2019, excluding two animals. Twenty-two of the injuries were complained of but not observed, 56 were observed injuries, and three were death of the subject as a result of the force used. Just as in the case of officer injuries, nearly all the injuries were minor in nature and included “scratches, minor cuts, bruising or swelling.” Thirty-four required no treatment, 41 were treated at the scene, and six were transported to a hospital.



# Deadly Force Incidents

Date	Case Number	Address	Officer(s) Race & Sex	Suspect Race & Sex	Suspect Status	Criminal Case Status
1/11/19	2019-00110697	1700 W. Randol Mill Rd.	One White Male	Black Male	Deceased	Officer No Billed
8/1/19	2019-02130756	1000 Cantor Dr.	One Indian Male	White Female	Deceased	Under Investigation
9/14/19	2019-02570608	700 Thomas Chapel Dr.	Three White Males	Black Male	Deceased	Under Investigation

## Case Number 2019-00110697 (2019-UF-0070)

On January 11, 2019, an officer initiated a traffic stop for a traffic violation at the intersection of Fielder Road and Randol Mill Road. The final stop was located at 1701 W. Randol Mill Road. After smelling the odor of marijuana, the officer requested backup officers to the location. Once the backup officers arrived, officers directed the individuals out of the vehicle one at a time. When the front passenger exited the vehicle, he fled from the location on foot. As officers chased the suspect, the suspect turned around and fired a handgun striking one officer. Another officer returned fire striking the suspect. The suspect was pronounced deceased at the hospital. A Tarrant County Grand Jury returned a No Bill to the officer who shot the suspect and the criminal case was closed. The officer was exonerated for his use of force.

## Case Number 2019-02130756 (2019-UF-0705)

On August 1, 2019, an officer was dispatched to an unconscious person lying near a sidewalk at 1000 Cantor Drive. Upon arrival at the scene, the officer approached the subject on foot. The officer also noticed a medium sized dog near the subject who was lying on the ground. As the officer started to walk closer, the subject sat up and the dog charged at the officer. The officer fired three rounds from his handgun toward the direction of the dog, however the subject was struck by the gunfire. She was pronounced deceased at the hospital. This case is pending Grand Jury. The officer later resigned from the department.

## Case Number 2019-02570608 (2019-UF-1168)

On September 14, 2019, officers responded to an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon call at 726 Thomas Chapel Drive. While investigating that incident, officers discovered that the suspect, who was inside the location, was possibly armed. The suspect initially refused to exit the location. After a period of time, the suspect did exit the location and pointed what was later determined to be a replica handgun at officers. In response to the suspect's actions, three officers fired their weapons striking the suspect. The suspect was pronounced deceased at the scene. This case is pending Grand Jury review. A ruling by Internal Affairs is pending.



## Arlington Police Department

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Arlington, TX 76004

