



COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

TO: CHIEF OF POLICE GEOFF JONES

FROM: SGT. SCOTT ALPERS, INTERNAL AFFAIRS

REF: 2020 ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF USE OF FORCE

DATE: 03/31/2021

The following report was completed for compliance with CALEA standards (4.2.4) regarding analysis of 2020 Columbia Police Department uses of force. The CALEA standard for analysis of use of force is as follows:

Annually, the agency conducts an analysis of its use of force activities, policies, and practices. The analysis should identify:

- a. Date and time of incident;
- b. Types of encounters resulting in use of force;
- c. Trends or patterns related to race, age, and gender of subjects involved;
- d. Trends or patterns resulting in injury to any person including employees; and
- e. Impact of findings on policies, practices, equipment, and training.

This report collected substantial amounts of data for analysis. Nearly all information required in CALEA standards is being collected in data entry points via Blue Team. Variations can occur depending on the specific incident.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to review and analyze incidents involving response to resistance or use of force, hereafter referred to as use of force, by all officers of the Columbia Police Department which occurred in 2020. The analysis will include identification of any patterns, trends, or concerns, if any, which could be indicative of training shortfalls, equipment needs, or policy revision and modification needs.

Methodology:

This analysis was conducted by reviewing all Columbia Police Department use of force reports entered via Blue Team software as well as any internal or external allegations/complaints of excessive or unreasonable force¹. Policy 300 Use of Force/Response to Resistance was also reviewed. Due to this

¹ The review analyzed completed entries. Four (4) uses of force entries are pending final chain of command approval. It does not appear these entries will impact the findings of this report.

department's self-assessment process, Policy 300.12 requires an annual analysis of use of force in compliance with CALEA standard 4.2.4.

Policy 300.9 outlines the reporting requirements when a use of force or response to resistance occurs. Reporting is required in the following circumstances:

- Discharges a firearm, for other than training or recreational purposes (does not include the humane killing of an injured animal).
- Takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person.
- Applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons.
- Applies weaponless physical force at a level as described in the definition of force above.

The types of force available for selection in the BlueTeam software are as follows;

1. Armored Personnel Carrier
2. Balance Displacement
3. Bola Wrap
4. Canine Apprehension
5. Canine Bite
6. Canine Display
7. Chemical Gas (OC/CS/CN)
8. Diversionary Device
9. Drawing / Exhibit Firearm
10. Firearm Discharge at Person
11. Horse Action / Movement
12. Impact Weapon (Baton)
13. Impact Weapon Other
14. Joint Manipulation
15. Kinetic Energy Impact Device (Less Lethal Shotgun)
16. Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint
17. Other Deadly Force
18. Other Physical Force
19. Pepper Spray
20. Pressure Point Technique
21. Restraint Chair
22. Strikes
23. Taser Deploy / Drive Stun
24. Taser Laser / Arc Display

The reporting of response to resistance / use of force is outlined in CPD policy 300.9, which meets the CALEA standard of 4.2.1 and 4.2.2. In summary, a written report will be submitted any time an employee:

1. Discharges a firearm, for other than training or recreational purposes (does not include the humane killing of an injured animal)
2. Takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person
3. Applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons, or
4. Applies weaponless physical force at a level as described in the definition of force.

Each reported use of force shall receive an administrative review. Supervisory notification shall be made as soon as practical following the application of force requiring a written report (CPD 300.9.1.)

Preliminary response to resistance investigations by supervisors can be conducted at the scene, hospital, police department, or jail. The preliminary investigation gathers basic information about the incident, injuries, and circumstances surrounding the use of force from both the officer(s) involved and the subject(s) of the force.

Officers report response to resistance via Blue Team software. The incident is forwarded through the officer's chain of command for determinations of propriety. If the force applied is deemed reasonable and within policy, no further action is taken. If a member of the chain of command determines the force to be unreasonable, outside of policy, or warrants further review for any reason, the incident is forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit for investigation. Citizen allegations of unreasonable or excessive force are forwarded directly to the Internal Affairs Unit.

Summary:

In 2020, members of the Columbia Police Department generated 246 Use of Force Reports (Blue Team entries). The 246 reports included incidents with: multiple officers, multiple citizens, and multiple applications of force.² The total number of different types of force used was 502.

For the 2020 use of force / response to resistance report, Chief Geoff Jones requested further examination of response to resistance. Chief Jones requested an analysis of show of force compared to the actual use of force / response to resistance.

For the purposes of this report, show of force is defined as pointing a firearm at a person, displaying the Taser X2 arc feature or pointing the Taser X2 dual lasers at another person in order to gain compliance or deter a person from a specific act. The analysis of show of force will include only those incidents that an officer(s) used the above defined show of force.

Other incidents that included pointing the firearm or Taser X2 at a person in conjunction with another form of use of force / response to resistance was not included in the analysis. An example of this would be if an officer pointed a firearm at a person and then utilized balance displacement after pointing the firearm.

OFFICER DEMOGRAPHICS:

- The Columbia Police Department had 175 officers.³
- The average age of all officers at the Columbia Police Department is 36.5 years old.²
- Race and Sex
 - Race
 - 2 officers (1.14%) are Asian
 - 12 officers (6.86%) are Black.
 - 158 officers (90.29%) are White.
 - 3 officers (1.71%) are unidentified.

² UF2020-0068 and UF2020-0069 involved the same person during the same incident.

³Averages based on all sworn personnel with active status on December 31, 2020.

- Sex
 - 21 Female (12.00%)
 - 1 Black (4.76%)
 - 20 White (95.24%)
 - 154 Male (88.00%)
 - 2 Asian (1.95%)
 - 11 Black (7.14%)
 - 138 White (89.61%)
 - 3 unknown (1.95%)
- Years of total service varies from 31.9 years to no experience. The average experience of all officers at the Columbia Police Department is 10.7 years. The following is a breakdown of years of service for officers at the Columbia Police Department;
 - 7 Officers (4.00%) had 25 years or more of total experience
 - 22 officers (12.57%) had 20-25 years of more of total experience.
 - 20 officers (11.43%) had 15-20 years of total experience.
 - 28 officers (16.00%) had 10-15 years of total experience.
 - 41 officers (23.43%) had 5-10 years of total experience.
 - 57 officers (32.57%) had 5 years or less of total experience.
 - Of the 57 officers who fell into the category of having 5 years or less of total experience, 37 of them had 3 years or less of total experience.
- The age breakdown of officers who used force in 2020 is as follows: Officers between the ages of 21-29, used force 231 times. Officers between the ages of 30-39, used force 210 times. Officers between the ages of 40-49, used force 35 times. Officers older than 50, used force 26 times.
- Of the officers who used force in 2020, seventy-nine (79) were involved in 1-5 incidents, twenty-five (25) were involved in 6-10, nine (9) were involved 11-15 incidents, two (2) in 16-20 incidents, and zero (0) officers used force more than 20 times.

COMBINED CITIZEN DEMOGRAPHICS:

- In 2020, were dispatched to 83,122 calls and self-initiated 37,306 calls. Officers arrested 4283 individuals. Officers used force / showed force during 245 incidents, involving 289 citizens.
- The average age of a citizen involved in a use of force / show of force was 31.2 years old.
- The youngest involved citizen was 12 years old and the oldest was 69 years old.
- Of the 289 individuals involved in the use of force / show of force, 222 were male and 67 were female.
- The race of the citizens that had force used against them are as follows;
 - Asian – 3 or 1.03%
 - Black – 152 or 52.60%
 - Hispanic – 9 or 3.10%
 - White – 125 or 43.10%

INJURIES:

- Injuries are categorized into three categories, Complaint of injury, no injuries noted or visible or observable injury. The following is the breakdown of injuries during 2020;
 - No Injuries Noted or Visible – Two hundred twenty four (224) or 77.51%

- Complaint of injury – five (25) or 8.62%
 - Sex
 - Male – Twenty (20) or 80.00%
 - Female – Five (5) or 20.00%
 - Race
 - Black – Six (6) or 24.00%
 - Hispanic – One (1) or 4.00%
 - White – Eighteen (18) or 72.00%
- Observable Injury – Thirty-nine (39) or 13.45%
 - Sex
 - Male – Twenty-seven (27) or 69.23%
 - Female – Twelve (12) or 30.77%
 - Race
 - Asian – One (1) or 2.56%
 - Black – Twenty (20) or 51.28%
 - White – Eighteen (18) or 46.15%
- Fatal Injury – One (1) or 0.34%
 - Sex
 - Male – One (1) or 100.00%
 - Race
 - White – One (1) or 100.00%

LOCATION:

- Location of occurrence was broken down by beats. The beats are: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 70D, 80, and 99 for outside the city limits. The following list indicates the beat and number of uses of force in order of largest to smallest numbers of force used.
 - 20 Beat – Thirty-seven (37) uses of force or 15.16%
 - 30 Beat – Thirty-seven (37) uses of force or 15.16%
 - 80 Beat – Thirty-five (35) uses of force or 14.34%
 - 40 Beat – Thirty-one (30) uses of force or 12.30%
 - 60 Beat – Twenty-eight (28) uses of force or 11.48%
 - 10 Beat – Twenty-seven (27) uses of force or 11.07%
 - 50 Beat – Eighteen (17) uses of force or 6.97%
 - 70 Beat – Thirteen (13) uses of force or 5.33%
 - 99 Beat (Outside City Limits) – Thirteen (13) uses of force or 5.33%
 - 70D Beat – Seven (7) uses of force or 2.87%
- The month count for use of force incidents most frequently occurred on:
 - December – Twenty-seven (26) or 10.66%
 - September – Twenty-six (26) or 10.66%
 - May – Twenty-two (21) or 8.61%
 - February – Twenty-one (21) or 8.61%
 - January – Twenty (20) or 8.20%
 - August – Twenty (20) or 8.20%

- March – Nineteen (19) or 7.79%
 - April – Nineteen (19) or 7.79%
 - June – Nineteen (19) or 7.79%
 - October – Nineteen (19) or 7.79%
 - November – Nineteen (19) or 7.79%
 - July – Fifteen (15) or 6.15%
- The day of the week count for use of force incidents occurred most frequently on:
 - Wednesday – Forty-nine (48) or 19.67%
 - Tuesday – Thirty-nine (39) or 15.98%
 - Friday – Thirty-eight (37) or 15.16%
 - Sunday – Thirty-six (36) or 14.75%
 - Thursday – Thirty-two (32) or 13.11%
 - Saturday – Twenty-eight (28) or 11.48%
 - Monday – Twenty-four (24) or 9.84%
 - Time of day count for use of force incidents most frequently occurred on:
 - 1800-2359 – Ninety-seven (97) or 39.75%
 - 1200-1759 – Sixty-eight (66) or 27.05%
 - 0000-0559 – Sixty-two (62) or 25.41%
 - 0600-1159 – Nineteen (19) or 7.79%

NATURE OF CALL AND REASON FOR FORCE:

- Nature
 - The use of force is tracked in the IAPro software by “Service being rendered” or the type of call an officer responded to and subsequently used force. The following is the breakdown of types of calls and number of applications of force used in 2020:
 - Disturbance – Forty-two (42) or 17.07%
 - Traffic Stop – Thirty-three (33) or 13.41%
 - Weapons Offense – Twenty (20) or 8.13%
 - Assault – Eighteen (18) or 7.32%
 - Trespass – Fifteen (15) or 6.10%
 - Vehicle Pursuit – Fourteen (14) or 5.69%
 - Warrant Service – Fourteen (13) or 5.31%
 - Suspicious Person – Twelve (12) or 4.88%
 - Burglary – Eleven (11) or 4.47%
 - Foot Pursuit – Ten (10) or 4.07%
 - Other Call for Service – Nine (9) or 3.66%
 - Suicidal Subject – Nine (9) or 3.66%
 - Stolen Vehicle – Seven (7) or 2.85%
 - DWI – Six (6) or 2.44%
 - Disorderly Conduct – Four (4) or 1.63%
 - Search Warrant – Four (4) or 1.63%
 - Shoplifting – Four (4) or 1.63%
 - Accident Investigation – Three (3) or 1.22%
 - Active Assailant – Two (2) or 0.81%
 - Citizen Contact – Two (2) or 0.81%

- Civil Commitment – Two (2) or 0.81%
- Inmate Contact – Two (2) or 0.81%
- Medical Call – One (1) or 0.41%
- Robbery – One (1) or 0.41%
- Theft – One (1) or 0.41%
- Off Duty – Zero (0) or 0.00%

FORCE TYPE:

- Type of force breakdown:
 - Drawing / Exhibit Firearm – Two hundred thirty eight (238)
 - Balance Displacement – One twenty three (123)
 - Joint Manipulation – Seventy-eight (78)
 - Other Physical Force – Fifty-eight (58)
 - Taser Laser / Arc Display – Forty (40)
 - Pressure Point Technique – Twenty-five (25)
 - Strikes – Twenty-four (24)
 - Taser Deploy / Drive Stun – Twenty-two (22)
 - Pepper Spray – Fifteen (15)
 - Firearm Discharge at Person – Four (4)
 - Canine Bite – Three (3)
 - Kinetic Energy Impact – Two (2)
 - Canine Display – One (1)
 - Impact Weapon Other – One (1)
 - Other Deadly Force – One (1)

USE OF FORCE / RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE BREAKOUT DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Officers used force / responded to resistance in 144 incidents.
- Of the 144 incidents, there were 157 citizens involved.
- The average age of a citizen involved in the use of force / response to resistance was 31.5 years old.
- The youngest involved citizen was 12 years old and the oldest was 63 years old.
- Of the 157 citizens involved in the use of force / response to resistance, 119 were male and 38 were female.
- During the 144 incidents, 141 or 89.81% of the citizens involved were arrested. 16 or 10.19% of citizens involved were not arrested.
- Officers used force / responded to resistance, in 3.29% of all arrests.
- Officers used force / responded to resistance in 0.1304% of all calls for service and self-initiated calls during 2020.
- The race of the citizens involved in the use of force / response to resistance were;
 - Asian – 1 or 0.64%
 - Black – 79 or 50.32%
 - Hispanic – 5 or 3.18%
 - White – 72 or 45.86%

- INJURIES:
 - No Injuries Noted or Visible – One hundred twelve (112) or 71.34%
 - Complaint of injury – thirteen (13) or 8.28%
 - Sex
 - Male – (9) or 69.23%
 - Female – (4) or 30.77%
 - Race
 - Black – Three (3) or 23.08%
 - White – Ten (10) or 76.92%
 - Observable Injury – Thirty one (31) or 19.75%
 - Sex
 - Male – Twenty one (21) or 67.74%
 - Female – Ten (10) or 32.26%
 - Race
 - Black – Fifteen (15) or 48.39%
 - White – Sixteen (16) or 51.61%
 - Fatal Injury – One (1) or 0.64%
 - Sex
 - Male – One (1) or 100.00%
 - Race
 - White – One (1) or 100.00%

SHOW OF FORCE BREAKOUT DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Officers utilized a show of force in 102 incidents.
- Of the 102 incidents, there were 133 citizens involved.
- The average age of a citizen involved in the show of force was 30.6 years old.
- The youngest involved citizen was 14 years old and the oldest was 69 years old.
- Of the 133 citizens involved in the show of force, 105 were male and 29 were female.
- During the 102 incidents, 91 or 68.42% of the citizens involved were arrested. 42 or 31.58% of citizens involved were not arrested.
- Officers utilized a show of force only, in 2.12% of all arrests.
- Officers utilized a show of force in 0.1104% of all calls for service and self-initiated calls during 2020.
- The race of the citizens involved in the show of force were;
 - Asian – 2 or 1.50%
 - Black – 74 or 55.64%
 - Hispanic – 4 or 3.01%
 - White – 54 or 40.60%
- INJURIES:
 - No Injuries Noted or Visible – One hundred twenty nine (129) or 96.99%
 - Complaint of injury – four (4) or 3.01%
 - Sex

- Male – (2) or 50.00%
 - Female – (2) or 50.00%
 - Race
 - Black – One (1) or 25.00%
 - White – Three (3) or 75.00%
- Observable Injury – One (1) or 100.00%⁴
 - Sex
 - Male – One (1) or 100.00%
 - Race
 - Black – One (1) or 100.00%
- Fatal Injury – Zero

FINDINGS / RECCOMENDATIONS:

During the year 2020, Officers used force during 244 events. Officers of the Columbia Police Department used force / responded to resistance or used a show of force during 5.42% of the 4283 arrests made. Of the 120,428 total calls for service and self-initiated calls, Officers used force / responded to resistance or used a show of force 0.2400%.

Part of the use of force analysis included the number of uses of force based on age, sex, race, injuries, day of the week, month of the year, time of day and police beat.

- Age: The average age of a citizen that had force used against them was 31.2 years old.
- Sex: Of the 289 citizens that force was used against, 222 were male and 67 were female.
- Race: Of the 289 citizens that force was used against, Three (3) were Asian, 152 were Black, nine (9) were Hispanic and 125 were White.
- Injuries: Citizens who had force used against them complained of an injury 25 times (8.65%), had an observable injury 39 times (13.49%) and had no injuries occur 222 (77.51%) times. One citizen suffered fatal injuries due to a use of force / response to resistance.
- Day of Week: Wednesday yielded the highest number of uses of force with 48, or 19.67% of the total number of uses of force. Monday's had the least number of uses of force with 24, or 9.84% of the total number of uses of force. Wednesday's are "All-squad day." All-squad day is generally staffed with all patrol officers from each squad and shift, with the exception of those officers who were approved off for the day, attending training or other reason. All-squad days will generally have more officer-citizen interactions.
- Month: September and December yielded the highest amount of uses of force with 26, or 10.68% of the total number of uses of force. July had the least amount of uses of force with 15, or 6.15% of the total number of uses of force. While reviewing the number of uses of force broken down

⁴ The injury sustained was due to the subject jumping over a wall and falling to the ground.

by month, there appears to be no reasoning as to why any one month would have the most or least amount of force used. The total numbers of force used each month appear to be consistent, even with the Covid-19 pandemic active during these times.

- Time of Day: The highest number of uses of force came during the 1800-2359 hrs (6pm-1159pm) time period with 97 uses of force or 39.75% of the total. The least number of uses of force came during the 0600-1159 hrs (6am-1159am) time period with 19 uses of force or 7.79% of the total. Analyzing these numbers, it appears as though officers are using force during the peak hours of contacts with citizens and calls for service.
- Police Beat: The highest number of uses of force came from beat 20 and beat 30. Officers used force 37 times in each beat, or 15.16% of the total. The lowest number of uses of force for a beat was beat 70D with 7 use of force. Data reviewed included calls for service, self-initiated activity and arrests in each beat.
 - Calls for service during 2020 in 30 beat were ranked #3 and calls for service in 20 beat were ranked #7. Self-initiated activity calls in 30 beat were ranked #7 and self-initiated activity calls in 20 beat were ranked #4. The highest number of arrests were in 20 beat, 40 beat and 10 beat respectively.

Similar to 2019, Officers used force less than one quarter of one percent during all calls for service (service calls and self-initiated calls.) Officers are required to use good judgement in what type of force is reasonable during rapidly evolving circumstances. During the 120,428 total calls for service and 4283 arrests, four (4) Columbia Police Officers fired a weapon at two (2) individuals. Overall, use of force incidents are down 18.33% from 2019. Force used against citizens are down 19.72% from 2019. In analyzing the number of types of force used in 2020, there were five (5) types of force that decreased, ten (10) types of force that increased and one (1) type of force with no change:

- Decreases
 - Balance Displacement down 18.00% from 2019
 - 2019 - 150 2020 - 123
 - Canine Display down 50.00% from 2019
 - 2019 - 2 2020 - 1
 - Chemical Gas down 100.00% from 2019
 - 2019 - 1 2020 - 0
 - Impact Weapon Other down 50.00% from 2019
 - 2019 - 2 2020 - 1
 - Taser Deploy / Drive Stun down 8.33% from 2019
 - 2019 - 24 2020 - 22
- Increases
 - Canine Bite up 100.00% from 2019
 - 2019 - 0 2020 - 3
 - Drawing / Exhibit Firearm up 16.10% from 2019
 - 2019 - 205 2020 - 238
 - Firearm Discharge at Person up 100.00% from 2019

- 2019 - 0 2020 - 4
 - Joint Manipulation up 6.85% from 2019
 - 2019 - 73 2020 - 78
 - Kinetic Energy Impact Device up 100.00% from 2019
 - 2019 - 0 2020 - 2
 - Other Deadly Force up 100.00% from 2019
 - 2019 - 0 2020 - 1
 - Other Physical Force up 20.83% from 2019
 - 2019 - 48 2020 - 58
 - Pressure Point Technique up 316.67% from 2019
 - 2019 - 6 2020 - 25
 - Strikes up 26.32% from 2019
 - 2019 - 19 2020 - 24
 - Taser Laser / Arc Display up 33.33% from 2019
 - 2019 - 30 2020 - 40
- No Changes
 - Pepper Spray
 - 2019 - 15 2020 - 15

****Revised 4/12/2021 after calculation error discovered****