

**Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire**

Date: 24 February 2020

To: Steven Russo, Police Chief *SA-140*

Through: Steven Stewart, Captain *SS #105*

Through: Todd Lawrence, Captain *TL #123*

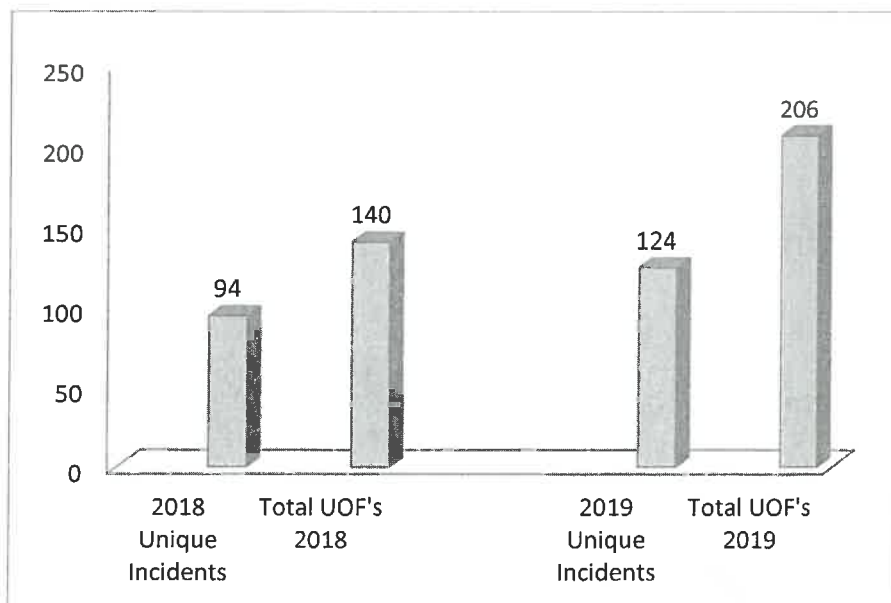
From: Shane C. Maxfield, Lieutenant *SCM #083*

Subject: 2019 Use of Force Analysis

During January of 2020, I conducted an analysis of all 2019 Use of Force (UOF) reports filed by Keene Police Officers. An analysis and review of the UOF reports for completeness, developing trends and effectiveness of weapons, techniques and training was completed.

Over the course of 2019 there were a total of 124 unique incidents (78 Arrest Reports (AR's), 46 Offense Reports and Field Interviews (OF's and FI's, exclusive of "Dispatched Animals")) resulting in 206 Use of Force reports filed. Arrest Reports produced 136 UOF filings, while OF's and FI's produced the remaining 70 UOF's.

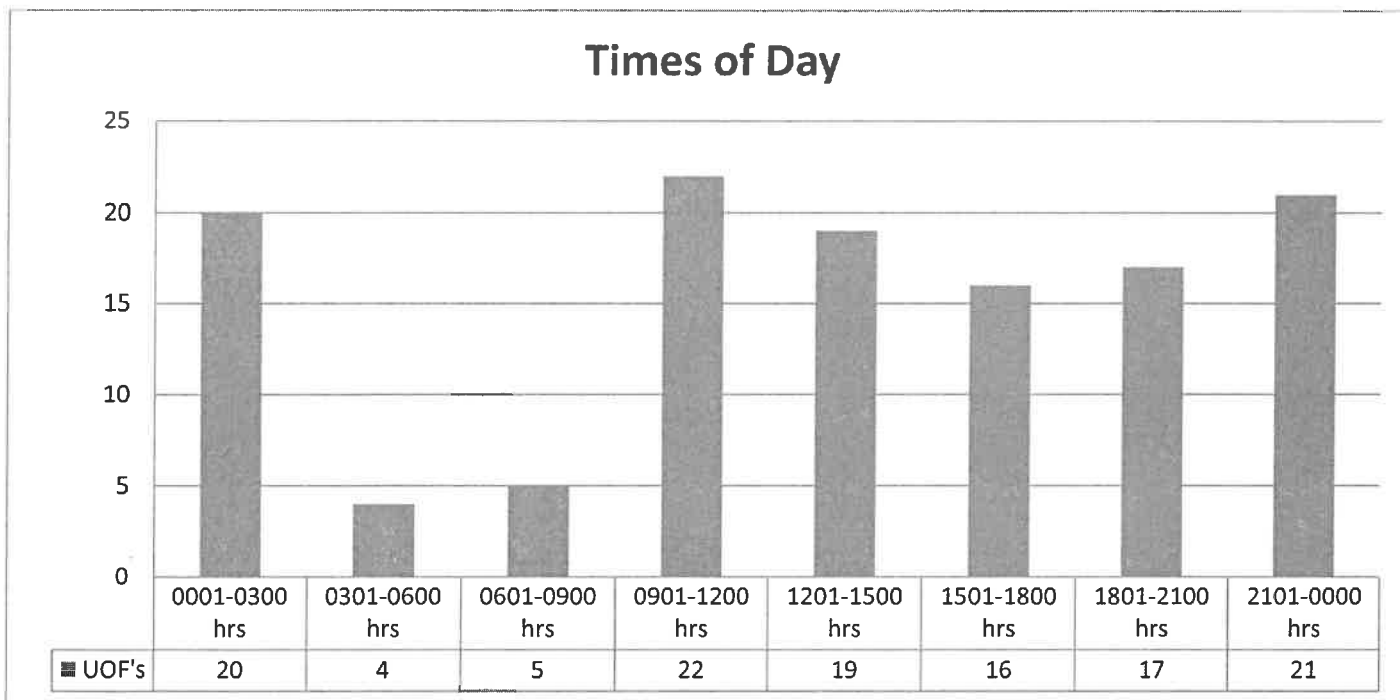
The 124 unique incident total for 2019 was a 32% increase from 2018, which had 94 unique incidents. The 206 total UOF's filed in 2019 was also higher (47% higher) than 2018, which had 140 UOF's filed. This relationship is illustrated, below.



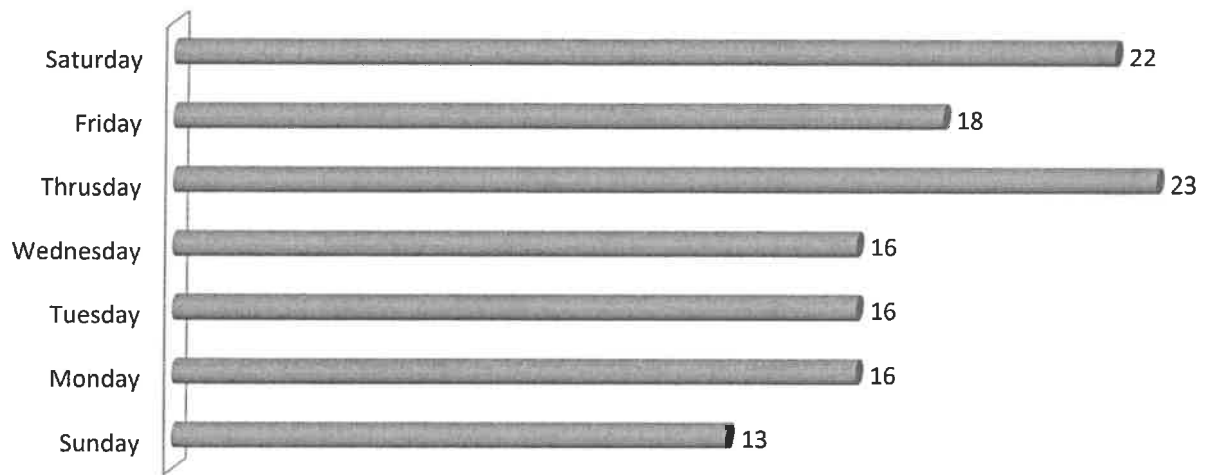
Call volume increased from 2018 to 2019, though this increase doesn't appear to solely account for the much larger increase in UOF's. The "Calls For Service" total from 2019 (29165) was only 4% higher than 2018 (28053). A more likely factor appears to be the nature of the calls themselves and the number of officers at them. One of the larger examples of this would be an armed robbery incident wherein several officers dealt with several suspects, netting two total arrests but eighteen (18) UOF reports. There were several other incidents like this in 2019.

The characteristics of the AR-involved UOF's were varied and included pre-arrest UOF's to booking room UOF's. The OF-related UOF's involved IEA's, "assist other agency" cases and tactical team callouts for counter-drug operations.

A day / time analysis of the 124 unique UOF incidents showed the following breakdown by day of week and then by time of day. Thursday through Saturday, the traditional weekend, accounted for the most UOF incidents, followed by Monday through Wednesday. The hours between 0300hrs and 0900hrs saw the fewest UOF's, which includes typical sleep times and low activity levels.

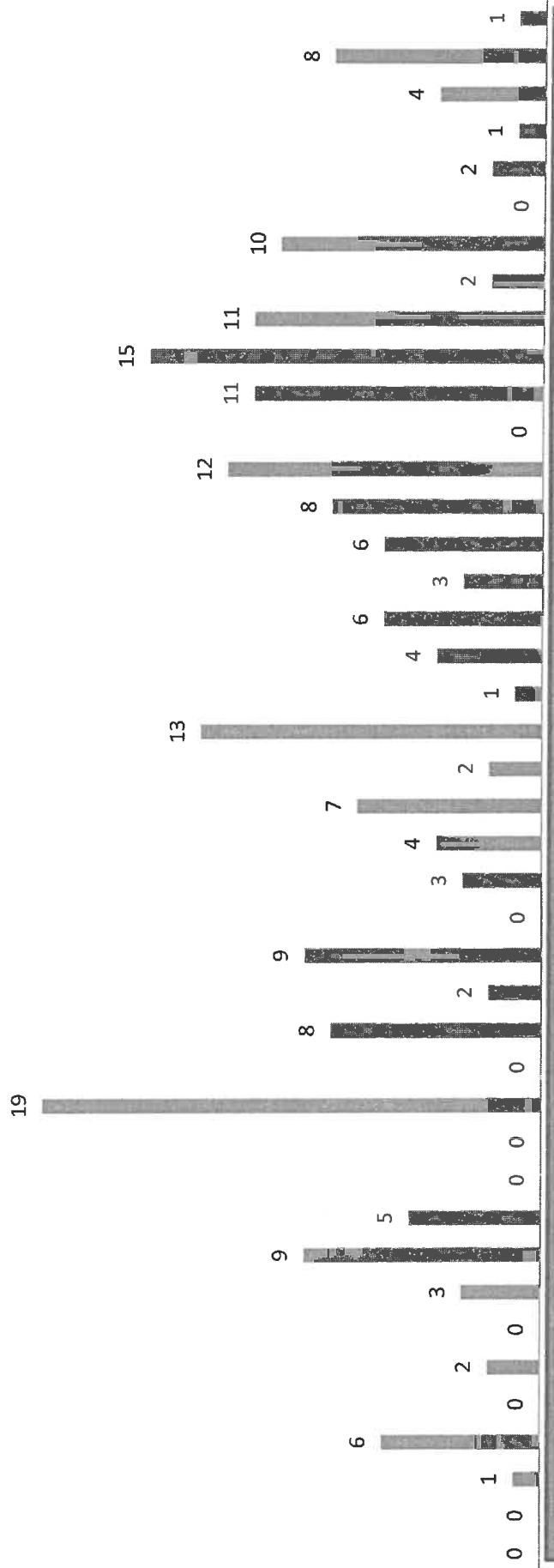


Days of the Week

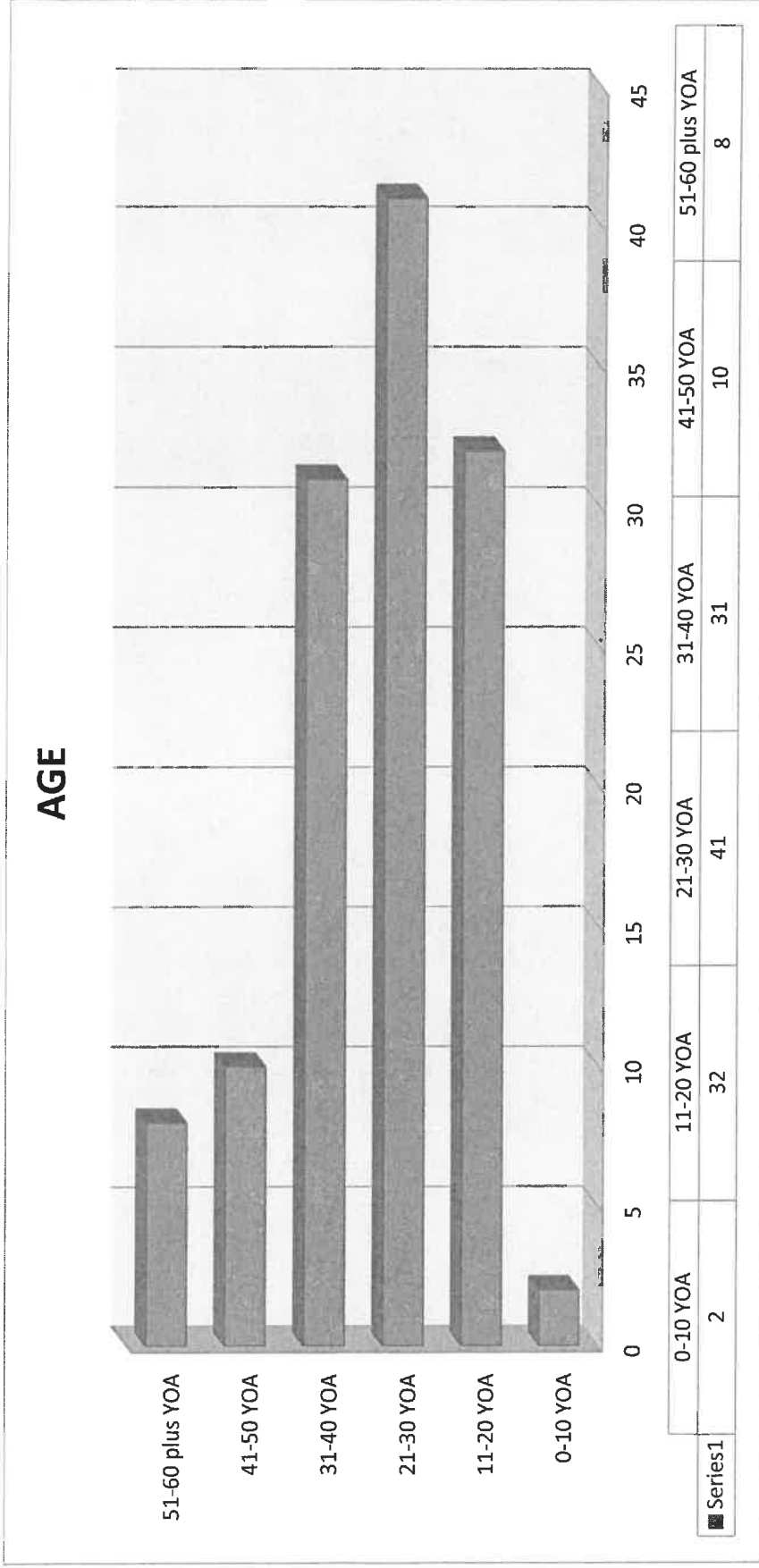


Analysis of the numbers of UOF reports filed by individual officers showed the predictable (and historic) trend that dayshift officers report fewer uses of force than evening or night shift officers. All uses of force were reviewed for compliance with NH statutes and Department policy, and all were found to be compliant.

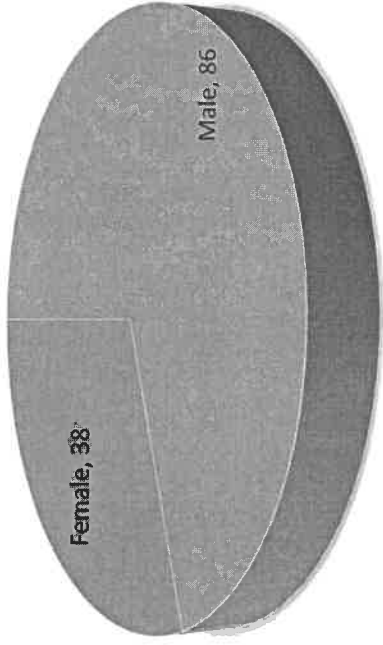
Uses of Force by Officer



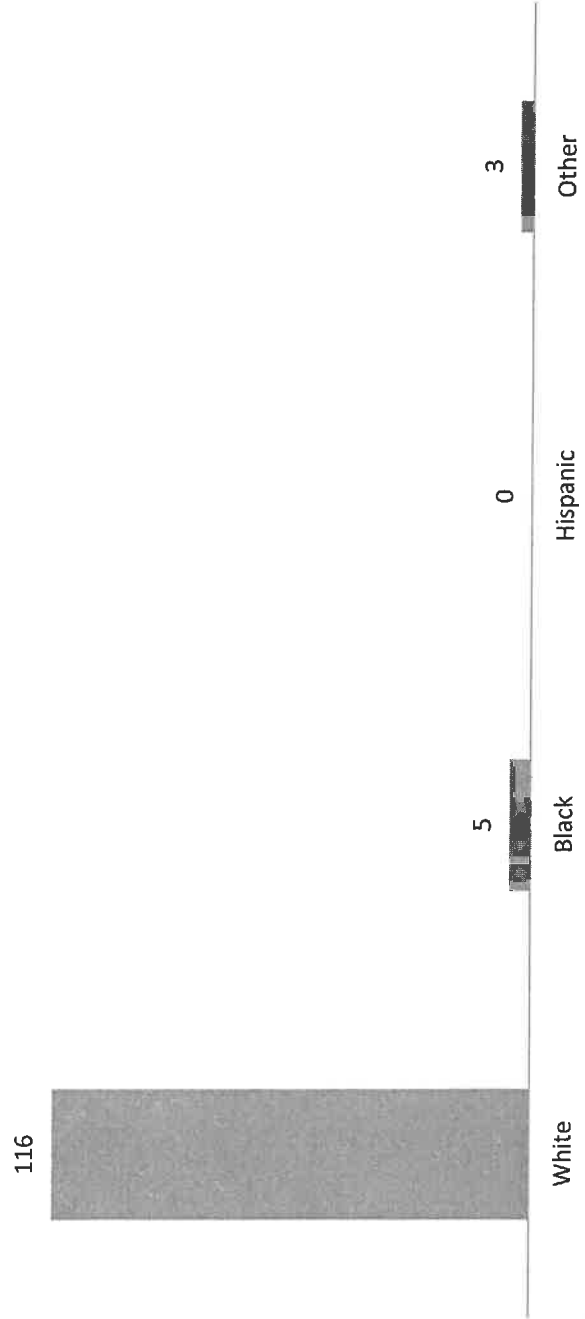
Analysis of the suspects involved showed the bulk of UOF's applied on white males in their twenties.



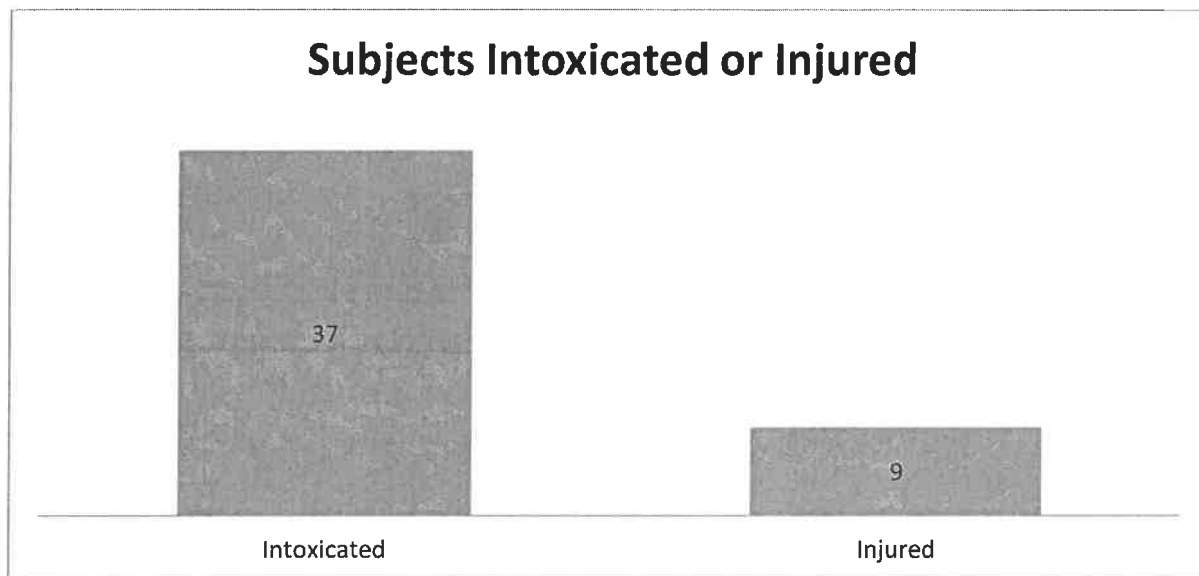
SEX



Race



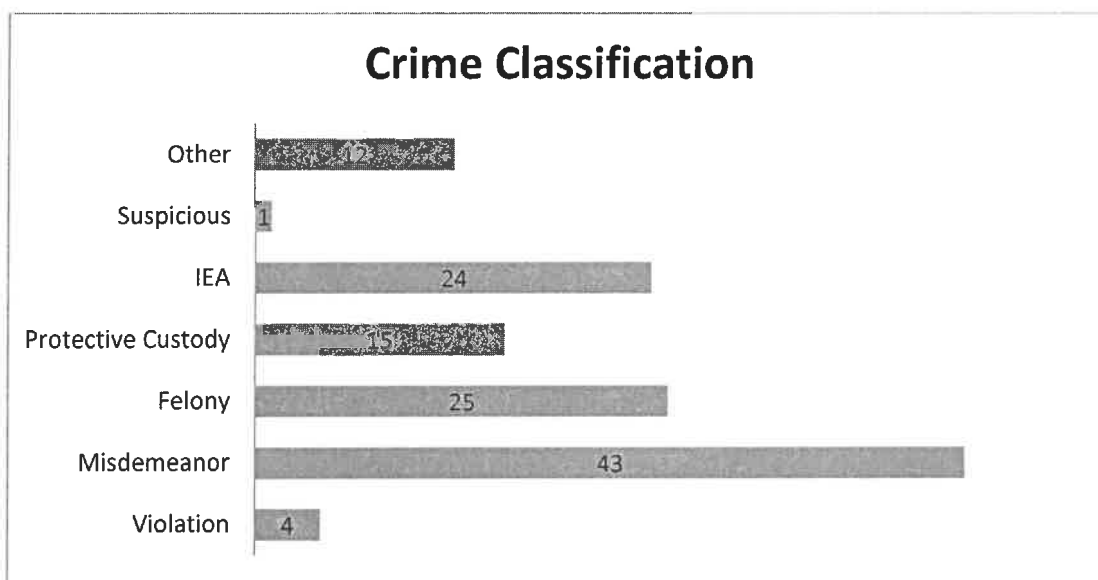
Of the 124 unique incidents, suspects were intoxicated in 37 of them and injured in 9 instances.



This translates to a 30% intoxication rate and a 7.2% injury rate for 2019. Comparable data for 2018 showed a 40% intoxication rate and a 6.4% injury rate.

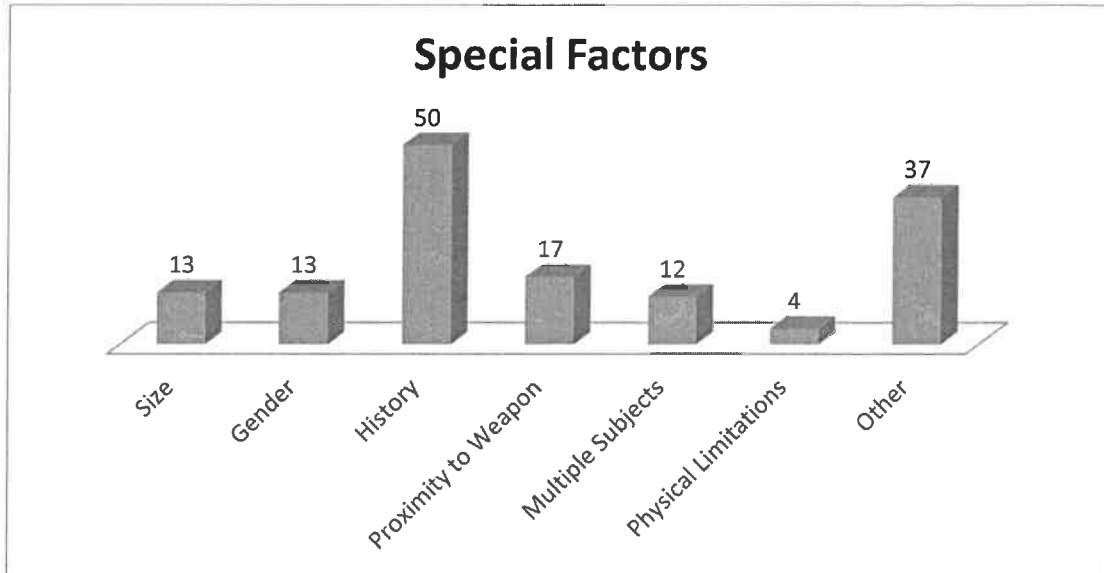
The suspects reported as "injured" generally complained of minor scrapes or bruises which were the result of their resisting efforts to be arrested or detained.

Analysis of the encounters themselves showed that the majority of them resulted in (or stemmed from) misdemeanor charges for the suspects, followed by felony incidents and Involuntary Emergency Admissions. Other level charges and dispositions were fewer.



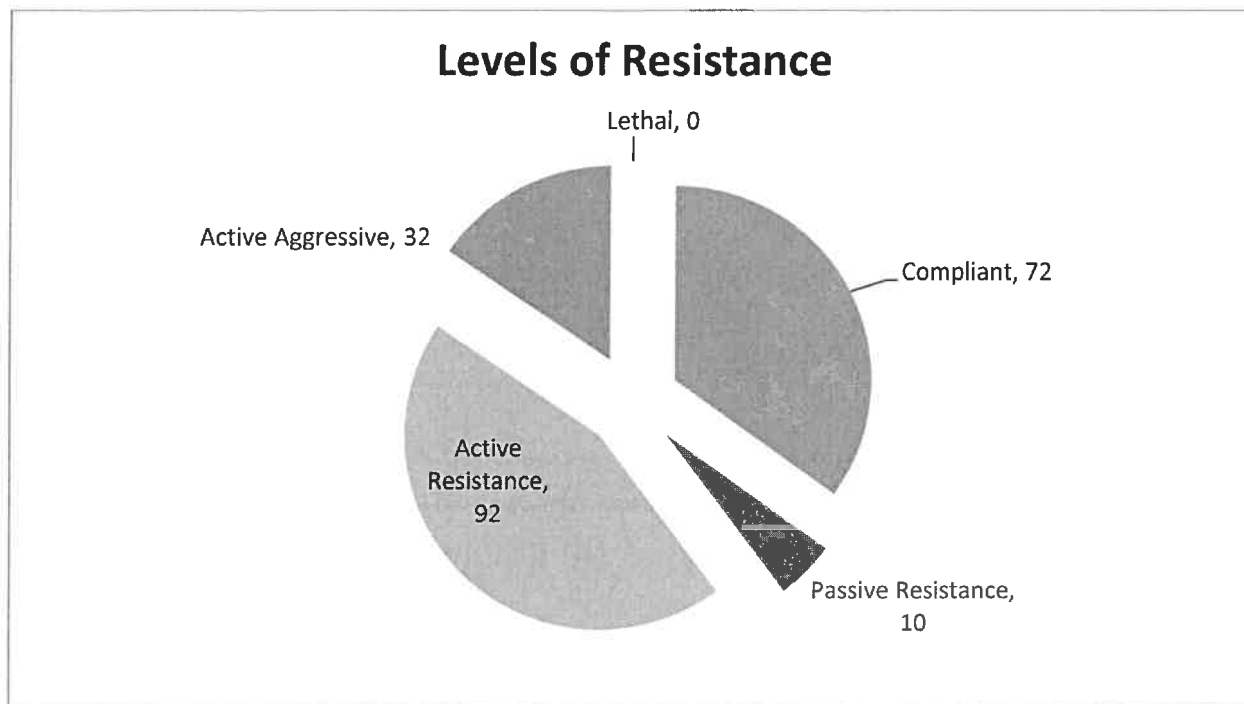
A comparison of 2019 UOF by Crime Classification to the same categories from 2018 showed violations for 2019 at four, 2018 at two. Misdemeanors for 2019 were at 43 of the total, 2018 were at 39. Felonies for 2019 were at 25 of the total, 2018 were at 29. Protective Custodies for 2019 were at 15 of the total, while 2018 PC's were at 14.

Understanding that an officers perception of their opponent plays a big part in their choice of tactics to deal with them, I noted that the majority of total UOF's filed listed "Special Factors" relating to either the choice to employ force or the choice of tactic:



Note the high numbers for "Prior History / Knowledge," which belies multiple encounters with the same suspects, or in some cases effective dispatchers conveying information more than the minimum. Historically, the "Other" category scores high each year in the Special Factors group. Officers are directed to explain what unlisted factors influenced their use of force, several indicate an officer used force to safeguard other individuals in close proximity to the incident or to head off a potentially dangerous position (such as attempting to arrest an uncooperative subject near a second floor balcony). Several reports citing "Other" factors were unclear what those factors were. This is a training issue and potentially an issue with the current paper UOF forms. Potential improvements are being explored.

Also pertaining to officers' perception of opponents is the level of resistance encountered. Similar to historic data, "Active Resistance" by far outnumbers other levels of resistance perceived by Officers, as illustrated here:



Officers used "Hand Techniques" most often (123 during the year), which makes sense historically and practically as it is the most readily available force option. Next common was "Firearms or Special Weapons" (79 uses, "displayed only"). OC spray was used five times and the expandable baton was not used over the year. There were no K9 uses, and the Tactical Team was deployed three times. Many of the UOF reports filed indicated the officers utilized more than one force option to resolve the incident.

Within the "Hand Techniques" category, arm bars, wrist locks and "other" techniques dominated. "Other" techniques included such things as pushing or pulling a suspect, using force to get handcuffs applied, tackling them or other non-classified techniques.

"Firearms and Special Weapons" utilized in 2019 included the Glock, the M4-style rifle, and the 40mm launcher, in that order. They were "displayed only."

OC spray was used five times, and was very or moderately effective for all uses except one, where the officer completely missed the suspect.

The KPD Tactical Team filed three UOF reports. During the three incidents, their firearms or special weapons were displayed only. These Tactical Team deployments were in support of counter-narcotic operations.

Three UOF reports indicated that an Officer was injured in the course of an arrest, one officer each being bit, spit on or punched in the face by a suspect.

Pursuant to this UOF Analysis, coordination is ongoing with the UOF staff to ensure that future UOF training is pertinent and effective, as well as the continual review of equipment, techniques, practices and policy, to support the officers in the field in keeping with the Department mission. At present, current training appears to be meeting this agency's needs, and the training calendar covers all force options, concentrating on mastery of basic skill.