

2017 Use of Force Annual Report

At least annually, NOPD agrees to analyze the year's force data, including the force-related outcome data listed in section XIX.C. below, to determine significant trends; identify and correct deficiencies revealed by this analysis; and document its findings in a public report. [Consent Decree ¶82]

The New Orleans Police Department's policy is to value and preserve human life while exercising lawful authority to use force. New Orleans police officers are required to use the minimum amount of force that an objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and others. Officers are required to perform their work in a manner that avoids unduly jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others by making appropriate tactical decisions. When feasible based on the circumstances, officers use de-escalation techniques to reduce the need for force and to increase officer and civilian safety. However, officers must sometimes make split-second decisions about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving. While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to protect the public, police officers are not required to retreat or to be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force. Nevertheless, officers strive, when it is practicable, to first attempt to de-escalate a situation before resorting to force.

A variety of police activities are considered uses of force, including hand-control or escort techniques, vehicle pursuits, deployment of canines. To ensure that the New Orleans Police Department's uses of force are appropriate, comply with Department policies, and reflect the best practices of policing, the New Orleans Police Department tracks, analyzes, and reports data concerning all uses of force. These data enable the Department to identify areas in which policies should be modified, or for which training and discipline may be required. The federal Consent Decree also requires use-of-force data tracking and analysis (see Consent Decree paragraphs 31, 37, 52, 68, 75, and 82).

Since the implementation of the Consent Decree, the Department has begun revising and updating all of its policies. Policies regarding use of force were among the earliest to be addressed. For example, Chapter 1.3, "Use of Force," along with Chapter 1.3.6, "Use of Force Reporting," Chapter 1.3.2, "Force Investigation Team," and Chapter 1.3.7, "Use of Force Review Board," became effective on December 6, 2015. Training on these new policies began in early 2015 to prepare officers for the transition and to familiarize them with the impending changes. The change in policy translated to the way that use of force was trained and the way that it is now reported.

These policies represented significant changes, some of which are reflected in this report's statistics. For example, the Department's policy on "Use of Force Reporting" requires significantly more reporting by officers for low-level uses of force, such as pointing a weapon without firing it. As a result, this report shows a substantial increase in the total number of uses of force when compared with earlier data. In other words, this increase is largely attributable to the fact that officers are

reporting uses of force that were previously not reported, or reported under different definitions (ex. The shift in the department's definition of a "takedown").

The Department's force policies were reviewed internally, and approved then by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of the Consent Decree Monitor, in accordance with the federal Consent Decree. The following definitions and policy statements are excerpted from those policies.

Key Definitions

Active Resistance—Resistance exhibited by a suspect that is between passive resistance and aggressive resistance (e.g., attempts to leave the scene, flee, hide from detection, or pull away from the officer's grasp). Verbal statements, bracing, or tensing alone do not constitute active resistance.

Aggravated Resistance—When a subject's actions create an objectively reasonable perception on the part of the officer that the officer or another person is subject to imminent death or serious physical injury as a result of the circumstances and/or nature of an attack. Aggravated resistance represents the least encountered but most serious threat to the safety of law enforcement personnel or another person.

Aggressive Resistance—Is a subject's attempt to attack or an actual attack of an officer. Exhibiting aggressive behavior (e.g., lunging toward the officer, striking the officer with hands, fists, kicks or any instrument that may be perceived as a weapon such as a knife or stick) are examples of aggressive resistance. Neither passive nor active resistance, including fleeing, pulling away, verbal statements, bracing, or tensing, constitute aggressive resistance.

Anatomical Compliance Technique—The act of applying pressure to vulnerable areas, weak points or pressure points of the body. This technique is used to cause immediate compliance by a subject who poses a threat.

Critical Firearm Discharge—A discharge of a firearm by an NOPD officer, including discharges when no person or animal is struck. Range and training firings, humane destruction of animals, and off-duty hunting discharges when no person is struck are not critical firearms discharges.

Critical Incident— An event in which an NOPD officer uses force resulting in hospitalization or death; an NOPD officer intentionally shoots his or her gun at a person(s); an NOPD officer strikes someone in the head with an impact weapon, whether intentional or not; an NOPD police vehicle pursuit results in death or an injury of a person(s) requiring hospitalization; or an arrested or detained subject dies while in the custody of NOPD.

Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW)—A weapon designed primarily to discharge electrical impulses into a subject that will cause involuntary muscle contractions and override the subject's voluntary motor responses.

Deadly Force/Lethal Force—Any force likely to cause death or serious physical injury. The use of a firearm (discharge) is considered deadly force. Neck holds and strikes to the head, neck or throat with a hard object are considered lethal force.

Defensive Techniques—When a subject attempts to assault the officer or another person (aggressive or aggravated resistance), the officer is justified in taking appropriate physical action to immediately stop the aggressive action and to gain control of the subject. This may include the use of hands, fists and feet.

Non-Reportable Use of Force—Hand control or escort techniques applied for the purposes of handcuffing or escorts that are not used as pressure point compliance techniques, do not result in injury or complaint of injury, and are not used to overcome resistance.

Passive Resistance—Behavior that is unresponsive to police verbal communication or direction (e.g., ignoring or disregarding police attempts at verbal communication or control; going limp; or failing to physically respond or move) and verbal resistance (e.g., verbally rejecting police verbal communication or direction; telling the officer that he or she will not comply with police direction, to leave him or her alone, or not bother him or her). Bracing, tensing, linking arms, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into custody constitutes passive resistance. Passive resistance, including verbal statements, bracing, or tensing alone does not constitute active resistance.

Use of Force—Physical effort to compel compliance by an unwilling subject, above un-resisted handcuffing, including pointing a firearm at a person.

Use of Force Principles

NOPD officers, regardless of the type of force or weapon used, are required to abide by the following rules:

- Officers shall use verbal advisements, warnings, and persuasion, when possible, before resorting to force.
- Officers are expected to use sound judgment when making a subjective and independent decision regarding the need and appropriateness of the force to be used.
- Under no circumstances will an officer use force solely because another officer is using force.
- Officers will use disengagement; area containment; surveillance; waiting out a subject; summoning reinforcements; and/or calling in specialized units such as mental health professionals or a crisis response team, when feasible, in order to reduce the need for force and increase officer and civilian safety.
- When possible, officers shall allow individuals time to submit to arrest before force is used.

Authority to use Reasonable Force (Louisiana R.S. 14:20 and R.S. 14:22)

Officers may use only necessary and reasonable force:

- To protect themselves from injury;
- To protect others from injury;
- To effect a lawful detention;
- To effect a lawful arrest; or
- To conduct a lawful search.

A use of force is “necessary” when it is reasonably required, considering the totality of facts and circumstances, to carry out one of the above-listed law enforcement objectives.

When practicable, officers will identify themselves as peace officers before using force. If it is not already known by the subject to be detained, arrested, or searched, officers should, if reasonable, make clear their intent to detain, arrest or search the subject.

Pointing a firearm constitutes a use of force. Officers shall not draw or exhibit a firearm unless the circumstances surrounding the incident create an objectively reasonable belief that a situation may escalate to the point at which lethal force would be authorized. Once an officer determines that the use of deadly force is no longer likely, the officer shall re-holster the weapon.

Officers shall not use force to attempt to effect compliance with a command that is unlawful. Any use of force by an officer to subdue an individual resisting arrest or detention is unreasonable when the initial arrest or detention of the individual was unlawful. **(See La. C. Cr. P. Art. 220)**

Deadly Force

Deadly/Lethal force shall be used only when:

- There is an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or another person; or
- To prevent the escape of a fleeing subject if there is probable cause to believe:
 - The subject has committed a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death; and
 - The escape of the subject would pose an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person.

Officers are not authorized to fire their firearms in order to subdue an escaping suspect who presents no imminent threat of death or serious injury.

Deadly force may never be used for the protection of property.

Force Levels

When use of force is needed, officers will assess each incident to determine, based on policy, training and experience, which use of force option is believed to be appropriate for the situation and bring it under control in a safe and prudent manner. In the Department's most recent Use of Force Policy, Chapter 1.3, force is broken down into four levels, explained here:

- **Level-1** uses of force include pointing a firearm at a person and hand control or escort techniques (e.g., elbow grip, wrist grip, or shoulder grip) applied as pressure point compliance techniques that are not reasonably expected to cause injury; takedowns that do not result in actual injury or complaint of injury; and use of an impact weapon for non-striking purposes (e.g., prying limbs, moving or controlling a person) that does not result in actual injury or complaint of injury. It does not include escorting, touching, or handcuffing a person with minimal or no resistance.
- **Level-2** uses of force include use of a CEW (including where a CEW is fired at a person but misses); and force that causes or could reasonably be expected to cause an injury greater than transitory pain but does not rise to a Level 3 use of force.
- **Level-3** uses of force include any strike to the head (except for a strike with an impact weapon); use of impact weapons when contact is made (except to the head), regardless of injury; or the destruction of an animal.
- **Level-4** uses of force include all 'serious uses of force' as listed below:
 - (a) All uses of lethal force by an NOPD officer;
 - (b) All critical firearm discharges by an NOPD officer;
 - (c) All uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in serious physical injury or requiring hospitalization;
 - (d) All neck holds;
 - (e) All uses of force by an NOPD officer resulting in a loss of consciousness;

- (f) All canine bites;
- (g) More than two applications of a CEW on an individual during a single interaction, regardless of the mode or duration of the application, and whether the applications are by the same or different officers, or CEW application for 15 seconds or longer, whether continuous or consecutive;
- (h) Any strike, blow, kick, CEW application, or similar use of force against a handcuffed subject; and
- (i) Any vehicle pursuit resulting in death, serious physical injury or injuries requiring hospitalization

Levels of Control

There are a variety of controls officers can use to stop the unlawful actions of a subject(s) or to protect a subject(s) from injuring himself/herself/themselves or others. The type of control officers use may vary based upon the facts and circumstances confronting them. Officers shall assess all contacts to determine the appropriate level of control. When possible, officers shall attempt to gain control of subjects by using verbal commands/directives first.

If verbal commands/directives are ineffective or not feasible, officers may utilize other control methods. If force is necessary, officers shall determine which control technique(s), tactics or authorized defensive equipment would best de-escalate the incident and bring it under control in the safest manner. When it is objectively reasonable, officers may utilize the following skills and techniques when faced with the levels of resistance as outlined in the Use of Force Continuum:

- **Professional Presence**—This includes all symbols of police authority, such as badge, uniform, marked police vehicle, etc., and applies to all levels of control.
- **Verbal Commands**—This level includes fundamental verbal skills and strategies that are available to the trained officer. The mere presence of the officer can be included in this category.
- **Contact Controls**—When confronted with a subject demonstrating minimal resistant behavior, the officer may use low-level anatomical compliance techniques or physical tactics to gain control and cooperation. These tactics can be psychologically manipulative as well as physical, and include additional verbal persuasion skills, pressure point applications, and escort positions.
- **Compliance Techniques**—When a subject becomes resistant (active resistance), the officer may use anatomical compliance techniques or physical control tactics to overcome the level of resistance and remain vigilant for more aggressive behavior from the subject.
- **Conducted Electrical Weapon**—The CEW is used in situations in which a subject exhibits aggressive resistance and in situations in which the subject presents an imminent threat to the officer, himself/herself, or another person. This includes situations in which a suspect is actively fleeing from arrest for a serious offense, but fleeing should not be the sole justification for using a CEW against a suspect. Members should consider the severity of the offense, the suspect's threat level to others, and the risk of serious injury to the subject before deciding to use a CEW on a fleeing suspect.
- **Defensive Tactics**—When a subject attempts to assault the officer or another person

(aggressive resistance or aggravated resistance), the officer is justified in taking appropriate physical action to immediately stop the aggressive action and to gain control of the subject. This may include the use of hands, fists and feet.

- **Authorized Impact Weapons**—Those less-than-lethal weapons such as the PR-24 and expandable batons, which, when authorized by the NOPD and utilized in accordance with training, may be used to overcome aggressive and aggravated resistance.
- **Deadly or Lethal Force**—Deadly/Lethal force shall be used only when:
 - There is an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or another person; or
 - To prevent the escape of a fleeing subject if there is probable cause to believe:
 - The subject has committed a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death; and
 - The escape of the subject would pose an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person.

Use of Force Investigations

New Orleans Police Department policy requires that all uses of force must be reported, and all use of force reports are reviewed to ensure that each instance of force was reasonable, necessary and within Department policy. Violations of policy or law are addressed through disciplinary action, which may range from counseling to dismissal and criminal prosecution, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

A special unit with the New Orleans Police Department's Public Integrity Bureau, known as the Force Investigation Team (FIT), investigates all serious uses of force by New Orleans police officers; uses of force indicating apparent criminal conduct by an officer; uses of force by New Orleans Police Department personnel of a rank higher than sergeant; deaths that occur when a person is in the custody of New Orleans police; and other cases assigned to the FIT by the Superintendent of Police. When the Force Investigation Team discovers violations of policy or law, it pursues disciplinary investigations and, in some cases, recommends criminal prosecution.

There were 603 force incidents in 2017. While 651 possible individual force incidents were reported in 2017, FIT determined that 48 were of these incidents included non-reportable uses of force or incidents in which force was used against an officer, which are outside of the scope of this report. It is also worth noting that individual force incidents can include multiple officers, using multiple types of force. For example, the Violent Offender Warrant Squad (VOWS) may be deployed to apprehend a suspect, during which time multiple officers have their weapons exhibited, while another officer has to use a takedown technique to subdue the suspect. In the previously mentioned scenario, there would be a single force tracking number (FTN) given to document the incident; however, each type of force used would be recorded, along with the name of the officer(s) that used the force. The following tables indicate the number of force incidents per year since 2014 (Table 1), and the count of each type of force used (Table 2). Table 3 also shows the number and type of force that lead directly to an arrest.

Table 1: Percentage of Arrests that Involve Use of Force

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Arrests	20,971	16,348	13,114	14,546
Force incidents	409	711*	589	603
Force incidents per arrest	1.95%	4.3%	4.5%	4.1%

*In 2015, NOPD began a more accurate count of the number of times firearms were pointed without discharge as Level 1 uses of force.

Table 2: Types of Force Used, 2014-2017

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Firearm Discharged ¹	10	12	5	3
Firearm Exhibited/Pointed ²	101	367	760	749
CEW Discharged ¹	138	94	52	70
CEW Exhibited/Pointed	73	78	114	126
Baton	4	1	3	2
Hands	246	316	316	250
Feet	0	8	0	0
Takedown	90	154	175	287
Strike	5	0	4	6
Canine ³	35	42	47	21
Escort Techniques ²	0	0	49	36
Defense Techniques ²	0	0	1	8
Other ⁴	4	0	37	8
Total	706	1,791	1,563	1,572

1-Accidental discharges not included

2- Force type not tracked, or not consistently tracked, in previous years

3- Only 9 incidents involving canines resulted in bites over this time period, with zero occurring in 2017.

4-Other includes Uses of Force not otherwise categorized.

Several of the statistics cited in the previous tables appear to demonstrate large increases over time – CEW’s and Firearms exhibited, as well as Takedowns – but these data must be interpreted in the context of the policy changes referenced in this report’s introduction. As noted, the Department has implemented new use of force policies that redefine what constitutes a reportable use of force. The Department’s previous use of force policy characterized force in reference to the resistance encountered by a subject. The new policy focuses on actions taken by the officers themselves and categorizes the force by level. The new policy also emphasizes de-escalation as a technique to prevent the need for any use of force, which may result in lower-level uses of force when force is necessary. These changes result in more accurate and comprehensive reporting, but they may yield short-term anomalies in data, such as the increases reflected in comparing 2016 and 2017 to statistics from previous years.

The Department’s use of force policy defines a low-level use of force as “pointing a firearm or CEW (Conducted Electrical Weapon, or Taser) at a person and hand control or escort techniques” such as an elbow grip, wrist grip, or shoulder grip, when “applied as pressure-point compliance techniques or that result in injury or complaint of injury.” This definition has resulted in a greater number of force incidents reported for the use of hands and exhibition of firearms.

Year-to-year comparison shows an increase in the number of “takedowns,” a term that was not defined in the use of force policy prior to 2017. The lack of definition for this action likely contributed to the apparent increase as officers over-reported takedowns or misclassified other actions (such as anatomical compliance techniques) as takedowns. In 2018, the Department revised

the policy to include a takedown definition that should result in more accurate reporting in this category.

During 2015, the Department restructured its force-tracking database, changing the data-field categories in IAPro used to record force statistics. The Department also implemented a new force-reporting mechanism, “Blue Team,” which enabled officers to report force digitally, using electronic forms. Previously, all use of force reporting was accomplished through paper forms that were approved through chain of command and finally by the Force Investigation Team at the Public Integrity Bureau. The switch to digital reporting cut the time for processing and data collection, and it has improved supervision. At the same time, it has increased the accuracy of force reporting and yielded more force reports.

With the accuracy of force reporting improving, the NOPD saw the number of reported uses of force increase dramatically from 2014 to 2015 (from 706 to 1,791) and then experience less significant fluctuation between 2016 and 2017. Along with total uses of force, the number of allegations of unauthorized force has also decreased from 47 in 2014, to 39 in 2017 (see Table 7), even though internally generated allegations rose from three to six during that same period. Of further note, while incidents where a CEW or Firearm being exhibited have gone up, discharges have been trending downward.

Use of Force Demographics

Below are three tables listing the number of uses of force by the age, gender and race/ethnicity of those that the force was used against from 2015 to 2017.

Table 3: Uses of Force, by Age

	Under 10¹	11-17	18-27	28-37	38-47	48-57	58+	Not-specified
2015	11	180	674	435	227	103	45	116
2016	38	189	602	401	143	90	30	70
2017	29	151	629	413	161	68	47	74

The data available indicate that force is most often used against individuals between the ages of 18 and 27 (40 percent of the 1,572 total uses of force in 2017). Individuals between the ages of 28 and 37 were the second most likely to have force used against them (26 percent in 2017). These trends have remained fairly consistent over the last few years.

The data show that males are far more likely than females to have force used against them by the NOPD. In 2017, 1,361 of 1,572 uses of force were against male subjects (about 87 percent), while fewer than 200 uses of force were against women (about 13 percent); approximately 0.7 percent of uses of force do not indicate the gender of the subject of force.

Table 4: Use of Force, by Gender

	Male	Female	Not-specified
2015	1,458	277	56
2016	1,309	221	33
2017	1,361	199	12

The majority of force used by the NOPD is against African American/Black individuals (1,290 of 1,572 total uses of force). In 2017, force against African Americans made up 82 percent of all force

¹ The age classification of these uses of force appear to be significantly, if not completely inaccurate, with many of the entries indicating an age of zero.

incidents (down slightly from 84 percent the previous year), while force against White/Caucasians was a distant second place, at 14 percent (up from 11 percent the previous year).

Table 5: Force Used by Race/Ethnicity

	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Not- specified
2015	1,491	6	17	212	65
2016	1,309	2	34	175	43
2017	1,290	6	30	223	23

Use of Firearms

Only authorized personnel who have met all Louisiana State Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements and have been commissioned by the Superintendent of Police have the privilege to carry a firearm, as a police officer, both on-duty and off-duty (La. R.S. 40:2405). All critical firearms discharges are required to be reported to, and investigated by, the Public Integrity Bureau's Force Investigation Team. This is defined as a discharge of a firearm by an NOPD officer, including discharges when no person or animal is struck. Range and training firings, humane destruction of animals, and off-duty hunting discharges when no person is struck are not critical firearms discharges.

New Orleans police officers reportedly exhibited their firearms, without discharging them, 749 times during 2017. They reported intentionally discharging their firearms three times. Additionally, two accidental discharges occurred, bringing the total number of firearms discharges in 2017 to five.

Table 6: Firearm Discharges

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Intentional	10	12	5	3
Accidental	1	1	2	2
Total	11	13	7	5

Conducted Electrical Weapons

Officers are required to use CEWs only when such force is necessary to protect the officer, the subject, or another party from physical harm, and other less intrusive means would be ineffective. CEWs are authorized to control a violent suspect when attempts to subdue the suspect by other tactics have been, or are likely to be, ineffective, and there is a reasonable expectation that it will be unsafe for officers to approach the suspect within physical contact range. CEWs are intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual while minimizing the risk of serious injury.

While the total number of reported uses of force spiked in 2015 primarily due to stronger reporting before leveling off in the following years, total CEW uses – including discharges and pointings – dropped significantly in 2015 before leveling off around 200 annually. As Table 7 shows, the total number of CEW (Taser) discharges fell by 49 percent from 2014, when 138 were reported, to 70 in 2017. This is significant in relation to the 73 percent increase in CEW’s being pointed by officers during the same period. This data could indicate that pointing a CEW may be effective – in certain situations – to prevent the further escalation of force.

Table 7: CEW Discharges

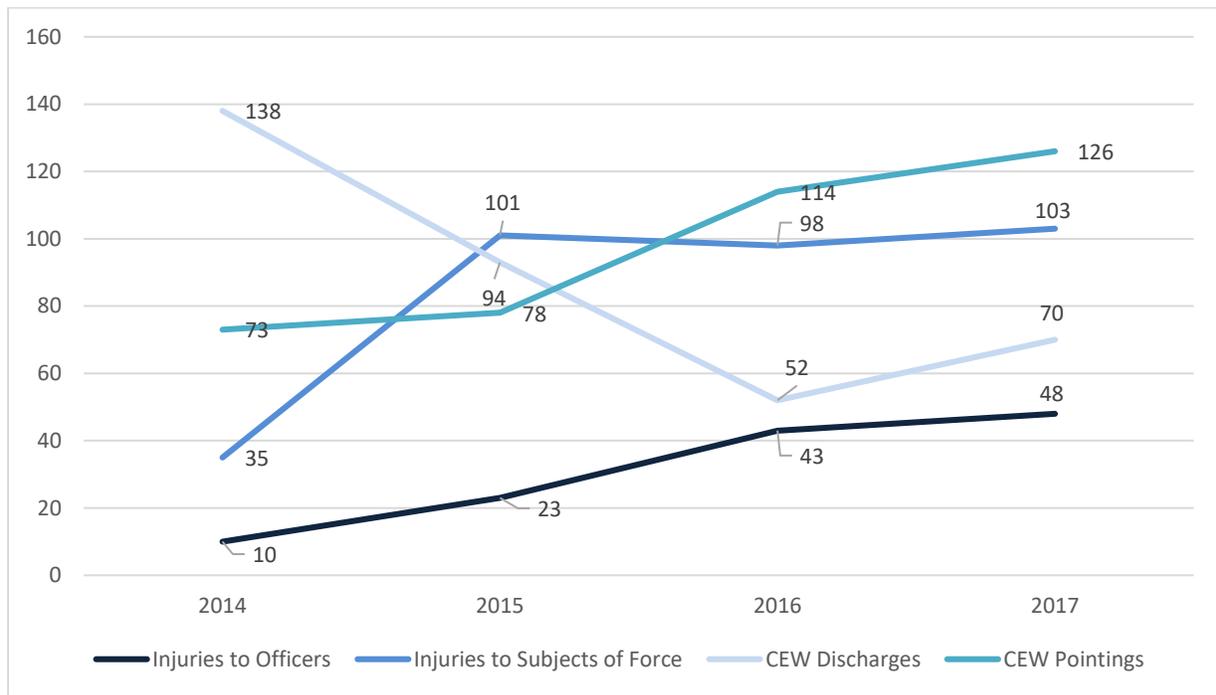
	2014	2015	2016	2017
CEW Exhibited/Pointed	73	78	114	126
CEW Discharges	138	94	52	70

The following table and chart show the relationship between CEW use and injuries to officers and subjects of force between 2014 and 2017. The data show that injuries to officers and subjects of force have trended upward in recent years, though this may be due in part to enhanced reporting as a result of improved policies. While injury numbers have increased, CEW pointings have increased but CEW discharges have decreased. It is worth noting the most injuries to officers and subjects of force occur when the reported use of force is listed as “Hands” or “Takedown.” The decrease in CEW discharges correlates with an increase in officer and subject injuries but is not necessarily causative. Once again, improved policies and reporting could be the main contributor to the rise in reported injuries.

Table 8: Correlation Between CEW use and Reported Injuries

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Injuries to Officers	10	23	43	48
Injuries to Subjects of Force	35	101	98	103
CEW Discharged	138	94	52	70
CEW Exhibited/Pointed	73	78	114	126

Chart 1: Correlation between CEW use and Injuries



Force Complaints and Unauthorized Use of Force

In 2017, complaints against NOPD personnel for excessive/unauthorized force rose for the first time since 2014. Even with the significant increase in allegations between 2016 and 2017 (21 to 39), only two allegations were sustained (up from one in each of the two prior years).

After every use of force by an NOPD officer, an investigation of the incident is conducted by a supervisor or FIT, even when a complaint is not filed. During 2017, only two force investigation found unauthorized use of force by an NOPD officer. In June 2017, during the course of a drug related arrest in the 7th District, an NOPD officer discharged his CEW against a handcuffed subject while he was trying to flee. The subject of force is listed as a Black male, 39 years of age. The second use of force that was found to be unauthorized also involved the use of a CEW, in July 2017. This time, force was used against an individual that appeared to be experiencing a mental health crisis and ignoring officer demands. This subject was also a Black male, 54 years of age.

Table 9: Unauthorized Force Allegations and Dispositions

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sustained (violated policy)	2	1	1	2
Exonerated	7	12	4	5
Unfounded	7	5	11	24
Not Sustained	12	8	2	2
No Formal Investigation Merited	2	1	2	5
Resigned Under Investigation	2	0	0	0
Pending	15	2	1	1
Total	47	29	21	39

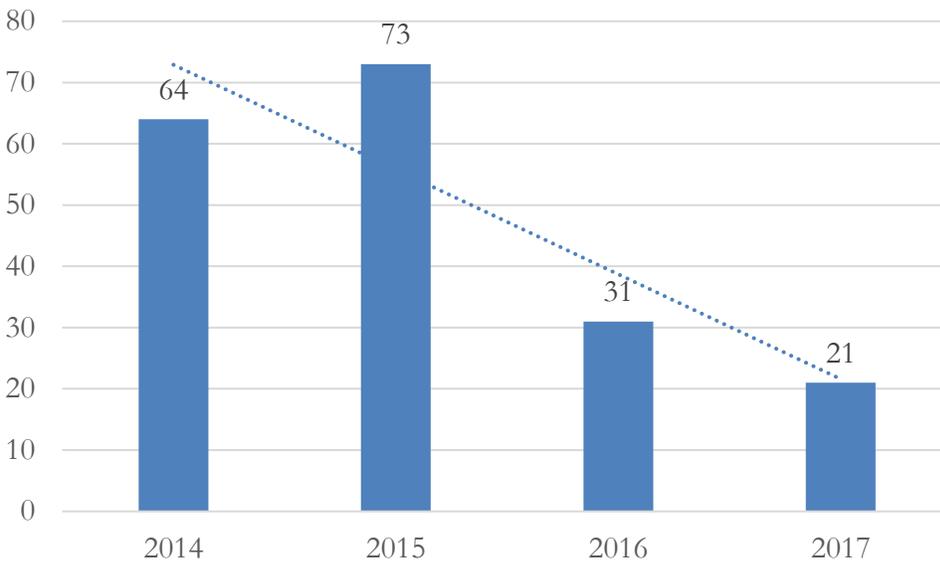
Table 10: Unauthorized Force, by Type

	2014	2015	2016	2017
CEW Deployment	0	0	0	2
Chokehold	1	0	0	0
Head Strike	0	1	0	0
Takedown/Strike	1	0	0	0
Total	2	1	1	2

Vehicle Pursuits

A vehicle pursuit is defined as an event involving one or more police officers attempting to apprehend a suspect who is trying to avoid arrest while operating a motor vehicle. This may include using high speed or other evasive tactics, such as disregarding traffic warning signs, stop signs, and red lights, driving off a roadway, turning suddenly or driving in a legal manner but willfully failing to yield to an officer's signal to stop. New Orleans police officers engaged in 21 vehicle pursuits in 2017, a 67 percent decrease from the 64 pursuits three years earlier.

Chart 2: Vehicle Pursuits



Of the 2017 pursuits, only three resulted in property damage to city or private property, with no reports of “Heavy” damage (Table 11). This is the second consecutive 50 percent decrease in pursuits resulting in property damage, from 12 in 2015 to six in 2016 and finally three in 2017. 2017 was the first year with no “heavy” damage as a result of a pursuit. Of the 2017 pursuits, none resulted in injuries to officers or bystanders, while seven suspects were injured as a result of a vehicle pursuit (Table 12).

Table 11: Property Damage Resulting From Vehicle Pursuits

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Light	11	5	1	2
Moderate	2	5	4	1
Heavy	1	2	1	0
Total	14	12	6	3

Table 12: Injuries Resulting From Vehicle Pursuits

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Officers	2	1	0	0
Suspects	1	2	2	7
Bystanders	1	5	1	0
Total	4	8	3	7

The following table lists the violation that prompted the pursuit; the officer(s) involved in the pursuit; the supervisor who approved the pursuit; the outcome of the pursuit; and resultant property damage, if any.

Table 13: Vehicle Pursuits and Outcomes

Violation	Pursuit Outcome	Damage to Vehicle
Traffic violation	All suspects were apprehended	Suspect vehicle
Narcotics violation	Driver and one passenger were arrested	None
Aggravated battery by shooting	Suspect arrested	None
Traffic violation	Suspect apprehended	None
Stolen vehicle	Suspect was not apprehended	None
Stolen vehicle	Suspect apprehended	None
Traffic violation	Suspects apprehended	Fleeing vehicle hit two others
Stolen vehicle/ Shot Officer	Suspects apprehended	None
Traffic violation	Suspects fled on foot	None
Armed carjacking	Suspects apprehended	Suspect's vehicle crashed
Aggravated assault	Pursuit cancelled	None
Traffic violation	Suspect apprehended	None
Suspicious person/ Concealed weapon	Suspect apprehended	None
Armed robbery	Suspect was not apprehended	None

Armed carjacking	Suspect apprehended	Suspect's vehicle Crashed
Armed robbery	Suspect was not apprehended	None
Armed robbery	Suspects apprehended	None
Aggravated assault	Suspect was not apprehended	Suspect hit another vehicle and fled
Armed robbery	Suspects were apprehended	Suspect hit a parked vehicle
Hit-and-run on police vehicle	Suspect was not apprehended	Suspect hit a police vehicle
Burglarizing a police vehicle	Suspects were apprehended	None

Canines

The use of canines requires adherence to procedures that control their use of force potential and that direct their specialized capabilities into legally acceptable crime detection, prevention, and control activities. A police dog used to apprehend is an instrumentality of force and can only be used consistent with the Police Department's policies. Officers are required to use the minimum amount of force that the objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of the member or others.

The New Orleans Police Department requires every canine deployment to be reported to the Public Integrity Bureau's Force Investigation Team, and NOPD tracks every canine deployment as well as bites resulting from a deployment. Canines are deployed for a variety of reasons, including patrols and to search for narcotics, and may be used without attempting to apprehend a suspect.

As Table 12 illustrates, the total number of canine deployments has decreased for the first time since 2014, as the number of bites, and ratio of bites to deployments, continued a downward trend. In 2017, there were no canine deployments that resulted in bites. In fact the only contact made by a canine unit in 2017 was a dog touching the leg of a suspect. As a result, the canine bite ratio has decreased from 34 percent to 0 percent in the span of four years.

Table 14: Canine Deployments and Bites

	2014	2015	2016	2017
With Bites	12	10	9	0
Without Bites	23	32	38	21 ¹
Total canine deployments	35	42	47	21
Canine Bite Ratio	34%	24%	19%	0%

1 - While there were no canine bites in 2017, there was one instance in which a canine units paw made contact with a suspect's leg.

SWAT Deployments

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams are part of the Crisis Response Unit, which was established to provide specialized support in handling critical field operations in which intense negotiations and/or special tactical deployment methods appear to be necessary. The Special Operations Division's tactical platoons (SWAT teams) are limited to providing specialized response to critical situations in which a tactical response is required, such as hostage rescue, barricaded subjects, high-risk warrant service, high-risk apprehension, and terrorism response. The SWAT teams have the primary responsibility for execution of high-risk warrants utilizing tactical team officers equipped with special equipment, training, and weapons.

The following table lists the location of each SWAT deployment; the number of arrests made; the type of evidence or property seized; whether a forcible entry was required; whether a weapon was discharged by a SWAT team member; and whether a person or domestic animal was killed or injured. There was a slight increase SWAT activity between 2016 and 2017, rising from six deployments to 10. However, this is still a significant decrease from the 39 deployments in 2015.

Table 15: SWAT Rolls and Outcomes

Location	Arrests made	Evidence seized	Forcible Entry Required	Weapon Discharged	Death/ Injury
5 th District	1	None	No	No	No
3 rd District	1	None	Yes	No	No
7 th District	1	None	No	No	No
4 th District	1	Pistol and ammunition	No	No	No
5 th District	1	None	No	No	No
3 rd District	0 (Mental health crisis)	None	No	No	No
7 th District	1	Knife	No	No	No
7 th District	1	Air rifle	No	No	No
1 st District	1	Shotgun	No	No	No
7 th District	1	Pistol and clothing	No	Yes	Suspect was wounded by officers prior to SWAT's arrival