

## 2019 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. Per NOPD policy Chapter 1.3 Use of Force (available here [nola.gov/nopd/policies](http://nola.gov/nopd/policies)) 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, and 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 (all are available here [nola.gov/nopd/policies](http://nola.gov/nopd/policies)). 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.

The Department's force policies were reviewed internally, and approved 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**—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 the death or 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/she/they will not comply with police direction, to leave him/ her/ them alone, or not bother him/ her/ them). 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 for, 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 actions are appropriate based on the resistance offered by the subject and may be necessary to bring the situation 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/themself, 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 380 force incidents in 2019. It is 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 this scenario, there would be a single force tracking number (FTN) 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 2016 (Table 1), and the count of each type of force used (Table 2).

**Table 1: Percentage of Arrests that Involve Use of Force**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Arrests	13,034	14,517	13,505	11,511
Force incidents	584	604	441	380
Percent of arrests that involve force	4.5%	4.2%	3.3%	3.3%



**Table 2: Types of Force Used, 2016-2019**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Firearm Discharge <sup>1</sup>	5	3	1	7
Firearm Exhibited/Pointed	444	444	304	258
CEW Discharged <sup>1</sup>	48	46	52	50
CEW Exhibited/Pointed <sup>2</sup>	103	105	20	7
Baton	2	2	4	2
Hands	280	239	223	156
Feet	0	0	0	0
Takedown <sup>3</sup>	155	220	186	200
Strike	3	4	12	3
Canine Deployments <sup>4</sup>	25	17	13	7
Escort Techniques	40	31	18	8
Defense Techniques	1	7	8	3
Other <sup>5</sup>	29	15	14	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>718</b>

1-Accidental discharges not included

2-In 2018, NOPD stopped requiring officers to report when they point their CEW at a subject.

3-In 2018 the Department revised the takedown definition (NOPD policies are available at [nola.gov/nopd/policies](http://nola.gov/nopd/policies)).

4- While four incidents involving canines resulted in bites in 2016, no bites were reported in 2017 through 2019.

5-Other includes uses of force not otherwise categorized.

Intentional firearm discharges increased from 1 in 2018 to 7 in 2019. From 2017 to 2019 the number of times NOPD officers exhibited or pointed a firearm decreased from 444 to 258. The number of times NOPD officers used hands decreased from 223 in 2018 to 156 in 2019.

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.

The number of allegations of unauthorized force decreased from 39 in 2017 to 18 in 2018 and then increased to 24 in 2019 (see Table 8).

## 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 2016 to 2019.

**Table 3: Age of Subjects of Force**

	<b>≤ 10</b>	<b>11-17</b>	<b>18-27</b>	<b>28-37</b>	<b>38-47</b>	<b>48-57</b>	<b>58+</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>
2016	4	91	256	202	77	51	21	53
2017	5	64	306	192	77	42	23	45
2018	2	76	186	140	64	30	12	39
2019	1	50	134	120	75	22	19	38

The data show each year there are more incidents of force against individuals between the ages of 18 and 27 (29% of the 459 subjects of force in 2019) than any other age group. Individuals between the ages of 28 and 37 were the second most common age group to have force used against them (26% in 2019).

The data show each year there are more incidents of force involving male than female subjects. In 2019, 387 (84%) of the 459 subjects of force were male, while 71 (15%) subjects of force were women.

**Table 4: Sex of Subjects of Force**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>
2016	627	113	15
2017	649	100	5
2018	470	75	4
2019	387	71	1

The majority of force used by the NOPD is against African American/Black individuals (381 of 459 subjects of force in 2019). In 2019, 83% of subjects of force were African American, while 12% were white/Caucasian.

**Table 5: Race/Ethnicity of Subjects of Force**

	<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Hispanic or Latinx</b>	<b>Other</b>
2016	617	99	15	24
2017	621	95	20	18
2018	447	75	15	12
2019	381	54	10	14

## **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 258 times during 2019. They reported seven intentional discharges. Additionally, two accidental discharges occurred, bringing the total number of firearms discharges in 2019 to 9.

**Table 6: Firearm Discharges**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Intentional	5	3	1	7
Accidental	2	2	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

## 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 when other, less intrusive means would be ineffective. CEWs are authorized to control a violent subject when attempts to subdue the subject 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.

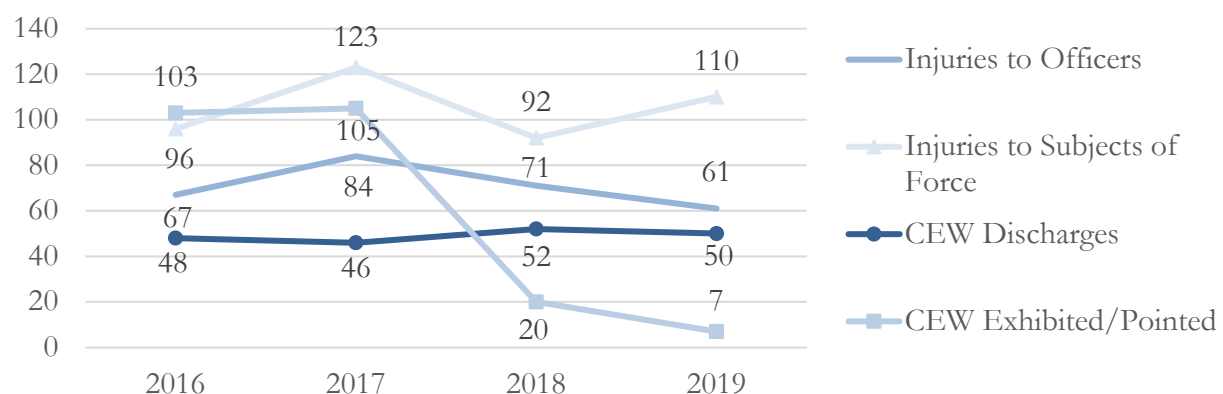
**Table 7: CEW Discharges**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
CEW Exhibited/Pointed <sup>1</sup>	103	105	20	7
CEW Discharges	48	46	52	50

1- In 2018, NOPD stopped requiring officers to report when they point their CEW at a subject.

The following chart shows CEW use, injuries to officers who were involved in a use of force incident, and injuries to subjects of force between 2016 and 2019. The number of officer and subject injuries increased from 2016 to 2017 and decreased from 2017 to 2018. Officer injuries continued to decrease from 2018 to 2019, while injuries to subjects of force increased from 2018 to 2019. The number of CEW discharges remained relatively constant from 2016 to 2019. It is important to note most injuries to officers and subjects of force occur during use of force incidents that involve force types “Hands” and “Takedown.” Additionally, NOPD’s force reporting software does not link force types to injuries; manual review is required to determine the connection between force types and officer or subject injuries. The software also does not differentiate between subject injuries caused by force used by NOPD and injuries caused by others or by the subjects themselves. For example, if NOPD officers needed to use force to stop a fight, subject injuries caused by the fight would be documented in the report. Lastly, NOPD documents the CEW prong entry points as subject injuries on use of force reports. This means the data show all CEW deployments that hit the target result in injuries to subjects.

**Chart 1: CEW Use and Injuries<sup>1</sup>**



1-In 2018, NOPD stopped requiring officers to report when they point their CEW at a subject.

## **Force Complaints and Unauthorized Use of Force**

Allegations against NOPD personnel for excessive force decreased from 39 in 2017 to 18 in 2018 and then increased to 24 in 2019. Sustained allegations increased from 4 in 2018 to 7 in 2019.

Between 2016 and 2019, three officers used force deemed unauthorized in two separate incidents. None had used force deemed unauthorized in more than two separate incidents.

**Table 8: Unauthorized Force Allegations and Dispositions**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Sustained	1	2	4	7
Exonerated	5	7	2	4
Unfounded	11	22	10	9
Not Sustained	2	2	1	2
No Formal Investigation Merited	2	5	1	1
Pending	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>

From 2017 to 2019 allegations of unauthorized force made by non-employees decreased from 33 to 12, while internal allegations of unauthorized force increased from 6 to 11.

**Table 9: Unauthorized Force Allegations by Source**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Public Initiated	17	33	11	12
Rank Initiated	4	6	7	11

After every use of force by an NOPD officer, an investigation of the incident is conducted by a supervisor or by FIT. Force investigation requirements are specified in Ch. 1.3 Use of Force and Ch. 1.3.6 Reporting Use of Force (available at [nola.gov/nopd/policies](http://nola.gov/nopd/policies)). In 2019, 13 force investigations found unauthorized use of force by an NOPD officer, accounting for 3.4% of all use of force investigations. This was an increase from 7 in 2018, which accounted for 1.6% of force incidents that year. In 2019, force investigations found 13 use of force incidents to involve unauthorized or excessive force, accounting for 3.4% of uses of force incidents. This was an increase from 7 in 2018, which accounted for 1.6% of uses of force incidents that year. This trend shows NOPD is taking force investigations and compliance with force policy seriously, even when officers use low-level force like exhibiting firearms and hand control.

**Table 10: Incidents with Unauthorized/Unjustified Force**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Incidents with Unauthorized Force	2	5	7	13
% of Use of Force Incidents	0.3%	0.8%	1.6%	3.4%

Table 11 shows the force types used during incidents deemed to have at least one use of unauthorized or unjustified force. Such incidents may involve multiple types of force. If an incident involved one authorized and one unauthorized use of force, both force types are represented in Table 11. Eleven force types used during incidents deemed to have at least one use of unauthorized force are classified as other, six of which are from the Unity One incident, which involved three police vehicles occupied by two officers each that engaged in an unauthorized vehicle pursuit. The pursued vehicle crashed into the Unity One salon, exploded, and the building caught on fire. Tragically, the two people in the pursued vehicle and one person inside of the salon died. Eight other people in the salon and 2 officers suffered minor injuries related to smoke inhalation.

**Table 11: Force Types Used During Incidents Deemed to Have at Least One Use of Unauthorized or Unjustified Force**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Firearm Discharge	0	0	0	1
Firearm Exhibited/Pointed	0	0	2	5
CEW Discharged	0	3	6	3
CEW Exhibited/Pointed	0	0	0	1
Hands	1	0	5	2
Takedown	0	0	0	2
Strike	0	0	3	0
Other	1	3	3	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>

The geographic areas with the most force incidents deemed to involve unauthorized force by NOPD's force investigations from 2016 to 2019 were the 4<sup>th</sup> District (7) and the 6<sup>th</sup> District (6).

**Table 12: Unauthorized Force Incidents by Geographic Area**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
1st District	0	0	0	2
2nd District	0	0	0	1
3rd District	0	0	0	1
4th District	0	2	2	3
5th District	0	0	2	0
6th District	1	1	2	2
7th District	0	0	0	3
8th District	0	0	0	1

Males were the subjects of the majority of force during incidents deemed to have unauthorized force by NOPD's force investigations from 2016 to 2019. Four of the 8 females involved in incidents with unauthorized force in 2019 were inside the salon during the Unity One incident described above.

**Table 13: Sex of Subjects of Force at Incidents Deemed to have Unauthorized/Unjustified Force**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	2	5	7	12
Female	0	0	0	8
Not Specified	0	0	0	0

African Americans were the subjects of 23 of the 34 incidents involving unauthorized force from 2016 to 2019.

**Table 14: Race/Ethnicity of Subject of Force at Incidents Deemed to have Unauthorized/Unjustified Force**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
African American	2	4	6	11
White	0	1	1	2
Hispanic	0	0	0	2
Other	0	0	0	5

Individuals between the ages of 28 and 37 were the subjects of the most force incidents deemed to involve unauthorized force by NOPD's force investigations in 2019.

**Table 15: Unauthorized Force by Age of Subject**

	2016	2017	2018	2019
≤10	0	0	0	0
11-17	0	1	1	2
18-27	0	2	1	1
28-37	1	0	1	3
38-47	1	1	2	2
48-57	0	1	1	1
58+	0	0	1	3
Not Specified	0	0	0	8

**Force Incidents per Officer**

NOPD officers use force at varying frequencies. An officer's assignment can make a difference in the frequency with which he/she/they use(s) force. A Special Operations Division officer who serves arrest warrants for violent offenders will likely point his/her/their gun at many subjects, while an officer assigned to desk duty will likely never use force. Between 2016 and 2019, 264 officers, 22% of all officers, used force one time. During the same time period, 13 officers, 1% of all officers, used force 20-30 times.

**Table 16: Frequency of Force Incidents per Officer 2016-2019**

<b><u># of Force Incidents 2016-2019</u></b>	<b><u># of Officers</u></b>	<b><u>% of Commissioned</u></b>
1	264	22%
2-5	373	31%
6-10	132	11%
11-20	58	5%
20-30	13	1%
>30	2	0%
Total	842	
Total Commissioned in 2019	1225	



## 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 41 vehicle pursuits in 2019, up from 26 in 2018, but a decrease from 64 pursuits in 2014.

Of the 2019 pursuits, 10 resulted in property damage to city or private property. In 2019, 2 officers were injured, while 4 suspects and 11 bystanders were injured, including 3 deaths, as a result of vehicle pursuits.

**Table 17: Property Damage Resulting From Vehicle Pursuits**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Light	11	5	1	2	3	1
Moderate	2	5	4	1	2	5
Heavy	1	2	1	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

**Table 18: Injuries Resulting From Vehicle Pursuits**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Officers	2	1	0	0	0	2
Suspects	1	2	2	7	0	4
Bystanders	1	5	1	0	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>

The following table lists the violation that prompted the pursuit, the outcome of the pursuit, and resultant property damage, if any.

**Table 19: Vehicle Pursuits and Outcomes, 2019**

Violation	Pursuit Outcome	Damage to Vehicle
Stolen Vehicle	Suspect Escaped	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Terminated- Vehicle Left Jurisdiction	None
Armed Robbery	Suspect Arrested	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Supervisor	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None

<b>Violation</b>	<b>Pursuit Outcome</b>	<b>Damage to Vehicle</b>
Aggravated Assault	Suspect Escaped	None
Arrest Warrant for Narcotics Violation	Suspect Arrested	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Supervisor	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None
Possible Attempted Murder	Suspect Arrested-Vehicle Crashed	Suspect's vehicle overturned.
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None
Aggravated Battery	Suspect Arrested-Suspect Voluntarily Stopped	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Supervisor	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None
Auto Burglary	Suspect Escaped	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None
Robbery	Suspects Arrested	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None
Armed Robbery	Suspect Arrested-Vehicle Crashed	Suspect's vehicle crashed into a residence.
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Terminated- Vehicle Out of Sight	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Terminated- Vehicle Out of Sight	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Cancelled by Officers	None
Traffic Violation	Pursuit Terminated- Vehicle Out of Sight	None
Stolen Vehicle	Suspect Vehicle Crashed - Suspects Died	Suspect's vehicle crashed into a building, exploded, and the building caught fire. 2 suspects and one building occupant died. 2 officers and 8 occupants of the building suffered minor injuries related to smoke inhalation.
Carjacking Wanted Vehicle	Suspect Arrested-Vehicle Disabled	Suspect's vehicle got a flat tire.
Robbery	Suspect Arrested	None

<b>Violation</b>	<b>Pursuit Outcome</b>	<b>Damage to Vehicle</b>
Shoplifting	Suspect Arrested-Vehicle Crashed	Suspect's vehicle struck two vehicles which struck two more. 2 arrested subjects and 3 others suffered minor injuries.
Agg. Battery	One Suspect Arrested-Pursuit Terminated Vehicle Out of Sight	None
Suspicious Person w/Gun	Suspect Escaped- Pursuit terminated due to risk for bystanders	None
Aggravated Battery	Suspect Escaped- Pursuit terminated due to risk for bystanders	None
Robbery	Suspect Escaped- Pursuit terminated due to risk for bystanders	None
Armed Carjacking	Two Suspects Arrested/One Escaped- Suspect Vehicle Stopped	None
Attempted Auto Burglary	Pursuit Cancelled by Supervisor	None
Auto Burglary	Supervisor Terminated	None
Robbery	Supervisor Terminated	None
Carjacking	Suspect Escaped-Suspect Vehicle Crashed	Suspect's vehicle struck signs, a fence, and a gate.
Carjacking	Pursuit Terminated- Vehicle Out of Sight	None
Armed Carjacking	Suspect Escaped	Suspect's vehicle struck a parked vehicle.
Traffic Violation	Vehicle stopped, subject fled on foot	None
Traffic Violation	Vehicle stopped, subject fled on foot	Officer's vehicle damaged

## 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 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 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 the table below illustrates, the total number of canine deployments has decreased for 3 years in a row from 47 in 2016 to 9 in 2019. While the canine bite ratio was 34% in 2014, no canine deployments resulted in bites in 2017, 2018, and 2019 making the bite ratio 0% for those 3 years.

**Table 20: Canine Deployments and Bites**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
With Bites	12	10	9	0	0	0
Without Bites	23	32	38	22 <sup>1</sup>	16	9
Total canine deployments	35	42	47	22	16	9
<b>Canine Bite Ratio</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>

1 - While there were no canine bites in 2017, there was one instance in which a canine unit's 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 an increase in SWAT activity from 3 deployments in 2018 to 5 in 2019. There were 39 deployments in 2015.

**Table 21: 2019 SWAT Rolls and Outcomes**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Arrests Made</b>	<b>Evidence seized</b>	<b>Forcible Entry Required</b>	<b>Weapon Discharged</b>	<b>Death/ Injury</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	1	Yes	No	Yes	No
5 <sup>th</sup> District	1	Yes	No	No	No
6 <sup>th</sup> District	1	Yes	No	No	No
1 <sup>st</sup> District	1	Yes	No	No	No
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	1	Yes	No	No	No