

# Yale University Police Department

Use of Force Annual Report

Calendar Year 2019



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# Yale University Police Department

## General Order 302 - Use of Force

### **PURPOSE**

To establish Yale University Police Department's ("Department" or "YUPD") guidelines and limitations concerning the appropriate and acceptable use of deadly and non-deadly force. Yale University Police Department's use of force is governed by Federal and Connecticut law, including, but not limited to, the United States Constitution.

### **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Yale University Police Department to provide clear guidance to sworn members regarding the use of force in the performance of their duties. The safety of innocent persons and officers is of paramount importance.

The primary responsibility of the officers of the Yale University Police Department is to protect the life and property of citizens. In compliance with applicable law, members shall use only the amount of force necessary and reasonable to control a situation, effect an arrest, overcome resistance to arrest, or defend themselves or others from harm. When force is necessary, the degree of force employed should be in direct relationship to the amount of resistance exerted, or the immediate threat to officers or others.

There is a compelling public interest that officers authorized to exercise the use of force do so in an objectively reasonable manner, in a way that does not violate the civil rights guaranteed by our Constitution and applicable law. Officers who use excessive or unjustified force degrade the confidence of the community they serve, undermine the legitimacy of police authority and hinder the Department's ability to provide effective law enforcement services to the community.

Officers who use excessive or unauthorized force shall be subject to discipline, possible criminal prosecution, and/or civil liability. Use of force is only authorized when it is objectively reasonable and for a lawful purpose. Accordingly, the YUPD will thoroughly review and/or investigate all uses of force by members to assure compliance with all legal requirements and this policy.

## SUMMARY

During the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 members of the Yale University Police Department were involved in 26 incidents where one or more officers had to use force. 59 YPD Officers used some level of force during those 26 incidents. Those 59 Officers combined for 79 use of force techniques.

The type and level of force used by officers was effective more than 92 percent of the time. Officers had to use force in a variety of situations. The most common situations where force was required were with intoxicated or medical calls. On three occasions officers had to use force on a subject who was armed with a weapon. The total frequency of forced used to overall police and public interactions was .82 percent. Put another way, during all documented interactions with the public in 2019, Yale Police Officers used force less than one percent of the time.

Below are the 2019 use of force statistics with 2018 statistics for comparison.

<b>2019</b>	
Total Use of Force Incidents	26
Number of involved officers	59
Number of involved citizens	26
Amount of Force Techniques Used	79
Injuries to Officers	8
Injuries to Citizens	5
Effectiveness	92.4%
Total Frequency	0.82%

<b>2018</b>	
Total Use of Force Incidents	29
Number of involved officers	54
Number of involved citizens	29
Amount of Force Techniques Used	62
Injuries to Officers	13
Injuries to Citizens	10
Effectiveness	94%
Total Frequency	0.71%

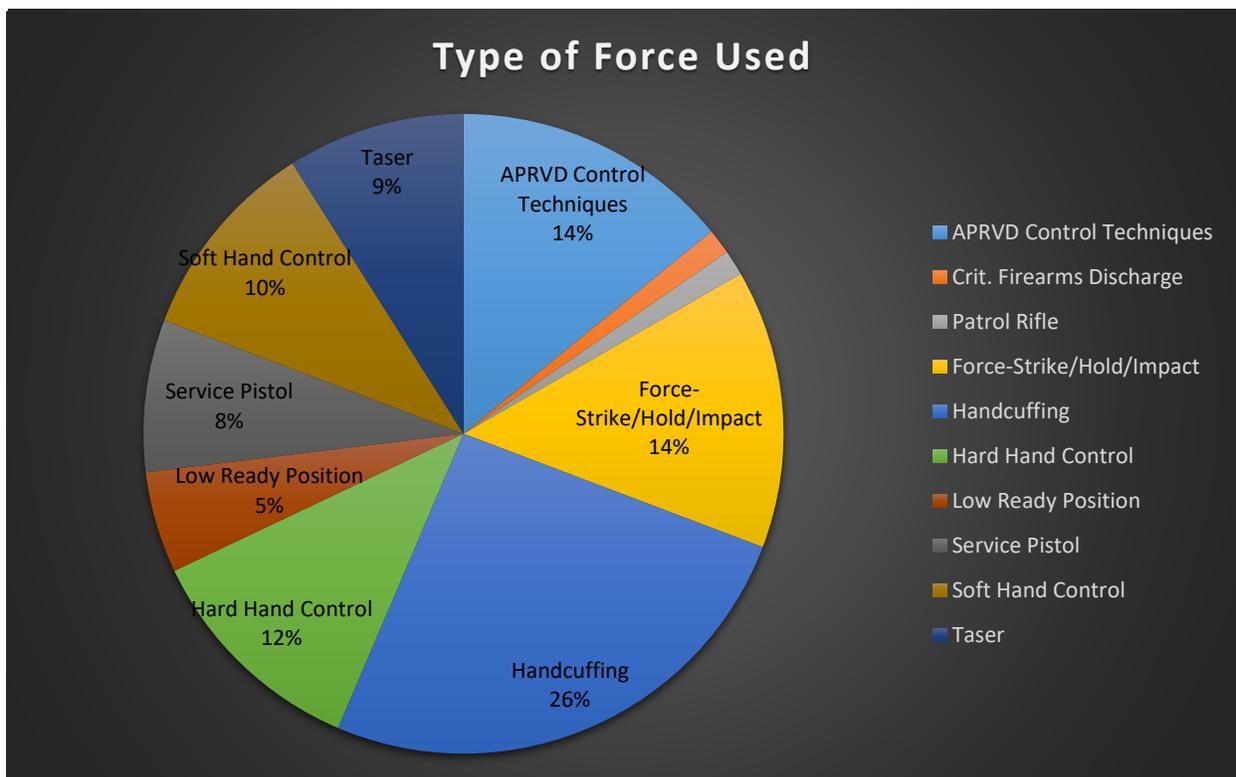
## TYPES OF FORCE

Below is the breakdown for the types of force used in 2019. Handcuffing was the most used force type at 25%. This was followed by approved control techniques and Force-strikes/holds/impact, both at 14%. The three categories together account for more than 50% of force used.

A firearm was drawn twelve times, six times pointed at an individual and four times left in the low ready position. A patrol rifle was drawn once. There was one firearms discharge. A Taser was drawn seven times. It was discharged once, but was not effective.

There were no OC spray or impact weapon deployments in 2019.

Type of force	Total
APRVD Control Techniques	11
Crit. Firearms Discharge	1
Patrol Rifle	1
Force-Strike/Hold/Impact	11
Handcuffing	20
Hard Hand Control	9
Impact Weapons	0
Low Ready Position	4
Service Pistol	6
Soft Hand Control	8
Taser	7

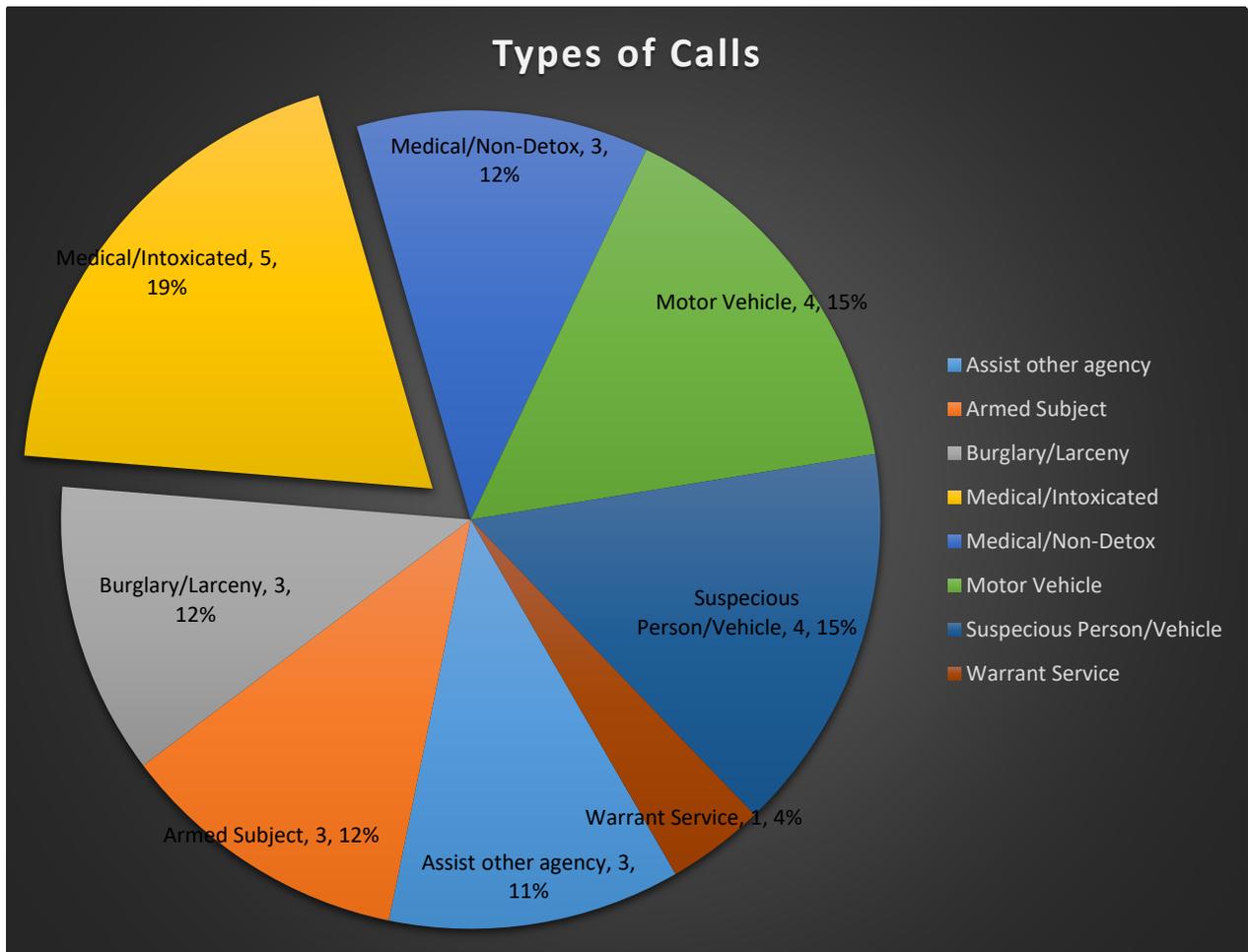


## TYPES OF CALLS

Calls for service involving an intoxicated individual was the largest category where force was needed, 5, or 19%. Motor vehicle stops and suspicious persons/vehicles were next with 4 each, or 15% each. Assisting other agencies, armed subjects, and burglary/larceny each had three instances where force was used. Force was also used once while serving a warrant on a domestic violence suspect.

Medical calls, both for detox and non-detox (usually emotionally disturbed person calls) make up nearly one third of all force reported.

Of the 26 use of force incidents, 15 stemmed from self-initiated calls.



## **INJURIES**

Injuries during use of force incidents were infrequent. Five citizen reported injuries due to use of force. Eight officer reported injuries.

### **Effectiveness**

There were 79 force techniques used in 2019, six techniques were listed as “not effective” by officers in their Blue Team Use of Force Report. That is just over seven and half percent. Therefore, the type and level of force deployed by Officers was effective about 92% of the time.

### **Frequency**

In 2019 there were 3158 unique case numbers. Those case numbers relate to each documented interaction between a Yale University Police Officers and a member of the public. Each interaction presents an unknown element, which could lead to the need to employ force. Of those 3158 incidents, only 26 resulted in force being used. That amounts to 0.82%. Therefore, less than one percent of all Yale Police Interactions with the public resulted in the use of force. This compares to prior years, which were also less than one percent.

Medical calls amounted for the most force used by type. Medical calls ranged from intoxicated individuals to emotionally disturbed persons. There were 513 documented medical calls with eight of those resulting in the use of force. That is just over one and half percent.

## **END OF REPORT**