Office of Criminal Justice Statistics
Use-of-Force in Oklahoma, 2020

October 28, 2021

Introduction

In January 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched the Use-of-Force data collection as a component of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program used by law enforcement agencies. According to the FBI, the goal for the use-of-force reporting is to provide "an aggregate view of the incidents reported and the circumstances, subjects, and officers involved." (FBI Use-of-Force)

It should be noted that the use-of-force data collection gathers data that is readily available within the first days of an investigation. The Use-of-Force program does not collect data regarding the outcome of the use-of-force incidents, and it does not assess if officers involved in the incidents acted lawfully.

The Use-of-Force data only collects information on incidents where a law enforcement officer(s) discharges his/her firearm in the direction of a person; where serious bodily injury of a person occurs due to the use-of-force; and where the use-of-force results in the death of a person.

Methodology

In January 2019, when the FBI began data collection nationally, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation's (OSBI) Field Services Unit began collecting use-of-force incidents in Oklahoma. To collect data, the Field Services Unit contacted all local law enforcement agencies (approximately 430 reporting agencies) and provided instructions for reporting Use-of-Force data. In addition, if the Field Services Unit personnel see media reports or calls for service involving use-of-force, the field representative will send the use-of-force form to the agency with a reminder to submit data.

Most Oklahoma law enforcement agencies submit their data to the Field Services Unit at the OSBI and the data is then entered into the FBI's use-of-force program. Oklahoma City Police Department is the only agency in the state that submits data directly into the FBI's use-of-force system. Use-of-force data is collected on a calendar year basis.

Incident Summary

For 2020, there were 34 incidents reported where the incident(s) met the use-of-force reporting guidelines, a decrease of 47.7% from 2019. Out of these 34 incidents, there were 14 unique agencies that submitted a report. The agencies that had the most use-of-force reports were Oklahoma City Police Department (13) and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (7).

As previously mentioned, all incidents must meet one of the following criteria: the subject(s) died as a result of use-of-force; the subject suffered serious bodily injury as a result of the use-of-force; or an officer discharged his/her firearm at, or in the direction of, at least one subject during the incident.

In 2020, 64.7% of reported incidents involved a subject dying as a result of use-of-force^, and 20.6% sustained a serious bodily injury as a result of use-of-force^. The remaining (14.7%) of incidents were reported due to the officer discharging his/her firearm at or in the direction of the subject(s).

Five incidents was the highest monthly number of use-of-force^ incidents reported, occurring in the months of January, February, and November. A majority of incidents (52.9%) took place between 8:00 - 8:59 PM and 4:00 - 4:59 AM, with a significant number (29.4% of all incidents) occurring between the intervals of 12:00 - 12:59 AM and 3:00 - 3:59 AM (Figure 1). Most use-of-force^ incidents occurred at a Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk (44.1%) or at a Residence/Home (17.6%) (Figure 2).
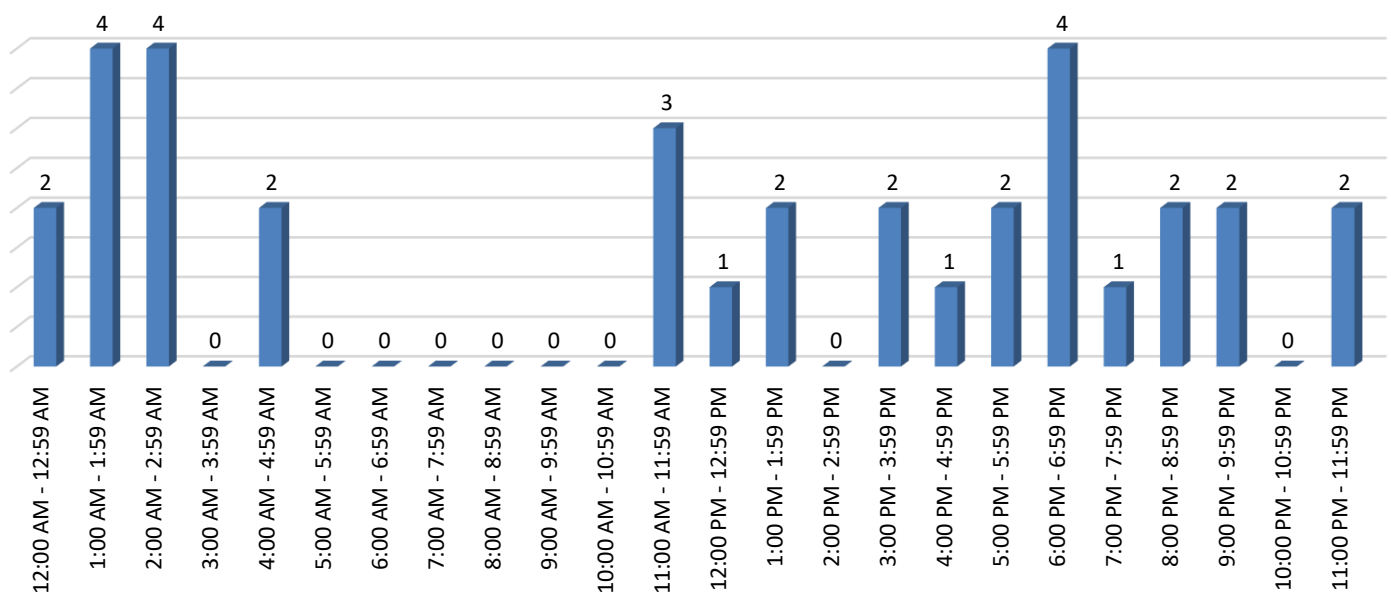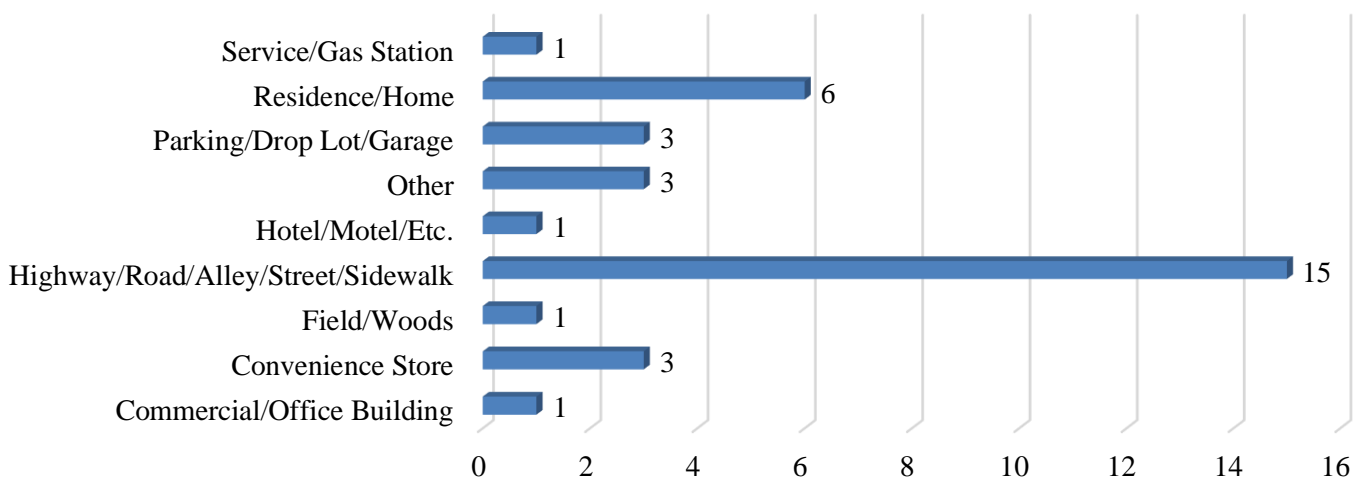
Figure 1. Time of Day of Use-of-Force^ Incidents

Figure 2. Location Type of Use-of-Force^ Incidents

^Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The majority (94.1%) of use-of-force^ incidents only involved one subject, although two incidents involved two subjects. The number of officers who were directly involved in use-of-force^ incidents ranged from one to eight. For 50.0% of incidents, there was one officer and one subject involved in the use-of-force^ incident. For two incidents there was one officer and two subjects present during the use-of-force^. Two or three officers were present with one subject for 29.4% of incidents. The remaining incidents (14.7%) had five, six, or eight officers present with one subject at the time of the use-of-force^ (Table 1).

In total, there were 66 officers included in the use-of-force^ data collection. Law enforcement agencies reported the officer(s) approached the subject in 91.2% of incidents, and in the remaining incidents (3) the officer(s) did not approach the subject. Of the 31 incidents in which the officer(s) approached the subject, the law enforcement agency reported the officer(s) was ambushed in three incidents. None of the incidents reported where the officer(s) did not approach the subject were reported as an ambush. In 35.3% of use-of-force^ incidents, a senior officer or supervisor was either present or consulted with at some point during the incident.

Table 1. Number of Officers per Incident

Number of Officers	Number of Incidents	% of Total
1	19*	55.9
2	5	14.7
3	5	14.7
5	3	8.8
6	1	2.9
8	1	2.9
Total	**34**	**100.0**

*Two of the incidents had two subjects involved

The use-of-force^ program records the alleged crime committed by the subject that led to the initial contact with law enforcement. Each agency can report up to three alleged offenses in a given incident. Out of 34 reported incidents, 64.7% did not report an alleged offense committed by the subject. The most common offenses reported were Weapon Law Violations (10.8%) and All Other Offenses (8.1%) (Figure 3).

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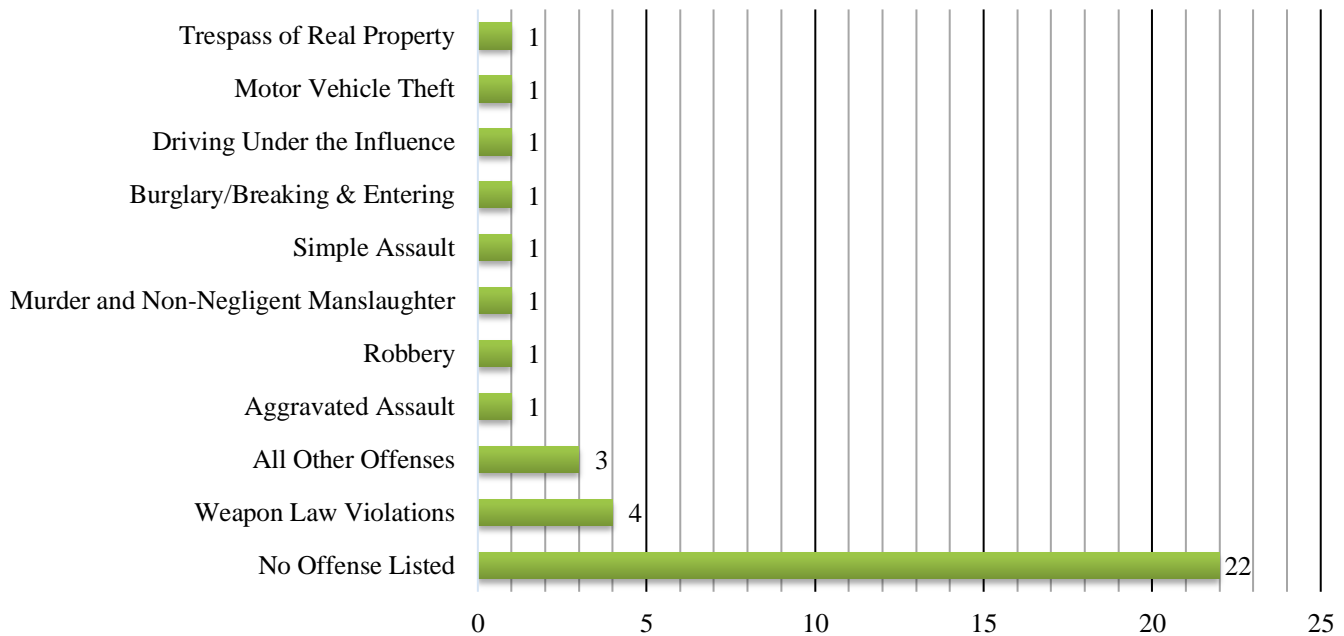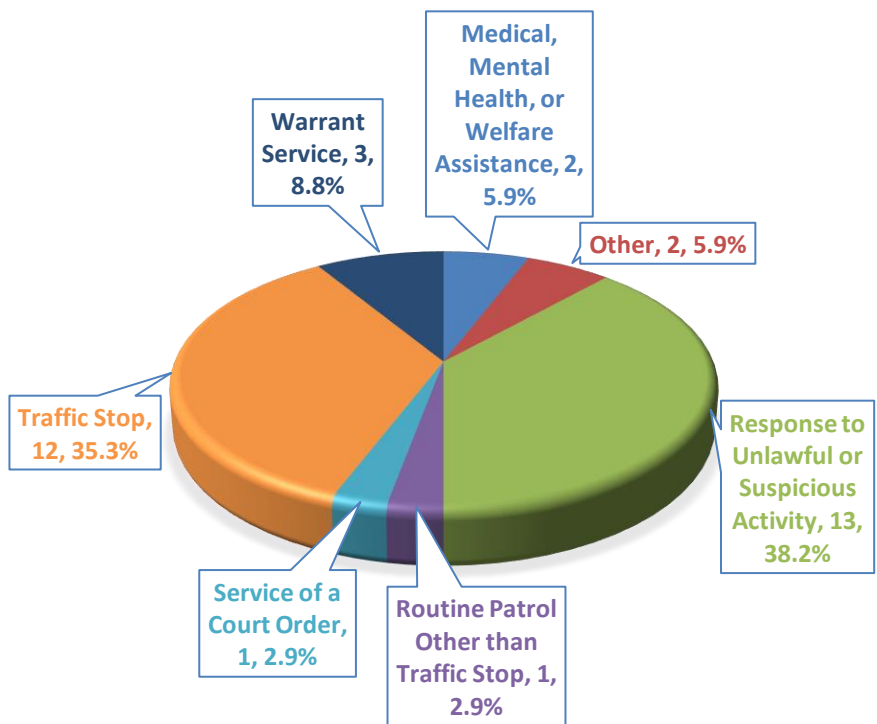Figure 3. Alleged Offense for Police Contact

Figure 4. Initial Contact between the Officer and Subject

In addition to reporting the alleged criminal offense for police contact, the rationale for initial contact between the subject and police is also reported. In the majority of incidents (73.5%), the officer(s) were either responding to Unlawful or Suspicious Activity (38.2%) or to a Traffic Stop (35.3%). The remaining types of initial contact included: Warrant Service (8.8%); Medical, Mental Health, or Welfare Assistance (5.9%); Other (5.9%); Service of a Court Order (2.9%); and Routine Patrol Other than a Traffic Stop (2.9%) (Figure 4).

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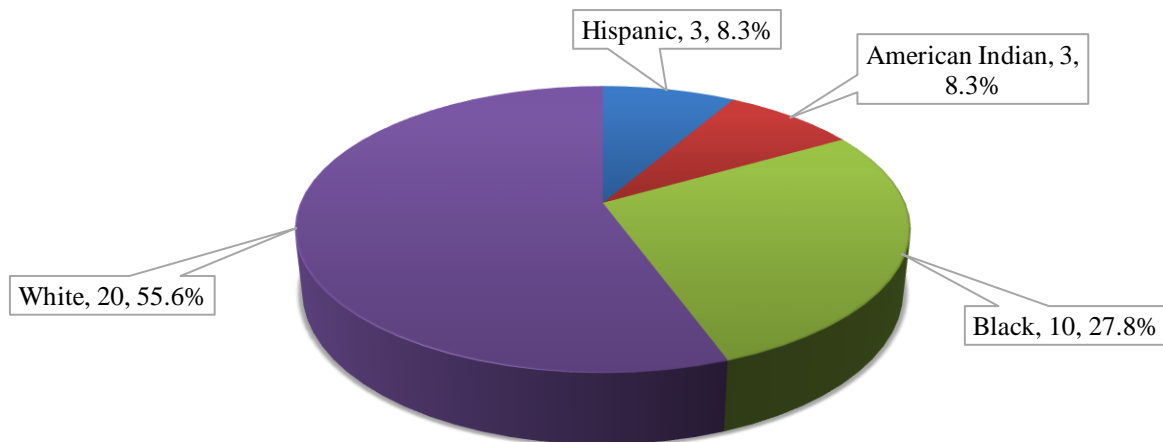
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Subject Summary

In 2020, there were 36 unique individuals who were reported as the "Subject" in use-of-force^ incidents. Of the 36 subjects, 86.1% fall between ages 20 and 49 (Table 2). Two subjects (5.6%) were reported between 50-59 and the remaining ages of Under 18, 18 & 19, and 60 and 69 were reported with one subject each (Table 2).

Table 2. Age Range of Subjects

Age Range	Count	% of Total
Under 18	1	2.8
18 & 19	1	2.8
20 - 29	6	16.7
30 - 39	15	41.7
40 - 49	10	27.8
50 - 59	2	5.6
60 - 69	1	2.8
Total	**36**	**100.0**

In addition to age, the use-of-force^ program collects the sex and race and/or ethnicity of the subjects. Of the 36 subjects, 55.6% were reported as White, 27.8% as Black, and 8.3% each as American Indian and Hispanic Figure 5). Males represented 91.7% of subjects, while females represented 8.3% of subjects.

Figure 5. Race and/or Ethnicity of Subjects

^Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

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Additionally, law enforcement agencies report the apparent or known impairment of the subject. An impairment can include: the mental or physical condition of the subject or if the subject is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Of the 36 subjects, law enforcement reported 16 (44.4%) subjects had an impairment, and 11 (30.6%) did not appear to be impaired. For the remaining subjects, three subject's impairment was Pending Further Investigation, and for six subjects impairment was Unknown.

For the 16 subjects who were reported with an apparent or known impairment, law enforcement agencies can report one or more types of impairment such as Mental, Alcohol, Drugs, and Pending Investigation. In 2020, there were 17 types of impairments reported with Drugs accounting for 52.9% of the reported impairments. Mental and Alcohol were reported at 17.6% each, and two (11.8%) impairments were Pending Further Investigation (Figure 6).
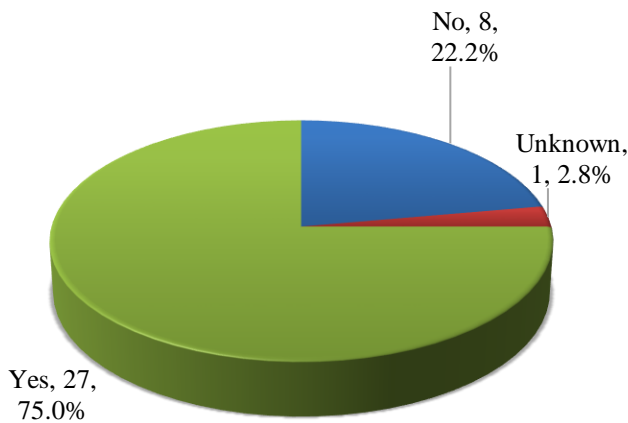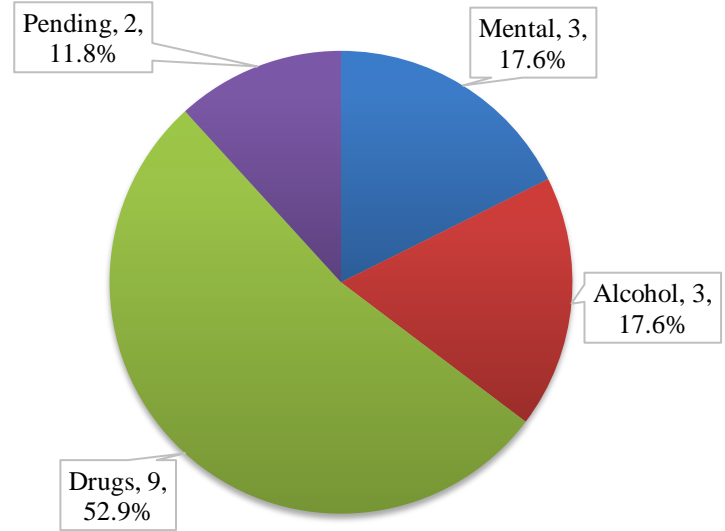
Figure 6. Impairment Type for Subjects

Figure 7. Subject Armed

Law enforcement agencies report if subjects threatened the officers or others before the use-of-force^. If the subject made threats just prior to the use-of-force^, the agency can report if the threat was directed towards the officer, another party, or the officer and another party. Of the 36 subjects, 26 (72.2%) threatened the officer, nine (25.0%) subjects threatened the officer(s) and another party, and one (2.8%) subject threatened another party.

Additional data gathered by law enforcement agencies indicates if the subject was in possession of a weapon, regardless of whether the subject used the weapon in the threatening or aggressive manner. Of the 36 subjects, 75.0% were armed with a weapon, and 22.2% did not possess a weapon. For one subject, it was unknown if the subject possessed a weapon (Figure 7).

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Data is collected on whether the subject showed an effort to resist law enforcement officers. Like with impairment, a law enforcement agency can report one or more resistance types. Of the 36 subjects, 34 (94.4%) displayed a type of resistance while two (5.6%) did not. For the 34 subjects who displayed resistance, there were 78 types of resistance reported. The most common resistance type was Non-Compliance with Verbal Command (24.4%); the second most commonly reported were Escape/Flee from Custody and Display Weapon at an Officer or Another (Table 3). The least reported resistance types were Barricading Self, Use Other Weapon at an Officer or Another, and Made Verbal Threats (Table 3). For one subject, the law enforcement agency reported the resistance as Unknown.

Table 3. Type of Resistance Used by the Subject

Type of Resistance	Count	% of Total
Non-Compliance with Verbal Commands	19	24.4
Escape/Flee from Custody	15	19.2
Display Weapon at an Officer or Another	15	19.2
Resisted Handcuffs/Arrest	9	11.5
Use a Firearm Against an Officer or Another	7	9.0
Use Physical Weapons	3	3.8
Directed Motor Vehicle at an Officer or Another	3	3.8
Barricaded Self	2	2.6
Use Other Weapon at an Officer or Another	2	2.6
Made Verbal Threats	2	2.6
Unknown	1	1.3
Total	**78**	**100.0**

There are ten categories for the type of force applied by law enforcement during the incident, and an agency may report using more than one type. Of the 46 forces applied, a Firearm was the most common (67.4%). The second most common types were Electronic (Taser) and Other with 8.7%. In 2020, there were no reported uses of Explosive Devices, Blunt Objects, or Batons (Table 4).
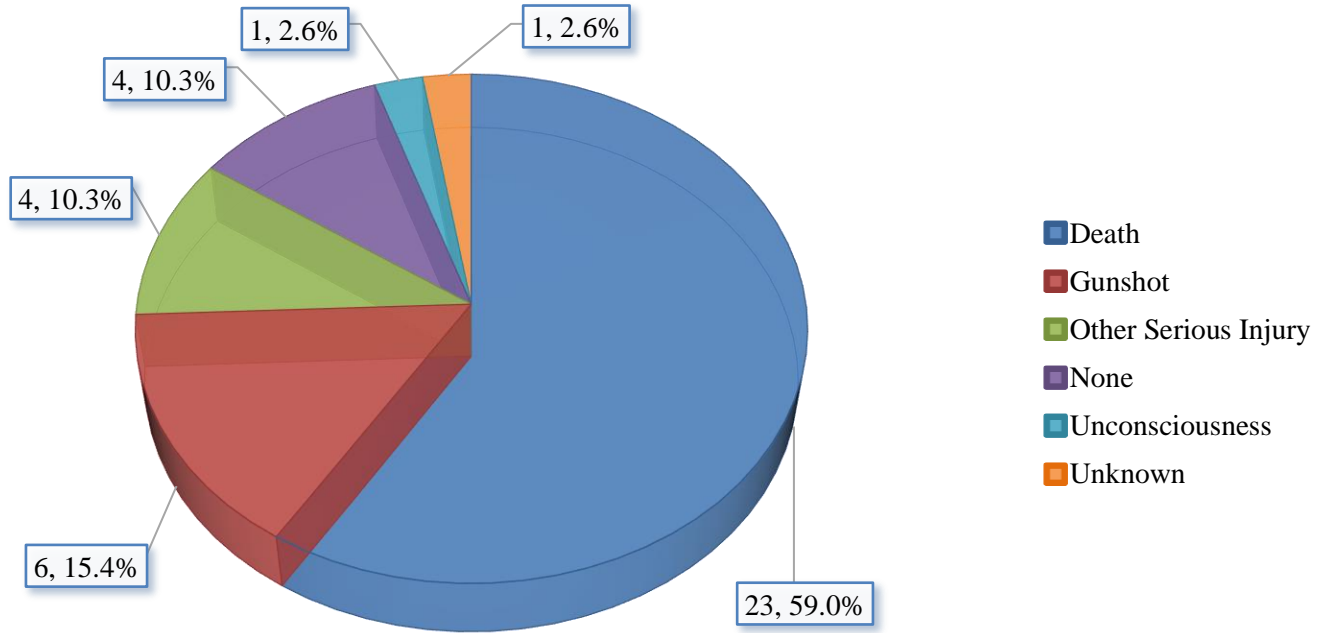
Table 4. Type of Force Applied

Type of Force Applied	Count	% of Total
Firearm	31	67.4
Electronic (Taser)	4	8.7
Other	4	8.7
Canine	3	6.5
Projectile (Impact Projectile)	2	4.3
Chemical (Chemical Agent, Pepper, or OC Spray)	1	2.2
Physical (Hands, Fists, and/or Feet)	1	2.2
Explosive Device	0	0.0
Blunt Object (Blunt Instrument, Flashlight, etc.)	0	0.0
Baton	0	0.0
Total	**46**	**100.0**

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The last data element for subjects is the type of injury the subject sustained during the use-of-force^ incident. As with other sections, law enforcement agencies can report more than one injury type, which could result in a higher number of injuries than subjects. In 2020, there were 39 injuries reported with 23 (59.0%) of the injuries being Death. The second most common injury type was Gunshot representing 15.4% of injuries, and Other Serious Injuries and No Injury accounted for 10.3% of reported injuries each. Lastly, Unconsciousness and Unknown Injury were reported one time each (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Injury Type of Subjects

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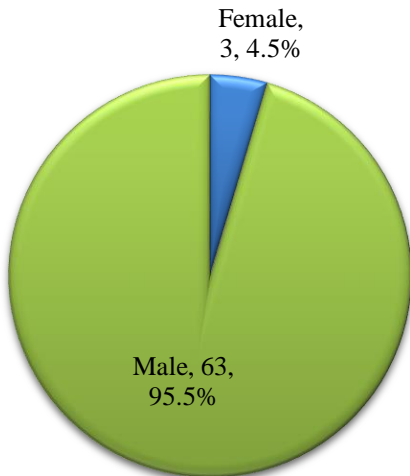
Officer Information

In 2020, there were 66 law enforcement officers who were involved in a use-of-force^ incident. The age of the officers involved was reported for all except one that is Pending Further Investigation. The majority (54.5%) of officers involved in a use-of-force^ incident were between the ages of 30-39 (Table 5), and 25.8% were between the ages of 20-29. The average age for an officer involved in a use-of-force^ incident was 34 years.

Table 5. Officer(s) Age

Age Range	Count	% of Total
20 - 29	17	25.8
30 - 39	36	54.5
40 - 49	9	13.6
50 - 59	2	3.0
60 - 69	1	1.5
Pending Further Investigation	1	1.5
Total	**66**	**100.0**

Figure 9. Sex of Officer(s)

Of all officers involved, 95.5% were reported as male, and 4.5% were female (Figure 9). In addition to reporting the age and sex of the officers involved, law enforcement agencies report the race and/or the ethnicity of the officer. In 2020, the most common (84.1%) race/ethnicity for an officer involved in a use-of-force^ incident was White (Figure 10). The remaining officers were reported as, American Indian (10.1%) Hispanic (2.9%), Black (1.4%), and Hawaiian (1.4%).
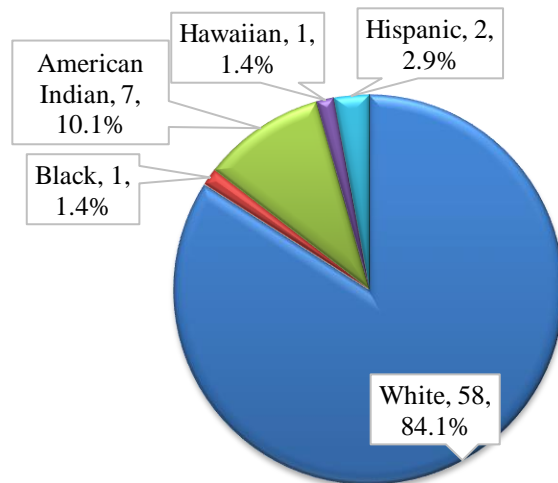
It should be noted that an agency may select more than one race/ethnicity for an officer, and in 2020, there were three officers with more than one race/ethnicity selected. For those with more than one selected, two were reported as White and American Indian, and the third was reported as Black and White.

Figure 10. Race and/or Ethnicity of Officer(s)*

*3 Officers had more than one race/ethnicity selected.

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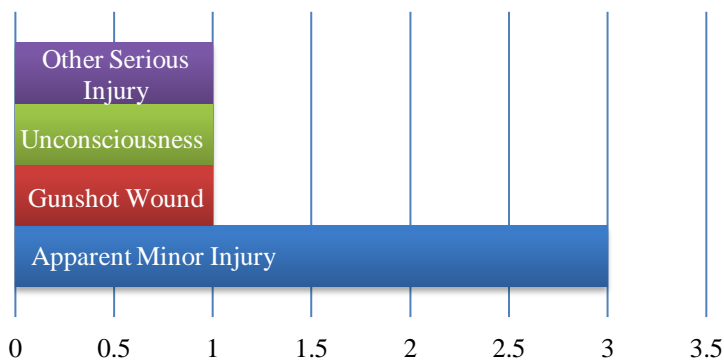
Table 6. Years of Service for Officer

Years of Service	Count	% of Total
1 - 5	24	36.4
6 - 10	20	30.3
11 - 15	10	15.2
16 - 20	6	9.1
21 - 25	3	4.5
26 - 30	2	3.0
Pending Further Investigation	1	1.5
Total	**66**	**100.0**

Additionally, the use-of-force^ data collection includes the number of years an officer has been in service. The years of service for one officer was Pending Further Investigation (Table 6). The majority of officers involved in a use-of-force^ incident were an officer for 1-5 years (36.4%) and 6-10 years (30.3%). In 2020, the average years of service for an officer involved in a use-of-force incident was nine years.

The use-of-force^ data collection also gathers information regarding whether officers are full- or part-time employees, readily identifiable as law enforcement, on- or off-duty, and whether they discharged their firearm.
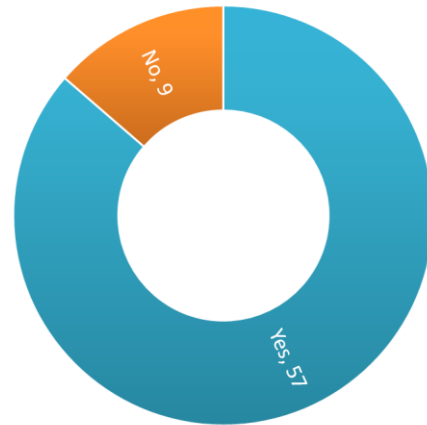
- Of the 66 officers involved, 65 officers were reported as an officer who works full time.
- The majority (64 out of 66) of officers were reported as wearing clothing or insignia that would readily identify them as a law enforcement officer.
- All but one of the officers were on duty at the time of the use-of-force^ incident.
- The law enforcement agencies reported that 86.4%, or 57 officers, discharged his/her firearm during the use-of-force^ incident, and 13.6%, or 9 officers, did not discharge their firearm (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Officer Discharged Firearm

No, 9

Yes, 57

Figure 12. Type of Officer Injury

Other Serious Injury

Unconsciousness

Gunshot Wound

Apparent Minor Injury

0   0.5   1   1.5   2   2.5   3   3.5

Lastly, in 2020, there were only five officers who reportedly had an injury. Like many fields in the use-of-force^ data collection, an agency may select more than one injury type for an officer. As a result, agencies reported six different injury types, and for the officer with multiple injuries, the agency reported they had an Apparent Minor Injury and experienced Unconsciousness. The most common injury reported for an officer was an Apparent Minor Injury (3), and the other injuries included were Gunshot Wound (1), Unconsciousness (1), and Other Serious Injury (1).

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Glossary of Terms

Incident Information – Contains information on the use-of-force incident reports, excluding the subject and officer details.

Subject Information – Contains information on the subjects of use-of-force incident reports.

Officer Information – Contains information on the officers involved in use-of-force incident reports.

Total Number of Officers – Number of Officers using force during the incident. Includes all officers who were present at any time during the contact between officer(s) and the subject, and who directly engaged at least one subject with a use of force.

Total Number of Subjects – Indicates the total number of subjects that died or received serious bodily injury as a result of a law enforcement use-of-force, or, in the absence of death or serious bodily injury, received the discharge of a firearm at or in their direction.

Officer Approach – Value describes if the officer involved in the incident approached the suspect.

Ambushed - Value describes if the incident was an ambush situation. An ambush is a situation where an officer is assaulted, unexpectedly, as the result of premeditated design by the subject, or where an unsuspecting officer was targeted or lured into danger as the result of conscious consideration and planning by the subject.

Offense – Identifies the alleged criminal offenses committed by the subject(s) that led to the initial contact with the police. This field is collected only when the "Initial Contact" column indicates "unlawful or suspicious activity."

Initial Contact – Description of the reason for initial contact between the officer and the subject.

Armed – Value indicates if the subject was in possession of weapon, regardless of whether the subject used the weapon in a threatening or assaultive way against either law enforcement officers or other persons.

Resisted – Value indicates if the subject exhibited an effort to resist the actions of the law enforcement officer(s). Types of resisting can include: Escape/Flee, Resisted (handcuffs/arrest), Barricade, Firearm, Other Weapon, Physical (hands/fist/feet), Display Weapon, Vehicle, Bodily Fluids, Throwing, Verbal Threats, Noncompliance, Pending, and Unknown.

Impaired – Value indicates if the subject exhibited an apparent or known impairment in mental or physical condition. Types of impairment include: Mental, Alcohol, Drugs, Pending, and Unknown.

Threatened – Value indicates who the subject threatened just prior to the use-of-force. Values can include: Unknown, Pending, Officer, Another Party, Both the Officer and Others, Pending, and Unknown.

Force Applied – Indicates the type of force used by law enforcement. Values can include: Firearm, Electronic, Explosive, Chemical, Baton, Projectile, Blunt Object, Physical (hands, fists, and/or feet), Canine, Other, Pending, and Unknown.

Injury – Indicates if the subject was injured during the use-of-force incidents. Injuries can include: Gunshot, Unconsciousness, Other Serious Injury, Death, None, Pending, and Unknown.

Officer Identifiable - Indicates if the officer was readily identifiable by clothing or insignia at the time of the incident.

Shots Fired – Indicates if the officer discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person during the incident.

Officer Injured – Indicates if the officer was injured during the incident. Injuries can include: Minor Injury, Gunshot, Unconsciousness, Serious Injury, Death, Pending, and Unknown.

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The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) is recognized by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) for the State of Oklahoma. The SAC collects, analyzes, and disseminates justice information; these functions are located within OSBI's Office of Criminal Justice Statistics. The following individual(s) wrote this report, under the direction of Erin Henry, Director of the Statistical Analysis Center:

Kara Miller, Statistical Research Specialist

Derek Still, Statistical Research Specialist

Nicholas Massey, Statistical Research Specialist

For more information, please contact:

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
6600 North Harvey
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116
okcrimestats@osbi.ok.gov
405.848.6724
https://osbi.ok.gov/