

CARMEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Annual Use of Force Report & Analysis

2019

James Barlow, Chief of Police

4/1/2020



This report is a review and analysis of the force used by members of the Carmel Police Department during 2019.



CARMEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

2019 Use of Force Annual Report/Analysis

Prepared by Sergeant Shane Collins
 Statistical data collected by Officer Brian Schmidt

The use of force statistics for 2019 were fairly consistent with the statistics from the last 5 years. During 2019 there were 25 total incidents where the use of force was necessary to control the situation.

2015 – 2019 Use of Force Reports & Incidents (Officer Involvement)

Type of Force	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Firearms	0	0	0	0	0
Taser	1	1	2	2	2
OC Spray	0	0	0	0	0
Baton/Impact Munition	0	0	1	0	1
Pepperball	0	1	1	0	1
K-9	1	0	1	0	1
Weaponless/Empty Hand	54	55	47	34	41
Total	56	57	52	36	46
Complaints	0	0	0	0	2
Use of Force Incidents	23	24	20	15	25
Total Agency Arrests	2642	2530	2459	2569	2469

Total Agency Arrests provided by Records Division

Types of Force Used

Firearms:

In 2019, no officers discharged a firearm as a use of force. The same was true for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

In 2013, there were 2 incidents in which officers discharged firearms as a use of force and in 2012 a firearm was used during a vicious animal attack.

Taser:

In 2019 there was 2 incidents requiring the use of a Taser.

In 2014, 2015, and 2016 there was 1 use of a Taser each year. In 2017 and 2018 there were 2 uses of a Taser.

Baton/Asp:

In 2019 there were no uses of an Asp/Baton and 1 use of an impact munition (beanbag round). This was a SWAT call out on a suicidal individual. She received contusions from the impact of the beanbag rounds and was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

In 2017, there was only one incident involving the use of an Asp/Baton. Of note, the tool was not used as an impact weapon, but rather as a leverage tool to pin a resistor's legs down.

K9:

In 2019 there was one incident with the use of a K9 as a use of force. One of our K9s was called to assist Sheridan Police Department in locating a suspect that had fled on foot into a wooded area. The suspect was wanted for Robbery and other felony warrants. The suspect was located by the CPD K9 and physically apprehended. His injuries were minor and did not require hospitalization.

There was one incident involving K9 apprehension during 2017. The K9 was used to apprehend a subject that was fleeing on foot at the termination of a vehicle pursuit. In 2015 there was one reported use of force involved a department K9. No uses of force involving a department K9 were reported in 2016 or 2018.

OC:

In 2019 there was one use of a Pepperball gun. The ERG officer was deployed to Indianapolis for an event detail. The Pepperball gun was used to disperse a large crowd that was fighting. No persons were directly struck with Pepperball rounds, the area was saturated to disperse the crowd.

One Pepperball (OC Spray) use was recorded for 2017. The pepperball was used by ERG in Indianapolis.

Weaponless/Empty Hand:

In 2019 there were 46 total uses of force reported during 25 incidents. Of those, 41 were weaponless/empty hand control measures. Empty hand techniques were used in 89.1% of all reported incidents.

In 2018 there were 36 total uses of force reported during the 15 incidents. Of those, 34 were weaponless/empty hand control measures. Empty hand techniques were used in 94.4% of all reported incidents.

In 2017, there were 52 total uses of force reported during the 20 incidents. Of those, 47 were weaponless/empty hand control measures. Empty hand techniques were used in 90.4% of all reported incidents.

In 2016, there were 57 uses of force reported during 24 incidents. Of those 57 reports, 55 reported using weaponless, empty hand control measures only. Empty hand techniques were used in 96.5% of all use of force incidents.

In 2015, there were 54 uses of force reported during 23 incidents. Of those 54 reports, 52 reported using weaponless, empty hand control measures only. Empty hand techniques were used in 96.3% of all use of force incidents.

Officer Injuries:

During 2019, 4 officers reported receiving injuries while involved in apprehending subjects that required use of force. All 4 reported injuries were minor.

During 2018, 6 officers reported receiving injuries while involved in apprehending subjects that required use of force. Five of the injuries reported were minor scrapes, abrasions, and lacerations. One reported injury was an exposure to blood.

During 2017, 5 officers reported receiving injuries while involved in apprehending subjects that required a use of force. Most of the injuries were very minor. Scrapes/abrasions, strained hip and back, swelling/bruising to head after being struck, and a strained shoulder made up the bulk of the injuries.

During 2016, 2 officers reported receiving injuries while involved in a use of force incident. One officer reported a minor finger abrasion while tackling a suspect and the other had a blood exposure when the suspect blew blood from his nose onto the officer's arm.

During 2015, 4 officers reported receiving injuries while involved in a use of force incident. Two officers received human bites, in separate incidents, while attempting to control a suspect. One officer suffered a dislocated finger and 1 strained his shoulder while struggling with a suspect resisting arrest. When comparing to the total use of force incidents, 17.4% of all use of force incidents resulted in an injury to an officer. In each of the injury reports, the officers were using empty hand/weaponless techniques. The suspect was displaying aggressive behavior in each of these incidents.

Suspect Injuries:

In 2019, 2 suspects received minor abrasions while involved in a use of force. 1 received contusions from impact munitions. 2 other suspects made a complaint of pain claim after the event from handcuffing.

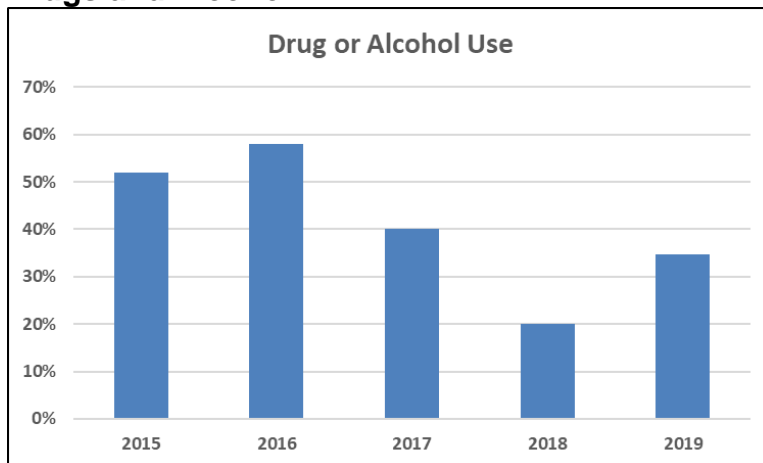
In 2018, 4 suspects received minor injuries while involved in a use of force. 2 suspects received minor abrasions. 2 suspects had self-imposed injuries. One suspect stabbed himself in the arm and neck and one suspect chewed on his own tongue which made it bleed.

In 2017, 7 suspects received minor injuries while involved in a use of force. Most injuries reported were scrapes and abrasions. There was a taser use that indicated probe impacts. Also, there was one K9 apprehension that resulted in puncture wounds and scratches.

In 2016, 8 suspects received minor injuries while resisting arrest. Examples of minor injuries include bruising, scrapes and scratches.

In 2015, 6 suspects received minor injuries while resisting arrest. One suspect received a dog bite, 1 was a Taser incident and the others were minor scrapes and abrasions.

Drugs and Alcohol:



In 2019 officers reported 10 of the 25 use of force incidents involved suspects under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This equates to 40% of all use of force incidents.

In 2018, officers reported 3 of the 15 use of force incidents involved suspects under the influence of alcohol or drugs or 20% of all reported incidents. This is down significantly from previous years.

According to reported data from 2017, 8 of the 20 subjects (40%) that were involved in use of force incidents were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. This is down slightly from the 58% that was reported in 2016.

In 2015, officers reported 12 of 23 resisting incidents involved suspects under the influence of alcohol or drugs or 52% of all reported incidents. Of those 12 incidents, the suspect was aggressively resistant in 8 and passively aggressive in 4 instances. Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques were used to control the suspect in each of these incidents. One officer was injured when bitten on the leg by a drunken suspect. Two suspects were hospitalized under immediate detention orders due to mental illness.

Use of Force Incidents – Overall

In 2019, there were 25 uses of force incidents requiring 46 use of force reports. Arrest data shows that CPD arrested 2469 individuals. These statistics are similar to previous years where officers used force to affect an arrest less than 1% of the time.

In 2018, there were 15 uses of force incidents requiring 36 uses of force reports. Arrest data shows that CPD arrested 2569 individuals. These statistics are similar to previous years where officer used force to affect an arrest less than 1% of the time.

In 2017, there were 20 use of force incidents requiring 47 use of force reports. Arrest data shows that CPD arrested 2495 individuals. These statistics are similar to those from 2016. Again, Officers had to use force less than 1% of the time to affect an arrest.

In 2016, there were 24 use of force incidents requiring 57 use of force reports. In 2016, records indicate that 2359 adults and 171 juveniles were arrested. This indicates that each arrest made by our officers has 00.9% chance of being a violent incident. In other words, 1 arrest out of every 105 arrests required the use of force to control the arrested party.

In 2015, there were 23 use of force incidents requiring 54 use of force reports for the 2642 total arrests made by department officers. In 2014, there were 25 use of force incidents requiring 52 use of force reports for the 2701 total arrests, in 2013, there were 24 use of force incidents requiring 55 use of force reports for the 2541 total arrests made and in 2012 there were 27 use of force incidents requiring 40 use of force reports for 2802 arrests. For the past 5 years each arrest by members of the department has less than 1% chance of becoming a violent incident.

As you can see from the chart below, CPD officers have been consistent in their use of force, staying below 1% for the last several years tracked in this report.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Arrests Made	2469	2569	2495	2530	2642	2701
Use of Force Reports*	46	36	49	57	56	52
Use of Force Incidents*	25	15	20	24	23	25
Arrests Per UOF Incident	107.3	171.2	124	105	114.9	108.4
% Chance of Arrest resulting in in a Use of Force Incident	>1%	>1%	>1%	>1%	>1%	>1%

*Multiple officers using force during a single incident results in more reports than incidents.

By Division

In 2019 22 incidents of use of force were by the Operations Division, 2 from Investigations and 1 during a SWAT incident.

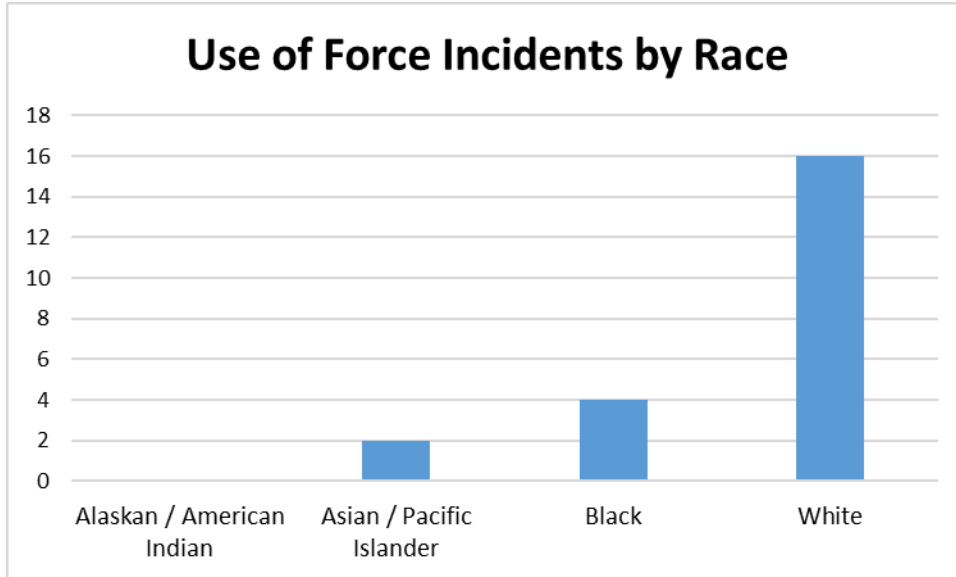
By Month

The figures and graph below represent the monthly breakdown when Use of Force Incidents occurred during 2014 - 2019. The numbers highlighted indicate the high months for use of force incidents occurring in each specific year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	3	1	3	3	3	0	3	1	1	1	2	4
2018	0	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	2	0
2017	3	3	1	3	0	2	2	2	0	3	0	1
2016	1	3	3	1	2	4	1	5	1	1	2	0
2015	0	3	2	1	1	1	5	4	1	1	2	2
2014	1	0	1	2	7	6	3	2	2	0	0	1

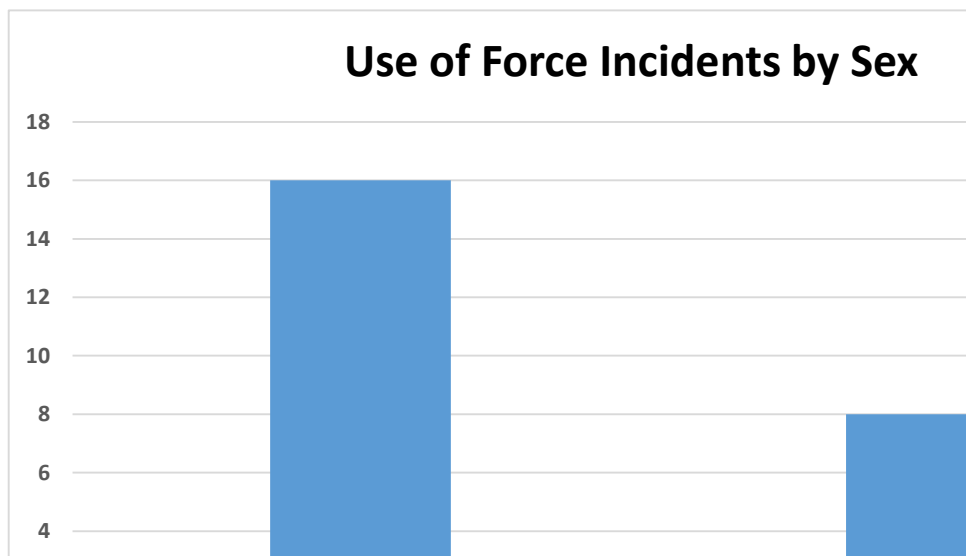
As with previous years, there is no clear pattern as to when use of force incidents occur throughout the year.

By Race



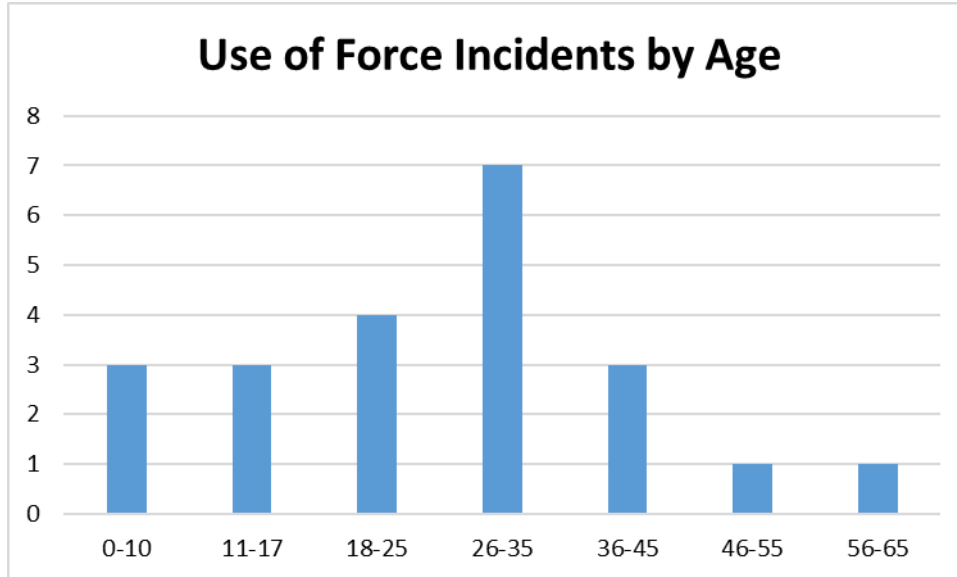
Of the 25 use of force incidents in 2019, 18 subjects involved were white, 4 were black, 2 were Asian/Pacific Islander, and one had no race associated with it as it was an indirect use of pepperball on a crowd.

By Sex



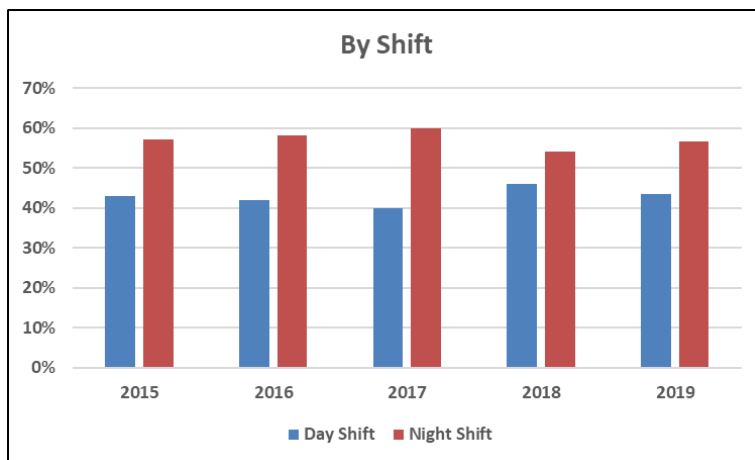
In 2019 there were 16 uses of force involving males, 8 involving females, and 1 involving a crowd.

By Age



The ages of individuals involved in a use of force for 2019 ranged from age 7 to age 60 with most falling into the 26-35 years old category.

By Time



2019 was consistent with previous years with 56.5% (13) of the use of force incidents occurring during night shift hours.

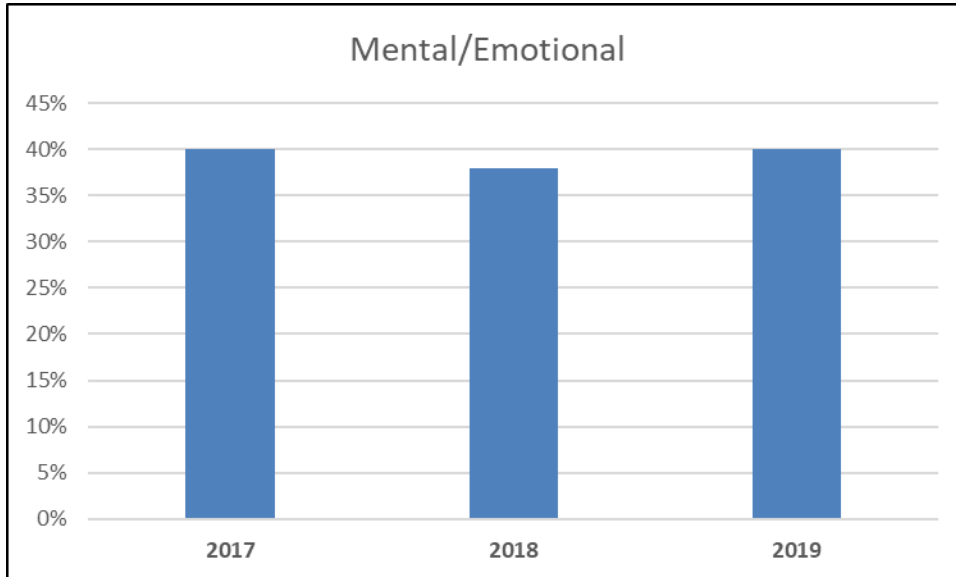
2018 was another average year in regard to when use of force incidents occurred. Of the 15 incidents, 54% (8) occurred during night shift hours.

2017 was an average year with regard to when use of force incidents occurred. Of the 20 incidents, 60% (12) occurred during night shift hours.

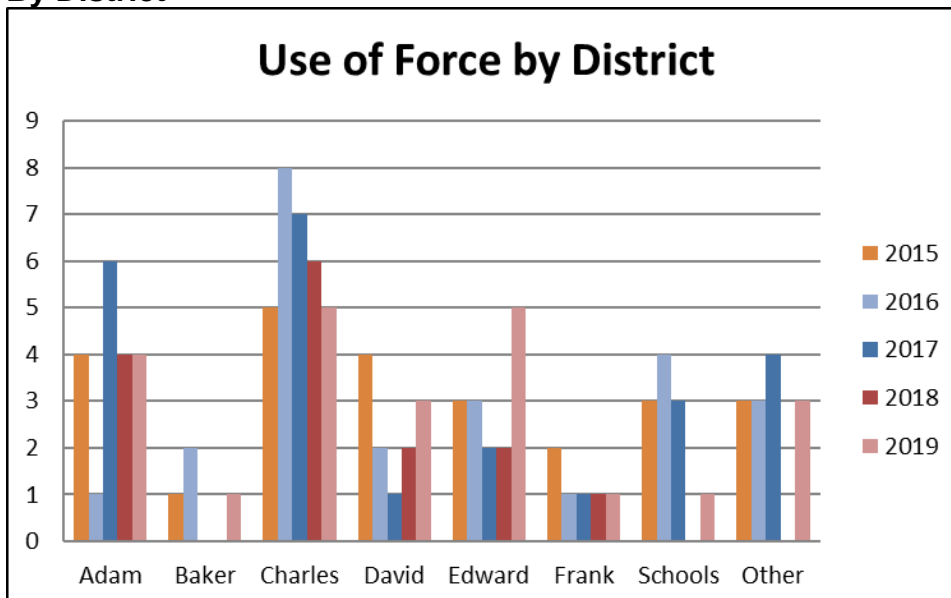
2016 was very similar to 2017 with a roughly 60-40 split.

Mental/Emotional

In 2019, 40% of use of force incidents involved mental/emotional subjects. This is consistent with the two prior years this was tracked (2017 40%, 2018 38%).



By District



In 2019, Charles and Edward districts had the most use of force incidents with 6 each, Adam 4, David 3, Baker 1, Frank 1, and 1 Schools. There were 3 listed as other that were the result of us assisting other agencies.

In 2018 Charles district had the most use of force incidents with 6, Adam had 4, David and Edward both had 2, Frank had 1, and Baker had 0. These stats are consistent with Charles having the most calls for service and use of force incidents.

For 2017, Charles District continues to be the most active district, both by calls for service and use of force incidents. This is consistent with years past.

Complaints & Investigations:

There were 2 complaints filed regarding use of force in 2019. Both complaints were in reference to shoulder pain when being handcuffed. Both complaints were investigated by CPD and were determined to be unfounded. In the previous 5 years there were no complaints lodged with the department in reference to use of force.

Summary/Findings/Patterns/Trends of Analysis

This year our use of force incidents were consistently low with only 25 incidents. Agency arrests remained consistent with prior years. Use of force involving subjects under the influence of drugs/alcohol was at 40% in 2019. For the third year we tracked use of force on mental/emotional subjects. This statistic remained consistent with the prior two years at 40%. We will continue to monitor the use of force on mental/emotional subjects as these types of calls have been on the rise in recent years.

Weaponless/empty hand control techniques remained consistent with previous years. Officers continue to use this level of force 88+% of the time.

In 2019 the Carmel Police Department received two complaints regarding use of force incidents. Both incidents involved handcuffing and were investigated to be unfounded. There were also no major issues found during shift level reviews by supervisors.

Recommendations from the 2019 Analysis

There is a trend over the last several years that in over 90% of the use of force incidents officers are using weaponless techniques. The Defensive Tactics instructors continue to focus on empty hand techniques during department training. One category we started to track in 2017 was the use of force involving mental/emotional subjects. In the last three years use of force on mental/emotional subjects has varied from 38% to 40%. The department has taken steps to send officers to CIT training and we sent an additional 6 officers to CIT training in 2019. We have introduced this topic into our Defensive Tactics training and discussed what force may be needed and when on these types of calls.

Policy

The Use of Force Policy was last reviewed in March 2020. The policy was found to be

up to date with some minor wording changes being made. In 2019 the department started the incident review board. This board is used to review incidents that need additional review based on the shift level review findings.

Training

Each year training staff monitors events and trends in law enforcement not only locally, but nationally. Training is tailored to real world incidents and trends. This year, we have continued to see a trend with calls to deal with mental/emotional subjects. Defensive tactics trainers and firearms instructors all recognize this trend. They continue to develop scenario-based training to provide officers the decision making/physical skills needed to handle these situations appropriately.