

CARMEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Annual Use of Force Report & Analysis

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2020

James Barlow, Chief of Police

2/1/2021



This report is a review and analysis of the force used by members of the Carmel Police Department during 2020.



## CARMEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### 2020 Use of Force Annual Report/Analysis

Prepared by Sergeant Ben Fisher  
 Statistical data collected by Michael Dixon

The use of force statistics for 2020 were consistent with the statistics from 2019. During 2020 there were 21 total incidents where the use of force was necessary to control the situation. The use of force incidents involved 50 officers as multiple officers are often needed to control a situation. There was a slight increase in the number of use of force events from 2019, and the increase in total force was due to the overall number of officers involved in incidents. 2020 did involve one officer involved shooting.

#### 2016 – 2020 Use of Force Reports & Incidents (Officer Involvement)

Type of Force	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Firearms	0	0	0	0	1
Taser	1	2	2	1	1
OC Spray	0	0	0	0	0
Baton	0	1	0	0	0
Pepperball	1	1	0	1	0
K-9	0	1	0	1	0
Weaponless/Empty Hand	55	47	34	24	48
Total	57	52	36	27	50
Complaints	0	0	0	2	0
Use of Force Incidents	24	20	15	15	21
Total Agency Arrests	2530	2459	2569	2469	

Total Agency Arrests provided by Records Division

## Types of Force Used

### **Firearms:**

In 2020, 1 officer fired their weapon as a use of force. This was the first time a firearm was used as a use of force since 2013.

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 2020 there was 1 incident 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 2020 there were no uses of an Asp/Baton.

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:**

2020 did not have any incidents where a K-9 used force.

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.

### **OC:**

2020 did not include any incidents which required the use of 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 2020 there were 48 uses of force, by individual officers, in 19 incidents that utilized weaponless or empty hand techniques. Of those 48 uses of force, 47 of them were empty hand techniques and one incident involved tackling a suspect. Empty hand techniques were utilized in 19 of the departments 21 use of force incidents or 90.6% of the time.

In 2019 there were 27 total uses of force reported during 15 incidents. Of those, 24 were weaponless/empty hand control measures. Empty hand techniques were used in 88.8% 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 2020, 5 officers reported receiving injuries while involved in apprehending subjects that required a use of force. 4 officers reported minor injuries, including scrapes and abrasions and swelling, and 1 officer reported a fractured jaw and chipped tooth.

During 2019, 3 officers reported receiving injuries while involved in apprehending subjects that required use of force. All 3 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 2020 5 suspects were injured with minor abrasions during use of force incidents. There was a police action shooting that resulted in 1 deceased suspect.

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

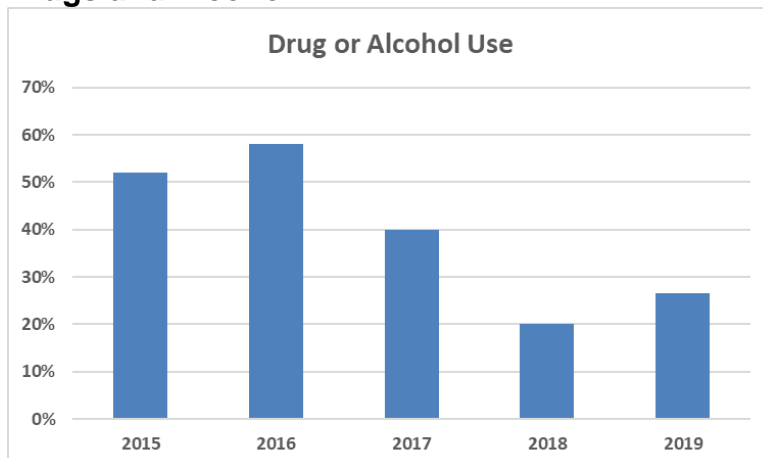
In 2018, 4 suspects received minor injuries while involved in a use of force. 2 suspects received minor abrasions. 2 suspects had self-imposed injuries. One suspect stabbed himself in the arm and neck and one suspect chewed on his own tongue which made it bleed.

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 4 of the 15 use of force incidents involved suspects under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This equates to 26% 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 15 uses of force incidents requiring 27 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.

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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
<b>Total Arrests Made</b>	2469	2569	2495	2530	2642	2701
<b>Use of Force Reports*</b>	27	36	49	57	56	52
<b>Use of Force Incidents*</b>	15	15	20	24	23	25
<b>Arrests Per UOF Incident</b>	164.6	171.2	124	105	114.9	108.4
<b>% Chance of Arrest resulting in in a Use of Force Incident</b>	>1%	>1%	>1%	>1%	>1%	>1%

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

### By Division

In 2019 14 incidents of use of force were by the Operations Division and 1 incident reported by School/Support division.

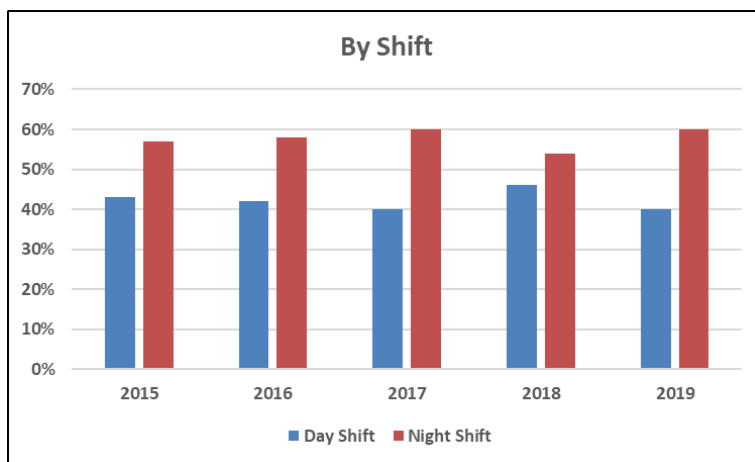
### By Month

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
<b>2019</b>	3	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1
<b>2018</b>	0	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	2	0
<b>2017</b>	3	3	1	3	0	2	2	2	0	3	0	1
<b>2016</b>	1	3	3	1	2	4	1	5	1	1	2	0
<b>2015</b>	0	3	2	1	1	1	5	4	1	1	2	2
<b>2014</b>	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 Time



2019 was consistent with previous years with 60% (9) of the use of force incidents occurring during night shift hours.

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

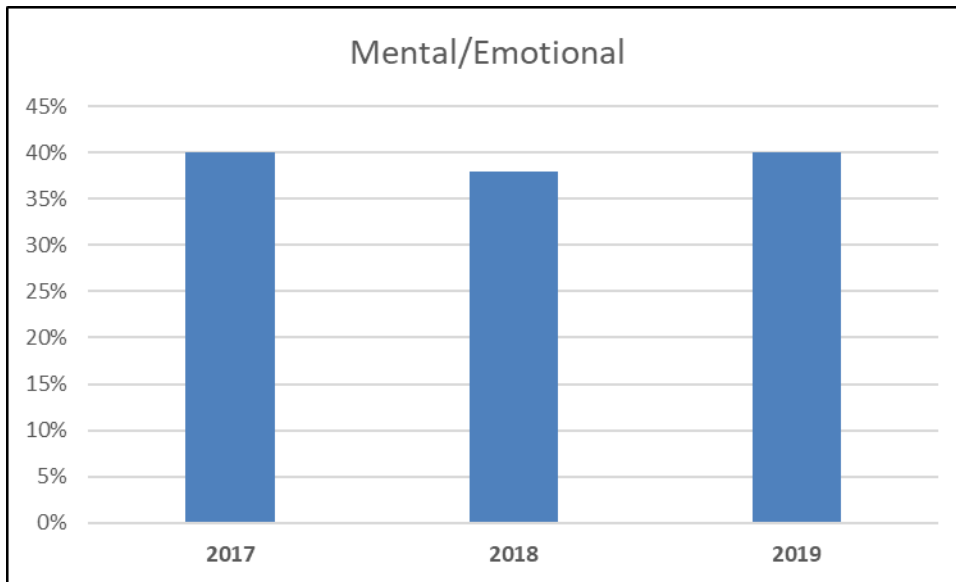
2017 was an average year with regard to when use of force incidents occurred. Of the 20 incidents, 60% (12) occurred during night shift hours.

2016 was very similar to 2017 with a roughly 60-40 split. 2014 was an anomaly and at this time no data has been identified to explain the unusual distribution.

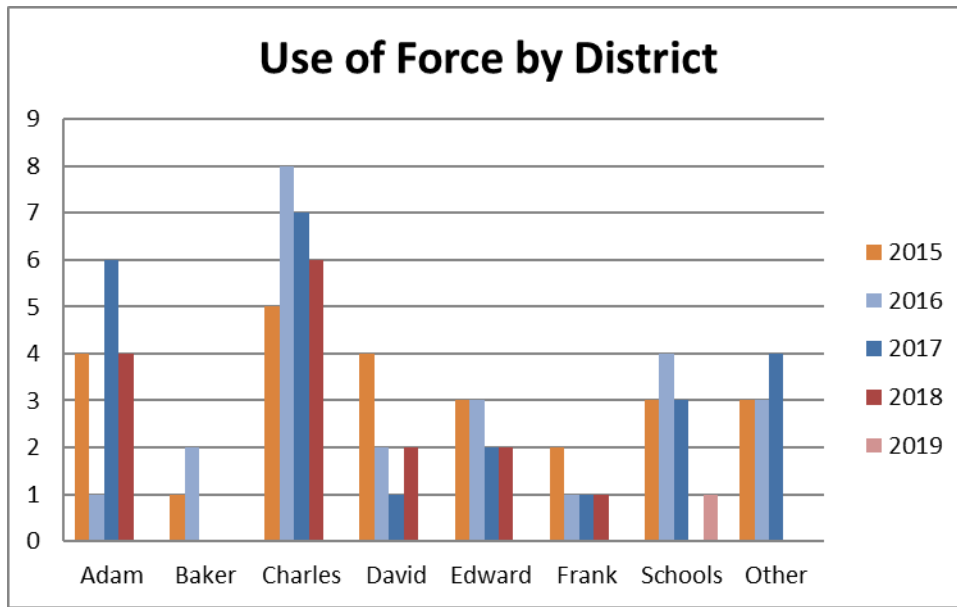


## Mental/Emotional

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 district had the most use of force incidents with 5, Edward 4, David 2, Baker 1. The Schools had 1 and there were 2 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 again at the lowest for the last six years with 15 incidents. Agency arrests remained consistent with prior years. Use of force involving subjects under the influence of drugs/alcohol was at 26% 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.