

Date: July 3, 2019
To: Deputy Chief Mike Villa
From: Sergeant Jim Tuttle
Subject: 2018 Annual Use of Force Review / Analysis

Our Department has completed its annual Use of Force review and analysis for calendar year 2018. This review requires analysis of incidents where department members responded to resistance or aggression with reportable force during the evaluated period. This review is intended to help determine if there are any trends or patterns, employee development needs or equipment issues that may need to be addressed as well as determining if any modifications to our current policies and procedures should be recommended resulting from the analysis of these use of force events.

The table shown below provides a quick reference to the types of forced used during the force events in each of the previous four years, inclusive of calendar year 2018.

Reportable Force Events Table

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Reportable Force Events	25	27	29	33
Weaponless Techniques	18	19	18	26
Application of Leg Restraints	3	1	7	6
Taser	2	2	3	2
OC Spray	0	0	1	0
Pointing of Firearm	5	4	4	4
Police Baton	0	0	0	1
40 mm Munitions	1	1	0	0
Firearm	0	0	1	0
Citizen Complaints from Force Used	1	0	0	0

It should be noted that many of the reportable force events referenced here required that multiple techniques be applied by the involved officers. For this reason, the total sum of the number of actual techniques listed as being used by our officers may be higher than the overall number of reportable force events.

DATA REVIEW

After researching the collected data relating to our Department’s events involving the application of reportable force in 2018, I learned the following:

- During the 2018 calendar year, our department experienced 33 reportable use of force events.
- Of the 33 use of force events that took place in 2018, all but four of them took place within, or near, our airport jurisdiction, inclusive of one event that took place at our rental car facility and several airport related events that took place in the immediate area surrounding the airport property. Two of the other four events took place at the waterfront. The other two events

were outside agency assists, inclusive of an event in which one of our members assigned to Valley SWAT used reportable force during a SWAT mission.

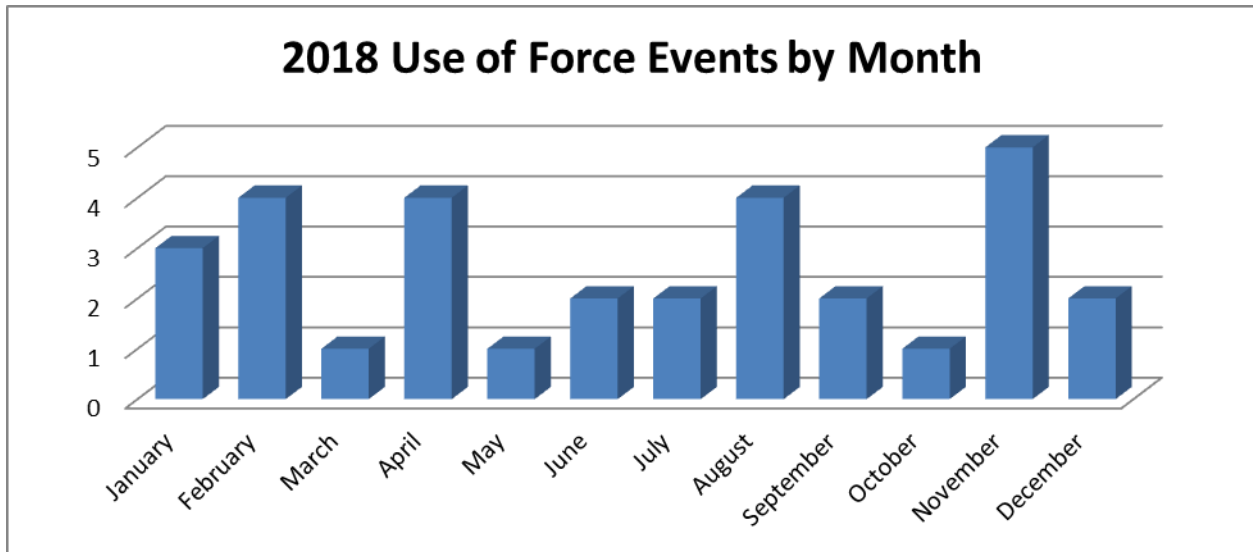
- 26 of the 33 force events were incidents in which officers utilized weaponless force techniques. 22 of these events involved takedown maneuvers, one involved closed-fist / knee strikes, one involved simply physically restraining an individual and two involved the application of the vascular neck restraint (VNR). It should be noted that the VNR was introduced and trained to our department members in the Fall of 2018 and the two applications of the VNR that occurred in 2018 took place in the fourth quarter.
- Of the two VNR applications, one of the subjects it was used upon temporary lost consciousness. During the other application, the subject submitted before the officer applied maximum pressure so the subject remained conscious during the event. Neither VNR events resulted in the subjects experiencing any injury.
- Two of the force events involved Tasers being deployed. During each Taser incidents, two separate officers deployed their Tasers against one person.
- During these Taser related incidents, all applications were probe deployments. There were no drive-stun applications of the Taser noted. During one of these Taser incidents, one of the officers unsuccessfully deployed his Taser and another officer was able to then achieve a successful Taser deployment. During the other Taser incident, an officer unsuccessfully deployed his Taser and then prepared to deploy a second Taser cartridge. The original officer and a second officer then simultaneously deployed successful Tasers strikes against the subject.
- Four of the reportable use of force events involved officers pointing firearms at individuals.
- Six of the reportable use of force events involved officers applying leg restraints to suspects who remained, or became, combative after they had been restrained in handcuffs.
- One reportable use of force event involved an officer using his police baton to manipulate the arm of a resisting subject in order to apply handcuffs on to him.
- No reportable force events in 2018 involved officers using 40 mm - less lethal munitions.
- No reportable force events in 2018 involved officers using OC spray.
- Each of the 33 use of force event investigations was reviewed by the Office of the Chief and found to be within policy. There was one force event in which an officer pointed a firearm at a suspect where, although the officer's actions were found to be within policy, it was determined that the officer should (and did) receive remedial training as a result of his actions.
- There were no citizen complaints or lawsuits resulting from any of our use of force events occurring in 2018.

COMPARISONS

In 2018, our number of force events was generally consistent with 2017. The gradual increase over the past four years, 25 events in 2015, 27 events in 2016, 29 events in 2017 and 33 events in 2018, was anticipated due to the progressively increasing airport passenger volumes, elevated number of calls for service we have experienced over the past three years and a significant increase in police officer staffing that took place in 2017 and 2018.

ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS

Use of Force Events by Month

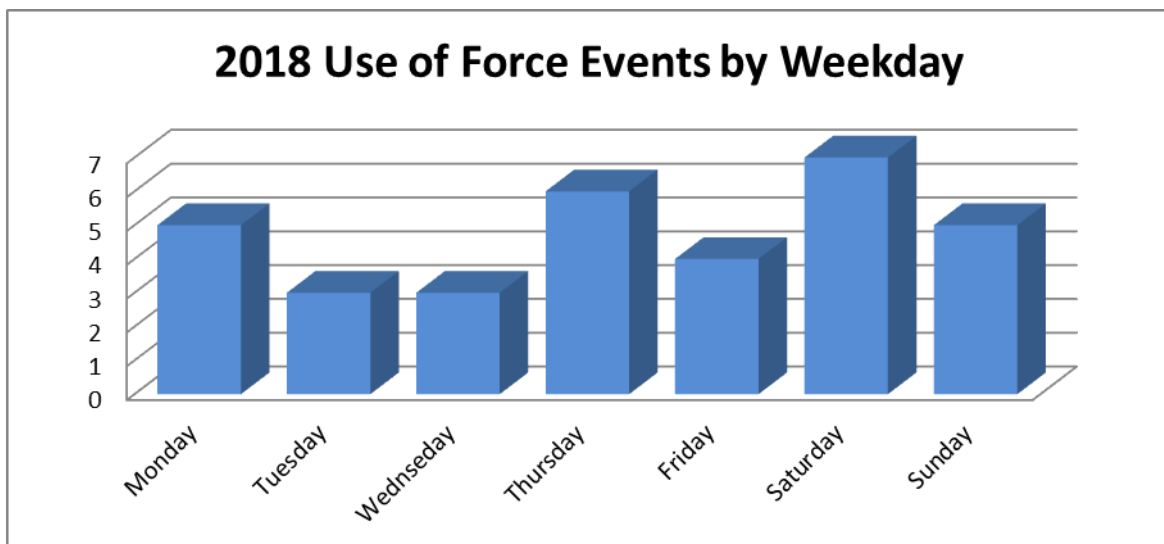


There was at least one use of force event in each calendar month of 2018. November had the highest number of force events with five. March and October produced one force event each and the remaining months produced between two and four events each.

Out of the 29 reportable use of force events that occurred in 2017, our agency experienced nine force events in January, twice as many as any other single month. When reviewing the available data while compiling last year's report, I could find no specific factors that would have caused the spike in the January 2017 force events. With only three noted January force events in 2018, it appears that the spike in January force events from 2017 may have been a random outlier.

After reviewing the available data, I can find no adverse trends, patterns or areas of concern relating to which months of the year reportable force is being used by our department members.

Use of Force Events by Weekday

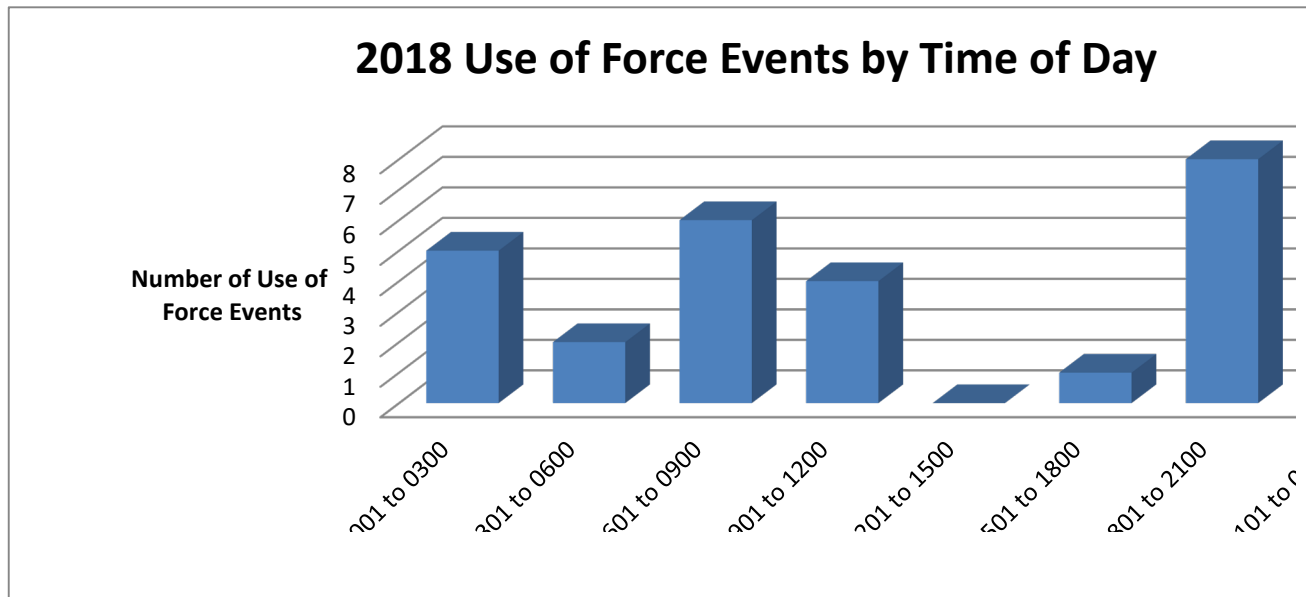


In 2018, Thursday and Saturday (which respectively had six and seven events) were the days of the week that experienced the highest number of force events. Each of the other days of the week generated between three and five force events.

In 2017, Sunday and Monday were the days of the week that experienced the highest number of use of force events.

After reviewing the available data, I can find no adverse trends, patterns or areas of concern relating to what days of the week reportable force is being used by our department members.

Use of Force Events by Time of Day

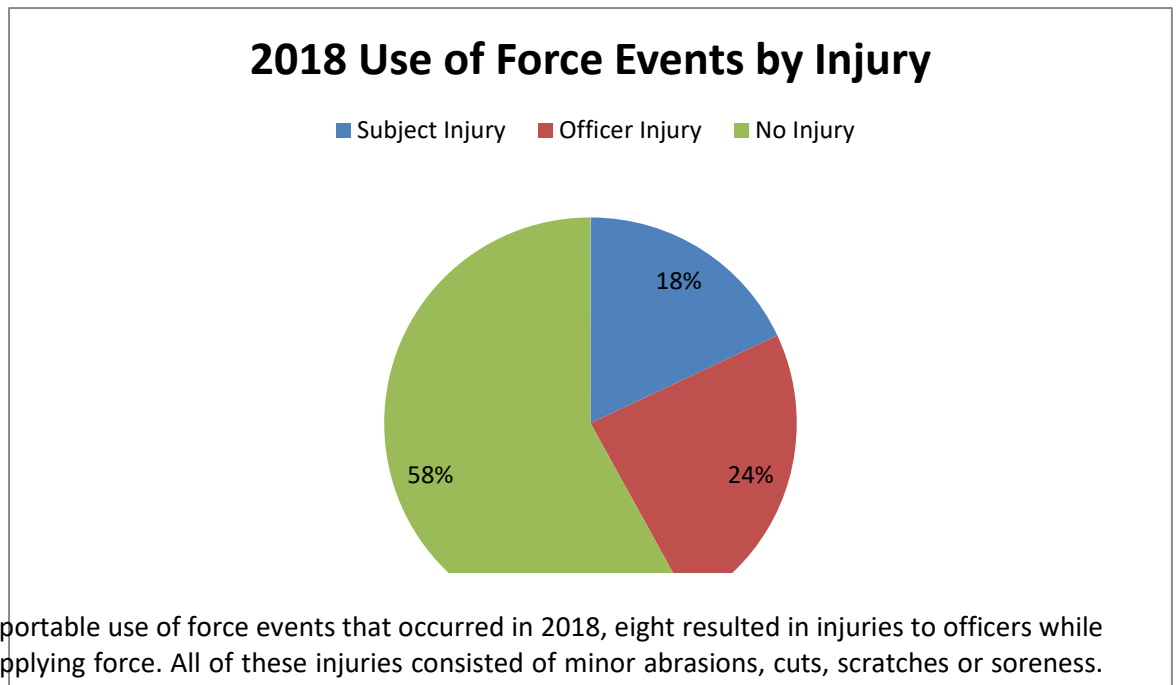


In 2018, 1801 hours to 0000 hours were the times of the day that experienced the highest number of use of force events. This six-hour block of time generated 15 uses of force during the year, just less than half of the 33 force events generated for the entire year. The number of force events occurring during the remaining three-hour blocks of time were more evenly dispersed and each numbered between two and six force events, with the exception of 1201 hours and 1500 hours, which did not experience any force events for the year.

In 2017, midnight to 0300 hours were the times of the day that experienced the highest number of use of force events. This three-hour block of time generated nine uses of force during 2017.

After reviewing the available data, I can find no specific factors that might have caused the 2018 spike in force events occurring in the 1801 hours to 0000 hours timeframe. This clearly does not constitute a pattern and this spike appears to be random.

Use of Force Events Resulting in Injury

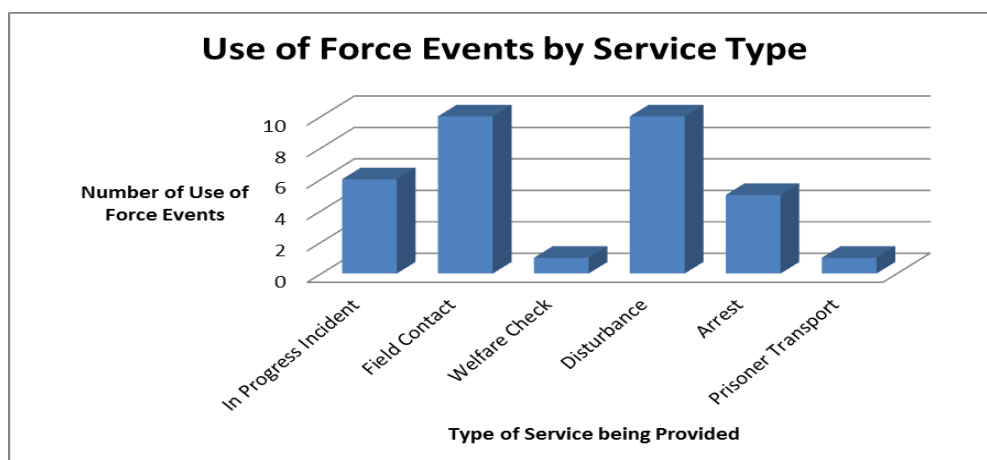


In 2018, six suspects received injuries during these use of force events. Of these injuries, all consisted of minor abrasions, cuts or scratches and did not require hospitalization.

The number of injuries resulting from our department's uses of force continues to remain low; however, there was an increase from three officer injuries in 2017 to eight officer injuries in 2018. This increase is a cause for concern. In reviewing the 2018 force reports, I see that only two of the officer injuries were the result of actual assaults by subjects. The remaining six injuries were the result of the subject's active resistance or incidental to the actions of the officers when they used force, i.e. things like scuffing a knee during a takedown. I will assure that our defensive tactics cadre is aware of this increase in officer injuries so that they can address this issue in training, as appropriate.

After reviewing the available data, with the exception of the concerns noted above, I can find no adverse trends, patterns relating to injuries incurred during use of force events.

Use of Force Events in Relation to Call for Service Type

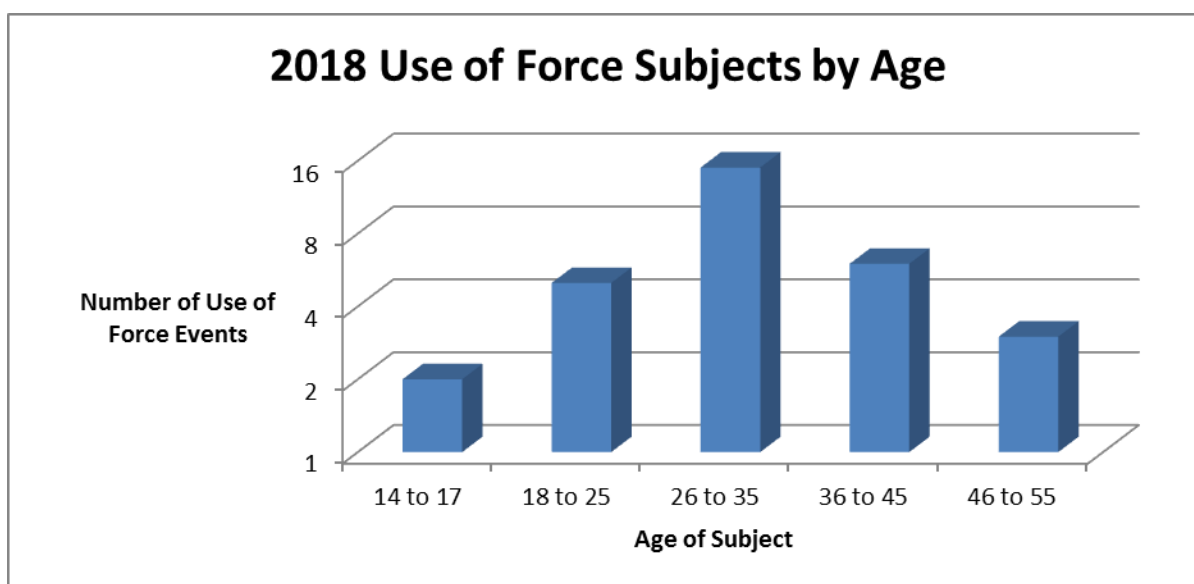


The majority of our 2018 use of force events took place while officers were dealing with disturbance and field contacts, resulting in ten force events each. The service categories of in-progress incidents and arrests generated six and five force events, respectively, and prisoner transport and welfare checks resulted in one force event each.

It should be noted that the prisoner-transport related use of force event resulted in the application of leg restraints on a combative post-arrest subject who was attempting to inflict personal injury and cause property damage.

After reviewing the available data, I can find no adverse trends, patterns or areas of concern relating to the types of services being rendered that resulted in use of force events.

Use of Force Events by Subject Age



The 33 subjects on whom reportable force was used in 2018 ranged in age from 14 to 53. 15 of these subjects fell within the 26 to 35 years of age bracket. The 14 to 17 years of age bracket contained two subjects and the 46 to 55 years of age bracket contained one subject. The remaining age brackets each contained between three and six subjects.

Unlike in 2017, where no reportable force was used on any juvenile subjects, in 2018 there were two reportable force events involving juveniles:

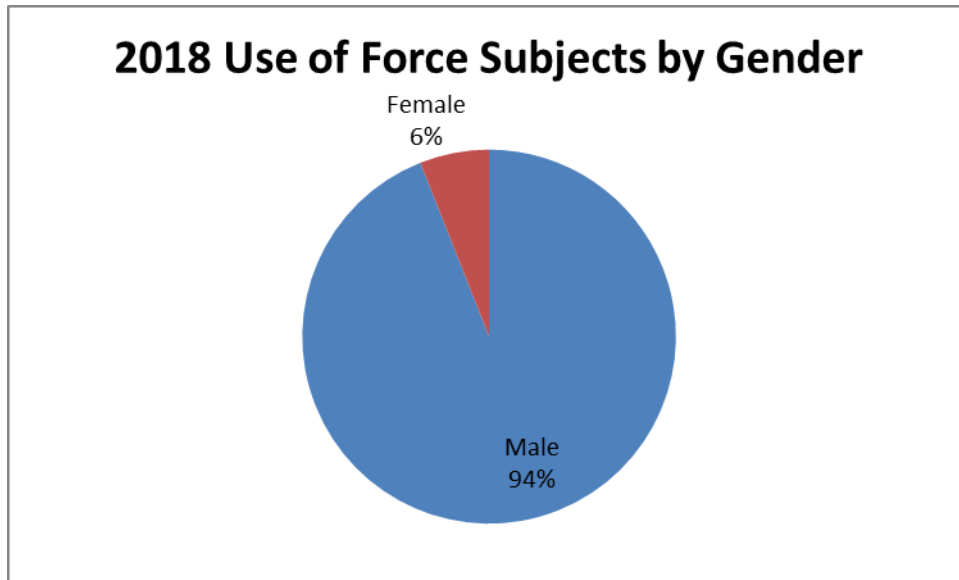
- A 14-year-old subject who was taken down by officers after they had engaged in a foot pursuit with him. The subject had pulled away and ran from officers after they had found him to be in possession of black-tar heroin. The juvenile suffered no injuries during this event.
- A 17-year-old subject who was taken to the ground by one of our officers and a SeaTac PD officer. Our officer had responded to the scene after SeaTac PD had requested outside agency assistance. The juvenile was causing a disturbance and refusing to comply with the lawful commands of the SeaTac Officer as well as our officer when they were attempting to lawfully detain him. During this event, the juvenile suffered minor injuries consisting of small scratches to his hands

The majority number of force subjects falling within the 26 to 35 years of age bracket, along with the seven subjects that fell within the 14 to 25 years of age brackets, is consistent with national norms

relating to age groups that tend to be more often involved in criminal activity or having negative interactions with the police.

After reviewing the available data, I can find no adverse trends, patterns or areas of concern relating to the age of the subjects on which reportable force is used by our department members.

Use of Force Subjects by Gender



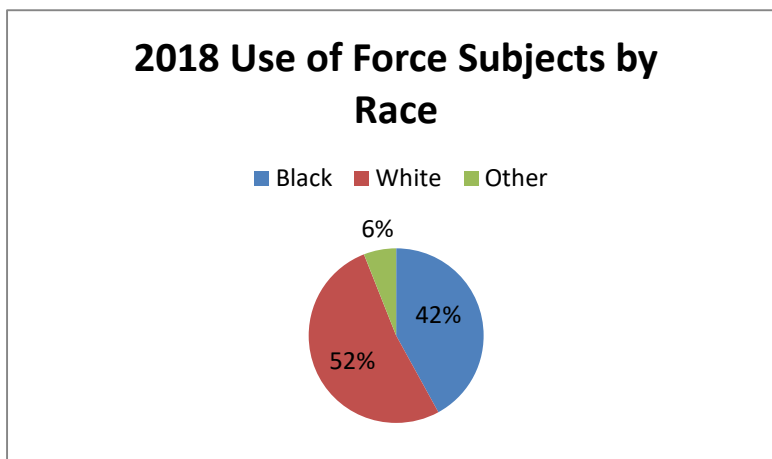
Of the 33 reportable use of force events that occurred in 2018, reportable force was used on 31 males and two females.

There were no known incidents in which force was used on any transgender subjects.

The fact that our department members used force on a much higher number of males than females is consistent with national norms relating to males tending to be more often involved in criminal activity or having negative interactions with the police.

After reviewing the available data, I can find no adverse trends, patterns or areas of concern relating to the gender of the subjects on which our department members used force.

Use of Force Subjects by Race



Of the 33 subjects on whom force was used in 2018, 17 were white, 14 were black, one was of Pacific Island descent and one was an unknown race.

On the surface, the fact that 42% of the subjects on which our officers used force were black appears to be disproportionate when compared to our State and County population demographics.

In order to determine if there are trends, patterns or areas of concern regarding the proportionate number of force events in relation to the race of the subjects upon whom force is used, accurate area demographics relating to the race of our actual "population" are needed. Unfortunately, attempting to ascertain accurate area demographics for our purposes as they relate to race is challenging, at best.

On this issue, there are several facts that should be acknowledged:

- The majority of the subjects on which our department members use force are not part of our travelling public, but rather members of the local population that access our airport facility for reasons other than travel.
- The latest national census took place eight years ago and its demographic numbers relating to race in Washington State and King County only provide limited value.

This outdated 2010 census indicates that the overall black population in Washington State is 4% and in King County, it is around 7%. However, the census also indicates that higher black population areas are found towards the southern portions of King County. The 2010 census indicates that some neighborhoods near the entrances of the airport consist of black populations ranging from 25% to 49%.

- The Cities of Tukwila and SeaTac, two jurisdictions that border our airport, have robust refugee programs to assist in the migration and support of Somali citizens as well as citizens from other African nations.
- A 2012 King County study described SeaTac as "Among the county's most diverse cities, with 61% persons-of-color and 31% foreign-born."
- Of the 29 persons upon whom force was used at, or in relation to, the airport, 4 of them (14%) were members of the traveling public. The other 25 (86%) of these people were local residents of our region who were not at the airport for the purposes of traveling.

With regards to our use of force events, when taking into account the racial demographics of neighborhoods in which the airport resides, the data does not indicate that officers engaging in initiated activity are making choices on who they contact based on the race of the subject.

After reviewing the available data, it does not appear that there are any adverse trends, patterns or areas of concern relating to the race of the subjects on which our department members used force.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, I see no specific adverse trends or patterns relating to our department's 2018 use of force events that need to be addressed regarding our department's policies, practices or equipment.

That being said, I will assure that our defensive tactics training cadre is aware of the increase in officer injuries so they can address this issue through training, as appropriate.