

Date: June 23, 2020
To: Acting Chief Mike Villa
From: Sergeant Jim Tuttle
Subject: 2019 Annual Use of Force Review / Analysis

Our Department has completed its annual Use of Force review and analysis for calendar year 2019. 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 force used during the force events in each of the previous four years, inclusive of calendar year 2019.

Reportable Force Events Table

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Reportable Force Events	27	29	33	30
Weaponless Techniques	19	18	26	26
Application of Leg Restraints	1	7	6	5
Taser	2	3	2	2
Vascular Neck Restraint	N/A	N/A	2	7
OC Spray	0	1	0	0
Pointing of Firearm	4	4	4	1
Police Baton	0	0	1	0
40 mm Munitions	1	0	0	0
Firearm	0	1	0	0
Citizen Complaints from Force Used	0	0	0	1

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 in the chart shown above and the data review shown below as being used by our officers may be higher than the overall number of reportable force events.

It should also be noted that the one use of force complaint noted for 2019 is related to an incident where the mother of the involved subject made negative statements about the force used on social media and made public disclosure requests to our department asking for video footage and documents associated with the use of force event. At this point, to my knowledge, no one has contacted our department wanting to file a complaint or requesting any further review regarding this incident.

DATA REVIEW

After researching the collected data relating to our Department’s events involving the application of reportable force in 2019, I learned the following:

- During the 2019 calendar year, our department experienced 30 reportable use of force events.
- Of the 30 use of force events that took place in 2019, 27 of them took place within, or near, our airport jurisdiction. The other three events took place at the waterfront.
- The vast majority of the 30 force events in 2019 were incidents in which officers utilized weaponless force techniques. 23 of these events involved takedown maneuvers, three involved officers delivering strikes, one involved simply physically restraining an individual and seven involved the application of the vascular neck restraint (VNR). Seven VNR applications is an increase from the two documented VNR applications from 2018. However, it should be noted that the VNR was just 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 late in the fourth quarter.
- Of the seven VNR applications, three of the subjects it was used upon temporarily lost consciousness. During the other four applications, the subjects submitted prior to losing consciousness. None of the seven 2019 VNR events resulted in any of the subjects experiencing any injury.
- Two of the force events involved Tasers being deployed.

During one event, the involved officer, who was struggling on the ground along with other officers attempting to overcome a suspect's resistance, delivered Taser probe deployments two separate times. Neither deployment was effective due to heavy clothing that the suspect was wearing at the time. The officer then attempted to gain compliance using a Taser drive stun deployment. Again, due to the suspect's heavy clothing, the deployment was ineffective. The officer then delivered a Taser drive stun deployment onto the suspect's bare skin. This tactic had the desired effect and the officers were able to take the suspect into custody.

During the other event, the involved officer delivered two Taser probe deployments onto a person who was actively attempting to commit suicide by jumping off of the Light Rail station platform. This taser deployment had the desired effect and officers were able to take the person into protective custody for mental evaluation.

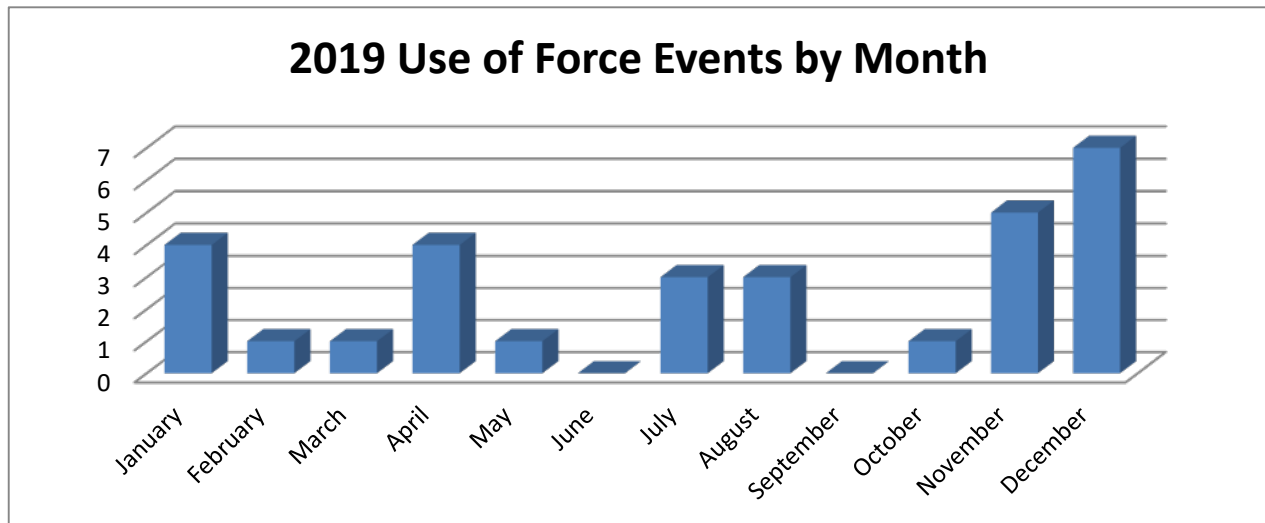
- One of the reportable use of force events involved an officer pointing a firearm at an individual. This number is down from the four force events of this type that our department experienced in 2018
- Five of the reportable use of force events involved officers applying leg restraints to suspects who remained, or became, combative after they had been restrained in handcuffs. This number is down from the six leg restraint applications in 2018.
- No reportable force events in 2019 involved officers using 40 mm - less lethal munitions.
- No reportable force events in 2019 involved officers using OC spray.
- Each of the 30 reportable use of force event investigations was reviewed by the Office of the Chief of Police and found to be within policy.
- Other than the incident noted above, there were no citizen complaints or lawsuits resulting from any of our use of force events occurring in 2019.

COMPARISONS

In 2019, our number of force events was generally consistent with 2018. The gradual increase over the previous three years, 27 events in 2016, 29 events in 2017, 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 from 2017 through 2019. The fact that the number of reportable force events dropped from 33 in 2018 down to 30 in 2019 does not appear to be of statistical significance.

ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS

Use of Force Events by Month



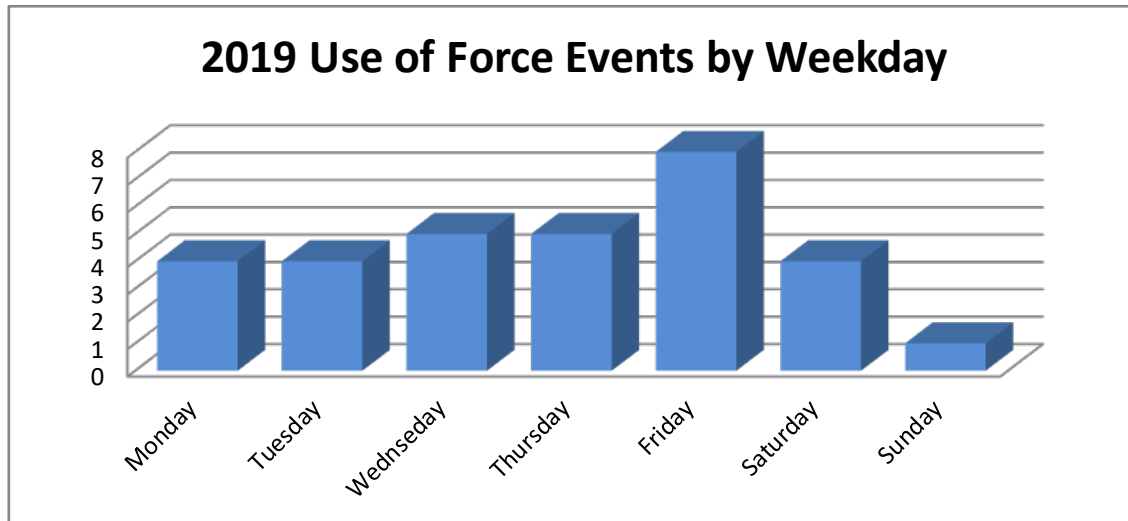
With the exception of June and September, there was at least one use of force event in each calendar month of 2019. December had the highest number of force events with seven. November experienced five force events and the remaining months generated between one and four force events each.

In 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.

As with previous years, the number of reportable force events that occur in any given month appears to be random and I do not believe that there are any significant conclusions that should be drawn from this fact.

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 2019, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (which respectively experienced five, five and eight incidents) were the days of the week that experienced the highest number of force events. With the exception of Sunday, which experienced one event, the remaining days of the week each experienced four force events.

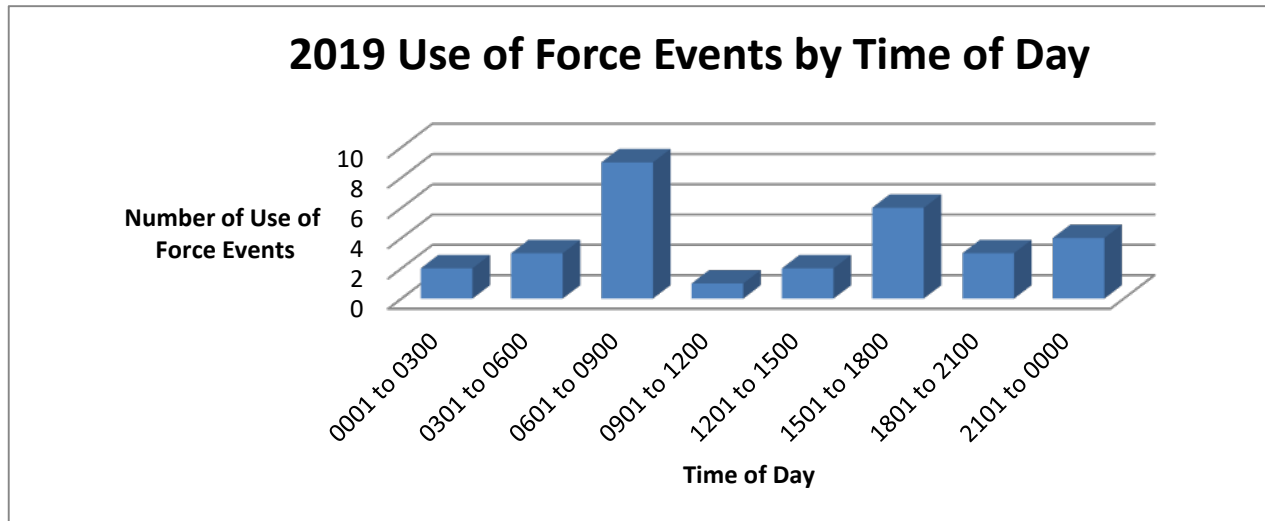
In 2018, Thursday and Saturday (which respectively had six and seven events) were the days of the week that experienced the highest number of force events. Each of the other days of the week generated between three and five force events.

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

As with previous years, the number of reportable force events that occur on any given day appears to be random and I do not believe that there are any significant conclusions that should be drawn from this fact.

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 2019, 0601 hours to 0900 hours were the times of the day that experienced the highest number of use of force events with a total of nine incidents. 1501 hours to 1800 hours produced the second highest number of force events with a total of six. Each of the other time blocks experienced between one and four force events with the 0901 hours to 1200 hours time-block being the lowest with one event.

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.

As with previous years, the number of reportable force events that occur during any given time of day appears to be random and I do not believe that there are any significant conclusions that should be drawn from this fact.

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

Use of Force Events Resulting in Injury

Of the 30 reportable use of force events that occurred in 2019, 15 resulted in injuries to officers while they were applying force. The majority of these injuries consisted of minor abrasions, cuts, scratches or soreness. One of these reported injuries required an officer to perform light duty work until he was granted a full release to return to full duty.

The fact that 15 officers were injured during use of force events in 2019 is a significant increase from the eight force event related officer injuries that were reported in 2018. It should also be noted that the eight officer injuries reported in 2018 was a significant increase when compared to the three force event related injuries that occurred in 2017. The 15 officer injuries in 2019 represents an 87.5% increase when compared to the officer injuries sustained in 2018 and a 400% increase when compared to the officer injuries sustained in 2017.

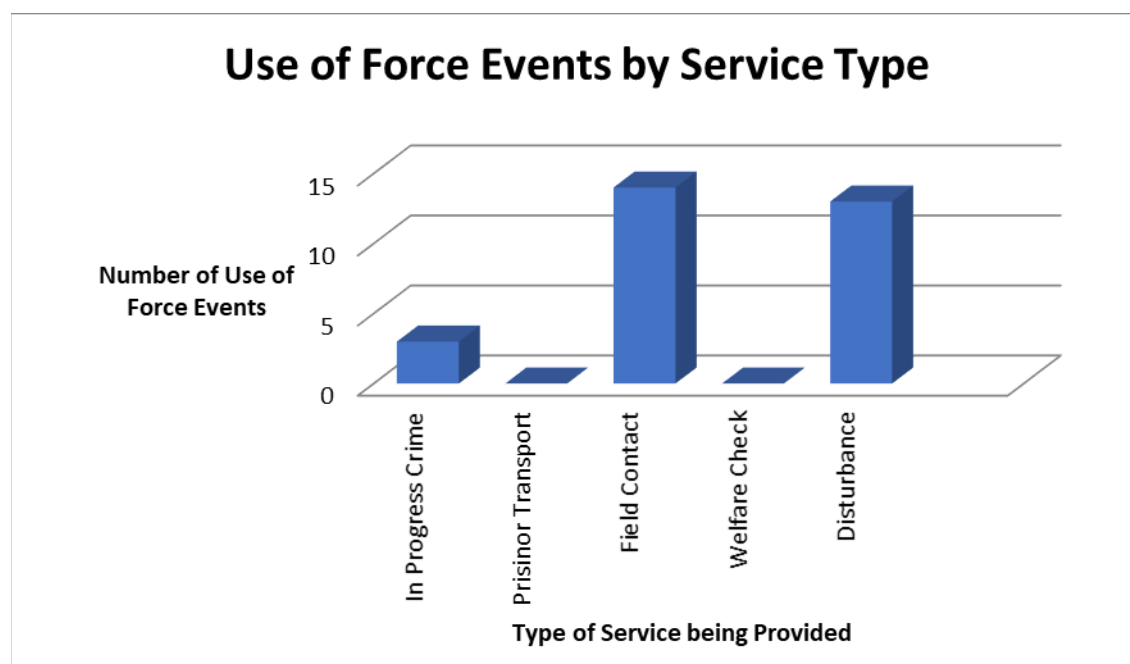
At this point, other than my antidotal belief that our sergeants are continually doing a better job each year of documenting minor injuries that our officers receive during force events, I cannot determine any specific factor that would explain the significant increases that we are seeing in force event related officer injuries.

In 2019, seven 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. This number is slightly up from the six suspects who received minor force related injuries in 2018

The number of suspect related injuries resulting from our department's uses of force continues to remain low; however, the noted increases to officer injuries over the past three years are cause for concern. I recommend that our defensive tactics cadre is made aware of these increased injuries so that they can work with the Command and Leadership Teams to 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 or patterns relating to injuries incurred during use of force events.

Use of Force Events in Relation to Call for Service Type

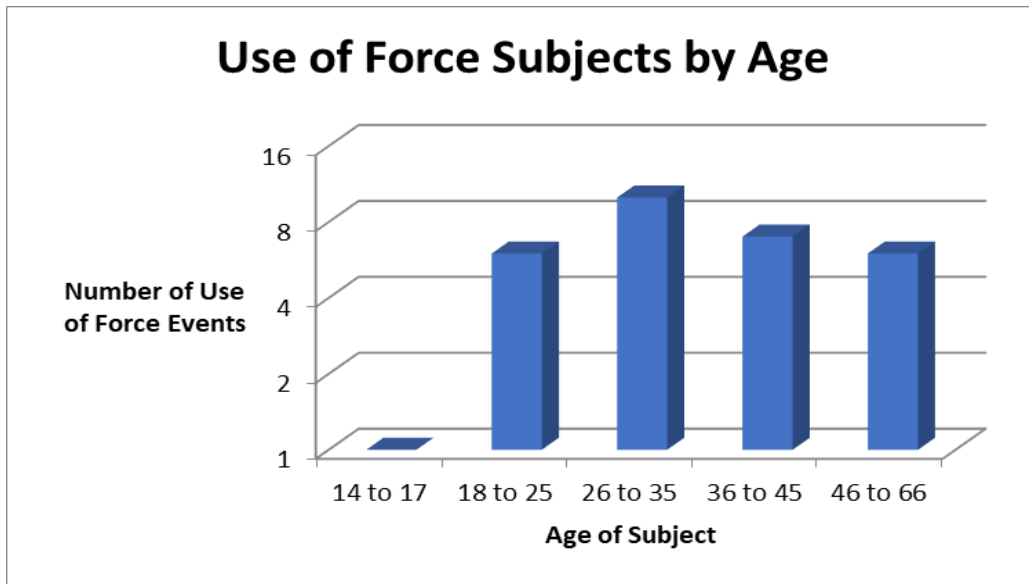


The majority of our 2019 use of force events took place while officers were dealing with disturbance and field contacts, resulting in 13 and 14 force events each, respectively. The service category of in-progress incidents was attributed to the three remaining force events. In 2019, there were no force events associated with welfare checks or prisoner transports.

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.

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



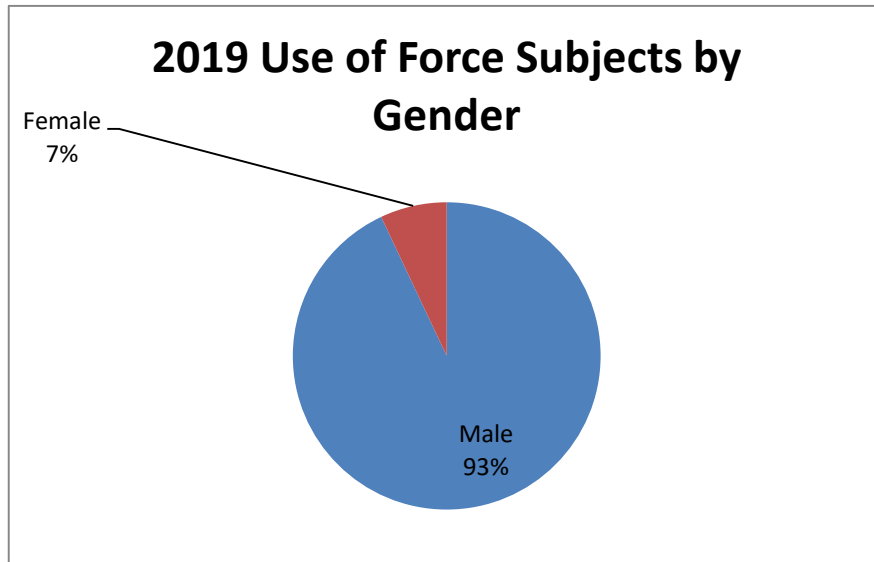
The 30 subjects on whom reportable force was used in 2019 ranged in age from 15 to 66. Ten of these subjects fell within the 26 to 35 years of age bracket, seven of these subjects fell within the 36 to 45 years of age bracket and six of these subjects fell within the 18 to 25 years of age bracket. The 14 to 17 years of age bracket contained one 15-year old subject and the 46 to 66 years of age brackets contained six subjects.

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.

The majority number of 2019 force event subjects falling within the 26 to 35 age brackets, 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



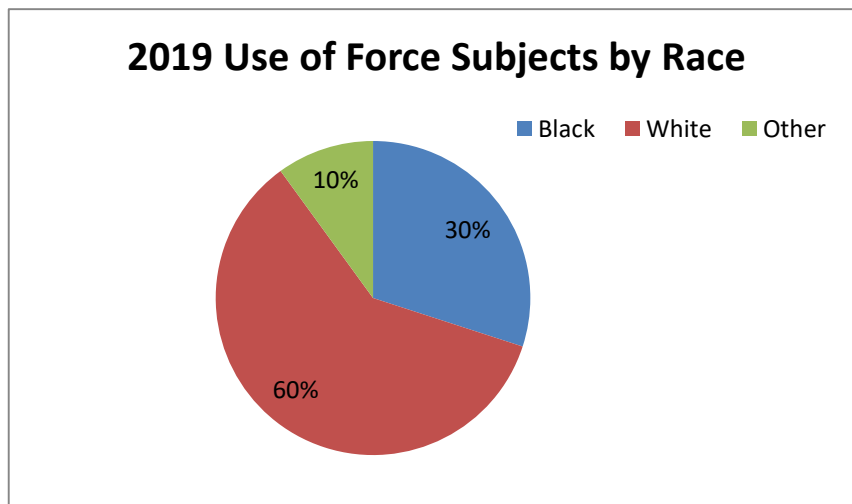
Of the 30 reportable use of force events that occurred in 2019, reportable force was used on 28 males and two females.

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 30 subjects on whom force was used in 2019, 18 were white, 9 were black, one was of Pacific Island descent, one was of Asian descent and one was of an unknown 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.

In 2019, we saw a 4% increase (from 6% to 10%) in force used on subjects that make up the other / unknown race category. However, this 4% increase is statistically insignificant due to the fact that the increase was caused by the actual number of subjects in this category expanding by only one person, from two people to three people.

In 2019, our department experienced a 12% decrease (from 42% down to 30%) in the number of black subjects on whom reportable force was used while at the same time we saw an 8% increase (from 52% up to 60%) in the number of white subjects on whom reportable force was used.

The fact that 30% of the subjects on which our officers used force were black, might appear to be disproportionate when compared to our State and County population demographics.

However, as explained in our 2018 Use of Force Review / Analysis, 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 nine 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 27 persons upon whom force was used at, or in relation to, the airport, 10 of them (37%) were members of the traveling public. The other 17 (63%) 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 are making choices on who they contact or who they use force upon 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.

USE OF FORCE REVIEW / ANALYSIS RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, with the exception of the significant increase in the number of officers injured during force events over the past two years, I see no specific adverse trends or patterns relating to our department's 2019 use of force events that need to be addressed regarding our department's policies, practices or equipment.

That being said, I recommend that our defensive tactics cadre is made aware of these increased injuries so that they can work with the Command and Leadership Teams to address this issue in training, as appropriate.