

Herbert T. Jenkins

# *Atlanta Police Academy*



## *2019 Use of Force Report*

*Completed By  
Sgt Steven Stewart  
PDU Supervisor*

## Use of Force Policy

The following excerpts are taken from the Atlanta Police Department Policy Manual, APD.SOP.3010 Use of Force:

The Atlanta Police Department recognizes and respects the value of human life and the right of people to be secure in their persons and property. Sworn employees who, in the performance of their duties, encounter situations where the use of force reasonably appears necessary to effect an arrest or detention, overcome resistance, control a subject, or protect themselves or others from injury or death, will only use that force which is reasonable and necessary to accomplish lawful objectives.

Any employee who applies force or takes an action that results in, or is alleged to have resulted in, the physical injury or death of another person is required to immediately notify his or her supervisor. An incident report describing the incident must be completed on ICIS and submitted prior to the end of that employee's tour of duty.

An employee may use deadly force to apprehend a suspected felon only when:

1. He or she reasonably believes that the suspect possesses a deadly weapon or any object, device, or instrument which, when used offensively against a person, is likely to or does result in serious bodily injury and when he or she reasonably believes that the suspect poses an immediate threat of serious bodily injury to the officer or others; or
2. When there is probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm (O.C.G.A. Section 17-4-20) and the employee reasonably believes that the suspect's escape would create a continuing danger of serious physical harm to any person."

The responding supervisor must complete a Use of Force Report (Form APD 809) on any incident defined in sections 4.5.2 through 4.5.7 before the end of that tour of duty. A hard copy of this form will be forwarded to the Central Records Unit.

The Training Section will conduct an annual analysis of all use of force reports filed to determine if any patterns or trends in the use of force exist within the Department that would affect the training needs of employees, equipment issued to employees, or Departmental policy and procedure. Copies will be provided to the Chief of Police, the Assistant Chief of Police, the Office of Professional Standards, Planning and Research/Accreditation Unit, and the City Attorney. Copies of this report will be kept on file for five years.

**C.A.L.E.A. Manual for Law Enforcement Standards  
2018 Use of Force Report and Use of Force Standards**

**4.2.4 (LE1)**

**(M M M M) (LE1) Analyze Reports from Use of Force47**

· **Annually, the agency conducts an analysis of its use of force activities, policies and practices. The analysis should identify:11**

**a. Date and time of incidents;11**

**b. Types of encounters resulting in use of force;11**

**c. Trends or patterns related to race, age and gender of subjects involved;11**

**d. Trends or patterns resulting in injury to any person including employees; and11**

**e. Impact of findings on policies, practices, equipment, and training.11**

· **Commentary--**

· **A review of incidents of force may reveal patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and/or policy modifications. The process of collecting and reviewing the reports is also critical to this analysis. Time sensitive standard. (M M M M) (LE1)**

**4.2.5**

**[Print]**

**(M M M M) Assault on Sworn Officer Review36**

· **Annually, the agency conducts a review of all assaults on law enforcement officers to determine trends or patterns, with recommendations to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training issues. --**

· **Commentary--**

· **Assaults on law enforcement officers are critical events that significantly impact the safety of public safety personnel. These events can include felony or misdemeanor charges or related charges, and the review should evaluate the implications of each type of event based on these and other criteria. Other criteria**

**might include time of day, type of initial call, presence of multiple officers, or prior history of the arrestee(s). The purpose of the review is to determine what actions the agency may take to enhance officer safety, prepare the organization for request for information regarding use of force events, and maintain training curriculums that are predicated on real data from field-based events.**

## Executive Summary

Atlanta Police officers arrested **31,080** individuals in 2019, compared to **31,034** individuals in 2018. That puts our arrest totals up **1.5%+** for the year. The Atlanta Police Academy reviewed **373** Use of Force Reports associated with those arrest compared to **528** Use of Force Reports in 2018.

*It is important to note that these statistics do not take into account the hundreds of thousands of other police-citizen encounters that did not result in any use of force. (These include traffic stops, 911 calls for service and routine police encounters) Also, note that some information was omitted from the 2018 report due to corrupted or lost information.*

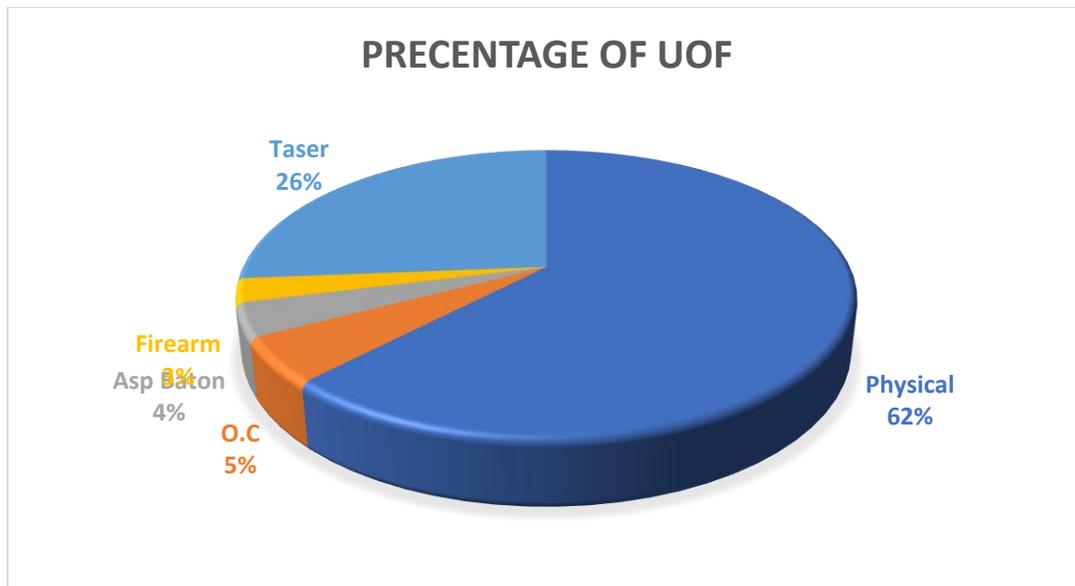
Totals	2019	2018	2017	2016
Arrests	31080	31034	32997	35669
Use of Force Reports	373	528	477	433

In 2019, the Atlanta Police Department received a total of **373** Use of Force Reports (**312 Person, 102 Property and 1 Animal**) compared to **528** Use of Force Reports received in 2018 for an decrease of **-29%** in reported use of force incidents.

Type of Force	2019	2018	Change +/-	% Change
Physical	232	231	+1	+0.4%
O.C.	19	38	-19	-50%
ASP Baton	14	21	-7	-33%
Firearm	10	42	-32	-76%
Taser	98	196	-98	-50%
Total Reports	373	528		

In 2019, most of Use of Force incidents involved officers using physical force to obtain control of an arrestee. The use of **Physical Force** increased from **231** incidents in 2018 to **232** incidents in 2019 (+0.4%) when attempting to control perpetrators. Of the remaining use of force options, officers used **O.C. spray** in **19** incidents, down from **38** occurrences in 2018 (-50%); **ASP Batons** in **14** incidents, down from **21** occurrences in 2018 (-33%); **Firearms** in **10** incidents, down from **42** occurrences in 2018 (-76%); and their **Taser** in **98** incidents, down from **196** occurrences in 2018 (-50%).

The 2019 analysis shows that force usage is down in the categories of OC Spray, Firearm, and Taser. According to the 2019 Use of Force Analysis, Physical Force is slightly up.

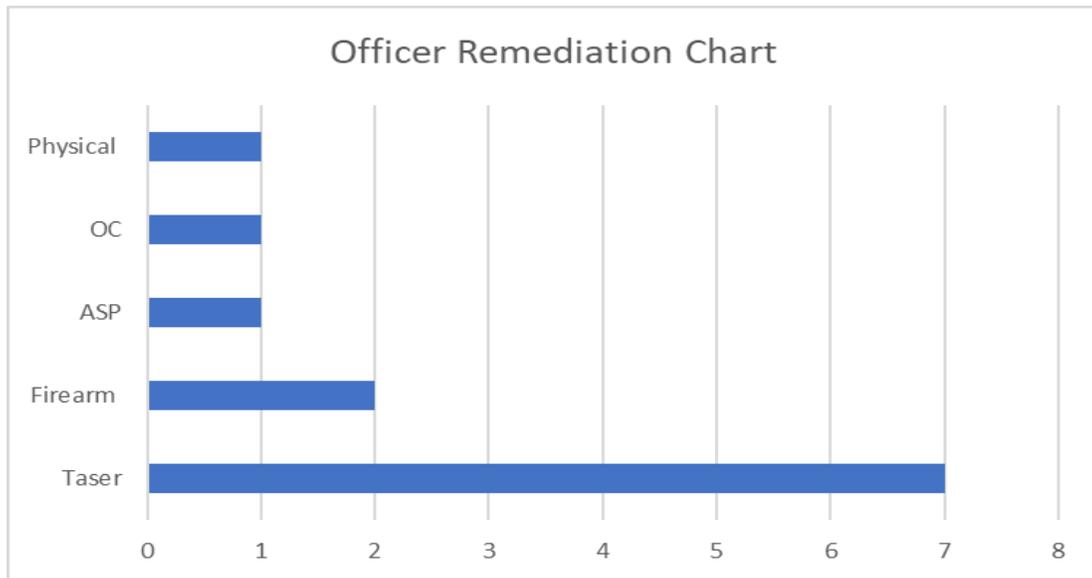


The introduction of the Conducted Electronic Weapon (CEW - Taser) and its usage has minimized the amount of physical force and injury causation to both officers and arrestees. Taser dependence amongst officers has grown continuously since the introduction of the device in 2013. More than 95% of the department has been outfitted with the Taser. This increase of personnel having access to the Taser device as an option of force has increased its use and dependency. The CEW (Taser) has been a very effective tool in gaining compliance with potentially combative subjects, as well as actual combative subjects with minimal mechanical issues and minimal injury to both officers and subjects.

Remedial training has been provided to officers who have used their Tasers in conditions that would present a hazard to the suspect (i.e. rain, wet conditions, uneven terrain and while the suspect is fleeing). Seven (7) officers were given remedial training with their Taser at the Academy by Inv Mills. The remedial training was conducted in a classroom via PowerPoint (Use of Force) and the gymnasium using practical application of the Taser.

*During the practical application of the Taser, officers were instructed to run the length of the gymnasium towards two pictures of a suspect in a fighting stance. The officer was then given a command (Threat Right) or (Threat Left) at which time the officer would draw their Taser and fire one practice cartridge either left or right. The Officer would then be given instruction on how to "Arch" their Taser, best and safest location of the body of the suspect to make contact with prongs and how to safely remove fired cartridges from the Taser.*

Officers who received remedial training for other types of UOF were instructed via power point and the MILO simulator. Two (2) officers were remediated for the handling of their firearms while on duty, one (1) officer was remediated for ASP baton, one (1) officer was remediated for OC and one (1) officer was remediated for Physical force. There was a total of 12 officers remediated for the year of 2019.



Those cases that presented evidence indicating that unreasonable or necessary force was used were directed to the department’s Office of Professional Standards (OPS) Unit for further review. OPS handled 14 cases of UOF in 2019, compared to the 49 cases 2018 (-61%).

**Firearm UOF Categories and Complaints Filed**

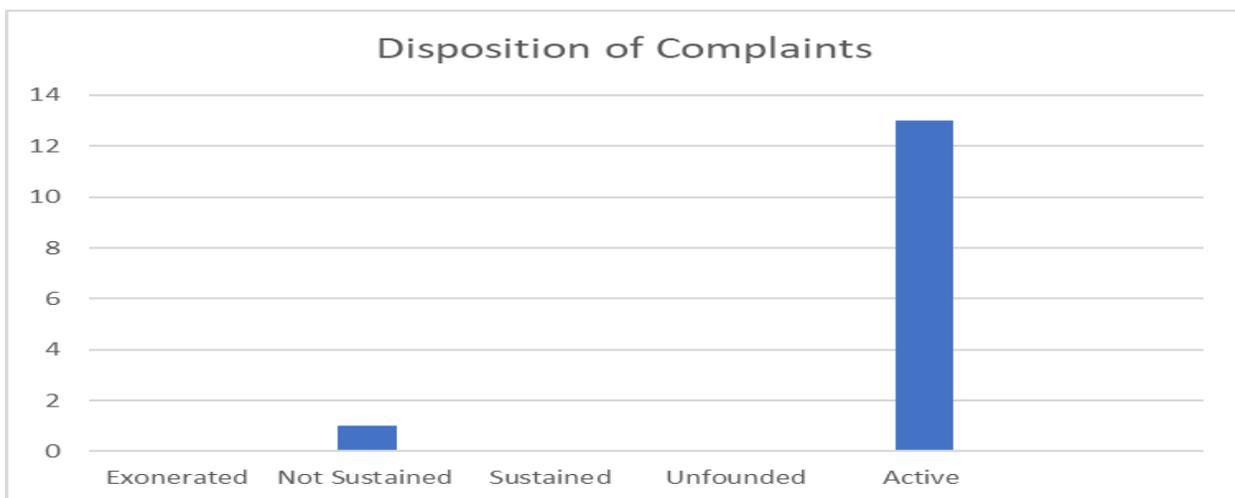
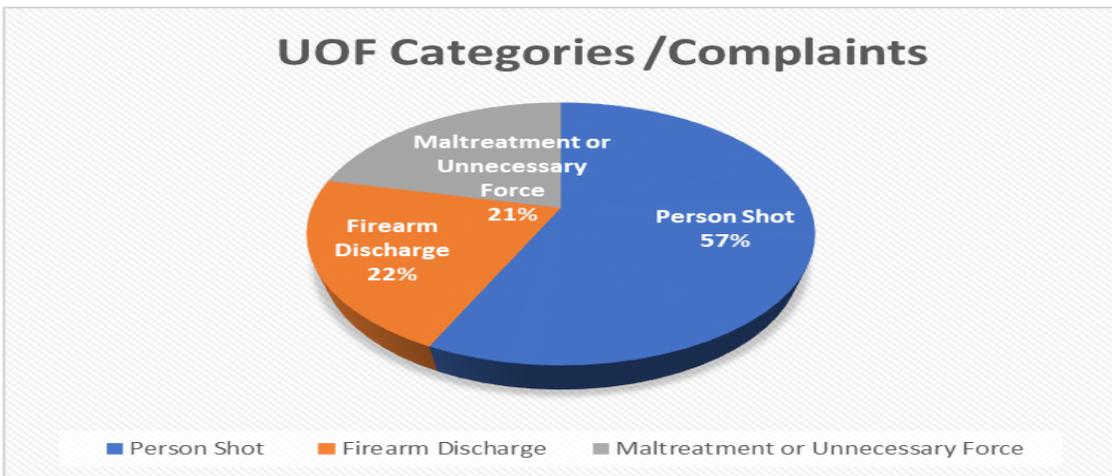
There were 11 officers involved in 10 incidents where a weapon was discharged in 2019. Eight (8) officers were involved in a person being shot (PS) and Three (3) involved in a firearm discharge (FA) (*No Person, Property or Animal Involved*). OPS handled 3 cases that involved Maltreatment or Unnecessary Force.

IA No	Allegation	Open date	Charge disposition	Sub-Classification
19I0035PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	1/17/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0041PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	1/23/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0053PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	2/4/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0099PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	2/27/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0099PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	2/27/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0119PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	3/14/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0134PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	4/1/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0245PS	6.09 Use of Firearms	5/31/2019	Active	Person Shot
19I0430FA	6.09 Use of Firearms	8/14/2019	Active	Firearm Discharge
19I0455FA	6.09 Use of Firearms	8/27/2019	Active	Firearm Discharge
19I0462FA	6.09 Use of Firearms	8/30/2019	Active	Firearm Discharge

**\*Please note that some cases involved more than one offic**

## Complaints Filed

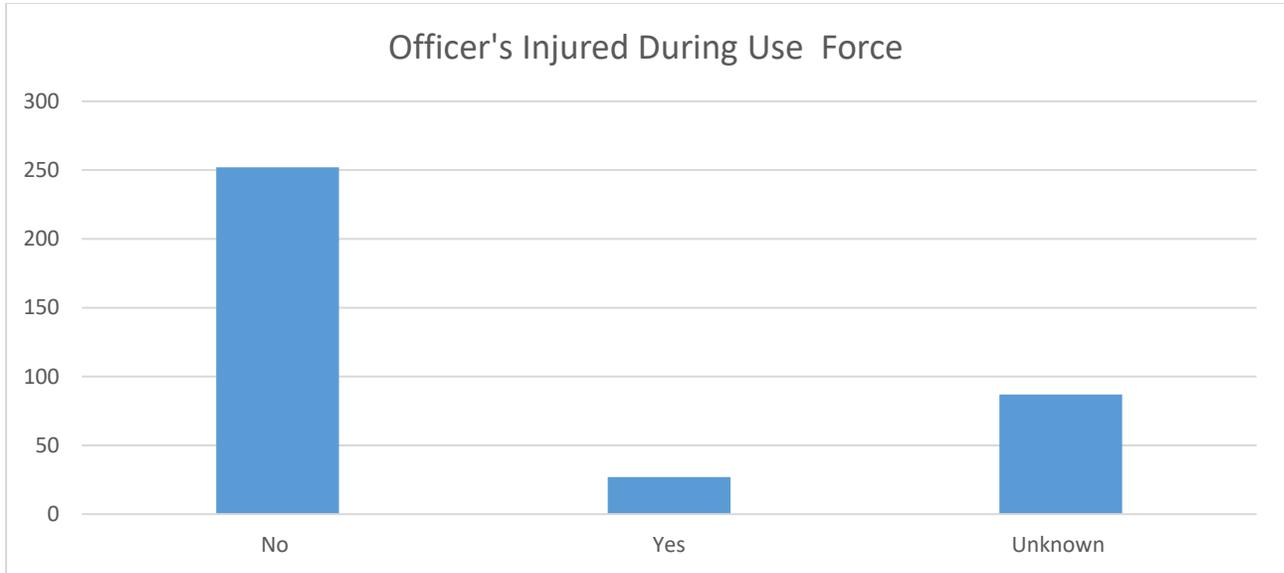
IA No	Sub-Classification	Open date	Allegation	Incident type	Charge disposition
19C0290UAF	Unauthorized Force	6/18/2019	2.50 Maltreatment or Unnecessary Force	Citizen complaint	NOT SUSTAINED
19C0294UAF	Unauthorized Force	6/19/2019	2.50 Maltreatment or Unnecessary Force	Citizen complaint	Active
19C0311UAF	Unauthorized Force	6/27/2019	2.50 Maltreatment or Unnecessary Force	Citizen complaint	Active



**Please note that OPS doesn't currently archive race, gender or injury statistics on OPS complaints.**

## Officer Injured During Use of Force

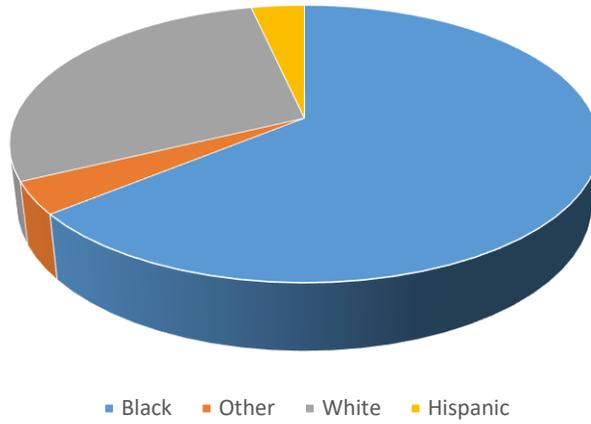
Officer Injured	2019
No	252
Yes	27
Unknown	87



## Officer Race and Gender

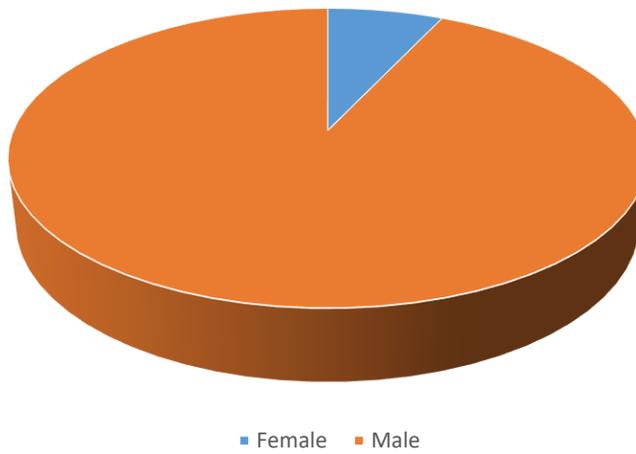
OFFICER RACE	TOTAL
Black	239
Other	14
White	107
Hispanic	13

Officer's Race



OFFICER GENDER	TOTAL
Female	26
Male	347

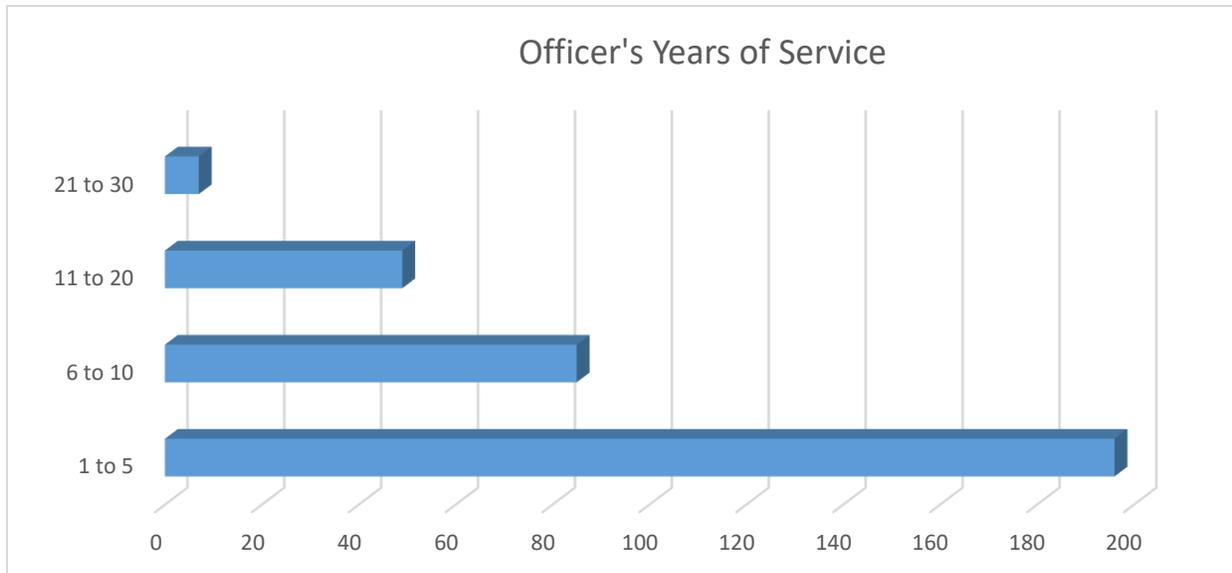
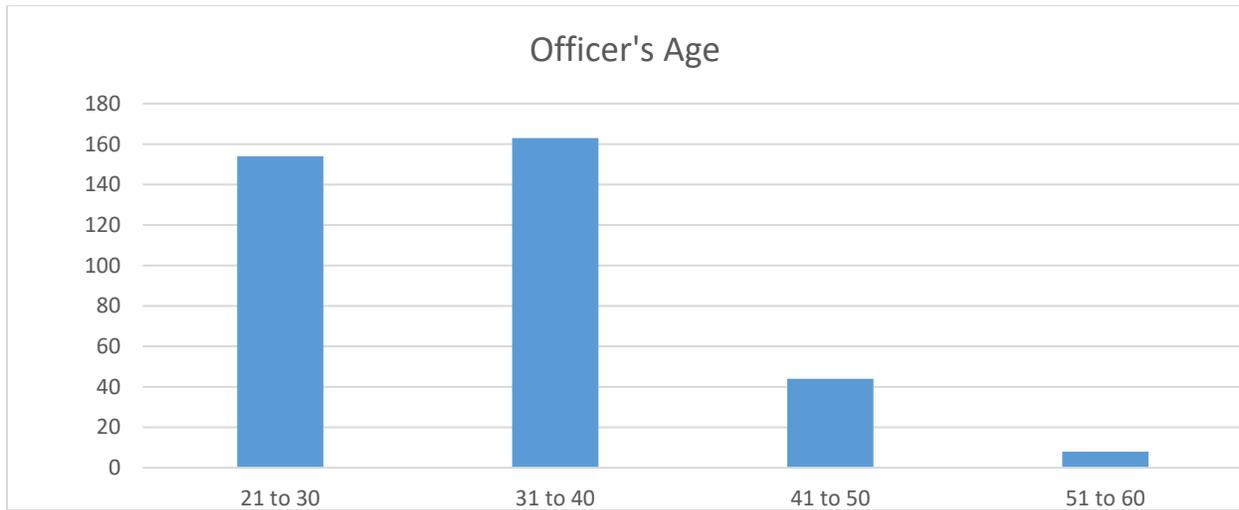
Officer's Gender



## Officer's Age and Years of Service

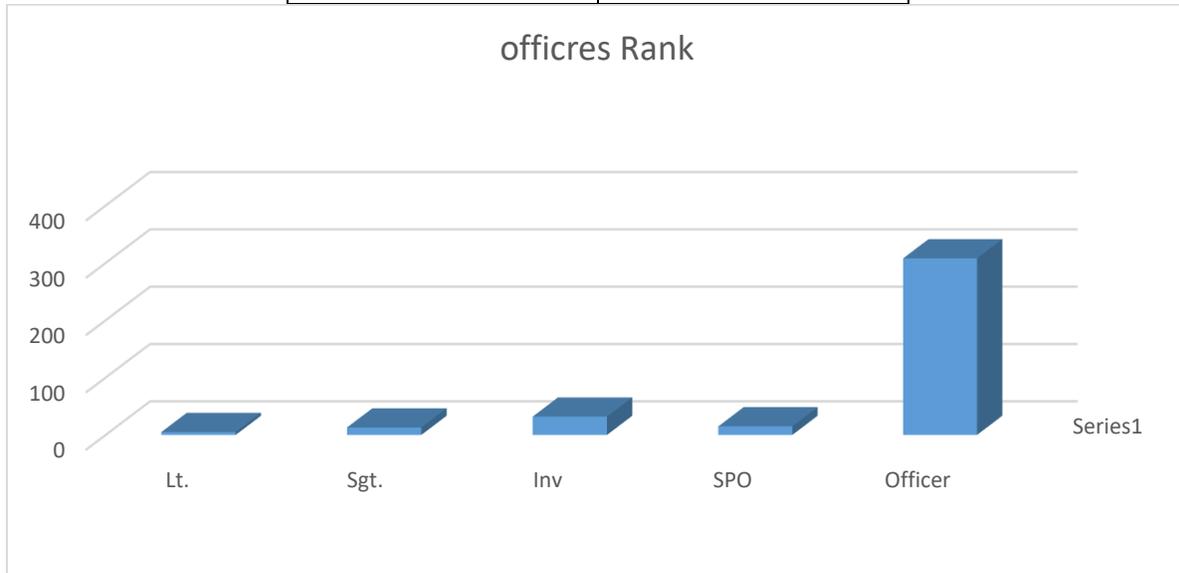
*\*Please note that some data on age and years of service was not captured due to incomplete UOF forms. This has been addressed with Roll Call training.*

Officer Age	Totals	Years of Service	Totals
21 to 30	<b>154</b>	1 to 5	<b>196</b>
31 to 40	<b>163</b>	6 to 10	<b>85</b>
41 to 50	<b>44</b>	11 to 20	<b>49</b>
51 to 60	<b>8</b>	21 to 30	<b>7</b>



## Officer Rank

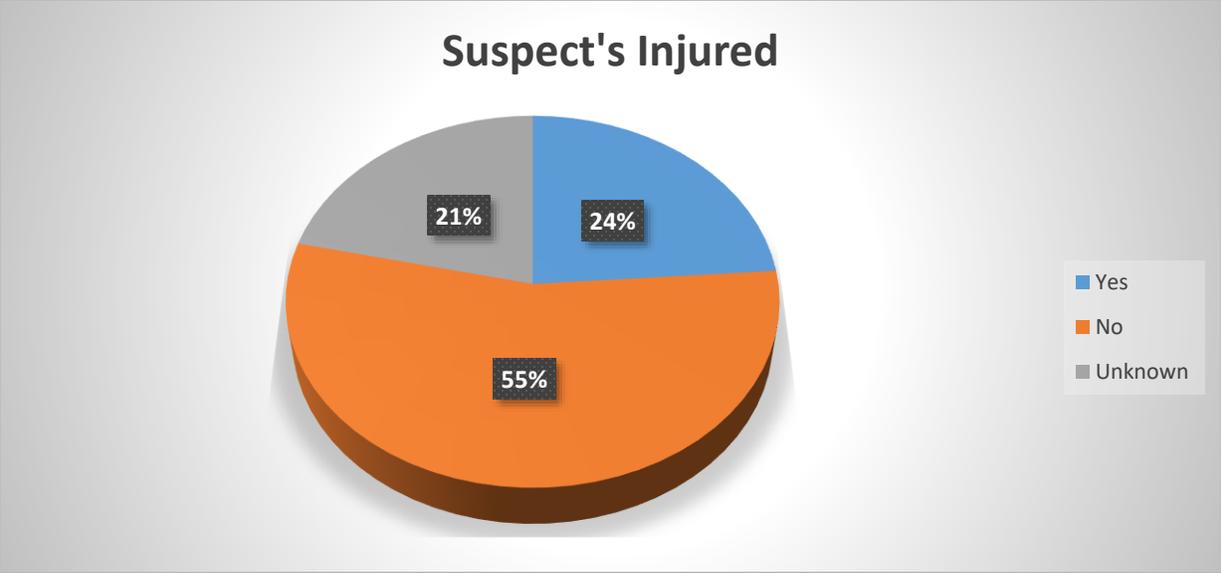
Rank	Totals
Lt.	5
Sgt	13
Inv	32
SPO	15
Officer	308



## Suspects Injured by Force

**\*Please note that some data on gender, race and injury of the suspects was not captured due to incomplete UOF forms. This has been addressed with Roll Call training. UOF that was against property (Door Breach) where no arrest was made was not counted in the Suspect Injured section.**

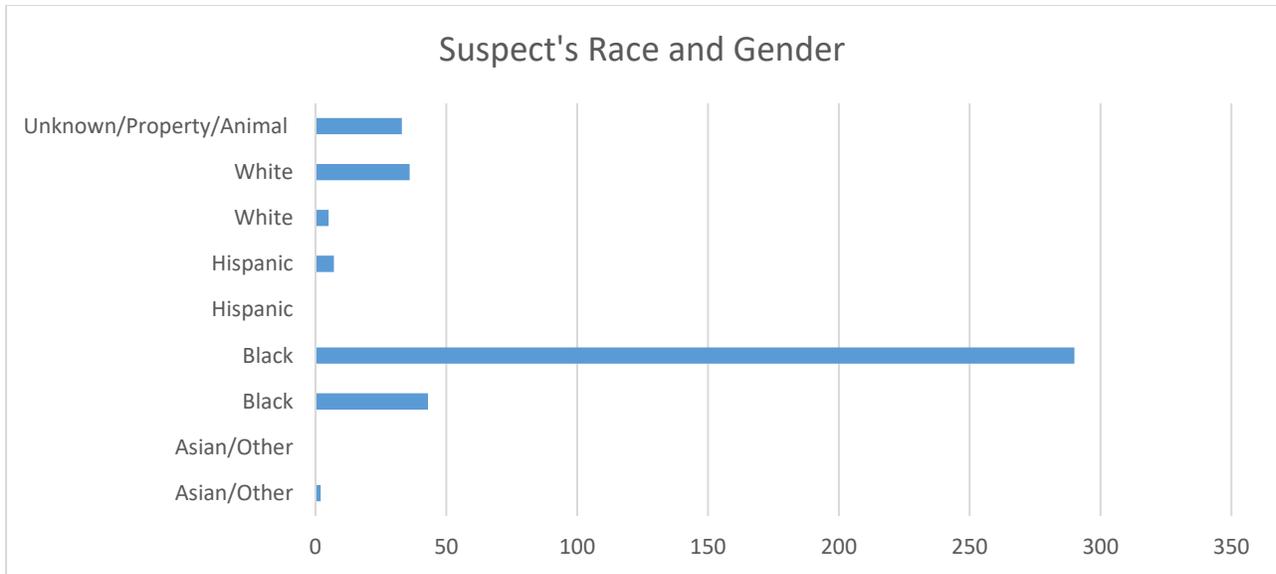
Suspect Injured	2019
Yes	88
No	202
Unknown	79



### Suspect's Race / Gender

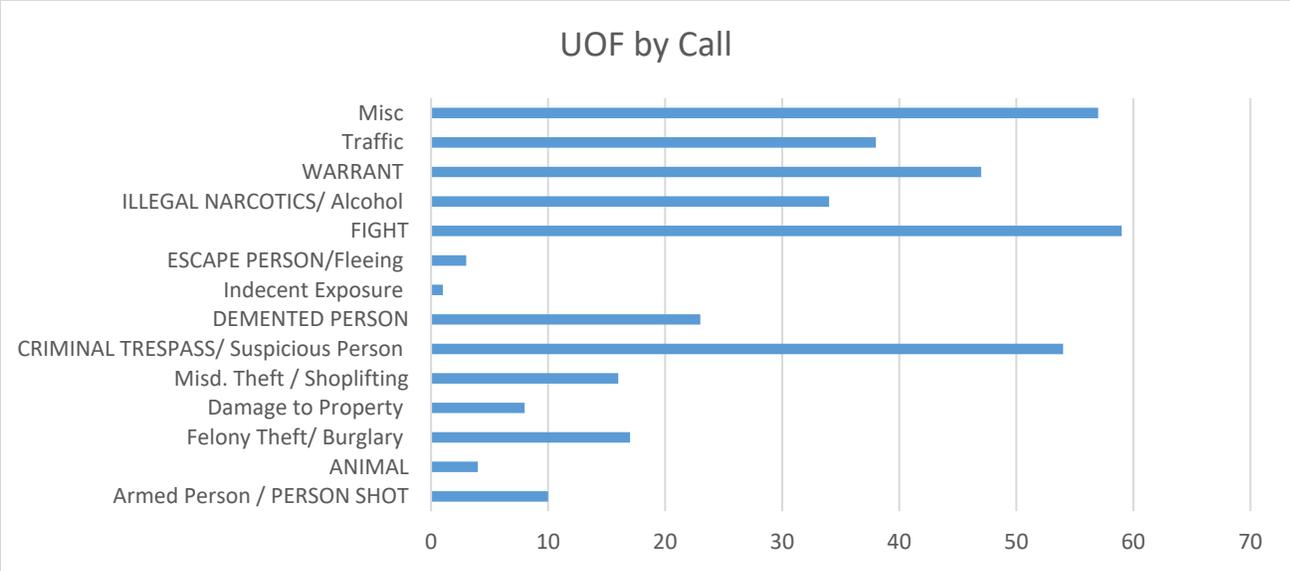
**\*Please note that some incidents of UOF involved multiple suspects and/or property damage. \***

SUSPECT RACE	SUSPECT GENDER	TOTAL
Asian/Other	Male	2
Asian/Other	Female	0
Black	Female	43
Black	Male	290
Hispanic	Female	0
Hispanic	Male	7
White	Female	5
White	Male	36
Unknown/Property/Animal		33



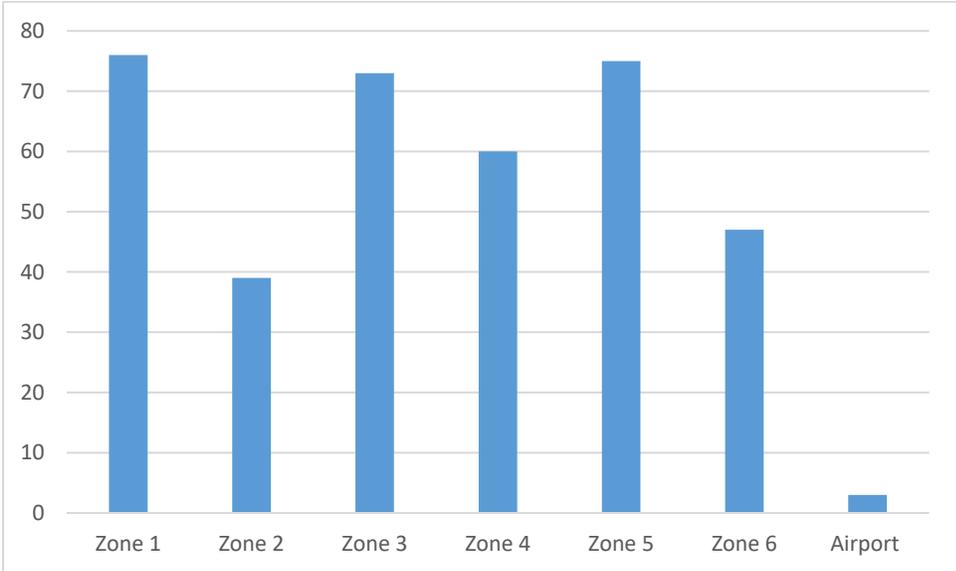
### Use of Force by Call Type

Type of Call	Total
Armed Person / PERSON SHOT	10
ANIMAL	4
Felony Theft/ Burglary	17
Damage to Property	8
Misd. Theft / Shoplifting	16
CRIMINAL TRESPASS/ Suspicious Person	54
DEMENTED PERSON	23
Indecent Exposure	1
ESCAPE PERSON/Fleeing	3
FIGHT	59
ILLEGAL NARCOTICS/ Alcohol	34
WARRANT	47
Traffic	38
Misc	57



## Use of Force by Unit

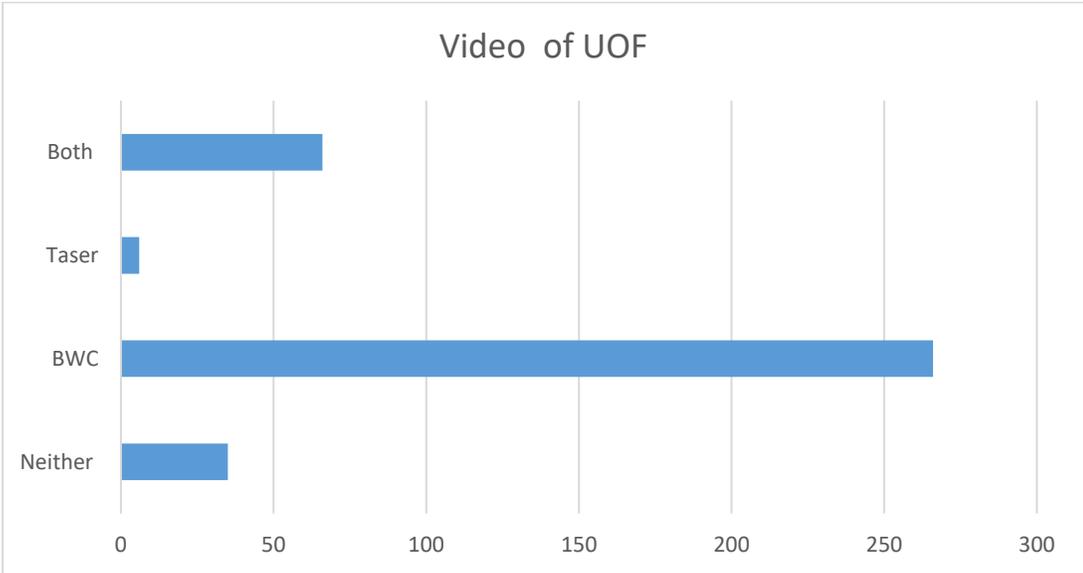
<b>Zone 1</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Zone 2</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Zone 3</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Zone 4</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Zone 5</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Zone 6</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Airport</b>	<b>3</b>



**Zone 1** led the Department in Use of Force Reports (76), followed by **Zone 5** (75) and **Zone 3** (73)

**Video Of UOF**

Neither	35
BWC	266
Taser	6
Both	66



In 2016 the Body Worn Camera was issued to all personnel of the Atlanta Police Department that was required to wear the device. The Body Worn Camera has assisted officers in documenting their encounters with the public and has been a vital tool in resolving disputes and allegations of misconduct. 94% of the department’s UOF incidents were recorded by Body Worn Camera (BWC) or Taser Camera. Many incidents where footage was not captured was due to the cameras falling off the officers while engaged with the suspect. This was corrected by the issuance of a BWC tether that attached to the officer’s belt. Incidents where the camera battery died due to not being charged, turned off or not turned on were directed to OPS for further review and investigation.

**Assault on Sworn Officer Review**

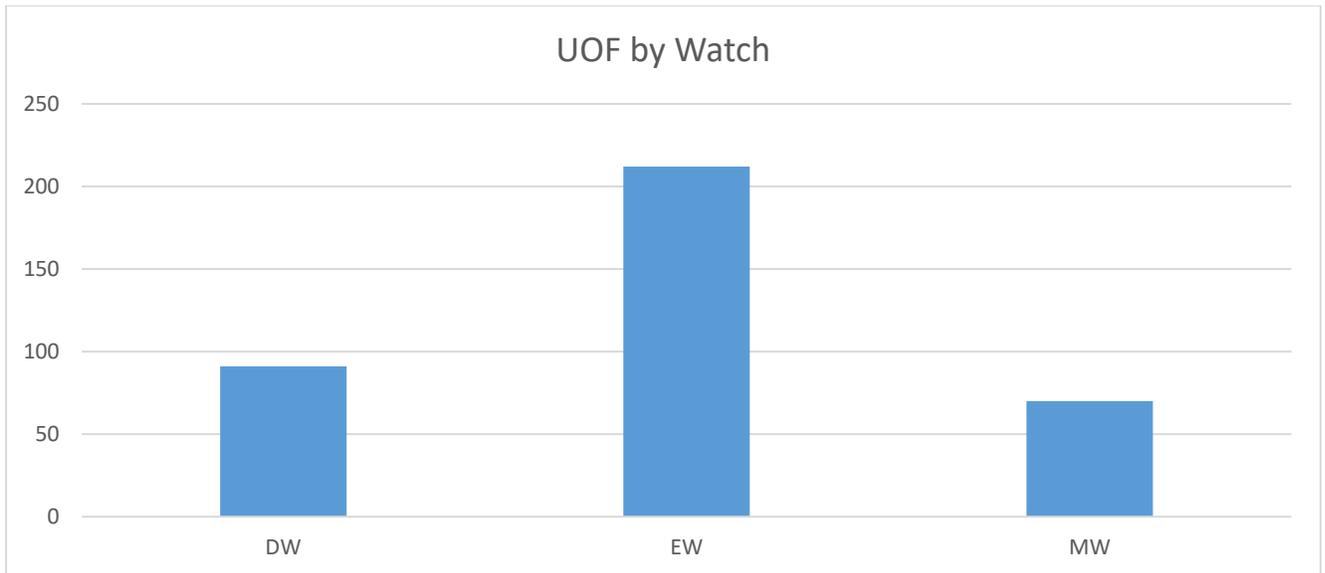
The Atlanta Police Department had a total of 8 UOF incidents where Officers were assaulted or presented with a threat against them or a third party. One incident involved an officer being scratched on the face by a suspect while attempting to take the suspect into custody. Physical force was used to control the suspect and the officer was treated for his injuries at the scene by Grady EMTs, CASE #

(190490478). The other 7 indents are currently being investigated by OPS and all have a case status of "ACTIVE". The details of those cases will not be disclosed in this summary due to policy.

**Time of Day/Watch of UOF**

Evening Watch led in the time of day UOF encounters were reported.

DW	91
EW	212
MW	70



**Recommendations on UOF (2019)**

These recommendations are in-line with the 6 Pillars of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. After reviewing the Use of Force Reports for the 2019 calendar year, the Training Academy recommendations for the Department regarding force usage involving the citizens of the City of Atlanta are:

- Continuing with the current training protocol regarding less lethal force weapons (e.g. Taser, O.C., ASP Baton, Verbal De-escalation, and Compromised Handcuffing); Basic Mandate and during In-Service;
- 8 hours Frist AID training conduct three (3) classes for 2020 training calendar;

- POST Mandated De-Escalating training (2-hour block, conducted via online through GPSTC);
- Conducting Reality-Based Training scenarios in both In-service and Basic Mandate Classes; RBT will focus on group dynamics and teamwork.
- Conducting Fair/Impartial Policing Training (4 Hour Block) Specialized Training. Conduct three (3) classes for 2020 training calendar for APD Officers.

Training recommendations for officers are:

- ***Compromised Handcuffing***, this training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to effectively secure or restrain a combative suspect using group dynamics and pain compliance. This training has been implemented into 2020 In-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.
- ***De-escalation***, this training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to resolve conflicts verbally and highlights the importance of careful assessment and situational awareness. This training has been implemented into 2020 In-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.
- **Team Dynamic Reality Base Training**, this training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to resolve disputes and neutralize threats using a team concept. Officers enhance their communicative skills while reinforcing team work through task-oriented instruction. This training has been implemented into 2020 In-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.

Following a review of the 2019 Use of Force analysis, it was determined that additional fields should be added to the Supervisor's Use of Force Supplement Form (APD Form 809). Fields indicating if an arrest was made or not and if a canine was used to apprehend a suspect. This data was partially collected in 2019; a complete analysis of these demographics will be provided in subsequent years.

## Use of Force Summary

Sworn Personnel	Total
<b>Firearm</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weapon Discharge</li> </ul>	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Person Shot</li> </ul>	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of accidental weapon discharges.</li> </ul>	3 Not counted in total, force was not used against a person, property or animal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display only</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>ECW</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharge</li> </ul>	98
<b>Asp Baton</b>	14
<b>Chemical/OC</b>	19
<b>Weaponless/Physic</b>	232
<b>Canine</b>	N/ A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release Only</li> </ul>	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release and Bite</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Total Uses of Force</b>	373
<b>Total Number of Incidents Resulting in Officer Injury or Death</b>	27 Injured (Only) 0 Deaths
<b>Total Agency Custodial Arrests</b>	31080
<b>Total Use of Force Complaints</b>	3