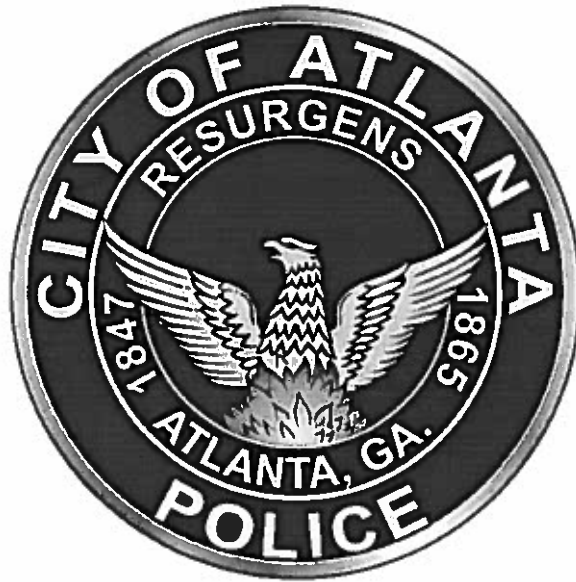


Herbert T. Jenkins  
Atlanta Police Academy



2016 Use of Force Report

## **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 affect 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 in order 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 actually 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.

## Executive Summary

Atlanta Police officers arrested **35,669** individuals in 2016, compared to **40,021** individuals in 2015. That puts our arrest totals down **10.8%** for the year. The Atlanta Police Academy reviewed **433** Use of Force Reports associated with those arrests compared to **618** Use of Force Reports in 2015. In 2016, the force was used in less than two percent (**1.2%**) of all arrests.

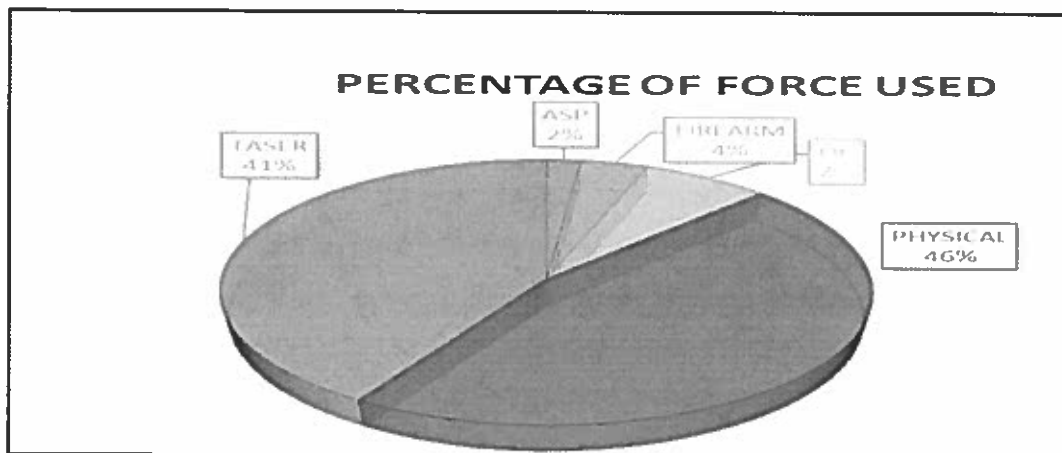
*It is important to note that these numbers do not take into account the hundreds of thousands of other police-citizen encounters that did not result in any Use of Force. (These include traffic stops and 911 calls for service.)*

Totals	2016	2015	2014	2013
Arrests	35669	40021	43242	45459
Use of Force Reports	433	618	608	542
% Use of Force*	1.2%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%

*\*Use of force as a percentage of total arrests*

In 2016, the Atlanta Police Department received a total of **433** Use of Force Reports compared to **618** Use of Force Reports received in 2015 for a decrease of **29%** in reported use of force incidents. There were decreases in the categories of ASP Baton, O.C, and Physical force.

Type of Force	2016	2015	Change +/-	% Change
Physical	201	346	-145	-41%
O.C.	30	38	-8	-21%
ASP Baton	8	16	-8	-50%
Firearm	16	15	+1	+6.6%
Taser	178	169	+9	+5.3%
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>-181</b>	<b>-29%</b>



In 2016, the majority of Use of Force incidents involved officers using physical force to obtain control of an arrestee. The use of **physical force** decreased from 346 incidents in 2015 to 201 incidents in 2016 (-41%) when attempting to control citizens. Of the remaining use of force options, officers used **O.C. spray** in 30 incidents, down from 38 occurrences in 2015 (-21%); **ASP Batons** in 8 incidents, down from 16 occurrences in 2015 (-50%); a **firearm** in 16 incidents, up from 15 occurrences in 2015 (+6.6%); and their **Taser** in 178 incidents, up from 169 occurrences in 2015 (+5.3%).

The 2016 analysis shows that force usage is down in three categories: ASP Baton, O.C, and physical force. According to the 2016 Use of Force Analysis, Taser usage is up slightly with 178 incidents in 2016 versus 169 in 2015 (+5.3%).

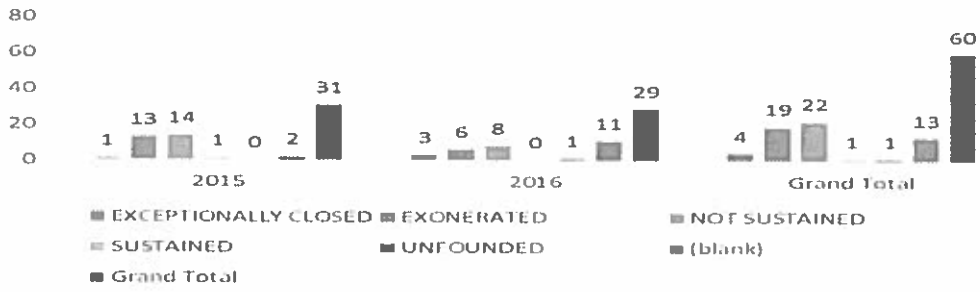
The introduction of the Conducted Electronic Weapon (CEW - Taser) and its usage has minimized the amount of physical force and injury causation to both officers and arrestees. Taser dependence amongst officers has grown continuously since the introduction of the device in 2013. More than 90% of the department in 2016 was outfitted with the Taser, compared to the 70% in 2015. 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). Ten (10) officers were given remedial training with their Taser at the Academy by SPO Brooks and Inv. Curry. The remedial training was conducted in a classroom via power point (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.*

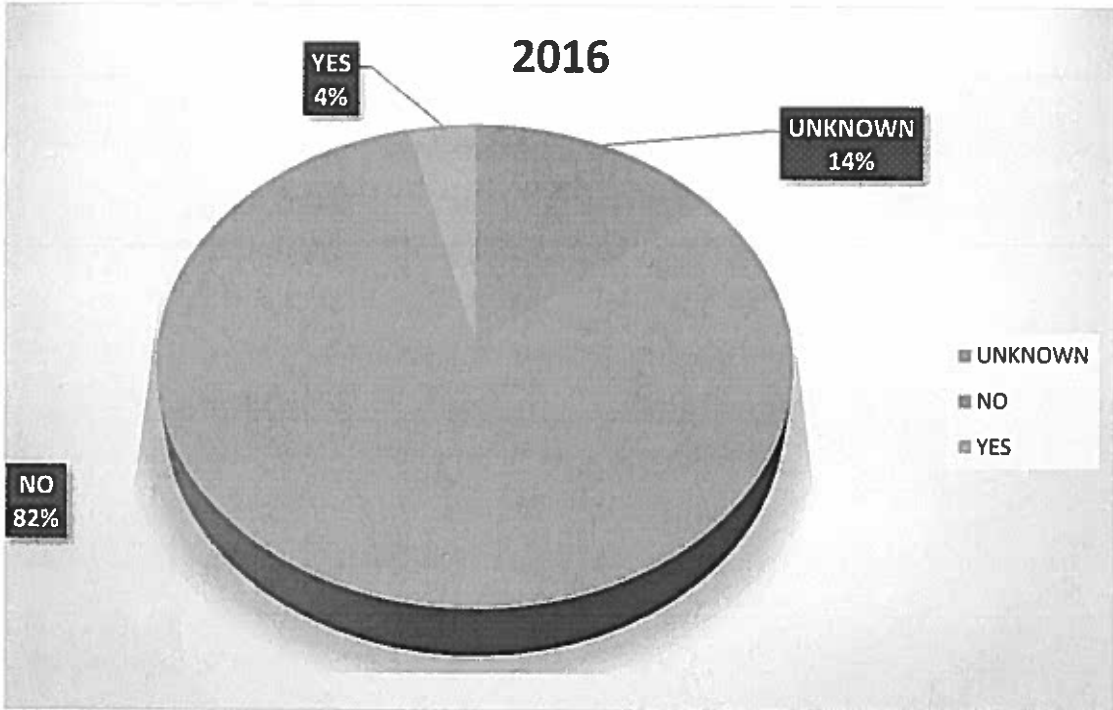
Those cases that presented evidence indicating that unreasonable force was used were directed to the department's Office of Professional Standards (OPS) Unit for further review. OPS handled 29 cases of UOF in 2016, compared to the 31 cases 2015 (-6.8%)

### Use Of Force Chart OPS



## Officer Injured During Use of Force

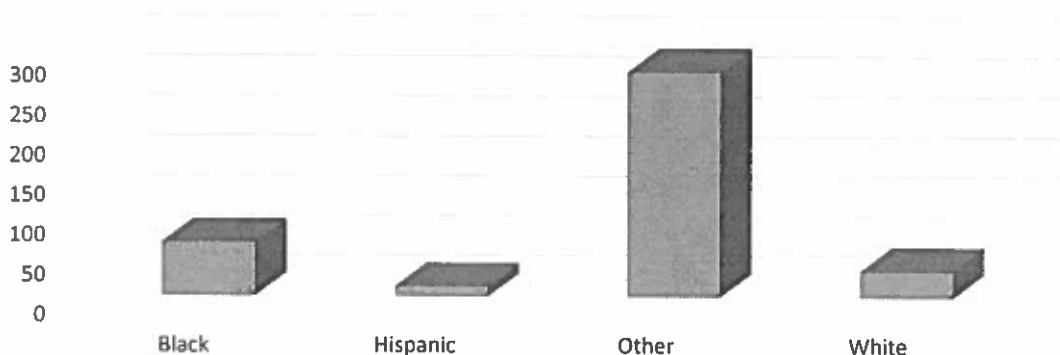
Officer Injured	2016
No	355
Yes	16
Unknown	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>



## Officer Race and Gender

OFFICER RACE	TOTAL
Black	68
Hispanic	13
Other	283
White	34
Not listed	35

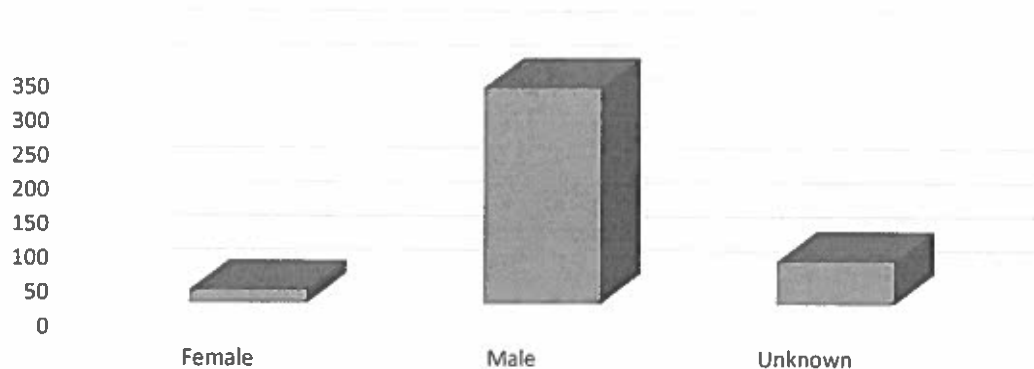
Race of Primary Officer



**\*Information pertaining to officer demographics was not previously included in the Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Supplement (APD Form 809). Following the 2016 Use of Force Analysis, these fields were added to the 2017 UOF Forms.**

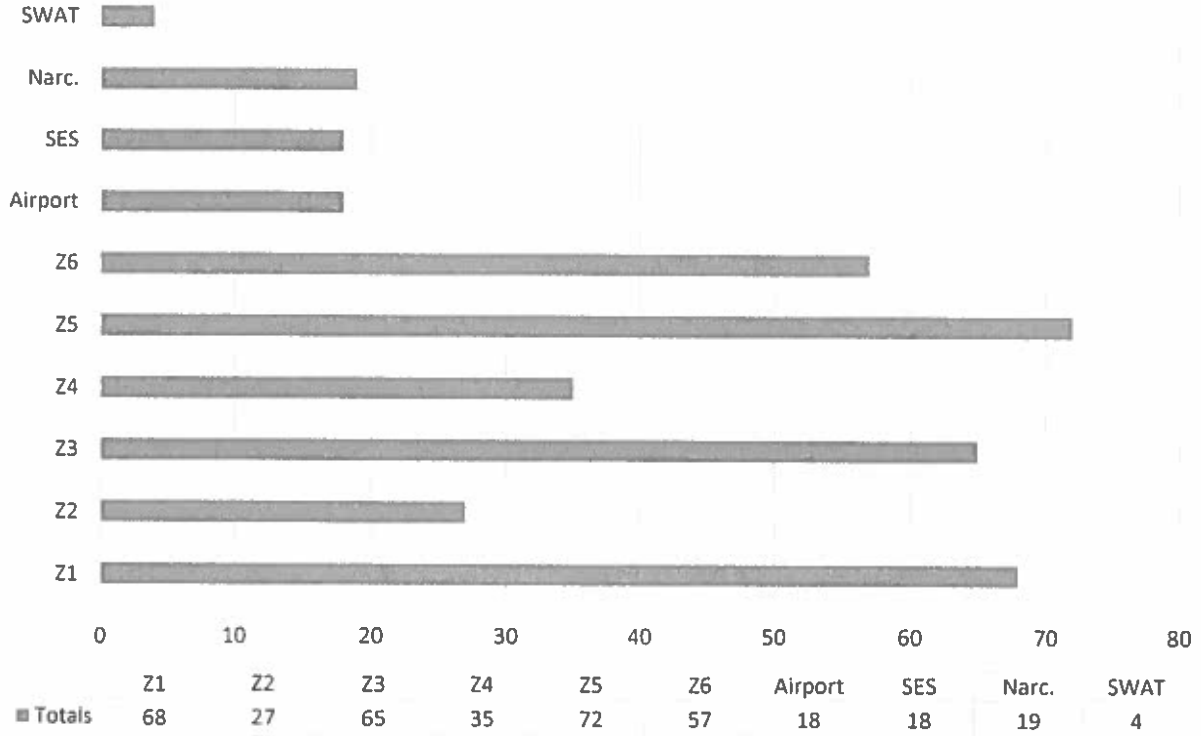
OFFICER GENDER	TOTAL
Female	19
Male	316
Unknown	63

Gender of Primary Officer

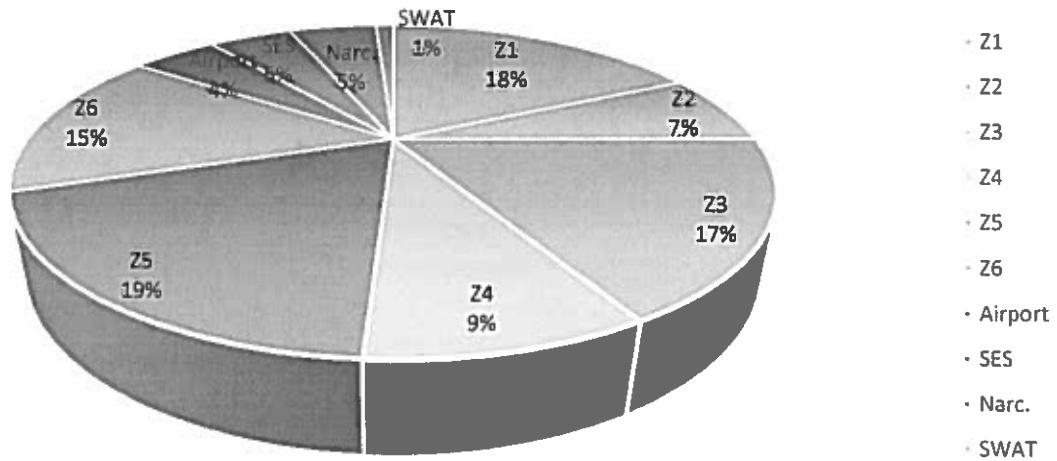


# Suspects Injured by Force

Suspects Injured By Force



Totals

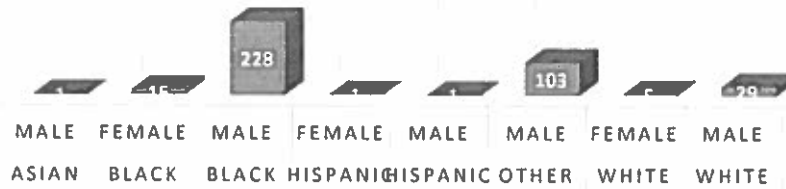


UOF Towards Animals and Property		
Animals		14
Property		36

### Suspect's Race / Gender

SUSPECT RACE	SUSPECT GENDER	TOTAL
Asian	Male	1
Black	Female	15
Black	Male	228
Hispanic	Female	1
Hispanic	Male	1
Other	Male	103
White	Female	5
White	Male	29

### SUSPECT'S RACE/ GENDER



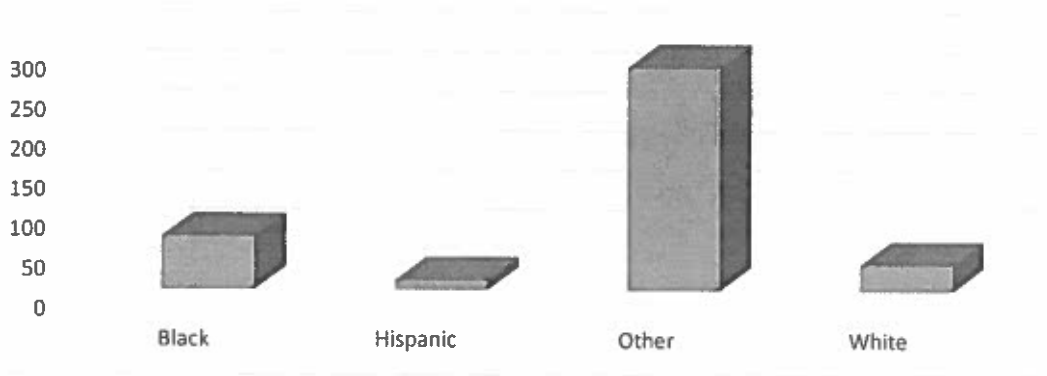
\*Please note that some data on gender and race of the suspects was not gathered due to incomplete UOF forms. This has been addressed with Roll Call training.

### Officer Race and Gender

OFFICER RACE	TOTAL
Black	68
Hispanic	13
Other	283
White	34
Not listed	35



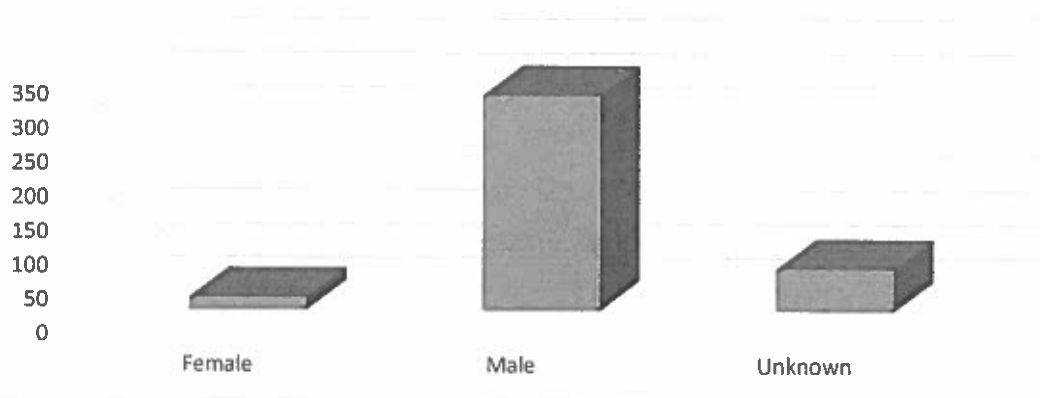
### Race of Primary Officer



**\*Information pertaining to officer demographics was not previously included in the Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Supplement (APD Form 809). Following the 2016 Use of Force Analysis, these fields were added to the 2017 UOF Forms.**

OFFICER GENDER	TOTAL
Female	19
Male	316
Unknown	63

### Gender of Primary Officer



The majority of use of force incidents involved one officer and one suspect. Most incidents involved "Fight" calls (Signal 29). Most incidents occurred during the evening watch hours of 3pm-11pm.

## Officer/Suspects Present

**Number of Officers Present**

<b>Number of Officers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Demented Person</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>Dogs</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>Drug Arrest</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Fight</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Fugitive</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Intoxicated Person</b>	<b>2</b>		
<b>Suspicious Person</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Traffic Stop</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>27</b>

**Number of Suspects Present**

<b>Number of Suspects</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Demented Person</b>	<b>13</b>		
<b>Dogs</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>Drug Arrest</b>	<b>51</b>		
<b>Fight</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>Fugitive</b>	<b>45</b>		
<b>Intoxicated Person</b>	<b>2</b>		
<b>Suspicious Person</b>	<b>88</b>		
<b>Traffic Stop</b>	<b>37</b>		
<b>Other*</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>

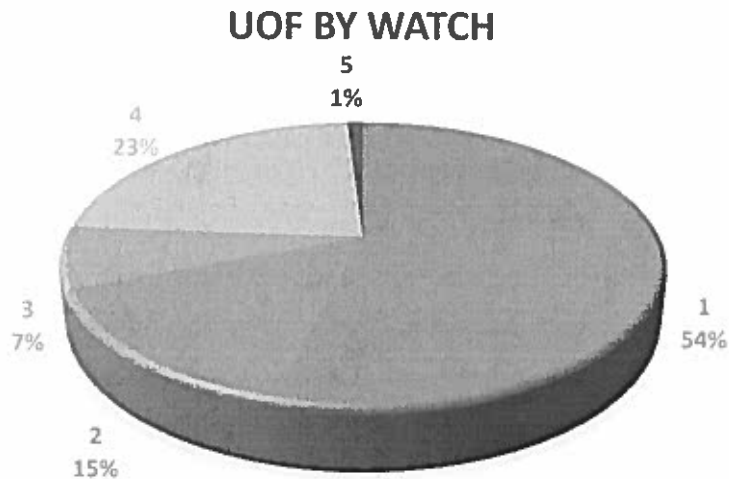
\*Note: The "Other" column was UOF that involved damage to property for a law enforcement action i.e. search warrant, damage to windows, and doors.

**Use of Force by Call Type**

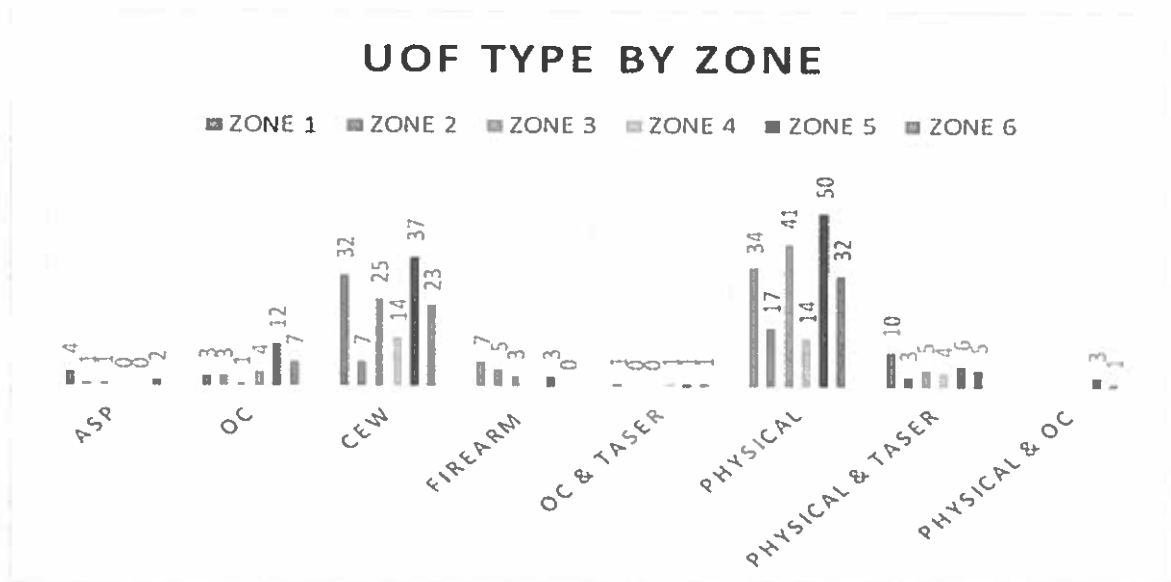
<b>Type of Call</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>FIGHT</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SUSPICIOUS PERSON</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>ILLEGAL NARCOTICS</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>TRAFFIC STOP</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>DEMENTED PERSON</b>	<b>23</b>

CRIMINAL TRESPASS	13
DEMENTED PERSON	23
WARRANT	21
ARMED PERSON	16
ANIMAL	14
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	13
CAR JACKING	12
ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE	11
BURGLARY	11
INTOXICATED PERSON	9
SHOPLIFTING	8
GAMBLING	2
DISORDERLY JUVENILE	1
INJURED PERSON	1
OFFICER HELP CALL	1
PANHANDLING	1

**Use of Force by Unit/Watch**



**Zone 5** led the Department in Use of Force Reports (85), followed by **Zone 1** (69) and **Zone 3** (66).



### Recommendations: 2015

Recommendations for 2015 UOF Report was 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 2015 calendar year; the Training Academy recommendations for the Department regarding force usage involving the Citizens of the City of Atlanta—were the following:

- **Continue with the current training protocol regarding less lethal weapons, (e.g. Taser, O.C., ASP Baton, Verbal De-escalation)**

*This training was implemented as a two hours course of instruction during in-service training. The training was presented by POST certified Defense Tactics Instructors and consisted of a classroom, practical application, and demonstrations on the proper use and logic of less the lethal weapons. Implementation of this training has shown a decrease in force in ASP Baton, O.C and physical force throughout the department.*

- **Crisis Intervention Training C.I.T. added to the Basic Mandate Training (40 Hours)**

*This training was implemented to new recruit classes and specialized training for APD staff and officers. The class was instructed by a POST certified CIT Instructors and presented as a two week course. The logic behind the course was to assist officers in identifying mental illness and provide resources for officers that come in contact with a mentally ill person(s).*

- **Continue to conduct Reality Based Training Scenarios in both In-service and Basic Mandate Classes.**

*Reality Based Training was implemented in 2015 In-service, the training consisted of various scenarios that would evaluate officer's decision making when exposed to various levels of stress and situations. Goals of the training were to broaden officer's knowledge on de-escalation tactics and transitioning from one level of force to another depending on the circumstances.*

### **Recommendations (2016)**

These recommendations are in-line with the 6 Pillars of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing. After reviewing the Use of Force Reports for the 2016 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); Basic Mandate and during In-Service;
- Crisis Intervention Training C.I.T. Basic Mandate Training (40 hours) Conduct three (3) classes for 2017 training calendar;
- POST Mandated De-Escalating training (2-hour block, conducted at the Range during practical);
- Implementation of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) to document citizen encounters;
- Conducting Reality-Based Training scenarios in both In-service and Basic Mandate Classes;
- Conducting Fair/Impartial Policing Training (4 Hour Block) Specialized Training. Conduct three (3) classes for 2017 training

calendar for APD Officers, also implement training for new recruits.

Following a review of the 2016 Use of Force analysis, it was determined that additional fields should be added to the Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Form (APD Form 809). Fields indicating an officer's rank, gender, race, age and years of service were added. This data was partially collected in 2016; a complete analysis of these demographics will be provided in subsequent years.

Please note that Body Worn Cameras (BWC) were introduced to the department in November 2016; information regarding their use during use of force encounters will not be reflected in this report. Moving forward BWC use and all other statistical data fields will be added to the Supervisor's Use of Force Incident Form (APD Form 809). These fields will allow accurate collection and analysis of data for the 2017 Use of Force Report.

