

Herbert T. Jenkins

Atlanta Police Academy



2021 Use of Force Report

Completed By

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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 points or aims a firearm at a subject or 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 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."
3. Where feasible, some warning has been given [Tennessee v. Garner, 471 US 1 (1985)].

The supervisor responding to the scene is required to complete a Use of Force Report in the Axon Standards UOF Module on Evidence.com. The UOF Report will be

forwarded to the Lieutenant or Unit Commander of the employee who used force. An incident report describing the incident must be completed and submitted at that time as well.

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
2021 Use of Force Report and Use of Force Standards

4.2.4 (LE1)

(M M M M) (LE1) Analyze Reports from Use of Force 47

- **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, and 11**
 - 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 4**

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 18822 individuals in 2021, compared to 20976 individuals in 2020. That puts our arrest totals down – 10.2% for the year. The Atlanta Police Academy reviewed 523 Use of Force Reports associated with those arrests, compared to 380 Use of Force Reports in 2020.

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 or arrest. (These include traffic stops, 911 calls for service and routine police encounters)

Totals	2021	2020	2019	2018
Arrests	18822	20976	31080	31034
Use of Force Reports	523	380	615	528

In 2021 the Atlanta Police Department received a total of 523 Use of Force Reports (411 Person, 109 Property and 3 Animal) compared to 380 Use of Force Reports received in 2020 for an increase of 37.63 % in reported use of force incidents.

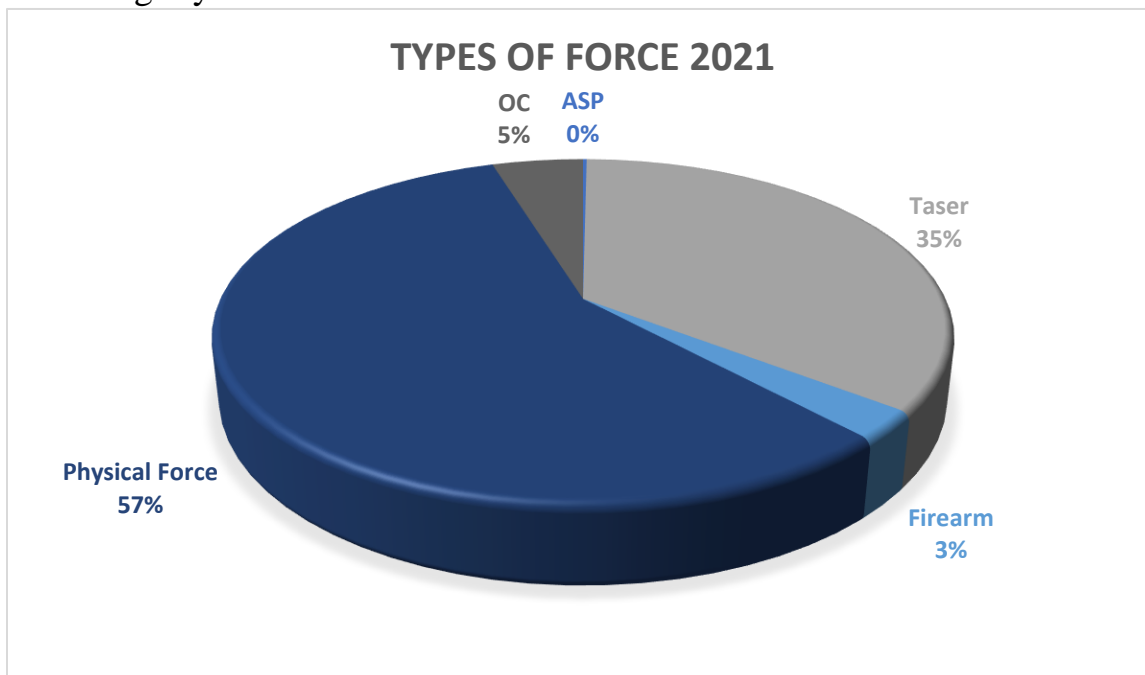
Type of Force	2021	2020	Change	% Change
Physical/Breach/Stop Stick	299	201	98	48.75%
O.C.	25	22	3	13%
ASP Baton	1	2	-1	-50%
Firearm	14	19	-5	-26.32%
Taser	184	136	48	35.29%
Total Reports	523	380	143	37.63%

In 2021, most of the Use of Force incidents involved officers using physical force to obtain control of an arrestee or make entry into a building. The use of **Physical Force** increased from 201 in 2020 to 299 in 2021 (48.75%) when attempting to control perpetrators or force entry into a building. Of the remaining

use of force options, officers used O.C. Spray in 25 incidents, up from 22 occurrences in 2020 (13%); ASP Batons in 1 incident, down from 2 in 2020 (-50%); Firearms in 14 incidents, down from 19 in 2020 (-26.32%); and their taser in 184 incidents, up from 136 in 2020 (35.29%).

**Please note that there was a decrease in firearm related use of force for this year*

The 2021 analysis shows that force usage is up in the categories of Physical Force, OC Spray, and Taser. According to the 2021 Use of Force Analysis, Firearms is down slightly.



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.

In 2020 the Atlanta Police Department transitioned from the X2 Taser to the more effective Taser 7 model. The Taser 7 model offered officers a more accurate device at greater distances. The deployment and use of the CEW-Taser amongst officers have been consistent of the last couple of years with an increase of forty-eight (48) incidents in 2021.

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). Three (3) officers were given remedial training with their Taser at the Academy.

One of the main issues we noticed with officers using their Taser was their handling of the taser after the suspect was tased. Many officers were hesitant to go hands-on and secure the suspect while the effects of the tasing was apparent. This is called cuffing under-power and is an effect way to secure combative suspects. Some officers also failed to secure their tasers prior to going hands-on or communicated to additional personnel on scene that assistance was needed in securing the suspect. These issues were addressed in annual in-service during the Taser 7 recertification. Officers were shown the proper use of a Taser-Team and demonstrations on Cuffing Under-Power.

The remedial training was conducted in a classroom via PowerPoint (Use of Force/Taser 7) 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 a suspect in a fighting stance. The officer was then given a command (Threat) at which time the officer would draw their Taser and fire one live cartridge at the target. The Officer would then be given instruction on how to “Arc” their Taser, best and safest location on 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 online class. One (1) officer was remediated for the failing to pursue suspect who was in custody, online class “transporting prisoners” was used to fill gaps in his knowledge.

Those cases that presented evidence indicating that unreasonable or unnecessary force was used were directed to the department's Office of Professional Standards (OPS) Unit for further review. OPS handled 28 cases of UOF in 2021, compared to the 47 cases 2020 which was a (-40%) decrease. There were 15 incidents of officer involved shootings or displayed weapons and 11 UOF complaints for the year of 2021.

Firearm UOF Categories and Complaints Filed
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There were 15 incidents where a weapon was displayed or discharged in 2021 and 11 other UOF complaints handled by the Office of Professional Standards.

Date	IA; NO	Status
1/5/2021	21I0002FA	Open
4/2/2021	21I0144FA	Open
4/12/2021	21I0160FA	Open
5/17/2021	21I0214FA	Closed
5/17/2021	21I0213FA	Open
07/01/2021	21I0277PS	Open
07/27/2021	21I0313PS	Open
08/30/2021	21I0361PS	Open
08/30/2021	21I0362PS	Open
10/21/2021	21I0450PS	Open
10/21/2021	21I0450PS	Open
10/25/2021	21I0462FA	Open
11/2/2021	21I0466FA	Open
11/3/2021	21I0467MISC	Open
12/2/2021	21I0508PS	Open

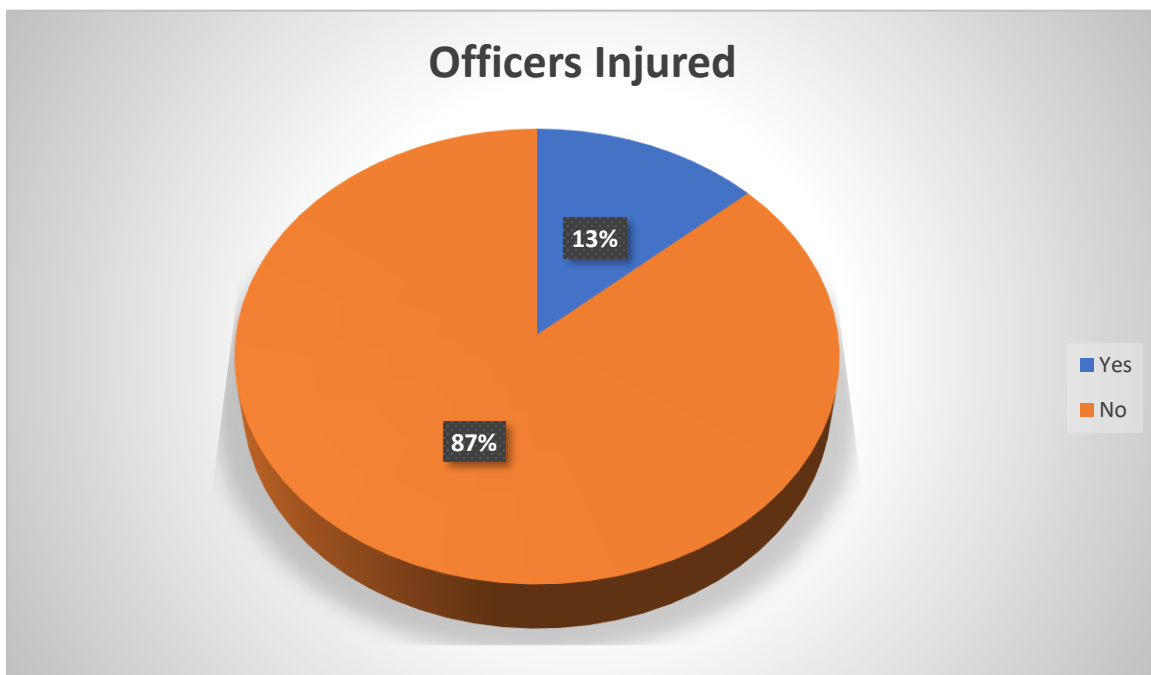
*These are the OPS cases in which an officer used a firearm, all incidents involved an Atlanta officer on the scene, but they were not necessarily the officer who fired a weapon.

Use of Force Complaints 2021

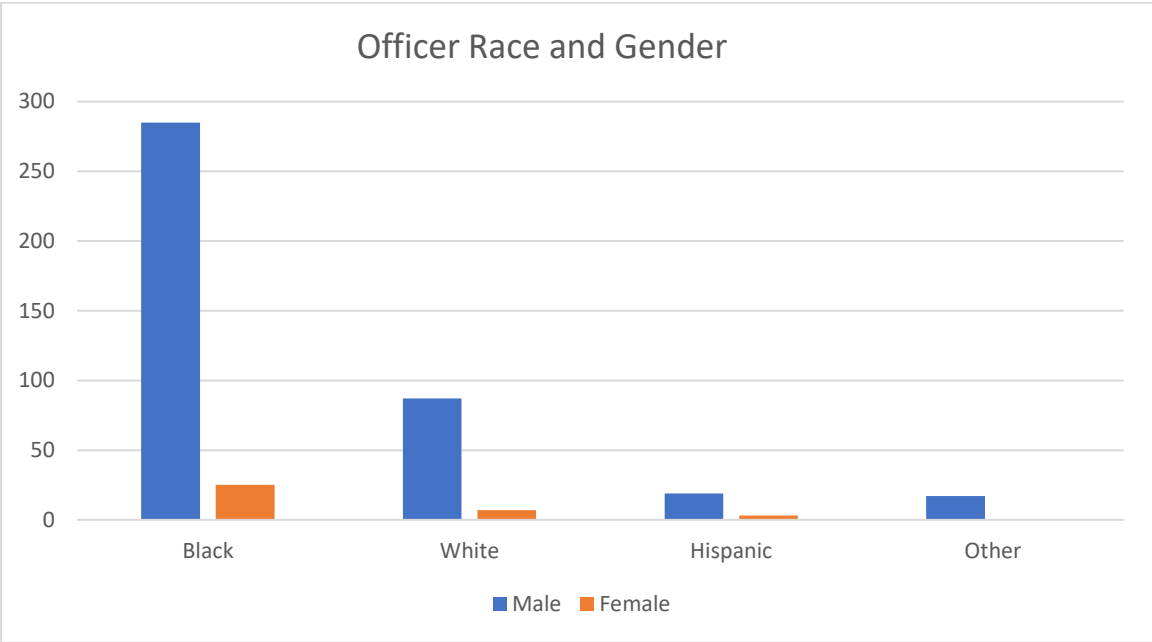
Date	IA; NO	Status
1/21/2021	21I0025UAF	Closed
1/26/2021	21I0050UAF	Closed
3/2/2021	21I0101UAF	Closed
4/21/2021	21I0173UAF	Open
5/17/2021	21I0211UAF	Open
6/7/2021	21C0241UAF	Open
7/27/2021	21I0311UAF	Closed
9/23/2021	21C0415UAF	Open
10/5/2021	21I0426UAF	Open
11/17/2021	21C0482UAF	Open
11/30/2021	21C0507UAF	Open

Officers Injured During Use of Force

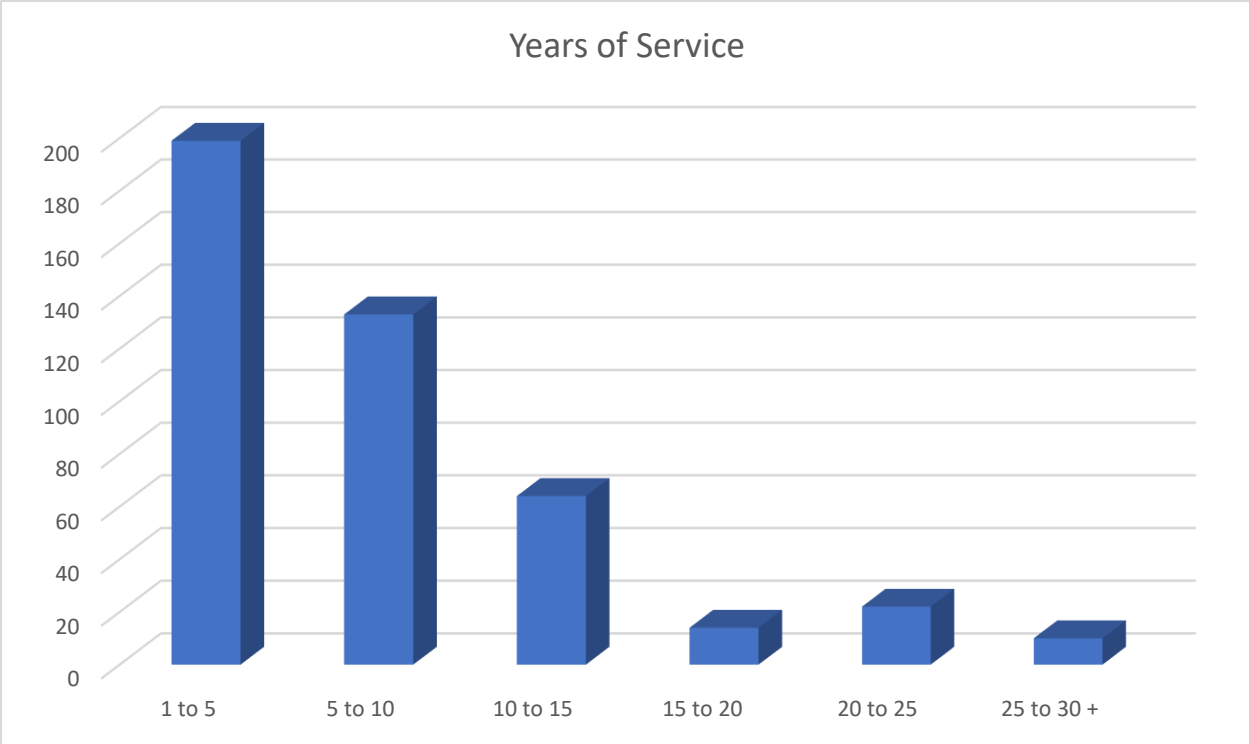
Officer Injured	2021
No	453
YES	70



Officers Race and Gender				
Gender	Black	White	Hispanic	Other
Male	285	87	19	17
Female	25	7	3	0

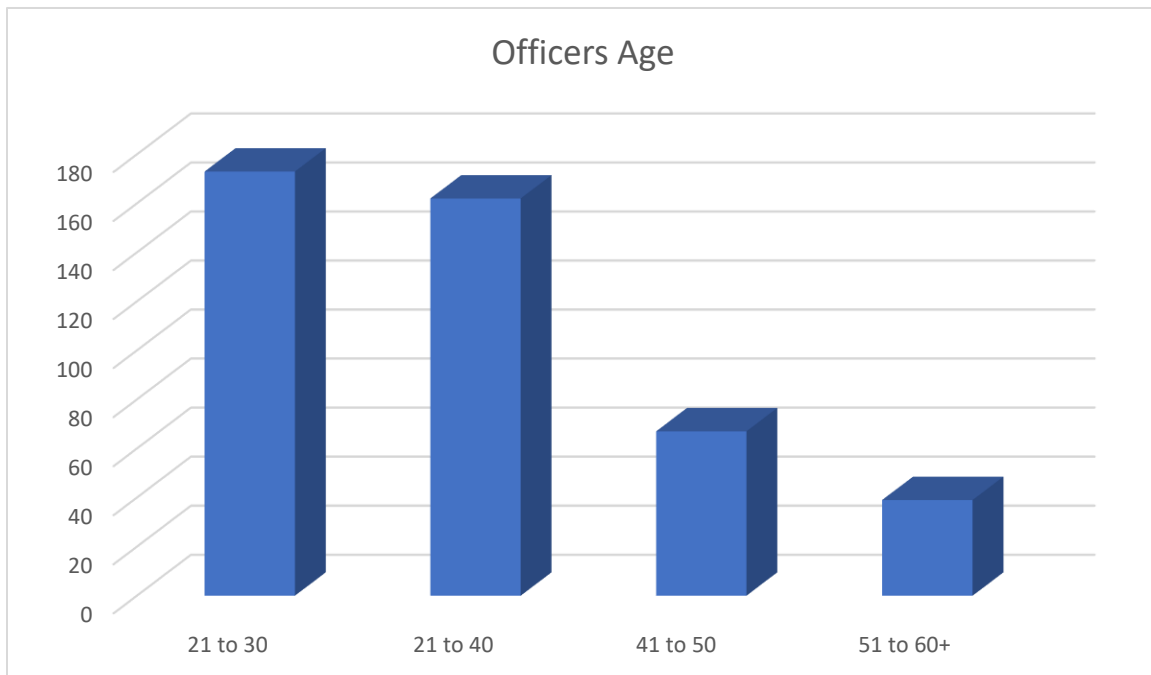


Officer's Years of Service	
Years of Service Range	Number of Officers
1 to 5	199
5 to 10	133
10 to 15	64
15 to 20	14
20 to 25	22
25 to 30 or more	10



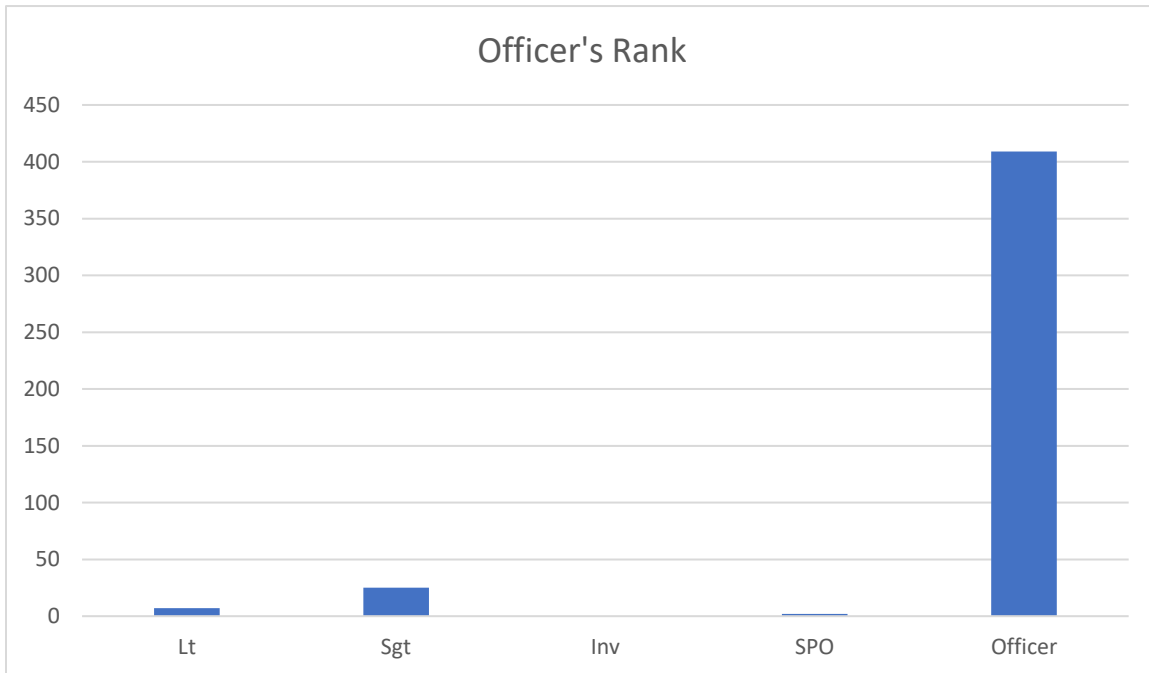
Officer's Age

Age Range	Total Officers
21 to 30	173
31 to 40	162
41 to 50	67
51 to 60 or more	39



Officer's Rank

Rank	Total Officers
Lt.	7
Sgt.	25
Inv.	0
SPO	2
Officer	409

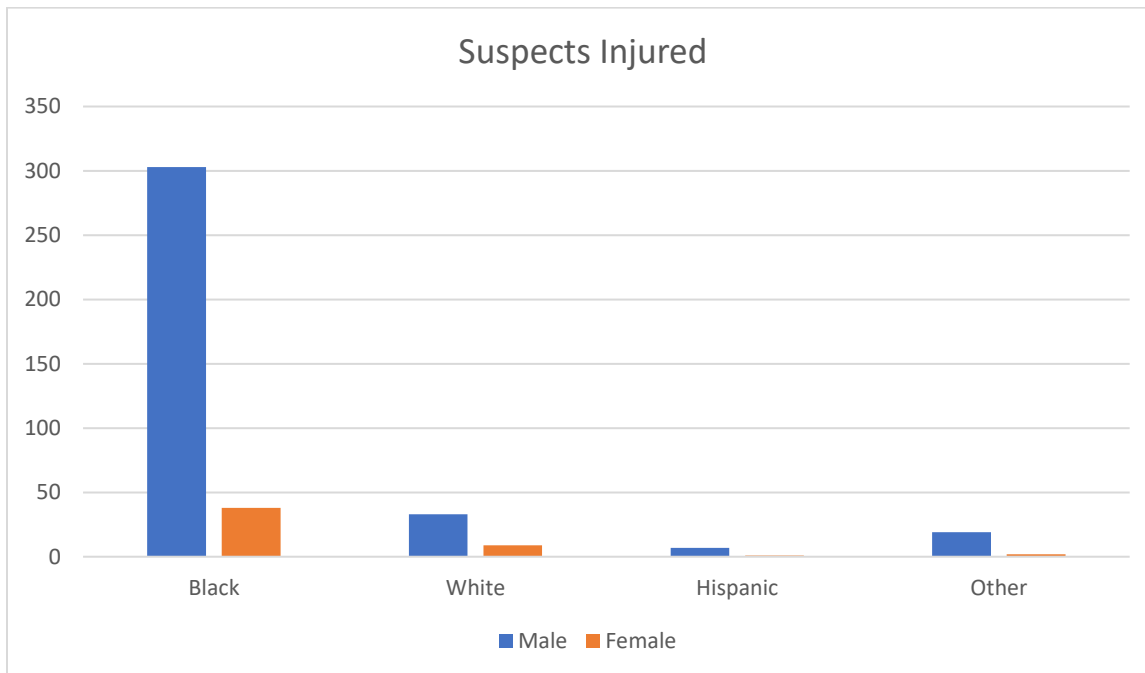


Suspect Injured

*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.

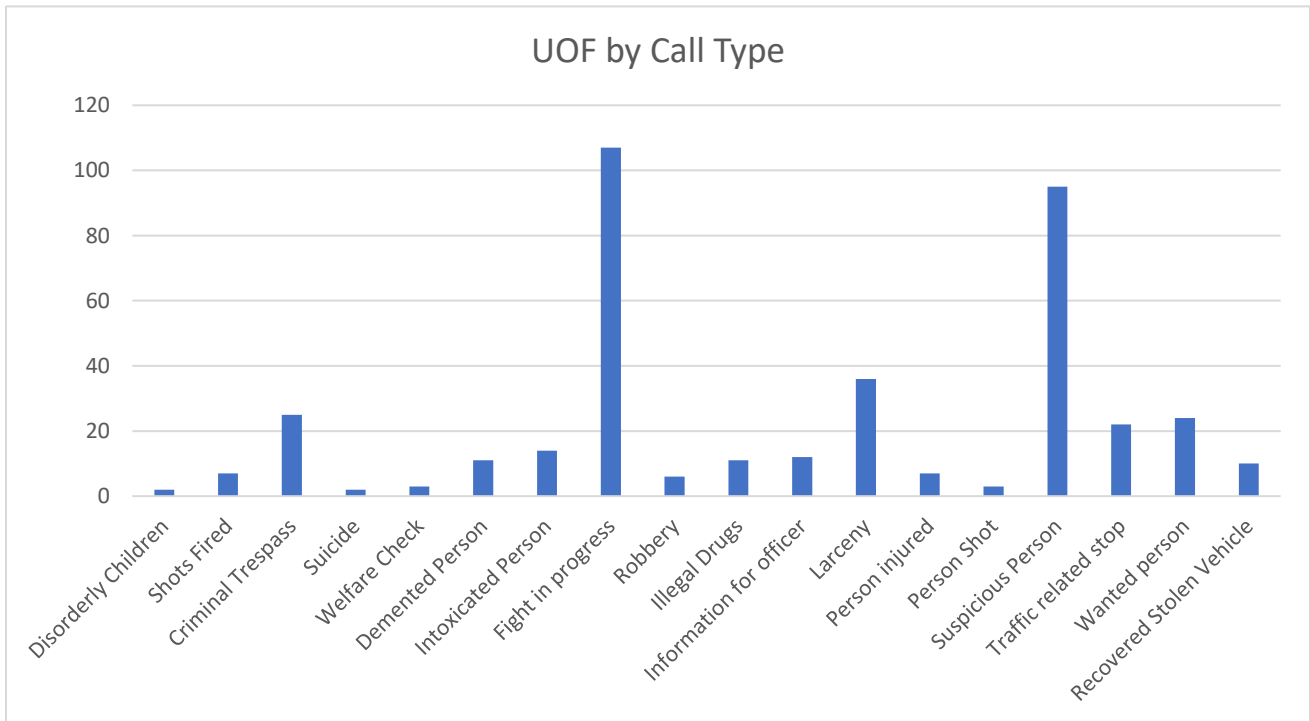
Suspect's Race / Gender

Gender	Black	White	Hispanic	Other
Male	303	33	7	19
Female	38	9	1	2



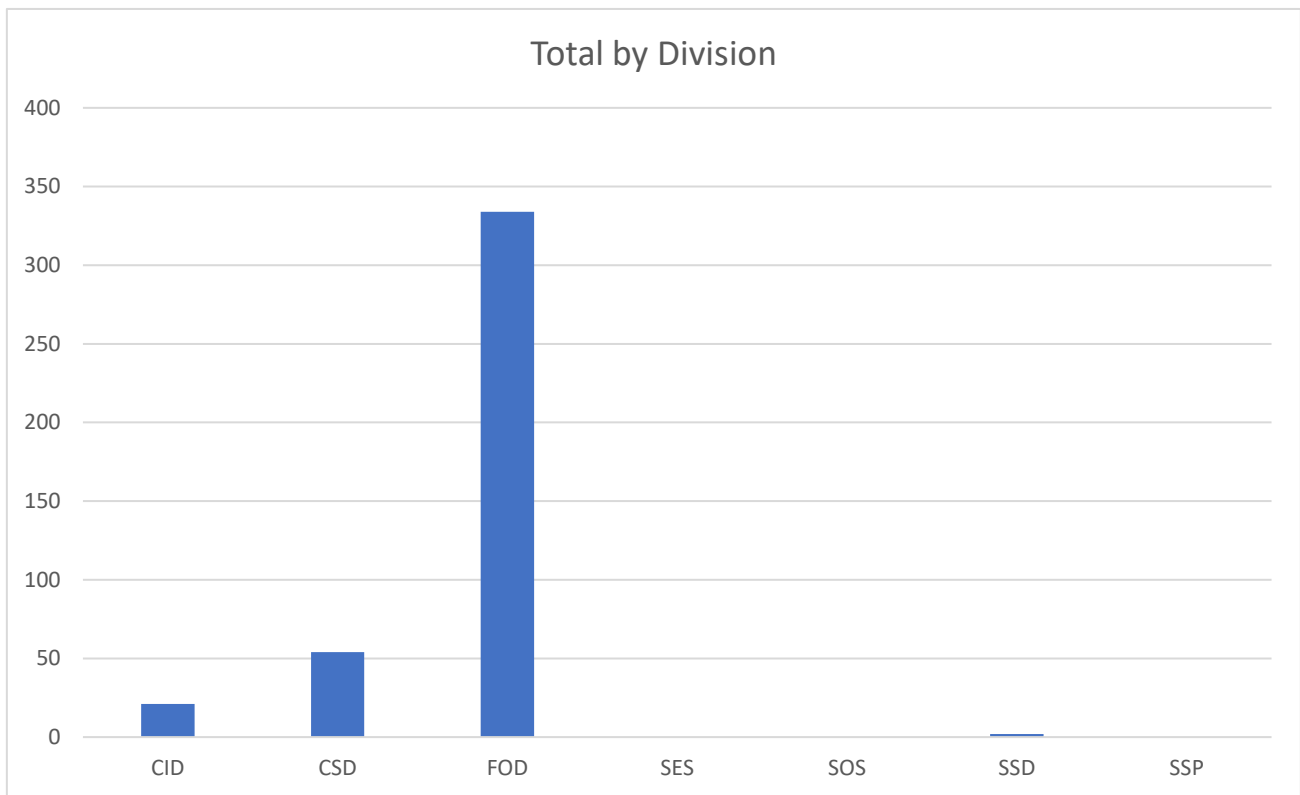
*Please note that some incidents of UOF involved multiple suspects and/or property damage.

Use of Force by Call Type	
Disorderly Children	2
Shots Fired	7
Criminal Trespass	25
Suicide	2
Welfare Check	3
Demented Person	11
Intoxicated Person	14
Fight in progress	107
Robbery	6
Illegal Drugs	11
Information for officer	12
Larceny	36
Person injured	7
Person Shot	3
Suspicious Person	95
Traffic related stop	22
Wanted person	24
Recovered Stolen Vehicle	10



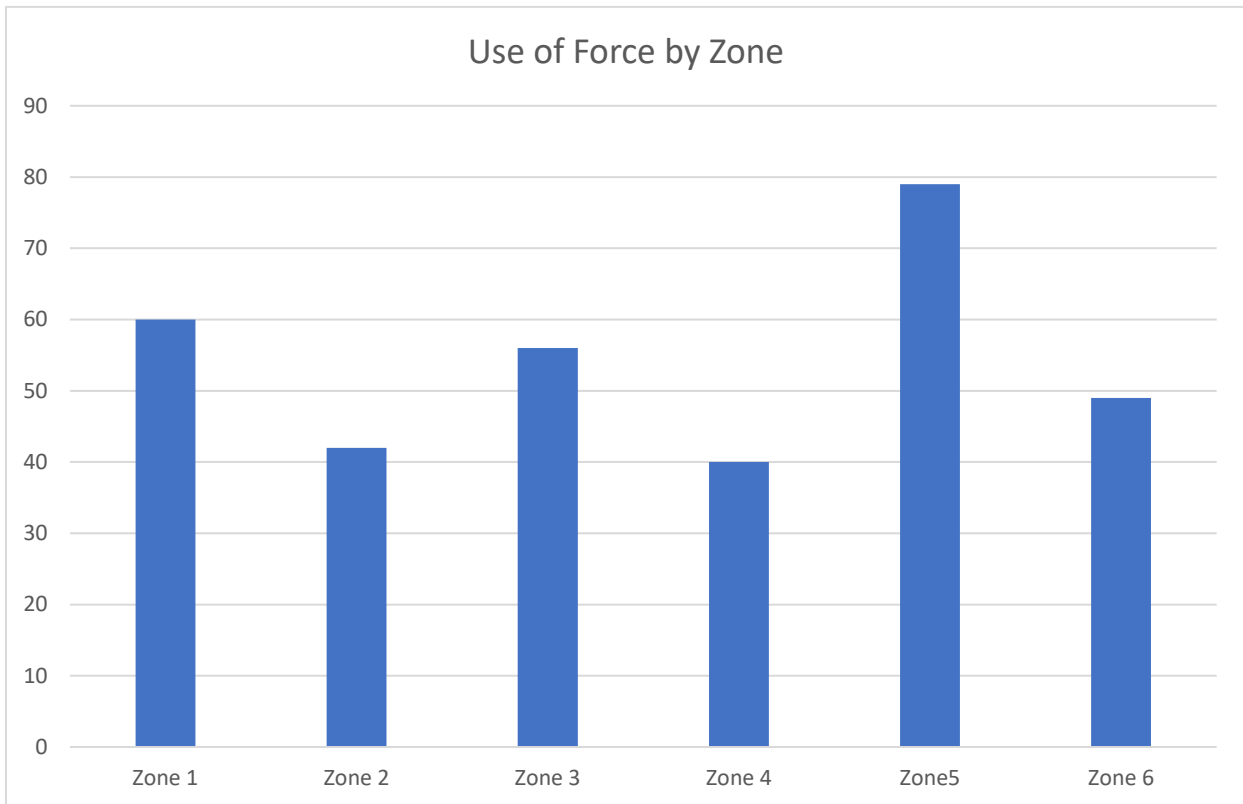
Use of Force by Division

Division	Total
CID	21
CSD	54
FOD	334
SES	0
SOS	0
SSD	2
SSP	0



Use of Force by Zone

Zones	Total
Zone 1	60
Zone 2	42
Zone 3	56
Zone 4	40
Zone 5	79
Zone 6	49

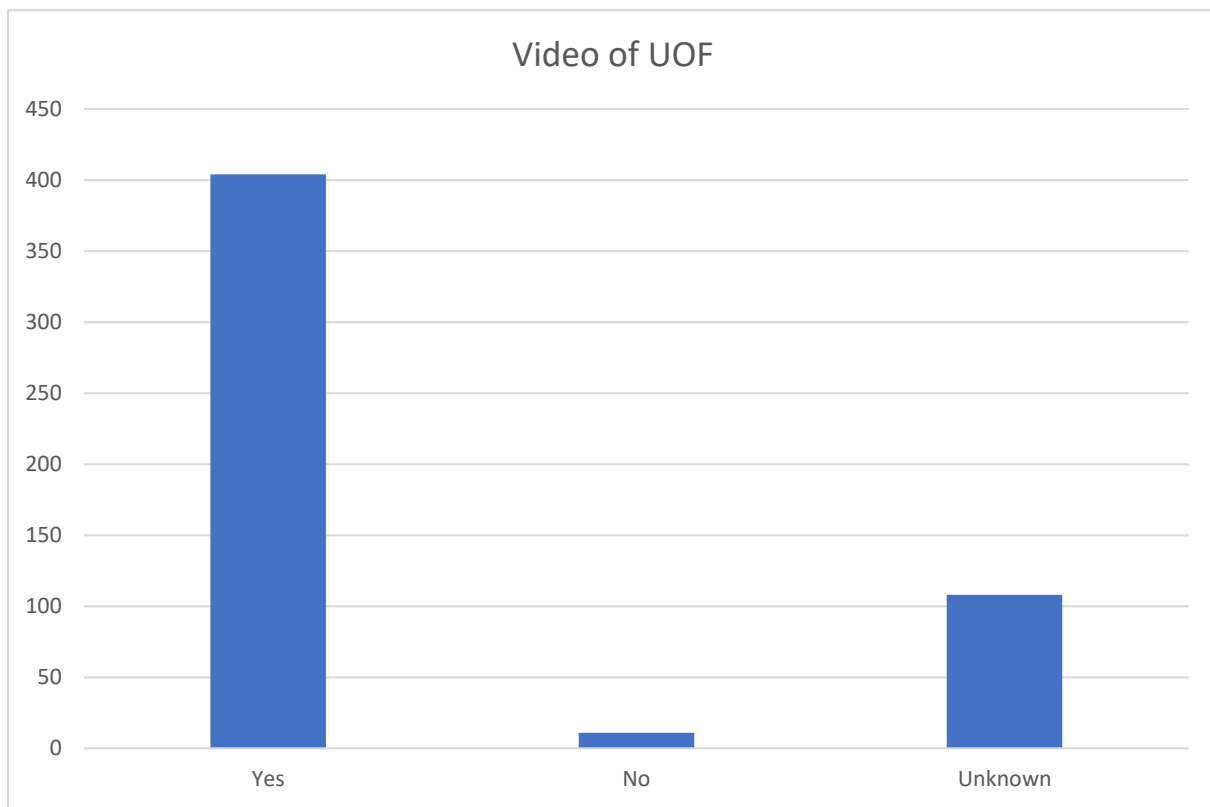


Zone 5 led the department in Use of Force Reports (79), followed by Zone 1 (60) and then Zone 3 (56).

Video of Use of Force

UOF Video	Total
Yes	404
No	11
Unknown	108

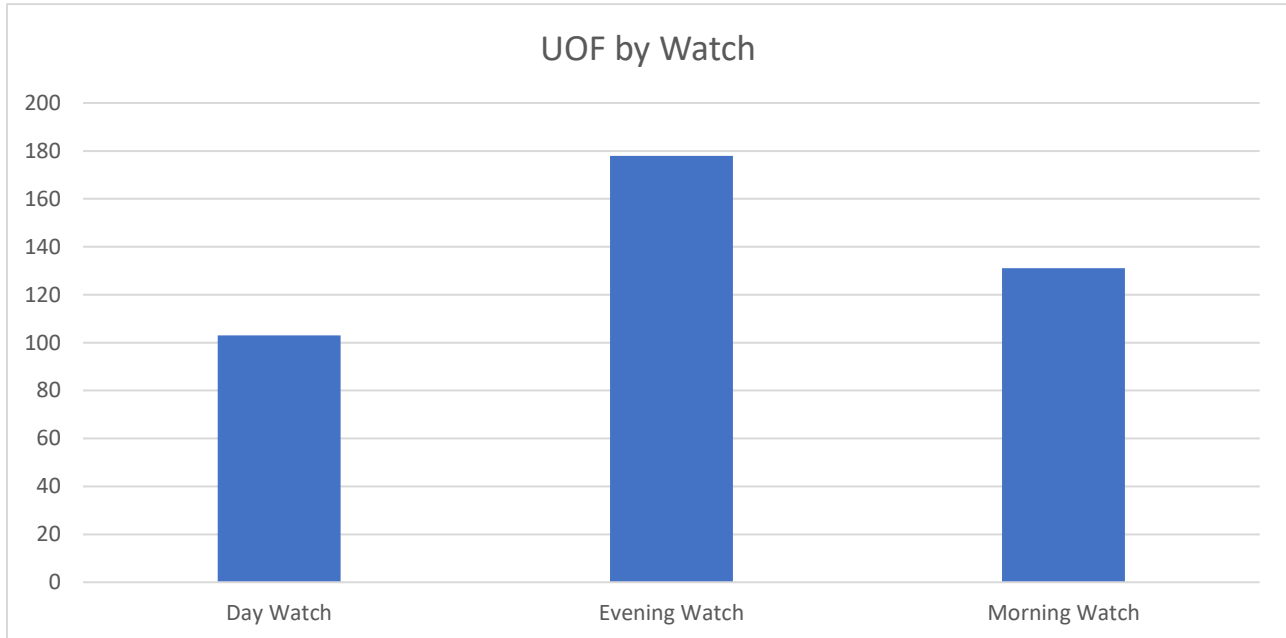
*The unknown (108) videos are due to the box not being checked in the UOF form.



Body worn camera was issued to all personnel of the Atlanta Police Department that are required to wear the device. The Body Worn Camera has assisted officers in the documenting of encounters with the public and has been a vital tool in resolving disputes and allegations of misconduct. 77 % of all Use of Force reports indicate that incident was recorded. 20 % of the forms did not indicate whether the incident was recorded or not with the majority of those being force used on property. The incidents that did not indicate yes or no have been checked and have been shown to have video. This issue was due to the changing over to Axon UOF form, this issue is being addressed with the most recent form update and notifications to supervisors.

Time of Day / Watch of UOF

Day Watch	Evening Watch	Morning Watch
103	178	131



Recommendations on UOF (2021)

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 2020 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 (2) classes for 2021 training calendar.

- POST Mandated De-Escalating training (2-hour block, conducted via in-person classroom instruction and a one-hour block of Duty to Intercede training).
- Conducting Reality-Based Training scenarios in both In-service and Basic Mandate Classes; RBT will focus on group dynamics, Taser-Teams, and Duty to Intercede.
- Conducting Fair/Impartial Policing Training (4 Hour Block) Specialized Training. 19

Conduct three (3) classes for 2022 training calendar for APD Officers.

Training recommendations for officers are:

- ***Compromised Handcuffing and Cuffing Under Power***, this training provides officers with the knowledge and skills to effectively secure or restrain a combative suspect using group dynamics, pain compliance and Taser Teams. This training has been implemented into 2021 In-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.
- ***ICAT, CIT, and Duty to Intercede***, 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 2021 In-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.
- **Team Dynamic Reality Based 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 teamwork through task-oriented instruction. This training has been implemented into 2021 In-service and Basic Mandate for recruits.