



Statistical Analysis Center

Use-of-Force in Oklahoma, 2021

May 7, 2024

Introduction

In January 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched the Use-of-Force data collection as a component of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program used by law enforcement agencies. According to the FBI, the goal for reporting use-of-force is to provide “an aggregate view of the incidents reported and the circumstances, subjects, and officers involved.” ([FBI Use-of-Force](#))

It should be noted that the use-of-force data collection gathers data that is readily available within the first days of an investigation. The Use-of-Force program does not collect data regarding the outcome of the use-of-force incidents, and it does not assess if officers involved in the incidents acted lawfully.

The Use-of-Force data only collects information on incidents where a law enforcement officer(s) discharged his/her firearm in the direction of a subject; where serious bodily injury of a subject occurs due to the use-of-force; and where the use-of-force results in the death of a subject.

Methodology

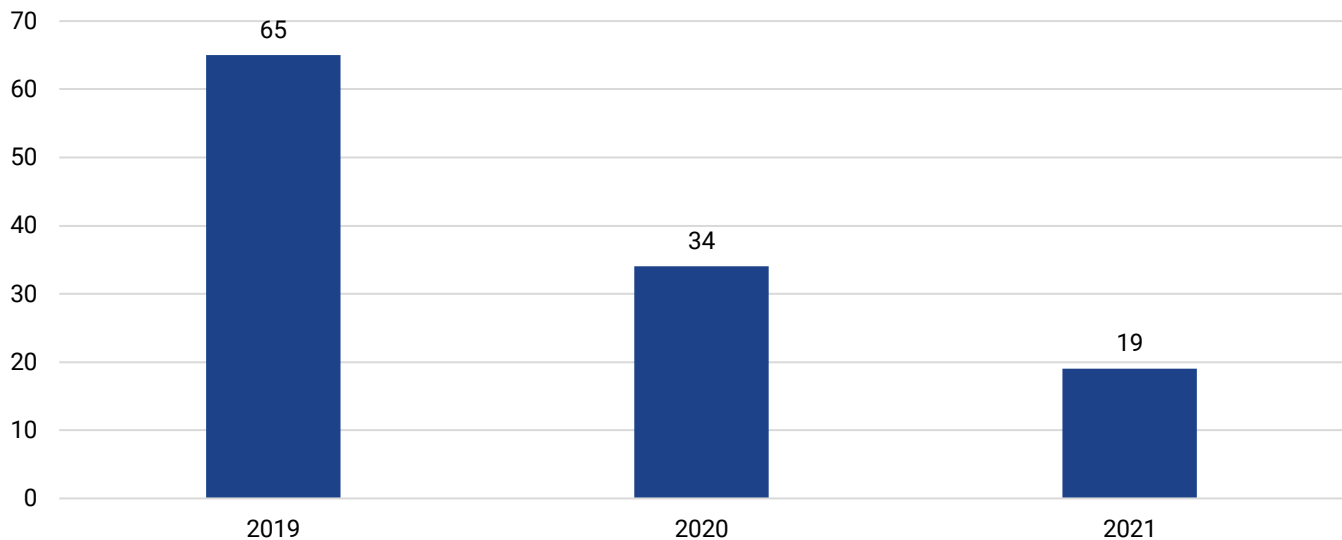
In January 2019, when the FBI began data collection nationally, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation’s (OSBI) Field Services Unit began collecting use-of-force incidents in Oklahoma. To collect data, the Field Services Unit contacted all local law enforcement agencies (more than 400 reporting agencies) and provided instructions for reporting use-of-force data. In addition, if the Field Services Unit personnel see media reports or calls for service involving use-of-force, the field representative will send the use-of-force form to the agency with a reminder to submit data.

Most Oklahoma law enforcement agencies submit their data to the Field Services Unit at the OSBI, and the data is then entered into the FBI’s Use-of-Force program. Only one agency (Oklahoma City Police Department) submits data directly into the FBI’s Use-of-Force program. Use-of-Force data is collected on a calendar year basis.

Incident Summary

In 2021, there were 19 reported incidents that met the use-of-force[^] guidelines. As previously mentioned, a use-of-force[^] incident must meet one of the following criteria: a law enforcement officer(s) discharged his/her firearm at, or in the direction of, a subject; a subject suffered serious bodily injury as a result of the use-of-force[^]; or the use-of-force[^] resulted in the death of a subject. When compared to 2020 (34 incidents), there was a 44.1% decrease in reported incidents in 2021 (Figure 1). There were 9 unique reporting agencies for use-of-force[^] in 2021, and of those, the Oklahoma City Police Department reported the most incidents (9 incidents). Of the 19 reported incidents, the majority were the result of a subject suffering a serious injury (8) or a subject died as the result of use-of-force[^] (8). For the remaining incidents (3), a law enforcement officer(s) discharged his/her firearm at, or in the direction of, a subject.

Figure 1. Use-of-Force[^] Incidents per year, 2019-2021



Due to the limited number of incidents reported in 2021, there was not a significant trend in the number reported per month. However, the highest number of incidents were reported in May and September with three incidents each. Law enforcement agencies did not report any use-of-force[^] incidents in April or June (Figure 2). Of the 19 incidents, 63.2% reportedly occurred between 1500 and 2159 hours. As shown in Figure 3, zero use-of-force[^] incidents were reported between the hours of 0400 and 1059. Most incidents occurred at either a Residence/Home (47.4%) or a Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk (42.1%). The remaining (10.5%) occurred at either an Industrial Site or a Jail/Prison/Penitentiary/Correctional Facility (Figure 4).

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Figure 2. Number of Incidents per Month, 2021

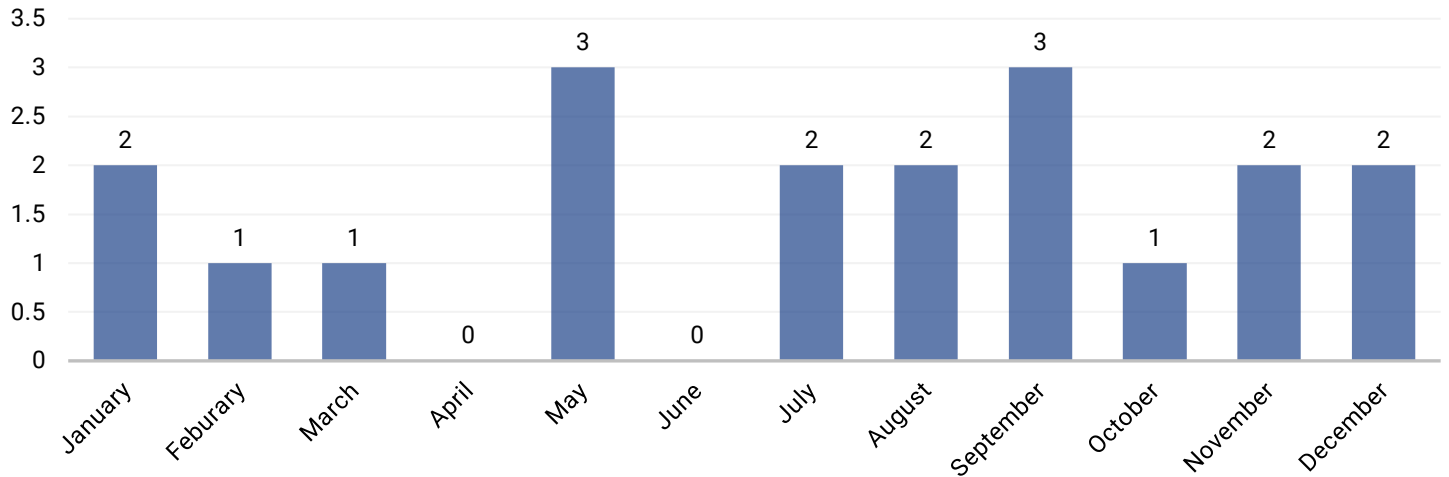


Figure 3. Number of Incidents per Time of Day, 2021

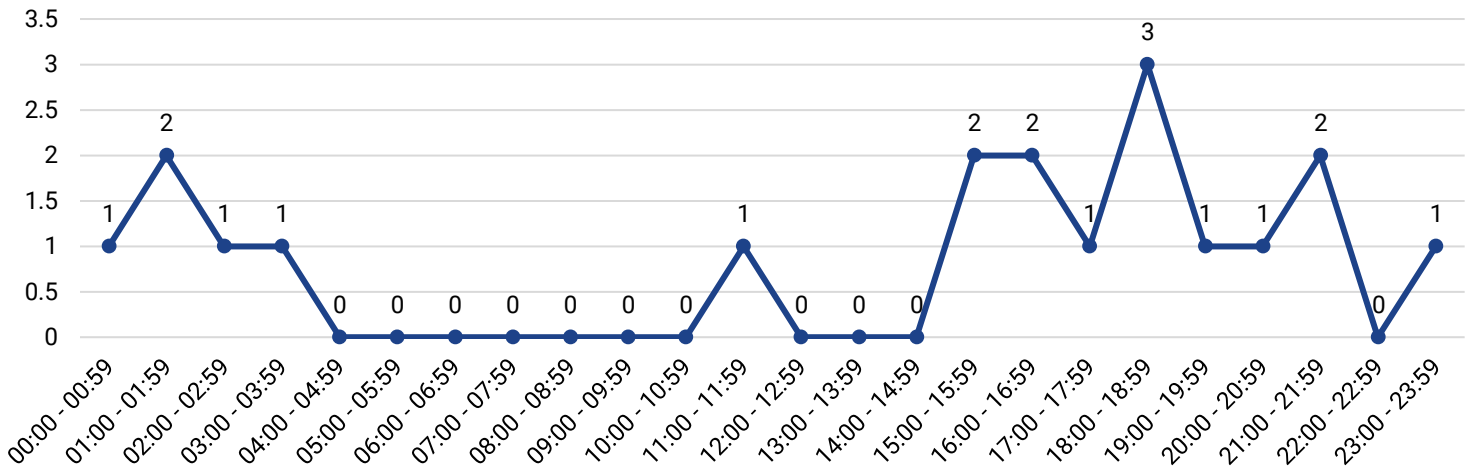
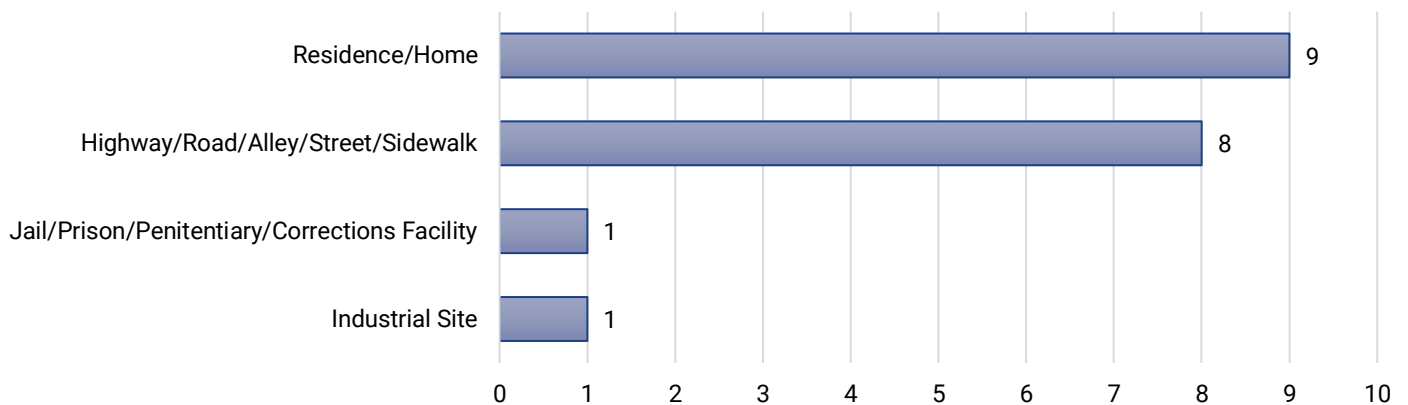


Figure 4. Number of Incidents by Premise Type, 2021



^Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

For 73.7% of incidents, officers made initial contact with the subject due to Criminal Suspicious Activity, and in the remaining incidents, law enforcement made contact due to Medical Reasons (15.8%), Routine Patrol (5.3%), or a Traffic Stop (5.3%) (Figure 5). In 15 of the 19 incidents, law enforcement officers reportedly approached the subject. Additionally, officers were reportedly ambushed in three incidents (15.8%), one of which the officer approached the subject in addition to being ambushed. There were six incidents where a senior officer was present or consulted.

Per the FBI’s reporting guidelines, if an agency reports an initial contact of Criminal Suspicious Activity, then the agency may report up to three alleged offenses committed by the subject that led to the initial contact. Of the 19 use-of-force[^] incidents, 5 incidents had no offense listed since the initial contact was not due to Criminal Suspicious Activity. For the remaining 14 incidents, law enforcement reported at least one offense, except for one incident where the offense(s) was Unknown or Pending Further Investigation. For those with an offense, Aggravated Assault was the most common. (Table 1).

Figure 5. Reason for Initial Contact, 2021

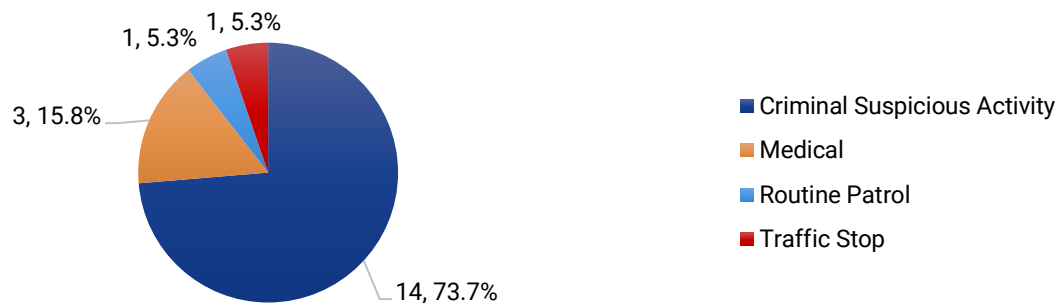


Table 1. Alleged Offenses, 2021

Offenses	Count	% of Total
Aggravated Assault	7	26.9
No Offense Listed	5	19.2
All Other Offenses	2	7.7
Simple Assault	2	7.7
Kidnapping/Abduction	2	7.7
Weapon Law Violations	2	7.7
Intimidation	1	3.8
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	1	3.8
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	3.8
Robbery	1	3.8
Family Offenses – Non-Violent	1	3.8
Unknown or Pending Further Investigation	1	3.8
Total	26	100.0

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Subject Information

The Use-of-Force[^] program collects information on the subjects involved in a use-of-force[^] incident, including demographic information. In 2021, there was one unique individual reported as a subject for each of the 19 use-of-force[^] incidents. The average age of subjects involved was 35 years old, and the majority of subjects were between 20 to 39 years old (Figure 6). The remaining subjects were reported as 18 to 19 years old (1), 40 to 49 years old (3), 60 to 69 years old (2), and Unknown (1). The majority of subjects were Black (47.4%) or White (36.8%) (Figure 7). The remaining of subjects were either American Indian (10.5%) or Hispanic (5.3%). The majority of subjects were reportedly Male (16 subjects), and only three subjects were reportedly Female.

Figure 6. Subject Age, 2021

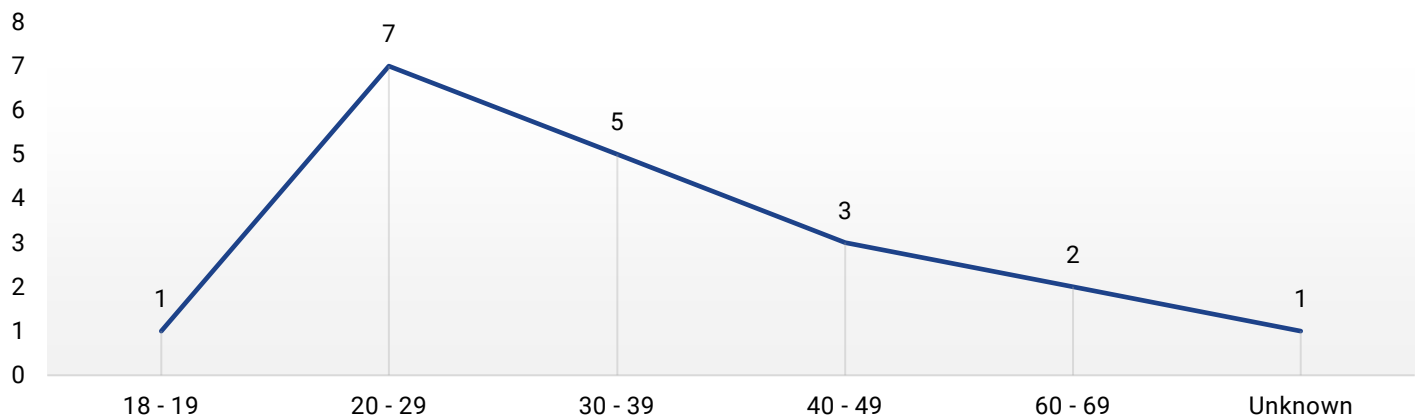
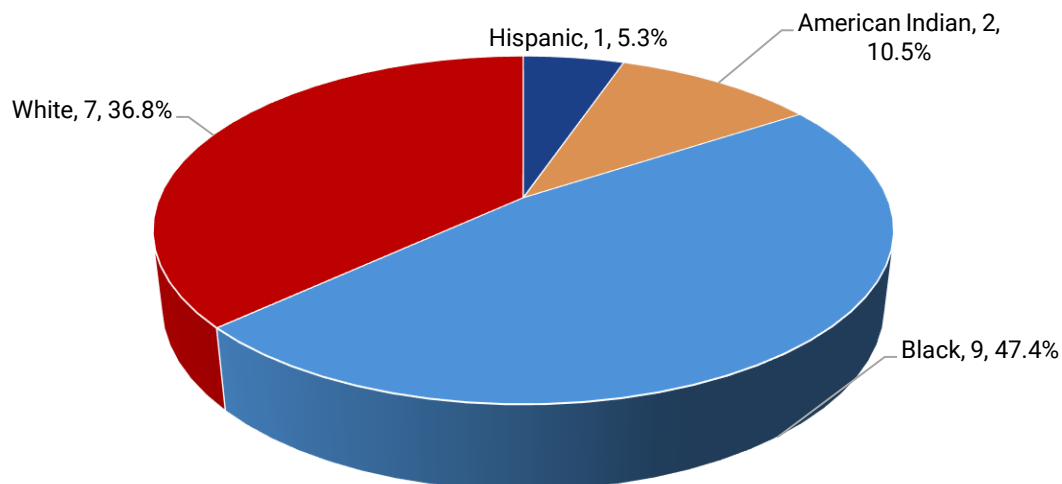


Figure 7. Race/Ethnicity of Subjects, 2021



[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The Use-of-Force[^] program collects information on whether subjects exhibited any apparent or known physical or mental impairment. In 2021, 12 subjects were reportedly impaired, 3 were not impaired, 2 were pending further investigation, and it was unknown if 2 were impaired. For the 12 apparent or known impaired subjects, a law enforcement agency may report up to three types of impairment (Mental, Alcohol, and/or Drugs). As a result, law enforcement agencies reported 17 impairments in 2021. Of the 17 types of impairments reported: 58.8% of impairments were Mental, 23.5% were Drugs, and 17.6% were Alcohol (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Impairment of Subjects, 2021

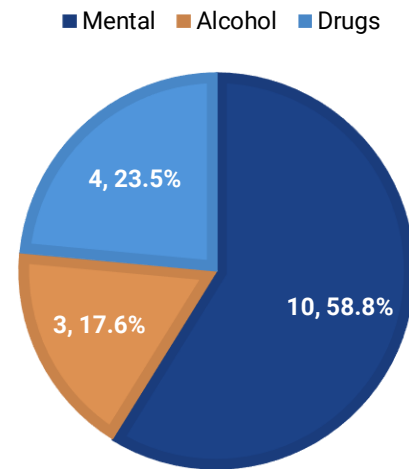
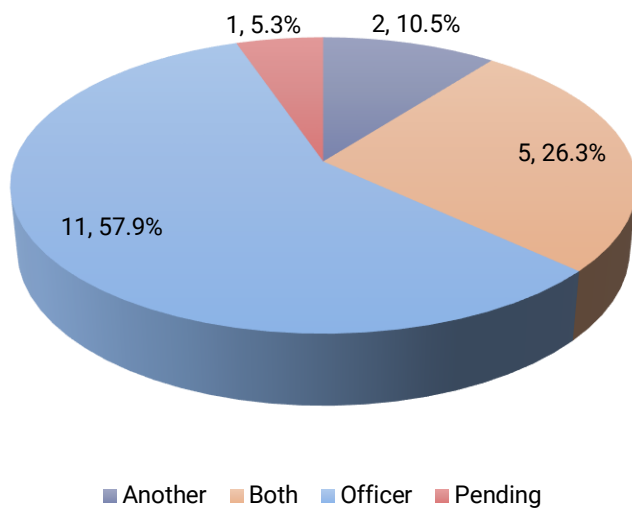


Figure 8. Subjects Threatening, 2021



The Use-of-Force[^] program collects information on whether the subject threatened anyone prior to the use-of-force[^]. Of the 19 subjects, 11 threatened officers, 5 threatened both officers and another party, 2 threatened another party, and 1 was pending further investigation (Figure 8).

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The Use-of-Force[^] program identifies if the subject was armed/in possession of a weapon regardless of whether the subject used it in a threatening or assaultive way against law enforcement officers or other persons. In 2021, 18 of the 19 subjects were armed. Additionally, the Use-of-Force[^] program collects data regarding whether the subject(s) resisted the actions of law enforcement officers and what kind of resistance they displayed. In 2021, 18 of the 19 subjects reportedly resisted law enforcement officers. For those who resisted, law enforcement may report up to 12 types of resistance. The most common types of resistance reported were Using a Firearm Against an Officer or Another and Non-Compliance with Verbal Commands (Table 2). Other types of resistance displayed included Displaying Weapon at an Officer or Another, Resisted Handcuffs/Arrest, and Using Other Weapons (i.e., blunt objects or edged weapons) at an Officer or Another.

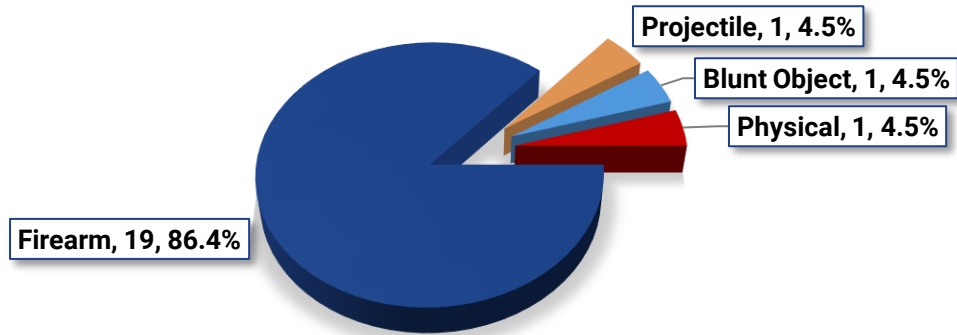
Table 2. Type of Resistance Displayed, 2021

Types of Resistance Displayed	Count	% of Total
Use a Firearm Against an Officer or Another	10	22.7
Non-Compliance with Verbal Commands	10	22.7
Display Weapon at an Officer or Another	7	15.9
Resisted Handcuffs/Arrest	4	9.1
Use Other Weapon at an Officer or Another	4	9.1
Escape/Flee from Custody	3	6.8
Directed Motor Vehicle at an Officer or Another	2	4.5
Made Verbal Threats	2	4.5
Use Physical Weapons	1	2.3
Use Bodily Fluids on Officer	1	2.3
Total	44	100.0

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The Use-of-Force[^] program collects the type of force used by officers on subjects. Similar to other data elements, law enforcement agencies can report more than one type of force used in the use-of-force[^] incident. In 2021, there were 22 types of force applied. Of the 22 types, 19 were Firearms, and the remaining types of force were each reported once: Projectiles, Blunt Objects, and Physical (Hands, Feet, etc.) (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Type of Force Applied, 2021



The Use-of-Force[^] program collects data on any injuries that subject(s) sustained during the incident. Like other data elements, a law enforcement agency can report more than one type of injury for a subject. In 2021, there were 21 injuries reported from use-of-force[^] incidents. The two most common injuries were Death (38.1%) and Gunshot Wounds (33.3%) (Table 3). Other Serious Injury and None accounted for 14.3% each.

Table 3. Type of Injury for Subjects, 2021

Type of Injury	Count	% of Total
Death	8	38.1
Gunshot	7	33.3
Other Serious Injury	3	14.3
None	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

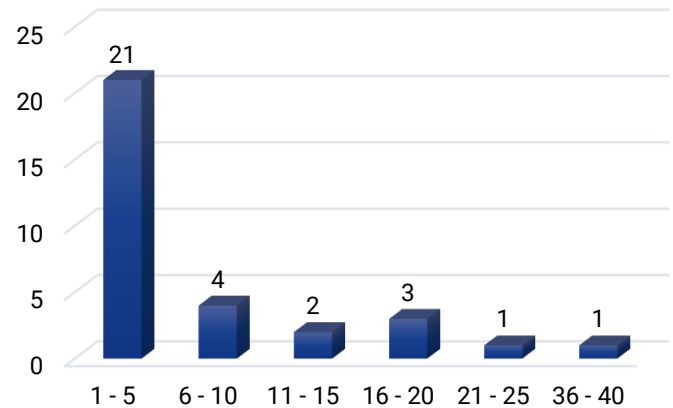
Officer Information

In 2021, there were 32 officers involved in a use-of-force[^] incident. The Use-of-Force[^] program collects the years of service for officers involved in a use-of-force[^] incident. Over 60.0% of officers reportedly had 1 to 5 years of service at the time of the use-of-force[^] incident (Figure 11). The average years of service for officers involved in the 19 incidents was 7 years.

In addition to the years of service for officers, the Use-of-Force[^] program collects data for whether the officers were full-time, if the officer was identifiable, if they discharged their firearm during the incident, and whether they were on duty at the time of the incident.

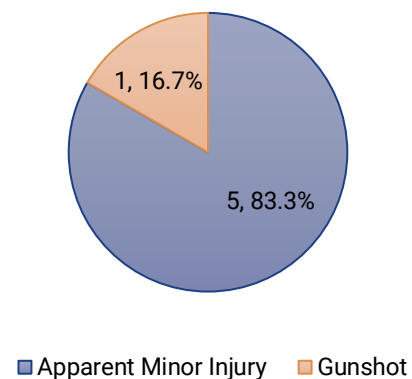
- Of the 32 officers involved in a use-of-force[^] incident, 31 officers were full-time.
- 31 of the 32 officers were identifiable as officers, and the remaining officer was not identifiable.
- Of the 32 officers, 31 officers were on-duty at the time of incident and one officer was off-duty at time.
- Of the 32 officers, 29 reportedly discharged their firearm at, or in the direction of, a subject during a use-of-force[^] incident. Of the remaining three officers, one reportedly did not discharge their weapon, and two were pending further investigation.

Figure 11. Years of Service for Officer, 2021



The Use-of-Force[^] program collects whether an officer was injured in a use-of-force[^] incident, and the agency may report more than one injury type for the officer. Of the 32 officers, 6 were reportedly injured, and agencies reported one injury per officer. For the 6 injured officers, 5 reportedly had an Apparent Minor Injury (Figure 12), and 1 officer reportedly sustained a gunshot wound.

Figure 12. Type of Officer Injury, 2021



[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

In 2021, 50.0% of officers involved in a use-of-force[^] incident were between 20 and 29 years old, and the average age of officers was 33 years old (Figure 13). Of the 32 officers involved in a use-of-force[^] incident, 31 were male, and 1 was female. Lastly, 27 officers were White, 3 were American Indian, 1 was Black, and 1 was Hispanic (Figure 14).

Figure 13. Age of Officers, 2021

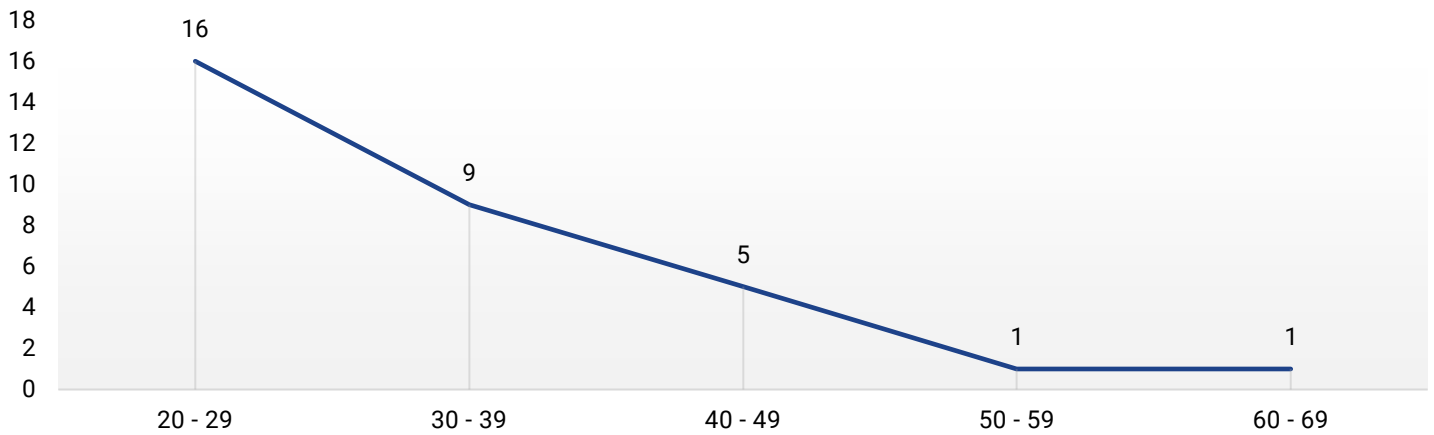
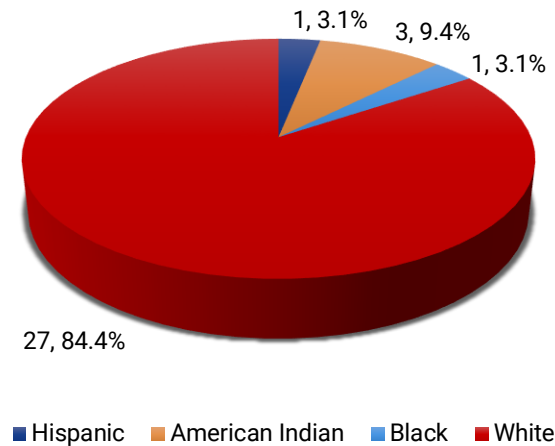


Figure 14. Race/Ethnicity of Officers, 2021



[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Glossary of Terms

Incident Information – Contains information on the use-of-force incident reports, excluding the subject and officer details.

Subject Information - Contains information on the subjects of use-of-force incident reports.

Total Number of Officers – Number of Officers using force during the incident. Includes all officers who were present at any time during the contact between officer(s) and the subject, and who directly engaged at least with a use-of-force.

Total Number of Subjects – The total number of subjects that died or received serious bodily injury as a result of a law enforcement use-of-force, or, in the absence of death or serious bodily injury, received the discharge of a firearm at or in their direction.

Officer Approach – Value describes if the officer involved in the incident approached the subject.

Ambushed – Value described if the incident was an ambush situation. An ambush is a situation where an officer is assaulted, unexpectedly, as the result of premeditated design by the subject, or where an unsuspecting officer was targeted or lured into danger as the result of conscious consideration and planning by the subject.

Offense – Identifies the alleged criminal offenses committed by the subject(s) that led to the initial contact with the police. This field is collected only when the “Initial Contact” column indicates “unlawful or suspicious activity.”

Initial Contact – Description of the reason for initial contact between the officer and the subject.

Armed – Value indicates if the subject was in possession of a weapon, regardless of whether the subject used the weapon in a threatening or assaultive way against either law enforcement officers or other persons.

Resisted – Value indicates if the subject exhibited an effort to resist the actions of the law enforcement officer(s). Types of resisting can include: Escape/Flee, Resisted (Handcuffs/Arrest), Barricade, Firearm, Other Weapon, Physical (Hand/Fist/Feet), Display Weapon, Vehicle, Bodily Fluids, Throwing, Verbal Threats, Noncompliance, Pending, and Unknown.

Impaired – Value indicates if the subject exhibited an apparent or known impairment in mental or physical condition. Types of impairment include: Mental, Alcohol, Drugs, Pending, and Unknown

Threatened – Value indicates who the subject threatened just prior to the use-of-force. Values can include: Officer, Another Party, Both the Officer and Others, Pending, and Unknown.

Force Applied – Indicates the type of force used by law enforcement. Values can include: Firearm, Electronic, Explosive, Chemical, Baton, Projectile, Blunt Object, Physical (Hands/Fists/Feet), Canine, Other, Pending, and Unknown.

Injury – Indicates if the subject was injured during the use-of-force incidents. Injuries can include: Gunshot, Unconsciousness, Other Serious Injury, Death, None, Pending, and Unknown.

Officer Identifiable – Indicates if the officer was readily identifiable by clothing or insignia at the time of the incident.

Shots Fired – Indicates if the officer discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person during the incident.

Officer Injured – Indicates if the officer was injured during the incident. Injuries can include: Minor Injury, Gunshot, Unconsciousness, Serious Injury, Death, Pending, and Unknown.

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) is recognized by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) for the State of Oklahoma. The SAC collects, analyzes, and disseminates justice information. The following individual(s) wrote this report, under the direction of Kara Miller, Statistical Research Coordinator of the Statistical Analysis Center:

Derek Still, Statistical Research Specialist

For more information, please contact:

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

6600 North Harvey

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73116

okcrimestats@osbi.ok.gov

405-848-6724

<https://osbi.ok.gov/>

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.