



Office of Criminal Justice Statistics

Use-of-Force in Oklahoma, 2019

September 17, 2020

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 the use-of-force reporting 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 collects information utilizing a screening criteria on incidents where a law enforcement officer(s) discharges his/her firearm in the direction of a person; where serious bodily injury of a person occurs due to the use-of-force; and where the use-of-force results in the death of a person.

Methodology

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 in January of 2019. To collect data, the Field Services Unit contacted all local law enforcement agencies (approximately 430 reporting agencies) and provided instructions for reporting Use-of-Force data. However, if 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. There is only one agency (Oklahoma City Police Department) who submits their data directly into the FBI’s use-of-force system. Data for use-of-force is collected on a calendar year basis.

Incident Summary

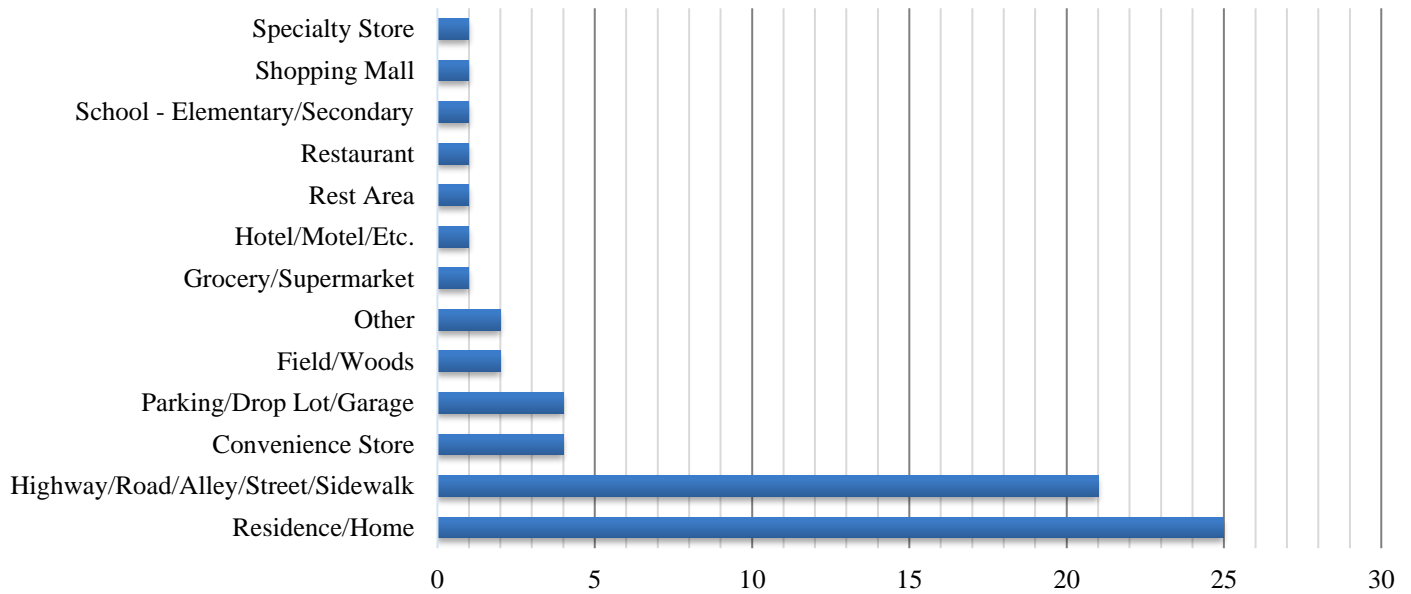
In 2019, there were 65 incidents reported where the incident(s) met the use-of-force reporting guidelines. For those 65 reports, there were 29 unique agencies submitting a report. The agencies that had the most use-of-force reports were Oklahoma City Police Department and Tulsa Police Department.

As discussed in the Introduction section, in order to collect data for a use-of-force incident, the incident must screen in under one of the three screening questions: did the subject die as a result of use-of-force; did the subject have serious bodily injury as a result of use-of-force during the incident; and did an officer discharge his/her firearm at, or in the direction of, at least one subject during the incident.

In 2019, 49.2% of incidents collected involved a subject dying as a result of use-of-force[^], and 41.5% of subjects had a serious bodily injury as a result of use-of-force[^]. The remaining (9.2%) subjects were reported due to the officer discharging his/her firearm at or in the direction of the subject.

The highest number of incidents (12) occurred in the month of June, and there was not a time of day where incidents occurred more or less than any other time of day. The majority (70.8%) of all incidents occurred at a Residence/Home (38.5%) or Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk (32.3%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location Type of Use-of-Force[^] Incidents



All use-of-force[^] incidents involved only one subject, but the subject-to-offender ratio ranged from one to ten officers at the scene who directly engaged with the subject. For 55.4% of incidents, there was only one subject and one officer, and for 26.2% of incidents, there was one subject and two officers present. The remaining incidents had three, four, six, nine, and ten officers at the scene at the time of the use-of-force[^] (Table 1).

In all, there were 127 officers included in the use-of-force[^] data collection. In 81.5% of incidents, the officer approached the subject, and in the remaining incidents the officer(s) did not approach the subject. In 6.2% of the incidents, the officer(s) was ambushed by a subject. In 40.0% of use-of-force[^] incidents, a supervisor and/or senior officer was present or consulted at some point during the incident.

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

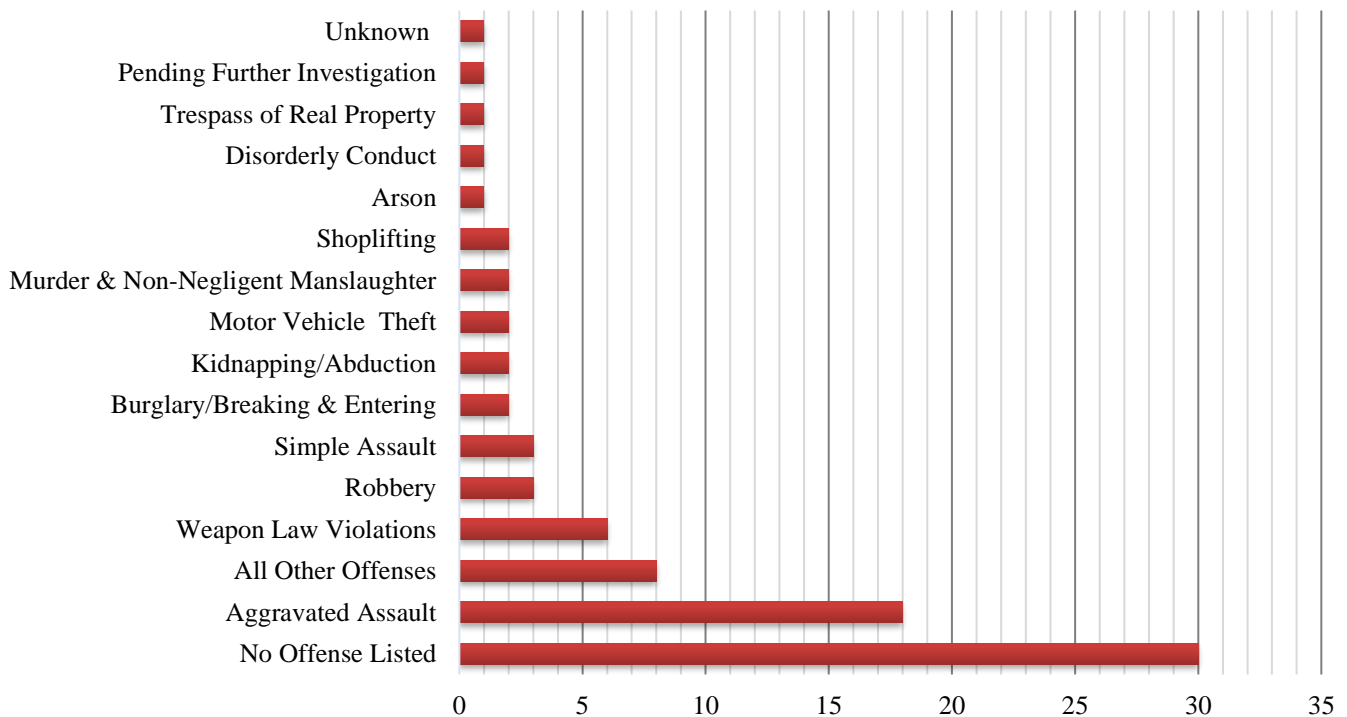
Table 1. Number of Officers per Incident

Number of Officers	Number of Incidents	% of Total
1	36	55.4
2	17	26.2
3	6	9.2
4	2	3.1
6	2	3.1
9	1	1.5
10	1	1.5
Total	65	100.0

*All incidents had only one subject involved.

The use-of-force[^] program collects the alleged crime that was committed by the subject that led to the initial contact between the subject and law enforcement. An agency may report up to three alleged offenses. For the 65 incidents, 36.1% did not report an alleged offense committed by the subject. The most common offenses reported were Aggravated Assault (21.7%), All Other Offenses (9.6%), and Weapon Law Violations (7.2%) (Figure 2). For two incidents, an alleged offense was reported as Unknown (one) and Pending Further Investigation (one).

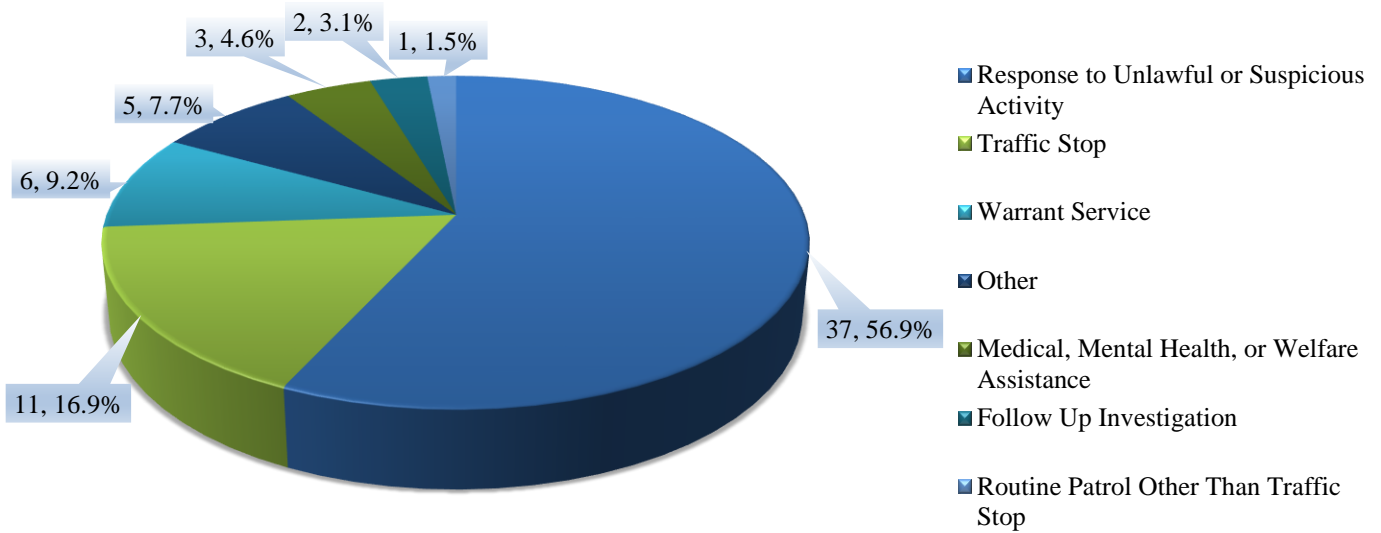
Figure 2. Alleged Offense for Police Contact



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

In addition to collecting an alleged criminal offense for police contact, a reason for initial contact between the subject and police is also collected. For 56.9% of incidents, the police were responding to unlawful or suspicious activity. The remaining types of initial contact included: Traffic Stop (16.9%); Warrant Service (9.2%); Other (7.7%); Medical, Mental Health, Or Welfare Assistance (4.6%); Follow Up Investigation (3.1%); and Routine Patrol Other Than Traffic Stop (1.5%)

Figure 3. Initial Contact between the Officer and Subject



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Subject Summary

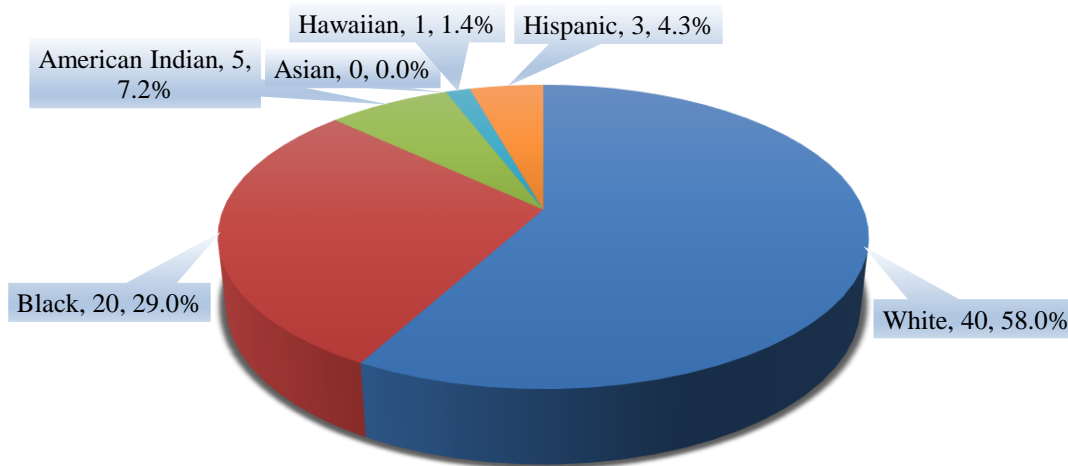
There were 65 unique individuals who were reported as the “Subject” in the use-of-force[^] incidents for Oklahoma in 2019. Of these subjects, 33.8% were between 20-29 years old, and 27.7% were between 30-39 years-old. One subject’s age was reported as Pending Further Investigation, and three were reported as Unknown (Table 2). The average age for subjects was 34 years-old.

Table 2. Age Range of Subjects

Age Range	Count	% of Total
Under 18	2	3.1
18 & 19	2	3.1
20 - 29	22	33.8
30 - 39	18	27.7
40 - 49	8	12.3
50 - 59	8	12.3
60 - 69	1	1.5
Pending Further Investigation	1	1.5
Unknown	3	4.6
Total	65	100.0

In addition to collecting the age of the subject, the use-of-force[^] data also includes Race and/or Ethnicity. The agency may report more than one race or ethnicity for each subject. Therefore, in Figure 4, there are more races and ethnicities than there are subjects. Two races (White and Black) represented 87.0% of race and ethnicities reported with 58.0% of subjects reported as White and 29.0% reported as Black. In 2019, 96.9% of subjects were Male and the remaining were Female.

Figure 4. Race and/or Ethnicity of Subjects



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

Law enforcement agencies may also report if the subject appeared to be impaired mentally, physically, or due to alcohol or drugs. The data element “Impaired” indicates that the subject had an apparent or known mental or physical impairment. For this data element, 46.2% of reports indicated there was an apparent mental or physical impairment, and 32.3% were reported as no apparent or known impairment. The remaining reports were Pending Further Investigation (five) for impairment or Unknown (nine).

Use-of-force[^] collects data if the subject appeared to have a mental, alcohol, or drug impairment. For these impairments, the agency is capable of selecting more than one impairment type, and it is important to note data for these fields are collected based on the subject appearing to have an impairment. The most reported impairment (58.3%) for subjects of use-of-force[^] in 2019 was a drug impairment. Other common impairments reported were Mental (18.3%) and Alcohol (16.7%) (Figure 5). For four subjects the type of impairment was Pending Further Investigation (three) and Unknown (one).

Figure 5. Impairment Type for Subjects

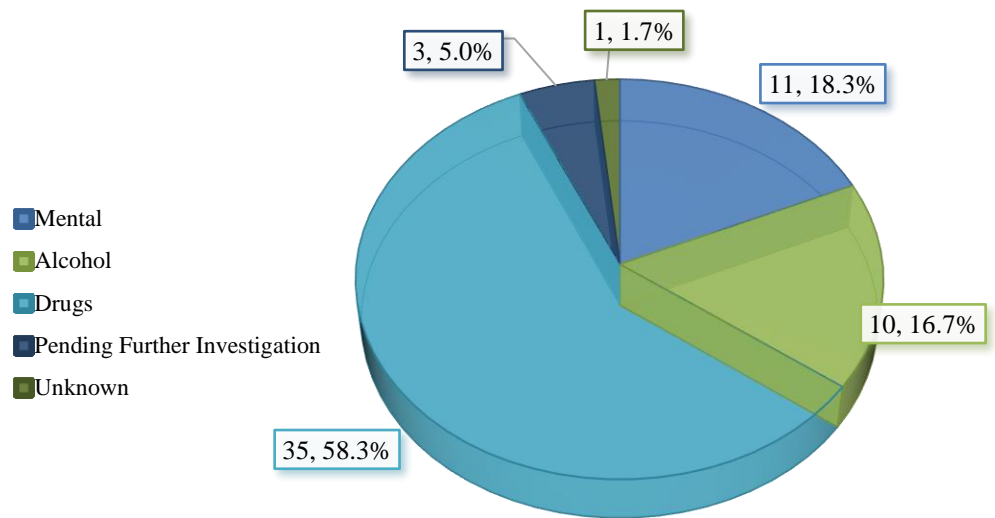
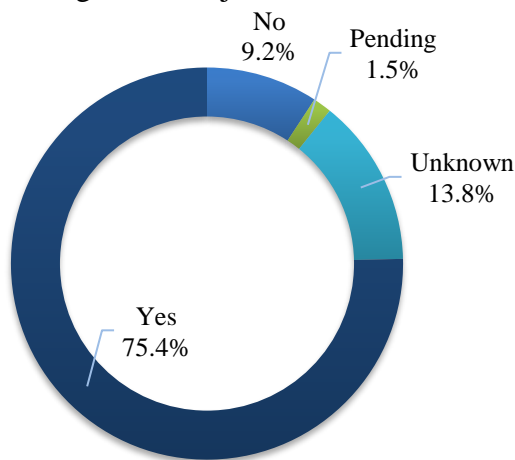


Figure 6. Subject Armed



Out of the 65 subjects, 47.7% of subjects made threats to the Officer and 43.1% threatened both the Officer and Others. The remaining subjects made threats to Another Party (two), or in four cases, it was Unknown if the subject made threats. Law enforcement agencies reported that 75.4% of subjects were armed, and for 13.8%, it was Unknown if the subject was armed (Figure 6). The remaining 10.8% of subjects were either reported as not armed (9.2%) or Pending Further Investigation (1.5%).

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Data is also collected regarding the type of resistance the subject used against the officer(s). For this data element, the reporting agency may select more than one type of resistance. The four most common types of resistance reported were: Non-Compliance with Verbal Commands (19.9%); Escape/Flee from Custody (16.4%); Display Weapon at an Officer or Another (15.8%); and Resisted Handcuffs/Arrest (12.3%). Other types of resistance reported are available in Table 3.

Table 3. Type of Resistance Used by the Subject

Type of Resistance	Count	% of Total
Non-Compliance with Verbal Commands	34	19.9
Escape/Flee from Custody	28	16.4
Display Weapon at an Officer or Another	27	15.8
Resisted Handcuffs/Arrest	21	12.3
Use a Firearm Against an Officer or Another	16	9.4
Use Physical Weapons	11	6.4
Barricaded Self	9	5.3
Use Other Weapon at an Officer or Another	9	5.3
Made Verbal Threats	7	4.1
Directed Motor Vehicle at an Officer or Another	7	4.1
Throwing Objects at an Officer	2	1.2
Use Bodily Fluids on Officer	0	0.0
Total	171	100.0

There are 10 categories of use-of-force[^] that can be reported, and the agency may select more than one type of force applied during the incident. For force used against a subject in 2019, agencies reported that a firearm was used in 65.0% of incidents. Other common types of force used include Other (12.5%) and Electronic (11.3%). Table 4 shows the types of force used in 2019.

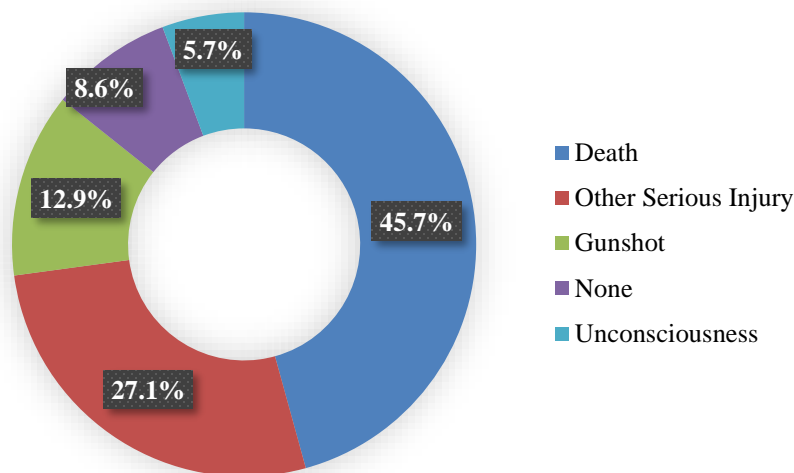
Table 4. Type of Force Applied

Type of Force Applied	Count	% of Total
Physical (Hands, Fists, and/or Feet)	4	5.0
Blunt Object (Blunt Instrument, Flashlight, etc.)	0	0.0
Baton	0	0.0
Projectile (Impact Projectile)	1	1.3
Chemical (Chemical Agent, Pepper or OC Spray)	2	2.5
Electronic (Taser)	9	11.3
Canine	2	2.5
Other	10	12.5
Explosive Device	0	0.0
Firearm	52	65.0
Total	80	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 shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The last data element collected regarding the subject is the type of injury the subject sustained as a result of the use-of-force[^] incident. As with many fields, an agency may report more than one injury type. There were 70 injury types reported for use-of-force[^] subjects. As stated in the incident summary, 49.2% of subjects died as the result of use-of-force[^]. For injury type, death accounted for 45.7% of all injury types, and for the subjects who died, agencies did not report any other injury. Other injury types reported were: Other Serious Injury (27.1%); Gunshot (12.9%); None (8.6%); and Unconsciousness (5.7%).

Figure 7. Injury Type of Subjects



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

Officer Information

In 2019, there were 127 officers reported to have been involved in the 65 use-of-force[^] incidents reported. The majority (39.4%) were between the ages of 30-39, 22.8% were between 40-49 years-old, and 19.7% were 20-29 years-old (Table 5). The average age for officers was 37-years-old, and for 12 officers, the age was reported as Pending Further Investigation. Most officers (81.9%) were reported to be Male, and for the remaining 18.1%, they were reported as Unknown (15.7%) for sex or as Female (2.4%) (Figure 8). For 88.2% of officers, their race and/or ethnicity was reported as White (70.9%) or Unknown (17.3%). The remaining race and/or ethnicities reported were American Indian (6.3%), Black (3.9%), and Hispanic (1.6%) (Figure 9).

Table 5. Officer(s) Age

Age Range	Count	% of Total
20 - 29	25	19.7
30 - 39	50	39.4
40 - 49	29	22.8
50 - 59	11	8.7
Pending Further Investigation	12	9.4
Total	127	100.0

Figure 8. Sex of Officer(s)

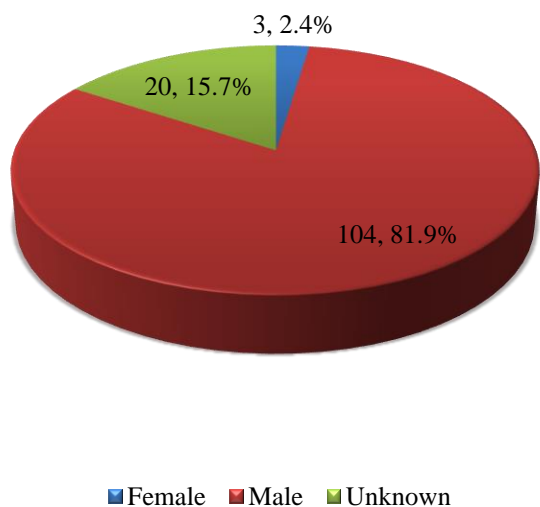
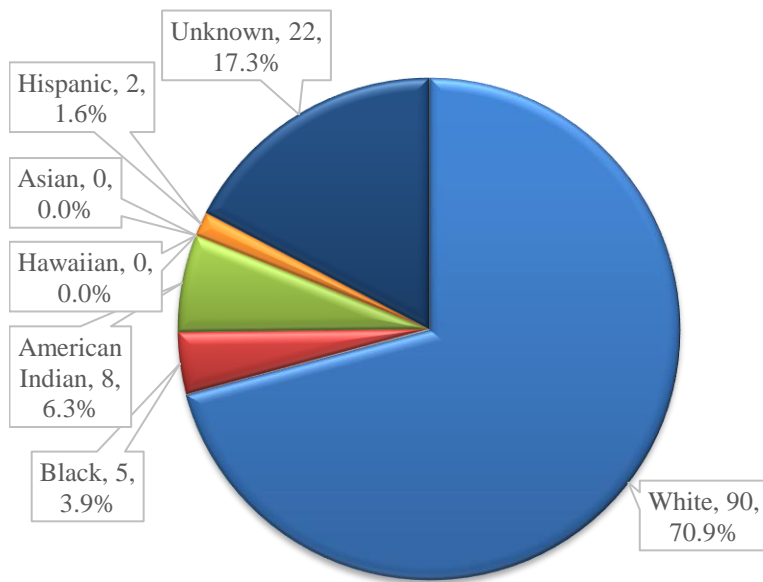


Figure 9. Race and/or Ethnicity of Officer(s)



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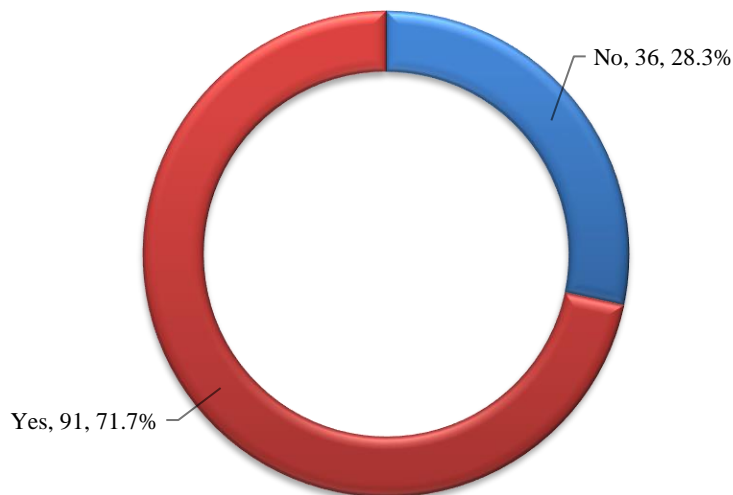
The use-of-force[^] data also records the number of years the officer has been in service. For the 127 officers involved in use-of-force[^] incidents in 2019, 40.9% of officers had either 1 - 5 years (24.4%) or 6 - 10 years (16.5%) of service. For one quarter (25.2%), officers had years of service ranging from 11 – 15 (13.4%) years or 16 – 20 years (11.8%). For 35 officers, their years of service were reported as Pending Further Investigation (Table 6).

Table 6. Years of Service for Officer

Years of Service	Count	% of Total
Under 1 Year	2	1.6
1 - 5	31	24.4
6 - 10	21	16.5
11 - 15	17	13.4
16 - 20	15	11.8
21 - 25	5	3.9
26 - 30	0	0.0
31 - 35	1	0.8
Pending Further Investigation	35	27.6
Total	127	100.0

All but one officer was reported as being a full time officer; the remaining officer was reported as Pending Further Investigation regarding full or part time status. Only two officers were reported as not being readily identifiable as an officer by either clothing or insignia, while 125 officers were readily identifiable. All but one officer was on duty at the time of the incident. Agencies reported that 71.7% of officers discharged a firearm at or in the direction of the subject during the incident (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Officer Discharged Firearm



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The last officer data element records if the officer(s) was injured during the incident, and for this field, the agency may select more than one injury type. During the 65 incidents of use-of-force[^], 89.1% of officers were not injured. For the remaining officers, the most common injury type reported was an Apparent Minor Injury (8.6%), and other injury types reported were Unconsciousness (0.8%) and Gunshot (1.6%) (Table 7).

Table 7. Type of Officer Injury

Officer Injury	Count	% of Total
No Injury	114	89.1
Apparent Minor Injury	11	8.6
Unconsciousness	1	0.8
Other Serious Injury	0	0.0
Gunshot	2	1.6
Death	0	0.0
Total	128	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 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.

Officer Information – Contains information on the officers involved in 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 one subject with a use of force.

Total Number of Subjects – Indicates 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 suspect.

Ambushed - Value describes 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 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 (hands/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: Unknown, Pending, 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, and/or 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.

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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; these functions are located within OSBI's Office of Criminal Justice Statistics. The following individual(s) wrote this report, under the direction of Erin Henry, Director of the Statistical Analysis Center:

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