

Memorandum To: Wade K. Wood
Interim Chief of Police

From: Lieutenant Sean C. Pound
Office of Professional Standards

Date: January 30, 2012

Subject: Analysis of Use of Force Reports 2011

A total of 97 incidents involving the use of force were reported by Asheville Police officers during 2011. Eight of the cases involved the use of force (Firearm) against an animal. The use of force by type of application for 2011 compared to previous years is illustrated below. (See Figure 1)

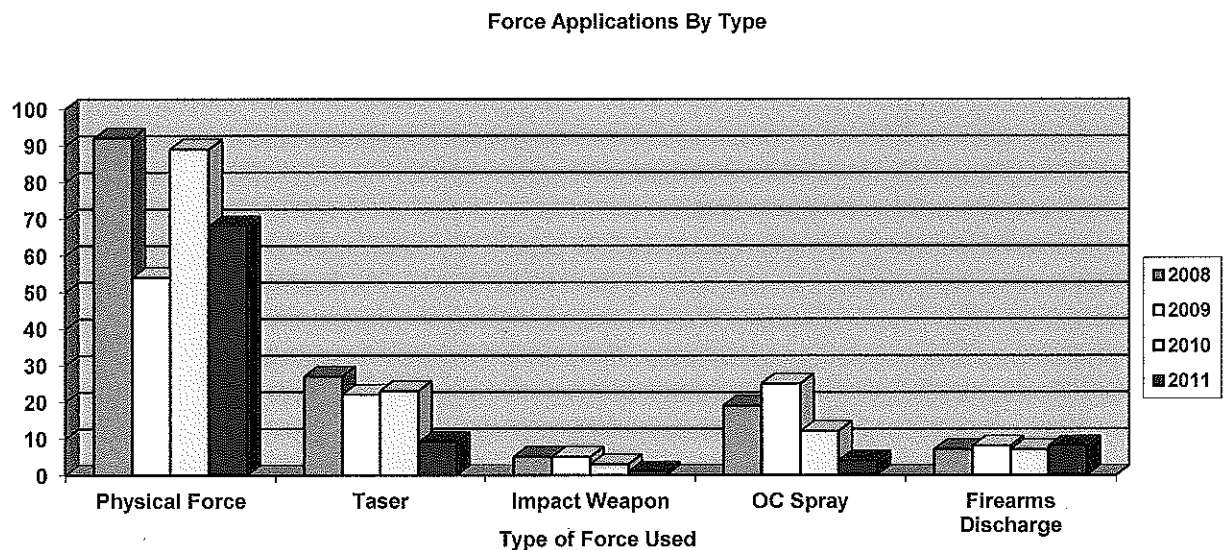


Figure 1 Note: The total number of force applications shown is greater than the total of reported incidents due to some incidents requiring varied or multiple applications of force.

There were several changes in the application of force from 2010 to 2011. The number of instances in which some degree of physical force was reported decreased from 89 to 68. The use of impact weapons (ASP Baton) reduced from 3 incidents in 2010 to 1 incident in 2011. Applications of OC Chemical spray decreased from 12 instances in 2010 to 5 applications in 2011. Officers deployed the Taser 10 times during 2011 as compared to 23 deployments in 2010.

2011 Use of Force - Involvement Per Officer

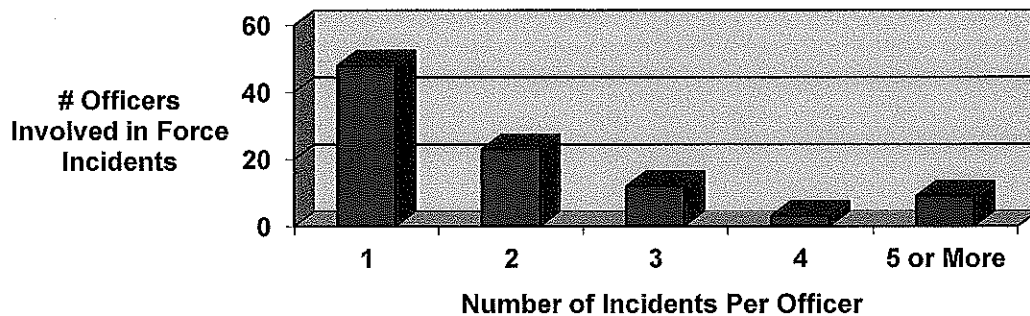


Figure 2

95 Officers were involved in at least one incident in which force was used. The number of officers involved in five or more use of force incidents increased from 5 officers for 2010 to 9 officers in 2011.

Use of Force Incidents By Month

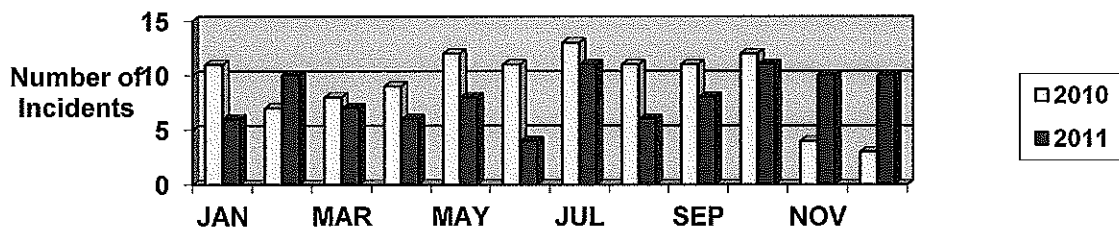


Figure 3

Figure 3 (above) illustrates the number of incidents involving use of force by month ranging from a high of 11 incidents in July and October, to a low of 4 incidents reported in June. There was a significant increase in the number of incidents reported in November and December as compared to the previous year, and a decrease in reported incidents was observed in the months of March through June.

2011 Force Incidents By Day of Week

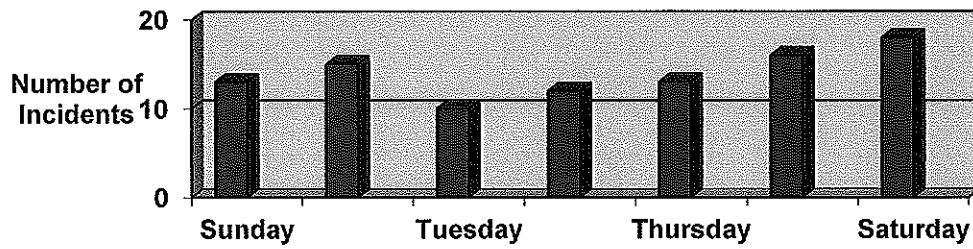


Figure 4

2011 Force Incidents by Hour of Day

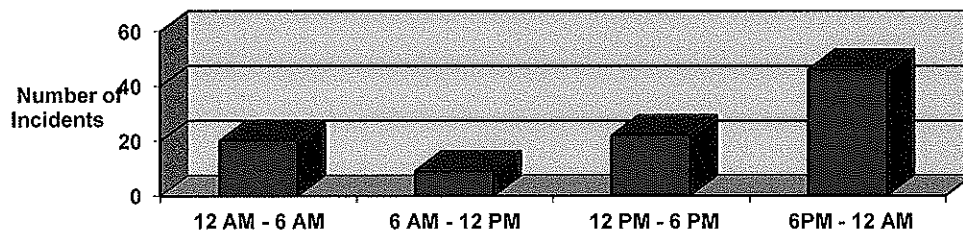


Figure 5

Figures 4 and 5 (above) illustrate the frequency of force incidents by day and time period. Use of force incidents occurred most often on Saturdays and during the period from 6PM to 12 AM.

2011 Force Incidents by Race/Gender

Ethnicity/Gender	# of Incidents
White Male	42
White Female	5
Black Male	36
Black Female	6

Figure 6

(Table does not include 8 incidents of force involving crowd situations, unidentified Subjects or force used on dangerous animals)

In 2011 the Asheville Police Department received 109,695 calls for service and reported 97 incidents involving the use or display of force. Using this data, incidents involving force or show of force occur once per 1130 calls for service or 0.001%. While it is recognized that each call for service does not involve face-to-face contact with citizens, there are also a significant number of direct contacts which are not documented. Such contacts include citizens approaching officers for advice, giving directions to motorists and other informal activities which are not documented in CAD. Even if direct contact occurred in only 10% of reported calls for service, the use or display of force would occur in only 0.01% of all contacts. This figure is a fraction of the average of 1.3 % reported in the 2002 U.S. Department of Justice survey for municipalities with populations under 100,000.

2011 has shown a decrease in the number of incidents resulting in the display or use of force. The department has continued to place emphasis on force-related training and enhanced communications skills during the course of the year. In addition to mandated training for recruits during the department's police academy, in-service training related to force issues has included:

- Review of Deadly Force Law/Policy (Annual Firearms Qual.)
- Annual Legal Update Training
- Emotional Intelligence Training
- Taser Certification/Recertification
- Verbal Judo Training
- Hosted Verbal Judo Instructor School
- Use of Simulator for Use of Force/Pursuit Situations

All use of force reports submitted in 2011 received a chain-of-command review to ensure compliance with applicable policy, procedure and law. Additionally, Force Reports are reviewed by the Force/Pursuit Review Committee to ensure compliance with standards, and identify applicable training needs or policy modifications.