

Memorandum To: William J. Anderson
Chief of Police

From: Lieutenant Sean C. Pound
Office of Professional Standards

Date: February 1, 2013

Subject: Analysis of Use of Force Reports 2012

WJP
2/1/13

A total of 100 incidents involving the use of force were reported by Asheville Police officers during 2012. Five of the cases involved the use of force (Firearm or chemical) against an animal. Arrests were made in 79% of force incidents. The use of force by type of application for 2012 compared to previous years is illustrated below. (See Figure 1)

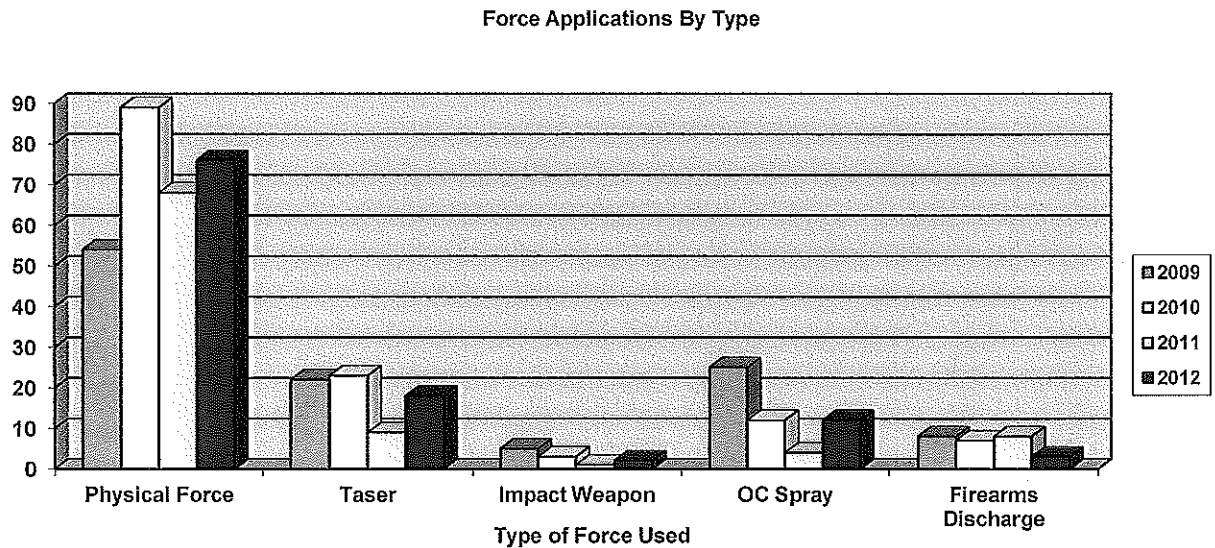


Figure 1 Note: The total number of force applications shown is greater than the total of reported incidents due to some incidents requiring varied or multiple applications of force.

There were several changes in the application of force from 2011 to 2012. The number of instances in which some degree of physical force was reported decreased from 89 to 76. Applications of OC Chemical spray increased from 4 instances in 2011 to 12 applications in 2012. Officers deployed the Taser 18 times during 2012 as compared to 9 deployments in 2011.

2012 Use of Force - Involvement Per Officer

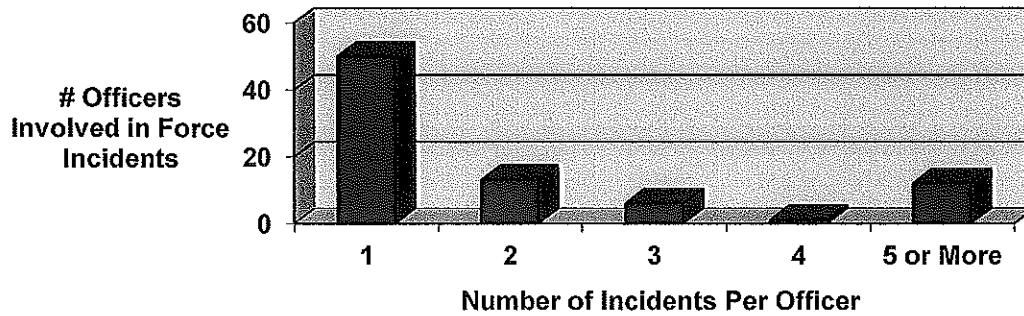


Figure 2

84 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 9 officers for 2011 to 12 officers in 2012.

2012 Use of Force Incidents By Month

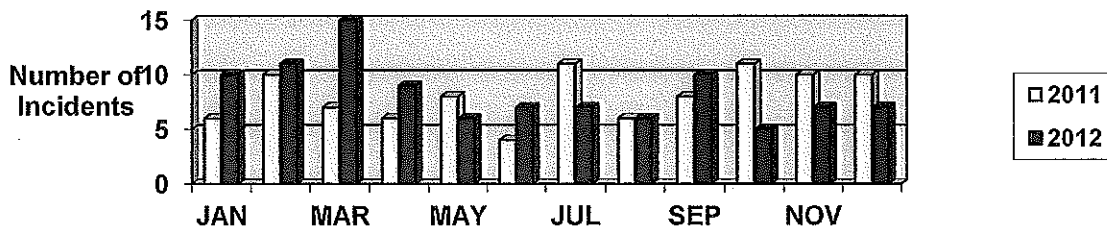


Figure 3

Figure 3 (above) illustrates the number of incidents involving use of force by month ranging from a high of 15 incidents in March, to a low of 5 incidents reported in October. There was a significant increase in the number of incidents reported in March as compared to the previous year, and a decrease in reported incidents was observed in the months of October through December.

2012 Force Incidents By Day of Week

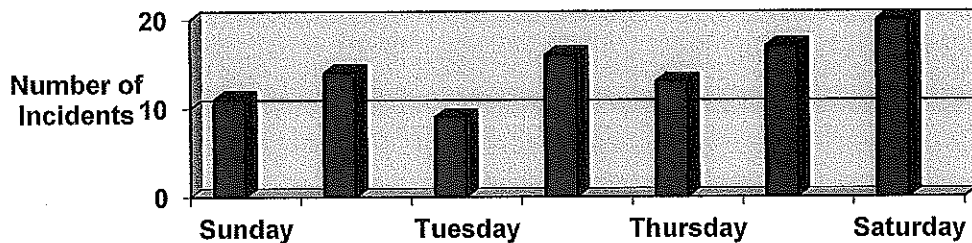


Figure 4

2011 Force Incidents by Hour of Day

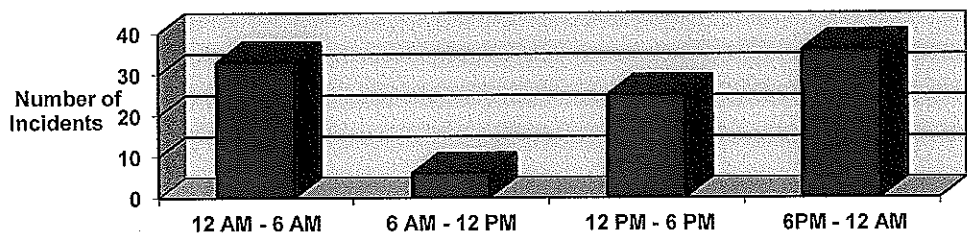


Figure 5

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.

2012 Force Incidents by Race/Gender

Race/Gender	# of Incidents
White Male	70
White Female	15
Black Male	26
Black Female	3

Figure 6

(Table does not include incidents of force involving crowd situations, unidentified Subjects or force used on dangerous animals, but does include incidents with more than one involved citizen).

In 2012 the Asheville Police Department received 101,686 calls for service and reported 100 incidents involving the use or display of force. Using this data, incidents involving force or display of force occur once per 1016 calls for service or 0.1%. 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. This figure is a fraction of the average of 1.4 % reported in the 2008 U.S. Department of Justice Police Public Contact Survey.

2012 has shown a slight increase 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
- ASP Baton Review
- Taser Certification/Recertification
- Verbal Judo Instructor Recertification

All use of force reports submitted in 2012 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.