

Memorandum To: Steven Belcher
Chief of Police

From: Sgt. J. Brown
Office of Professional Standards

Date: April 15, 2015

Subject: Analysis of Use of Force Reports 2014

A total of 74 incidents involving the use of force were reported by Asheville Police officers during 2014. Arrests were made in 68% of force incidents. There were no incidents that involved the use of deadly force against a person; the remaining firearms discharges involved the use of force against animals that were gravely injured. The use of force by type of application for 2014 compared to previous years is illustrated below. (See Figure 1)

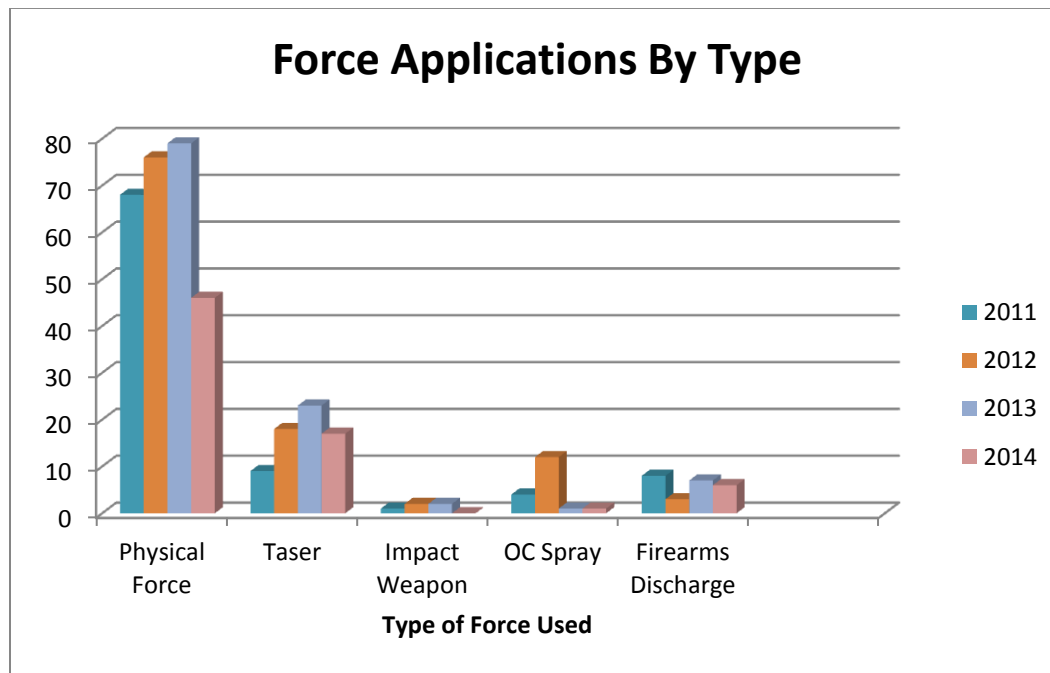


Figure 1 Note: The total number of force applications shown is greater than the total of reported incidents due to some incidents requiring varied or multiple applications of force.

There were several changes in the application of force from 2013 to 2014. The number of instances in which some degree of physical force was reported decreased from 79 to 46. There was one (1) application of OC Chemical spray this year and 1 application occurred in 2013. Officers deployed the Taser 17 times during 2014 as compared to 23 deployments in 2013.

2014 Use of Force - Involvement Per Officer

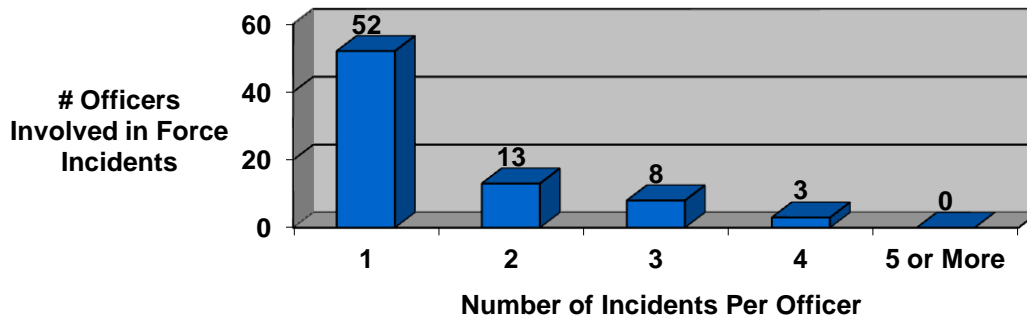


Figure 2

52 Officers were involved in at least one incident in which force was used. The number of officers involved in four or more use of force incidents decreased from 5 officers in 2013 to 3 officers in 2014.

2014 Use of Force Incidents By Month

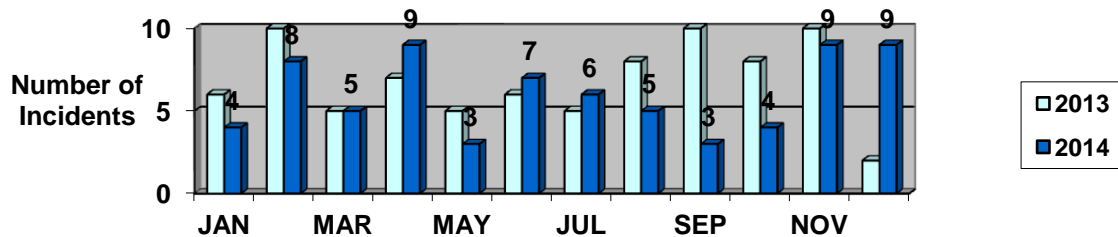


Figure 3

Figure 3 (above) illustrates the number of incidents involving use of force by month ranging from a high of 9 incidents in April, November and December, to a low of 3 incidents reported in May and September. There was a significant decrease in the number of incidents reported in September as compared to the previous year and an increase in December, compared to the year before.

2014 Force Incidents By Day of Week

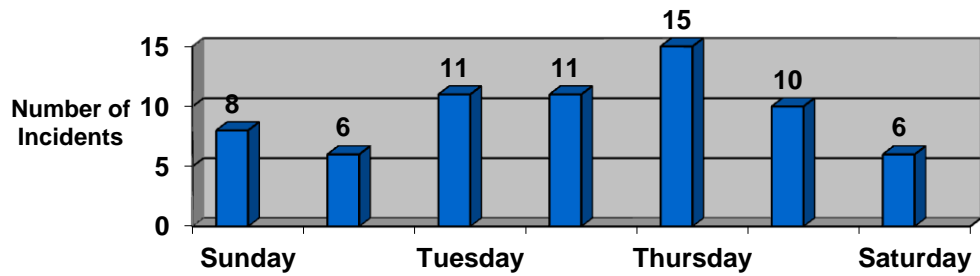


Figure 4

2014 Force Incidents by Hour of Day

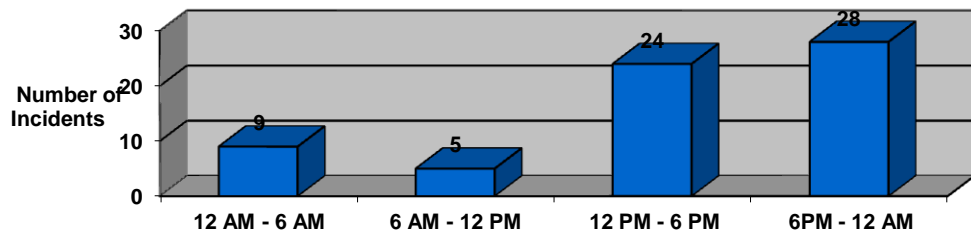


Figure 5

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

2014 Force Incidents by Race/Gender

Race/Gender	# of Incidents
White Male	44
White Female	5
Black Male	13
Black Female	2

Figure 6

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

In 2014 the Asheville Police Department received 113,703 calls for service and reported 74 incidents involving the use or display of force. Using this data, incidents involving force or display of force occur once per 1,537 calls for service or 0.065%. 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.

2014 has shown a 9.8% decrease in the number of incidents resulting in the display or use of force compared to the previous calendar year. 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
- OC Spray Review
- Taser Certification/Recertification

All use of force reports submitted in 2014 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.