



**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION
POLICE DEPARTMENT
"To Serve and Protect"**



March 4, 2020

TO: Deputy Chief Greg Gonzalez
FROM: Ryan Behrens (C958), Research & Planning Specialist
SUBJECT: **2019 Annual Use of Force Analysis – CALEA Standard 1.3.13**

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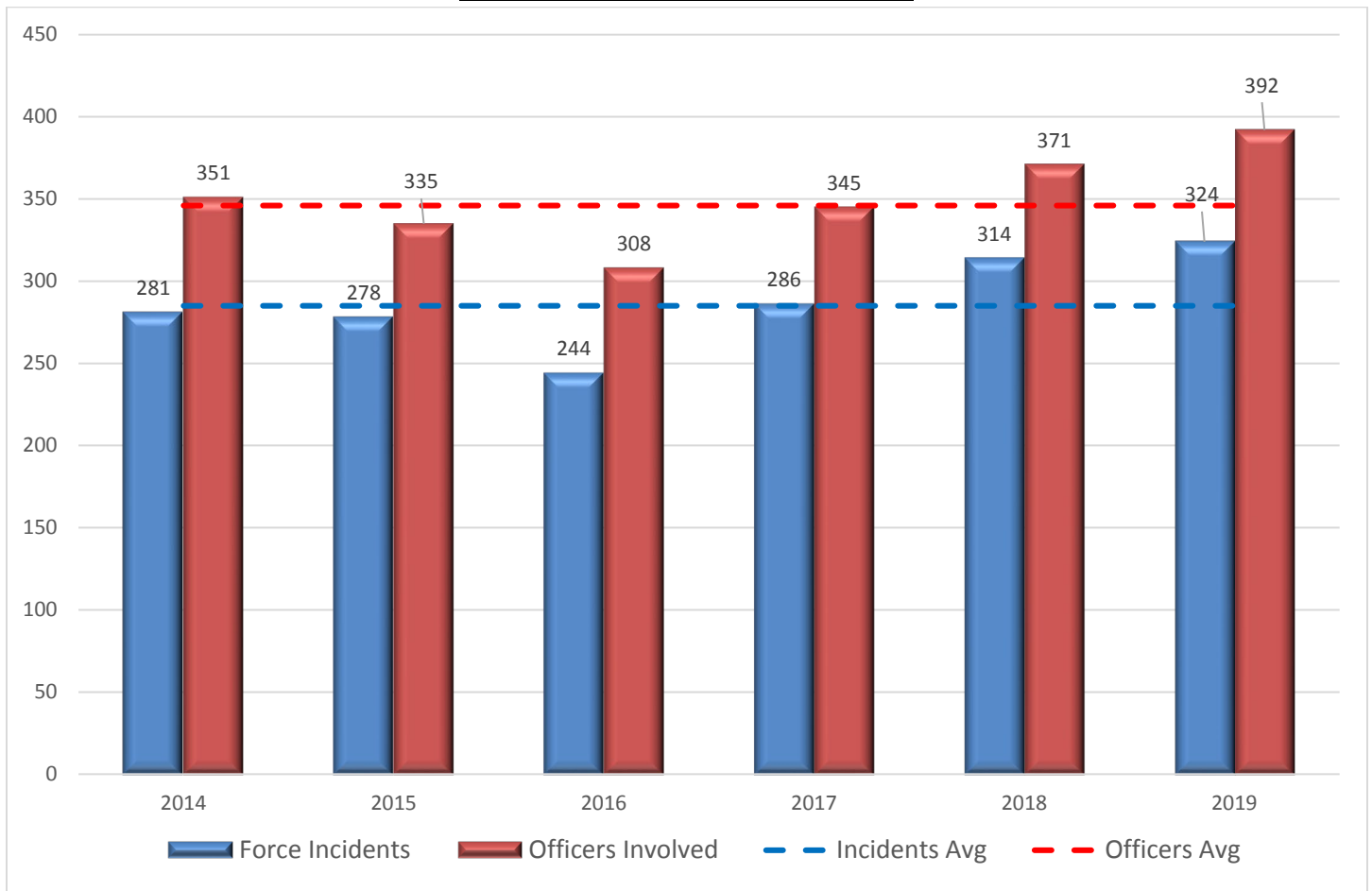
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USE OF FORCE TOTALS

This section provides an overview of “use of force” data within two main categories: **(1) Total number of use of force incidents** and **(2) Total number of officers involved** in those force incidents. This section does not include total types of force used. Total types of force used is always higher than total force incidents because several types of force may be used during a single incident

- There were **324 reported force incidents** in 2019. This is an **increase of 3.2%** from 2018, and is **12.5% above the 6-year average** of 288 incidents per year.
- There were **392 officers involved** in force incidents in 2019. This is an **increase of 5.6%** from 2018, and is **12% above the 6-year average** of 350 officers per year.
- There are now more officers on the streets due to Departmental growth; therefore, these increases are not considered problematic.

Use of Force Totals (2014-2019)



**Totals include IAPro-reported force incidents plus discharge of firearms incidents reported by Internal Affairs*

INDIVIDUAL USE OF FORCE CATEGORIES

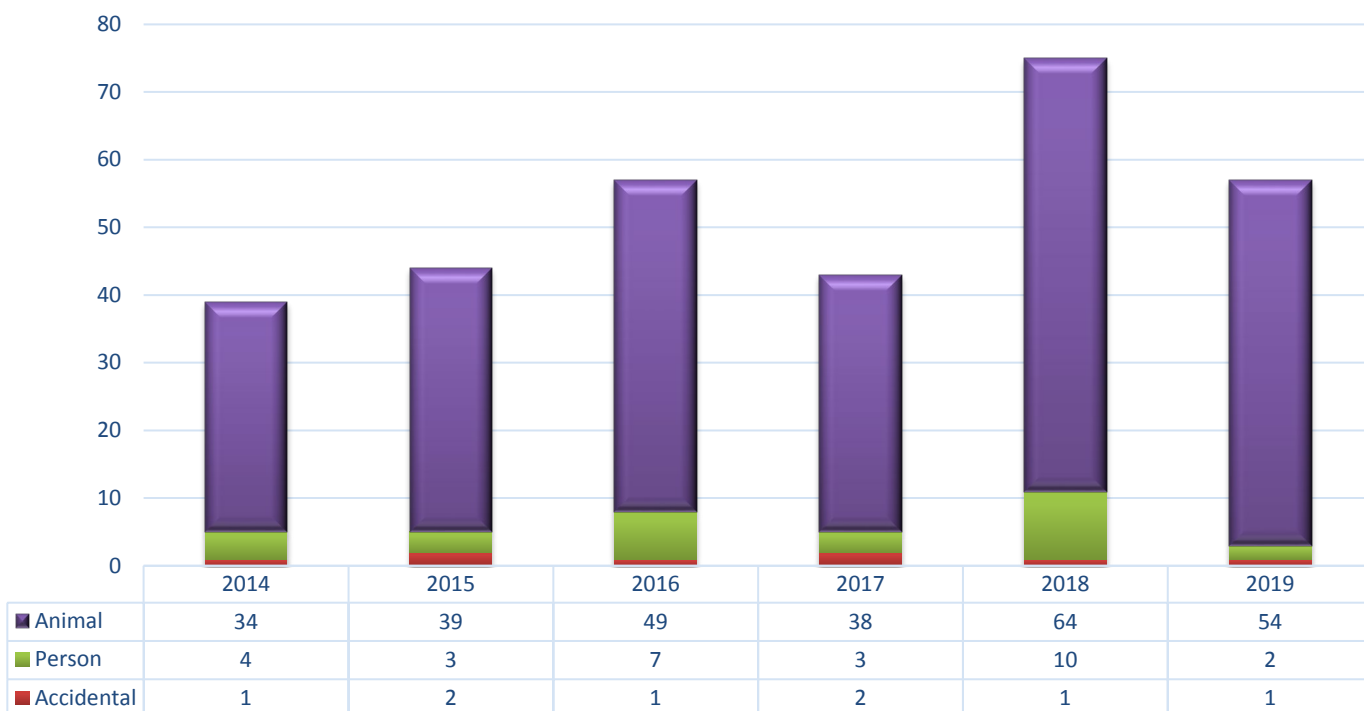
***The individual force categories below add up to far more than the 324 total use of force incidents reported above. This is because multiple types of force may be used in a single force incident.

Discharge of Firearm

The Internal Affairs Unit assigns each firearm discharge incident to one of three categories: **(1) Accidental**, **(2) Animal** and **(3) Person**. Each incident is subject to a thorough investigation by the Safety Review Board (SRB) and may be subject to investigation by the Officer Involved Investigations Team (OIIT). In **2019**, officers were involved in **57 discharge of firearm incidents**. This was a **decrease of 18 incidents (-24%) from 2018**, but is **4 more (+7.5%) than the 6-year average of 53** per year.

- **Most notably, there were only two (2) firearms discharged against one (1) person in 2019**, and the incident occurred in the last hours of the last day of the year. This is 80% below the number of incidents in 2018, 60% below the 6-year average, and was the lowest single year in the 6-year review period.
- **Most firearm discharges (54) were against animals.** As with previous years, the majority of those were to put down injured animals, mainly deer per the Safety Review Board.
- **There was one (1) accidental firearm discharge in 2019.** This is on par with the number of accidental discharges that typically take place each year. With nearly 900 officers, this is a small number; however, it is somewhat concerning that there are one (1) or two (2) accidental discharges year after year. Each accidental discharge has the potential for tragedy and should be taken extremely seriously.

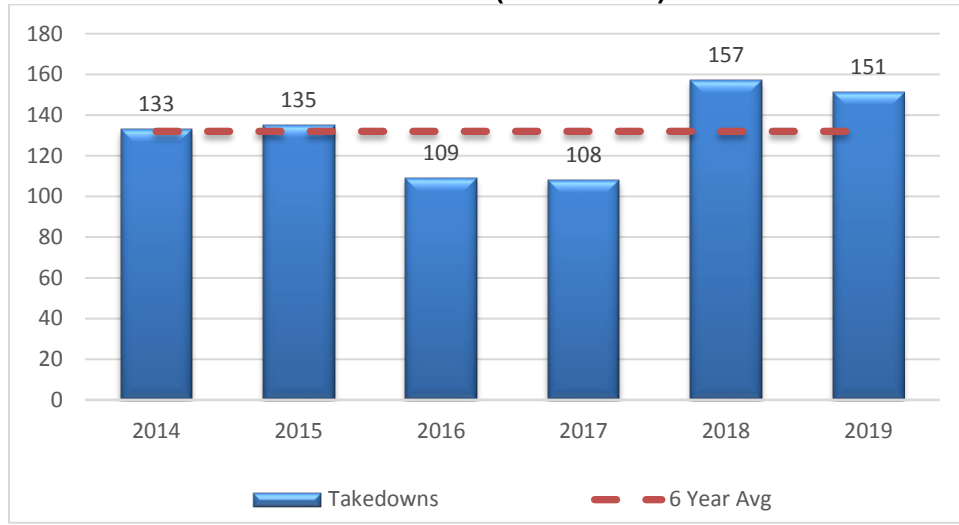
**Firearm Discharges
(2014-2019)**



Takedowns (Combined Category)

For this report, the term “Takedown” *includes leg sweeps, lift & dumps, tackles and takedowns combined*. Officers are authorized to use Takedowns against Actively Resistive (or higher) subjects. **In 2019, officers reported 151 total leg sweeps, lift & dumps, tackles, and takedowns. This is down 4% from 2018, but is 14% above the 6-year average of 132 per year.** Takedowns are the most common use of force technique year-after-year.

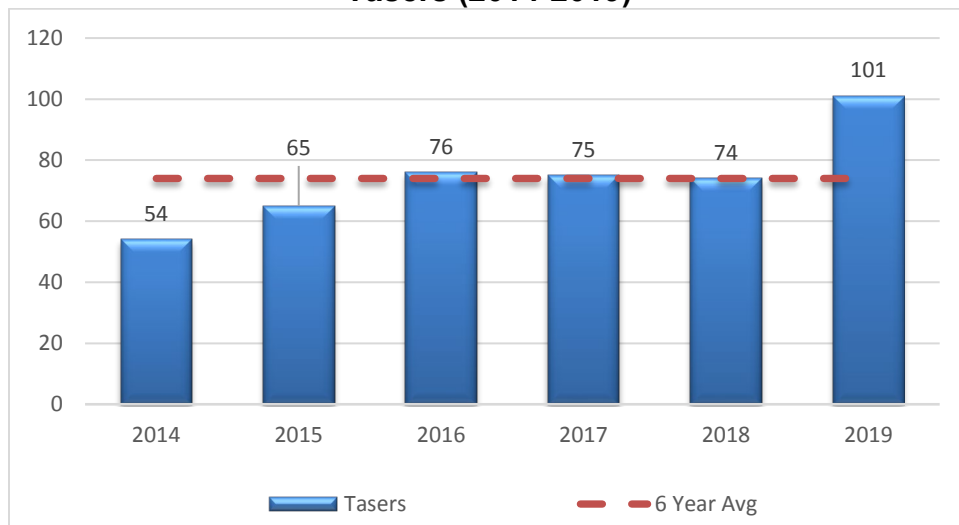
Takedowns (2014-2019)



Electronic Control Devices (Tasers)

Over the last year, the OPD greatly increased the number of electronic control devices (Tasers) available to officers, and now requires patrol officers to carry a Taser on duty if a Taser is available. This has greatly increased the number of officers who carry Tasers on duty; therefore, the use of Tasers by officers has increased. Officers are authorized to deploy Tasers against persons being Actively Resistive (or higher), or when a subject poses a threat to themselves. Only trained and certified officers who qualify and demonstrate proficiency annually may carry the Taser on duty. **In 2019, there were 101 incidents in which officers used Tasers against persons. This was a 36.5% increase from 2018, and is also 36.5% above the 6-year average of 74 per year.** There was an instruction block dedicated to Tasers during the 2019 annual in-service training. This training block was attended by all sworn officers.

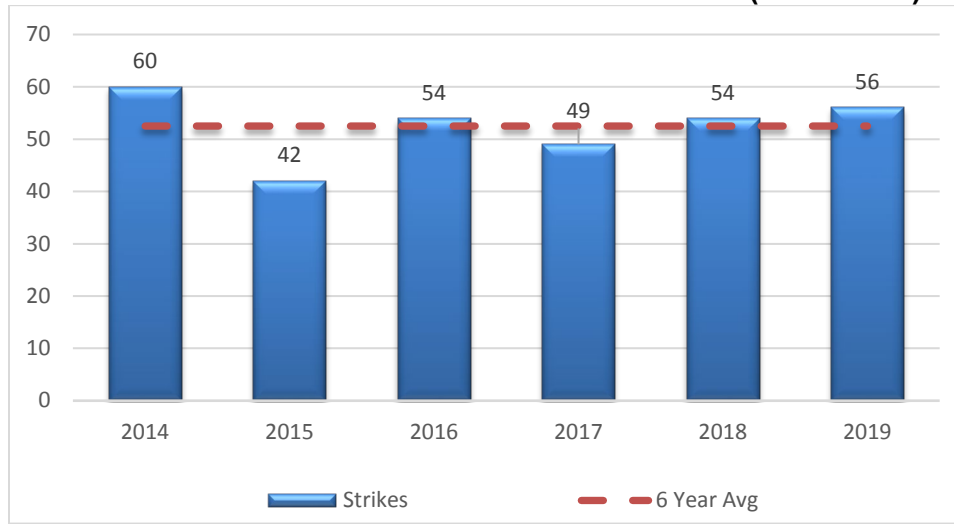
Tasers (2014-2019)



Brachial Stun, Hand Strike & Elbow Strike (combined)

Officers are authorized to use brachial stuns, hand strikes and elbow strikes against Actively Resistant (or higher) subjects. As with all uses of force, officers are required to complete a Chief's Report to document use of these techniques, and the officer's actions must be reviewed by the Safety Review Board. **In 2019, there were 56 incidents in which officers used brachial stuns, hand strikes and/or elbow strikes. This is a 4% increase from 2018, and is 7% above than the 6-year average of 52.5 per year.**

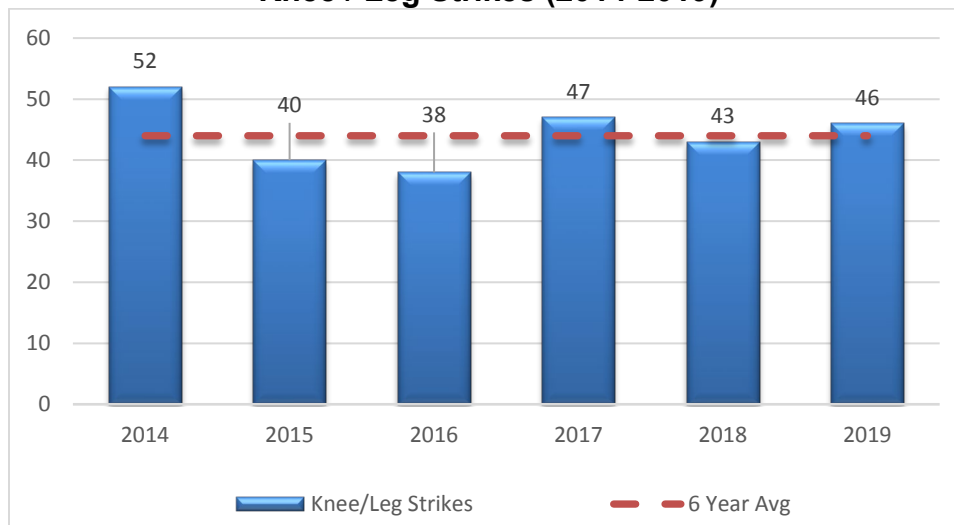
Brachial Stuns / Hand Strikes / Elbow Strikes (2014-2019)



Knee & Leg Strikes (combined)

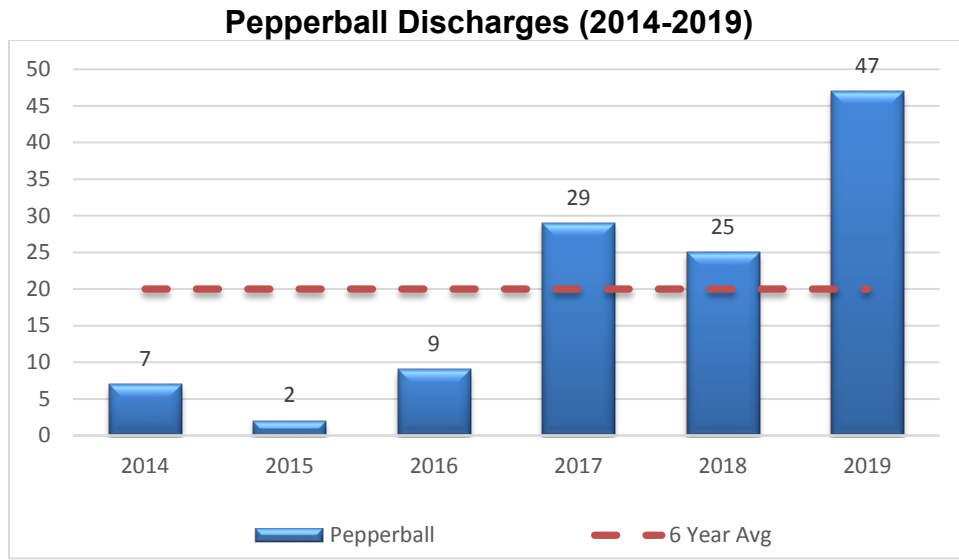
Officers are authorized to use knee and leg strikes against Actively Resistant (or higher) subjects. **In 2019, officers reported 46 total knee and leg strikes. This is a 7% increase from 2018, and is just 4.5% above the 6-year average of 44 per year.**

Knee / Leg Strikes (2014-2019)



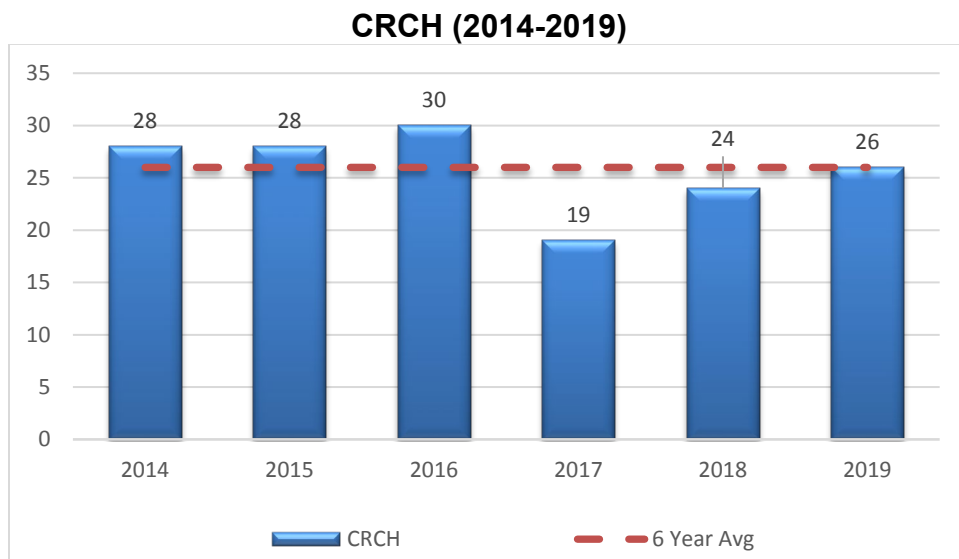
Pepperball Discharges

Officers certified in the Pepperball weapon system are authorized to deploy the system against Actively Resistive (or higher) subjects. A recent change in OPD policy now allows officers to purchase their own Pepperball weapon system for use on duty if they follow the proper procedures. This policy was only recently implemented and OPD has not yet seen the impact of this change on the number of Pepperball launchers being carried on duty. **In 2019, there were 47 incidents in which a Pepperball system was deployed. This is an increase of 88% when compared with 2018, and is 135% above the 6-year average of 20 per year.**



Carotid Restraint Control Hold (CRCH)

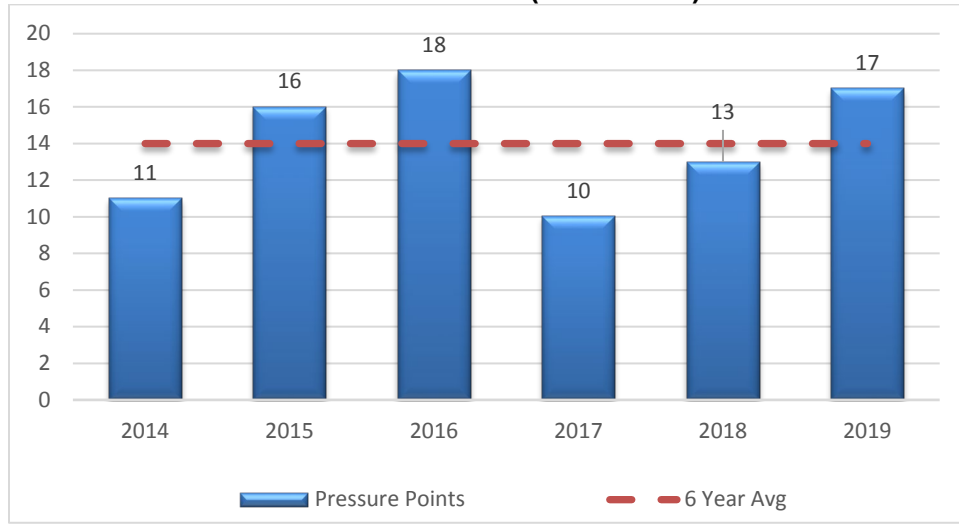
The Carotid Restraint Control Hold (CRCH) is a neck restraint that relies on lateral compression of the arterial and venous systems within the neck, rather than the airway. This technique is used by officers to stop physical resistance from a subject or to prevent the imminent destruction of evidence. Officers may only use this technique if they are trained to do so. Trained officers must also receive biennial training in proper application of the CRCH. **In 2019, there were 26 uses of the CRCH technique. This is an 8% increase from 2018, and is equal to the 6-year average of 26 per year.**



Pressure Points

Officers are authorized to use pressure point techniques against Passively Resistive (or higher) subjects or to retrieve evidence. These techniques are intended to cause temporary discomfort in order to make subjects vulnerable to specific arrest and control techniques. **In 2019, officers used pressure point techniques against 17 subjects. This is an increase of 31% from 2018, and is 21% above the 6-year average of 14 per year.**

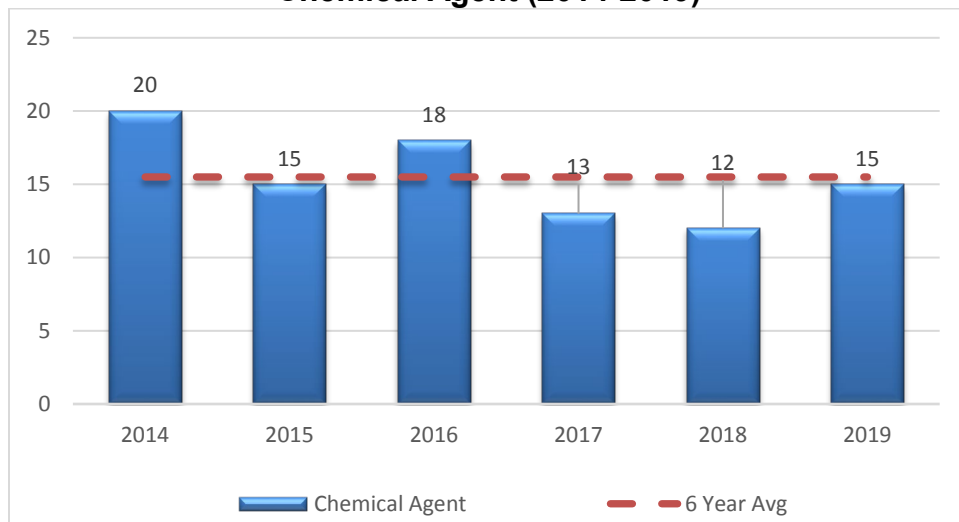
Pressure Points (2014-2019)



Use of a Chemical Agent

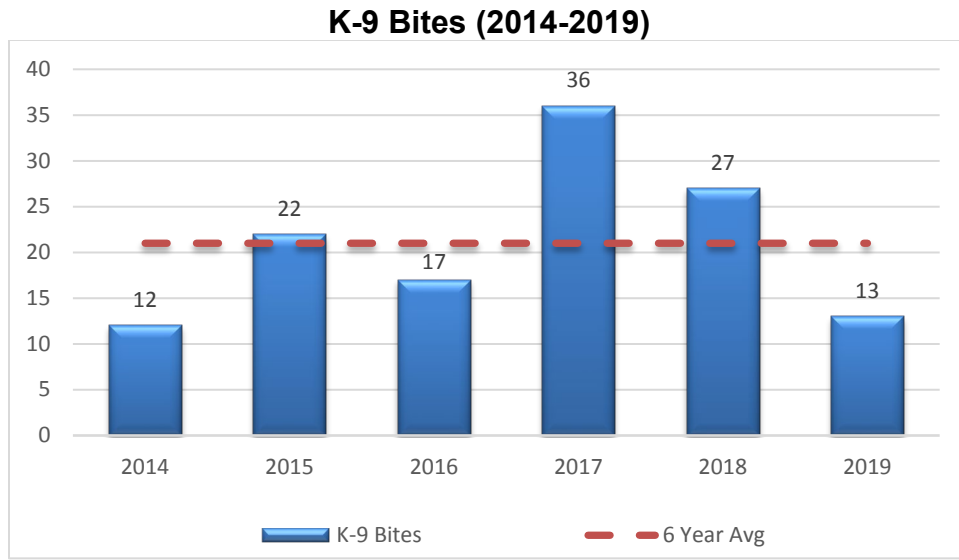
A Chemical Agent is an approved chemical compound used to gain control of a subject. A Chemical Agent may be a solid, liquid, or gaseous substances that, upon dispersion in the atmosphere, irritates mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, mouth and lungs, and causes watery eyes, sneezing, coughing, difficulty breathing, pain in the eyes, and/or temporary blindness, etc. Officers may carry an agency-authorized Chemical Agent when trained in its proper use, and are required to receive documented biennial training. Officers are authorized to use the Chemical Agent when dealing with Actively Resistive (or higher) subjects. The use of an OPD-approved Chemical Agent is intended to prevent injury to the officer and subject by minimizing resistance from the subject. **In 2019, there were 15 incidents in which officers deployed Chemical Agents. This was a 25% increase from 2018, but was 3% below the 6-year average of 15.5 per year.**

Chemical Agent (2014-2019)



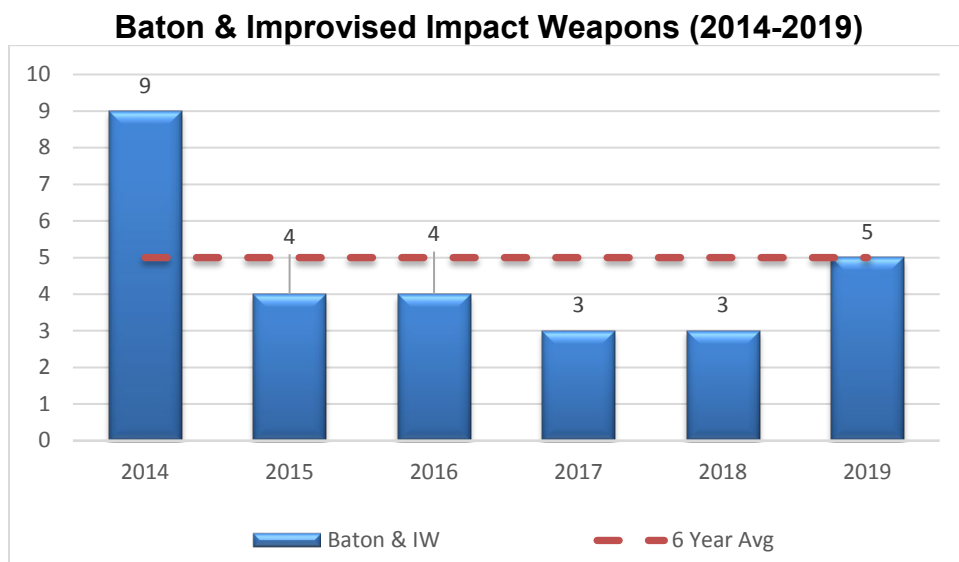
K-9 Bites

OPD K-9s are trained to aid officers by tracking subjects, detecting controlled substances, detecting explosives, recovering evidence, and assisting in locating and/or physically apprehending subjects. K-9 handlers must evaluate each situation and determine if the use of their dog is appropriate. K-9 bites are considered uses of force per OPD policy, and must be reported as such on a Chief's Report. **In 2019, officers reported 13 incidents in which K-9s bit a suspect as the suspect was being taken into custody. This is 57% less than the 2018 total, and is 38% below the 6-year average of 21 per year.**



Baton & Improvised Impact Weapons (combined)

Batons and Improvised Impact Weapons are rarely used by officers in the course of their duties. **In 2019, there were only 5 incidents in which officers used a baton or improvised weapon strike. This is up slightly from 2018, and is equal to the 6-year average of 5 per year.**



Types of Resistance (2019)

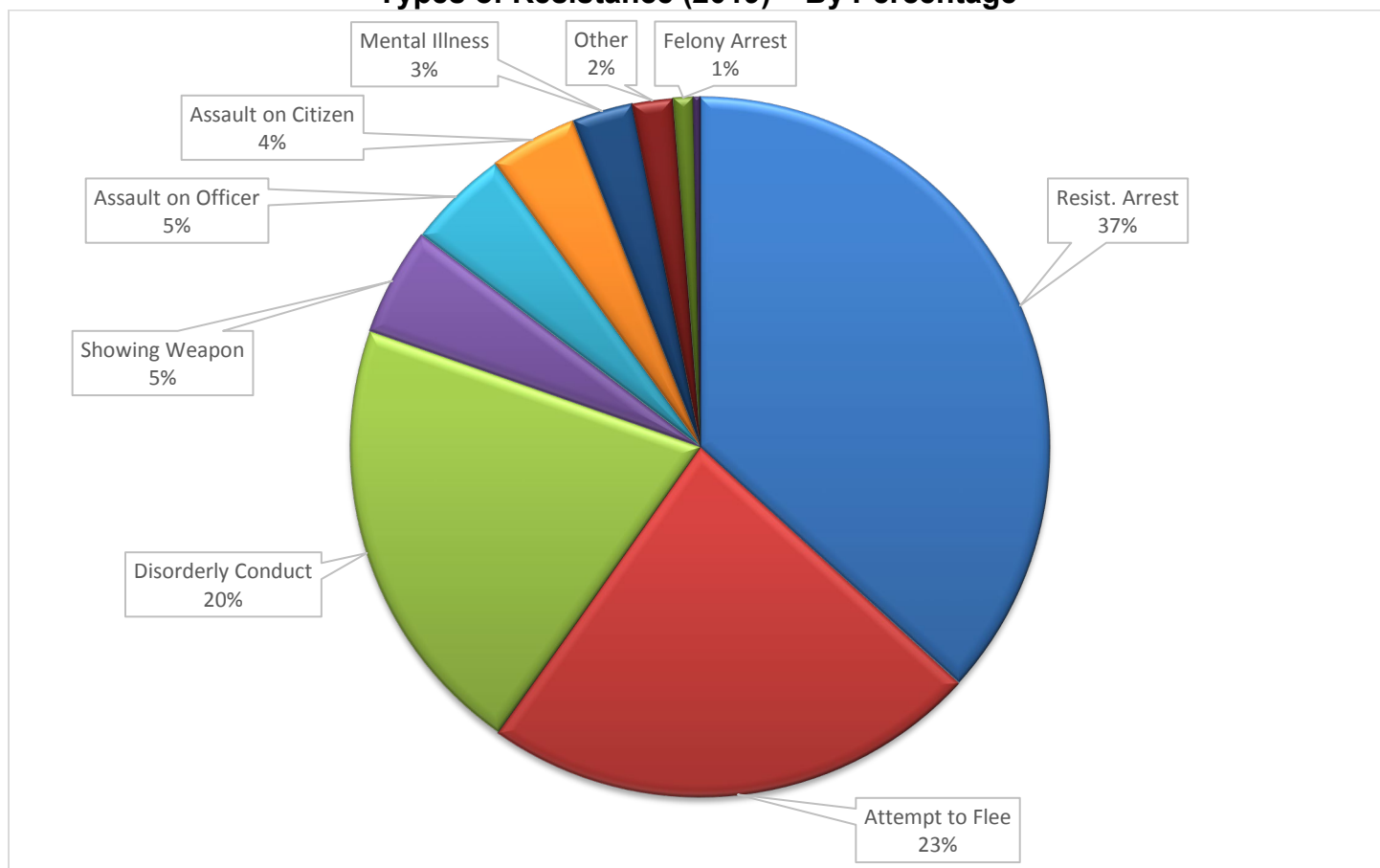
This table and corresponding chart show the types of resistance that led to force incidents during the year 2019, as reported on Chief's Reports. Similar to previous years, **Resisting Arrest, Attempting to Flee, and Disorderly Conduct** were by far the top three (3) resistance categories in 2019. Combined, these resistance types led to more than 80% of all force incidents.

Individual Resistance Types (2019)

Category	#
Resisting Arrest	118
Attempting to Flee	74
Disorderly Conduct	66
Assault on an Officer	15
Assault on a Citizen	13
Brandishing a Weapon	16
Mental Illness	9
Other*	6
Felony Arrest	3
Misdemeanor Arrest	1
TOTAL:	321

***Other" includes 1 "Parole/Probation Violation"*

Types of Resistance (2019) – By Percentage



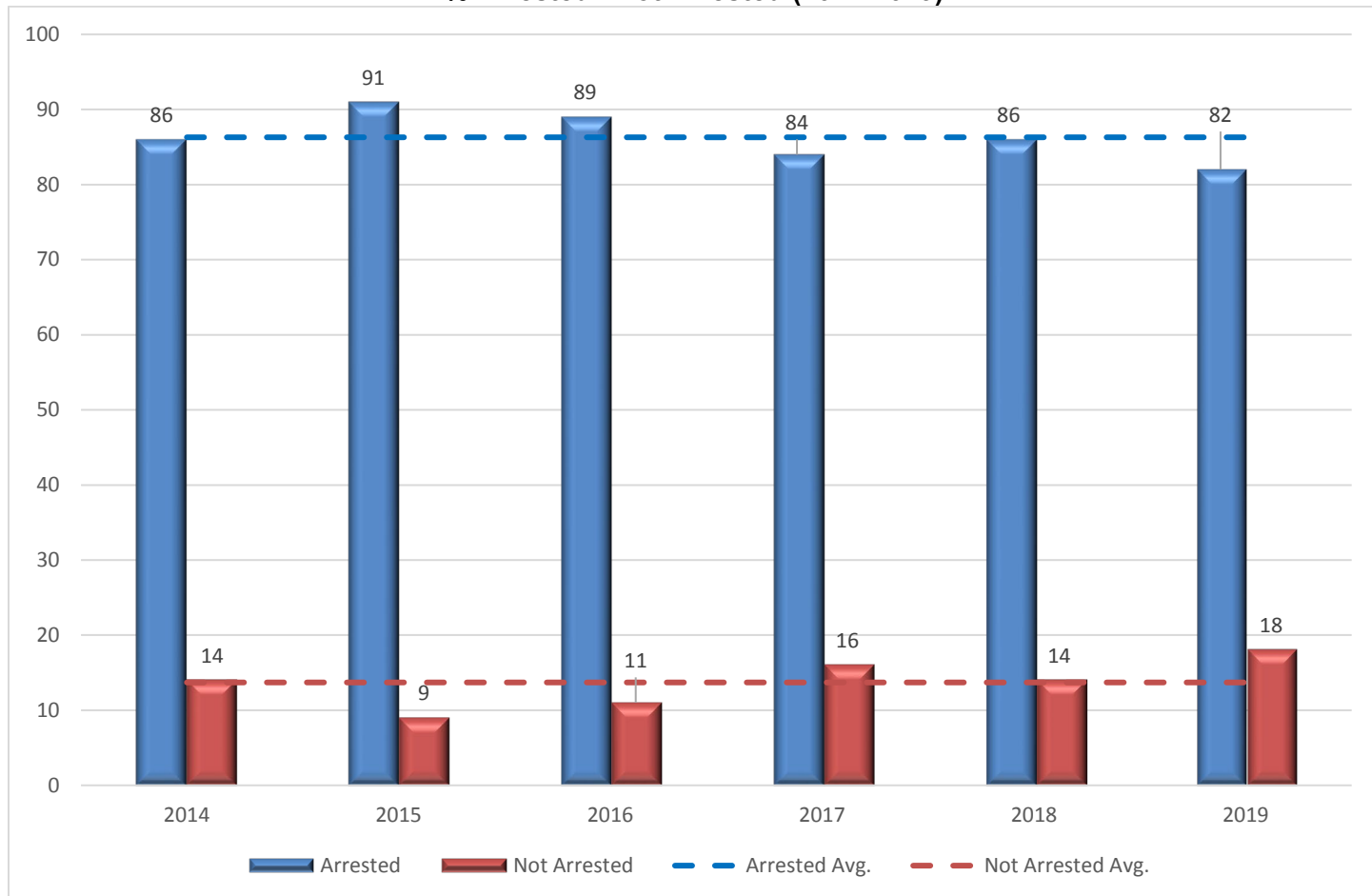
Civilian Arrested / Not Arrested

The table and chart below show the numbers and percentages of arrests resulting from use of force incidents for each year from 2014-2019.

Civilian Arrested / Not Arrested

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Citizen Arrested	238	86%	249	91%	213	89%	240	84%	267	86%	264	82%
Citizen Not Arrested	38	14%	26	9%	26	11%	45	16%	43	14%	57	18%
TOTAL	276		275		239		285		310		321	

% Arrested / Not Arrested (2014-2019)



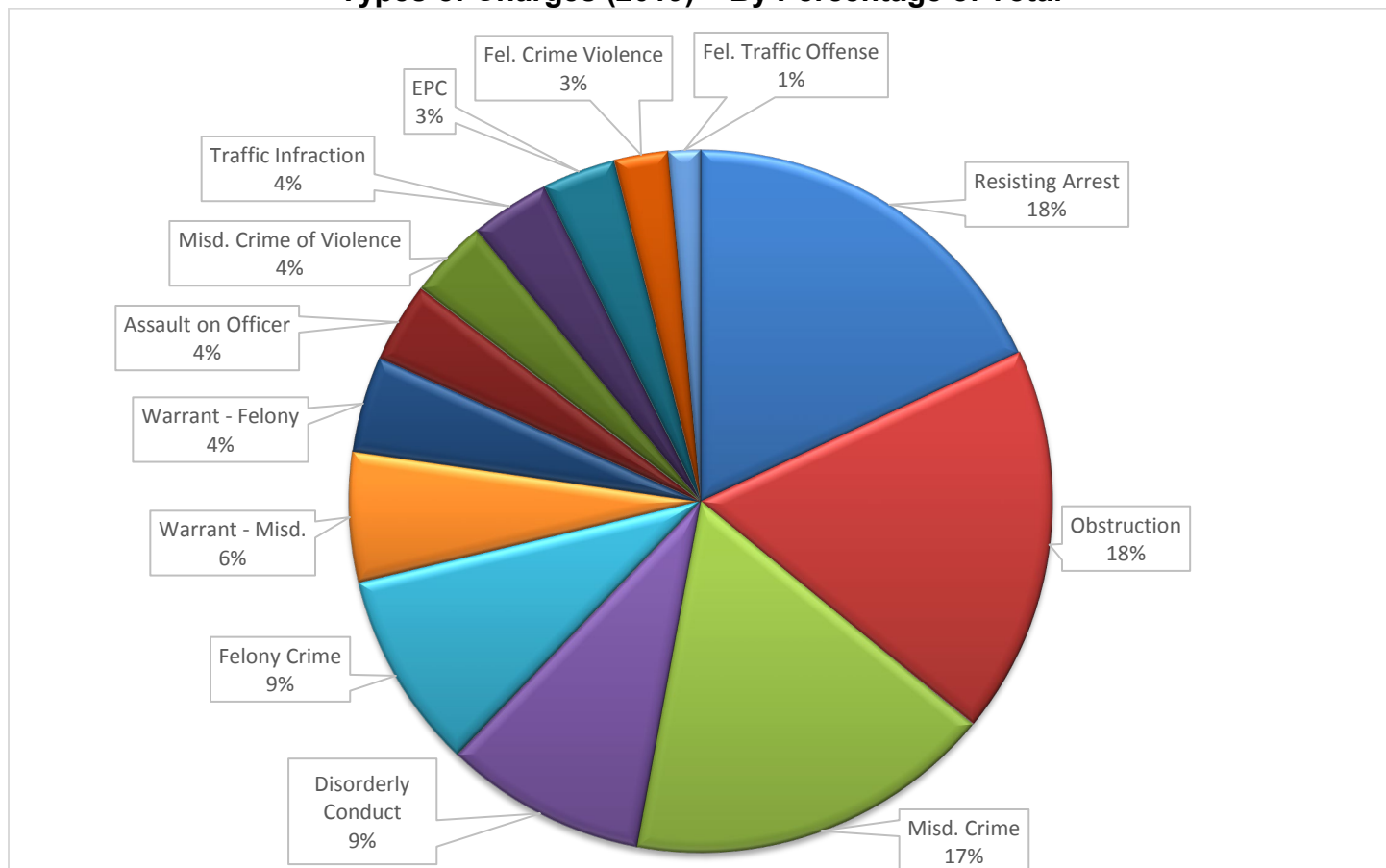
Types of Charges or Action Taken (2019)

The table and chart below show the types of charges filed or action taken against subjects on whom force was used during the year 2019. **Resisting Arrest, Obstructing the Administration of Law, and Misdemeanor Crime** were the top three (3) charges/actions for subjects upon whom force was used in 2019. These 3 categories **made up 51% of all charges/action taken** after force incidents.

Types of Charges (2019)

Category	#
Resisting Arrest	123
Obstruction	122
Misdemeanor Crime	116
Disorderly Conduct	63
Felony Crime	62
Warrant – Misdemeanor	41
Warrant – Felony	30
Assault on an Officer	25
Misd. Crime of Violence	25
Traffic Infraction	25
Emerg. Prot. Custody (EPC)	23
Felony Crime of Violence	17
Felony Traffic Offense	10
TOTAL:	682

Types of Charges (2019) – By Percentage of Total



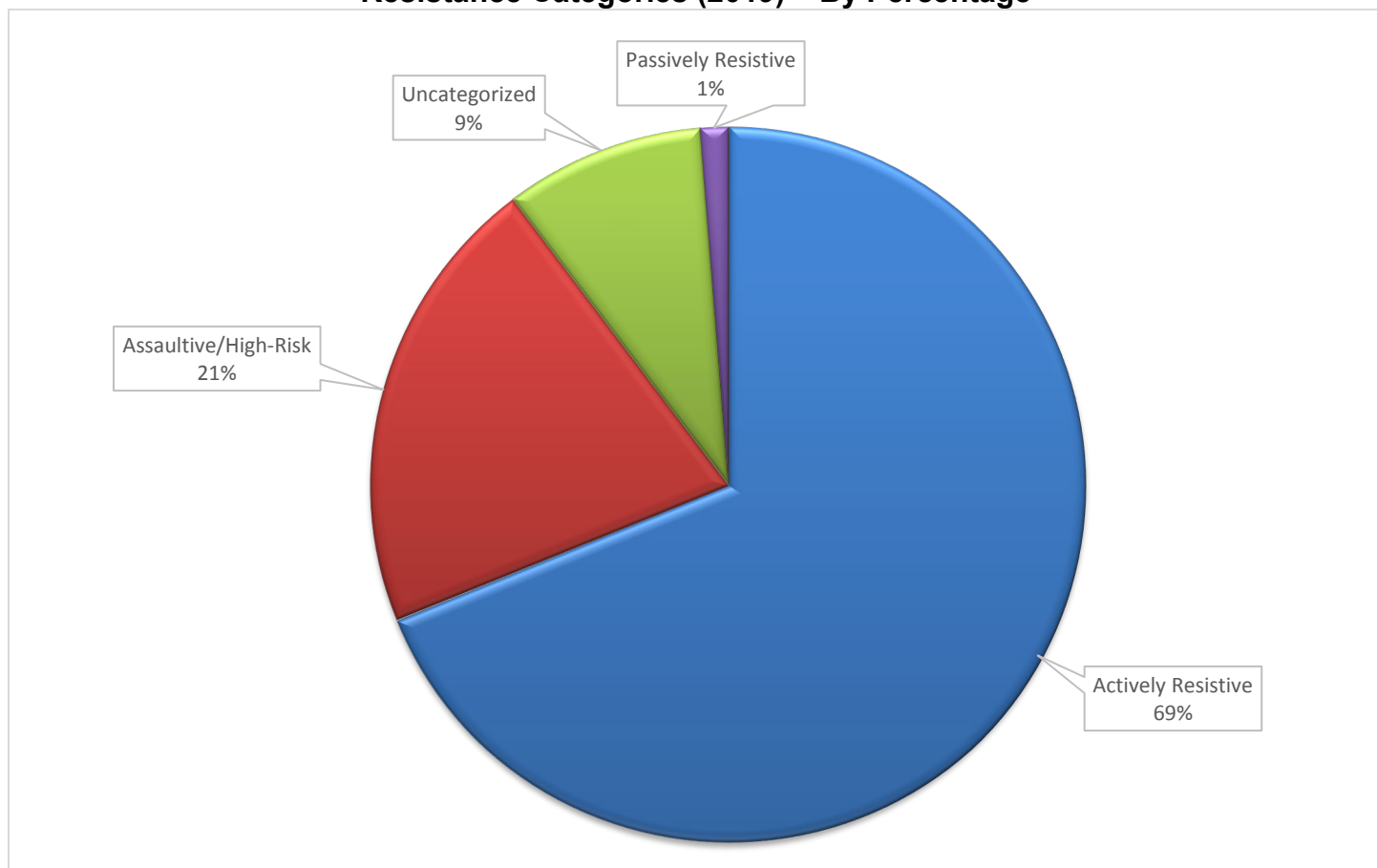
Resistance Categories (2019)

This table and corresponding chart show the resistance categories for force incidents during the year 2019. Just as in previous years, the vast majority of force was used against persons who were Actively Resistive. *Please note that in the IAPro end-of-year information received by the Research & Planning Unit, these numbers do not add up to the total number of subjects against whom force was used, so the remainder were labeled as "Uncategorized."*

Resistance Categories (2019)

Category	#
Actively Resistive	221
Assaultive / High-Risk	67
Uncategorized	29
Passively Resistive	4
TOTAL:	321

Resistance Categories (2019) – By Percentage



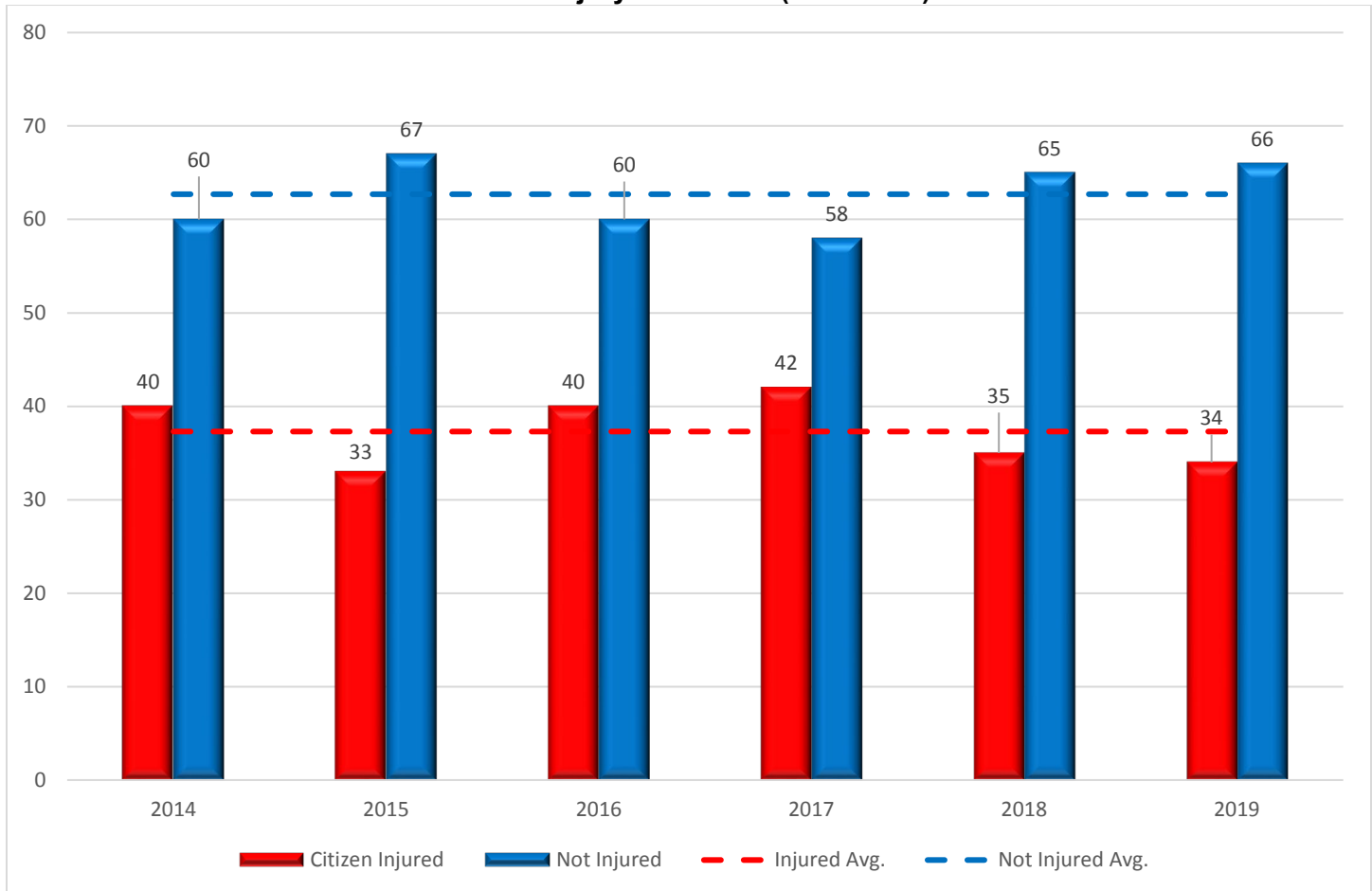
Civilian Injuries

The table and chart below show the numbers and percentages of citizen injuries resulting from use of force incidents for each year from 2014-2019. The **percentage of citizens injured** during use of force incidents has hovered between a **low of 33% (2015)** and a **high of 42% (2017)**. There were **108 citizen injuries** resulting from force incidents in **2019**. This is a **decrease of 1 injury** from 2018, and is just **2 above the 6-year average of 106** per year.

Citizen Injury Outcomes

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Citizen Injured	110	40%	92	33%	96	40%	119	42%	109	35%	108	34%
Citizen Not Injured	166	60%	183	67%	143	60%	166	58%	201	65%	213	66%
TOTAL	276		275		239		285		310		321	

Civilian Injury Outcomes (2014-2019)



Average Age of Involved Civilian

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	6-Year Avg
34	31	32	33	34	34	33

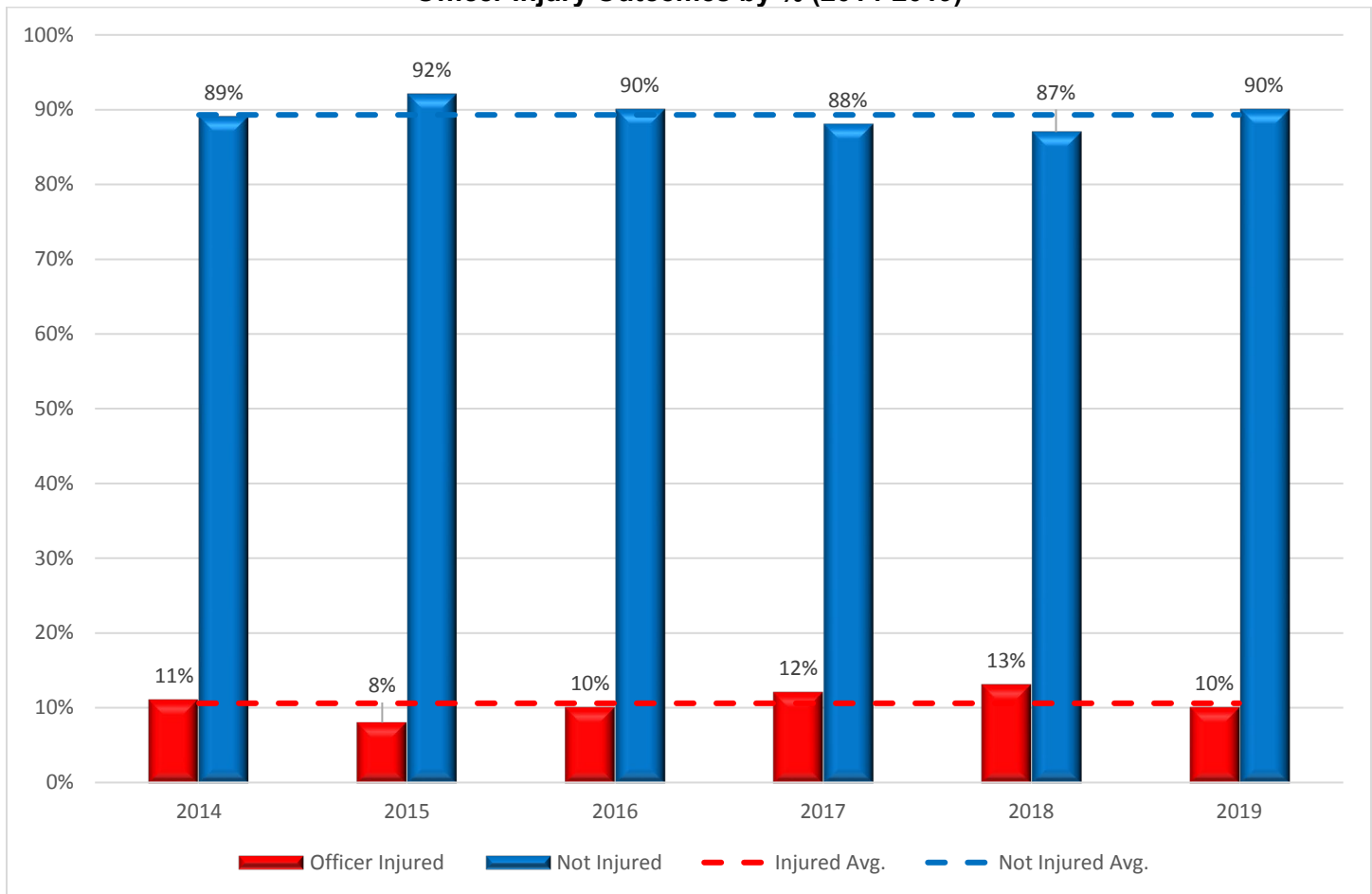
Officer Injuries

The table below shows the numbers and percentages of officer injuries resulting from use of force incidents for each year from 2014-2019. **Both the number and percentage of officer injuries decreased in 2019.** There were 33 officer injuries resulting from force incidents in 2019. This is a decrease of 7 injuries from 2018, and is only 3 more than the 6-year average of 30 per year.

Officer Injury Outcomes (2014-2019)

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Officer Injured	30	11%	21	8%	23	10%	34	12%	40	13%	33	10%
Officer Not Injured	246	89%	254	92%	216	90%	251	88%	270	87%	288	90%
TOTAL	276		275		239		285		310		321	

Officer Injury Outcomes by % (2014-2019)



RECOMMENDATIONS

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) published a report in 2019 entitled [Law Enforcement Best Practices: Lessons Learned from the Field](#). It is intended as a guidebook that collects best practices and guidance from law enforcement practitioners in the field in eight critical areas in modern policing including: (1) community policing; (2) de-escalation; (3) crisis intervention; (4) the role of first-line supervisors; (5) early intervention systems; (6) internal affairs; (7) recruitment, hiring and retention; and (8) the use of data systems. ***I reviewed the USDOJ document in the section related to de-escalation, and I narrowed down their suggestions to four action items I believe the OPD could utilize to help implement de-escalation training and policy into the agency's culture.***

1. **Work to develop a stand-alone de-escalation policy**, and look to enhance other relevant policies to support adherence to that de-escalation policy. OPD does not currently have a de-escalation policy in the PPM, and I believe creating such a policy would emphasize the importance the agency places on de-escalation techniques and actions.
2. **Seek the support of senior command and experienced first-line supervisors** to create and promote the new de-escalation policy. It is clear that simply creating a policy does not guarantee compliance with that policy – especially if the policy is not viewed as beneficial to front-line personnel.
3. **Link the de-escalation policy to training** by pulling together OPD use of force, firearms, and patrol procedures trainers to evaluate what de-escalation techniques are currently taught, and then working collectively to integrate de-escalation techniques – based on the policy – into their training curricula.
4. **Reward and publicize successful de-escalation efforts.** This can be done by creating a program to recognize officers who successfully de-escalate a situation and prevent injuries, as well as by utilizing the Public Information Office to publicize such situations.