

An Analysis of
2017 Use of Force Incidents in the
Milwaukee Police Department

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Purpose of Study

- To provide information on the number and nature of police use of force incidents in the MPD from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017
- To compare, when appropriate, 2017 data with previous years
- Data based on MPD “Use of Force Reports” (AIM System)

MPD Use of Force Reporting Policy

According to MPD Use of Force policy 460.35: “The Use of Force Report shall be completed by a supervisory officer when a Department member discharges a firearm; uses a baton in the line of duty; discharges an irritant, chemical, or inflammatory agent; deploys an Electronic Control Device, to include non-contact spark display, contact stun, and probe deployment; Department canine bites a person; forcible blood draws requiring use of force to obtain a sample where a subject claims injury or is injured as a result of police action; uses bodily force that involves focused strikes, diffused strikes, or decentralizations to the ground; uses any type of force in which a person is injured or claims injury, whether or not the injury is immediately visible.”

Use of Force Policy Change

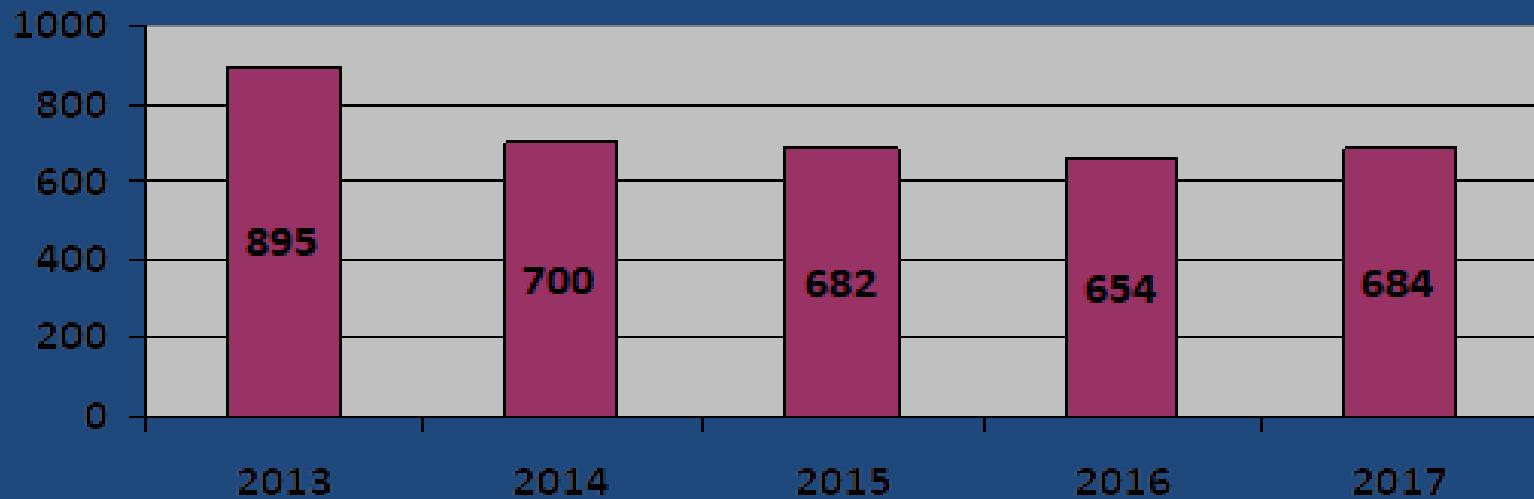
- ❑ Prior to 2013, incidents that involved “bodily force only” without injury or complaint of injury from the subject were not required to be documented.
- ❑ Therefore, comparison of “total number of use of force” incidents and “bodily force only” incidents in 2017 to those in years before 2013 is not valid.

Select Findings

- There were 704 use of force incidents recorded in 2017
 - 8 involved euthanizing an injured animal
 - 12 were accidental

- 684 incidents analyzed in this report

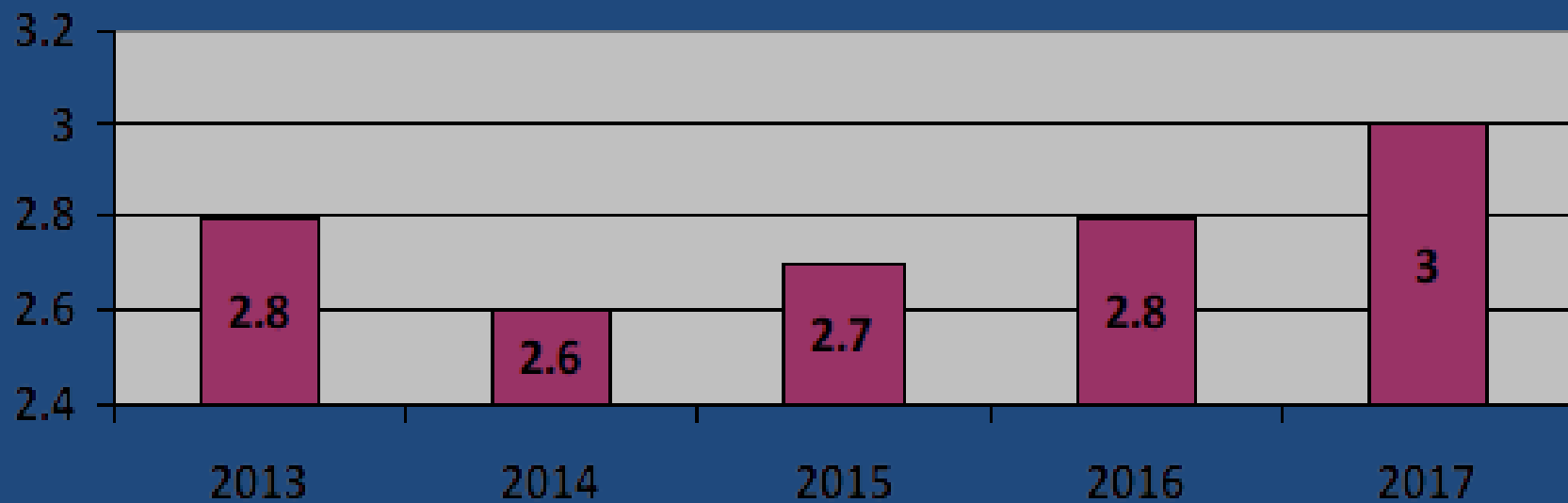
Figure 1.
Number of Use of Force Incidents



2017 = 23.6% decline from 2013; 4.6% increase from 2016

- 630 use of force incidents involved a subject being arrested
- In 2017, the MPD recorded 21,022 arrests
- Overall, 3.00% of all arrests involved the use of force

Figure 2.
Percent of Arrests
that Involved the Use of Force



- The 684 use of force incidents involved 408 different MPD officers (out of 1,883 sworn officers; 22%)
 - Approximately 65% of the 408 officers were involved in just one incident

- Approximately 78% of all MPD sworn officers were not involved in any use of force incidents in 2017

Of the 684 incidents in 2017 (Table 7):

- 68.1% involved bodily force only (466)
- 9.6% involved an ECD only (66)
- 3.7% involved a chemical agent (OC) only (25)
- 1.2% involved a firearm only (8)
- 7.7% involved bodily force and an ECD (53)
- 3.5% involved bodily force and a chemical agent (24)
- 0.1% involved a firearm and other force (1)
- 6.0% involved other force (no firearm) (41)

Type of force used, by year (Table 8)

Type of Force Used	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17
Firearm Alone or with Other	53	46	51	40	40	30	27	26	9
ECD Alone or with Other	85	125	144	101	85	77	65	169	128
OC Alone or with Other	150	154	137	115	89	74	82	49	53

With regard to force with a firearm...

- Of the 9 incidents that involved a firearm in 2017 (Table 9):
 - 5 incidents involved a person (2 fatal; 1 non-fatal; 2 no gunshot injuries)
 - These incidents involved various situations including armed robbery, subject with gun, stolen auto traffic stop, and drug investigation
 - 4 incidents involved a dog (5 dogs total; 2 fatal at scene)
 - Most incidents involved a loose dog during an investigation
 - Most incidents involved pit bulls

Subject of police use of firearm, number of incidents by year (Table 10)

	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17
Person	14	12	15	9	14	8	12	7	5

Subject of police use of firearm, number of incidents by year (Table 10)

	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17
Dog(s)	39	34	36	31	26	22	15	19	4

Finally, with regard to police district of incident (Table 4)...

- In 2017, 154 use of force incidents occurred in Police District 5 (22.8% of total)
- However, District 5 is not substantially different than District 7 (134) or District 3 (133) in this regard
- Districts 3, 5, and 7 account for 62.4% of all force incidents in 2017
- From 2013 to 2017 the number of incidents has declined in each police district except District 1

Questions
and
Comments