

# AN ANALYSIS OF 2015 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS IN THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



## REPORT OF THE FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

200 East Wells Street  
City Hall, Room 706A  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 286-5000

Website: <http://www.milwaukee.gov/fpc>

April 20, 2016

Prepared by:

Steven G. Brandl, Ph.D.  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Criminal Justice Department

## Table of Contents

	page
Introduction.....	1
Frequency of Use of Force Incidents: Summary Baselines.....	2
Metric 1: Use of Force by Day/Month.....	4
Metric 2: Use of Force and Arrests.....	4
Metric 3: Use of Force and Traffic Stops.....	6
Metric 4: Use of Force and Field Interviews.....	6
Metric 5: Officers Involved in Use of Force Incidents...	7
Metric 6: Use of Force and City Population.....	7
Metric 7: Use of Force and Geographic Location Of Incidents.....	7
Situational Characteristics of Use of Force Incidents.....	10
Characteristics of Officers and Subjects Involved In Use of Force Incidents.....	11
Type of Force Used by Officers.....	12
Other Characteristics of Use of Force Incidents.....	15
Force Used Against Dogs.....	16
Data Recommendations.....	17
Summary.....	18

## Introduction

The purpose of this study is to provide an analysis of use of force incidents recorded by the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. This report is part of a continuing systematic effort that began in 2009 to provide an understanding of the nature, frequency, and circumstances of use of force incidents in the MPD. One of the objectives of this study is to provide information on use of force incidents in order to allow one to monitor changes in patterns, trends, and frequency of use of force incidents over time. The report is divided into two main sections: (1) summary metrics and (2) situational characteristics of use of force incidents. The report concludes with data recommendations and a summary of the findings.

The data analyzed here are based on “Use of Force Reports” completed by supervisory officers when a use of force incident occurs. The “Use of Force Reports” provide descriptive details on each use of force incident. The data relate to the incident (e.g., date of incident, district of incident, types of force used in the incident) as well as the officers (e.g., officer age, officer rank) and subjects (e.g., subject age, race) involved in the incident. These data are contained in the MPD Administrative Investigation Management (AIM) system. For this report, the data were manually converted to Excel and then to the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis.<sup>1</sup>

Along with the entry of data into the AIM system for each use of force incident, narrative descriptions of each incident were also written by supervisory officers at the time of the incident. These narratives provide a written description of the incident. They are based on information obtained from the officers involved as well as the subject and other witnesses, if available. These narratives are stored in the AIM system. In preparing this report, these narratives were reviewed and used to verify and, in some cases, supplement the AIM system data. Additional

---

<sup>1</sup> These conversions were performed by David Gelting of the Fire and Police Commission.

data on the number of arrests, traffic stops, and subject stops made by officers in 2015 were obtained separately from the MPD.

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.

This policy was put into place January 1, 2013. Prior to this policy, incidents that involved “bodily force only” without injury or complaint of injury from the subject were not required to be documented, now they are. As a result of this policy change, some of the data from 2013, 2014, and 2015 are not comparable to the data analyzed in 2009 to 2012. Only when appropriate is pre-2013 data compared to post-2013 data.

#### Frequency of Use of Force Incidents: Summary Metrics

From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, there were 705 use of force incidents recorded by the MPD. Of these 705 incidents, 11 were accidental<sup>2</sup> and 12 were for the purpose of euthanizing an injured or diseased animal.<sup>3</sup> As these 23 incidents are fundamentally different from other use of force incidents in the purpose and intent of the force, these incidents are

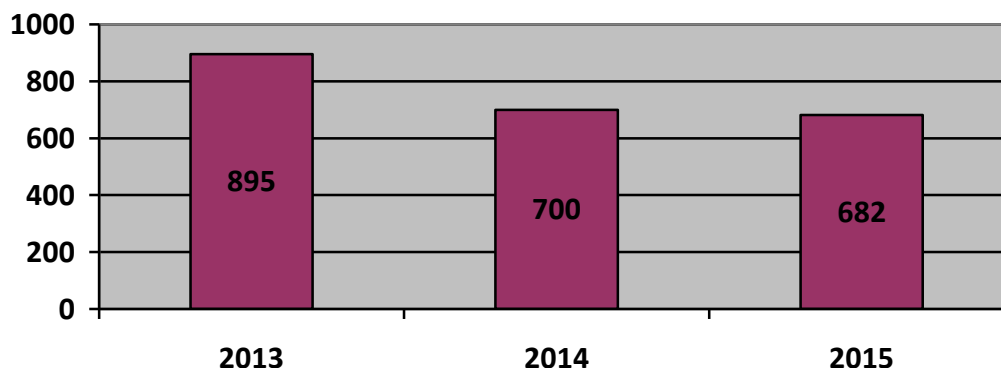
---

<sup>2</sup> Three of these incidents involved the accidental discharge of a firearm and eight involved an accidental discharge of an Electronic Control Device (ECD; Taser). None of these incidents involved a subject.

<sup>3</sup> Nine of these incidents involved deer, one involved a raccoon, one involved a coyote, and one incident involved an injured dog. All of these incidents involved the use of a firearm.

excluded from all subsequent analysis. Accordingly, 682 incidents are analyzed in this report (compared to 895 in 2013, a 23.8% decline; see Figure 1).

**Figure 1.**  
**Number of Use of Force Incidents 2013-2015**



In addition, of the 682 incidents, 16 involved force being used exclusively against one or more dogs. These incidents are included in most of the aggregate totals analyzed in this report and they are also analyzed separately (see p.16).

On the basis of the AIM system and other departmental data, several comparison metrics were computed and are discussed here: (1) number of incidents per day and per month, (2) number of incidents in relation to number of arrests, (3) number of incidents in relation to number of traffic stops, (4) number of incidents in relation to number of subject stops, (5) number of incidents in relation to city population, and (6) number of incidents in each police district and aldermanic district. Each is discussed below.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> The metrics used here have been calculated in other police departments as well; however, comparing use of force baselines across departments is hazardous because practices of defining and recording use of force incidents (as well as arrests, traffic stops, etc.) are not standard across police departments.

*Metric 1: Use of Force by Day/Month*

With 682 incidents occurring from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, there was an average of approximately 1.87 use of force incidents per day (56.8 per month). Table 1 provides a breakdown of the incidents by month.

Table 1. Month of Incident

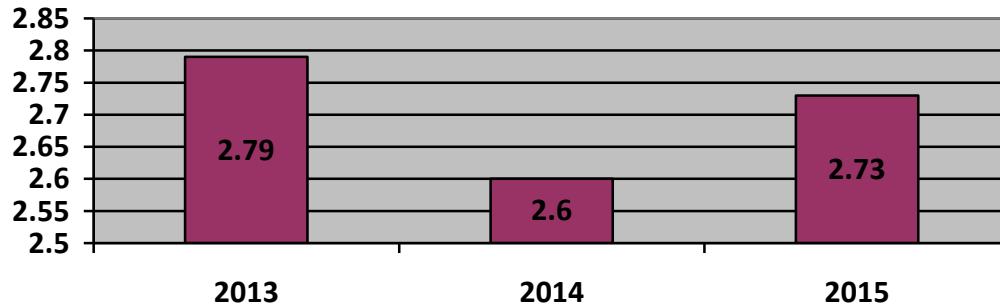
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
56	42	59	61	48	58	59	66	64	68	55	46	682

As seen in Table 1, August, September, and October had the largest number of incidents, December the fewest. In most previous years, June, July, and August had the greatest number of incidents, December the fewest.

*Metric 2: Use of Force and Arrests*

Because most use of force incidents occur during arrests, it is necessary to consider the number of use of force incidents in relation to the number of arrests made. Further, in this calculation, it is important to include only the use of force incidents that also involved an arrest. Again, in 2015 there were 682 use of force incidents. Of these 682 incidents, 666 involved a person who could have potentially been arrested (16 incidents involved only a dog). Of these 666 incidents where someone could have been arrested, in 629 of them a subject was actually arrested. Also during this period, MPD officers made a total of 23,061 arrests (for felonies, misdemeanors, and ordinance violations). Accordingly, for each arrest where force was used, there were approximately 37 arrests where force was not used ( $23,061/629 = 36.7$ ). Overall, in 2015, an average of 2.73 percent of all arrests involved the use of force ( $629/23,061 * 100 = 2.73$ ) (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2.  
Percent of Arrests  
that Involved Use of Force 2013-2015**



Interestingly, and as expected, there is a strong correlation between the number of force incidents that involved an arrest and the total number of arrests, by month ( $r = .65$ ; see Table 2). In essence, one can reasonably (but not perfectly) predict the number of force incidents that involved an arrest based on the total number of arrests that were made. In other words, more arrests translate into more use of force incidents, fewer arrests translate into fewer use of force incidents.

Table 2. Use of Force Arrest Incidents and Total Number of Arrests Made, by Month

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Number of Use of Force Incidents That Involved an Arrest	52	40	53	57	47	48	51	61	62	62	44	43	620
Total Number of Arrests Made	2,049	1,864	2,106	1,911	1,953	1,848	1,971	2,052	1,968	2,002	1,724	1,613	23,061

### *Metric 3: Use of Force and Traffic Stops*

The third metric is a comparison of the number of use of force incidents that resulted from traffic stops to the total number of traffic stops made by officers. As the overwhelming majority of traffic stops that involved force also involved at least one arrest, it must be understood that these traffic stop tallies are not independent of the arrest statistics discussed in Metric 2.

In 2015, MPD officers made 149,721 traffic stops and 46 of them involved the use of force. In total, there were approximately 3,255 traffic stops for each traffic stop that involved the use of force ( $149,721 / 46 = 3,254.8$ ). Overall, an average of approximately .03 percent of traffic stops involved the use of force ( $46 / 149,721 * 100 = .03$ ).

### *Metric 4: Use of Force and Field Interviews*

The fourth metric is a comparison of the number of field interviews (subject stops) where force was used to the total number of field interviews conducted by officers. As with traffic stops, the overwhelming majority of field interviews that involved force also involved at least one arrest. As a result, once again, these field interview figures are not independent of the arrest statistics discussed in Metric 2.

In 2015, MPD officers conducted 46,438 subject stops and 70 of them involved the use of force. There were, on average, 663 subject stops for each stop that involved the use of force ( $46,438 / 70 = 663.4$ ). Overall, an average of approximately .15 percent of subject stops involved the use of force ( $70 / 46,438 * 100 = .15$ ). Based on these data, it is reasonable to conclude that use of force in subject stops is an extremely rare event, and the use of force in traffic stops is even more uncommon.



*Metric 5: Officers Involved in Use of Force Incidents*

The 682 use of force incidents that occurred in 2015 involved 622 different MPD officers. In 2015, the MPD employed 1,900 sworn officers. As such, approximately 33 percent of all MPD officers ( $622/1,900 * 100 = 32.7$ ) were involved in at least one use of force incident in 2015. In other words, approximately 67 percent of all sworn officers were *not* involved in any use of force incidents in 2015.

*Metric 6: Use of Force and City Population*

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the City of Milwaukee had a population of 594,833. Considering the 682 use of force incidents in relation to the population of the city, there was approximately one incident for every 872 Milwaukee residents in 2015.

*Metric 7: Use of Force and Geographic Location of Incidents*

Two variables are related to the geographic location of the incidents: aldermanic district (Table 3) and police district (Table 4). Aldermanic District 7 had the largest share of use of force incidents (13.4%), while District 11 had the smallest share of incidents (1.9%) (See Table 3, p. 8).

Table 4 (p. 8) shows the number of force incidents for each police district from 2013 to 2015. Three aspects of Table 4 are especially noteworthy. First, in 2015 and similar to previous years, District 7 accounted for the greatest share of use of force incidents, although in 2015 District 7 did not differ substantially from Districts 3 or 5 in this regard. Second, from 2013 to 2015, the number of use of force incidents declined in each police district except for District 1. The largest decline in terms of percentage and raw frequency was in District 7 where incidents declined from 242 in 2013 to 152 in 2015 (a difference of 90 incidents or a decline of 37.2%).

Third, and also similar to previous years, Districts 3, 5, and 7 accounted for a large majority of use of force incidents in the city (60.2% in 2015, 59.8% in 2014, and 64.7% in 2013).

Table 3. Location of Use of Force Incidents: Aldermanic District

Aldermanic District	Frequency	Percentage
1	58	8.6
2	51	7.6
3	25	3.7
4	60	8.9
5	18	2.7
6	68	10.1
7	90	13.4
8	35	5.2
9	23	3.4
10	33	4.9
11	13	1.9
12	59	8.8
13	29	4.3
14	23	3.4
15	88	13.1
Total	673	100.0

Note: Missing data (9 cases) are excluded from the analyses due to unknown district.

Table 4. Location of Use of Force Incidents: Police District 2013-2015

Police District	2013 (1)		2014(2)		2015(3)	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
1	33	3.7	58	8.4	48	7.1
2	138	15.6	79	11.5	101	15.0
3	174	19.6	126	18.3	129	19.2
4	84	9.5	77	1.2	66	9.8
5	158	17.8	123	17.9	124	18.4
6	58	6.5	62	9.0	53	7.9
7	242	27.3	162	23.6	152	22.6
Total	887	100.0	687	99.9	673	100.0

Note: (1) Missing data (8 cases) are excluded from the analyses due to unknown district; (2) Missing data (13 cases) are excluded from the analyses due to unknown district, percentage does not total 100 due to rounding; (3) Missing data (9 cases) are excluded from the analyses due to unknown district.

Given the variation in the number of use of force incidents across police district, it may be useful to explore possible corresponding variation in the frequency of force in relation to population and arrests across districts. Table 5 shows the total number of arrests, the number of arrests that involved force, and the percentage of arrests that involved use of force for each district (use of force incidents / total arrests \* 100 = percent of arrests that involved force).

Table 5. Percent of Arrests that Involved Use of Force, by Police District

Police District	Total Arrests Made (a)	Number of Use of Force Incidents That Involved an Arrest (b)	Percent of Arrests that Involved Use of Force
1	1,094	41	3.75
2	4,189	95	2.27
3	4,502	121	2.69
4	2,889	57	1.97
5	3,460	107	3.09
6	2,016	48	2.38
7	3,715	142	3.82

Notes: (a) “Total arrests made” excludes 1,196 arrests because the arrest could not be placed in a district due to the address of the arrest being unknown or unmatched; (b) 9 missing cases (unknown district).

The analyses provided in Table 5 show that, in each district, a small proportion of arrests involve the use of force; the percentage of arrests that involve the use of force ranges from 1.97 percent in District 4 to 3.82 percent in District 7. However, District 7 is not substantially different from District 1 or District 5 in this regard.

Table 6 shows the total number of force incidents, the population of each police district, and the number of residents for each use of force incident, across each district (population / use of force incidents = number of residents for each use of force incident).

Table 6. Frequency of Force and Population, by Police District

Police District	Total Number of Use of Force Incidents (a)	Population (b)	Number of Residents for Each Use of Force Incident (c)
1	48	47,807	996
2	101	85,671	848
3	129	82,030	636
4	66	94,295	1,429
5	124	67,841	547
6	53	114,117	2,153
7	152	102,336	673

Notes: (a) 9 missing cases (unknown district); (b) Population based on 2010 U.S. Census data as reported in the “Milwaukee Police District Statistics” web site; however, the total district population does not equal the city population reported by the 2010 U.S. Census; (c) figures are rounded.

Table 6 shows that, with regard to the population of the district, use of force is least common in District 6 (2,153 residents for each use of force incident) and most common in District 5 (547 residents for each use of force incident). However, District 5 is not substantially different from District 3 or District 7 in this regard. Overall, it is seen from Table 5 and Table 6 that in an absolute and relative sense, the use of force is very uncommon event, even in Districts 3, 5, and 7.

#### Situational Characteristics of Use of Force Incidents

Along with providing metrics on the use of force, the other purpose of this study is to provide an understanding of the circumstances of use of force incidents. The following characteristics of use of force incidents are discussed here: (1) characteristics of officers and subjects involved in use of force incidents, (2) types of force used, (3) other characteristics of use of force incidents, and (4) frequency of force used against dogs.

### *Characteristics of Officers and Subjects Involved in Use of Force Incidents*

The 682 use of force incidents involved 622 MPD officers. Most incidents (405 out of 682; 59.4%) involved one officer, 203 incidents (29.8%) involved two officers, and 74 incidents (10.9%) involved three or more officers. With regard to the number of officers involved in the incidents, 333 officers (of the 622 officers; 53.5%) were involved in just one incident in 2015 and 33 officers (5.3%) were involved in five or more incidents. The most incidents an officer was involved in was ten. Previous analyses show that the best predictor of the number of use of force incidents an officer is involved in is the number of arrests made by that officer. In other words, more arrests are related to more use of force incidents.

In 94 percent of the incidents, the first officer<sup>5</sup> involved was male, in 73 percent the officer was white, in 97 percent of incidents the officer was in uniform, in 99 percent of the incidents the officer was on duty, in 95 percent of incidents the officer was the rank of police officer, and in 82 percent of incidents the officer was assigned to squad patrol. The average (mean) age of the first officer was 36 and the average length of service was ten years. In 18 percent of the incidents, an officer involved in the incident was injured. These characteristics are similar to previous years.

The 666 incidents involved 655 different subjects.<sup>6</sup> Most incidents (96.8%; 645 out of 666) involved just one subject, 20 of 666 incidents (3.0%) involved two or more subjects. In 85 percent of the incidents, the first subject involved was male, in 75 percent the subject was Black, in 36 percent the subject was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, the average age of the

---

<sup>5</sup> Due to the structure of the data, most descriptive statements regarding the officers and subjects relate only to the first officer or subject involved.

<sup>6</sup> In 3 cases the name of the subject was unknown or not provided. Excluded from these analyses are the 16 incidents that only involved a dog.

first subject was 28 years (with a range of 12 to 69), and in 63 percent of incidents the subject was injured, with the greatest proportion (50%) of injuries classified as “minor.” In one incident, the injuries sustained by the subject were fatal (firearm-related). In 16 percent of incidents the subject was armed with a weapon (not including personal weapons such as fists or feet). In 85 percent of incidents, the officer noted that the subject resisted arrest. These characteristics are similar to those in previous years.

*Type of Force Used by Officers*

With regard to the type of force used by the officer(s) in the incident, it is seen in Table 7 that the majority of incidents (72.1%) involved “bodily force only.”

Table 7. Type of Force Used

Type of Forced Used	Frequency	Percentage
Bodily Force Only	492	72.1
ECD Only	35	5.1
Chemical Agent Only (OC)	40	5.9
Firearm Only	26	3.8
Baton Only	2	.3
Bodily Force and OC	38	5.6
Bodily Force and ECD	23	3.4
Bodily Force, OC, Baton	3	.4
Police Canine	4	.6
Bodily Force, ECD, OC	2	.3
Firearm and Bodily Force	1	.1
Other Combination (no firearm)	16	2.3
Total	682	99.9

Note: Percentage does not total 100 due to rounding; ECD refers to Electronic Control Device (a Taser), OC refers to Oleoresin Capsicum Spray.

In total, 27 incidents (4.0%) involved the use of a firearm alone or in combination with another form of force<sup>7</sup> and, as discussed in more detail below, 15 of these incidents involved a dog only. Clearly, in a relative and absolute sense, the use of a firearm in a use of force incident was an uncommon event.

Additional analyses were performed to examine patterns in the types of force used over time (Table 8). These analyses are limited to incidents that involved the use of a chemical agent (OC Spray), an ECD (Taser), or a firearm.<sup>8</sup> First, it is seen that there has been a steady decline in police use of firearms over time. Of the seven years under examination, years 2009 to 2015, 2015 had the fewest number of incidents that involved the police discharge of a firearm (either at a person or a dog). Second, police use of an ECD increased in frequency to 2011, and has declined since 2012. This is a clear pattern but has no obvious explanation. Finally, with regard to the use of OC spray, there was a steady decline from 2009 to 2014, with a slight increase in 2015.

Table 8. Type of Force Used, by Year

Type of Force Used	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Firearm Alone or with Other	53	46	51	40	40	30	27
ECD Alone or with Other (not with firearm)	85	125	144	101	85	77	65
OC Alone or with Other (not with ECD or firearm)	150	154	137	115	89	74	82

<sup>7</sup> Pointing or aiming a firearm (or ECD) without discharging the weapon was not a reportable use of force category.

<sup>8</sup> The 2013 use of force reporting policy change does not preclude an analysis of weapon use (OC Spray, Taser, or firearm) across years but it does preclude an analysis of “bodily force only” incidents. Prior to the policy change of January 1, 2013, all incidents that involved the use of a weapon were required to be reported, but bodily force incidents that did not result in a citizen injury, or a complaint of an injury, were not required to be reported.

It is important to note that certain forms of force were more likely than others to lead to “major” or fatal injuries to subjects. In total, five incidents involved “major” or fatal injuries to subjects, and all five involved a subject being stuck by gunfire. Approximately 42 percent of the time a firearm was used against a subject it led to major or fatal injuries (5 of 12 incidents). As noted, bodily force is by far the most common type of force used against subjects. Most of the time bodily force was used (313 of 563 incidents; 55.6%) subjects sustained at least “minor” injuries.

Analyses also reveal that certain forms of force were more likely than others to lead to officer injuries. Specifically, officers were more likely to be injured when using bodily force than when using a chemical agent or an ECD. There are two ways to look at this issue: (1) 95 percent of officers’ injuries occurred during the use of bodily force and (2) 20.1 percent of bodily force incidents resulted in injury to officers.

Table 9 shows how firearms were used in force incidents. In the rare instance that a firearm was used, 55.6 percent of the time it was used for the purpose of neutralizing a dog.

Table 9. Incidents Where the Force Used was a Firearm

Subject of Firearm	Frequency	Percentage	Result
Dog(s)	15	55.6	11 dogs struck
Subject	12	44.4	8 subjects struck
Total Number of Incidents	27	100.0	--

Of the 12 incidents that involved the use of a firearm against a subject, one involved fatal injuries, seven involved non-fatal injuries, and four resulted in no gunshot injuries (i.e., a subject was shot at but not struck).<sup>9</sup> All 12 incidents involved a subject who was armed (8 with a gun, 2 with a vehicle, 1 with a knife, and 1 with a replica assault rifle). These 12 incidents involved a

<sup>9</sup> In two of the incidents where the subject was shot at but not struck, the subject shot himself.



variety of situations; most were robbery-related. Eleven of the 12 incidents involved on-duty officers.<sup>10</sup>

Table 10 shows the frequency of incidents where dogs and subjects were the focus of the firearm from 2009 to 2015. It is seen that there has been an uneven decline in incidents that involve firearm force against a person and a steady decline in the number of firearm incidents that involve a dog.

Table 10. Subject of Police Use of a Firearm, by Year (Number of Incidents)

Target of Firearm	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Person	14	12	15	9	14	8	12
Dog	39	34	36	31	26	22	15

*Other Characteristics of Use of Force Incidents*

Along with the situational characteristics of use of force incidents that have already been discussed, three additional characteristics are worthy of mention. First, as seen in Table 11 (p. 16), most often use of force incidents occurred as a result of officers conducting investigations or while at calls for service, followed by subject stops and traffic stops. Much of the “other” category was simply identified in the database as “effecting arrest.” Given the absolute volume of police-citizen contacts in these and other situations, the relative rarity of use of force incidents is significant. In addition, approximately equal proportions of use of force incidents occurred at night as during daylight. Finally, most incidents occurred outdoors. These findings are similar to those of previous years.

---

<sup>10</sup> The off-duty officer incident involved an attempted robbery of an officer.

Table 11. Other Characteristics of Use of Force Incidents

Characteristic	freq	%
Activity That Led to Incident	682	100.0
Investigation/Call for Service	268	39.3
Subject Stop	70	10.3
Traffic Stop	46	6.7
Other	298	43.7
Time/Lighting of Incident (1)	680	100.0
Dark/Night	308	45.3
Light/Daytime	337	49.6
Dusk/Dawn	35	5.1
Location of Incident (1)	680	100.0
Indoors	182	26.8
Outdoors	498	73.2

Note: (1) 2 cases missing.

### *Force Used Against Dogs*

Of the 682 use of force incidents that occurred in 2015, 16 involved force being used against at least one dog.<sup>11</sup> One incident involved the use of OC spray and 15 incidents involved the use of a firearm. These 16 incidents involved 16 dogs. Eleven of the dogs were struck by gunfire. In total, of the 16 dogs upon which force was used, six were confirmed at the scene to have sustained fatal injuries.

Of the 16 dogs, 14 (87.5%) were pit bulls. The most common circumstances in which force was used against dogs was when officers were dealing with a loose dog (see Table 12). In

<sup>11</sup> Note that Table 9 and Table 10 (p. 14, p. 15) only include those incidents where a firearm was used against a dog; the analyses reported here include any type of force used against a dog. For comparison, in 2014 there were 26 incidents that involved at least one dog. In 2013 there were 26 incidents that involved at least one dog. In 2012 there were 32 incidents that involved at least one dog. In 2011, there were 38 such incidents, in 2010, there were 35 such incidents, and in 2009 there were 43 such incidents.

two of the 16 incidents, two citizens were bit by the dog prior to force being used against the dog. In no incidents were officers bitten by a dog.

Table 12. Circumstance of Incidents Where Force was Used against Dogs

Circumstance	Frequency	Percentage
Loose Dog	10	62.5
Search Warrant	3	18.8
Shots Fired, Call for Service	1	6.3
Foot Pursuit	1	6.3
Subject Stop	1	6.3
TOTALS	16	100.2

Note: Percentage does not total 100 due to rounding.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to put these incidents into perspective as no reliable estimates of the number of dogs, by breed, in Milwaukee were located, nor are there statistics that indicate the number of dogs that are confronted by MPD officers but are not shot.

#### Data Recommendations

The Use of Force Reports and the AIM system provide a good method for recording and storing details on use of force incidents. Since 2009, and as recommended, numerous significant improvements have been made that enhance the value and utility of these data. In particular, the data appear complete and the narratives associated with the reports are much improved.

However, the AIM system is not particularly well suited for the analysis of data. The process of converting the AIM system data to a format for statistical analyses is labor intensive and time consuming.

Several additional items of information regarding use of force incidents should be captured and coded in order to better understand the effects of force. In particular:

- During the incident, was an officer assaulted (i.e., was an officer intentionally hit, kicked, bit, shot, stabbed, or spat upon)? (0) no, (1) yes.
- If an officer was injured as a result of the incident, what was the nature of those injuries?
- If an officer was injured as a result of the incident, did the officer receive medical treatment at or before the time of the use of force report was completed? (0) no, (1) yes.
- If injured, did the subject receive medical treatment at or before the time of the use of force report was completed? (0) no, (1) yes

In addition, attention should be given to consistently recording the arrest charges against the subject. These improvements may allow for a more complete understanding of use of force incidents in the MPD.

### Summary

This report is part of a continuing effort to better understand use of force incidents in the Milwaukee Police Department. Based on an analysis of the reportable incidents that occurred between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015, the following summary statements can be made:

- There were 682 use of force incidents in 2015, a decrease of 2.57% from 2014 and a decrease of 23.80% from 2013.
- There was an average of 1.87 use of force incidents per day in 2015.
- There were 37 arrests for every one arrest that involved the use of force.
- Approximately 2.73 percent of arrests involved the use of force in 2015.
- There were 3,255 traffic stops for each traffic stop that involved the use of force.
- Approximately .03 percent of traffic stops involved the use of force.
- There were 663 subject stops for each subject stop that involved force.

- Approximately .15 percent of subject stops involved the use of force.
- Approximately 36 percent of MPD sworn officers (622 of 1,900) were involved in at least one use of force incident in 2015. Approximately 54 percent of these 622 officers were involved in just one incident; approximately five percent of the 622 officers were involved in five or more incidents.
- There was one incident of force for every 872 persons in Milwaukee in 2015.
- The largest proportion of use of force incidents in 2015 occurred in Police District 7 (22.6%) and in Aldermanic District 7 (13.4%).
- From 2013 to 2015, the number of use of force incidents declined in every district except District 1. District 7 showed the largest decline in use of force incidents during these years.
- In relation to use of force and arrests made, District 7 had the highest rate of use of force in 2015 and District 4 the lowest rate. In relation to use of force and size of the population, District 5 had the highest rate of use of force and District 6 the lowest rate. In an absolute basis, use of force was a rare event in all districts.
- The most common type of force was “bodily force only” (72.1% of all incidents) followed by “Chemical Agent Only” (5.9%).
- Since 2009, the use of a firearm has declined; from 53 incidents in 2009 to 27 incidents in 2015. The number of incidents that involved shooting at a subject and shooting at a dog have declined since 2009.
- In 2015, 12 of the 27 firearm incidents involved shooting at a subject (one fatality); 15 of the 27 incidents involved shooting at a dog (6 fatalities).
- Since 2009, the use of a chemical agent has steadily declined in frequency with a minor increase in 2015; the use of an ECD increased to 2011 and has declined since.

- Approximately two percent of force incidents (16 of 682) involved force being used against one or more dogs (usually via a firearm but also OC spray). Most of the dogs were pit bulls and the largest proportion these incidents related to a loose dog.

Based on the analyses conducted here, and similar to previous years, the typical use of force incident:

- Involved one uniformed police officer and one subject. The officer was a white male, 36 years old, with ten years of service. The officer used “bodily force only” in the incident. The officer was not injured as a result of the incident. The subject was a Black male, 28 years old. The subject was not armed with a weapon. The subject resisted arrest and sustained “minor” injuries as a result of the incident. The incident most likely occurred outdoors and in daylight.

This study provides information for understanding and interpreting the nature, frequency, and circumstances of use of force incidents in the MPD. The study also provides useful information on data collection practices concerning use of force incidents. These data can be used to monitor use of force incidents over time.