

# ***USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS*** ***2020***



**Roanoke Police Department**  
**April 2021**

# City of Roanoke Police Department

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Roanoke Police Department's annual Use of Force Analysis reflects the department's commitment to transparency and accountability. The purpose of this report is to provide a meaningful statistical analysis of the lethal, less-lethal and non-lethal force used by officers.

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Roanoke Police Department's Use of Force for calendar year 2020. This use of force analysis indicates there was a 21% decrease in use of force incidents in Calendar Year 2020 compared to the previous year. In 2020 the following uses of force were reported by officers:

- Police Incidents Involving the Use of Force-224
- Use of Force Events-410
- Types of Force Utilized-506
- Police Officers with at least 1 Use of Force-129
- Citizens Involved in a Use of Force event-243

## **PURPOSE**

Operational Directive 2.1.22 provides officers guidelines on the use of lethal and less lethal force. The Department recognizes and respects the value and special integrity of each human life. Investing officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare requires a careful balancing of all human interests. Therefore, it is the policy of this department that officers shall use only the amount of force that is reasonably necessary to achieve the officer's lawful objective, while protecting the lives of the officer or another person. Force in excess of what is necessary is prohibited.

Officers are required to submit a detailed written incident report in every situation in which the application of force exceeds verbal levels to overcome physical resistance. In addition, officers shall complete the Department's Use of Force Form as a supplemental report to the standard incident report form, in the following instances:

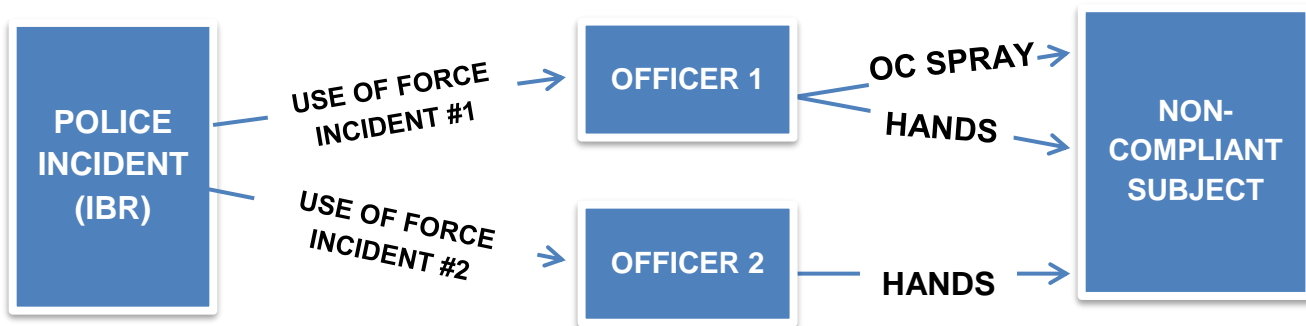
- Every time that an officer must use physical force to overcome physical resistance to the officer's completion of a lawful act
- Every time an officer must use lethal or less lethal weapons to overcome resistance
- Every time an officer must use physical force to protect themselves or others from a physical assault
- Every time an officer is alleged to have inflicted injury to another person during an incident or the officer is injured under the same circumstances

- The Use of Force Report Form is required even if the force applied does not result in the arrest of the party to whom the force is applied.

The electronic Use of Force Form is forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police or his designee for administrative review of all uses of force.

## METHODOLOGY

Police offenses that occur are tracked via an Incident Based Reporting (“IBR”) number. For each IBR number there can be one or more officers involved and one or more of the officers can have used force on a single or multiple subjects. If an officer uses force during a police incident, a “Use of Force” report number is generated through the IAPro/BlueTeam software for each officer that uses force and each subject on whom force is used. Each Use of Force report number will only have one officer and one subject involved but could have multiple types of force techniques used on that single subject.



## ANALYSIS

### INCIDENT ANALYSIS

#### POLICE SERVICES

In 2020, there were 89,671 calls for service, 5,620 traffic stops and 1,406 officer initiated events totally 96,697 citizen contacts. Of those 96,697 contacts, 4,196 arrests were made. Of the 96,697 contacts and 4,196 arrests, police only used force in 224 incidents or only .23% of all citizen contacts and 5% of all arrests. The officers of the Roanoke Police Department did not use force in 99.8% of all citizen contacts or in 95% of arrests. Only one in every 432 citizen contacts resulted in a use of force by officers.

In 2020, both citizen contacts and arrests were down significantly from 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the overall percentage of citizen contacts and arrests that included a use of force remained statistically similar from the previous year.

CITIZEN CONTACTS			
	Total	UF	Non-UF
<b>2020</b>	96,697	224	99.8%
<b>2019</b>	109,482	274	99.7%

ARRESTS			
	Total	UF	Non-UF
<b>2020</b>	4,196	224	94.6%
<b>2019</b>	6,584	274	95.8%

### GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The Roanoke Police Department operates under a geographic policing model. This geographic policing model in the city is based on the creation of four zones. Each zone is subsequently divided into districts. This geographic policing model decreases response times to calls for service, increases accountability to the citizens the Department is committed to serving and increases Department/community interaction. When Zones are referenced in this analysis, the following boundaries apply:

- **Zone 1** - Encompasses the area south of the NS railroad tracks and east of US Route 220 (Additionally, Zone 1 will encompass the area known as “Downtown”)
- **Zone 2** - Encompasses the area north of the NS railroad tracks and east of I-581
- **Zone 3** - Encompasses the area south of the NS railroad tracks and west of US Route 220
- **Zone 4** - Encompasses the area north of the NS railroad tracks and west of I-581

The City of Roanoke had a total population of 99,143 citizens in 2020 which was a one percent decrease from 100,088 residents living in Roanoke in 2019.

Zone	Population	% of Total
<b>1</b>	20,820	21%
<b>2</b>	22,803	23%
<b>3</b>	26,769	27%
<b>4</b>	28,751	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,143</b>	<b>100%</b>

### CALLS FOR SERVICE BY ZONE

Zone 4, which is the most populated zone in the City also continues its historical trend of having the highest volume of calls for service. Calls for Service in 2020 decreased in all zones in 2020 but remained percentage of calls per zone remained similar to the previous two years with no significant increase or decrease in any particular zone.

Zone	2020	% Calls	2019	% Calls	2018	% Calls
<b>1</b>	21,228	24%	24,160	26%	23,500	25%
<b>2</b>	21,325	24%	22,339	24%	22,049	24%

<b>3</b>	17,441	19%	20,442	22%	20,614	22%
<b>4</b>	25,146	28%	26,583	28%	27,308	29%
<b>Citywide**</b>	4,531	5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,671</b>		<b>93,524</b>		<b>93,471</b>	

\*\* Computer Aided Dispatch uses geo-coded coordinates to address the city's mapping system that coordinates to area identifiers. In those instances when calls for service are received by E-911 Communications or are created through officer initiated calls for service or traffic stops and the location of the incident cannot be geo-coded, the default area for this location is designated as Police City Wide (PCW) or AO (Field Command).

### TRAFFIC STOPS BY ZONE

In response to the Covid 19 pandemic during 2020, traffic stops were restricted in order to limit virus exposure to both citizens and officers. There were nearly 60% less stops in 2020 than the previous two years. However, the stops that were conducted were similarly distributed across each zone as they had been in 2019 and 2018. Traffic stops occurred most often, 37%, in Zone 4, the most populated zone in the City of Roanoke.

	2020	% Total	% Changed	2019	% Total	% Changed	2018	% Total
<b>1</b>	1,447	26%	-54%	3,193	23%	-4%	3,324	24%
<b>2</b>	979	17%	-65%	2,828	21%	-9%	3,103	23%
<b>3</b>	1,099	20%	-56%	2,517	18%	-16%	2,986	22%
<b>4</b>	2,081	37%	-58%	5,005	36%	17%	4,261	31%
<b>Citywide</b>	14	< 1%	-93%	200	1%	59%	126	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,620</b>			<b>13,743</b>			<b>13,800</b>	
<b>% Changed</b>	<b>- 59%</b>			<b>- &lt;1%</b>			<b>5%</b>	

\* This data is computed using crime analysis mapping software, which is not as accurate as traditional data extraction methods. However, because traditional data extraction methods do not allow analysts to determine where the traffic stops occurred in reference to a particular zone, crime analysis mapping software must be used to obtain best estimates for the number of traffic stops by zone by year. As a result, the total number of traffic stops by zone by year will differ when compared to the number of traffic stops by year as seen above.

## USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

### USE OF FORCE INVOLVEMENT

The following is an analysis of all use of force incidents reported during 2020. In this analysis comparisons have been made between the years 2019 and 2020 with regard to the type of force used, the citizens and officers involved and the nature of the police service involving the use of force as well as when and where these incidents occurred.

## INCIDENTS INVOLVING USE OF FORCE

There were 224 police incidents which required the use of force by one or more officers in 2020. While this is a 21% decrease from 2019, it is difficult to make comparisons to previous years due to reduction in police services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the number of use of force incident reports decreased as well to 409 in 2020 from 436 in 2019.

	2020	% Change	2019	% Change	2018
<b>Police Incidents</b>	224	-18%	273	12%	244
<b>Use of Force Incident Reports</b>	410	-6%	436	6%	412

## USE OF FORCE GEOGRAPHY

Zone 4 continued its historical pattern of having both the highest number of use of force incidents and the highest percentage of all zones in 2020. Zone 4 did see a decrease in the percentage of overall use of forces from 33% in 2019 to 29% in 2020. Zone 1 including the Downtown area were the only areas of the City to see an increase of use of force incidents in 2020.

	2020		2019		2018	
<b>Beat</b>	40	10%	26	6%	45	11%
<b>Zone 1</b>	94	23%	85	19%	58	14%
<b>Zone 2</b>	70	17%	80	18%	101	25%
<b>Zone 3</b>	83	20%	89	20%	80	19%
<b>Zone 4</b>	119	29%	146	33%	127	31%
<b>Other Jurisdiction</b>	4	1%	10	2%	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>100%</b>

## TIME AND DAY

During 2020, 47% of all police incidents that required a use of force occurred on the weekends from Friday through Sunday which remains unchanged historically. In 2018 and 2019 Fridays through Sunday were also approximately 50% of the police incidents involving a use of force.

Use of force incidents occurred most frequently on Saturdays in 2020 which is a 7% increase over the previous year. However, Fridays saw the biggest decrease in Use of Force events falling from 20% of the total events in 2019 to only 11% in 2020.



Day	2020	2019	2018
<b>Sunday</b>	37	48	48
<b>Monday</b>	23	26	32
<b>Tuesday</b>	24	46	25
<b>Wednesday</b>	33	30	33
<b>Thursday</b>	40	34	31
<b>Friday</b>	27	54	33
<b>Saturday</b>	45	34	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>244</b>

Similar to the previous year, the use of force was utilized most often, 35% of the time, in 2020 during the evening hours between 1800 and midnight. The largest decrease in uses of force during a particular time period was between the morning hours between 0600 and noon which dropped in half to only 9% of all uses of force.

Time Range	2020	2019	2018
<b>0000 - 0600</b>	112	90	103
<b>0601 - 1200</b>	36	79	69
<b>1200 - 1800</b>	119	119	132
<b>1800 - 2359</b>	143	148	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>411</b>

### USE OF FORCE REASON

There were 410 Use of Force incidents in 2020 as compared to 437 in 2019. Analysis indicates that the primary reason for force in almost a third of all use of force incidents continues to involve subjects who are resisting arrest or fleeing which remains unchanged from previous years. Only the use of force on a combative subject saw any significant statistical change in the overall makeup of types of force utilized during 2020, down 5% from 2019.

Reason	2020		2019		2018	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Assaulting Citizen(s)</b>	29	7%	33	8%	37	9%
<b>Assaulting Officer(s)</b>	34	8%	39	9%	15	4%
<b>Combative Subject</b>	41	10%	66	15%	57	14%
<b>Damage to City Property</b>	1	0%	2	0%	1	0%
<b>Damage to Private Property</b>	1	0%	2	0%	0	0%
<b>Non-Compliance</b>	101	25%	92	21%	100	24%
<b>Possible Weapon Involved</b>	55	13%	50	11%	37	9%
<b>Resisting Arrest/ Fleeing</b>	129	31%	139	32%	147	36%
<b>Traffic Stop/Eluding</b>	19	5%	14	3%	18	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>		<b>437</b>		<b>412</b>	

## TYPES OF FORCE USED

The following data is a breakdown of the reported types of force used by officers for the years 2018 through 2020. These totals represent the total amount of utilizations of types of force associated with the respective use of force incidents.

The use of physical force by officers (hands, knee strikes, using their body weight, etc.) was overwhelmingly, 58% of all uses of force types, the most prevalent type of force used against subjects just as it has been traditionally each year. The largest increase in usage of a specific type of force, however, was in the display of the CEW (“Taser”). The reason for the significant increase in 2020 was that 2019 was the first year the department purchased and began utilizing this tool. The first CEW was not utilized by the department until July of 2019. 2020 was the first full year that data could be gathered on the use of the CEW by the department.

Force Type	2020	%	2019	%	2018	%
<b>40mm</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Baton</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>CEW</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<i>CEW-Deployed-Contact Made</i>	2	0%	4	1%		
<i>CEW-Deployed-Drive Stun</i>	4	1%	1	0%		
<i>CEW-Deployed-Missed</i>	1	0%	0	0%		
<i>CEW-Displayed-Arc &amp; Painted</i>	1	0%	1	0%		
<i>CEW-Displayed-Arc Only</i>	1	0%	1	0%		
<i>CEW-Displayed-Painted Only</i>	23	5%	8	2%		
<i>CEW-Displayed-Threat Only</i>	6	1%	6	1%		
<b>Clearout</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>CS Gas</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Handgun</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>12%</b>
<i>Handgun-Discharged</i>	2	0%	2	0%	1	0%
<i>Handgun-Displayed Only</i>	74	15%	69	13%	58	12%
<b>Improvised Weapon</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>K-9 Bite</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Less Lethal Shotgun ERID</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>M4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>OC Spray</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Patrol Rifle</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>
<i>Patrol Rifle-Display Only</i>	5	1%	2	0%	4	1%
<b>Pepperball</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Physical Force</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>PID</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<i>Shotgun-Display Only</i>	0	0%	4	1%	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>		<b>526</b>		<b>478</b>	

The most notable incident regarding the department’s use of force during 2020 began on May 30, 2020. On that day hundreds of community members gathered in the City of Roanoke at Washington Park to protest the death of George Floyd who was killed by police in Minneapolis, MN. At the conclusion of that event, those in attendance marched through Downtown and towards the Police Department. Due to the violence and destruction being levied against law enforcement throughout the country in other George Floyd protests, Campbell Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> street was closed in order to secure the department. Officers deployed pepper balls, OC spray and utilized their CEW’s in response to the agitated crowd that pushed its way through police barriers on Campbell Avenue after they had been ordered to leave and an unlawful assembly had been declared.

Additionally, throughout the evening of May 30<sup>th</sup> into the early morning hours of May 31<sup>st</sup>, the large crowds of protestors moved to various private business throughout the City and back to the Downtown area where force was used to disperse crowds, break up fights between protesters and to affect several arrests. Twenty uses of force were attributed to this event alone. All uses of force during these events were reviewed per Operational Directive #2.1.22, Use of Force, and were found to be justified and within policy.

There was a single officer involved shooting in 2020 which involved one suspect and two officers. Officers were trying to identify an individual who was possibly linked to an earlier shooting when that individuals began fleeing on foot from officers. As the officers chased the subject, the suspect then opened fire on both officers. Officers returned fire killing the suspect. Virginia State Police and the Office of Professional Standards conducted separate (but parallel) investigations into the officers’ actions. Both investigations concluded that the two officers acted within the law and within departmental policy.

**CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (TASER)**

In July of 2019, the Roanoke Police Department began using Conducted Electrical Weapons or “Tasers” for the first time in its history as an additional less lethal option in order to reduce officer and citizen injuries. An initial purchase of 20 Tasers X2’s was made with an additional 16 units subsequently added. In 2020, the number of department owned Tasers rose to 59 and there are currently 54 officers who are trained and equipped with Tasers.

**CEW USE**

During the second year of CEW deployment and first full calendar year of usage, officers utilized their Tasers 38 times. Of those 38 incidents, officers only fully deployed their Taser three times. Simply put, 92% of Taser incidents were resolved without projectile deployment. This would indicate that the the warning of a Taser is an effective less lethal aid in a use of force occurrences.

CEW USE	Total	%
<b>Deployed</b>		
Contact Made	2	5%

Missed Target	1	3%
Drive Stun	4	11%
<b>Displayed or Threat Only</b>		
Arc & Painted	1	3%
Arc Only	1	3%
Painted Only	23	61%
Threat Only	6	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	

Officers most often utilized their CEW's for subjects that were non-compliant. These incidents accounted for 14 of the 38 CEW uses or 37% overall.

CEW REASON	Total	%
<b>Assaulting Officer(s)</b>	1	3%
<b>Combative Subject</b>	6	16%
<b>Non-Compliance</b>	14	37%
<b>Possible Weapon Involved</b>	8	21%
<b>Resisting Arrest/ Fleeing</b>	9	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	

## NATURE OF POLICE SERVICE INVOLVING A USE OF FORCE

Calls for service resulted in an officer using force more often than any other type of police service in 2020, which is historically similar to previous years. The number of uses of force in 2020 resulting from calls for service accounted for nearly 60% of all use of force events. No other response type resulted in a significant amount of use of force incidents in comparison to calls for service. Incidents with wanted subjects had the second highest amount of force used to affect an arrest but were only 41 of the 409 use of force reports.

### SERVICE TYPE

Service Type	2020		2019		2018	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Accident Investigation</b>	7	3%	3	1%	3	1%
<b>Call for Service</b>	130	58%	153	56%	128	52%
<b>Court</b>	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Drug Investigation</b>	8	4%	12	4%	14	6%
<b>Follow-up Investigation</b>	2	1%	5	2%	1	0%
<b>None</b>	2	1%	1	0%	0	0%
<b>Off Duty Security</b>	1	0%	3	1%	0	0%
<b>Prisoner Transport</b>	3	1%	2	1%	2	1%

<b>Public Service</b>	6	3%	2	1%	1	0%
<b>Restraining</b>	8	4%	13	5%	16	7%
<b>School Incident</b>	2	1%	12	4%	14	6%
<b>Search Warrant</b>	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%
<b>Self-Initiated Call</b>	23	10%	29	11%	27	11%
<b>Traffic Stop</b>	18	8%	27	10%	17	7%
<b>Wanted Subject</b>	25	11%	23	8%	32	13%
<b>Warrant Service</b>	17	8%	21	8%	24	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>		<b>273</b>		<b>244</b>	

### **SERVICE TYPE BY DEMOGRAPHIC**

Uses of force resulted most often in 2020 (and historically) from officers responding to calls for service. In the instances where race and sex could be determined (non-crowd situations), force was used on black males in 54% of events that required an escalated response and 46% of the time for white males. However, in comparing the percentage of time a call for service resulted in a use of force was nearly equal for both black males (27%) and white males (25%).

Force used against females also overwhelmingly (55%) resulted from calls for service compared to any other service type. In 2020, the use of force during calls for service occurred in both white females and black females almost equally. Overall, calls for service resulted in the use of force more often for white females as compared to black females (28% to 24%). However, no uses of force occurred during officer initiated contacts with white females in comparison to 5 (9%) for black females. Overall though there were no significant differences noted between races or gender in the types of police contacts that resulted in uses of force.

### **MALES**

Service Type	B		W		H		A		Total	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Accident Investigation</b>	3	1%	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%	5	2%
<b>Call for Service</b>	51	27%	41	25%	2	1%	0	0%	93	53%
<b>Court</b>	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%
<b>Drug Investigation</b>	3	2%	3	1%	0	0%	0	0%	6	3%
<b>Follow-up Investigation</b>	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%
<b>Off Duty Security</b>	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%
<b>Prisoner Transport</b>	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	1%
<b>Public Service</b>	2	1%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%
<b>Restraining</b>	3	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	2%
<b>School Incident</b>	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
<b>Self-Initiated Call</b>	11	5%	7	3%	0	0%	0	0%	18	8%
<b>Traffic Stop</b>	9	4%	5	5%	0	0%	0	0%	14	9%
<b>Wanted Subject</b>	12	4%	8	6%	0	0%	0	0%	20	11%
<b>Warrant Service</b>	11	4%	5	3%	0	0%	0	0%	16	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100%</b>

## FEMALES

Service Type	B		W		H		A		Total	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Accident Investigation	1	1%	2	4%	0	0%	0	0%	3	5%
Call for Service	17	24%	18	28%	1	2%	1	1%	36	55%
Drug Investigation	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	2	2%
Prisoner Transport	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Public Service	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Restraining	1	2%	3	3%	0	0%	0	0%	4	5%
School Incident	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
Self-Initiated Call	5	9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	9%
Traffic Stop	3	4%	2	3%	1	1%	0	0%	6	9%
Wanted Subject	3	5%	2	4%	0	0%	0	0%	5	10%
Warrant Service	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>

## INVOLVED OFFICER ANALYSIS

### RESPONDING OFFICERS

The number of police officers who used force in 2020 continues to drop significantly from the previous two years. There were 8% (129 compared to 140) fewer officers involved in use of force events in 2019 than in 2018. The number of officers who have used force at least once during the year has decreased nearly 20% since 2018.

2020	2019	2018
129	140	160
-8%	-13%	

In 2020, the number of responding officers did not seem to have any direct correlation on the number of uses of force that occurred. Of 224 police incidents involving a use of force in 2020, only one officer used force during the situation in 107 incidents or 48% of the time. Multiple officers used force 117 times or 52% of the total incidents where there was forced used.

# of Officers Using Force	# of Incidents	% of Total
<b>Single Officer</b>	107	48%
<b>Multiple Officers</b>	117	52%
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>224</b>	

## OFFICER DEMOGRAPHICS

### TENURE

Overwhelmingly officers with less than 5 years of service were involved in use of force events. However, this directly correlates to the tenure of officers department wide in 2020 where 31% of all officers had served less than 5 years.

TENURE RANGE	2020		2019		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>0-4</b>	57	44%	64	46%	59	37%
<b>5-9</b>	36	28%	36	26%	45	28%
<b>10-14</b>	14	11%	25	18%	29	18%
<b>15-19</b>	14	11%	11	8%	19	12%
<b>20-24</b>	6	5%	3	2%	7	4%
<b>25+</b>	2	2%	1	1%	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>		<b>140</b>		<b>161</b>	

### AGE

Over 50% of the police officers who used force in 2020 were under the age of 30 which is not unexpected due to the age of officers department wide. 32% of all officers in the Roanoke Police Department were under the age 30 at the end of 2020.

AGE RANGE	2020		2019		2018	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>21-30</b>	69	53%	73	52%	70	43%
<b>31-40</b>	40	31%	50	36%	58	36%
<b>41-50</b>	16	12%	15	11%	28	17%
<b>&gt;50</b>	4	3%	2	1%	5	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>		<b>140</b>		<b>161</b>	

### ASSIGNMENT

Bravo and Delta platoons accounted for nearly half (48%) of all use of force incidents for the department in 2020. Despite the reduced number of citizen contacts in 2020, Bravo Platoon had 37

more use of force incidents in 2020 than in 2019. Bravo Platoon generated nearly a quarter (24%) of total use of force incidents in 2020 where as in 2020 they were only 14% of the overall incidents that were reported. Alpha Platoon saw the biggest decrease in use of force events with 46 fewer in 2020 than in 2019.

	2020		2019		2018	
<b>Alpha</b>	60	15%	106	24%	116	28%
<b>Bravo</b>	100	24%	63	14%	68	17%
<b>Charlie</b>	91	22%	91	21%	57	14%
<b>Delta</b>	98	24%	85	19%	62	15%
<b>CRT</b>	52	13%	81	19%	98	24%
<b>Investigations &amp; Services</b>	9	2%	11	3%	9	2%
<b>Professional Standards</b>	-	-	-	-	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>		<b>437</b>		<b>411</b>	

## INVOLVED CITIZEN ANALYSIS

### CITIZEN DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the identifiable (where race and gender were known) citizens involved in use of force events, 183 were males (74%) and 65 were females (26%). In historical alignment with previous years, use of force events occurred most frequently in 2020 with males between the ages of 20-29 (39%), specifically in black males (59%) between the ages of 20-29 (26%).

Males under the age of 20 saw the biggest decline in use of force incidents in 2020, dropping from 18% of total uses of force involving males in 2019 to only 7% in 2020. This sharp decrease could likely be attributed to the closure of in person learning at City schools in 2020 due to the Covid 19 health pandemic. This is also supported by the sharp decrease in uses of force with females under the age of 20. In 2019, females under the age of 20 contributed to 44% of all females involved in uses of force. However, in 2020, that number was only 11%.

While the rise in ages of females involved in uses of force saw a dramatic difference in 2020, the relationship to gender remained virtually identical to 2019. 52% of all uses of force involving a female were Black females, 43% were White females, 3% were Hispanic females and 2% were Asian females which is nearly identical to 2019.

### MALES

2020					
AGE	B	W	H	Other	Total
<20	8	4	0	0	12

2019					
AGE	B	W	H	Other	Total
<20	34	8	2	0	44

2018					
AGE	B	W	H	Other	Total
<20	28	2	2	0	32



<b>20-29</b>	47	24	0	0	<b>71</b>
<b>30-39</b>	23	29	2	0	<b>54</b>
<b>40-49</b>	27	13	0	0	<b>40</b>
<b>50-59</b>	1	2	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>60+</b>	2	1	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>183</b>

<b>20-29</b>	52	30	0	1	<b>83</b>
<b>30-39</b>	21	39	1	0	<b>61</b>
<b>40-49</b>	24	30	1	0	<b>55</b>
<b>50-59</b>	1	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>60+</b>	1	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>247</b>

<b>20-29</b>	48	28	6	0	<b>82</b>
<b>30-39</b>	24	28	2	0	<b>54</b>
<b>40-49</b>	12	22	0	0	<b>34</b>
<b>50-59</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>60+</b>	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>203</b>

### FEMALES

2020					
AGE	B	W	H	Other	Total
<20	6	1	0	0	7
20-29	18	5	1	1	25
30-39	5	12	1	0	18
40-49	4	9	0	0	13
50-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>

2019					
AGE	B	W	H	Other	Total
<20	17	8	0	0	25
20-29	7	9	0	0	16
30-39	2	5	0	1	8
40-49	4	3	0	0	7
50-59	1	0	0	0	1
60+	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>

2018					
AGE	B	W	H	Other	Total
<20	18	4	1	0	23
20-29	15	3	0	0	18
30-39	5	6	0	0	11
40-49	4	6	0	0	10
50-59	0	0	0	0	0
60+	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>

### CITIZEN IMPAIRMENTS

Over half (223 or 54%) of all citizens involved in uses of force in 2020 were under the influence of one or more judgement altering conditions (alcohol, drugs or a mental health crisis.) This rate is statistically similar to the two previous years which were 53% in 2019 and 54% in 2018. Alcohol (111 or 27%) and Mental Health issues (115 or 28%) were almost equally the most prevalent condition in uses of force in 2020. 76 (19%) subjects were reported to have multiple impairments during their use of force event.

Impairment Type	2020	%	2019	%	2018	%
Alcohol	66	16%	85	19%	81	20%
Alcohol, Drugs	17	4%	10	2%	28	7%
Alcohol, Drugs, Mentally Unstable	15	4%	3	1%	10	2%
Alcohol, Mentally Unstable	13	3%	16	4%	16	4%
Drugs	25	6%	32	7%	25	6%
Drugs, Mentally Unstable	31	8%	24	5%	20	5%
Mentally unstable	56	14%	65	15%	43	10%
None	82	20%	131	30%	134	33%
Unknown	105	26%	71	16%	54	13%

<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100%</b>
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## INJURIES

### OFFICER INJURIES

In 2020, Officers complained of pain or reported minor injuries as a result of a use of force 19 times (5%) which is down slightly from 8% the previous year. However, there were more use of force incidents in 2019 which means the overall percent of injured officers was slightly lower than in 2018. Only two of those injuries reported in 2019 were severe enough to require medical care by the officer. This is down significantly, 31% from 2018. While officers used force more often in 2019, they were less likely to suffer significant injuries.

<b>OFFICER INJURIES</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Complaint of Pain	2	6
Minor Injury	17	25
No injuries noted or visible	391	406
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>437</b>

### CITIZEN INJURIES

Of the 410 use of force reports by officers, officers reported 32 out of 243 individuals some experienced some level of injury from complaints of pain to a single fatal injury. The number of individuals complaining of pain or injured in a use of force event dropped nearly in half from 2019. Most of this reduction was due to less minor injuries occurring to individuals.

There was one officer involved shooting which resulted in the death of a subject during 2020. During this event, two officers were chasing a subject who was believed to have been involved in an earlier shooting. The individual fired his a weapon at both officers. Officers returned fire and hit the individual who later died at the hospital. An investigation into the officer involved shooting was conducted by the Virginia State Police. This investigation concluded that officers acted within the law. The Officer of Professional Standards also investigated this incident in regards to departmental policy and procedures. That investigation also concluded that the officers' actions were justified and within departmental policy.

<b>Reported Injuries by Officers</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>No Injuries</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Injuries</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>19%</b>
Complaint of Pain	3	1%	6	1%
Minor Injury	37	9%	74	17%

Fatal Injury	2	0%	1	0%
Unknown due to prior injuries	1	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>		<b>437</b>	

## USE OF FORCE POLICY COMPLIANCE

There were seven investigations involving 13 officers by the Office of Professional Standards concerning the use of force in 2020. Two of the seven were citizen complaints and the remaining five were internal investigations. Five of the seven investigations were presented to the Disciplinary Review Board which consists of Command Staff and Citizen Volunteers. One investigation was terminated when the complainant could not be reached after multiple attempts by investigators. One investigation was reviewed by the Chief of Police and deemed to be unfounded based up body camera video.

Allegations against three of those 13 officers were sustained which resulted in two officers being suspended and one officer receiving a written reprimand after a review of the investigation by the Disciplinary Review Board and the Chief of Police.

## CONCLUSION

Recruits and officers are trained to think objectively and critically in potential limited situations at times to de-escalate. If de-escalation isn't successful or the incident rises above the application of de-escalation immediantly, then the least amount of force is taught to use or apply to accomplish lawful objectives. The goal in dealing with uncooperative subject(s) whether verbally or physically is to detain or arrest in a manner that causes the least harm or injury to the subject and officer within lawful application and policy standards.

There were several significant factors in the use of force by officers in 2020. The first of those is the tenure of the department. Half of the department's front line officers (excluding Lieutenants and above) only have one to five years of service. Officers with fewer years of service historically have more difficulty communicating and gaining rapport with citizens.

Continous training dealing with issues such as search and seizure, and laws of arrests continue to be critical components of department training to ensure that officers continue to be prepared for every situation that they encounter. With 48 sworn personnel leaving employment with the Roanoke Police Department in 2020 the disparity in age and tenure of officers will continue to be a challenge to the department specifically in the use of force. A focused study of attrition within the department and formal effort at the retention of experienced officers could positively impact the use of force by officers and its relationship within the community.

Secondly, the mental condition of a subject involved in a use of force incident continues to be a major contributing factor in uses of force. Over half of all citizens involved in uses of force in 2020 were under the influence of one or more mental health impairments (alcohol, drugs or mental health crisis.) Additionally, force was necessary by officers on 31 ECO's that were served which is 14% of all police incidents involving force in 2020.

The Roanoke Police Department continues to incorporate the Use of Force Operational Directive 2.1.22 as a guide in daily operations. This directive is taught and referred to continuously during academy training to recruits and sworn personnel. In addition to OD 2.1.22, verbal communication, de-escalation, crisis intervention training (CIT), diversity and inclusion, and various extended training outside of the police academy are offered and required for recruits and officers to participate in. PowerDMS, on-line training, is required for all personnel to complete with continuous updated policies, case laws, and standards added throughout the calendar year. The department also offers full access to its personnel to an on-line program called, "In the Line of Duty," that has courses, articles and information related to law enforcement.

In 2020, one recruit class graduated, Class 79. Class 79 had an estimated 135 hours of defensive tactics and estimated 74 hours of physical training. Additionally, Class 79 also had approximately 148 hours of De-escalation, crisis intervention training (CIT), Active Shooter, Use of Force, Firearms, Foot Pursuit, and OC Spray training. Covid 19 greatly impacted the opportunities for officer training in 2020, despite that 187 officers within the department participated in over 2,260 hours of force related training including De-escalation, CIT, Taser, Pepperball, Defensive Tactics and related In-Service training in 2020. Continuous training ensures that officers use of force is within policy and consistent with the expectations of the community.

Officers with the Roanoke Police Department had 96,697 citizen contacts in 2020. 224 of those incidents resulted in a use of force which is a use of force rate of .232%. Officers of this Department did not use force 99.77% of the time during a citizen contact.

In 2020, The Roanoke Police Department was faced with extraordinary challenges including a global health pandemic and violent protests within the City. Despite these challenges, the overall percentage of use of force demographics in most categories remained consistent with previous years with, the tenure of officers and the impairment of citizens remain significant areas of concern regarding the use of force.

While the equipment issued to officers to deal with potential use of force incidents is more than adequate to meet the Department's legal and lawful mission, the addition of the Conducted Electrical Weapon as a less lethal option has been successfully implemented and should affect a more positive impact on the use of force going forward once more data is available. Operational Directive 2.1.22, Use of Force, was reviewed as a part of this analysis and found to need no modification.