

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



**ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT
2018**

Chief's Message:

The Montgomery County Department of Police believes that letting the public know what we do to enforce the law and how we do it is one of the cornerstones to forging a bond of trust between the Department and the public we serve. We take complaints about excessive use of force seriously. All complaints are investigated by our Internal Affairs Division, and in some cases, our work on a case is reviewed by an agency outside of Montgomery County.



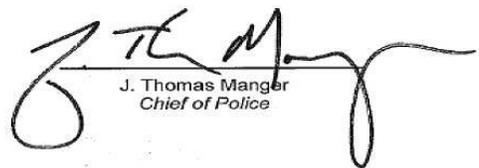
That is also why we publish this annual Use of Force report, and why we publish reports on overall crime in Montgomery County, on police pursuits, and on incidence and investigation of bias incidents. We believe in transparency and accountability. The Use of Force report can be of particular interest to the public because of the potential for injury to the suspect and to the police officer during a call for service or an arrest.

We have a strict use of force policy as specified in department policy and procedures. Montgomery County police officers receive extensive entry-level and in-service training focused on using only the amount of force necessary to control an incident, affect an arrest, or protect themselves or others from harm or death. We emphasize gaining compliance through an understanding of psychological factors and using communication skills to de-escalate situations when possible, and to minimize the amount of force used.

In 2018, there were 542 uses of force reported, an increase of 3.6 percent from the year before. That means force was used by officers in 0.25 percent of the total dispatched calls for service, and only used in 2.9 percent of all arrests made by officers. In the vast majority of those incidents, 483 out of the 542, officers used no weapons. Instead, officers used their hands attempting to handcuff a suspect or otherwise gain control of them.

It is unfortunate that there were three incidents of deadly force in 2018, the same as in 2017. Our procedures and policy are based on U.S. Supreme Court case law and other rulings that govern when force may be used, including considerations of potential harm to the officer and others. Each incident in which force is used is documented in a Use of Force Report is reviewed by a supervisor, a police commander, and an Assistant Chief.

There is a great deal of information contained in this report. Some of it may prompt other questions from you. I encourage you to contact me via e-mail at CHIEFMCPD@montgomerycountymd.gov and we will respond to your inquiries.


J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police

INTRODUCTION

The information presented in this annual report is obtained from the *Use of Force* reports completed by officers for incidents in calendar year 2018 where some type of force was used. This report is intended to provide an overview of the incidents involving use of force by police officers and to also identify trends and other issues that need to be addressed. In addition, annual reporting and analysis of department use of force policies and procedures is required by the *Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)* to help agencies identify policy modifications, trends, improve training and officer safety, and provide timely information for the agency to promptly address use of force issues. The Montgomery County Department of Police is dedicated to creating a culture of safety, transparency, and accountability.

The Montgomery County Department of Police has been a CALEA-accredited law enforcement agency since 1993. The CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation Program is the primary method for an agency to voluntarily demonstrate their commitment to excellence in law enforcement by systematically conducting an ongoing internal review and assessment of the agency's operations, policies and procedures, and make adjustments wherever necessary, to meet a body of internationally accepted standards.

Since each use of force report is reviewed by supervisors and command staff at various levels within the department, individual events are not captured in this report, except for those that may involve unusual circumstances or need further clarification. Montgomery County police officers undergo extensive entry-level and in-service training focused on using only the amount of force necessary to control an incident, affect an arrest, or protect themselves or others from harm or death as specified in department policy and procedures. An integral component of these training programs is focused on the use of communication skills, de-escalation techniques, and use of less lethal options to help safely diffuse situations that may unnecessarily escalate to circumstances requiring officers to resort to deadly force. The department's use of force training goes beyond addressing use of force options, levels of resistance, and case law. Most importantly, it emphasizes gaining compliance through understanding of psychological factors and using communication skills and other techniques to de-escalate situations when possible, and minimize the amount of force used.

The police department's *Use of Force Policy* (FC 131) states that officers may only use force which is objectively reasonable to make an arrest; an investigatory stop/detention or other seizure; or in the performance of their lawful duties, to protect themselves or others from personal attack, physical resistance, harm, or death. The decision to exercise force must be based upon the circumstances that the officer reasonably believes to exist. In determining the appropriate level of force to be used by an officer, the nature of the threat or resistance faced or perceived by the officer as compared to the force employed should be considered. However, officers must sometimes make split-second decisions about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Nevertheless, when it is practicable, officers strive to always de-escalate a situation before resorting to using any type of force.

Per department policy, an officer is required to complete a MCP 37 - *Use of Force Report*, and an event report, for an incident that involves any of the following circumstances:

- *Anytime force is used to counteract a physical struggle.*
- *Following the use of any force which results in an injury to an individual.*

- *When an individual claims to have been injured as a result of use of force.*
- *Whenever force is applied using a protective instrument.*
- *Whenever a firearm is discharged other than authorized target practice.*
- *Whenever a department canine inflicts injury on any subject or suspect in conjunction with a canine deployment.*
- *Anytime an officer is assaulted or ambushed.*

An on-duty patrol supervisor is required to respond to all *Electronic Control Weapon (ECW)* deployments, firearm discharges (except for the humane destruction of non-domestic animals), use of 12-gauge impact projectiles, and any use of force incident that results in serious bodily injury or in-custody death. Supervisors are also required to notify the MCPD Major Crimes Division of any situations that meet the following criteria:

- *All intentional firearm discharges by an employee, whether injuries occur or not, with the exception of authorized range practice or the destruction of dangerous or injured animals;*
- *All accidental firearm discharges by an employee that result in an injury to anyone, including the involved officer; and*
- *All incidents where an individual sustains life-threatening injury as a result of police action.*

All use of force reports are reviewed to verify compliance with department policy by a patrol supervisor, a District Executive, and the Assistant Chiefs of the respective bureau depending on the organizational component the involved officer(s) is assigned to. Moreover, the department's *Body Worn Camera (BWC)* program includes approximately 1,000 officers who are equipped with this technology that helps document interactions between the police and individuals involved in the majority of calls for service. The department's use of force policy requires supervisors to review all body camera footage captured for all incidents where officers use any type of force that results in a use of force report being completed. These cameras help promote agency accountability and transparency, and are useful tools for increasing officer professionalism, improving officer training, preserving evidence, supporting prosecutions, and accurately documenting encounters with the public. The department also implemented a web-based *Electronic Use of Force Reporting Tool* in 2018 that provides an automated platform for officers to submit all use of force reports on-line using their in-car mobile computers or station computers. This system makes possible more timely submission, review, approval, tracking, and accountability for all use of force reports.

OVERVIEW

Based on a comprehensive review and analysis of the use of force reports submitted by MCPD officers in 2018, the following are highlights of the results that are detailed in various sections throughout this report:

- MCPD officers reported a total of 542 use of force incidents; an increase of 3.6 percent from the previous year.
- Force was used by officers in 0.25 percent of the total dispatched calls for service.
- Force was only used in 2.9 percent of all arrests made by officers.
- Three districts (*Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Silver Spring*) experienced decreases in the number of reported use of force incidents from the previous year, while three districts (*Bethesda, Rockville, and Wheaton*), reported increases.

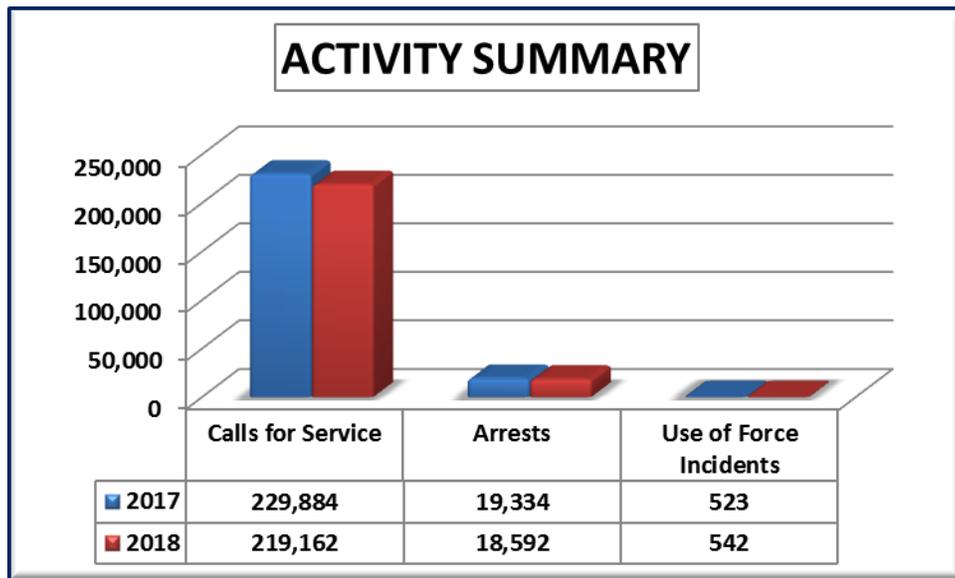
- Making *arrests* (or attempting to make arrests), *servicing emergency evaluation petitions*, and *defending against assaults* constituted approximately 92 percent of the incidents where some type of force was necessary, which is the same percentage reported in 2017.
- Calls for service involving *assaults*, *narcotics/DUI offenses*, *mental illness-related*, and *disorderly conduct* accounted for approximately 69 percent of all reported use of force incidents, compared to 71 percent the previous year.
- The type of force most commonly used by *officers* was hands, which was used in approximately 80 percent of use of force incidents, and it was also the most common type of force used against officers by *subjects* (approximately 72 percent), which is consistent with prior year data.
- *Electronic Control Weapons* (ECWs) were used 12 more times (45) compared to 33 the previous year.
- Injuries sustained by *officers* decreased approximately 16 percent, while injuries to *subjects* increased approximately four percent from the previous year. As in previous years, the most common injuries reported by both *officers* and *subjects* were bruises/soreness and lacerations/abrasions. These injury types comprised approximately 81 percent of the injuries sustained by *officers* and 88 percent of the injuries sustained by *subjects* in 2018.
- There was a 39.6 percent decrease in the number of *officers* requiring *first aid*, and a 21.9 percent increase in *officers* requiring treatment at *hospitals* for injuries sustained during use of force incidents in 2018, while there was a decrease of approximately 11 percent in *subjects* requiring first aid, and an increase of approximately 35 percent in the number of *subjects* being transported to hospitals for treatment compared to 2017.
- Approximately 92 percent of the *subjects* involved in use of force incidents were reported to be *under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs*, or suffering from some form of *mental illness*, compared to 88 percent in 2017.
- Approximately 55 percent of the *subjects* involved in use of force incidents were *African American* compared to 54.2 percent in 2017. *Caucasian* subjects were involved in 25.6 percent of the incidents reported in 2018 compared to 29.5 percent the previous year, and *Hispanic* subjects were involved in 18.1 percent compared to 15.1 percent in 2017.
- *Subjects* ages 18-39 accounted for approximately 67 percent of the reported use of force incidents, compared to 70 percent the previous year. The average age of the *subjects* involved in use of force incidents was 30, compared to 29 in 2017.
- Officers in the 21-39 age groups were involved in approximately 74 percent of use of force incidents, compared to 81 percent the previous year. The average age of the *officers* involved in these incidents was 35, compared to 33 in 2017.
- Approximately 80 percent of the *subjects* and 88 percent of the *officers* involved in reported use of force incidents were *male*, which is consistent with prior year data.
- There were 20 use of force-related complaints made against *officers*, compared to 27 complaints received the previous year, a decrease of 26 percent.
- The number of assaults reported on *officers* decreased approximately 25 percent compared to the previous year.
- There were three deadly force-related incidents and no in-custody deaths reported in 2018, the same numbers reported the previous year.

ANALYSIS

In 2018, Montgomery County police officers were dispatched to 219,162 calls for service, made 18,592 arrests, and force was reported used in 542 incidents. This translates to force being used in only 0.25 percent of the calls for service, and 2.9 percent of the arrests made.

The incidence rate of the use of force compared to the calls for service and arrests has remained relatively consistent over the past five years and indicates that, for the overwhelming majority of calls for service and arrest situations, officers rarely use force in the performance of their duties.

A summary of MCPD activity for 2018 compared to 2017 is provided in the following chart.



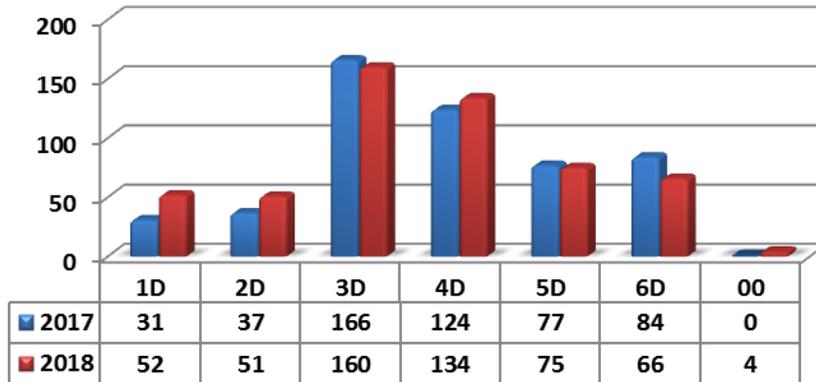
The data shows a decrease of approximately five percent in the calls for service, a four percent decrease in arrests, and an increase of approximately four percent in reported use of force incidents compared to 2017.

In 2018, there were 20 use of force-related complaints made to the department's Internal Affairs Division (IAD), compared to 27 complaints received in 2017, a decrease of 25.9 percent.

USE OF FORCE BY DISTRICT OF OCCURRENCE

In 2018, use of force incidents reported in *Silver Spring* (3D) and *Wheaton* (4D) comprised 54.2 percent of the total use of force incidents reported department-wide, compared to 55.4 percent in 2017. In 2018, three districts (*Silver Spring*, *Germantown*, and *Gaithersburg* (6D)) experienced decreases in the number of reported use of force incidents, and three districts (*Rockville* (1D), *Bethesda* (2D), and *Wheaton* (4D)) experienced increases compared to 2017 as shown in the chart on the next page.

USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT OF OCCURRENCE



Note: District '00' refers to incidents reported that occurred outside Montgomery County.

The most significant increase in reported incidents (67.7 percent) occurred in 1D (*Rockville*), and the largest decrease (21.4 percent) occurred in 3D (*Silver Spring*).

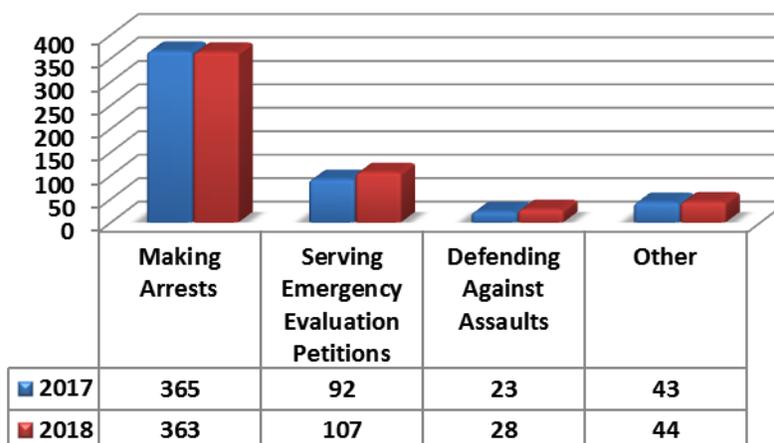
Note: The use of force incident reports are based on the location (*i.e. district*) where force was used, not necessarily the district that the officers are assigned to or where the event may have originated.

ACTIVITY WHEN FORCE WAS USED

In 2018, *making or attempting to make an arrest, serving emergency evaluation petitions, and defending against assaults* accounted for 91.9 percent of the activities where officers needed to employ some type of force, approximately the same percentage reported in 2017.

The data reported in 2018 compared to 2017 is shown in the chart below.

ACTIVITY WHEN FORCE WAS USED

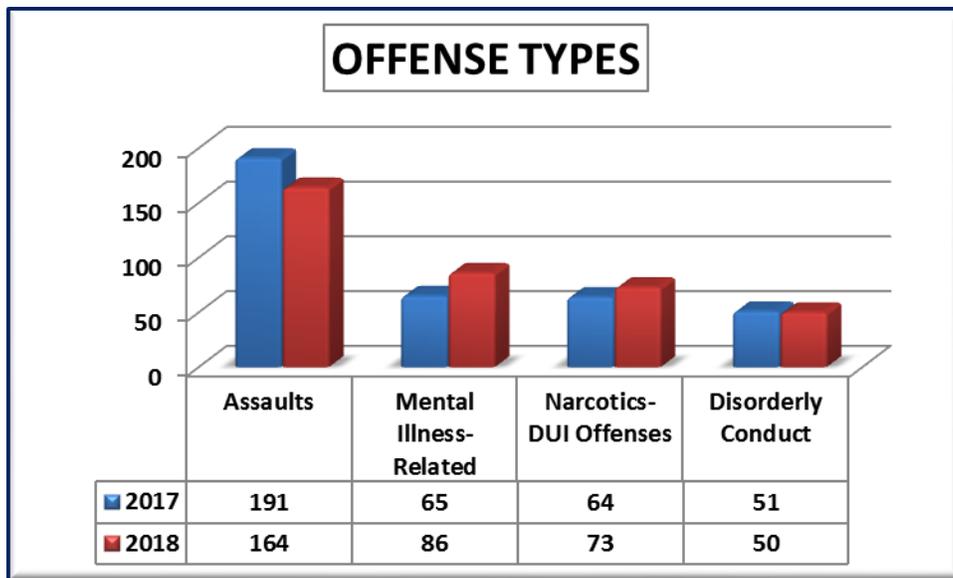


The category of “Other” includes situations such as *traffic stops, serving search warrants, and transporting prisoners*, which also accounted for the same percentages in 2018 and 2017 (approximately 8 percent). *The activity category with the most significant increase from the previous year (16.3 percent) was serving emergency evaluation petitions.*

OFFENSES WHERE FORCE WAS USED

Assaults, mental illness-related calls, narcotics/DUI offenses and disorderly conduct accounted for 68.8 percent of the use of force incidents reported in 2018, compared to 70.9 percent in 2017. The remaining percentage of incidents was comprised of various other offenses such as *larceny, burglary, weapons offenses, vandalism, trespassing, and other miscellaneous calls for service.*

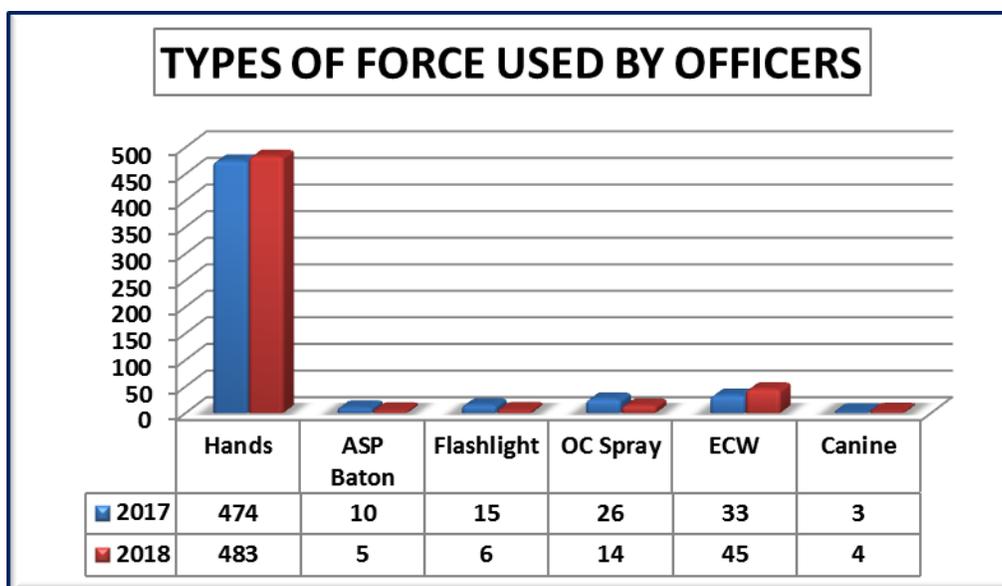
A comparison of the offenses that comprised the majority of incidents where force was reported used in 2018 and 2017 is shown in the chart below.



TYPES OF FORCE USED BY OFFICERS AND SUBJECTS

Officers

The following series of charts show the breakdown of the leading types of force used by *officers and subjects* in 2018 compared to 2017.



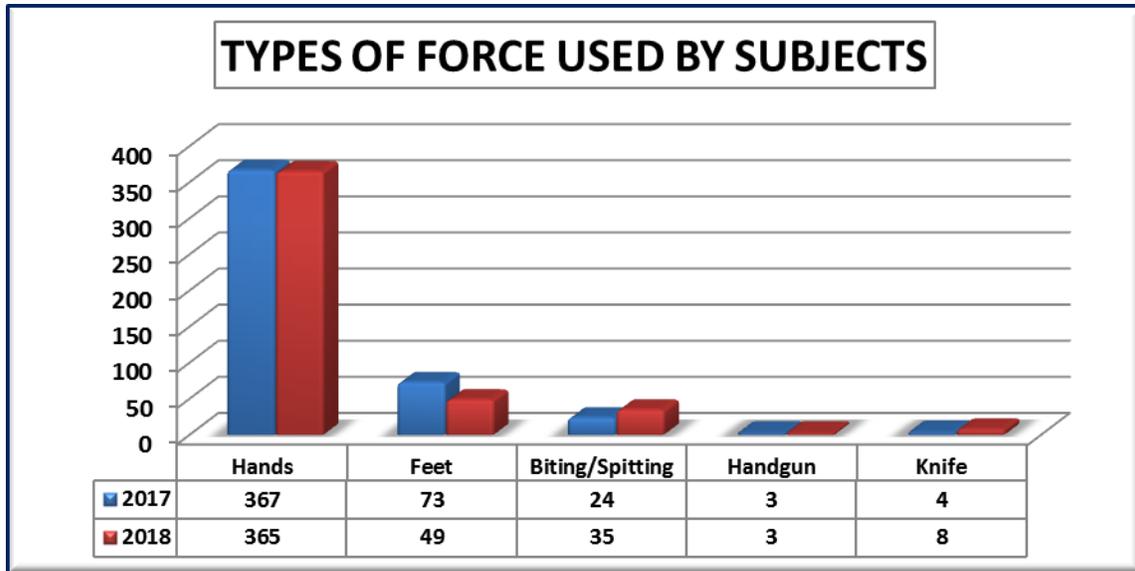
Note: The chart does not reflect 'other' types of force used by officers which accounts for the remaining total types of force used.

The type of force most widely used by officers in 2018 was *hands*, which were used in 80.2 percent of the incidents, approximately the same percentage reported in 2017. Other types of force used by officers in several situations included *knees* and *feet*. In 2018, there were decreases in the use of the *ASP Baton* and *Flashlight* of 50 percent and 60 percent respectively. There was an increase of 36.7 percent (*12 additional deployments*) reported in the use of *Electronic Control Weapons* (ECWs) compared to the previous year.

Note: It is important to point out that in some instances, more than one type of force may be used by one or more officers in an attempt to affect an arrest or control a situation. During many calls for service, a primary officer is dispatched and at least one additional officer responds as a back-up unit. Consequently, in the majority of the circumstances where force is used, two or more officers are typically involved.

Subjects

The chart on the next page shows the breakdown of the leading types of force used by *subjects* against officers in 2018 compared to 2017.



Note: In some incidents, there were subjects (and multiple subjects) that used more than one type of force against officers. The chart does not reflect 'other' types of force used by subjects, which accounts for the remaining total types of force used.

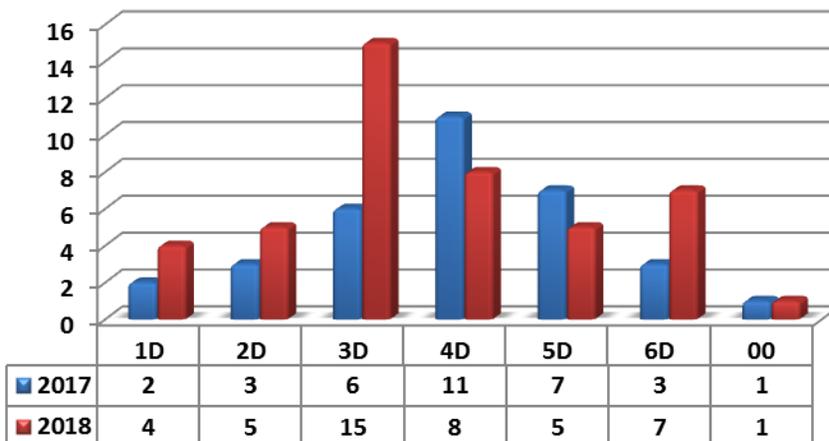
As is the case with force types used by officers, hands are the most common type of force used by *subjects* against officers, and accounted for 71.9 percent of the types of force used by *subjects* in 2018, compared to 70 percent in 2017. In 2018, there was a decrease in subjects' use of *feet*, however, there was a 45.8 percent increase in incidents where subjects *spit at/on or bit* officers during their interactions. There was also a 100 percent increase (4 to 8) in the number of incidents where subjects were armed with *knives*, compared to the previous year. Other types of force used by *subjects* against officers included an *axe, saw, bamboo stick, vehicle*, and in one case, *lighter fluid* was thrown on an officer. The same numbers of subjects (3) were also armed with handguns as reported in 2017.

ELECTRONIC CONTROL WEAPONS

The department currently has 412 officers that are qualified and authorized to carry *Electronic Control Weapons* (ECWs). These officers are required to complete extensive training and certification prior to being issued an ECW. This training requires officers to attend 40 hours of *Crisis Intervention Training* (CIT), and after successful certification, officers are also required to complete annual recertification training to be authorized to continue to carry an ECW.

In 2018, an ECW was deployed 45 times (*in 42 incidents*) compared to 33 times (*in 31 incidents*) in 2017. A detailed summary of ECW uses by *district of occurrence* is provided on the next page.

ECW USE BY DISTRICT

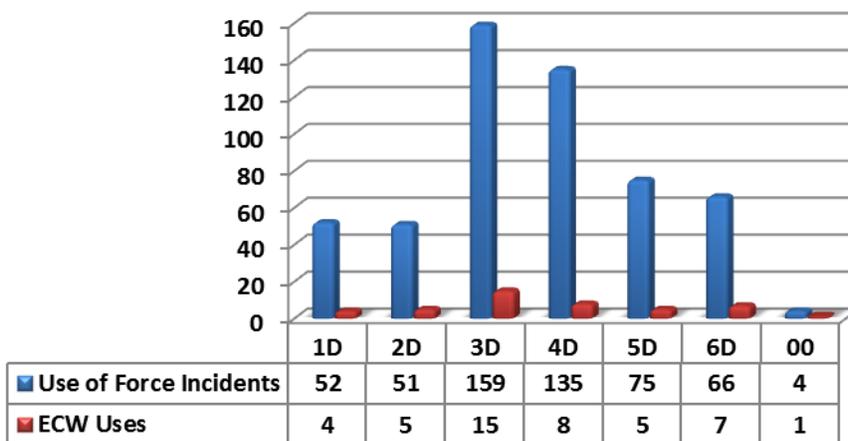


Note: District designation '00' represents those incidents that occurred outside Montgomery County. ECW use is reported by location of the incident, not by duty (district) assignment of the officer.

The data reflects increases in ECW use in 1D (Rockville), 2D (Bethesda), 3D (Silver Spring), and 6D (Gaithersburg), and decreases in 4D (Wheaton) and 5D (Germantown) compared to 2017.

The chart below shows ECW use by district compared to the total number of reported use of force (UOF) incidents in that district in 2018.

ECW USE VS. UOF INCIDENTS

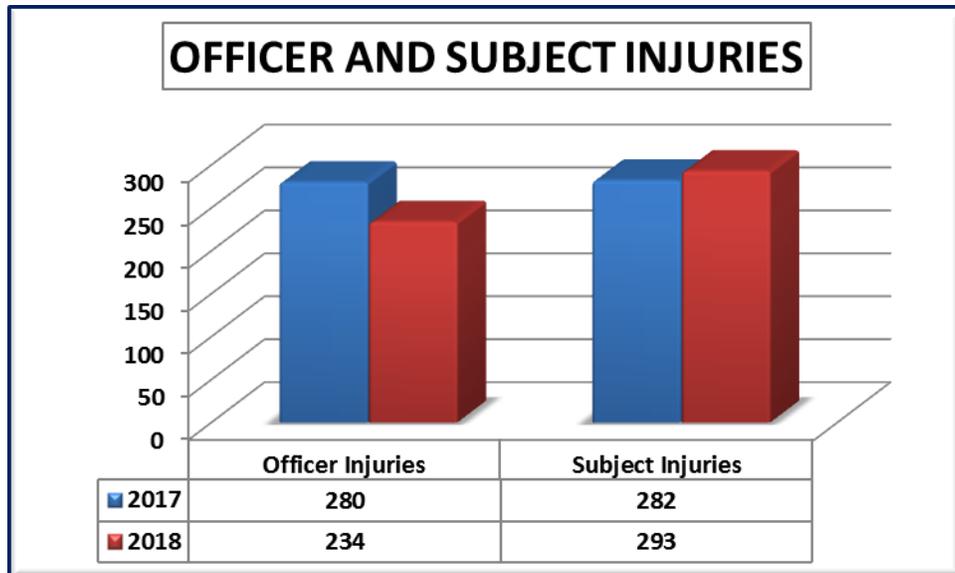


Note: District designation '00' represents those incidents that occurred outside Montgomery County.

Historically, the Silver Spring (3D) and Wheaton (4D) districts are the districts where officers traditionally respond to a large number of calls for service, and involve offenses that often result in arrests where some type of force is used, including the use of protective instruments such as ECWs. As noted earlier in this report, 54.2 percent of the uses of force reports completed in 2018 were for incidents reported in these two districts, and 51.1 percent of the ECW deployments reported in 2018 occurred in these same districts.

INJURIES TO OFFICERS AND SUBJECTS

The chart below compares *officer* and *subject* injuries for 2018 and 2017.



Note: For subjects, an injury is recorded on the Use of Force Report regardless of whether it is a visible injury or they claim an injury.

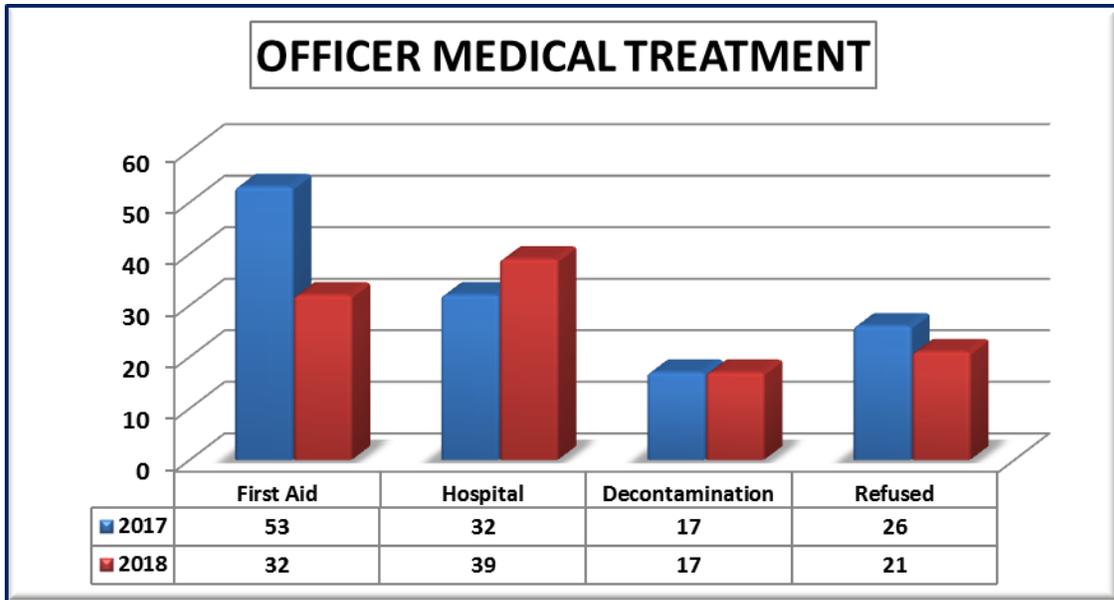
The data shows a 16.4 percent decrease in injuries to *officers*, and a 3.9 percent increase in reported *subject* injuries compared to the previous year. As in previous years, the most common injuries reported by *officers* and *subjects* were *bruises/soreness* and *lacerations/abrasions*. These two injury types comprised 80.8 percent of the injuries sustained by *officers*, and 88 percent of the injuries sustained by *subjects* reported in 2018.

MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR OFFICERS AND SUBJECTS

The following series of charts provide a summary of the types of *medical treatment* administered for *officers* and *subjects* as a result of reporting being injured in 2018 compared to 2017 (*as well as those that refused medical treatment*).

Officers

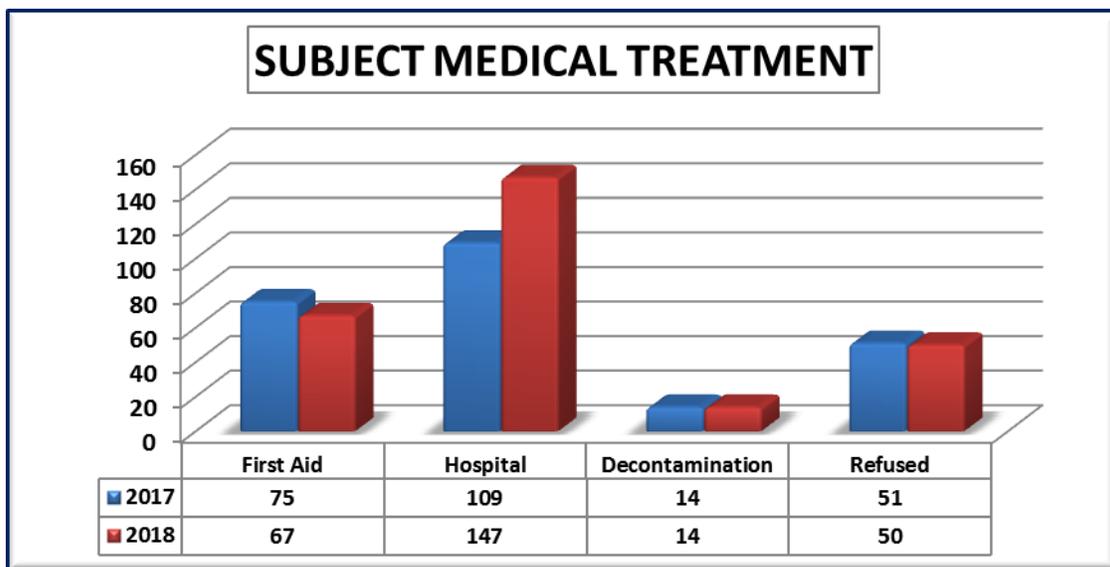
The chart on the next page compares *officer* medical treatment for 2018 and 2017.



The data shows that in 2018, there was a 39.6 percent decrease in the number of *officers* requiring *first aid*, and a 21.9 percent increase in *officers* requiring treatment at *hospitals* for injuries sustained during use of force incidents compared to the previous year.

Subjects

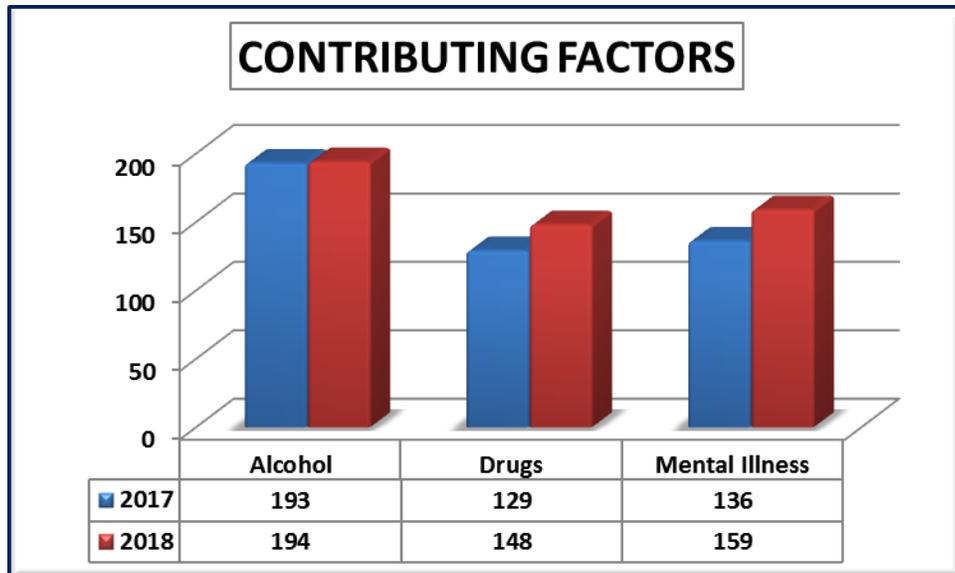
The chart below compares medical treatment for *subjects* in 2018 versus 2017.



Similar to the experience reported for officer medical treatment, there was a decrease (10.7 percent) in *subjects* being administered first aid, and an increase (34.9 percent) in *subjects* being transported to hospitals for treatment compared to 2017.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The chart below shows a summary of the contributing factors reported in 2018 compared to 2017.



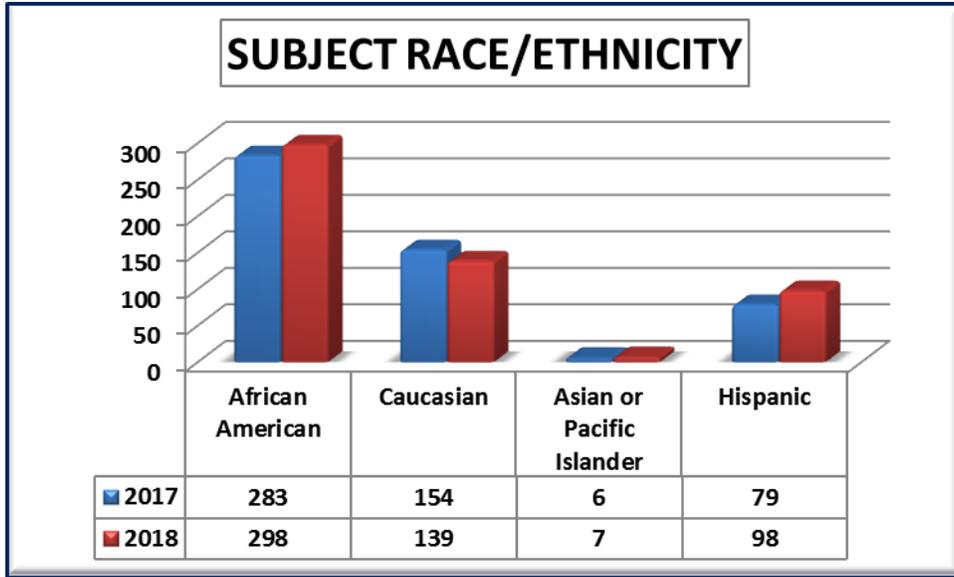
In 2018, 92.4 percent of the subjects involved in use of force incidents were reported to be *under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs*, or suffering from *mental illness* at the time of the encounter.

In 2018, although there were approximately the same number of subjects reported to be *under the influence of alcohol* as in 2017, there were increases in the number of subjects *under the influence of drugs* (14.7 percent), and *suffering from some form of mental illness* (16.9 percent). These contributing factors often result in officers needing to employ some type of force to safely control the situation due to an increased likelihood of non-compliance on the part of the subject(s) involved.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SUBJECTS AND OFFICERS

Race/Ethnicity of Subjects

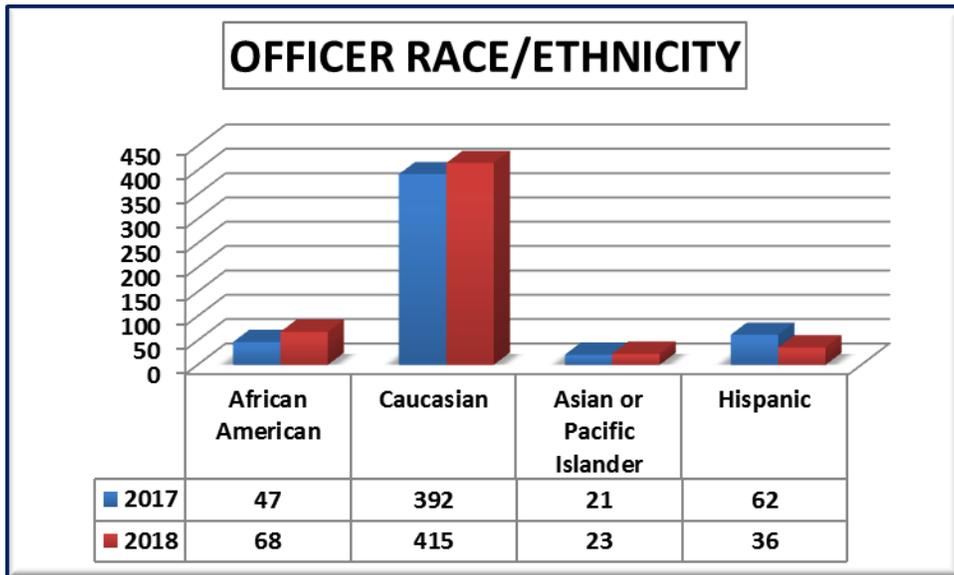
The following charts show a summary of the *subjects* and *officers race/ethnicity* in use of force incidents reported in 2018 compared to 2017.



In 2018, there were increases in *African American*, *Asian/Pacific Islander*, and *Hispanic* subjects involved in use of force incidents of approximately five percent, 16.7 percent, and 24 percent respectively, compared to 2017. The number of *Caucasian* subjects involved in use of force incidents decreased 9.7 percent from the previous year.

Race/Ethnicity of Officers

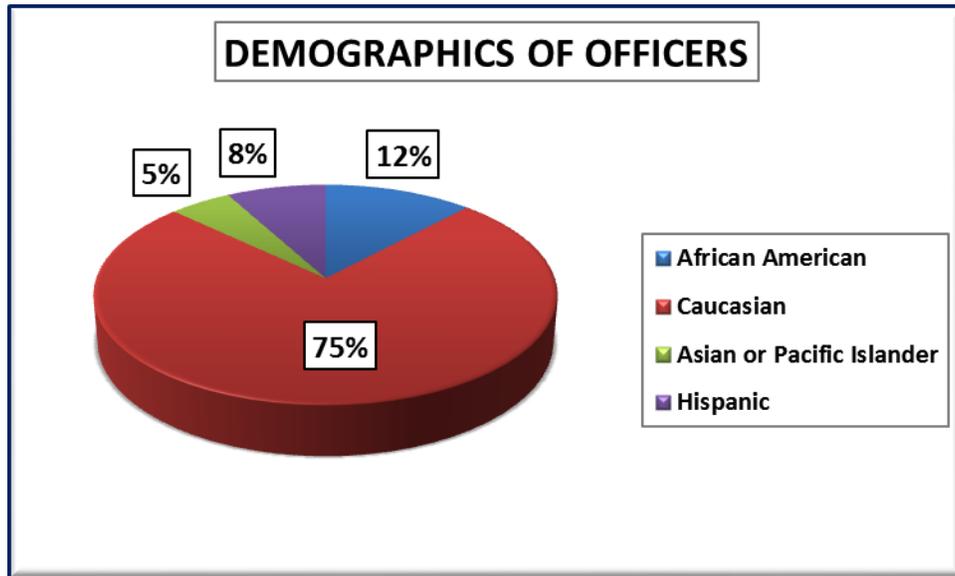
The chart below shows the *race/ethnicity* of the *officers* involved in use of force incidents reported in 2018.



Note: Although the majority of the use of force incidents involve more than one officer, the data shown in the chart reflects the race/ethnicity of the primary officer involved.

In 2018, 12.5 percent of the *officers* involved in encounters with subjects that resulted in some type of force being used were *African American*, 76.6 percent were *Caucasian*, 4.2 percent were *Asian or Pacific Islander*, and 6.6 percent were *Hispanic*.

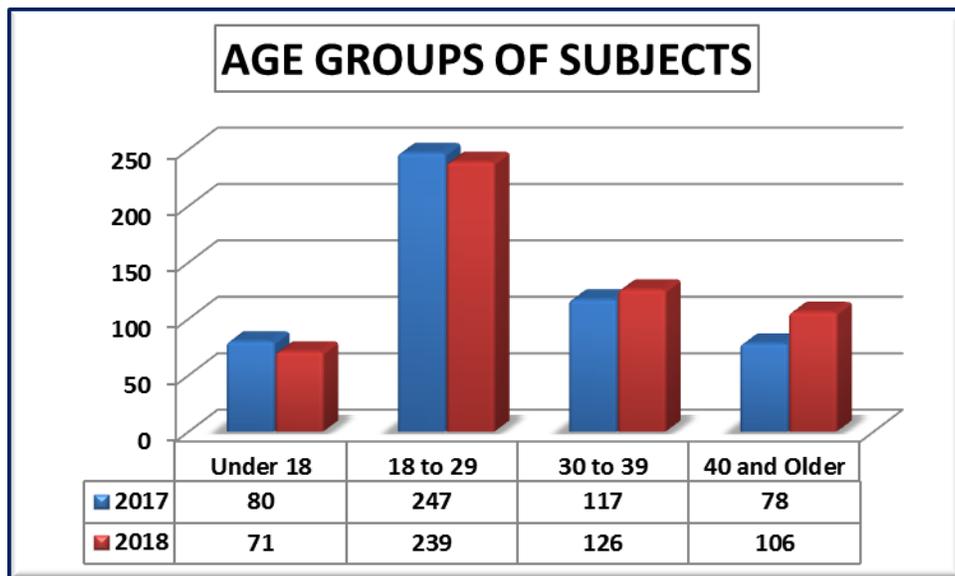
This information is generally consistent with the demographics of the department's sworn personnel complement as of January 2019 which is reflected in the chart below.



Ages of Subjects and Officers

Ages of Subjects

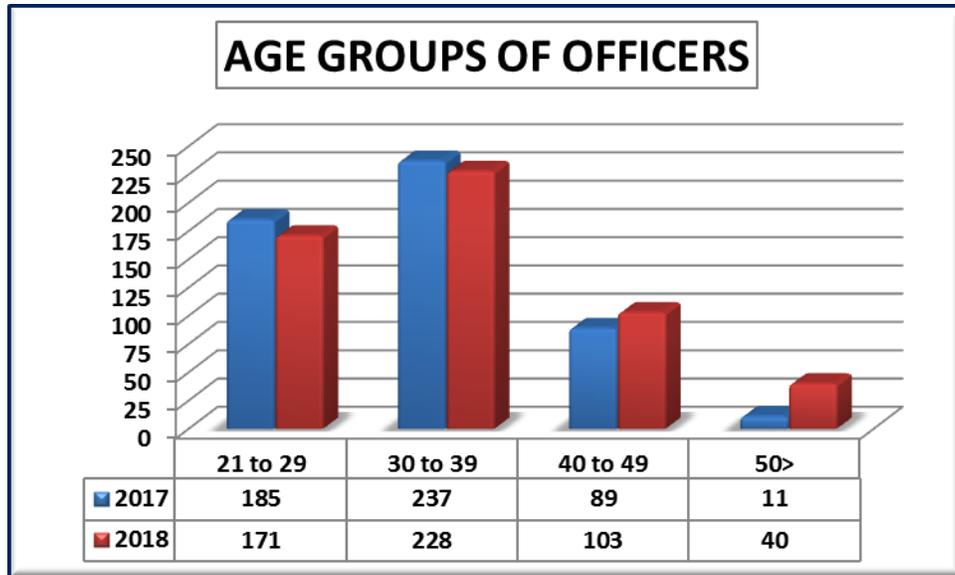
The chart below shows a summary of the age groups of the *subjects* involved in use of force incidents reported in 2018 compared to 2017.



The data shows decreases in subjects *under 18* and ages *18 to 29* of 11.3 percent and 3.2 percent respectively in 2018 compared to the previous year. There were increases in the subjects ages *30 to 39* and ages *40 and older* of 7.7 percent and 35.9 percent respectively. Subjects in the *18 to 39* age groups were involved in 67.3 percent of the incidents in 2018, compared to 69.7 percent in 2017. The average age of the *subjects* across all age groups for 2018 was 30 compared to 29 in 2017.

Ages of Officers

The chart below is a summary of the age groups of the primary *officers* involved in use of force incidents reported in 2018 compared to 2017.



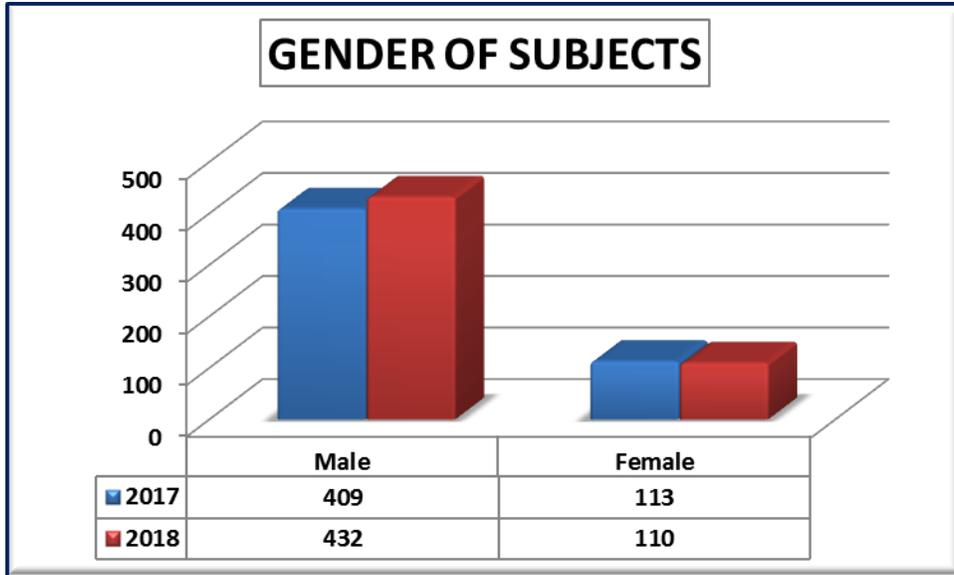
The data shows that in 2018, there were decreases in the number of officers in the *21 to 29* and *30 to 39* age groups of 7.6 percent and 3.8 percent respectively. There were increases reported in the *40 to 49* and *50 and older* age groups of 15.7 percent and 263.6 percent respectively. Officers in the *21 to 39* age groups were involved in 73.6 percent of the incidents reported in 2018, compared to 80.8 percent in 2017.

The average age of the officers involved in use of force incidents in 2018 was 35, compared to 33 in 2017.

Gender

Subjects

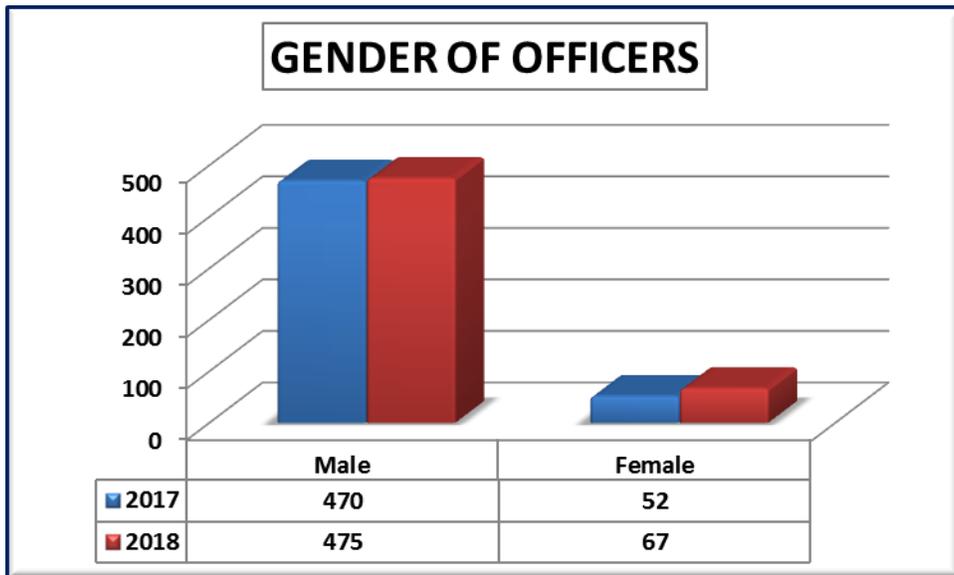
The chart on the following page is a summary of the gender of the *subjects* involved in use of force incidents reported in 2018 compared to 2017.



The data indicates that there was little variation in the overall percentage of *male* and *female* subjects involved in use of force incidents in 2018 compared to 2017. In 2018, there was an increase of 5.6 percent in the number of *male* subjects, and a 2.7 percent decrease in the number of *female* subjects compared to the previous year. The overwhelming majority of the subjects involved in use of force incidents in 2018 (approximately 80 percent) were *male*.

Officers

The chart below provides a comparison of the gender of the *officers* involved in use of force incidents reported in 2018 and 2017.

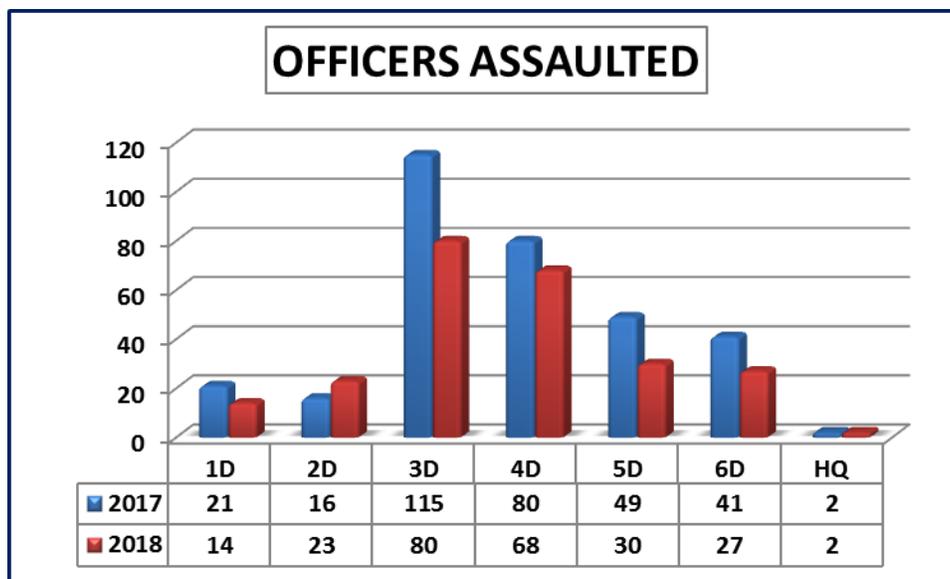


The data shows that in 2018 there was a 1.1 percent increase in the number of *male* officers reported involved in use of force incidents, and a 28.8 percent increase in the number of *female* officers compared to the previous year. Approximately 88 percent of the *officers* involved in use of force incidents in 2018 were *male*, compared to 90 percent in 2017.

OFFICERS ASSAULTED/AMBUSHED

For state and federal reporting requirements, the department captures information when an officer reports being *assaulted* or *ambushed*. In 2018, officers reported being *assaulted* 244 times compared to 324 times in 2017, a decrease of 24.7 percent. No officers reported being ambushed in 2018, the same number reported the previous year.

The chart below compares *assaults on officers by district of occurrence* for 2018 versus 2017.



Note: HQ represents those incidents that involved SID and SOD personnel.

The data indicates that the majority of assaults against officers (60.7 percent) occurred during activities by officers in 3D (*Silver Spring*) and 4D (*Wheaton*), compared to 60.2 percent in these districts in 2017, which is historically consistent due to the significant call volume and arrests reported in these districts each year. These assaults occurred while officers were engaged in responding to calls involving a variety of offenses, including *robberies, burglaries, domestic violence-related events, assaults, narcotics-related offenses, and calls for disorderly conduct*.

IN-CUSTODY DEATHS AND DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

An in-custody death generally refers to the death of an individual while in the custody of law enforcement officers when the death is not directly caused by a use of deadly force. Death may occur from contributing circumstances, such as medical problems, that are identified or develop while a person is in police custody. No in-custody deaths occurred in 2018, the same number reported in 2017.

Deadly force is defined as *any use of force that is intended to or likely to cause a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury*. Officers may use deadly force to defend themselves or another person from what they reasonably believe is an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury. All incidents that involve the use of deadly force or in-custody deaths are investigated by the department's Major Crimes Division (MCD).

There were three deadly force-related incidents that occurred in 2018, the same number reported in 2017.

Deadly Force Incidents

June 11, 2018

A patrol officer attempted to initiate a subject stop of a suspicious person that he believed to be armed in the Silver Spring district. The subject was not compliant with the officer, and as the officer attempted to make contact with the subject, the subject became combative and physically assaulted the officer. The officer called for assistance while attempting to follow and maintain distance from the subject. As additional officers arrived in the area, the subject again attacked and physically assaulted the officer. The officer discharged his service weapon, striking the subject multiple times. The subject was transported to a local hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

July 23, 2018

Patrol units were dispatched to a private residence in Silver Spring for the report of an assault in progress. Upon arrival, officers encountered an individual armed with a knife, and with blood on his clothing, who retreated into the residence and began barricading himself inside along with a small child. Crisis negotiators attempted to communicate with the individual, but those efforts were unsuccessful. While Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) officers were preparing to enter the residence, the subject was observed lighting a fire in one of the bedrooms. Smoke was observed in the bedroom and the residential smoke detectors were activated. A child could be heard screaming from inside the residence. The use of deadly force was authorized and the subject was shot. The subject was transported to a local hospital, where he subsequently succumbed to his wound.

November 11, 2018

Officers responded to a residential neighborhood in the Germantown district for a report of a subject armed with a gun. Multiple residents advised that the subject was standing outside in a parking lot holding and pointing a gun at multiple people and their homes. When officers arrived on the scene, they were confronted by the subject who was observed holding a firearm and pointing it at officers. The subject failed to comply with repeated commands to drop the weapon. The subject instead continued to point the handgun towards the officers, at which time officers discharged their service weapons, striking the subject. The subject was transported to a local hospital, where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

SUMMARY

The department continues to provide training at all levels, to include recruit, in-service, and supervisory, related to use of force that emphasizes current case law, policy requirements, and best practices consistent with federal, state, and national standards and guidelines. The use of any type of force by MCPD officers continues to constitute a very small percentage of the overall calls for service that officers respond to on a daily basis. The need to use force, whether deadly or non-deadly, is one of the most demanding and critical decisions that a law enforcement officer must make. The department respects the sanctity of every human life and the application of deadly force is a measure only employed in the most extreme circumstances.

Public perceptions of the police department are largely based on individual experiences and can certainly impact the legitimacy of police actions, especially those actions that involve police use of force. The public expects and deserves a culture of transparency, accountability, fairness, trust, and respect, and every member of the department is held accountable for their actions. In today's environment of heightened public expectations and scrutiny of police department operations, it is important to emphasize that regardless of how well the department believes it is fulfilling its mission, the ultimate measure of success, and the ability to maintain public trust and confidence, is how well the department is able to earn and sustain the trust and respect of the residents of Montgomery County.



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