

2024 ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



April 10, 2025

Prepared by:
The Policy and Planning Division

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Summary

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The use of force by police is undeniably a controversial and complex measure of our performance, encompassing ethical, legal, and practical considerations, as well as public perception and trust. While “use of force” may sound simple, it is anything but. The words “use of force” may produce visions of the most severe de-escalation techniques our officers apply against citizens, but the reality is that the words represent a range of actions taken appropriately and constitutionally by officers.

Please keep in mind that in 2022, the Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) significantly expanded the mandatory reporting requirements of our use of force to provide transparency and better data analysis. As a result, the number of use of force incidents that the department reported and will report for 2022 and beyond cannot be compared directly to our use of force numbers reported from years prior to 2022.

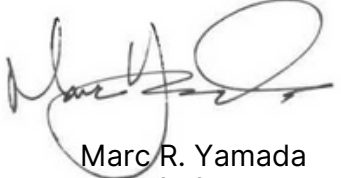
Even with the current new definitions, the type of force most commonly used by officers is simply their hands when dealing with someone resisting arrest. In 2024, there were 1,766 uses of force, 1,170 involving physical force, and 596 of which only a weapon was pointed. When force was used, 72% of the time, officers used their hands to respond to resistance (3,408 out of 4,764). When hands were used (3,408 times), 86% of the time, hands were used as a control technique, 30% as an escort, and only 1% of the time to strike a person. In 596 instances (34%), the presence of an officer's weapon de-escalated the situation, and no physical force was needed. The aforementioned 1,170 uses of force involving physical force may have included the pointing of a weapon, but physical force was used to manage the situation effectively.

Of the total use of force incidents (1,766), alcohol was a factor 19% of the time; drugs were a factor 14% of the time, and mental illness was a factor 29%. At least one of the three factors was present 62% of the time. Rest assured, I take the use of force very seriously. All reported use of force incidents are subject to multiple levels of supervisory and executive review to ensure that not only does each use of force by all officers involved comply with the policy, but any evidence of misconduct is identified and immediately referred through appropriate channels for follow-up action by established agency procedures.

The MCPD takes all complaints of improper and unnecessary uses of force seriously; that is why all complaints alleging excessive force involving a citizen, regardless of the source, severity, or nature of the specific allegations, are promptly and thoroughly investigated by our Internal Affairs Division and then forwarded to the Montgomery County Administrative Charging Committee for findings in accordance with state law.

Furthermore, we continuously train our officers in de-escalation techniques. We also have guidelines for how our officers use force depending on the level of resistance they encounter and constantly monitor best practices nationwide to develop model use-of-force policies for our officers.

There is a great deal more information contained in this report. I encourage you to contact me with any specific questions via e-mail at CHIEFMCPD@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Marc R. Yamada
Chief of Police

INTRODUCTION

The annual report data is obtained from Use-of-force reports completed by officers for incidents in 2024 when some force or action was used in response to resistance. This report is intended to provide an overview of these incidents and identify trends and other issues that need to be addressed.

In 2022, the Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) significantly expanded the Mandatory Reporting Requirements to provide transparency and better data analysis. As anticipated, the expanded reasons now requiring the completion of a Use-of-force Report have created a sharp increase in Use-of-force Reports. Because of the changes implemented, the use-of-force data from 2022 cannot be directly compared with data from prior years. With a full year of collected data, comparisons with the previous year's data can resume. Readers can locate a summary of the changes that were implemented in 2022 in the 2022 Annual Use of Force Report on the [Montgomery County Department of Police website](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/crime-data.html)¹.

Excessive force—a violation of policy and law—is always wrong. As a result, recent police reform initiatives, conversations, and policy/law changes focus on reducing the need to use force even when it may be appropriate. Police have the right to use force to effectuate a legitimate law enforcement objective, such as making an arrest or otherwise maintaining public safety². Police, like civilians, also have the right to use appropriate force to defend themselves or others.

Nationally, police use of force is rare. In a recent federal survey³, of the 49 million people who had contact with police in 2022, one and a half (1.5) percent indicated police either threatened to or did use force. In Montgomery County, less than one percent of contacts with police involved the use of force, well below the national average. Types of force used by police may include any of the following:

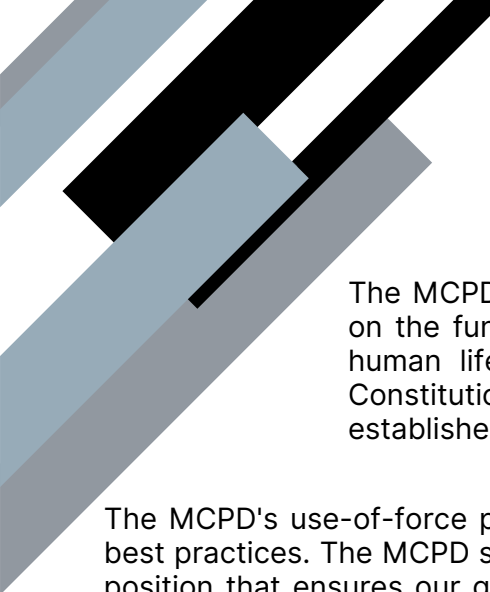
- Contact Control: Soft physical tactics to control subjects without injury, such as handcuffing or guiding a subject to another location.
- Physical Control: Hard physical control involves using physical force to subdue a subject, such as tactical takedown maneuvers.
- Chemical Agents: Pepper spray or tear gas, used to control a situation or subdue a subject resisting arrest.
- Impact Weapons: These include batons, tasers, or pepperball launchers (implemented in October 2024), which are designed to incapacitate a suspect without causing serious injury.
- Firearms: This is the most extreme force and should only be used as a last resort. Police officers may use deadly force to protect themselves or others when they perceive a threat of serious bodily harm or death.

When a police officer decides to use force, it must be necessary and proportional. This assessment is specific to the time, place, officer, and other situational conditions, helping determine the totality of the circumstances and whether the force was necessary and objectively reasonable.

¹ <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/crime-data.html>

² Use-of-force Council Briefing, Legislative Analyst Susan Farag

³ Contacts Between Police and the Public, 2022.



The MCPD has historically and consistently established use-of-force policies based on the fundamental principles that prioritize the safety, dignity, and value of every human life, including the life of its police officers, and in compliance with the Constitution of the United States, the State of Maryland, as well as case law established by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The MCPD's use-of-force policies reflect current and evidence-based research, national trends, and best practices. The MCPD strives to be proactive in its approach to policy development and training, a position that ensures our guidance reflects applicable laws and legal mandates. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) also requires annual reporting and analysis of Department use-of-force policies and procedures. Adhering to CALEA requirements ensures our agency will identify necessary policy modifications or trends and improve training and officer safety while providing timely information to address any use-of-force issues.

Participation in CALEA is the primary method for a police agency to demonstrate its commitment to excellence in law enforcement voluntarily by systematically conducting an ongoing internal review and assessment of the agency's operations, policies, and procedures and adjusting wherever necessary to meet a body of internationally accepted standards. The MCPD is dedicated to creating a culture of safety, transparency, and accountability and has been a CALEA-accredited law enforcement agency since 1993.

The authority to use force in response to resistance when legitimately required remains a foundational pillar of the rule of law. It is essential to keep communities safe and to protect the officers charged with enforcing the law. The decision to exercise force must be based on the circumstances the officer reasonably believes to exist. However, officers must sometimes make split-second decisions about the force necessary for a particular situation, with limited information and tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving circumstances.

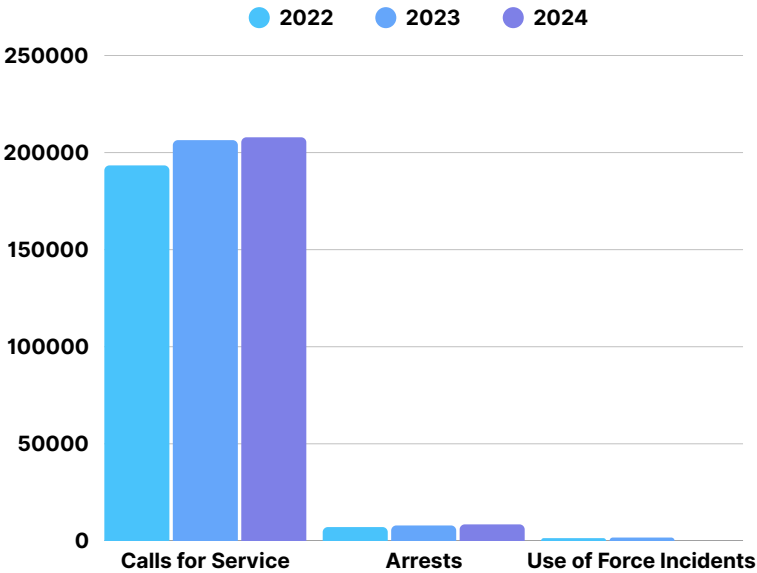
DATA INTERPRETATION

For the ease of understanding, all percentages presented in this document have been rounded to the nearest whole number, with the exception of percentages less than one. Due to rounding, the figures may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect the absolute figures. Exact values can be obtained from the source data.

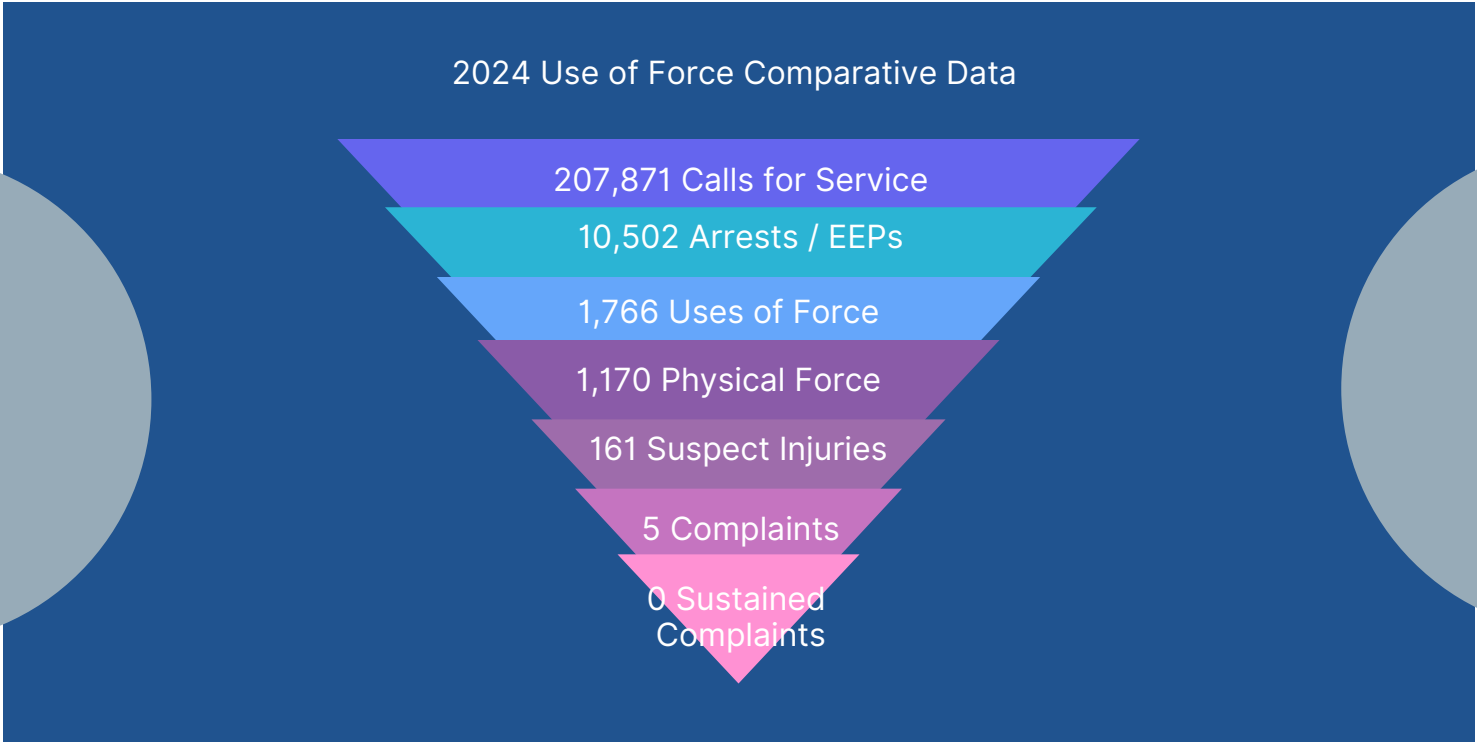
COMPARATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

The calls-for-service vs. use-of-force data indicates that force is consistently used in less than 1% of incidents. In 2024 the rate was 0.85%, meaning eight uses of force for every 1,000 calls.

The arrests vs. use of force statistics indicate that one in five arrests (21%) involved a use-of-force incident.



Category	2022	2023	2024
Calls for Service	193,306	206,407	207,871
Arrests	7,115	7,942	8,501
Use of Force Reports	1,415 503 ONLY Pointing 912 Use of Force	1,722 606 ONLY Pointing, 1,116 Use of Force	1,766 596 ONLY Pointing, 1,170 Use of Force



CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2024, calls for service increased by 0.7% from 2023. Over five years, calls for service have increased 12% from 2020, when call numbers dropped due to the pandemic.

The steady increase in calls for service also means an increased demand for police services. In the fall of 2023, the MCPD launched the Drone as First Responder (DFR) Pilot Program. The DFR program assists patrol officers with quickly locating suspects and solving crimes in progress, which allows more officers to respond to emergency calls or other activities.

The Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC) (formerly called Violent Crime Information Center (VCIC)), introduced in 2022, also aids patrol officers in monitoring radio calls for service and reviewing camera feeds in the area around the call to look for possible suspects⁴.

⁴Police Staffing Council Briefing (2024) Legislative Analyst Susan Farag

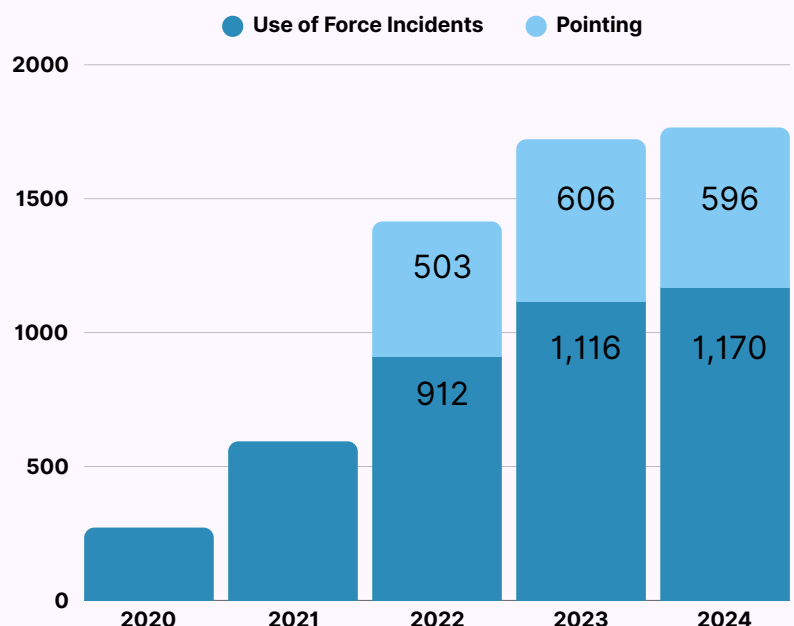
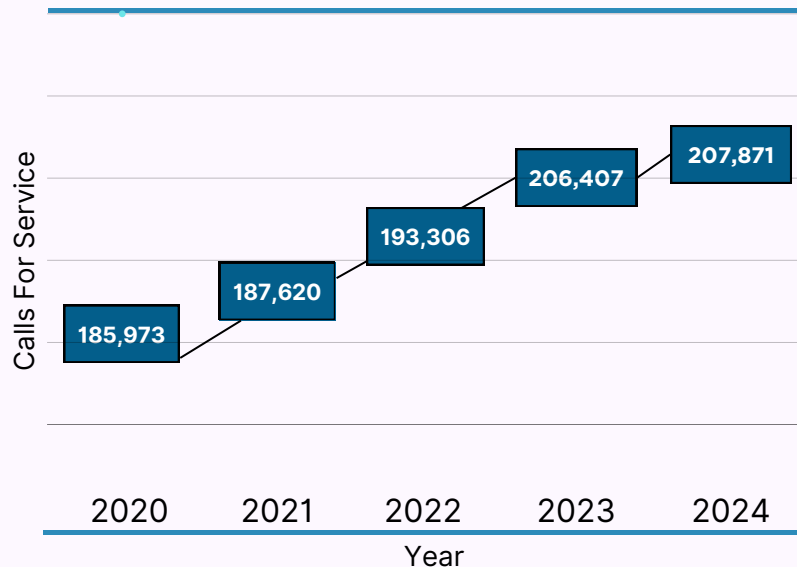
Statistics

USE OF FORCE TREND

In 2024, there were 1,766 uses of force, 1,170 involving physical force, and 596 of which ONLY a weapon was pointed. In 596 instances (34%), the presence of an officer's weapon de-escalated the situation, and no physical force was needed. The remaining 1,170 instances may have included the pointing of a weapon, but physical force was used to manage the situation effectively.

In 2024, there was a 0.7% increase in calls for service and an 6% decrease in the overall crime rate. Despite a decrease in overall crime rate, aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft, and mental health transport contributed to 41% of all uses of force.

2024 ANALYSIS



Note: There may be an overlap where an incident includes pointing a weapon and another type of force. In CY23, 606 incidents included only the pointing of a weapon. Due to legislative changes, data from 2022 cannot be directly compared to that of previous years.

FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE

Month

January	134
February	191
March	164
April	158
May	133
June	158
July	134
August	139
September	185
October	151
November	110
December	109

Day of Week

Sunday	225
Monday	242
Tuesday	267
Wednesday	271
Thursday	298
Friday	242
Saturday	221

Time of Day

12:00 AM - 3:59 AM	199
4:00 AM - 7:59 AM	94
8:00 AM - 11:59 AM	245
12:00 PM - 3:59 PM	344
4:00 PM - 7:59 PM	463
8:00 PM - 11:59 PM	421

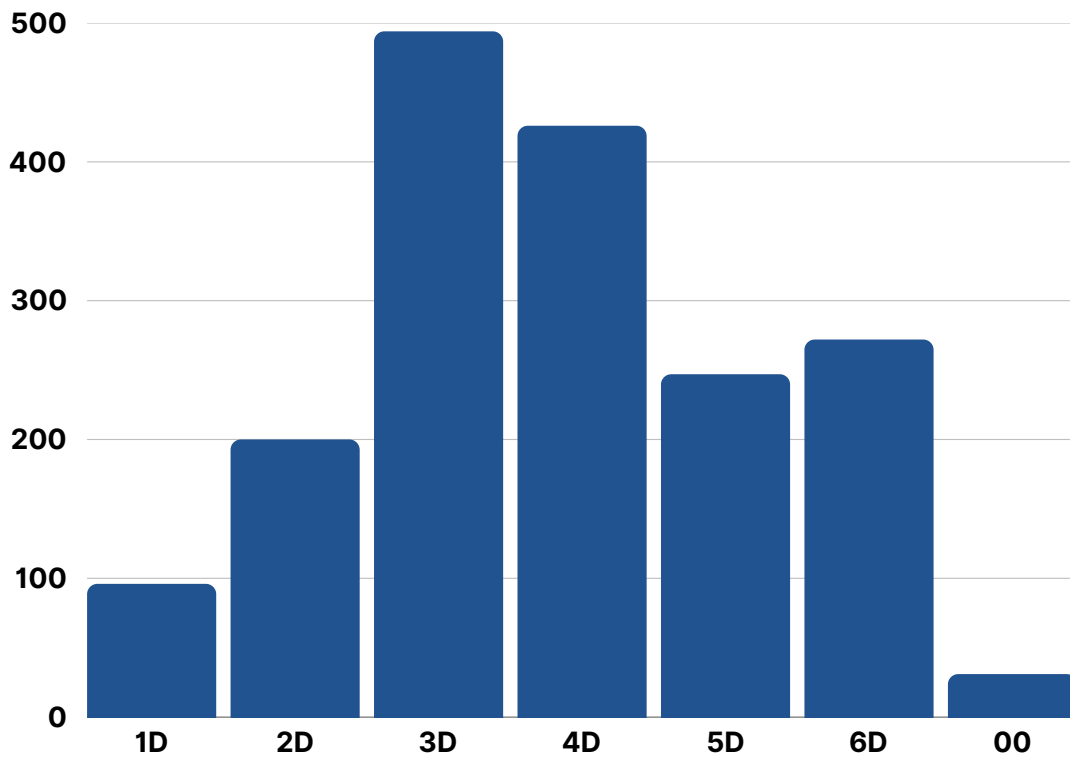
In 2024, February and September reported the highest number of incidents in which force was used in response to resistance, with February making up 11% of all use-of-force incidents and September at 10%. November and December reported the fewest incidents, each making up 6% of all use-of-force incidents. The remaining months had an average of 66 incidents per month.

The data shows that in 2024, incidents involving force in response to resistance occurred consistently throughout most days of the week, with Thursdays reporting the most incidents, 17%, and Saturdays reporting the fewest incidents, 13%.

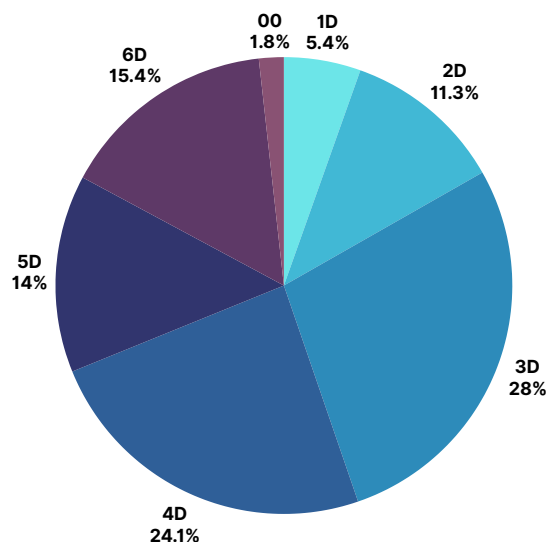
There is a variable trend in that the rate of incidents of force occurrence steadily increased through the morning and mid-afternoon hours (8:00 AM – 3:59 PM, 33%), peaking in the late afternoon to late evening (4:00 PM and 11:59 PM, 50%), and then declined in the early morning hours (12:00 AM – 7:59 AM, 17%). This trend is similar to calls for service volume throughout the day.

DISTRICT OF OCCURRENCE

In 2024, use-of-force incidents in response to resistance reported in Silver Spring (3D) and Wheaton (4D) comprised more than half (52%) of the use-of-force incidents reported and are consistent with the Department's overall calls for service and total arrests.

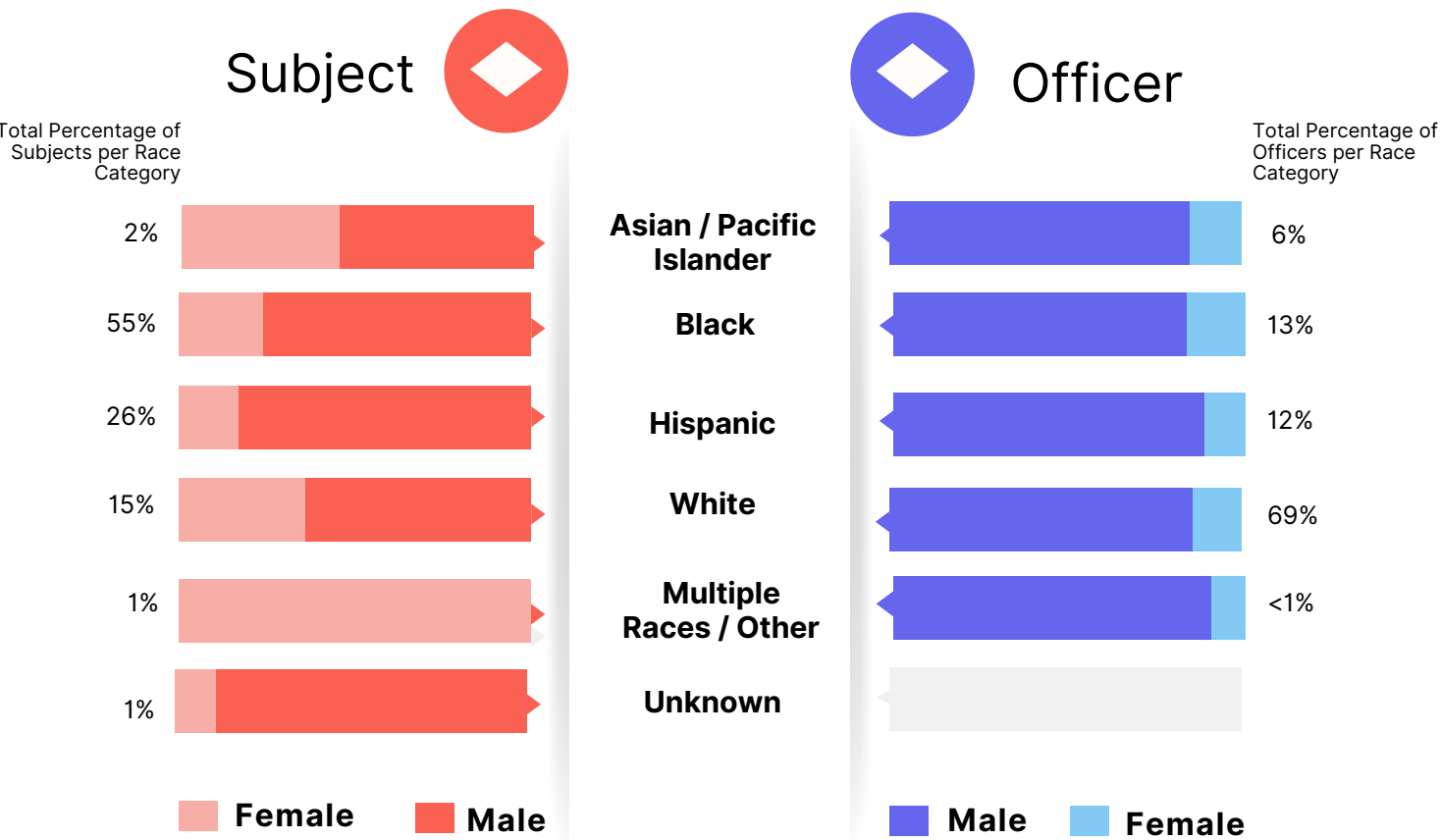


**Note: District '00' refers to reported incidents outside of Montgomery County, Maryland. The use-of-force incidents summarized in this report are based on the location (i.e., district) where force in response to resistance was used, not necessarily the district that the officers are assigned to or where the event may have originated.*



DEMOGRAPHICS OF SUBJECTS AND OFFICERS

RACE/ETHNICITY DEMOGRAPHIC CHART



**Note: Race categories were standardized in CY22 to reflect the terms: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific Islander (API), and Native American. Categories were previously listed as Caucasian, African American, Latino, Asian, or American Indian in CY21. It should be noted that these categories are not exhaustive and do not capture the diversity within and among different racial and ethnic groups. Some individuals may not identify with any of these or may identify with multiple categories.*

In 2024, the categories of Asian-Pacific Islander (API), Black, Hispanic, White, and Multiple Race/Other subjects remained statistically consistent with the category breakdown in 2023. Fifteen percent of the subjects involved in encounters that resulted in some force in response to resistance were White, 55% were Black, 26% were Hispanic, and 2% were Asian or Pacific Islander. Two percent represented multiple or other races.

Of the use-of-force incidents, 24% of the subjects were female, and 75% were male.

There were 4,456 officers involved in the 1,766 use-of-force incidents. During most calls for service, a primary officer is dispatched, and at least one additional officer responds as a backup unit. Research indicates that a “show-of-force” (more officers present) minimizes the need to use force.

De-escalation training encourages both the slowing down of an incident and the utilization of additional resources, such as officers being on the scene.

Consequently, in most circumstances when force is used in response to resistance, multiple officers may be involved in one incident.

While less force may be applied per officer, each officer must document their actions and their justification. Officer data includes all 4,456 officers involved in the 1,766 use-of-force incidents. Subject data includes all 1,766 subjects involved.

Of the use-of-force incidents, 14% of the officers involved were female, and 86% were male.

In 2024, 72% of the officers involved in encounters with subjects that resulted in some force being used in response to resistance were White, 12% were Black, 10% were Hispanic, 5% were Asian or Pacific Islander, and three officers identified as "Other." An officer's demographics can be captured more than once based on the total incidents in which they were involved. This information remains consistent with the demographics of the Department's sworn personnel complement.

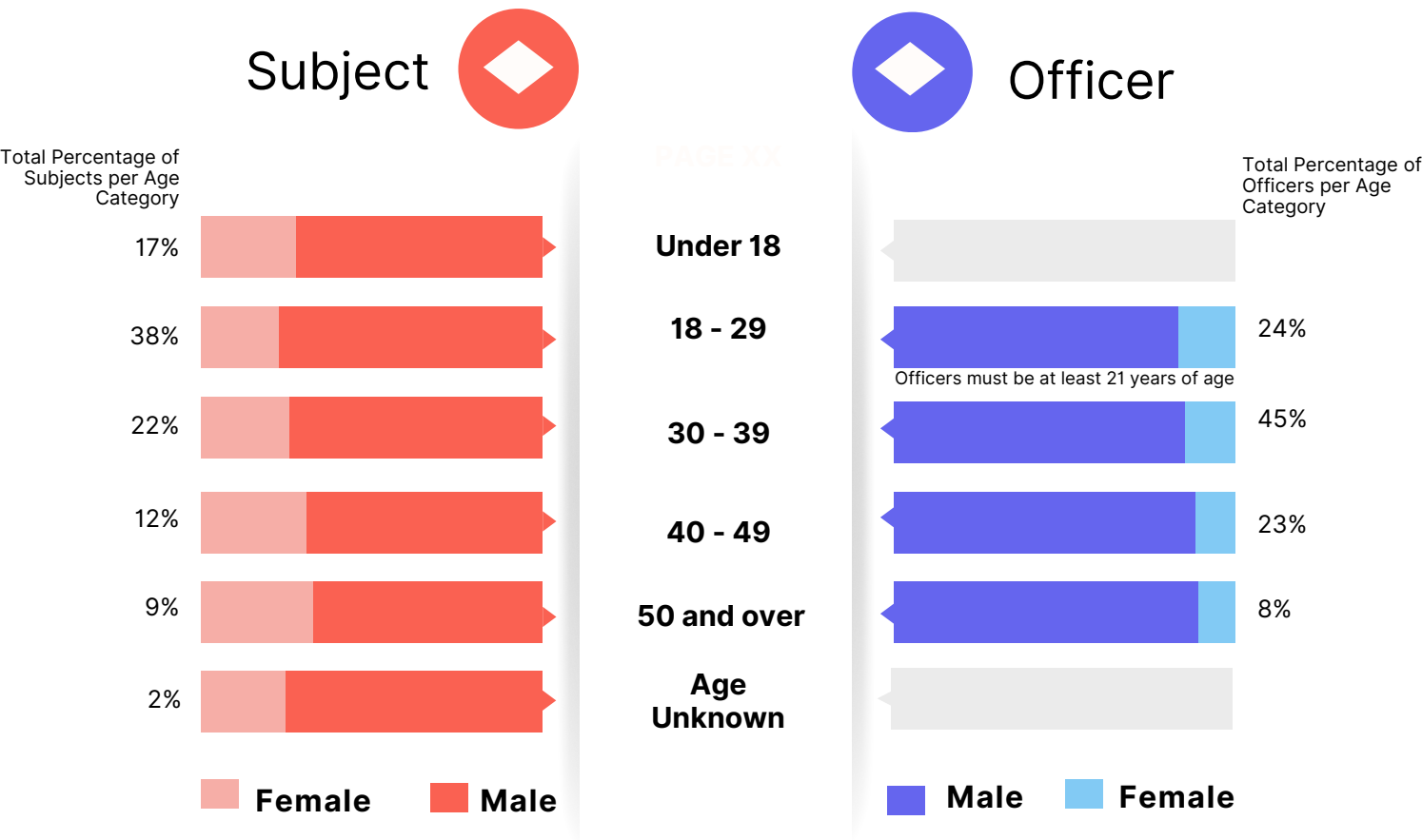
The MCPD shares demographic/unit/statistical data when appropriate. However, any representation of information that would likely reveal the identity of an officer (i.e., be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means) is prohibited. For example, if there is only one female Officer in a unit, identifying the individual as female would indirectly identify the Officer. The MCPD will withhold specific data to avoid the unintended identification of any officers involved.

Demographics of sworn personnel complement, as of December 2024

Race	Female	Male	Total
Asian-Pacific Islander	8	52	60
Black	36	99	135
Hispanic	24	91	115
White	155	639	794
Multiple Races / Other	1	2	3
Total	224	883	1,107

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SUBJECTS AND OFFICERS

AGE DEMOGRAPHIC CHART



For reporting purposes, all persons (including transgender) are documented as the gender they were assigned at birth, as opposed to the gender to which they currently identify

In 2024, there were 1,718 subjects with a known age and 48 whose specific age was unknown. A review of these incidents found that the most common reason the subjects' ages were unknown was that an officer drew their weapon on a carload of individuals in a stolen vehicle, resulting in the occupants fleeing the scene without being apprehended.

Use-of-force data indicated that 18% of the 1,718 subjects were under 18 years old, a 4% decrease from 22% in 2023.

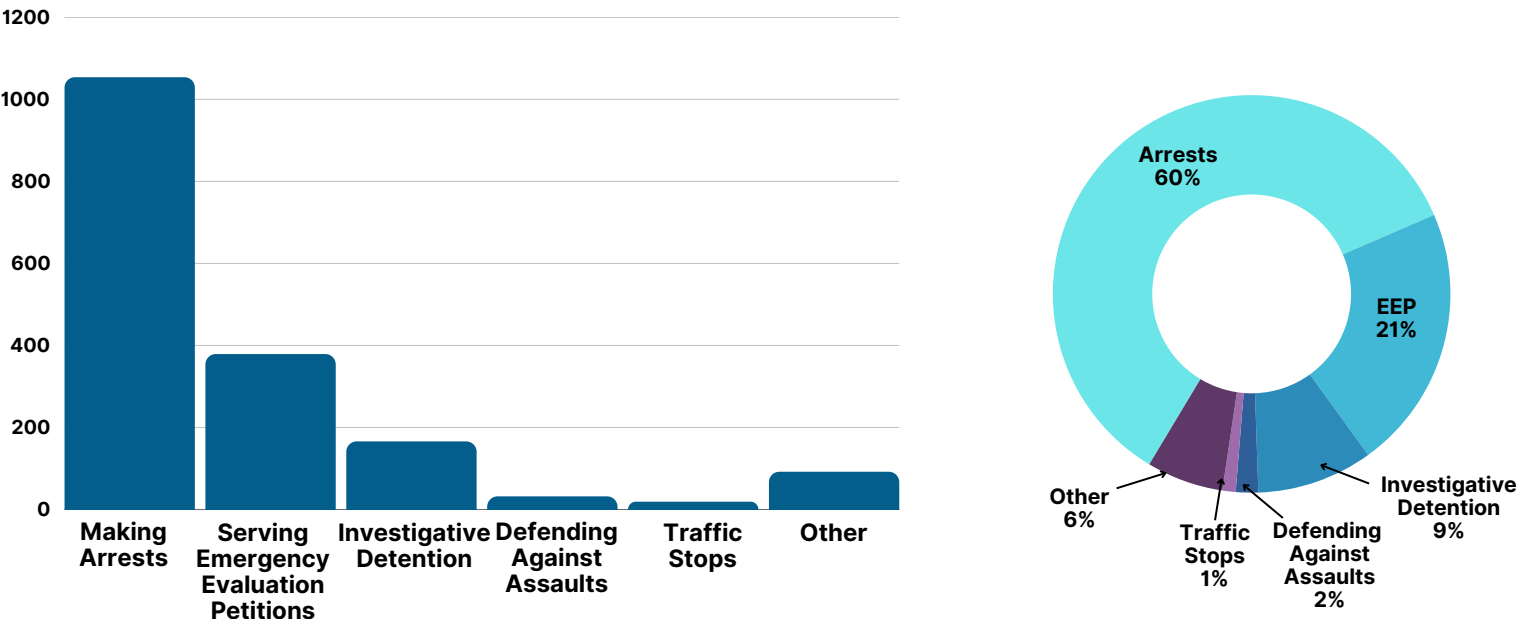
Subjects ages 18-39 represented 60% of the total use-of-force incidents, while subjects in the 40 and older age group accounted for 23%. The average age of the subjects across all age groups for 2024 was 30.

In 2024, 24% of officers were aged 21 to 29, 45% were aged 30 to 39, 23% were 40 to 49, and 8% were 50 or above.

An officer's demographics can be captured more than once based on the total incidents in which they were involved. An officer's age may also be captured in two different age groups based on the officer's date of birth and the date of the incident.

ACTIVITY WHEN FORCE WAS USED

In 2024, making or attempting an arrest, serving an emergency evaluation petition, and defending against assault accounted for 83% of the activities where officers needed to employ force in response to resistance, compared with 84% in 2023.



While the following activity codes are listed as options on the Use of Force Report, their usage was limited. Demonstrations, search warrant service, transporting, tactical or special event operations, and other, including assisting a partner agency, such as Fire-Rescue or Hospital Security, are combined into the category labeled “Other”.

Regarding a correlation to “mental health concerns,” there are two distinct types requiring clarification. In one, officers respond to a non-mental health service call, a dispute, for example, in which the primary concern has nothing to do with mental health, but the mental health of the involved subject becomes a contributing factor while the call is being handled. When this occurs, the officer can select “possible mental health issue,” alcohol, or drugs as an impairment factor in the use-of-force report; this information is applicable to the data listed on page 20.

The second type is when officers respond to a call for service and the primary concern is an individual's mental health. These incidents typically involve an Emergency Evaluation Petition (EEP) for an individual suffering from a mental health disorder. When an individual demonstrates they are a current danger to themselves or others, and is involuntarily evaluated at a medical facility.

The total number of Emergency Evaluation Petitions (EEPs) being served indicates a 5% decrease (CY23: 2113, CY24: 2001), and the number of use-of-force reports generated while serving an EEP reflects an 1% decrease (CY23: 384, CY24: 379).

While those in a mental health crisis are encouraged to seek assistance, many deny needing any, and often, others request it on their behalf. The contentious nature of an EEP call and the requirement to place an unwilling subject into handcuffs during transport to a medical facility generated many of our use-of-force reports. The Department Policy can be found at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol>.

In 2024, 21% of all uses of force involved an EEP, and 19% of EEP calls generated a Use-of-Force Report, compared to 22% and 17%, respectively, in 2023.

TRAFFIC STOPS

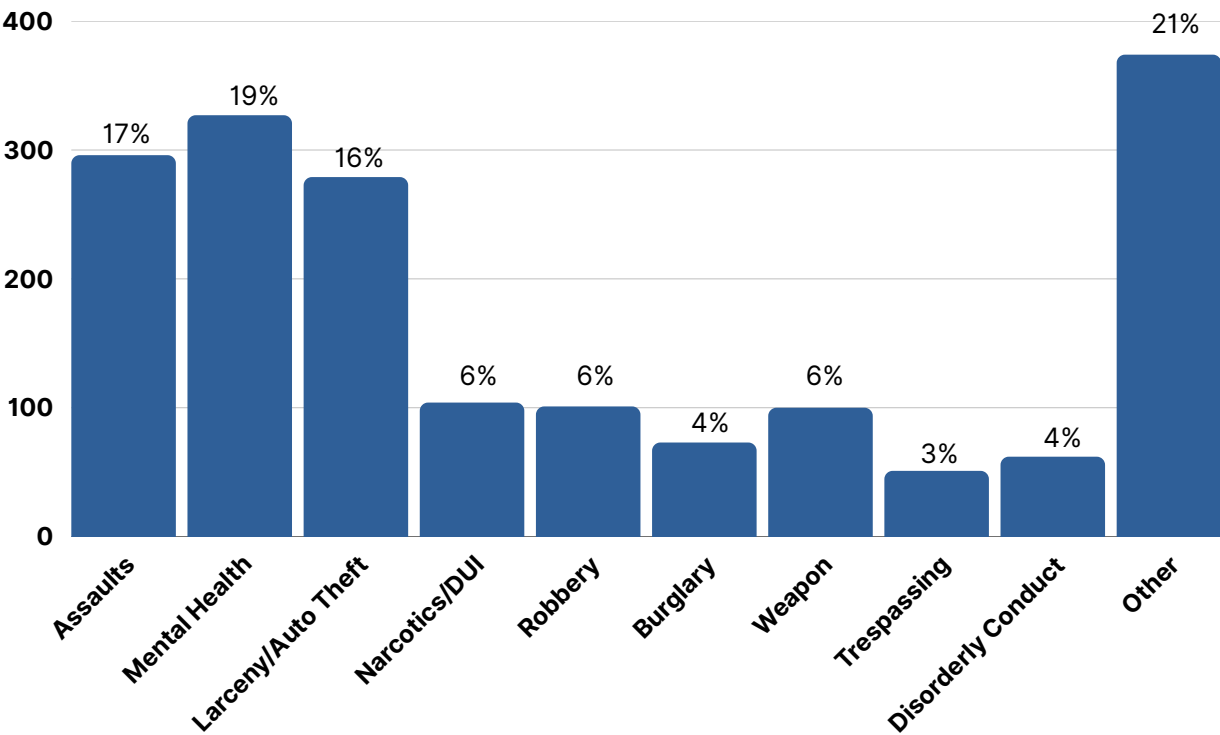
In 2024, MCPD personnel conducted 46,499 traffic stops. However, only nineteen use-of-force incidents stemmed from traffic stops (0.04%). A review of these incidents indicates the most common scenario is an officer pointing their weapon at the driver of a suspected stolen vehicle, or when a vehicle occupant moves in a manner consistent with grabbing a weapon.

CY2024 Total Traffic Stops	46,499
CY2024 Use of Force Events that Stemmed from Traffic Stops	19

OFFENSE TYPES

Offense Types capture the type of call-for-service the officer was handling when the use-of-force occurred. Assaults, Emergency Evaluation Petition (EEP) calls, larceny, and narcotic/DUI offenses accounted for 57% (1,005 out of 1,766) of use-of-force responses to resistance incidents.

Another six percent were related to robbery offenses, four percent to burglary offenses, six percent to weapons offenses, three percent to trespassing, and four percent to disorderly conduct. The remaining 21% included all other incidents involving arson, homicide, police information, vandalism, and other minor offenses.



Note: Percentages may not add up precisely due to rounding calculations.

WEAPON TYPES

The decision to use force requires careful attention and continual assessment of the situation, threats, options, and risks, with the goal of resolving the encounter peacefully. De-escalation efforts are used when feasible and safe to do so, however, rapidly evolving situations may require intervention to protect the lives of the officers or other persons.⁴

Officers are issued protective instruments such as chemical agents (oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray), impact weapons (Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), Pepperball Launcher), and firearms (handgun, shotgun/rifle). All officers are fully trained and certify annually with the protective instruments they carry. The certifications meet the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commissions requirements. The Police Training and Standards Commission is the body established by the Maryland Legislature to govern police certification and training in the State.

Additionally, training and certification for the use of a CEW includes the requirement for officers to attend 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

POINTING OF A WEAPON

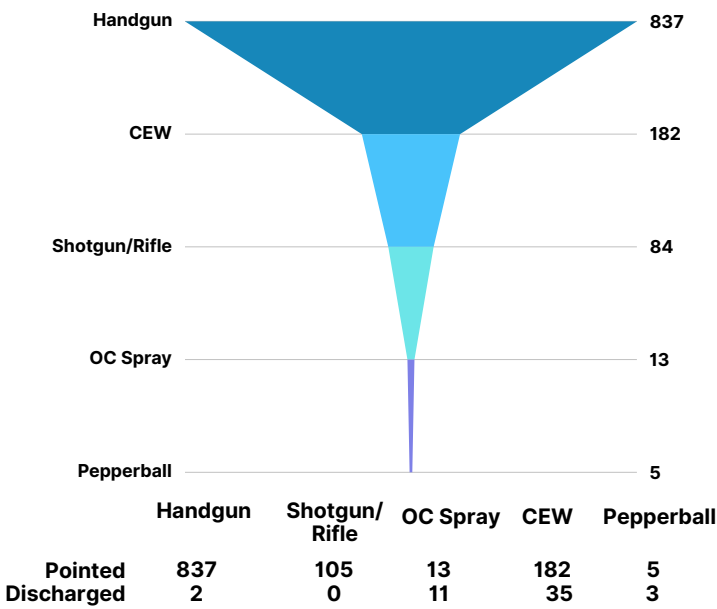
Although officers pointed their handguns 837 times in 2024, only two handguns were discharged. This is a 7% decrease from the 897 times a handgun was pointed in 2023.

Officers pointed their long guns (shotgun/rifle) 105 times in 2024 and did not discharge any. In 2023, there were also zero discharges reported for these weapons.

Officers pointed their oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray 13 times in 2024, resulting in eleven discharges (85% deploy rate). In 2023, OC spray was pointed 14 times, with nine discharges (64% deploy rate).

Officers pointed their Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW)/Taser 182 times in 2024, resulting in 35 discharges (19% deploy rate). In 2023, CEWs were pointed 144 times with 33 discharges (23% deploy rate).

The pepperball launcher was implemented in October 2024. Officers pointed the launcher 5 times, resulting in 3 discharges (60% deploy rate).

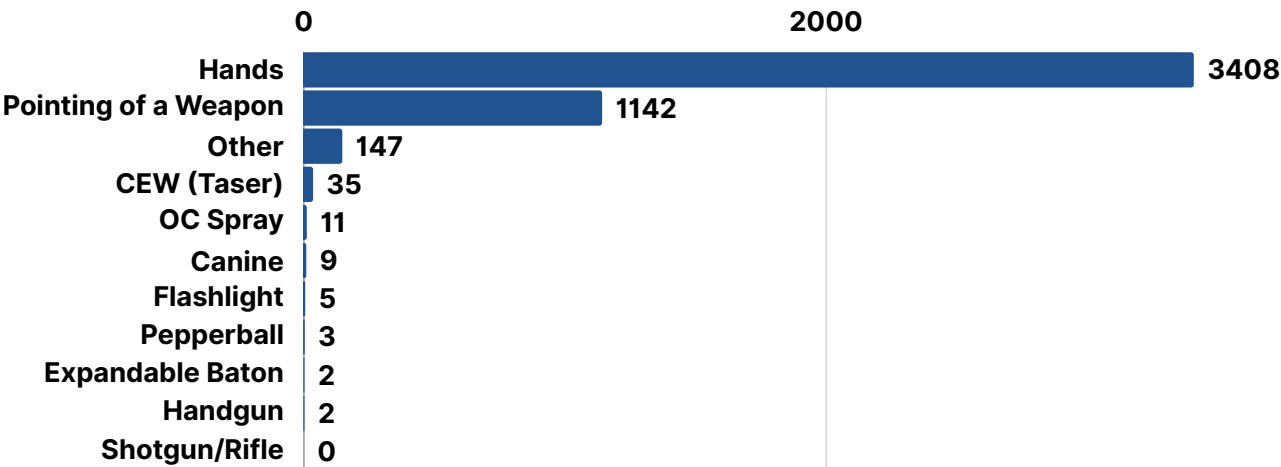


⁴ FC 0131 Response to Resistance and Use of Force

TYPES OF FORCE USED BY OFFICERS

The following chart shows the breakdown of the leading types of force used by officers in 2024. Of the 1,766 reported use-of-force incidents, 596 only involved an officer pointing their weapon. The remaining 1,170 events involved one or multiple reportable factors and may include additional weapon pointings.

The chart below documents the 4,764 types of force used by 4,456 officers during the 1,766 use-of-force incidents in 2024.



Note: Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) was formerly called Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) or Taser, as seen in previous reports.

One officer may use multiple types of force, so the total types of force used (4,764) do not match the total number of officers (4,456). For example, an armed robbery suspect held at gunpoint (not shot), then tased and later escorted into the jail would count as three of the 4,764 uses of force (handgun/point; taser/discharge; hands/escort).

When force was used, 72% of the time, officers used their hands to respond to resistance (3,408 out of 4,764). When hands were used (3,408 times), 86% of the time, hands were used as a control technique, 30% as an escort, and only 1% of the time to deliver strikes.

When force was used, officers pointed a weapon 24% of the time (1,142 out of 4,764). When a weapon was pointed (1,142 times), 73% of the time, it was a handgun (837); sixteen percent of the time, it was a Taser (182); nine percent of the time, it was a Rifle/Shotgun (105); one percent of the time, it was OC spray (13); and 0.4% of the time, it was a Pepperball (5).

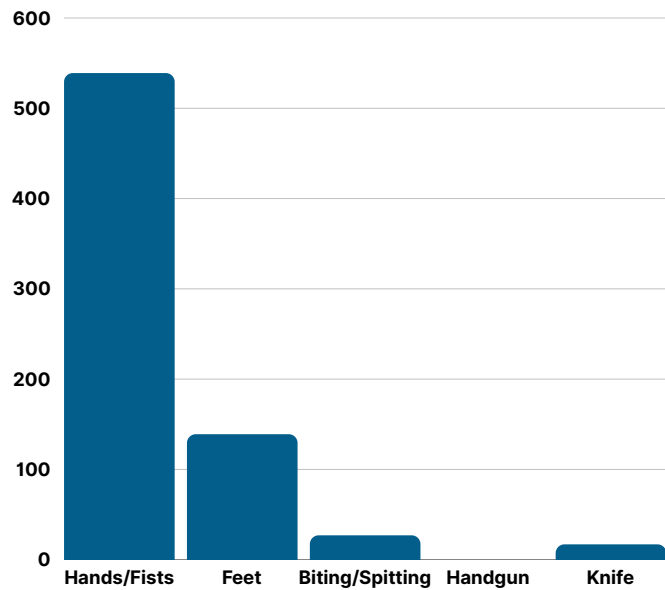
There were two handgun and zero long gun (shotgun/rifle) discharges; however, the CEW / Taser was discharged 35 times, and OC sprayed eleven times. While the following force types are listed as options on the Use of Force Report, their usage was limited (3%). They are combined into “other,” as seen above—feet, vehicle, and other, including knees.

TYPE OF FORCE USED AGAINST OFFICERS

By contrast, the types of force used by a subject against an officer were recorded 1,766 times. As is the case with the types of force used by officers, hands were also the most common type of force used by subjects against officers in 2024, which accounted for 31% of incidents. Subjects used feet 8% of the time, biting/spitting 2% of the time, and knives 1% of the time.

Some additional types of force used by subjects against officers included fleeing (69), active resistance (62), passive resistance (50), legs/kicking (20), body weight (16), vehicles (6), and headbutting (4).

In 2024, there were zero incidents where a subject used a handgun to shoot at officers, although 3 subjects pointed a handgun toward officers.

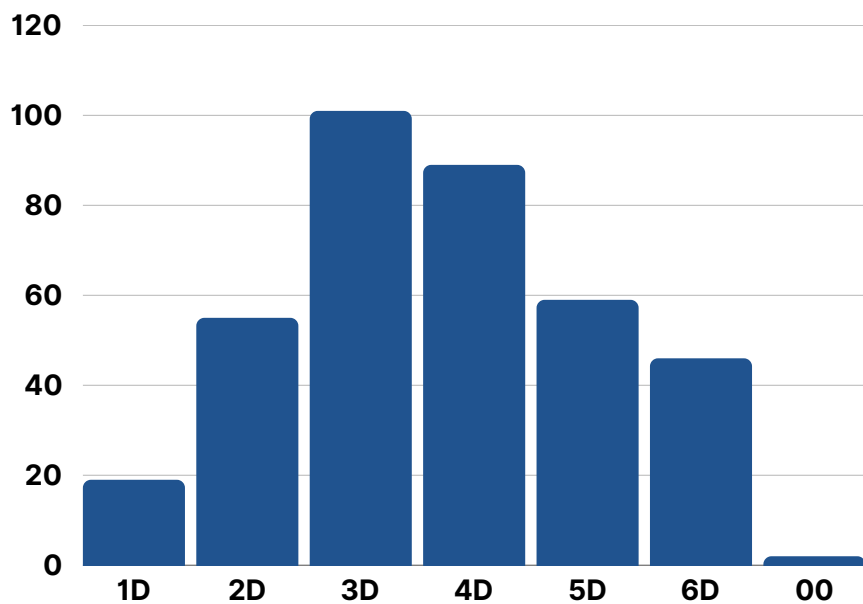


OFFICERS ASSAULTED

For state and federal reporting requirements, the Department records information when an officer reports being assaulted or ambushed. In 2024, 371 officers were assaulted, compared to 451 officers assaulted or ambushed in 2023 (18% decrease). Of the 371 officers who were assaulted, 176 reported 227 types of injuries, the vast majority of injuries being a direct result of the assault. The number of officer injury types is higher than that of injured officers due to multiple injuries reported by a single officer (for example bruise/soreness and broken bone(s), or laceration/abrasion)

For context, 371 (of 4,456) officers reported being assaulted during 142 (of 1,766) use-of-force incidents. The number of officers assaulted is higher than the number of involved incidents due to more than one officer being assaulted during a single incident.

The data indicates that in 2023, most assaults against officers (51%) occurred during activities by officers in Silver Spring (3D) and Wheaton (4D). These assaults occurred while officers were responding to calls involving a variety of offenses, including robberies, burglaries, domestic violence-related events, assaults, narcotics-related offenses, and disorderly conduct. Two incidents occurred outside Montgomery County (00).

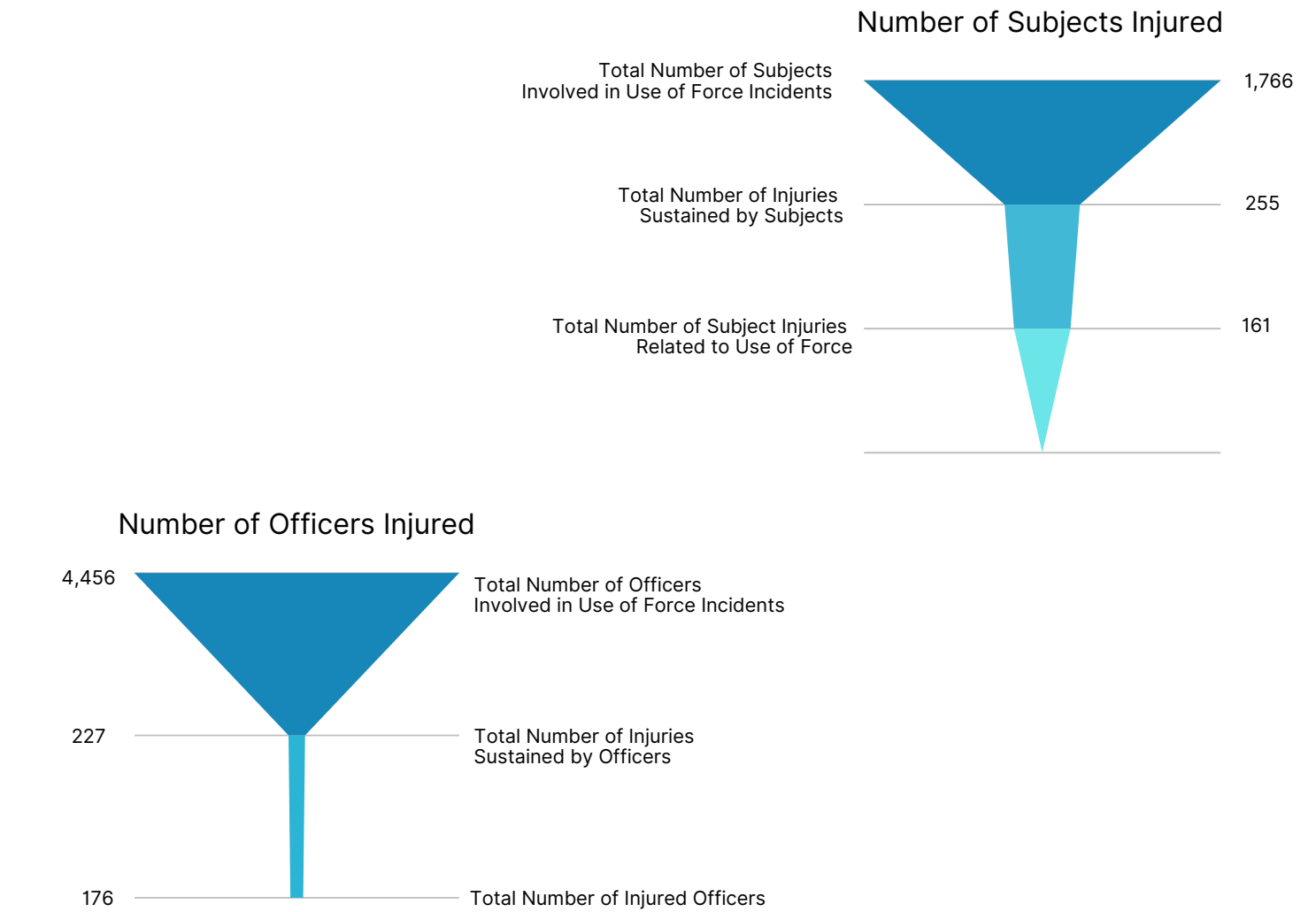


INJURIES TO OFFICERS AND SUBJECTS

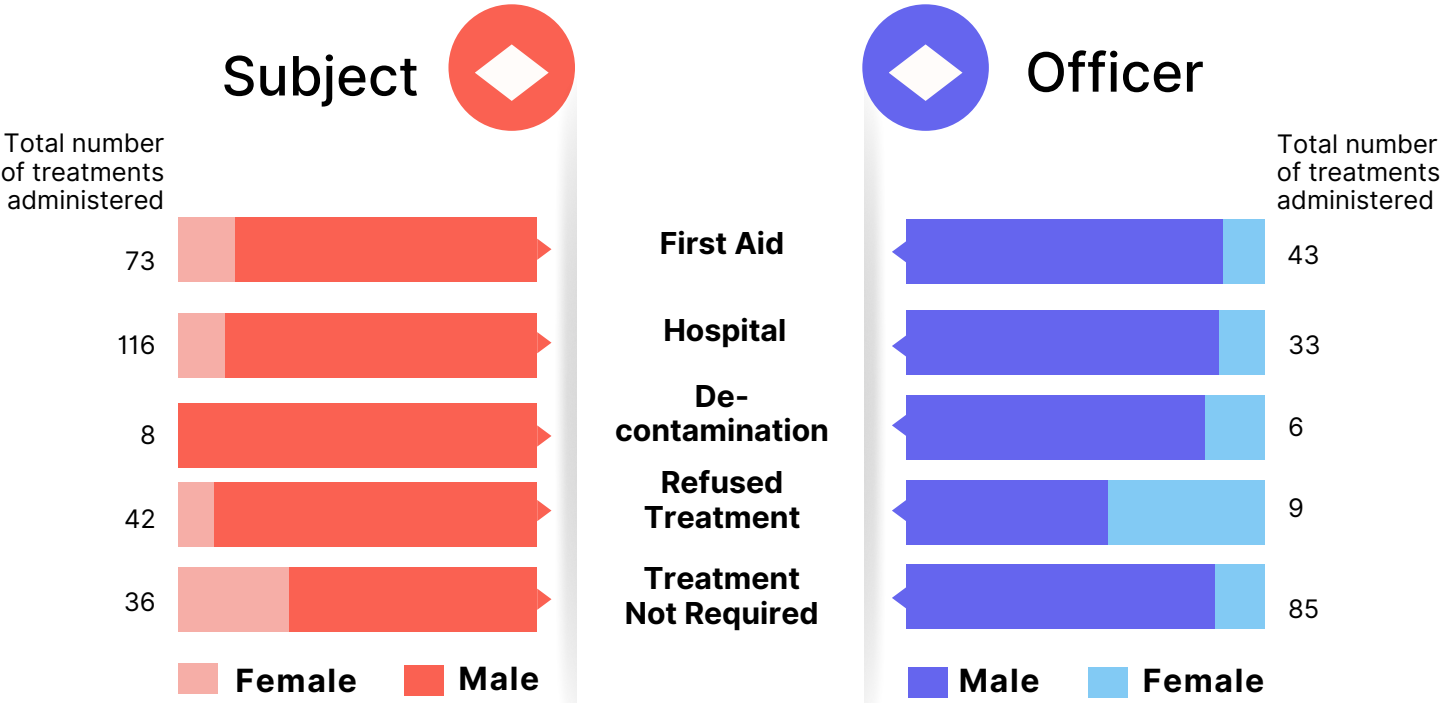
In 2024, 176 of 4,456 officers involved in use-of-force incidents reported 227 types of injuries while handling the 1,766 use-of-force incidents. The types of officer injuries included lacerations/abrasions (98), bruises/soreness (85), bite injuries (seven), and "other" (37), which include blood exposure, exposure to bodily fluids, sprained ankle, being cut, muscle strain, and concussion. There were instances where one officer suffered multiple types of injury during a single event and/or received multiple types of medical treatment.

During the 1,766 use-of-force events, a total of 255 subjects in custody reported or claimed injury. However, only 161 of the 255 subjects were injured as a direct result of the use-of-force incident; 94 subjects suffered injuries unrelated to an officer's use of force. This could include pre-existing (before police contact) or self-inflicted by the subject.

An example would be an individual who cut their hand punching a glass door before police arrival and then resisted while being taken into custody for an Emergency Evaluation Petition (EEP). Though their hand injury was unrelated to the encounter with officers, the subject would be transported to a Hospital for an EEP. They would subsequently receive medical treatment from Hospital staff since they are already at a Hospital. In this example, the subject is counted in the 255 section of the chart below (Number of Subjects Injured), not in the 161 section, and is also represented in the Subject Medical Treatment chart on page 19.



MEDICAL TREATMENT CHART



Note: Decontamination typically refers to procedures (e.g., flushing with water) to mitigate the effects of exposure to OC Spray being deployed by officers as a less lethal force option which can cause irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat of both officers and subjects depending on the circumstances of the incident.

The above chart summarizes the types of medical treatment administered to subjects and officers related to injuries recorded via a Use of Force Report in 2024. There could be instances where multiple medical treatments were provided to one individual, potentially driving the total number of treatments higher than the number of injured people.

In 2024, basic first aid medical treatment was provided to 29% of injured subjects (73 of the 255); 116 subjects were treated at a hospital, eight received decontamination treatment, 42 refused medical treatment, and 36 subjects reported an injury that did not require treatment.

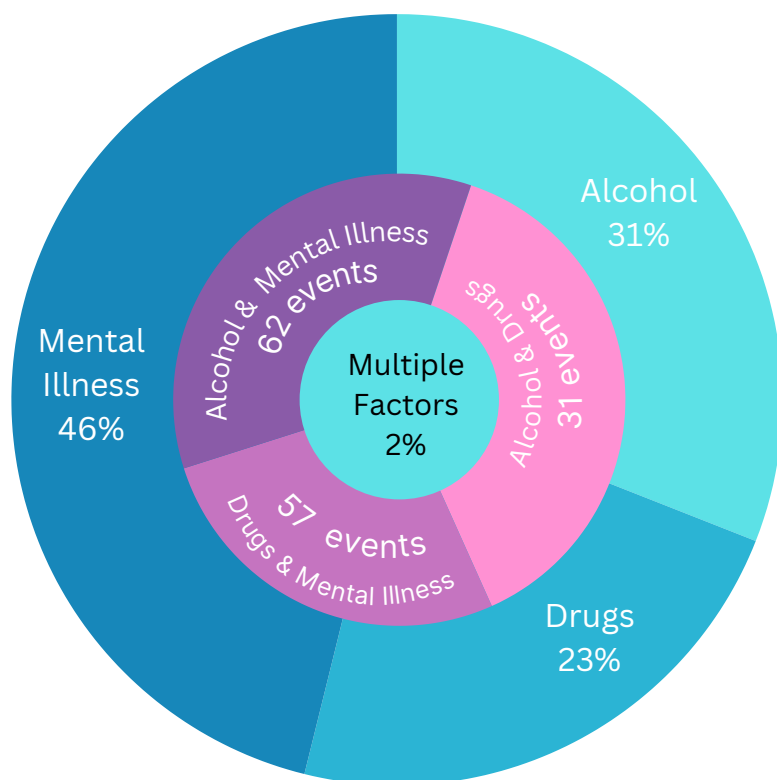
The most severe subject injuries were not caused by police, including pre-existing injuries and broken bones after a car crash. Forty-two subjects treated at the hospital were transported there for an EEP. They received medical treatment only because they were already at a hospital, not because their injuries specifically required hospital treatment.

Although 255 subjects claimed an injury, only 161 of the injuries were directly related to the police use of force; the other 94 non-related injuries included pre-existing and self-inflicted injuries.

In 2024, 82 forms of medical treatment (first aid, hospitalization, or decontamination) were administered to the 176 injured officers. Treatment was either refused or not required for the remaining 94 officers.

Of the 82 administered treatments, Basic First Aid medical treatment was provided 53% of the time (43 of the 82 treatments); hospitalization was provided 40% of the time (33 of the 82 treatments); and decontamination was provided 7% of the time (six of the 82 treatments). Of the remaining 94 injured officers, medical care was refused 10% of the time (9 of the 94 cases), and treatment was not required in 90% (85 of the 94 cases).

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS



In 2024, of the 1,722 use-of-force incidents, 62% (1,101) involved one or more of the three tracked contributing factors: alcohol, drugs, or mental health concerns. A total of 1,271 contributing factors were listed in the 1,101 events. These multi-level contributing factors drove the total number higher than the number of events. For example, a subject with a mental health concern was also intoxicated.

These contributing factors often result in officers needing to employ some force in response to resistance to safely control the situation due to an increased likelihood of non-compliance on the part of the subject(s) involved.

Alcohol was listed as a contributing factor in 341 of the 1,101 events; drugs were listed as a contributing factor in 252 of the 1,101 events, and mental illness was listed as a contributing factor in 508 of the 1,101 events. There were 31 instances where both alcohol and drugs were a factor, 62 where alcohol and mental illness both played a factor, and 57 where drugs and mental illness were factors. Additionally, there were 20 incidents where all three factors were present. Since multiple factors may have been involved in any encounter, and each factor is counted separately, the total contributing factors (1,271) are higher than the total events (1,101).

Of the total use-of-force incidents (1,766), alcohol was a factor 19% of the time; drugs were a factor 14% of the time, and mental illness was a factor 29%. At least one of the three factors was present 62% of the time.

When a contributing factor was present (1,101), alcohol was present 31% of the time, drugs were present 23%, and mental illness was present 46% of the time.

The Police Department places significant emphasis via policy and training on taking extra precautions and care when dealing with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Often, the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) is called to assist. In these situations, as well as when a subject may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, there is an increased likelihood that officers may be confronted with increased resistance due to the subject's diminished mental state and impairment.

Officers often transport these individuals to a medical treatment facility as part of the emergency evaluation petition (EEP) process. Once there, a medical or mental health professional can administer proper assessment and treatment.

USE OF FORCE-RELATED ALLEGATIONS

In 2024, the MCPD Internal Affairs Division (IAD) reviewed 4 use-of-force-related cases involving 5 allegations from external and internal sources, compared to 14 cases and 18 allegations received in 2023. The IAD ensures that all allegations of excessive force, regardless of their source, are thoroughly reviewed and investigated. The Police Chief ensures corrective action is taken for any improper conduct.

Information regarding these investigations is summarized in IAD Annual Reports published on the Department's website. The IAD also shares pertinent data with the public as part of the County's dataMontgomery program, an integral element of the Department's community policing philosophy and ongoing commitment to maintaining a culture of transparency. Summary information concerning allegations/complaints brought to the attention of IAD from external or internal sources can be reviewed at <https://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/Public-Safety/Internal-Affairs-Allegations/usip-62e2/dta>.

IN-CUSTODY DEATH AND DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

An in-custody death refers to the death of an individual while in the custody of law enforcement officers when the use of deadly force does not directly cause the death. Death may occur from contributing circumstances, such as medical problems, that are identified or developed while a person is in police custody. No in-custody deaths occurred in 2024.

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. An officer-involved death is defined as an individual's death or potential death resulting from an action or omission by a law enforcement officer. In contrast, the officer is on duty or while off-duty but performing activities within the scope of their law enforcement duties.


The Maryland General Assembly enacted State Bill (SB) 600, the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021, creating the Independent Investigations Division (IID) within the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Beginning October 1, 2021, the IID began investigating all alleged or potential officer-involved deaths of civilians. In 2023 the General Assembly expanded the IID's authority to include prosecution.

For incidents that occurred before October 1, 2023, the IID did not have the authority to decide whether to prosecute an involved officer or have the authority to bring criminal charges. Instead, after its investigation, the IID sent a report containing detailed findings and analysis to the State's Attorney of the county with jurisdiction over the incident. In those cases, the local State's Attorney retained sole prosecutorial authority. For incidents occurring on or after October 1, 2023, the IID has prosecutorial authority⁵.

Two deadly force-related incidents occurred in 2024 involving the Montgomery County Police.

May 29, 2024: Officers responded to a call for service involving a suspect armed with a gun, holding his mother hostage inside the residence. Police negotiators and SWAT team attempted to communicate with the suspect for several hours. SWAT officers entered the residence, encountered the suspect, and gave commands with which the suspect did not comply. An officer's weapon was discharged and life saving medical aid was rendered immediately. The suspect succumbed to his injuries.

⁵<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IID/IID.aspx>



September 21, 2024: Officers responded to a call for service regarding an assault in progress. Officers arrived at the location and encountered a suspect armed with an object. The officer gave multiple commands, with which the suspect did not comply. The suspect approached the officer and victims whom he assaulted earlier. The officer's weapon was discharged and life saving measures were rendered immediately. The suspect succumbed to his injuries.

SUMMARY

The Department continues to provide use-of-force training at all levels, including recruit, in-service, and supervisory, emphasizing current case law, policy requirements, and best practices consistent with federal, state, and national standards and guidelines. The use of any force by MCPD officers in response to resistance continues to constitute a very small percentage of incidents compared to the overall calls for service that officers respond to daily and contacts they have during traffic stops and other activities. The need to use force, whether deadly or non-deadly, is one of the most demanding and critical decisions a law enforcement officer must make. The Department respects every human life's sanctity, dignity, and value, and deadly force is only employed in 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 involving police use of force. The misuse of force violates the rights of the person against whom it is used and violates the trust that the public places in its police department. The public expects and deserves a culture of transparency, accountability, fairness, trust, and respect, and every Department member 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 is how well the Department can earn and sustain the trust and respect of the residents of Montgomery County, Maryland.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
Policy and Planning Division
100 Edison Park Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Questions may be directed to MCP.PolicyandPlanning@montgomerycountymd.gov.

