

2025 ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



April 2, 2026

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The Policy and Planning Division

Marc R. Yamada, Chief of Police

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Summary

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) is fully committed to working with and educating our community about how and why officers use force when responding to resistance. The 2025 Use of Force Report shows that our shared commitment to safety continues to make use of force events uncommon in Montgomery County and that the department places strong emphasis on safety, accountability, and de-escalation.

Throughout the year, officers responded to more than 197,000 calls for service, yet force was used in fewer than one percent of them. Of the 1,749 reported encounters, the situation was resolved 571 times (33%) without physical contact, and when force was necessary, officers most often relied on their hands (72%) for basic control techniques rather than weapons. Even in cases where a weapon was pointed, it was usually enough to de-escalate the situation without any discharge. In fact, no firearms were discharged by MCPD officers at all in 2025.

The number of calls for service and the overall crime rate both decreased in 2025. Still, certain types of situations—such as aggravated assaults, vehicle thefts, and mental-health-related crises—continued to account for 36% of incidents where force became necessary. The county continues to see a rise in calls involving individuals in crisis, which often require officers to provide support and stability during difficult moments to ensure the person’s safety and the safety of others. MCPD remains committed to strengthening crisis intervention training and compassionate response and collaborates with mental health partners to ensure the safest possible outcomes during these challenging situations.

Importantly, there were no in-custody deaths and no incidents involving the use of deadly force by MCPD officers in 2025. Every complaint related to the use of force was reviewed under established accountability procedures to ensure that the department continues to meet the highest standards of professionalism, fairness, and transparency.

Overall, the 2025 report shows that MCPD uses force infrequently and continues to prioritize de-escalation, crisis response, and respectful treatment of every individual. The department continues to build meaningful trust and partnership with community members by sharing this information publicly and by continually improving policies, training, and practices that keep residents and officers safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc R. Yamada'.

Marc R. Yamada
Chief of Police

INTRODUCTION

The annual report data is obtained from Use-of-force reports completed by officers for incidents in 2025 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.

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 safety¹. 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 survey², 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 1% of police contacts involved the use of force, well below the national average.

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.

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.

¹Use-of-force Council Briefing, Legislative Analyst Susan Farag

²Contacts Between Police and the Public, 2022



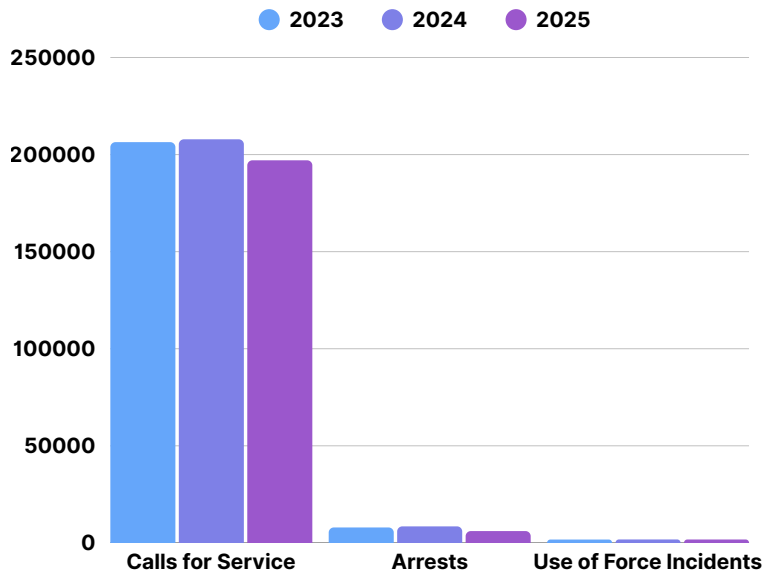
DATA INTERPRETATION

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.

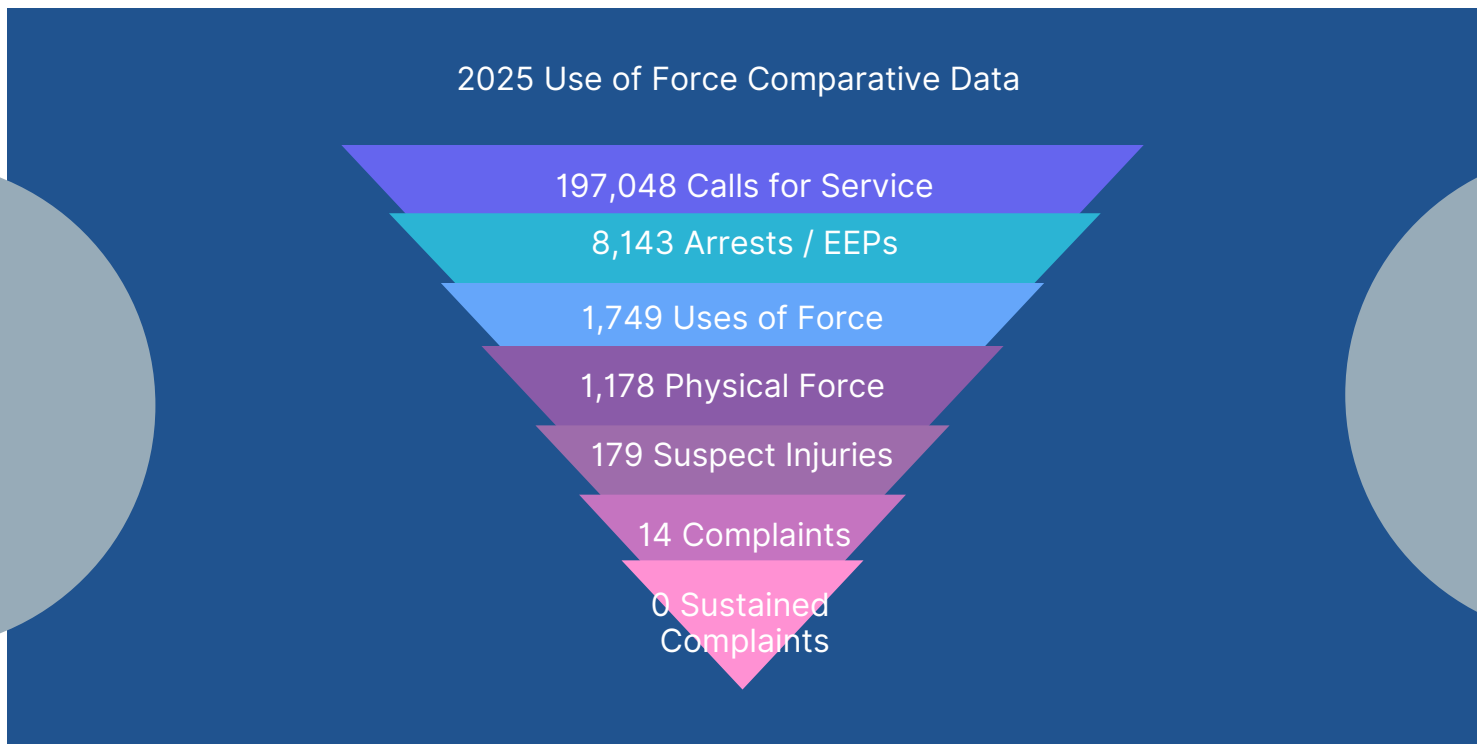
COMPARATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

The calls-for-service vs. use-of-force data indicates that force is consistently used in less than 1% of incidents. In 2025 the rate was 0.89%, meaning nine uses of force for every 1,000 calls.

The arrests vs. use of force statistics indicate that three in ten arrests (29%) involved a use-of-force incident.



Category	2023	2024	2025
Calls for Service	206,407	207,871	197,048
Arrests	7,942	8,501	6,084
Use of Force Reports	1,722 606 ONLY Pointing 1,116 Use of Force	1,766 596 ONLY Pointing, 1,170 Use of Force	1,749 571 ONLY Pointing, 1,178 Use of Force



CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2025, calls for service decreased by 5% from 2024. This is the first decrease in calls for service since 2020, when call numbers dropped to 185,973 calls due to the pandemic.

A 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 suspects³.

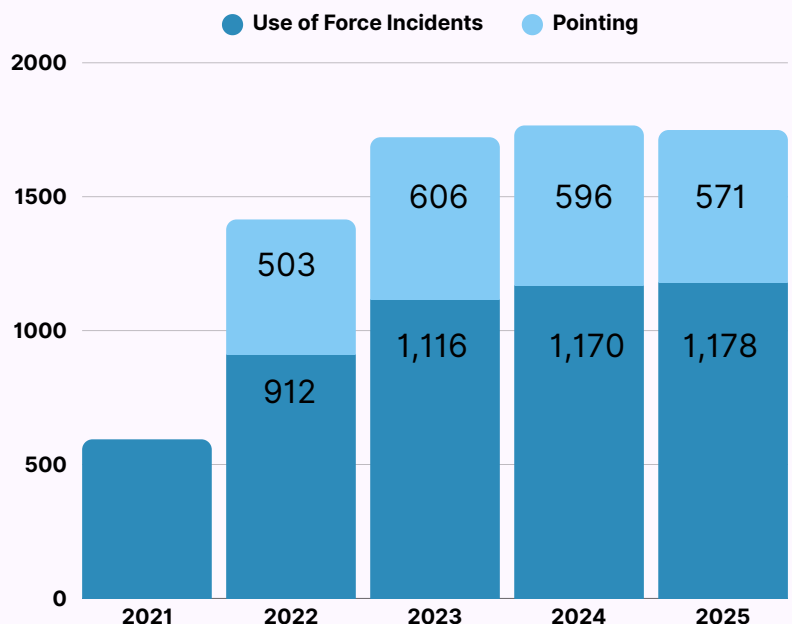
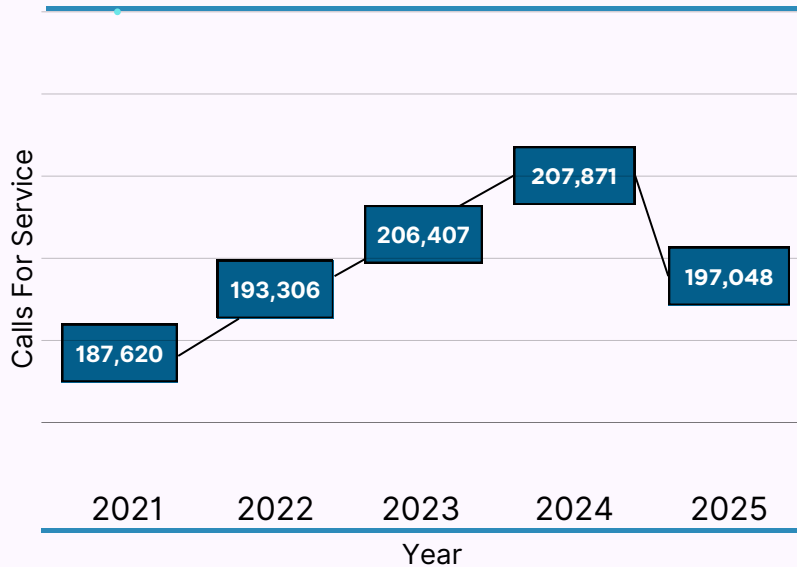
³Police Staffing Council Briefing (2024) Legislative Analyst Susan Farag

Statistics

USE OF FORCE TREND

In 2025, there were 1,749 uses of force, 1,178 involving physical force, and 571 of which ONLY a weapon was pointed. In 571 instances (33%), the presence of an officer's weapon de-escalated the situation, and no physical force was needed. The remaining 1,178 instances may have included the pointing of a weapon, but physical force was used to manage the situation effectively.

In 2025, there was a 5% decrease in calls for service and a 9% decrease in the overall crime rate. Despite a decrease in the overall crime rate, aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft, and mental health transport contributed to 36% of all uses of force.



Note: There may be an overlap where an incident includes pointing a weapon and another type of force. In CY25, 571 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	132
February	101
March	186
April	129
May	139
June	136
July	158
August	188
September	143
October	149
November	136
December	152

Day of Week

Sunday	219
Monday	212
Tuesday	273
Wednesday	266
Thursday	281
Friday	274
Saturday	224

Time of Day

12:00 AM - 3:59 AM	223
4:00 AM - 7:59 AM	125
8:00 AM - 11:59 AM	224
12:00 PM - 3:59 PM	337
4:00 PM - 7:59 PM	423
8:00 PM - 11:59 PM	417

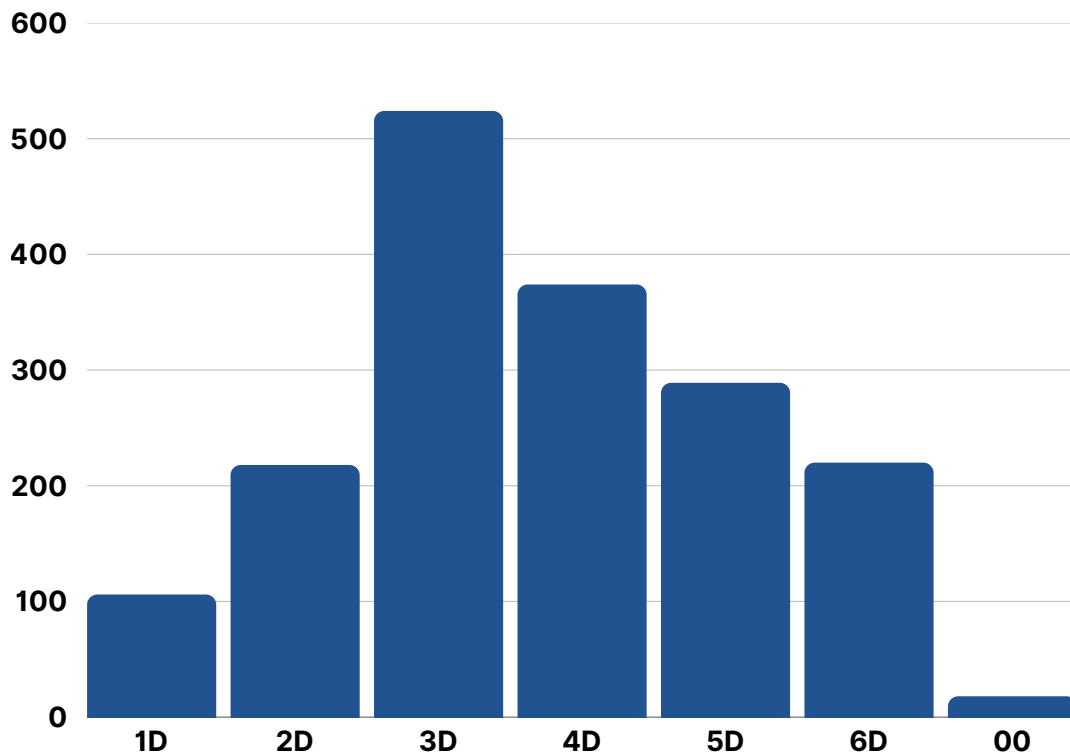
In 2025, March and August reported the highest numbers of incidents involving force used in response to resistance, each accounting for 11% of all use-of-force incidents. February reported the fewest incidents, with 6% of all use-of-force incidents. The remaining months had an average of 141 incidents per month.

The data shows that in 2025, incidents involving force in response to resistance occurred consistently throughout most days of the week, with Thursdays reporting the most incidents, 16%, and Mondays reporting the fewest incidents, 12%.

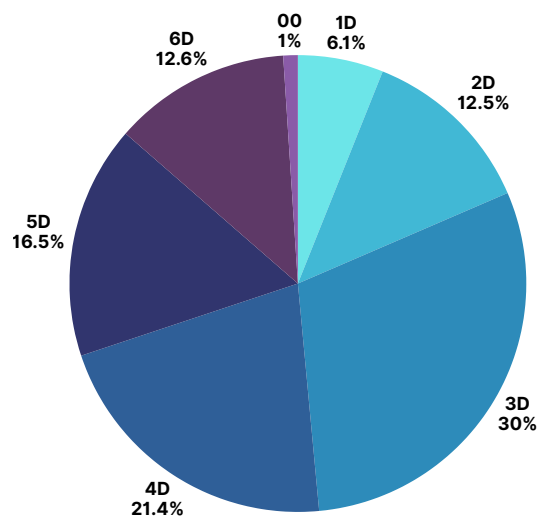
There is a variable trend in that the rate of incidents of force occurrence steadily increased through the morning and mid-afternoon hours (8:00 AM – 3:59 PM, 32%), peaking in the late afternoon to late evening (4:00 PM and 11:59 PM, 48%), and then declined in the early morning hours (12:00 AM – 7:59 AM, 20%). This trend is similar to calls for service volume throughout the day.

DISTRICT OF OCCURRENCE

In 2025, use-of-force incidents in response to resistance reported in Silver Spring (3D) and Wheaton (4D) comprised more than half (51%) of the use-of-force incidents reported and are consistent with the Department's overall calls for service and total arrests.

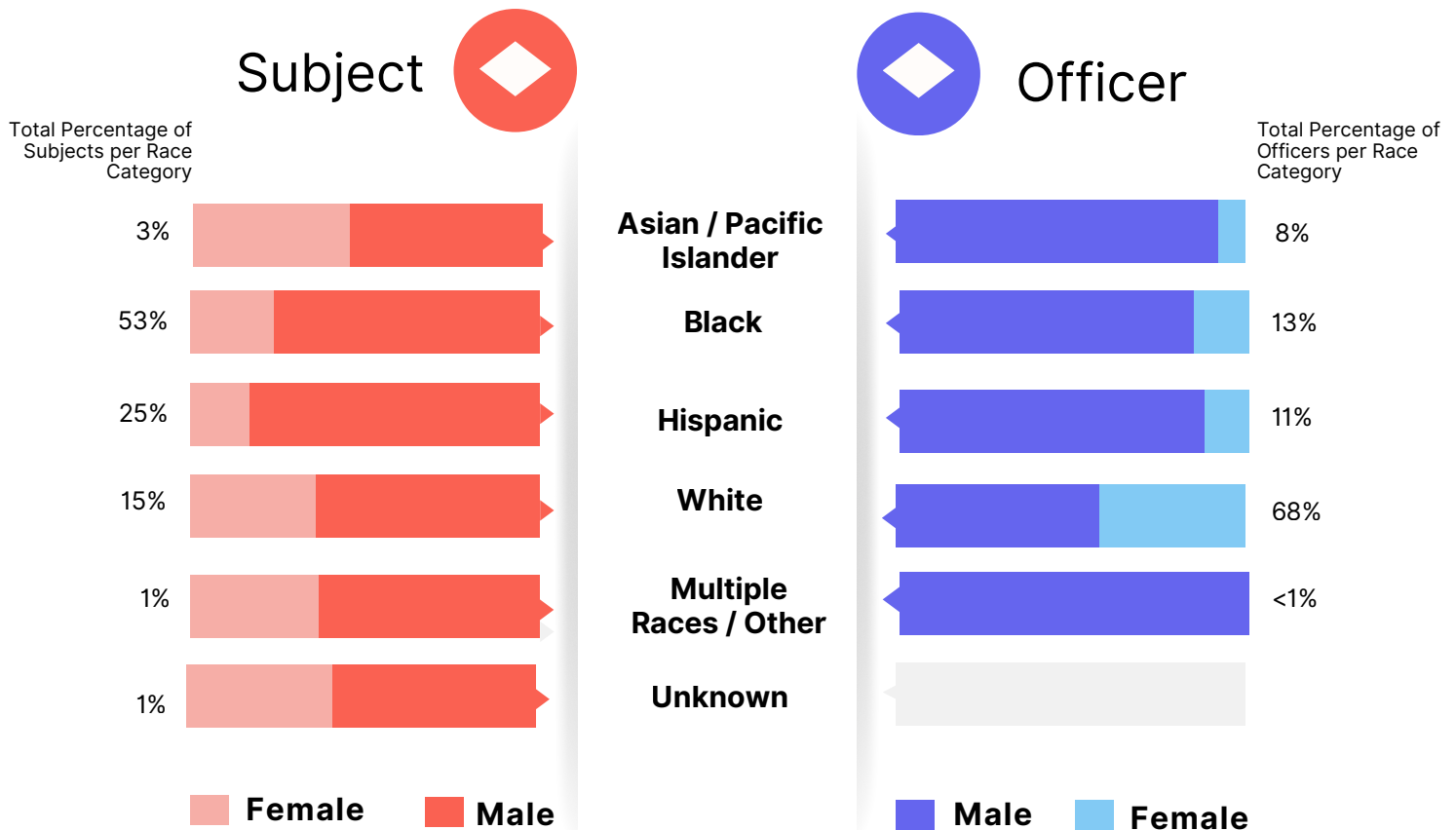


**Note: District '00' refers to reported incidents outside of Montgomery County, Maryland. The use-of-force incidents summarized in this report are based on the location (i.e., district) where force in response to resistance was used, not necessarily the district that the officers are assigned to or 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 2025, the categories of Asian-Pacific Islander (API), Black, Hispanic, White, and Multiple Race/Other subjects remained statistically consistent with the category breakdown in 2024. Of the subjects involved in encounters that resulted in some force in response to resistance 15% were White, 53% were Black, 25% were Hispanic, and 3% were Asian or Pacific Islander. Two percent represented multiple, other, and unknown races.

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

There were 4,344 officers involved in the 1,749 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 4,344 officers involved in the 1,749 use-of-force incidents. Subject data includes all 1,749 subjects involved.

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

In 2025, 68% of the officers involved in encounters with subjects that resulted in some force being used in response to resistance were White, 13% were Black, 11% were Hispanic, 8% were Asian or Pacific Islander, and twelve 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.

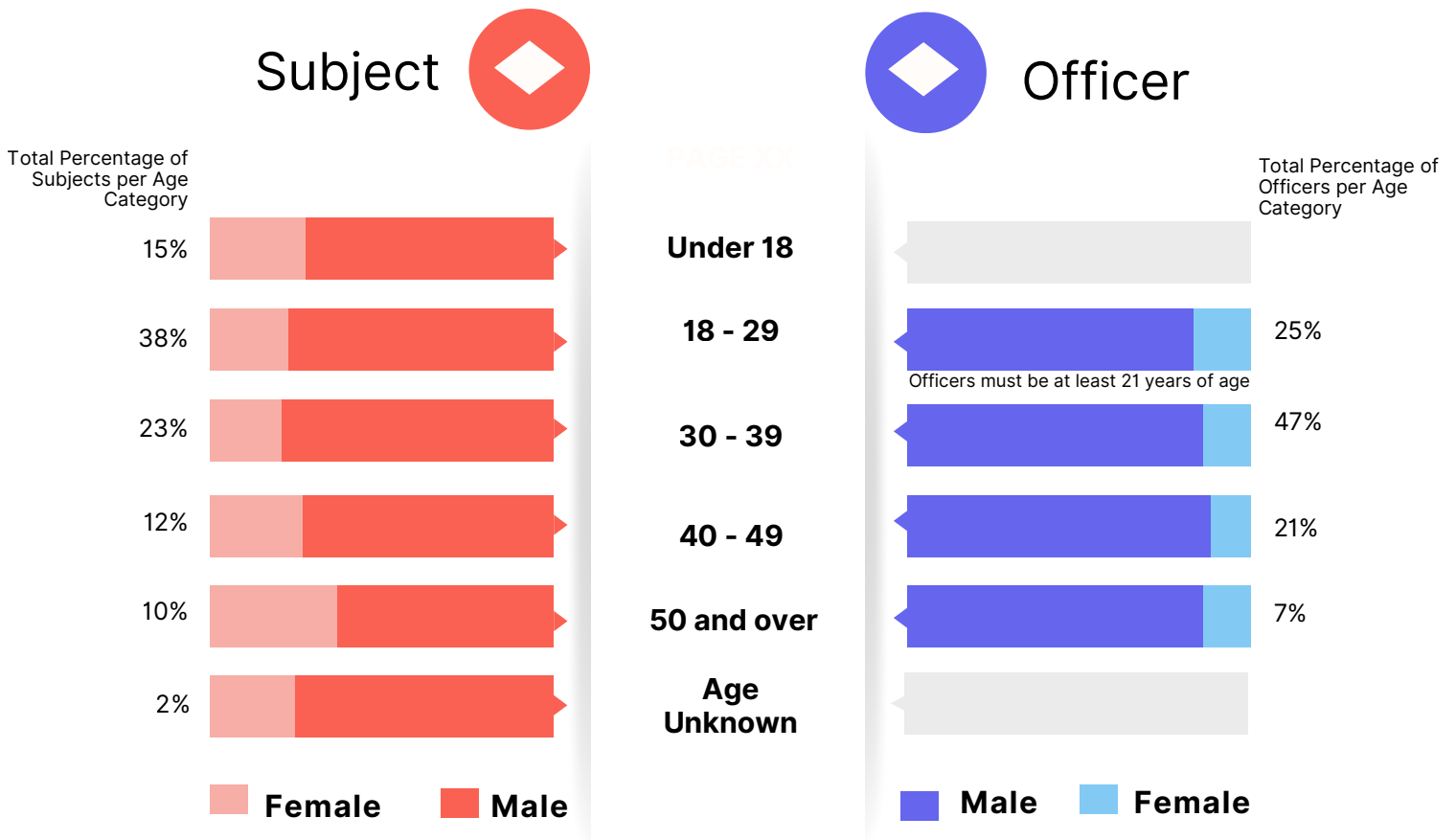
The MCPD shares demographic/unit/statistical data when appropriate. However, any representation of information that would likely reveal the identity of an officer (i.e., be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means) is prohibited. For example, if there is only one female Officer in a unit, 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 2025

Race	Female	Male	Total
Asian-Pacific Islander	7	53	60
Black	32	99	131
Hispanic	24	91	115
White	148	626	774
Multiple Races / Other	2	4	6
Total	213	873	1,086

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 2025, there were 1,717 subjects with a known age and 32 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 15% of the 1,717 subjects were under 18 years old, a 3% decrease from 18% in 2024.

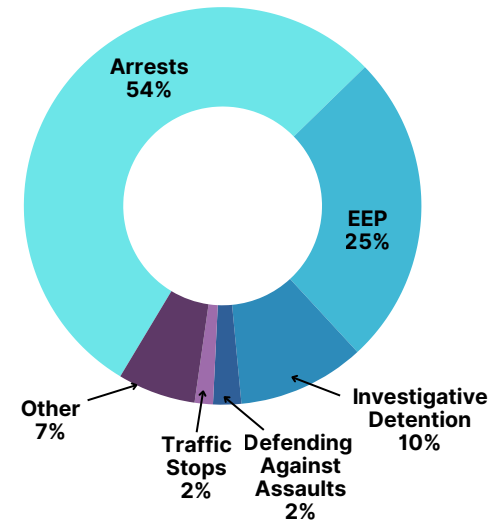
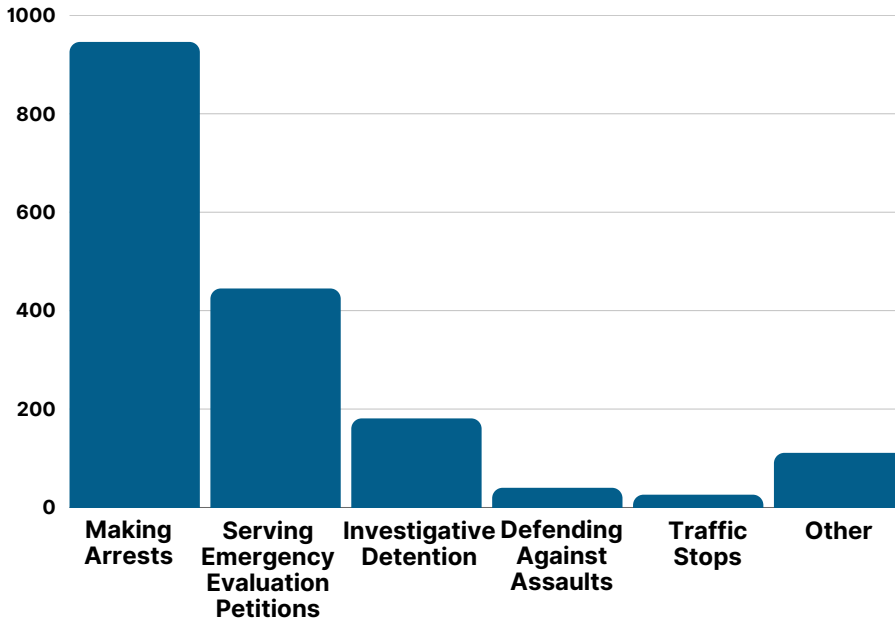
Subjects ages 18-39 represented 61% of the total use-of-force incidents, while subjects in the 40 and older age group accounted for 22%. The average age of the subjects across all age groups for 2025 was 31.

In 2025, 25% of officers were aged 21 to 29, 47% were aged 30 to 39, 21% were 40 to 49, and 7% 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 2025, making or attempting an arrest, serving an emergency evaluation petition, and defending against assault accounted for 82% of the activities where officers needed to employ force in response to resistance, compared with 83% in 2024.



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 19.

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 3% increase (CY24: 2001, CY25: 2059), and the number of use-of-force reports generated while serving an EEP reflects a 17% increase (CY24: 379, CY25: 445).

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 2025, 25% of all uses of force involved an EEP, and 22% of EEP calls generated a Use-of-Force Report, compared to 21% and 19%, respectively, in 2024.

TRAFFIC STOPS

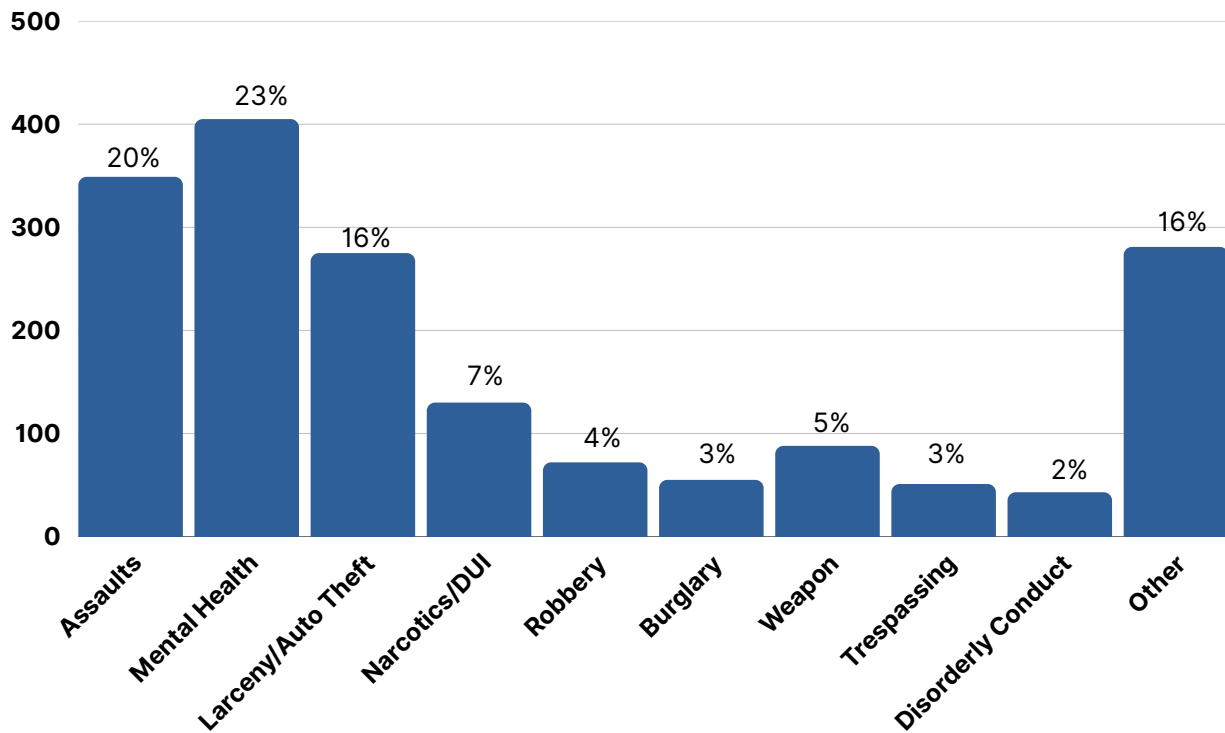
In 2025, MCPD personnel conducted 62,325 traffic stops. However, only twenty-six use-of-force incidents stemmed from traffic stops (0.04%). A review of these incidents indicates the most common scenario is an officer pointing their weapon at the driver of a suspected stolen vehicle, or when a vehicle occupant moves in a manner consistent with grabbing a weapon.

CY2025 Total Traffic Stops	62,325
CY2025 Use of Force Events that Stemmed from Traffic Stops	26

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 66% (1,159 out of 1,749) of use-of-force responses to resistance incidents.

Another four percent were related to robbery offenses, three percent to burglary offenses, five percent to weapons offenses, three percent to trespassing, and two percent to disorderly conduct. The remaining 16% 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 (Pepperball Launcher), Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), 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

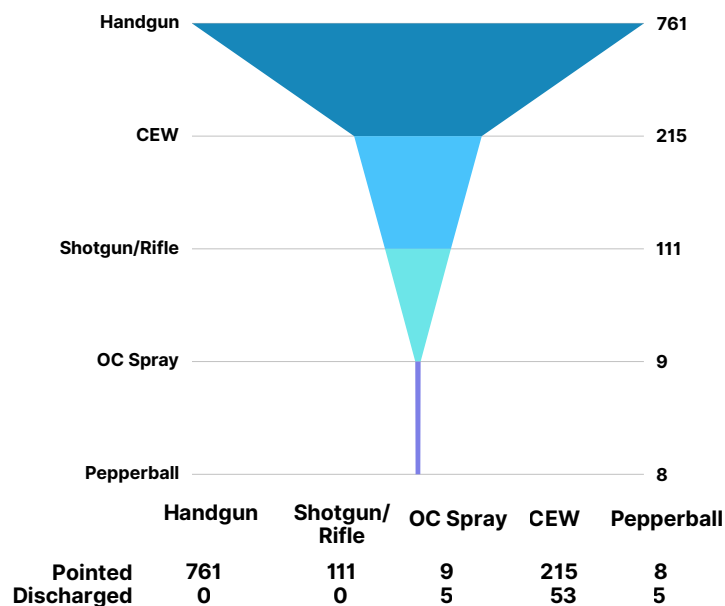
Although officers pointed their handguns 761 times in 2025, no handguns were discharged. This is a 9% decrease from the 837 times a handgun was pointed in 2024.

Officers pointed their long guns (shotgun/rifle) 111 times in 2025 and did not discharge any. In 2024, there were also zero discharges reported for these weapons.

Officers pointed their oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray 9 times in 2025, resulting in five discharges (56% deploy rate). In 2024, OC spray was pointed 13 times, with eleven discharges (85% deploy rate).

Officers pointed their Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW)/Taser 215 times in 2025, resulting in 53 discharges (25% deploy rate). In 2024, CEWs were pointed 182 times with 35 discharges (19% deploy rate).

Officers pointed the pepperball launcher 8 times in 2025, resulting in 5 discharges (63% deploy rate). In 2024, the pepperball launcher was pointed 5 times, with 3 discharges (60% deploy rate).

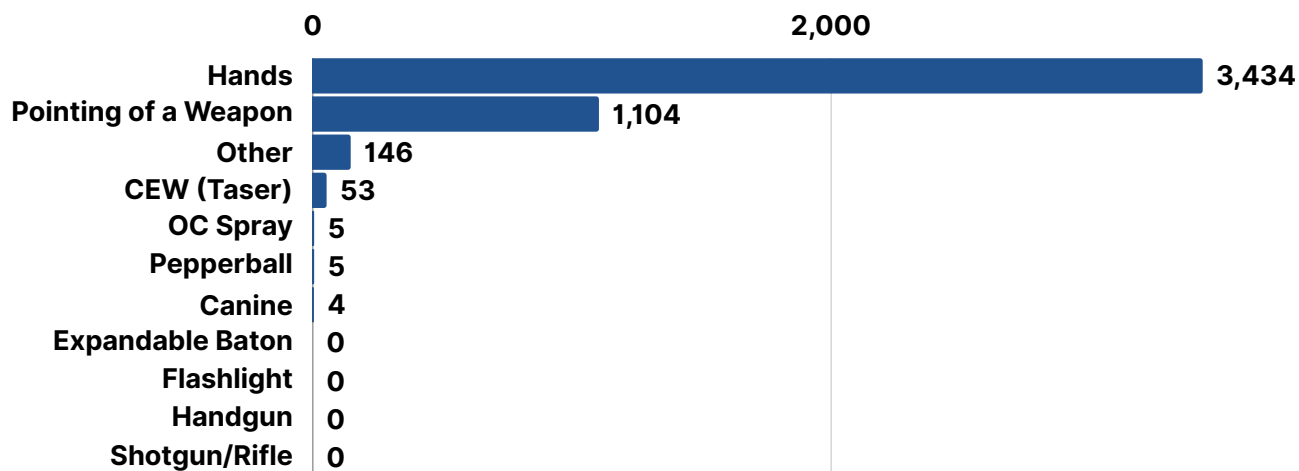


⁴ FC 0131 Response to Resistance and Use of Force

TYPES OF FORCE USED BY OFFICERS

The following chart shows the breakdown of the leading types of force used by officers in 2025. Of the 1,749 reported use-of-force incidents, 571 only involved an officer pointing their weapon. The remaining 1,178 events involved one or multiple reportable factors and may include additional weapon pointings.

The chart below documents the 4,751 types of force used by 4,344 officers during the 1,749 use-of-force incidents in 2025.



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 (4,751) do not match the total number of officers (4,344). 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 4,751 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 (3,434 out of 4,751). When hands were used (3,434 times), 64% of the time, hands were used solely as a control technique, 8% as an escort, and less than 2% of the time to deliver strikes.

When force was used, officers pointed a weapon 23% of the time (1,104 out of 4,751). When a weapon was pointed (1,104 times), 69% of the time, it was a handgun (761); nineteen percent of the time, it was a Taser (215); ten percent of the time, it was a Rifle/Shotgun (111); 0.8% of the time, it was OC spray (9); and 0.7% of the time, it was a Pepperball (8).

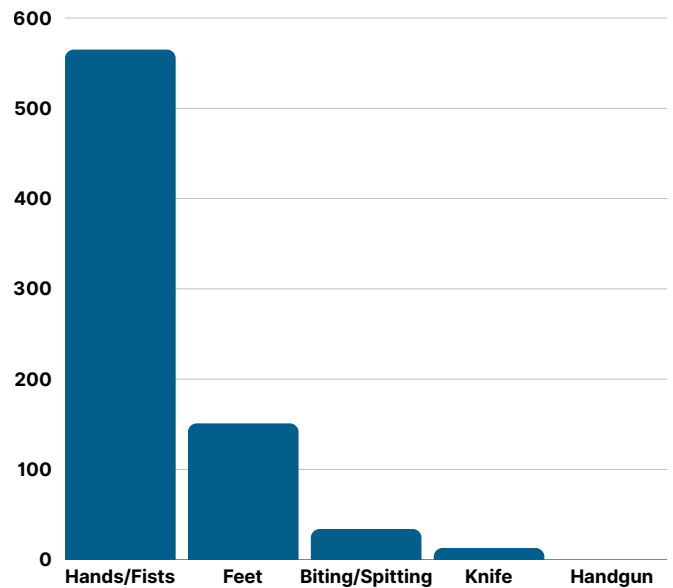
There were zero handgun and long gun (shotgun/rifle) discharges; however, the CEW / Taser was discharged 53 times, and OC was sprayed five times. While the following force types are listed as options on the Use of Force Report, their usage was limited (13%). They are combined into “other,” as seen above—feet, 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 1,698 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 2025, which accounted for 33% of incidents. Subjects used feet 9% of the time, biting/spitting 2% of the time, and knives less than 1% of the time.

Some additional types of force used by subjects against officers included fleeing (77), active resistance (108), passive resistance (56), legs/kicking (23), body weight (13), vehicles (7), and headbutting (2).

In 2025, there were zero incidents where a subject used a handgun to shoot at officers or pointed a handgun toward officers.

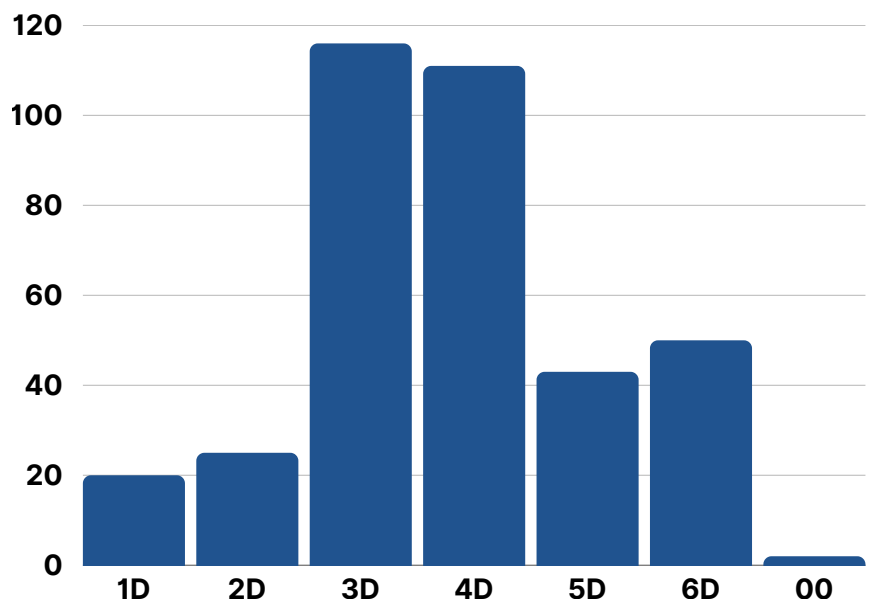


OFFICERS ASSAULTED

For state and federal reporting requirements, the Department records information when an officer reports being assaulted or ambushed. In 2025, 367 officers were assaulted, compared to 370 officers assaulted or ambushed in 2024 (0.8% decrease). For context, 367 (of 4,344) officers reported being assaulted during 125 (of 1,749) 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.

In 2025, 125 of 4,344 officers involved in use-of-force incidents reported 159 types of injuries during the 1,749 incidents. However, only 43 officers sustained 49 types of injuries as a direct result of an 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).

The data indicate that in 2025, most assaults against officers (62%) 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).



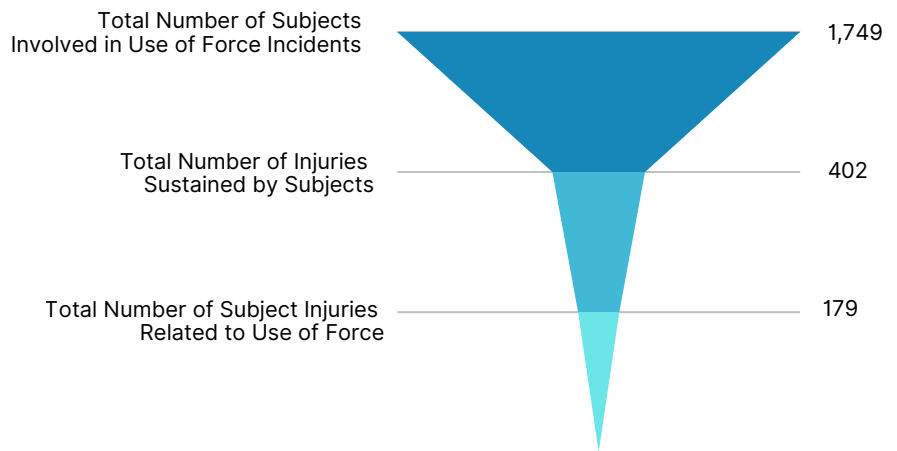
INJURIES TO OFFICERS AND SUBJECTS

In 2025, 125 of 4,344 officers involved in use-of-force incidents reported 159 types of injuries while handling the 1,749 use-of-force incidents. The types of officer injuries included lacerations/abrasions (70), bruises/soreness (64), bite injuries (six), and "other" (19), 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.

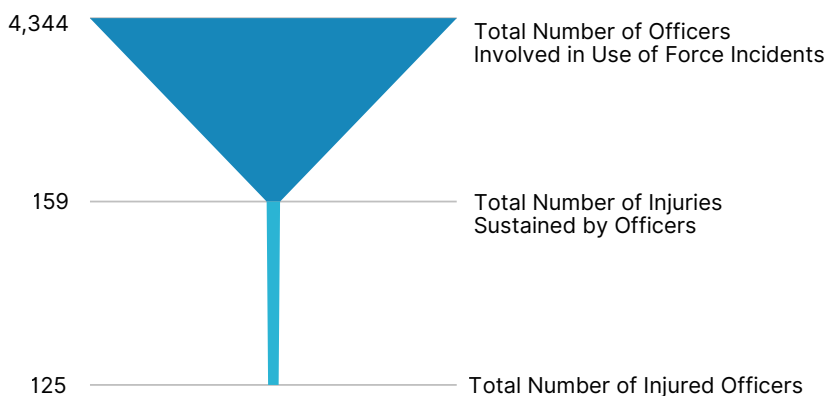
During the 1,749 use-of-force events, a total of 402 subjects in custody reported or claimed injury. However, only 179 of the 402 subjects were injured as a direct result of the use-of-force incident; 223 subjects suffered injuries unrelated to an officer's use of force. This could include pre-existing (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 402 section of the chart below (Number of Subjects Injured), not in the 179 section, and is also represented in the Subject Medical Treatment chart on page 18.

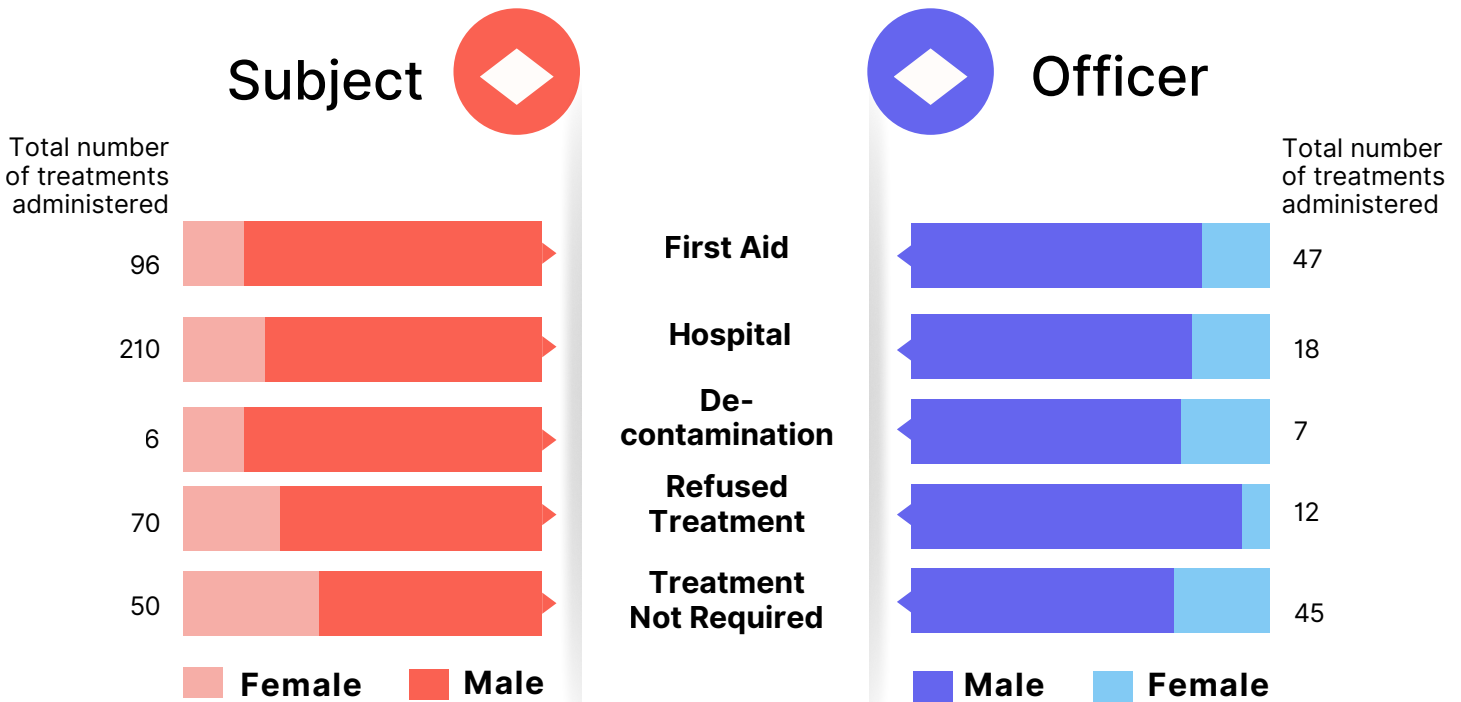
Number of Subjects Injured



Number of Officers Injured



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 2025. 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 2025, basic first aid medical treatment was provided to 24% of injured subjects (96 of the 402); 210 subjects were treated at a hospital, six received decontamination treatment, 70 refused medical treatment, and 50 subjects reported an injury that did not require treatment.

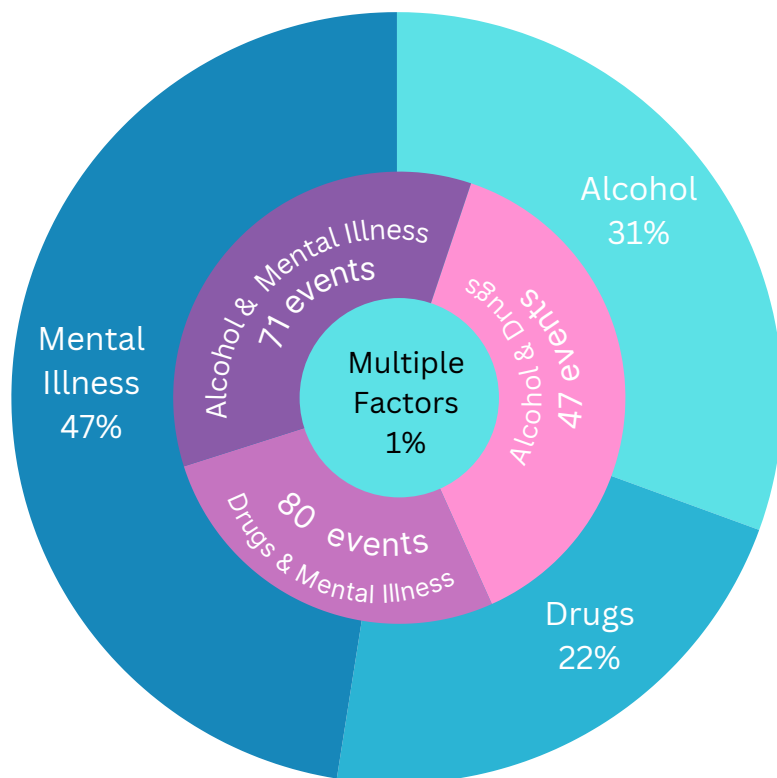
The most severe subject injuries were not caused by police, including pre-existing injuries and broken bones after a car crash. Of the subjects treated at the hospital, 97 were transported there for an EEP. They received medical treatment only because they were already at a hospital, not because their injuries specifically required hospital treatment.

Although 402 subjects claimed an injury, only 179 of the injuries were directly related to the police use of force; the other 223 non-related injuries included pre-existing and self-inflicted injuries.

In 2025, 72 forms of medical treatment (first aid, hospitalization, or decontamination) were administered to the 125 injured officers. Treatment was either refused or not required for the remaining 57 officers.

Of the 72 administered treatments, Basic First Aid medical treatment was provided 65% of the time (47 of the 72 treatments); hospitalization was provided 25% of the time (18 of the 72 treatments); and decontamination was provided 10% of the time (7 of the 72 treatments). Of the remaining 57 injured officers, medical care was refused 21% of the time (12 of the 57 cases), and treatment was not required in 79% (45 of the 57 cases).

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS



In 2025, of the 1,749 use-of-force incidents, 64% (1,122) involved one or more of the three tracked contributing factors: alcohol, drugs, or mental health concerns. A total of 1,240 contributing factors were listed in the 1,122 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 343 of the 1,122 events; drugs were listed as a contributing factor in 246 of the 1,122 events, and mental illness was listed as a contributing factor in 533 of the 1,122 events. There were 47 instances where both alcohol and drugs were a factor, 71 where alcohol and mental illness both played a factor, and 80 where drugs and mental illness were factors. Additionally, there were 18 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 (1,240) are higher than the total events (1,122).

Of the total use-of-force incidents (1,749), alcohol was a factor 20% of the time; drugs were a factor 14% of the time, and mental illness was a factor 30%. At least one of the three factors was present 64% of the time.

When a contributing factor was present (1,122), alcohol was present 31% of the time, drugs were present 22%, and mental illness was present 47% 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 2025, the MCPD Internal Affairs Division (IAD) reviewed 14 use-of-force-related cases involving 38 allegations from external and internal sources, compared to 4 cases and 5 allegations received in 2024. Five of the 14 cases involved multiple officers, and 14 allegations were either exonerated or unfounded. 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. There were no in-custody deaths in 2025.

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 authority⁴.

There were no deadly force-related incidents involving the Montgomery County Police in 2025.

⁴ <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IID/IID.aspx>

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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