

Use of Force Incidents 2018-2021

1. Reasons for Use of Force

For each use of force, there must be a reason for why force was used. However, prior to September 2020, it was also department policy to document injuries which happened prior to and during custody on the same form (DPD Form 12), regardless of cause. Incidents which involved a subject injury with no officer use of force are tracked on a separate form as of 2021.

Use of Force Event Type	2018	2019	2020	2021
UOF During Arrest	508	500*	675	747

*In November 2019, the Use of Force policy was changed to clarify that all takedowns of a subject must be documented on a Use of Force form, not just those that resulted in an injury to the subject or an officer.

2. Use of Force Incidents per 1,000 Arrests

All Use of Force Incidents By Location	2018			2019			2020			2021		
	Use of Force	Arrest	Rate	Use of Force	Arrest	Rate	Use of Force	Arrest	Rate	Use of Force	Arrest	Rate
District 1	123	4,754	25.9	108	4,243	25.5	170	2,899	58.6	122	2,588	47.1
District 2	92	3,973	23.2	107	3,236	33.1	102	2,400	42.5	116	2,341	49.6
District 3	63	4,234	14.9	77	3,891	19.8	77	2,541	30.3	77	2,317	33.2
District 4	135	4,398	30.7	142	4,285	33.1	133	3,563	37.3	93	2,270	41.0
District 5	60	2,749	21.8	72	2,706	26.6	87	2,070	42.0	79	1,694	46.6
District 6	194	7,918	24.5	238	7,906	30.1	254	5,162	49.2	218	4,936	44.2
District 7 (DIA)	13	268	48.5	15	288	52.1	19	200	95.0	14	333	42.0
Other	14	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	9	N/A	N/A	28	0	N/A
Total	694	28,294	24.5	766	26,555	28.8	851	18,835	45.2	747	16,479	45.3

Location of "Other" includes those instances where the location is either not in the City and County of Denver or cannot be determined. Arrests only include those made in the City and County of Denver.

3. Use of Force Incidents per Officer

Force Incidents per officer	2018	2019	2020	2021
0	975	921	821	790
1	302	313	299	261
2	141	146	169	180
3	76	75	99	94
4	26	37	66	65
>=5	39	50	91	135
Total DPD Officers	1558	1542	1545	1525

Officers who were documented as using one or more types of force during a Use of Force incident. Officers who were only witnesses to the incident or specifically documented not using force were not counted as having participated in the use of force event. This may include officers who were injured during the incident but did not use force themselves.

4. Use of Force Incidents captured on BWC

Captured on Body Worn Camera	2018	2019	2020	2021
BWC	647	716	808	723
NO BWC	39	50	43	24
% Captured on BWC	94.3%	93.5%	94.9%	96.8%

If there was no specific indication that the event was captured on BWC, it is marked as not captured, regardless of the officers having a BWC or not.

5. Officer Race/Ethnicity vs Subject Race/Ethnicity

These tables capture all Use of Force incidents, not just those that occurred while effecting an arrest. Each officer involved is counted. Each incident may have multiple officers and subjects, therefore numbers will not add up to the total count of Use of Force incidents. Officer and subject race/ethnicity information is self-reported.

2018							
Officer Race							
Subject Race	Native American	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Unknown	White	Total
Asian	0	1	1	7	0	11	20
Black	3	4	26	69	2	191	295
Hispanic	0	4	11	45	0	141	201
Native American	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Unknown	0	0	0	7	0	20	27
White	6	11	36	140	3	393	589
Total	9	20	74	269	5	757	1134
2019							
Officer Race							
Subject Race	Native American	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Unknown	White	Total
Asian	1	0	1	1	0	8	11
Black	4	9	28	86	4	187	318
Hispanic	5	5	11	53	5	161	240
Native American	0	0	0	2	0	6	8
Unknown	1	1	0	7	2	8	19
White	4	12	32	141	8	398	595
Total	15	27	72	290	19	768	1191
2020							
Officer Race							
Subject Race	Native American	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Unknown	White	Total
Asian	0	1	0	2	1	8	12
Black	4	5	40	116	7	287	459
Hispanic	4	12	16	65	5	221	323
Native American	0	1	0	7	0	10	18
Unknown	0	4	3	15	1	71	94
White	7	25	68	216	11	554	881
Total	15	48	127	421	25	1151	1787
2021							
Officer Race							
Subject Race	Native American	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Unknown	White	Total
Asian	0	0	2	7	0	7	16
Black	5	14	46	130	10	430	635
Hispanic	1	16	13	75	6	227	338
Native American	0	0	2	4	0	17	23
Unknown	1	1	5	12	1	35	55
White	10	27	57	259	14	637	1004
Total	17	58	125	487	37	1353	2071

6. Officer Force level vs Subject Race/Ethnicity

Tier I level of force are those less likely to cause serious bodily injury or death, such as Takedown or strikes using hand, foot, etc., Pepper spray or other chemical agent, ECW (Taser), RIPP Restraint or other less lethal weapons such as Pepper Ball rounds or 40mm impact rounds.

Tier II level of force includes lethal force or force likely to cause serious bodily injury such as Police Service Dog, Handgun, Rifle, or Shotgun.

Totals do not include incidents where no force was used by officers.

2018	Tier I Force	% of Total	Tier II Force	% of Total
Total	468	100.00%	45	100.00%
Asian	6	1.28%	3	6.67%
Black	122	26.07%	7	15.56%
Hispanic	89	19.02%	14	31.11%
Native American	2	0.43%	0	0.00%
Unknown	15	3.21%	1	2.22%
White	234	50.00%	20	44.44%
2019	Tier I Force	% of Total	Tier II Force	% of Total
Total	464	100.00%	32	100.00%
Asian	3	0.65%	0	0.00%
Black	119	25.65%	4	12.50%
Hispanic	94	20.26%	12	37.50%
Native American	4	0.86%	0	0.00%
Unknown	9	1.94%	1	3.13%
White	235	50.65%	15	46.88%
2020	Tier I Force	% of Total	Tier II Force	% of Total
Total	634	100.0%	64	100.0%
Asian	7	1.1%	0	0.0%
Black	157	24.8%	10	15.6%
Hispanic	114	18.0%	21	32.8%
Native American	4	0.6%	1	1.6%
Unknown	18	2.8%	1	1.6%
White	334	52.7%	31	48.4%
2021	Tier I Force	% of Total	Tier II Force	% of Total
Total	687	100.0%	141	100.0%
Asian	5	0.7%	0	0.0%
Black	198	28.8%	47	33.3%
Hispanic	116	16.9%	29	20.6%
Native American	8	1.2%	1	0.7%
Unknown	22	3.2%	4	2.1%
White	338	49.2%	61	43.3%

7. Force level used by officer vs subject resistance level

Subjects may exhibit different levels of resistance during the encounter and afterward. Each use of force incident could have both tier I and tier II force used as the officers' response is escalated, or no Tier I nor Tier II force if no force was used.

Tier I level of force are those less likely to cause serious bodily injury or death, such as Takedown or strikes using hand, foot, etc., Pepper spray or other chemical agent, ECW (Taser), RIPP Restraint or other less lethal weapons such as Pepper Ball rounds or 40mm impact rounds.

Tier II level of force includes lethal force or force likely to cause serious bodily injury such as Police Service Dog, Handgun, Rifle, or Shotgun.

Total Incidents also includes those incidents where no force was used, however a report was mandated by policy.

2018	Tier I Force	%	Tier II Force	%	Total Incidents with that level of Subject Resistance
45 Psych Intimidation	3	75.0%	0	0.0%	4
46 Verbal Non-Compliance	18	94.7%	0	0.0%	19
47 Defensive Resistance	139	100.0%	0	0.0%	139
48 Active Aggression	189	97.4%	3	1.5%	194
49 Agg Active Aggression	23	79.3%	7	24.1%	29
50 No Resistance	8	80.0%	1	10.0%	10
51 Passive Resistance	17	89.5%	3	15.8%	19
52 Combative After Custody	15	100.0%	0	0.0%	15
53 Foot Pursuit	58	96.7%	7	11.7%	60
54 Vehicle Pursuit	7	100.0%	5	71.4%	7
55 Attempt to Flee/Escape	71	100.0%	22	31.0%	71
56 Actively	12	92.3%	5	38.5%	13
57 Assault/Resisted Arrest	30	96.8%	0	0.0%	31

2019	Tier I Force	%	Tier II Force	%	Total Incidents with that level of Subject Resistance
45 Psych Intimidation	5	100.0%	0	0.0%	5
46 Verbal Non-Compliance	15	100.0%	2	13.3%	15
47 Defensive Resistance	182	98.4%	0	0.0%	185
48 Active Aggression	168	98.2%	1	0.6%	171
49 Agg Active Aggression	32	91.4%	11	31.4%	35
50 No Resistance	3	42.9%	0	0.0%	7
51 Passive Resistance	12	100.0%	2	16.7%	12
52 Combative After Custody	13	100.0%	0	0.0%	13
53 Foot Pursuit	66	97.1%	4	5.9%	68
54 Vehicle Pursuit	8	100.0%	6	75.0%	8
55 Attempt to Flee/Escape	35	100.0%	9	25.7%	35
56 Actively	13	76.5%	3	17.6%	17
57 Assault/Resisted Arrest	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	6

2020	Tier I Force	%	Tier II Force	%	Total Incidents with that level of Subject Resistance
45 Psych Intimidation	27	100.0%	2	7.4%	27
46 Verbal Non-Compliance	108	100.0%	13	12.0%	108
47 Defensive Resistance	332	99.4%	24	7.2%	334
48 Active Aggression	212	97.7%	11	5.1%	217
49 Agg Active Aggression	31	79.5%	15	38.5%	39
50 No Resistance	10	90.9%	0	0.0%	11
51 Passive Resistance	21	100.0%	1	4.8%	21
52 Combative After Custody	29	100.0%	2	6.9%	29
53 Foot Pursuit	140	98.6%	19	13.4%	142
54 Vehicle Pursuit	11	91.7%	11	91.7%	12
55 Attempt to Flee/Escape	109	99.1%	18	16.4%	110
56 Actively	40	95.2%	3	7.1%	42
57 Assault/Resisted Arrest	33	100.0%	1	3.0%	33

2021	Tier I Force	%	Tier II Force	%	Total Incidents with that level of Subject Resistance
45 Psych Intimidation	50	100.0%	5	10.0%	50
46 Verbal Non-Compliance	210	100.0%	36	17.1%	210
47 Defensive Resistance	456	100.0%	85	18.6%	456
48 Active Aggression	223	100.0%	28	12.6%	223
49 Agg Active Aggression	33	89.2%	21	56.8%	37
50 No Resistance	19	90.5%	6	28.6%	21
51 Passive Resistance	35	100.0%	4	11.4%	35
52 Combative After Custody	41	100.0%	4	9.8%	41
53 Foot Pursuit	183	98.9%	59	31.9%	185
54 Vehicle Pursuit	25	92.6%	25	92.6%	27
55 Attempt to Flee/Escape	210	99.5%	54	25.6%	211
56 Actively	76	100.0%	10	13.2%	76
57 Assault/Resisted Arrest	78	100.0%	10	12.8%	78

8. Methodology

Records were retrieved from the IA Pro database. These records include information copied over from paper forms which are filled out by officers according to the department's operations manual and training.

In cases where information appeared to be inconsistent or incorrect, the IA department was notified and corrections, if needed, were made. Typically, these were cases where the information in two sections were swapped, such as gender and race, where a white male was listed as having race of male and sex of white. Once corrections were made, data was re-pulled to ensure that the corrections were in the system.

Due to the dynamic nature of the data being analyzed, the number of records may change for future requests and counts for previous years may be updated.

Each Use of Force Incident may contain one or more suspects and one or more officers. Additionally, each suspect may exhibit multiple levels of resistance and officers may use multiple levels of force during the incident.