

# ***USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS*** ***2019***



**Roanoke Police Department**  
**April 2020**

# City of Roanoke Police Department

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This use of force analysis indicates there was a 6% increase in use of force incidents in Calendar Year 2019 compared to 2018 despite the total citizen contacts for department officers remaining virtually the same as the previous year. In 2019 the following uses of force were reported by officers:

- Police Incidents Involving the Use of Force-273
- Use of Force Events-437
- Types of Force Used-52
- Police Officers with at least 1 Use of Force-140
- Citizens Involved

Data was collected through police offense reports, informant information, victimization trends, and citizen complaints. In 2019, there were 93,524 calls for service and 13,743 traffic stops totaling 107,267 citizen contacts. By comparison these numbers remained virtually unchanged compared to 2018. In 2018, there were 93,471 calls for service and 13,800 traffic stops totaling 107,271 citizen contacts, a difference of only 4 citizen contacts in 2019.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

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

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

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

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

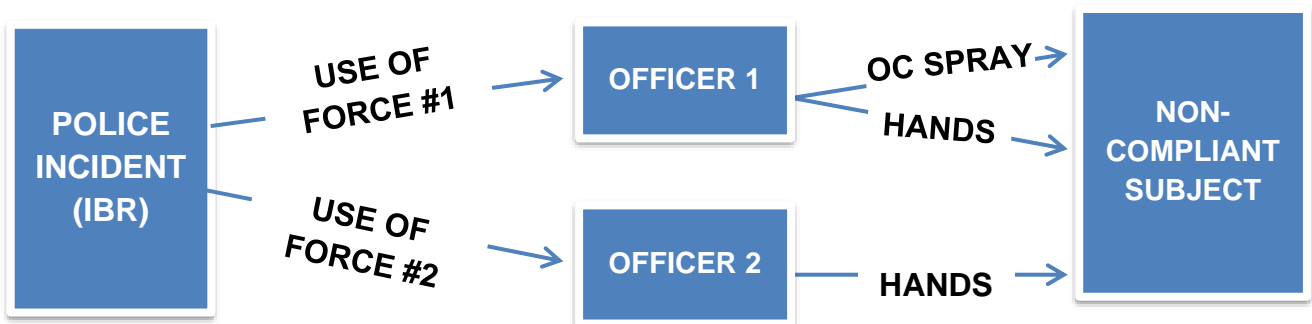
The electronic Use of Force Form is forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police or his designee for administrative review of all uses of force.

Additionally, in 2019, The Roanoke Police Department implemented the use of Conducted Electrical Weapon (“Tasers”) as a less lethal form of force. CEW certified officers must complete a departmental Use of Force form when:

- Pointing, laser painting, (or a combination of these), in drive stun mode, or probe deployment.
- Verbalizing the use of the CEW, arcing the CEW and displaying (but not pointing) the CEW (Note: Absent the use of additional force, these acts are not considered a use of force but need to be monitored in order to evaluate the success of CEW usage and therefore are reported through the Use of Force form. )

**TRACKING USES OF FORCE**

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



# ANALYSIS

## INCIDENT ANALYSIS

### SERVICE TYPE

The following is an analysis of police incidents reported during 2019. In this analysis comparisons have been made between the years 2018 and 2017 for the nature of police services, arresting data and the demographic environments of the City of Roanoke.

	2019	% Change	2018	% Change	2017	% Change
Calls for Service	93,524	+0.05%	93,471	+0.14%	93,338	+4.88%
Traffic Stops	13,743	-0.04%	13,800	+5.33%	13,101	+46.36%
<b>Total Citizen Contacts</b>	<b>107,267</b>	<b>-0.003%</b>	<b>107,271</b>	<b>+0.78%</b>	<b>106,439</b>	<b>+8.67%</b>

Officer initiated activity has continued to increase each year since 2017. During 2019, officers initiated 8% more calls than in 2018 and since 2017 they have increased 17% overall.

	2019	% Change	2018	% Change	2017
Calls for Service	93,524	+<1%	93,471	+<1%	93,338
Officer Initiated	2,215	+8%	2,051	+9%	1,882

Despite the increase in calls for service and officer initiated activity, the total number of arrests in 2019 was down slightly. There were 5% fewer arrests in 2019 compared to the previous year.

The most significant of the changes in arrests were drug related arrests which dropped 11% from 2018. The sharp increase seen in 2018 (28%) appears to be an anomaly however and the rate of drug arrests in the overall total number of arrests in the City of Roanoke was 12%. This is consistent with the 5 year average of 11%.

ARRESTS	2019	% Change	% of Total	2018	% Change	% of Total	2017
Weapon Law Violation	196	1%	3%	194	35%	3%	144
Drug	826	-11%	12%	923	28%	12%	720
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>7,112</b>	<b>-5%</b>		<b>7,521</b>	<b>-1%</b>		<b>7,631</b>

In 2019, The Roanoke Police Department conducted several large scale warrant service operations which led in part to 3,461 more warrants served than in 2018. This was a 47% increase over 2018 and an almost 60% from 2017. Overall, the percentage of criminal warrants served versus civil warrants remained statistically unchanged.

	<b>Warrants Served</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Wanted Calls</b>	<b>Officer Initiated</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2019</b>	10,776	7,926	74%	2,850	26%	3,904	145	3.71
<b>2018</b>	7,315	5,373	73%	1,942	27%	3,844	159	4.13
<b>2017</b>	6,793	4,775	70%	2,018	30%	3,620	125	3.45

### GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The City of Roanoke had a total population of 100,088 citizens in 2019 which was a slight increase from 99,898 residents in 2018.

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of Population by Zone</b>
1	21,282	21%
2	23,321	23%
3	26,956	27%
4	28,529	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,088</b>	<b>100%</b>

### CALLS FOR SERVICE BY ZONE

Zone 4 continues its historical trend of having a higher volume of calls for service. Calls for Service in 2018 increased just slightly by 439 over 2017 but overall the call volume was comparably statistically insignificant across all zones.

<b>Zone</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>% Calls</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>% Calls</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>% Calls</b>
1	24,160	26	23,500	25	23,776	25
2	22,339	24	22,049	24	21,897	23

3	20,442	22	20,614	22	20,285	22
4	26,583	28	27,308	29	26,869	29
Citywide**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	511	0.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93,524</b>		<b>93,471</b>		<b>93,338</b>	

### TRAFFIC STOPS BY ZONE

As with 2018, Zone 4 also saw the most traffic stops in 2019. Zone 4 traffic stops accounted for over a third, 36%, of all traffic stops within the City. Zone 4 also saw the most significant increase, 17% more, in the amount of traffic stops from the previous year.

The rise in Zone 4 traffic stops can be attributed to the directed patrol areas (which are based on historical violent crime data) that are in Zone 4. Additionally, the "traffic hot spot" areas are almost always along Orange Ave and/or Melrose Ave (based on crash data, since these roadways have a higher traffic usage, there's also higher amounts of crashes).

Traffic Stop Zone	2019	% Total	% Changed	2018	% Total	% Changed	2017	% Total
1	3,193	23%	-4%	3,324	24%	28%	2,604	20%
2	2,828	21%	-9%	3,103	23%	92%	1,613	12%
3	2,517	18%	-16%	2,986	22%	28%	2,330	18%
4	5,005	36%	17%	4,261	31%	60%	2,657	20%
Citywide	200	1%	59%	126	1%	-97%	3,897	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,743</b>			<b>13,800</b>		<b>13,101</b>	
<b>% Changed</b>		<b>- &lt;1%</b>			<b>5%</b>			

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

### POLICE CITY WIDE (PCW)/AO (FIELD COMMAND)

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



## USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

### USE OF FORCE INVOLVEMENT

The following is an analysis of all use of force incidents reported during 2019. In this analysis comparisons have been made between the years 2018 and 2017 with regard to the type of force used, the citizens and officers involved and the nature of the police service involving the use of force as well as when and where these incidents occurred.

#### **POLICE INCIDENTS INVOLVING USE OF FORCE**

There were 273 police incidents which required the use of force by one or more officers in 2019. While this is a 12% increase from 2018, there is still a significant decrease of 21% in the number of use of force incidents since 2017.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Total	273	244	347*
<b>% Changed</b>	<b>+12%</b>	<b>-30%*</b>	

#### **USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS**

The number of use of force incidents also increased slightly from 411 in 2018 to 437 in 2019 despite calls for service and self-initiated calls remaining virtually the same as 2018.

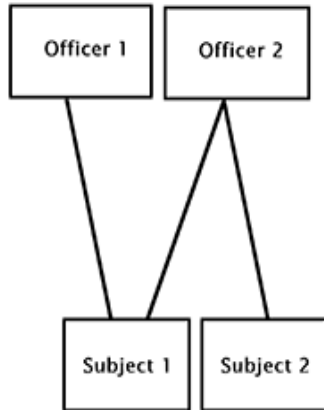
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Total	437	411	347
<b>% Changed</b>	<b>+6%</b>		<b>+18%*</b>

While it may appear that there is a large increase over the last 2 years since 2017, in 2018 there was a change in reporting procedures with the implementation of online use of force reporting that makes these numbers look inflated in comparison.

Before this change was implemented, one use of force incident could include more than one officer using force and more than one subject having force used on them. Since 2018, there has been a direct one-to-one relationship. Each use of force incident only captures what happens between one officer and one citizen. Subsequent uses of force by other officers or on other offenders will have their own specific use of force identifier. Due to these differences, the overall use of force incidents will appear higher in many categories since. We will not have an accurate 3 year comparison until the 2020 Use of Force Analysis is completed next year.

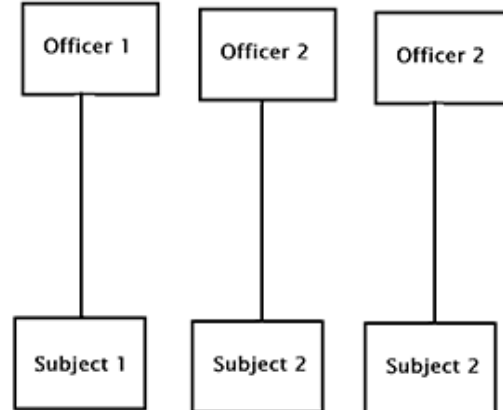
## Use of Force Incident Before 2018

Police Incident: 18-000000  
Use of Force Incident: UF2018-000



## 2018- Current

Police Incident: 18-000000  
UF2018-000    UF2018-001    UF2018-003



### USE OF FORCE GEOGRAPHY

Zone 4 continued its historical pattern of having both the highest number of use of force incidents and the highest percentage of all zones in 2019. Zone 4 saw a statistically insignificant increase in the percentage of overall use of forces from 31% in 2018 to 34% in 2019. Zone 2 and 3 both saw slight decreases in the number of police incidents that required a use of force in 2019. Zone 3 had the largest decrease in incidents in a drop of 5% over the previous year.

Zone	2019		2018		2017	
Zone 1	80	29%	64	26%	97	30%
Zone 2	52	19%	54	22%	78	23%
Zone 3	42	15%	49	20%	63	18%
Zone 4	94	34%	76	31%	110	32%
Other Jurisdiction	6	2%	1	0%	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>274*</b>		<b>244</b>		<b>349</b>	
<i>Note-One incident had uses of force in multiple locations due to a Vehicle Pursuit</i>						

### TIME AND DAY

During 2019, 50% of all police incidents that required a use of force occurred on the weekends from Friday through Sunday which remains unchanged historically. In 2017 and 2018 Fridays through Sunday were also approximately 50% of the police incidents involving a use of force.

Use of force incidents occurred most frequently on Fridays in 2019 which is a 6% increase over the previous two years. The only other day of the week that had a significant change was Tuesdays which rose 7% from 2018.

DAY OF WEEK	2019		2018		2017	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Sunday	48	18%	48	20%	61	18%
Monday	26	10%	32	13%	36	10%
Tuesday	46	17%	25	10%	44	13%
Wednesday	30	11%	33	14%	41	12%
Thursday	34	12%	31	13%	63	18%
Friday	54	20%	33	14%	48	14%
Saturday	35	13%	42	17%	54	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>		<b>244</b>		<b>347</b>	

The use of force was utilized most often, 32% of the time, in 2019 in the evening between 1800 and midnight. This is a change from 2018 where uses of force occurred most often in the early morning hours of midnight to 0600. There were almost 10% fewer incidents involving the use of force in 2019 occurring during daytime hours (45%) than in the evening (54%). While the use of force historically is higher in the evenings and pre-dawn hours that gap increased slightly in 2019 from 4% to 9% of all force related incidents. However, these incidents seem to be spread out more evenly in the last two years than in 2017 when there were 16% more uses of force occurring at night or in the early morning hours.

Time of Day	2019		2018		2017	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
0000 - 0600	60	22%	69	28%	96	28%
0601 - 1200	45	16%	41	17%	45	13%
1200 - 1800	80	29%	75	31%	101	29%
1800 - 2359	88	32%	59	24%	105	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>		<b>244</b>		<b>347</b>	

## USE OF FORCE REASON

There were 437 Use of Force incidents in 2019 which is an increase of 6% (or 26 incidents) from 2018. Analysis indicates that the primary reason for force in almost 1/3 of all use of force incidents continues to involve subjects who are resisting arrest or fleeing.

While the reasons for the use of force by officers remained mostly similar to 2018, Officers reported that they used force as a result of the subject assaulting officers at nearly double the rate of previous years. The number of these incidents rose alarmingly from 15 (4%) in 2018 to 39 (9%) in 2019.

Reason	2019	% of Total	2018	% of Total	2017	% of Total
Assaulting Citizen(s)	33	8%	37	9%	26	7%
Assaulting Officer(s)	39	9%	15	4%	28	8%
Combative Subject	66	15%	57	14%	34	10%
Damage to City Property	2	<1%	1	0%	0	0%
Damage to Private Property	2	<1%	-	-	-	-
Handcuff Pain	-	-	-	-	13	4%
Non-Compliance	92	21%	99	24%	93	27%
Possible Weapon Involved	50	11%	37	9%	59	17%
Resisting Arrest/ Fleeing	139	32%	147	36%	77	22%
Traffic Stop/Eluding	14	3%	18	4%	18	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>		<b>411</b>		<b>348</b>	
<b>% Changed</b>	<b>+6%</b>		<b>+18%</b>		<b>+11% (from 2016)</b>	

*\*Note: Due to the change in reporting procedures in 2018, some reason types from 2017 were added, changed or are no longer being tracked.*

## TYPES OF FORCE USED

The following data is a breakdown of the reported types of force used by officers for the years 2017 through 2019. These totals represent the total amount of utilizations of types of force associated with the respective use of force incidents.

The use of physical force by officers (hands, knee strikes, using their body weight, etc.) was overwhelmingly, 63% of all uses of force types, the most prevalent type of force used against subjects just as it traditionally is each year. OC Spray and the display of their department issued handgun followed physical force as the next more utilized type of force. There were 69 OC deployments (13%) and 69 (13%) handgun deployments in 2019. Just like the use of physical force, this behavior remains unchanged from the previous year. There was no significant increase or decrease in any the overall utilization of any type of force used in 2019 compared to the previous year.

Type of Force	2019	2018	2017
Physical Force (Hands, Feet, Fist, Knee, Body Weight)	335 (63%)	332 (66.3%)	442 (71%)
Baton	1 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	0
K-9 Bite	7 (1%)	4 (1%)	12 (2%)
K-9 Non-Bite Contact	1 (<1%)	0	-
40mm	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	-
CEW Displayed	16 (3%)	-	-
CEW Discharged	4 (1%)	-	-
CEW Display Warning	1 (<1%)	-	-
Clearout	7 (1%)	5 (1%)	-
Handgun Discharged	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Handgun Displayed	69 (13%)	58 (12%)	95 (15%)
Improvised Weapon (Shield)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	-
Less Lethal Shotgun ERID	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	-
OC Spray	69 (13%)	82 (16%)	70 (11%)
Patrol Rifle Displayed	2 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	-
Patrol Rifle Discharged	0	0	-
Pepperball	5 (1%)	8 (2%)	-
PID	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	-
Shotgun Displayed	4 (1%)	1 (<1%)	0
Shotgun Discharged	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>624</b>

### CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (TASER) IMPLEMENTATION

In 2019, the Roanoke Police Department began using Conducted Electrical Weapons or “Tasers” for the first time in its history as an additional less lethal option in order to reduce officer and citizen injuries. Chief T. S. Jones (Ret.) authorized the initial purchase of 20 Tasers X2’s with an additional 16 units subsequently added.

Prior to any in-house training, three sworn personnel (Inv. B. Daniels, Inv. J. Smith and Det. T. Reed) received training on and were certified by Axon as Taser CEW Instructors. Prior to making the training available, policy development with approval from a representative of the City Attorney’s office, was completed.

The first Taser X2 training class for sworn personnel and Animal Wardens was held on February 27, 2019. Personnel from the Patrol Bureau (Field Training Officers (FTOs), Community Response Team

officers and Animal Wardens) were initially selected to carry the new tool. Training consists of completing an eight hour training session with a certified Taser CEW instructor.

Operational Directing #OD-2.1.22A- *Weapons and Restraints Equipment* directs officers to document the use of the CEW whenever the use of the Taser is verbalized but not deployed, displayed but not deployed and whenever the Taser is deployed.

### CEW USE

On July 18, 2019, Officer W. R. Frosell was the first Roanoke Police Officer to use the CEW to affect the arrest of an individual. During the inaugural year of CEW use, officers utilized their Tasers 21 times. Of those 21 incidents, officers only deployed their Taser five times. Simply put, 76% of Taser incidents were resolved without deployment. This would indicate that the display of a Taser or the warning of a Taser is an effective non-contact aid in a use of force occurrence. Officers most often utilized their CEW's for subjects that were resisting arrest or fleeing. These incidents accounted for 9 of the 21 CEW uses.

Reason	Deployed	Displayed Only or Verbalized Warning
Assaulting Officer(s)	-	1
Combative Subject	1	1
Damage to Private Property	-	2
Non-Compliance	-	3
Possible Weapon Involved	1	2
Resisting Arrest/ Fleeing	3	6
Traffic Stop/Eluding	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>

The CEW was implemented at the Roanoke Police Department as a less lethal option in April of 2019. The goal in purchasing these devices was to reduce injuries to both citizens and officers during the use of force. In only one use of force instance in 2019 was there an active assault on a police officer that required the use of a Taser.

Without a full year of data and very few Taser uses it is difficult to determine at this point if those goals have been met. Officers reported nearly the same amount of injuries in 2019 (29) as 2018 (28). However, of those officers who were injured, there were fewer in 2019 (2) than in 2018 (6) that required hospital care. There were fewer citizens that reported injuries in 2019 (38 in 2019 to 43 in 2018) but there were more that required hospital care (22 in 2019 compared to 9 in 2018.) In 2019, officers had the same amount of injuries as the previous year but those that did had less severe injuries. While fewer citizens were injured, their injuries were more severe in 2019.

## NATURE OF POLICE SERVICE INVOLVING A USE OF FORCE

Calls for service resulted in an officer using force more often than any other type of police service in 2019, which is historically similar to previous years. The number of uses of force in 2019 resulting from police-initiated contacts accounted for just over half (51%) of all use of force events.

Of significant note though would be the drop in the number of use of force events that were the result of warrant service or wanted subjects. In 2019, there were almost 3,500 more warrants served than in the previous year but fewer use of force events than in 2018. In only .58% of warrant or wanted subject service was force used by officers which is down from 1.12% in 2018.

Service Type	2019	2018	2017
Accident Investigation	6 (1%)	3 (1%)	4 (1%)
Call for Service	223 (51%)	202 (49%)	215 (52%)
Drug Investigation	20 (5%)	24 (6%)	6 (2%)
Follow-up Investigation	7 (2%)	1 (<1%)	7 (2%)
Off Duty Security*	7 (2%)	-	3 (<1%)
Prisoner Transport *	2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	-
Public Service *	3 (1%)	1(<1%)	-
Restraining *	15 (3%)	16 (4%)	-
School Incident	23 (5%)	22(5%)	29 (7%)
Self-Initiated Call	38 (9%)	38 (9%)	41(10%)
Traffic Stop	31 (7%)	20 (5%)	24 (6%)
Warrants/Wanted Service	62 (14%)	82 (21%)	34 (8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>363</b>

*Note: \* denote categories that were not separately tracked previously*

## RESPONDING OFFICERS

Of 273 police incidents involving a use of force in 2019, only one officer used force during the situation in 98 incidents or 40% of the time. Multiple officers used force 147 times or 60% of the total incidents where there was forced used.

# of Officers Using Force	# of Incidents	% of Total
Single Officer	174	64%
Multiple Officers	99	36%
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>273</b>	

## SERVICE TYPE

Uses of force resulted most often in 2019 (and historically) from officers responding to calls for service and officer initiated contact. In the instances where race and sex could be determined (non-crowd situations), officers used force on black males and white males almost equally. There were 5 more calls for service where officers used force on black males than on white males and only one additional self-initiated call that resulted in a use of force on a black male. This varies from the two previous years when these numbers were more concentrated in one race category (which changed from year to year.)

Force used against females also overwhelmingly resulted from calls for service compared to any other service type. Similarly to males, in 2019 the use of force during calls for service occurred in both white females and black females similarly. This is also different than the two previous years where black females were involved in the use of force during calls for service.

### SERVICE TYPE BY RACE AND GENDER

#### Males

Service Type	2019				2018				2017			
	B	W	H	A	B	W	H	A	B	W	H	A
Call for Service	95	90	2	0	82	69	4	0	65	83	3	0
Self-Initiated Call	15	14	0	0	20	9	0	0	19	13	2	1
<b>Total By Race</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Females

Service Type	2019				2018				2017			
	B	W	H	A	B	W	H	A	B	W	H	A
Call for Service	16	16	0	1	26	8	0	0	25	36	0	0
Self-Initiated Call	5	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	6	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>



## INVOLVED OFFICER ANALYSIS

The number of police officers who used force in 2019 dropped significantly from the previous year. There were 13% (160 compared to 140) fewer officers involved in use of force events in 2019 than in 2018.

### OFFICER DEMOGRAPHICS

#### TENURE

Overwhelmingly officers with less than 5 years of service were involved in use of force events. Almost half of all officers involved in a use of force event had as of December 31, 2019 been with the Roanoke Police Department less than 5 years. However, this directly correlates to the average tenure of the department's front line officers (below the rank of Lieutenant). 41% of all front line officers in 2019 had been employed by the department less than 5 years.

TENURE RANGE	2019		2018		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	64	46%	59	37%	48	29%
5-9	36	26%	45	28%	59	36%
10-14	25	18%	29	18%	24	15%
15-19	11	8%	19	12%	19	12%
20-24	3	2%	7	4%	11	7%
25-30	1	1%	2	1%	4	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### AGE

Over 50% of the police officers who used force in 2019 were under the age of 30 which expectedly parallels the tenure of those officers and of the department as a whole.

AGE RANGE	2019		2018		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
21-30	73	52%	70	43%	64	39%
31-40	50	36%	58	36%	64	39%
41-50	15	11%	28	17%	31	19%
51-60	2	1%	5	3%	6	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ASSIGNMENT

Alpha platoon continues to have the most use of force incidents in 2019. Alpha platoon officers were involved in almost a quarter (24%) of all use of force incidents in 2019. Charlie platoon had the biggest increase, from 57 to 91, in the use of force from 2018 to 2019 while CRT had the biggest decrease, down 98 to 81.

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

## INVOLVED CITIZEN ANALYSIS

### CITIZEN DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the identifiable citizens involved in use of force events, 256 were males (79%) and 67 were females (18%). Officers reported they used force on a group of individuals that were not identified (OC Spray into a crowd for compliance) 12 times in 2019.

In historical alignment with previous years, use of force events occurred most frequently in 2019 with males between the ages of 20-29 (34%), specifically in black males (53%) between the ages of 20-29 (21%). There was a 5% increase of use of force events involving white males, specifically those between the ages of 30-39 from 2018 to 2019. Although, still a fraction of the total use of force events, in 2019 use of force events involving Hispanics dropped 60% from 2018. Overall, use of force events involving males grew from 204 in 2018 to 256 in 2019.

Virtually unchanged from 2018, females under the age of 20 (42%) were most likely to be involved in use of force situations involving females in 2019. Specifically, black (54%) females under the age of 20 (28%) were most likely to be involved in a use of force event involving females. Unlike males though, in 2019 there was a decrease in females involved in use of force events from 64 in 2018 to 57 in 2019. Of note, the overall number of black females involved in a use of force event dropped 15% in 2019 from the previous year.

## MALES

2019						
AGE	B	W	H	As	Ar	Total
<20	35	8	2	0	0	45
20-29	54	31	0	0	1	86
30-39	21	41	1	0	0	63
40-49	10	20	1	0	0	31
50-59	14	13	0	0	0	27
60+	2	2	0	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>256</b>

2018						
AGE	B	W	H	As	Total	
<20	26	3	2	0	31	
20-29	50	28	6	0	84	
30-39	24	29	2	0	55	
40-49	8	12	0	0	20	
50-59	4	9	0	0	13	
60+	0	1	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>204</b>	

2017						
AGE	B	W	H	As	Total	
<20	36	3	2	0	41	
20-29	53	33	1	0	87	
30-39	30	44	1	1	76	
40-49	14	25	2	0	41	
50-59	13	13	0	0	26	
60+	3	7	0	0	10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>281</b>	

*Key: B-Black, W-White, H-Hispanic, As-Asian, Ar-Arab*

## FEMALES

2019					
AGE	B	W	H	As	Total
<20	16	8	0	0	24
20-29	7	11	0	0	18
30-39	3	3	0	1	7
40-49	2	1	0	0	3
50-59	2	2	0	0	4
60+	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>

2018					
AGE	B	W	H	As	Total
<20	18	4	1	0	23
20-29	16	3	0	0	19
30-39	5	7	0	0	12
40-49	3	4	0	0	7
50-59	1	1	0	0	2
60+	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>

2017					
AGE	B	W	H	As	Total
<20	15	4	0	0	19
20-29	12	15	0	1	28
30-39	6	20	1	0	27
40-49	1	7	0	0	8
50-59	1	3	0	0	4
60+	2	5	0	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>93</b>

*Key: B-Black, W-White, H-Hispanic, As-Asian, Ar-Arab*

## CITIZEN CONDITIONS

Half (179) of all citizens involved in uses of force in 2019 were under the influence of one or more judgement altering conditions (alcohol, drugs or a mental health crisis.) This rate is statistically similar to 2018 (53%) and 2017. Alcohol (25%) was the most prevalent condition in uses of force in 2019. The use of drugs in uses of force was down 7% from 2018. But the amount of mental health impairment continues its upward trend from only 42 to 2017 to 79 in 2019.

Condition	2019	2018	2017
Alcohol	67	63	103
Alcohol, Drugs	10	22	11
Alcohol, Drugs, Mentally Unstable	3	10	1
Alcohol, Mentally Unstable	11	14	4
Drugs	23	23	33
Drugs, Mentally Unstable	19	14	9
Mentally unstable	46	30	28
None or Unknown	178	153	192
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>381</b>

Condition	2019	2018	2017
Alcohol	91 (25%)	109 (33%)	119 (31%)
Drugs	55 (15%)	69 (21%)	54 (14%)
Mentally Unstable	79 (22%)	68 (21%)	42 (11%)

## INJURIES

### OFFICER INJURIES

In 2019, Officers reported injuries as a result of a use of force 28 times (6%). That was only one less than in 2018. However, there were more use of force incidents in 2019 which means the overall percent of injured officers was slightly lower than in 2018. Only two of those injuries reported in 2019 were severe enough to require medical care by the officer. This is down significantly, 31% from 2018. While officers used force more often in 2019, they were less likely to suffer significant injuries.

	2019	2018
<b>Total Incidents</b>	437	411
<b>Officer Injured</b>	28 (6% of Total)	29 (7% of Total)
<b>Officers Medical Care</b>	2 (7% of Injured)	11 (38% of Injured)

## **CITIZEN INJURIES**

Of the 273 incidents that included a use of force in 2019, officers reported 50 complaints of pain or injuries which was 18% of all use of force events. This is down slightly from 2018 where there were also 50 injuries but they were 20% of the total use of force events.

While the number of reports was similar from the year before, the severity of injuries has increased significantly. In 2018, complaints of pain and minor injuries were split relatively evenly with only one life threatening injury. However in 2019, there were 3 times as many minor injuries as complaints of pain. Minor injuries accounted for nearly 72% of all injuries in 2019 which is a 22% increase from 2018.

The most severe injuries occurred in both 2018 and 2019 as a result of Officer Involved Shootings. In 2018, the subject survived their gunshot wounds. In 2019, one subject died as a result of their wounds.

<b>Injury</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Complaint of Pain	13	24
Minor Injury	36	25
Life Threatening Injury	0	1
Fatal Injury	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>% of all Use of Force Events</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>

## **USE OF FORCE POLICY COMPLIANCE**

There was only one citizen complaint filed in 2019 that alleged excessive force which is down significantly from 9 in 2018. The complaint was terminated due to the complainant being a juvenile. Review of the body worn camera video from this incident showed all officers acted within departmental policy in regards to the use of force.

Additionally, there were no use of force incidents that were not procedurally justified or not within policy. There were two internal investigations as a result of officer involved shootings in 2019, including one fatality. Officers in both cases were found to have been procedurally justified and within policy during those events.

## CONCLUSION

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

In July of 2019 The Roanoke Police Department used for the first time a new tool, the Conducted Electrical Weapons or "Tasers", in its less lethal arsenal in order to reduce officer and citizen injuries. With only 5 months of usage, it's difficult to determine if the Taser was effective in reaching its goals. In 2019, while the rate of officer injuries was not significantly different from the previous year, the severity of those injuries did show a significant decline. This is significant due to a marked increase in officer assaults as the reason for using force in 2019. However, citizens injured during 2019 did sustain more serious injuries than they did in 2018.

There were two significant factors in the use of force by officers in 2019. The first of those is the tenure of the department. Half of the department's front line officers (excluding Lieutenants and above) only have one to five years of service. Officers with fewer years of service historically have more difficulty communicating and gaining rapport with citizens. Continuous training dealing with issues such as search and seizure, and laws of arrests continue to be critical components of department training to ensure that officers continue to be prepared for every situation that they encounter. A focused study of attrition within the department and formal effort at the retention of experienced officers could positively impact the use of force by officers and its relationship within the community.

Secondly, the mental condition of a subject involved in a use of force incident continues to be a major contributing factor in uses of force. Half of all citizens involved in uses of force in 2019 were under the influence of one or more mental health impairments (alcohol, drugs or mental health crisis.) Additionally, force was necessary by officers on 41 ECO's that were served which is nearly 15% of all police incidents involving force in 2019.

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

In 2019, two recruit classes graduated, Class 77 and Class 78. Class 77 had an estimated 98 hours of defensive tactics and estimated 80 hours of physical training. Class 78 had and estimated 100 hours of defensive tactics and estimated 68 hours of physical training. Additionally, both classes had approximately 152 hours of Deescalation, Critical Intervention (CIT), Active Shooter, Use of Force, Firearms, Foot Pursuit, and OC Spray training in each class. 206 officers within the department participated in over 3,060 hours of force related training including De-escalation, CIT, Taser, Pepperball, Defensive Tactics and related In-Service training in 2019. Continuous training ensures that officers use of force is within policy and consistent with the expectations of the community.

In March of 2018, the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery published a study funded by the National Institute of Justice regarding police use of physical force. In reviewing 1.04 million calls for service received by three mid-size police departments in three states over a two-year period, the researchers found that only 0.086% of all calls resulted included a physical use of force by police officers.

Officers with the Roanoke Police Department had 107,267 citizen contacts in 2019. 437 of those contacts resulted in a use of force which is a use of force rate of .004%. Officers of this Department did not use force 99.996% of the time during a citizen contact. Compared to the data gathered in the aforementioned study, the Roanoke Police Department is only using 5% of the force that those departments involved in the study are using. This number positively reflects on the success of our continued focus on crisis intervention and de-escalation training.

Officers of the Department employed significantly less use of force than other similar sized departments in a recent study. The overall percentage of use of force demographics in most categories remained consistent with previous years with, the tenure of officers and the impairment of citizens remain significant areas of concern regarding the use of force. While the equipment issued to officers to deal with potential use of force incidents is more than adequate to meet the Department's legal and lawful mission, the addition of the Conducted Electrical Weapon as a less lethal option has been successfully implemented and should affect a more positive impact on the use of force going forward. Operational Directive 2.1.22, Use of Force, was reviewed as a part of this analysis and found to need no modification.