

FALMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018



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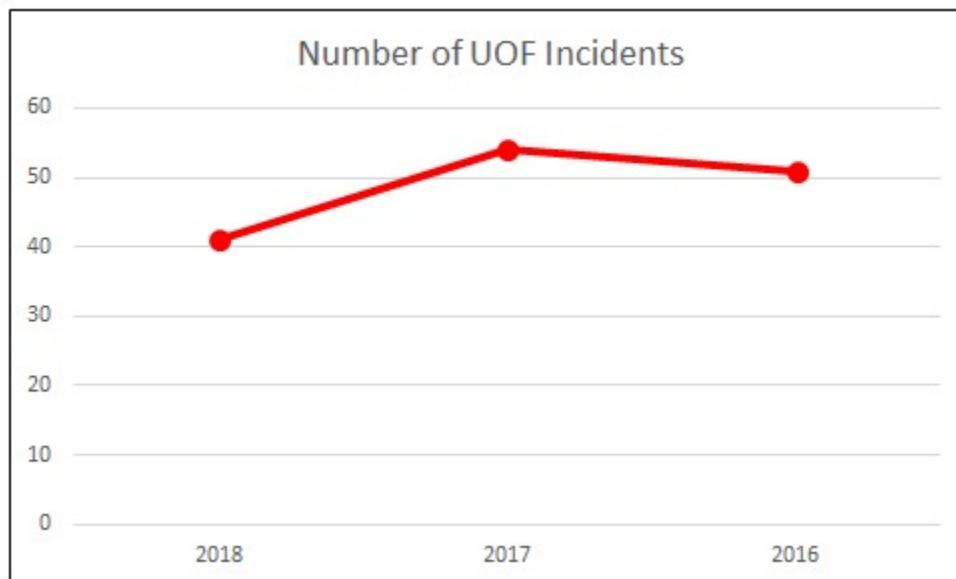
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1.0 Introduction

In 2018, the Falmouth Police Department was involved in **41 incidents** where uses of force were reported. This represents an overall decrease over the previous year. The Department responded to approximately **24,962 calls for service in 2018**.

Reportable force was used in approximately 0.16% of these calls. This represents a decrease over prior years (**0.21% in 2017 and 0.19% in 2016**).



In many cases multiple officers applied force upon one suspect in one incident. In such cases, each individual officer's use of force was tracked, but considered part of one incident.

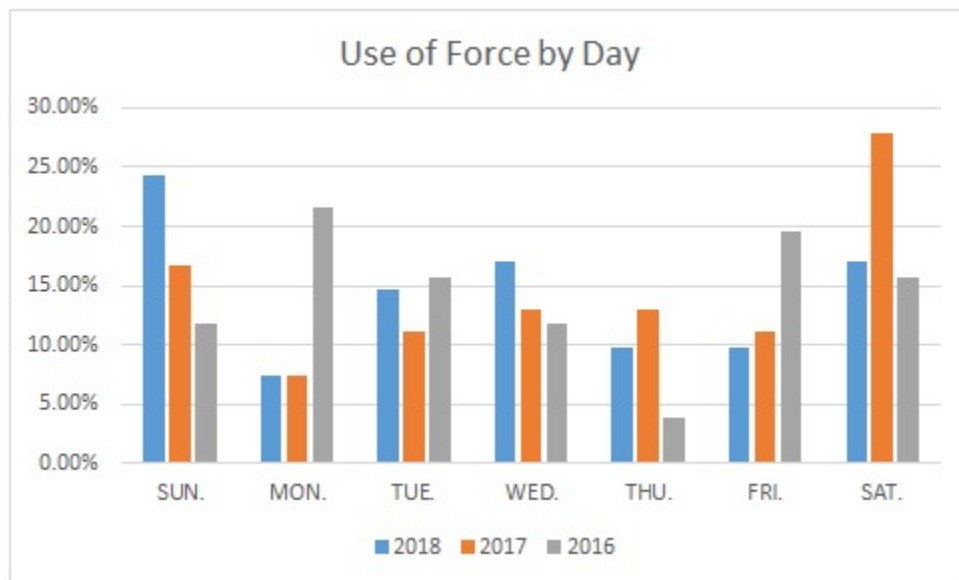
In the case of uses of force against multiple suspects in one call for service or interaction, the uses of force against each suspect were considered a separate use of force incident.

This analysis will evaluate these use of force incidents and provide comparisons to the previous year.

2.0 Incident Day & Time

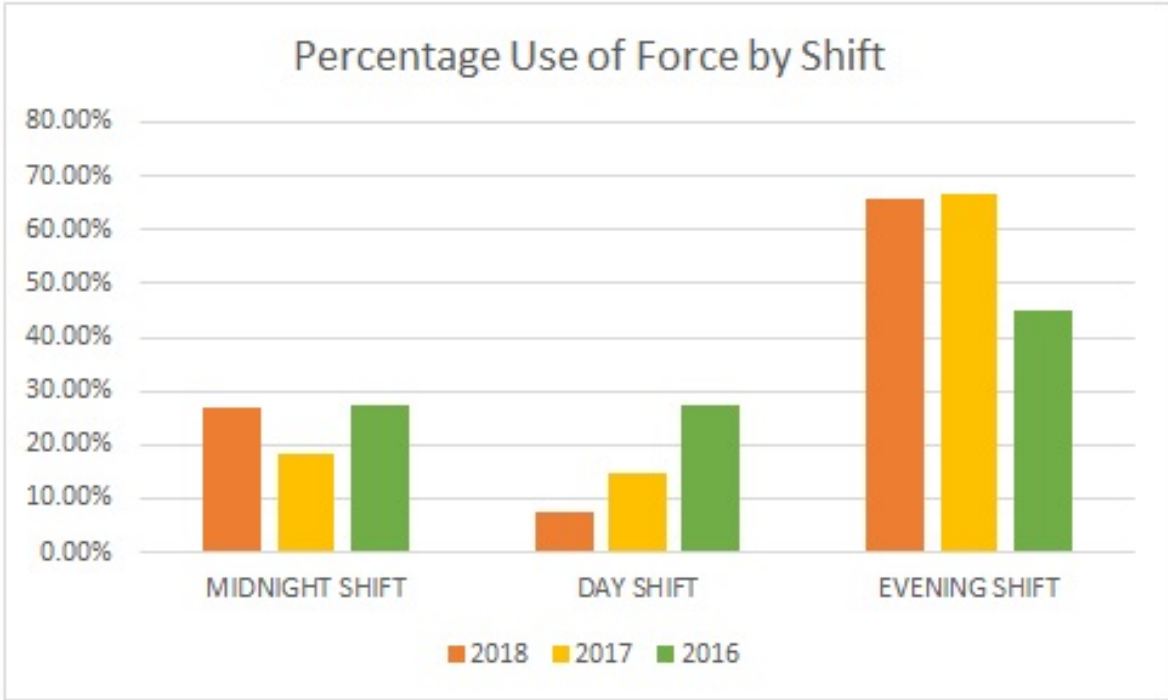
The use of force incidents occurred on the following days of the week in the proportions shown below:

UOF INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK							
	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUE.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THU.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
2018	24.4%	7.3%	14.6%	17.1%	9.8%	9.8%	17.1%
2017	16.7%	7.4%	11.1%	13.0%	13.0%	11.1%	27.8%
2016	11.8%	21.6%	15.7%	11.8%	3.9%	19.6%	15.7%



Time of day was tracked by breaking down the day into the three shifts (midnight, day, and evening shift). *For the purposes of this report, 0000 hrs-0759 hrs was considered midnight shift, 0800 hrs-1559 hrs was considered day shift, 1600 hrs-2359 hrs was considered evening shift.*

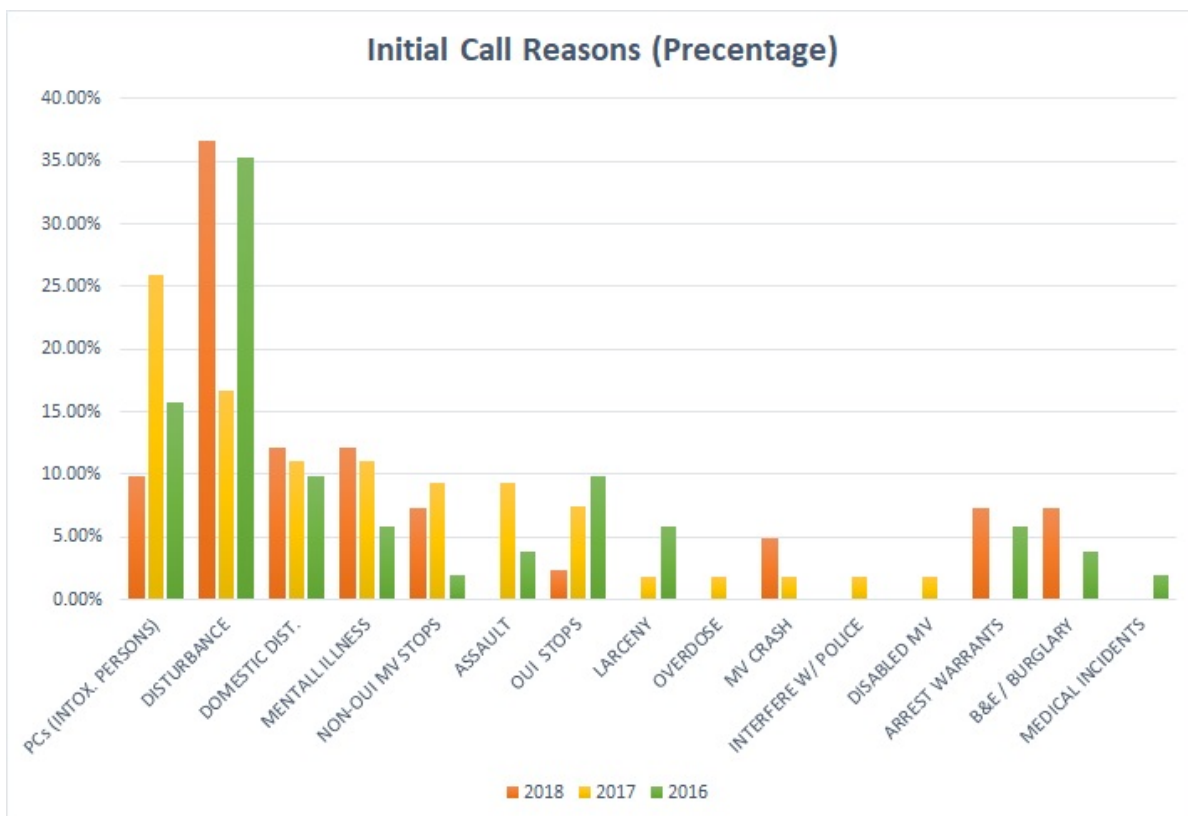
UOF INCIDENTS BY SHIFT			
	<u>MIDNIGHT SHIFT</u>	<u>DAY SHIFT</u>	<u>EVENING SHIFT</u>
2018	26.8%	7.3%	65.9%
2017	18.5%	14.8%	66.7%
2016	27.5%	27.5%	45.1%



3.0 Incident Type

The incident types described below are general categories and reflect the initial reason the officers made contact with the suspect, not necessarily the most serious offense that occurred, or the offense that led to arrest.

UOF INCIDENTS INITIAL CALL TYPE			
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
PCs (INTOX. PERSONS)	9.8%	25.9%	15.7%
DISTURBANCE	36.6%	16.7%	35.3%
DOMESTIC DIST.	12.2%	11.1%	9.8%
MENTALL ILLNESS	12.2%	11.1%	5.9%
NON-OUI MV STOPS	7.3%	9.3%	2.0%
ASSAULT	0%	9.3%	3.9%
OUI STOPS	2.4%	7.4%	9.8%
LARCENY	0%	1.9%	5.9%
OVERDOSE	0%	1.9%	0%
MV CRASH	4.9%	1.9%	0%
INTERFERE W/ POLICE	0%	1.9%	0%
DISABLED MV	0%	1.9%	0%
ARREST WARRANTS	7.3%	0%	5.9%
B&E / BURGLARY	7.3%	0%	3.9%
MEDICAL INCIDENTS	0%	0%	2.0%

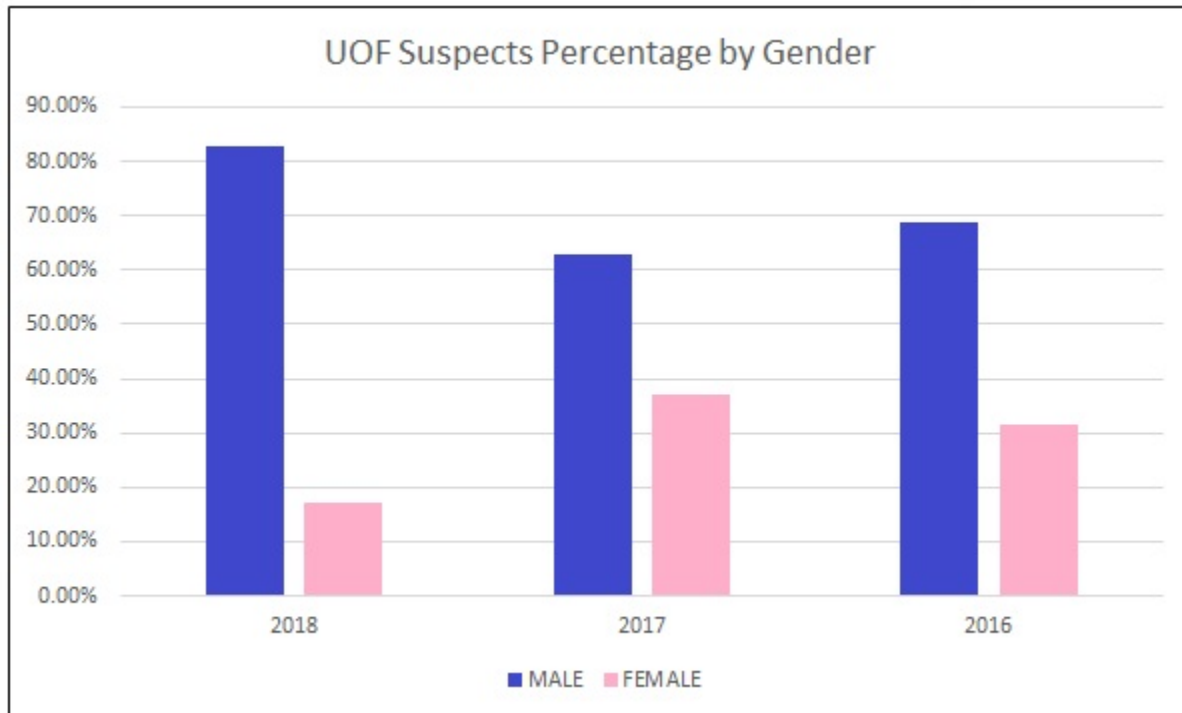


4.0 Suspect Demographics

In 2018, the suspects in the use of force incidents ranged in age from fifteen (15) to seventy-two (72) with a mean average age of 33.2. In 2017, the suspects in the use of force incidents ranged in age from thirteen (13) to sixty-six (66) with a mean average age of 33.8. In 2016, these suspects ranged in age from fourteen (14) to sixty-five (65) with a mean average age of 37.7.

In 2018, the suspects were 82.9% male and 17.1% female. In 2017, the suspects were 63% male and 37% female, compared to the previous year (2016), where the suspects were 68.6% male and 31.4% female.

SUSPECT GENDER – UOF INCIDENTS		
	MALE	FEMALE
2018	82.9%	17.1%
2017	63%	37%
2016	68.6%	31.4%

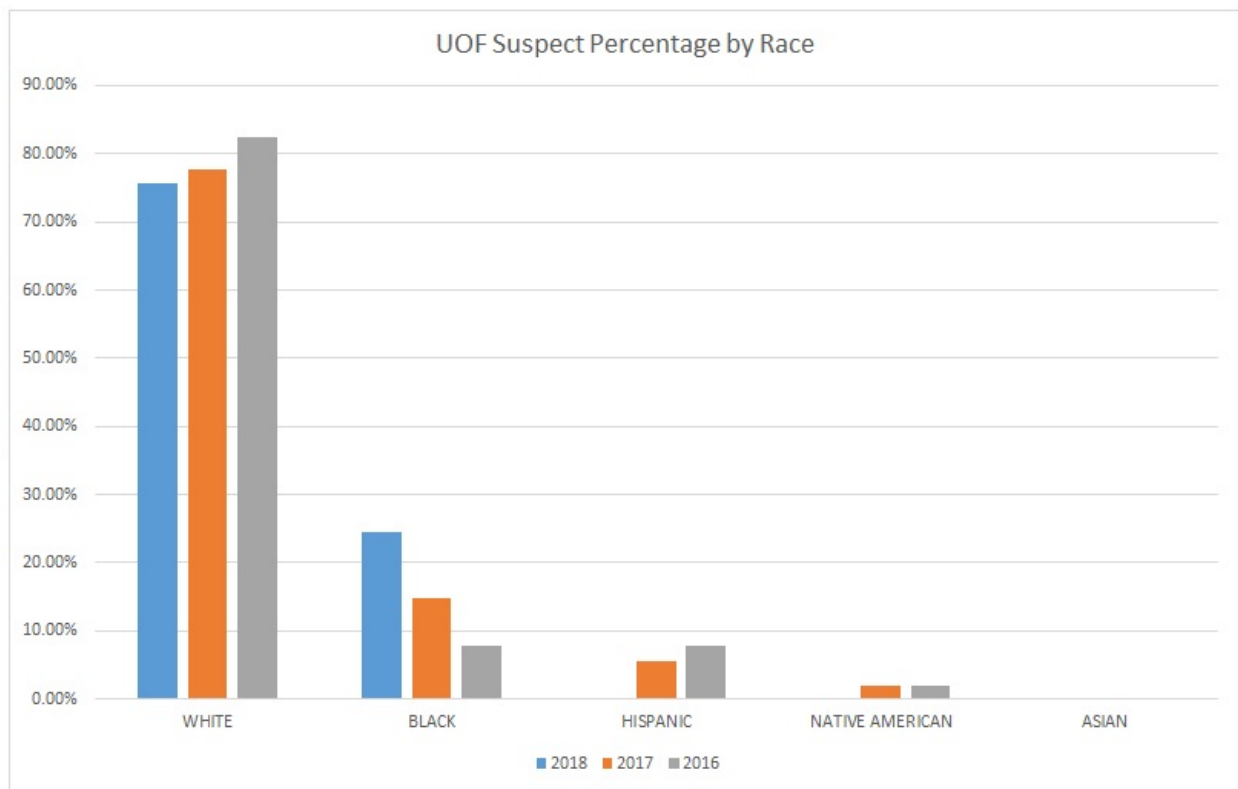


The racial demographics of the suspects involved in reported use of force incidents is shown in the table below.

SUSPECT RACE – UOF INCIDENTS					
	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN
2018	75.6%	24.4%	0%	0%	0%
2017	77.8%	14.8%	5.6%	1.9%	0%
2016	82.4%	7.8%	7.8%	2.0%	0%

While these demographics do not mirror those from the 2000 census, due to the relatively small data set, the slight deviations appear larger when shown as percentages. For example, due to the reduction in overall use of force incidents in 2018, one incident represents 2.4% of the incidents.

Additionally, due to the large influx of seasonal residents and tourists during the summer months and the frequency with which suspects reporting addresses in surrounding towns are encountered, the census demographics give an incomplete view of the town’s makeup.

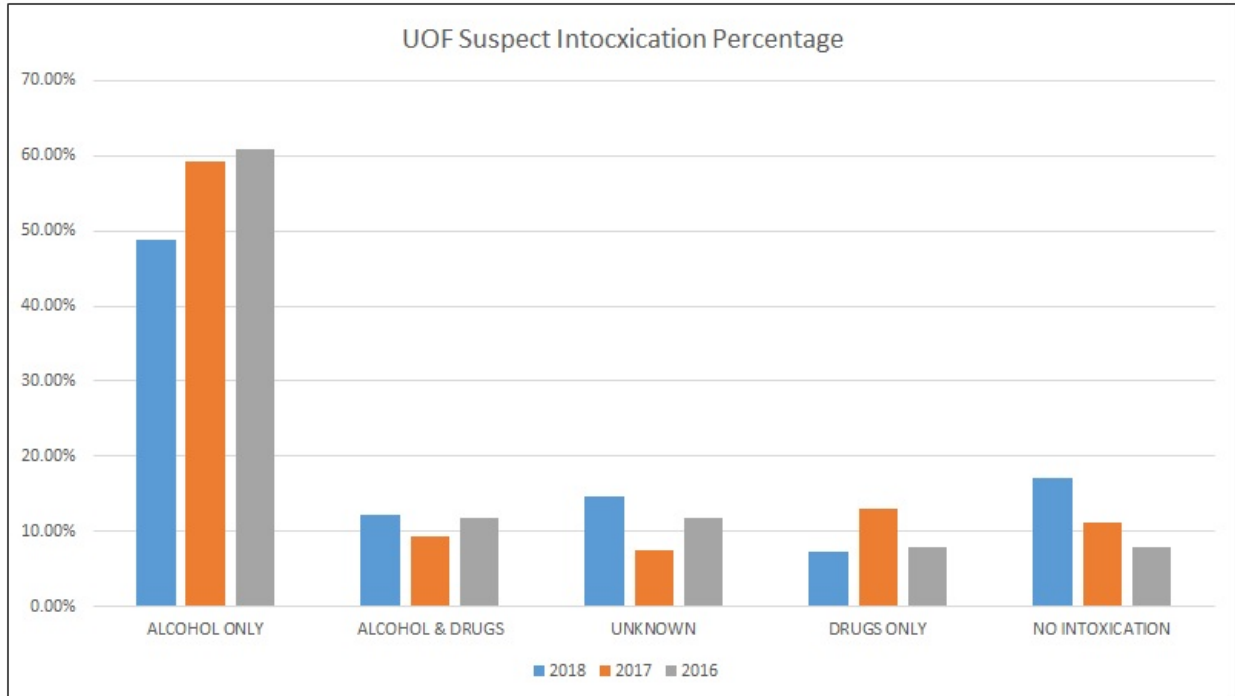


5.0 Suspect Intoxication

In the majority of incidents, 68.3%, the suspects were intoxicated due to consumption of alcohol, drugs, or both. This represents a decrease over the prior two years where suspects were intoxicated in 81.5% (2017) and 80.4% (2016).

The table below shows the correlation between suspect intoxication and involvement in a use of force incident.

SUSPECT INTOXICATION					
	ALCOHOL ONLY	ALCOHOL & DRUGS	UNKNOWN	DRUGS ONLY	NO INTOXICATION
2018	48.8%	12.2%	14.6%	7.3%	17.1%
2017	59.3%	9.3%	7.4%	13%	11.1%
2016	60.8%	11.8%	11.8%	7.8%	7.8%



6.0 Officer Demographics

The mean average age of officers involved in Use of Force incidents in 2018 was 37.8 years old compared to 37.2 and 38 for 2017 & 2016, respectively. Their mean average length of service with this Department was 9.0 years compared to 8.8 and 9.7 years in 2017 & 2016 respectively.

Of the officers involved in Use of Force incidents in 2018, 94.2% were male and 5.8% were female.

<u>USE OF FORCE OFFICER GENDER</u>		
	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
2018	94.2%	5.8%
2017	88.6%	11.4%
2016	88.3%	11.7%

The percentages for the Department as a whole (as of 12/31/18), were 90% male and 10% female. These figures are comparable, but not identical, to those in the 2017 & 2016 analyses.

7.0 Uniformed vs. Non-Uniformed Officers

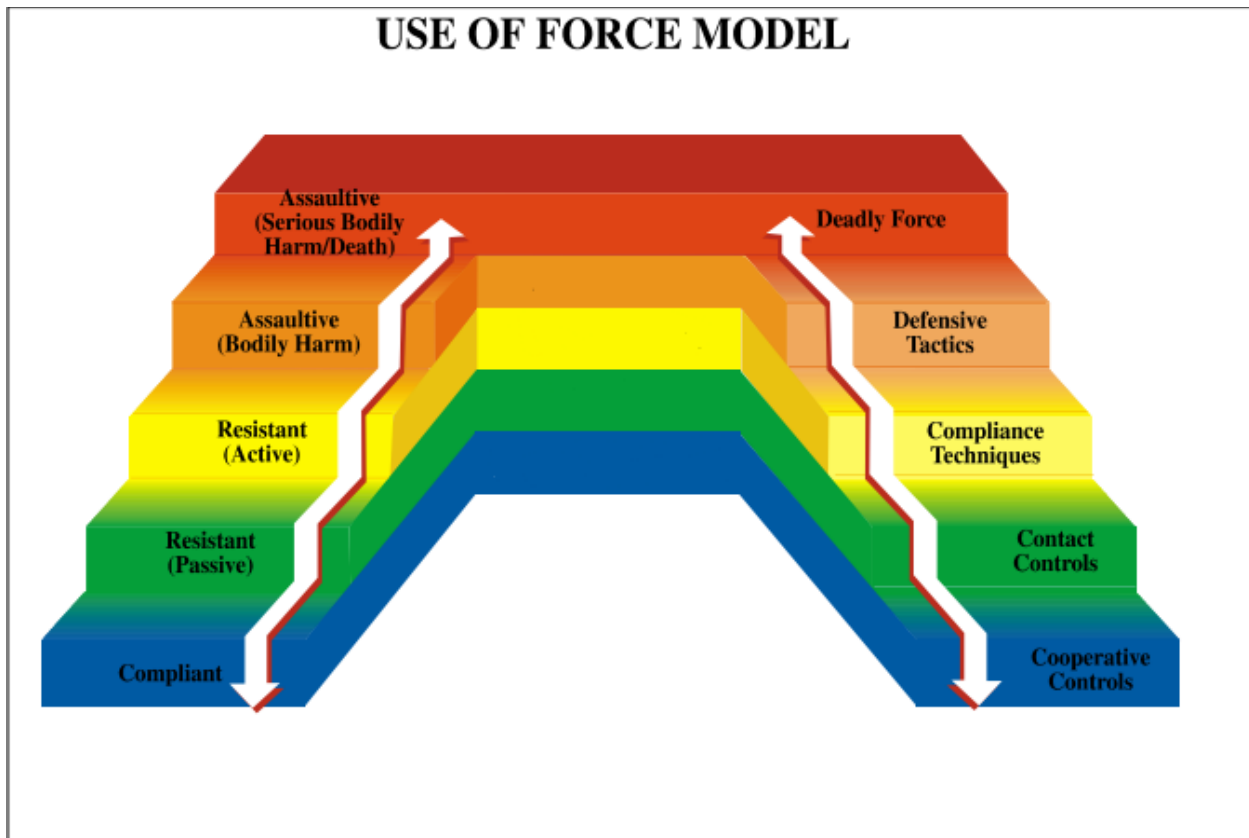
Three (3) of the officers in the 69 uses of force (in 1 of 41 incidents) were non-uniformed. No claims were made that the suspect did not recognize them as police officers.

8.0 Level of Force / Level of Resistance

All reported uses of force in 2018 were determined to be within policy. However, the incident in July where deadly force was utilized remains under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit at the time of this report. Preliminary investigation suggests that no policy violations occurred.

Analysis of the data reveals that in most cases, officers used less force than they were authorized to use as determined by the reasonableness standards set forth in the MPTC Use of Force model.

MPTC Use of Force Model



When quantified using the MPTC model (where the “Compliant” level is 1 and the “Assaultive – Serious Bodily Harm / Death” level is 5), analysis of the reported use of force incidents shows the following:

- **In 2018, the mean average level of force was 2.7, while the mean average level of resistance was 3.5.**
 - In 2017 and 2016, mean average level of force was 2.5, while the mean average level of resistance was 3.5 both years.
- **The mode (i.e. most often occurring value) level of force used was 3, while the most often occurring level of resistance was 4.**

9.0 Use of Weapons

The vast majority (88.4%) of applications of force involved the use of “personal weapons” (i.e. hands, feet, etc. or “empty hand” techniques).

The breakdown of weapons used is shown in the table below:

WEAPONS UTILIZED							
	PERSONAL	TASER – WARNING	TASER – DRIVE STUN	TASER - PROBES	O.C. SPRAY	BATON	FIREARM
2018	61 88.4%	0* 0%*	3 4.3%	3 4.3%	2 2.9%	0 0%	1 1.4%
2017	77 87.5%	5 5.7%	2 2.3%	2 2.3%	3 3.4%	0 0%	0 0%
2016	57 74.0%	7 9.1%	6 7.8%	6 7.8%	1 1.3%	0 0%	1-WARN 0-SHOTS 1.3%

**Taser warnings where no actual use of force did not occur were not tabulated in this report for 2018, since no actual use of force occurred by merely warning what continued resistance would result in.*

10.0 Injuries

Only 12 of the 41 suspects involved (29.2%) were injured, and most injuries were minor. These included punctures from Taser probes, and minor abrasions, lacerations, bruises, etc. from falls / takedowns. This represents a percentage increase over prior years (18.5% for 2018 & 9.8% for 2017).

Part of this increase may be the result of not tabulating incidents where only a “warning” was issued and no actual force was used. This change was made to allow the statistics to give a more accurate representation of use of force.

One suspect injury was gunshot wound(s) sustained after he fired upon officers responding to a disturbance.

Six (6) injuries to officers were also reported. Four (4) were relatively minor in nature. The other two (2) were gunshot wounds sustained after responding to a disturbance.

11.0 Training Issues Identified

No training issues were identified and all uses of force were determined to be within policy, except that the shooting incident remains under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit.

12.0 Summary

- **68.3 % of the suspects in these incidents were intoxicated by alcohol, drugs, or both. This represents a decrease over the previous two years (81.5% and 80.4%).**
- Less force than legally justified and permitted by policy was used in many of the incidents.
 - Taser probe deployment is considered the same level of force as a baton strike by the MPTC.
 - Anecdotal evidence suggests probe deployment is less likely to cause significant injury than baton strikes.
 - The three Taser probe deployments likely resulted in less injury than if a baton had been used in those instances.
- It is unclear why the number of reported suspect injuries again increased (the percentage almost tripled since 2016).
 - The decrease in officer injuries could suggest that lawful and reasonable force, while increasing suspect injuries, prevented officer injuries.
 - The apparent increased reliance upon “hands on” techniques, and decrease in Taser deployments may have led to increased injury.
 - It could also be the result of not tabulating incidents where only contact controls or warnings were used.
- Without further data, no policy or training changes are suggested by this analysis.