

# **An Analysis of Use of Force Incidents in the Milwaukee Police Department in 2024**

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- ❑ Data based on MPD “Use of Force Reports” (AIM System)

# MPD Use of Force Reporting Policy

According to MPD Use of Force policy 460.50: “The Use of Force Report shall be completed by a supervisory officer when a Department member:

- (a) Discharges a firearm;
- (b) Points a firearm at a person;
- (c) Uses a baton to strike a subject or animal;
- (d) Discharges an irritant, chemical, or inflammatory agent;
- (e) Deploys a Conducted Energy Weapon, to include contact stun and probe deployment;
- (f) Department canine bites a person;
- (g) Forcible blood draws requiring use of force to obtain a sample where a subject claims injury or is injured as a result of police action;
- (h) Uses bodily force that involves focused strikes, diffused strikes, or decentralizations to the ground;
- (i) Uses any type of force in which a person is injured or claims injury, whether or not the injury is immediately visible;
- (j) Draws or displays a firearm to effect an arrest or seizure of a person.”

# Two Use of Force Policy Changes

- ❑ First, beginning in December, 2020 additional incidents were required to be documented as uses of force:
  - ❑ Pointing a firearm at a person
  - ❑ Drawing or displaying a firearm to effect an arrest or seizure of a person
- ❑ Therefore, total number of force incidents in 2024 is not comparable to years prior to 2021 when these types of force were not required to be documented.

# Two Use of Force Policy Changes

- ❑ Second, prior to 2013, incidents that involved “bodily force only” without injury or complaint of injury from the subject were not required to be documented. Since 2013 these incidents are required to be reported.
- ❑ Therefore, comparison of “total number of use of force” incidents and “bodily force only” incidents in 2024 to those in years before 2013 is not valid.

# Select Findings

- There were 2,215 use of force incidents recorded in 2024
  - 10 involved euthanizing an injured animal
  - 7 were accidental
  - 1 involved non-MPD officers
  - These 18 incidents were excluded from the aggregate analysis
  
- So... 2,197 incidents were analyzed in this report
  - 1,280 involved displaying and/or pointing a firearm only
  - 917 involved hands-on physical force or the discharge of a weapon

Most of the analyses in the report focus on the subset of 917 incidents.



# Select Findings: Types of Force Used

- ❑ 5 most common types of force were:
  - ❑ 36.9% involved pointing firearm only (810)
  - ❑ 19.6% involved bodily force only (431)
  - ❑ 13.1% involved pointing and display of firearm only (288)
  - ❑ 8.3% involved display of firearm only (182)
  - ❑ 6.4% involved bodily force and pointing firearm (141)
- ❑ These types of force accounted for over 85% of all incidents (see Table 1, p. 8).
- ❑ As pointing a firearm has now been eliminated from the use of force and displaying a firearm has been limited to warrant execution, much of this no longer applies.
- ❑ A full listing of types of force and frequency of each can be found on p.8 of the report.

# Select Findings: Types of Force Used

- ❑ 12 incidents (.5% of total incidents) involved the discharge of a firearm.
  - ❑ 10 of the 12 involved a discharge at a subject(s)
    - ❑ 1 fatal, 5 non-fatal, 5 no injuries (1 incident involved 2 subjects)
  - ❑ 2 of the 12 involved a discharge at a dog
    - ❑ 1 fatal, 1 no injuries

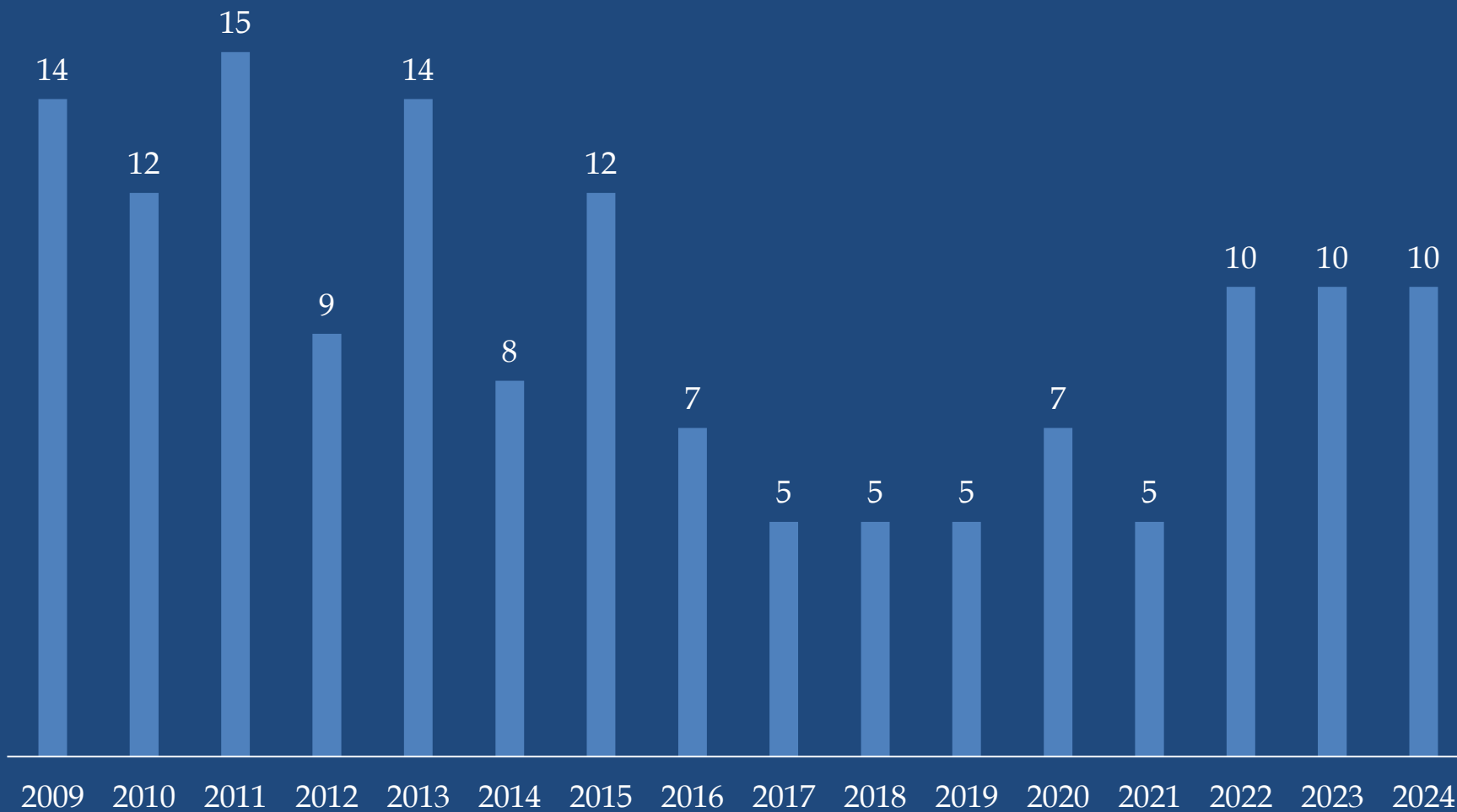
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- ❑ There were 22 officers who discharged their firearms in 2024 (including accidental discharges, and discharges directed toward a person or a dog). No officers were involved in more than one of these incidents.

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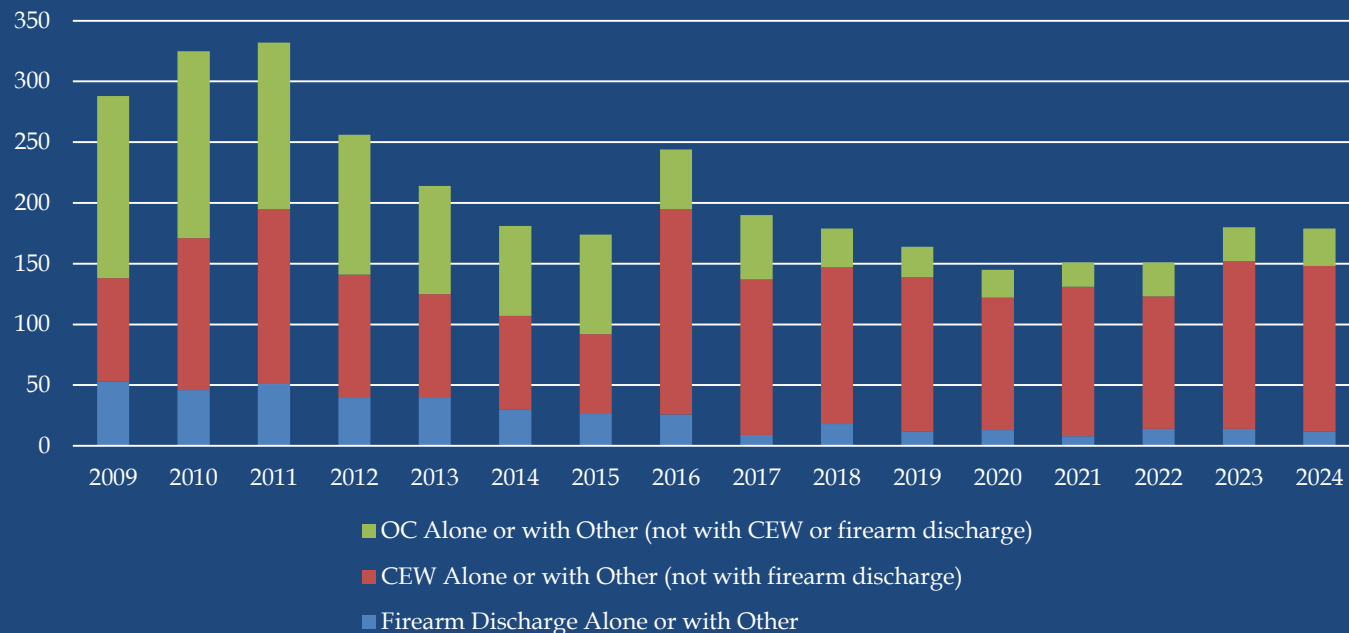
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- ❑ There were 22 officers who discharged their firearms in 2024 (including accidental discharges, and discharges directed toward a person or a dog). No officers were involved in more than one of these incidents.
- ❑ Since 2009 there has been a decline in firearm discharges with subjects and especially with dogs (Table 12 and Table 13, p. 24).

## Number of Persons as the Subject of Police Firearm Discharge



# Select Findings: Types of Force Used

- Since 2009, use of a chemical agent (“OC spray”) and discharge of a firearm have declined steadily and substantially.
- The use of a CEW (“Taser”) has become prevalent.



# Select Findings: Frequency of Force

- ❑ In 839 of 912 incidents that involved hands-on force and/or a weapon against a person (5 involved a dog only), at least one person was arrested.
- ❑ In these 839 incidents a total of 974 people were arrested.
- ❑ In 2024 MPD officers made a total of 13,029 arrests.
- ❑ **Accordingly, in 2024, 7.48% of all arrests involved the use of force ( $974 / 13,029 \times 100 = 7.48$ ). This percentage is similar to 2023 (8.07%).**
- ❑ When “display and/or pointing of firearm only” incidents are included in the calculation, 23.5% of arrests involved the use of force in 2024 (19.2% in 2023).

# Select Findings: Frequency of Force

- For every 1,000 calls for service, approximately 4 involved the use of force.
- When “display and/or pointing of firearm only” incidents are included in the calculation, 9 out of every 1,000 calls involved the use of force).
- The largest proportion of force incidents occurred May through September.
- Police Districts 3 and 7 accounted for the largest share (38.6% total) of force incidents in 2024. Districts 1 and 6 had the lowest share (14.4% total)



# Select Findings: Accidental Force

- In 2024, there were 11 incidents in which force was used accidentally. Seven of these 11 incidents involved accidental force only; 4 involved accidental and intentional force.
  - 1 involved a firearm discharge (officer's gun)
  - 5 involved a CEW discharge
  - 3 involved a police canine bite
  - 2 involved pointing of firearm
- From 2009 to 2024 there have been 52 accidental police firearm discharges, varying from 0 to 8 per year. In 4 of the 52 total incidents an officer was injured as a result of the accidental discharge, in 4 other incidents a subject was injured. None of the injuries were life-threatening.

# Other Select Findings

- ❑ Considering the subset of 917 incidents that involved hands-on force and/or a weapon, the typical use of force incident in 2024:
  - ❑ Involved 1 uniformed police officer and 1 subject
  - ❑ The officer was a white male, 35 years old, with 8 years of experience
  - ❑ The officer was in uniform and on-duty
  - ❑ The officer used “bodily force only” in the incident
  - ❑ The officer was not injured
  - ❑ The subject was a Black male, 30 years old
  - ❑ The subject resisted arrest and was equally likely to be injured as not injured
  - ❑ The subject was not armed with a weapon but did resist arrest
  - ❑ The incident occurred in Police District 3 between 4:01 pm and 11:59 pm
- ❑ When “pointing / display of firearm” incidents were included, the type of force used was most often “pointed firearm only” and most subjects did not resist arrest.

# Use of Force Internal Investigations

- ❑ In 2024, 14 use of force incidents resulted in MPD Internal Affairs investigations.
- ❑ These 14 incidents involved 26 officers and 29 use of force allegations.

Continued...

# Use of Force Internal Investigations

- ❑ Of the 29 allegations (an allegation could involve more than the use of one type of force):
  - ❑ 9 involved the intentional use of a firearm
  - ❑ 7 involved the use of bodily force
  - ❑ 2 involved the use of handcuffs
  - ❑ 4 involved not treating the public with courtesy and professionalism
  - ❑ 2 related to competence – animals
  - ❑ 2 related to competence – use of force procedures
  - ❑ 1 involved the failure to intervene when a code of conduct violation occurred
  - ❑ 1 related to competence during off-duty, extra-duty, or special event employment
  - ❑ 1 related to competence – use of force notification

# Results of Investigations

- In seven of the 14 incidents, some or all allegations against the officers involved were either not sustained or findings were exoneration or no code of conduct violation.
- In nine incidents, at least some allegations remain open.
- There were five critical incidents, three of which remain under investigation.

# Questions and Comments