

An Analysis of 2014 Use of Force Incidents in the Milwaukee Police Department

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Purpose of Study

- To provide information on the number and nature of use of force incidents in the MPD from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014
- To compare, when appropriate, 2014 data with previous years
- Data based on MPD “Use of Force Reports” (AIM System)

MPD Use of Force Reporting Policy

According to MPD Use of Force policy 460.35: “The Use of Force Report shall be completed by a supervisory officer when a Department member discharges a firearm; uses a baton in the line of duty; discharges an irritant, chemical, or inflammatory agent; deploys an Electronic Control Device, to include non-contact spark display, contact stun, and probe deployment; Department canine bites a person; 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; uses bodily force that involves focused strikes, diffused strikes, or decentralizations to the ground; uses any type of force in which a person is injured or claims injury, whether or not the injury is immediately visible.”

Use of Force Policy Change

- Prior to 2013, incidents that involved “bodily force only” without injury or complaint of injury from the subject were not required to be documented.
- Therefore, comparison of “total number of use of force” incidents and “bodily force only” incidents in 2014 to those in years before 2013 is not valid.

Select Findings

- There were 728 use of force incidents recorded in 2014
 - 22 involved euthanizing an injured animal
 - 6 were accidental
- 700 incidents analyzed in this report (compared to 895 in 2013; a 21.8% decline)

- 656 use of force incidents involved a subject being arrested
- In 2014, the MPD recorded 25,193 arrests
- Overall, 2.60% of all arrests involved the use of force (compared to 2.79% in 2013)

- The 700 use of force incidents involved 436 different MPD officers
 - Approximately 64% of these officers were involved in just one incident
- Approximately 77% of all MPD sworn officers were not involved in any use of force incidents in 2014

With regard to type of force used...

- Of the 700 incidents:
 - 69.6% involved bodily force only (487)
 - 6.6% involved an ECD only (46)
 - 4.3% involved a chemical agent (OC) only (30)
 - 3.7% involved a firearm only (26)
 - 5.9% involved bodily force and a chemical agent (41)
 - 3.3% involved bodily force and an ECD (23)
 - 0.6% involved a firearm and other force (4)
 - 6.1% involved other force (no firearm) (43)

Type of force used, by year (Table 9)

Type of Force Used	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Firearm Alone or with Other	53	46	51	40	40	30
ECD Alone or with Other	85	125	144	101	85	77
OC Alone or with Other	150	154	137	115	89	74

With regard to force with a firearm...

- Of the 30 incidents that involved a firearm:
 - 8 incidents involved a person (2 fatal; 1 non-fatal; 5 no injuries)
 - These incidents involved various calls for service; most commonly robbery-related
 - 22 incidents involved 24 dogs (16 fatal; 7 non-fatal; 1 dog shot at but not struck; 2 incidents involved 2 dogs)
 - Most incidents involved loose dogs and pit bulls

Subject of police use of firearm, number of incidents by year (Table 11)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Dog(s)	39	34	36	31	26	22
Person	14	12	15	9	14	8

With regard to district of incident...

- In 2014, 162 use of force incidents occurred in Police District 7
- In 2013, 242 incidents occurred in District 7
- Therefore, from 2013 to 2014, there was a 33.1% decline in use of force incidents (80 incidents) in District 7
- A large proportion of the decline in use of force incidents department-wide is attributable to the decline in District 7

Questions and Comments