# Saint Paul Police Department

## Police Use-of-Force Incidents

## Summary Report

## 2016 – 2020

**Chief Todd Axtell**

Dear Community Partners,

In February of 2019, the Saint Paul Police Department published its first ever use-of-force report covering the years 2016 and 2017. At that time, I reported that the department would continue to publish reports that captured use-of-force incidents in subsequent years.

As part of my ongoing commitment to transparency, I am pleased to present this publication of the combined 2016-2020 use-of-force report.

Among the detailed data included in this report is the number of times force was used, types of force used, demographics of those involved in use of force incidents, injuries as a result of force, firearm discharges, and excessive force complaints.

Notable within this data is the low percentage of injuries sustained by individuals involved in use of force incidents with our officers. This was despite an increase of 116% for individuals who presented a weapon when coming into contact with our officers. During these encounters, our officers have overwhelmingly showed restraint, good judgment and strong team tactics in navigating these incidents. While our continued training and policy developments certainly play a crucial role in these data points, the heart of this data points to the fact that our Saint Paul Police Officers are committed to delivering trusted service with respect each and every day.

And we could not do this work without the support of our community. Thank you for your continued trust and support of our officers. I am grateful for our Saint Paul community, and the way that we continue to work together to strengthen the safety of our city.

Respectfully,

Todd Axtell
CHIEF OF POLICE

The Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD) is committed to providing trusted service with respect each and every day. Our department understands that in order to continue building trust with the community, we must also be committed to transparency.

This report is reflective of that commitment to transparency. The data included in this report was sourced from multiple areas within the SPPD and did not previous exist in this format.

Key findings of this report include:

- From 2016 to 2020, the SPPD saw a 116 percent increase in the number of subjects presenting a weapon when coming into contact with an officer.

- Subjects of force were not injured in 87 percent of cases in 2020. The SPPD believes that this is due to an increase in training of de-escalation as well as the use of multiple officer tactics as a method to minimize injury to subjects and officers.

- Officers responded to 276,718 incidents in 2020 and physical force resulted in 545 of those incidents. The department received only 1 complaint from someone who believed the force used during an incident was excessive.

- Canine apprehensions that resulted in a bite steadily declined from 36 in 2016 to 3 in 2020.

  DATA NOTE: Due to the limitations of the data available, there are three distinct and separate data groups in this report. Most of the report data focus is on **physical force actions**. This document also reports incidents where **firearms were pointed** and incidents where **officers discharged their firearms.** Some data in this report has changed since the first report was published.

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## Report Overview

Police use of force continues to be one of the most important national and local discussion topics between police departments and the communities they serve.

Chief Todd Axtell directed the publication of the first report following numerous police and community meetings in 2018. The communities served by the SPPD made their voices heard clearly and asked to know more about police use of force.

Until the publishing of the first report in 2018, the SPPD had not previously reported, in detail, facts and circumstances of police use of force incidents.

This report builds upon the previously reported summary data for all use of force incidents in 2016 and 2017, where any level of force was used above handcuffing an unresisting person, and now includes 2018 through 2020.

## Saint Paul Police Department

The SPPD was established in 1854 as the first police department in the State of Minnesota. In 2020, there were 606 sworn police officer positions and 143 civilian support staff. The department serves the capital city of the state of Minnesota, a city of more than 310,000 residents. The city is a metropolis of residential, commercial, and business and is proud of its high standard of living.

In the fall of 2020, the SPPD launched the EPIC (Ethical Policing is Courageous) training program. The program is a first-of-its-kind peer intervention program designed to teach officers how to intervene successfully – regardless of rank or seniority – to prevent misconduct. The program, which involves eight hours of discussion, video analysis and interactive scenarios, has now been completed by every officer in the department. EPIC builds on the department's overall training program, which is focused on ensuring officers have the skills, knowledge and commitment to build trust through excellence, deliver exceptional service, and treat everyone with the utmost respect. In addition to the EPIC program, officers participate in moral courage training, implicit bias training and crisis intervention team training. The result of the SPPD training program is a department that has become better trained, more professional and less likely to use force.

## Committed to Transparency

Chief Todd Axtell was appointed as Saint Paul's Chief of Police by then-Mayor Chris Coleman on June 23, 2016. Chief Axtell immediately committed the department to transparency and to engaging the public at historic levels. Since his appointment, the department has worked toward delivering on this assurance of increased transparency. True to his pledge, Chief Axtell and his administration released 15 years of traffic stop data in 2017 and for every year following that. The data were collected based on a 2001 agreement between the Saint Paul NAACP and the SPPD, but the data was not previously published.

The department also published a website comparing programming, priorities and initiatives with former President Barack Obama's "Final Report on 21st Century Policing" and created an interactive online version of the police department policy manual for the public. Each of these initiatives included an online tool making it possible for members of the public to provide feedback to the department on its performance, policies and procedures.

The department formally adopted and launched a body-worn camera (BWC) program in 2018, requiring all sworn police officers to wear a BWC while providing police services. The department publishes quarterly reports on its BWC program, which can be viewed online on the department's website, https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/police

# Use-of-Force Complaints

The SPPD investigates all complaints against officers involving the use of police force. Complaints can be received from the public or initiated internally by the department.

There are many ways the public can make a complaint about police use of force. Complaints can be filed with several non-government groups that have partnered with the SPPD, with the City of Saint Paul Office of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity or directly with the SPPD.

All excessive force investigations are reviewed by the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission (PCIARC). The PCIARC is a body of Saint Paul residents selected by the Mayor of Saint Paul and confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council.

The role of the PCIARC is to evaluate the complaint and the documented investigation and make recommendations to the chief of police on 1) whether the police action violated policy and, if so, 2) what disciplinary action they believe is warranted.

The PCIARC is provided unrestricted access to all materials related to an incident. This includes all police reports and other documentation, audio and video evidence and all investigative documents and materials.

The below table represents complaint data and final outcome of excessive force complaints received between 2016-2020.

Excessive Force Complaints

|  | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Complaints | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Sustained | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Policy Violation | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Data reflects incident occurrence date and not the date of the filed complaint. You can find a detailed account of all complaints filed against members of the police department at the below link: https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/human-rights-equal-economic-opportunity.

## Use-of-Force Reporting

The SPPD requires every officer to notify a supervisor and file a police report and a use-of-force report in each incident where they use force above un-resisted handcuffing.

A supervisor is required to respond to the location and interview both the officer and the person on whom force was used. The supervisor evaluates the incident to ensure the force application and the decision leading up to the application were within department policy.

## Use-of-Force Oversight

The SPPD has established several oversight measures to ensure incidents involving police use of force meet all department expectations.

Beyond the initial response and inquiry of the front-line supervisor, unit commanders are required to review each incident where physical force was used within their command. These incidents are then presented and reviewed by the department's use-of-force committee, whose members represent the senior leadership of each of the three patrol districts and the training unit. The committee is chaired by the deputy chief of the operations division.

As a second measure of checks and balances, the department's internal affairs unit also reviews use-of-force incidents for potential policy violations. If any possible policy violations are identified a formal investigation is initiated.

## Use-of-Force Data

Throughout the years documented in this report, the SPPD used a record management system (RMS) implemented in 2001. The functionality of this system met the record and data needs of the time in which it was designed.

In more recent years, there was, and continues to be, significant evolution to policing and the interest in understanding policing trends. The RMS used in previous years did not have the capacity to adequately collect or report on these evolving trends.

In 2020, SPPD successfully transitioned into a new report writing system that will collect more comprehensive data as it relates to the types of crimes and people our officers come into contact with. This new platform will also help the department increase the reporting frequency of use-of-force data to the public.

The data required for this report were collected from multiple sources and combined into one report. The reportable data is presented in a summary format.

# Department Policies

The SPPD revised its use-of-force policy in April of 2018 and posted this policy online. The department hosted several public meetings to discuss the policy so that community members could share their ideas, input and concerns. The department collected more than 100 feedback points and incorporated dozens of them into the updated policy.

The foundation of the revised policy was built on the principles within the articles of the U.S. Constitution, and both state and federal law. Policy development was also guided by former President Obama's "Final Report on 21st Century Policing."

The revised policy captured many new elements not present in earlier policies. It includes more language focused on de-escalation and speaks specifically to when an officer can use deadly force.

The revised policy also placed a greater emphasis on protecting the sanctity of life, de-escalation and includes guidelines to help officers determine the appropriate level of force based on observed behavior.

The new policy also contains a new visual model that illustrates levels of responses matched to subject actions.

The policy is online for the public to view and the online policy solicits electronic feedback from the public.

You can find the policy on the police department's website: www.stpaul.gov/departments/police.

The use-of-force incidents reported in this document took place under both the previous version of the policy and the current one. Changing trends resulting from the policy revision will be reported in future documents.

# Use-of-Force Training

At the time of hire, SPPD officers are eligible to be licensed as peace officers by the State of Minnesota. To be eligible for licensure as peace officers by the State of Minnesota, officers must complete educational and hands-on training required by the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (POST), as well a pass a Peace Officer Licensing Exam. In addition to these state requirements, SPPD officers begin their careers in a 20-week police academy where they receive approximately 140 hours of use-of-force training. After the police academy, officers receive quarterly use-of-force training in addition to annual in-service training.

Officers are required to demonstrate both understanding and proficiency of department policies and accepted practices. These include appropriate use-of-force techniques, firearms training, de-escalation and other related topics.

Officer training places a heavy emphasis on using time and distance to de-escalate situations and using multiple officer tactics so fewer potentially injury-causing techniques are required.

As stated earlier in this report, officers are also taught to identify and recognize subject behaviors in order to determine appropriate responses.

## Use-of-Force Incidents

There are several distinct ways to report use-of-force data that include the **number of** *incidents* the SPPD responded to where force was used, the **number of force** *actions* taken by officers, the ***number of officers*** who used force and the ***number of persons*** subjected to police force.

This report individually captures each of these areas for each year for the reader to evaluate. Visual representations were added to improve understanding of the data.

## Number of Incidents

Saint Paul police officers responded to 269,852 incidents in 2016 and physical force resulted in 458 of those incidents. This can be reduced to one physical use-of-force incident occurring in every 589 police interactions or 0.17 (17 one-hundredths of a percent of the time) percent.

Officers responded to 301,196 incidents in 2017 and physical force resulted in 423 of those incidents. This can be reduced to one physical use-of-force incident occurring in every 710 police incidents or 0.14 (14 one-hundredths of a percent of the time) percent.

Officers responded to 298,492 incidents in 2018 and physical force resulted in 382 of those incidents. This can be reduced to one physical use-of-force incident occurring in every 781 police incidents or 0.12 (12 one-hundredths of a percent of the time) percent.

Officers responded to 292,765 incidents in 2019 and physical force resulted in 426 of those incidents. This can be reduced to one physical use-of-force incident occurring in every 687 police incidents or 0.14 (14 one-hundredths of a percent of the time) percent.

Officers responded to 276,718 incidents in 2020 and physical force resulted in 545 of those incidents. This can be reduced to one physical use-of-force incident occurring in every 507 incidents or 0.19 (19 one-hundredths of a percent of the time) percent.

Use-of-force incidents can also be compared with interactions that resulted in either arrest or citation:

In 2016, there were 7,644 incidents in which a subject was arrested and booked into jail. Of these incidents, 317 resulted in a use-of-force action. That equates to approximately 4 percent of the time.

In 2017, there were 8,248 incidents in which a subject was arrested and booked into jail. Of these incidents, 295 resulted in a use-of-force action. That equates to approximately 3.5 percent of the time.

In 2018, there were 8,432 incidents in which a subject was arrested and booked into jail. Of these incidents, 382 resulted in a use-of-force action. That equates to approximately 4.5 percent of the time.

In 2019, there were 8,065 incidents in which a subject was arrested and booked into jail. Of these incidents, 426 resulted in a use-of-force action. That equates to approximately 5.3 percent of the time.

In 2020, there were 7,392 incidents in which a subject was arrested and booked into jail. Of these incidents, 378 resulted in a use-of-force action. This equated to approximately 5.1 percent of the time.

# Number of Officers Using Force

The chart below highlights what was noted in the use-of-force training section: "Officer training places a heavy emphasis on using time and distance to de-escalate situations and using multiple officer tactics so fewer potentially injury-causing techniques are required." The shift that can be seen below, to a higher number of officers using force during single incidents, is representative of an increased focus on multiple officer tactics, including multiple officer take-downs. This shift in tactics has allowed officers to resolve incidents with fewer injuries to both subjects and officers.

| Number of Officers Using Force in Each Incident | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| 1 officer | 296 | 271 | 241 | 252 | 256 |
| 2 officers | 116 | 106 | 106 | 117 | 188 |
| 3 officers | 33 | 38 | 30 | 39 | 60 |
| 4 officers | 7 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 23 |
| 5 or more officers | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 18 |
| **Total** | **453** | **423** | **382** | **426** | **545** |

# Types of Physical Force

The SPPD collects data on the physical force techniques used by officers. There were 755 in 2016, 758 in 2017, 700 in 2018, 742 in 2019 and 1043 in 2020.

Most force actions involved control holds, escorts and taking subjects to the ground. Officers are trained to, whenever possible, control subjects using multiple-officer techniques rather than strikes or other potentially injury causing techniques.

Although the data below varies from year to year, the overall number was higher than average in 2020. As the department reviewed this change, we found that a contributing factor was the department's increased use of multiple officer take-downs. Specifically, the data collection for multiple officer take-downs includes force recorded for each officer involved in the take-down (where 3 officers are involved in a single take-down, there will be 3 reportable use of force "types.") While the increased use of these methods led to higher use of force numbers in 2020, they have also resulted in fewer injuries sustained during incidents. In addition, despite the higher overall numbers of force used, the incidents of hard empty hand, impact weapon, and leg/knee strikes were noticeably lower in number than previous years.

| Use of Force Types | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| ASR | 85 | 73 | 47 | 54 | 64 |
| Body/Escort Hold | 204 | 189 | 138 | 125 | 167 |
| Canine | 36 | 19 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| Body/Escort Hold Handcuff/Restraint | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EZ Leg Restraint* | NA | NA | 2 | 19 | 22 |
| Handcuff/Restraint w/Resistance | 108 | 107 | 97 | 80 | 152 |
| Hard Empty Hand | 56 | 33 | 4 | 27 | 15 |
| Impact Weapon ASP/Other | 10 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Leg/Knee Strike | 64 | 48 | 28 | 26 | 19 |
| Less Lethal | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Multiple Officer Takedown | 0 | 23 | 68 | 67 | 139 |
| Pepperball* | NA | NA | NA | 16 | 16 |
| Pressure Points | 11 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Rear Sentry Takedown | 18 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Single Officer Takedown | 0 | 38 | 90 | 115 | 129 |
| Soft Empty Hands | 116 | 152 | 124 | 165 | 267 |
| Spit Prevention Device* | NA | NA | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| Taser | 43 | 45 | 84 | 30 | 24 |
| Vehicle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **755** | **758** | **700** | **742** | **1,043** |

(*) indicates a new use of force technique available to officers during this time range

## Subject Behavior

Officers often describe the actions and behavior of use-of-force subjects when reporting force incidents. A review of this data showed that in many incidents, subject behavior changed throughout the encounter. Subjects both escalated and deescalated through these events. The data, as reported by the officers, capture subject behavior at the time the force option was used. Officers often noted several subject behaviors in a single incident.

| Subject Behavior Listed by Officers When Force Was Used | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Active Resistance | 321 | 315 | 271 | 325 | 464 |
| Hard Hands | 81 | 91 | 64 | 59 | 77 |
| Biting | 14 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 22 |
| Fleeing | 108 | 127 | 99 | 104 | 132 |
| Verbal | 126 | 163 | 128 | 140 | 188 |
| Kicking | 46 | 46 | 46 | 48 | 75 |
| Spitting | 15 | 17 | 20 | 20 | 40 |
| Passive Resistance | 143 | 148 | 118 | 140 | 180 |
| Weapon | 18 | 18 | 24 | 28 | 39 |

## Subject Injury

Officers are required to report subject injury in each use-of-force incident, which is also evaluated by the responding supervisor. Also measured was the number of times a subject received treatment for injuries. Most cases showed the subject received either no injury or a minor injury. The department requires an injury be recorded if the subject complains of any pain even if no injury can be observed.

| Subject Injury Data | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Dog Bite | 34 | 19 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| Laceration | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minor | 75 | 82 | 50 | 61 | 69 |
| Possible Internal | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Major Injury | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Unknown | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No Injuries | 388 | 348 | 340 | 413 | 515 |
| **Total Incidents** | **501** | **453** | **396** | **474** | **588** |

## Officer Injury

The below tables depict data related to the number of officers injured during incidents.

| Officer Injury Data | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| **Total** | **23** | **39** | **23** | **18** | **32** |

## Time and Location Data

The below tables depict data related to when and where force incidents occur.

| Scene Types | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Residential | 164 | 135 | 138 | 167 | 183 |
| Street | 152 | 143 | 0 | 0 | 196 |
| Commercial | 52 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Retail | 41 | 45 | 36 | 49 | 61 |
| Public Domain | 19 | 25 | 156 | 166 | 30 |
| School | 10 | 15 | 16 | 7 | 6 |
| Park | 7 | 3 | 0 | | 6 |
| Government | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Church | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Hospital | 0 | 7 | 8 | | 17 |
| Office/Commercial | 0 | 19 | 24 | 32 | 13 |
| Restaurant | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Rec Center | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **453** | **423** | **382** | **426** | **545** |

| Month | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| January | 35 | 35 | 39 | 35 | 33 |
| February | 53 | 28 | 32 | 29 | 40 |
| March | 37 | 34 | 29 | 37 | 30 |
| April | 37 | 30 | 32 | 30 | 53 |
| May | 53 | 32 | 24 | 40 | 37 |
| June | 37 | 47 | 32 | 38 | 30 |
| July | 38 | 38 | 43 | 35 | 52 |
| August | 30 | 34 | 21 | 41 | 48 |
| September | 46 | 33 | 29 | 32 | 53 |
| October | 36 | 44 | 37 | 47 | 61 |
| November | 19 | 37 | 35 | 32 | 56 |
| December | 32 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 52 |
| **Total** | **453** | **423** | **382** | **426** | **545** |

| Day of Week | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Monday | 68 | 54 | 41 | 64 | 80 |
| Tuesday | 59 | 54 | 49 | 67 | 65 |
| Wednesday | 69 | 47 | 55 | 69 | 72 |
| Thursday | 73 | 53 | 64 | 41 | 77 |
| Friday | 69 | 74 | 57 | 70 | 96 |
| Saturday | 62 | 77 | 62 | 56 | 74 |
| Sunday | 54 | 64 | 54 | 59 | 81 |
| **Total** | **453** | **423** | **382** | **426** | **545** |

| Time of Day | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| 12:00 AM | 31 | 15 | 22 | 28 | 36 |
| 1:00 AM | 31 | 33 | 29 | 21 | 21 |
| 2:00 AM | 21 | 16 | 9 | 17 | 32 |
| 3:00 AM | 21 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 16 |
| 4:00 AM | 8 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 21 |
| 5:00 AM | 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| 6:00 AM | 3 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 15 |
| 7:00 AM | 5 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 5 |
| 8:00 AM | 5 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 14 |
| 9:00 AM | 15 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 18 |
| 10:00 AM | 17 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 12 |
| 11:00 AM | 16 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 11 |
| 12:00 PM | 18 | 16 | 12 | 8 | 18 |
| 1:00 PM | 14 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 13 |
| 2:00 PM | 13 | 24 | 18 | 7 | 32 |
| 3:00 PM | 23 | 29 | 14 | 9 | 27 |
| 4:00 PM | 20 | 22 | 18 | 24 | 27 |
| 5:00 PM | 24 | 21 | 35 | 36 | 33 |
| 6:00 PM | 27 | 24 | 19 | 27 | 31 |
| 7:00 PM | 20 | 19 | 26 | 29 | 33 |
| 8:00 PM | 32 | 35 | 17 | 29 | 30 |
| 9:00 PM | 22 | 28 | 28 | 31 | 29 |
| 10:00 PM | 26 | 28 | 18 | 38 | 33 |
| 11:00 PM | 37 | 19 | 30 | 30 | 32 |
| **Total** | **453** | **423** | **382** | **426** | **545** |

# Call Types

The data show that a significant number of incidents where force was used did not result in the subject being arrested and taken to jail. There were several indicators in the data to support the belief that persons in crisis can be involved in use-of-force incidents.

| Original Call Type | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Non-Domestic Assault Crime | 57 | 50 | 43 | 61 | 87 |
| Auto or Vehicle Theft | 13 | 18 | 16 | 18 | 23 |
| Burglary | 16 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 19 |
| Criminal Damage to Property | 8 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| Death Investigations | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Disturbance Crimes | 48 | 47 | 23 | 44 | 46 |
| Domestic Assault/Family Matters | 42 | 40 | 43 | 49 | 58 |
| Drug Crimes | 33 | 19 | 22 | 33 | 24 |
| Driving Under the Influence | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Fraud Related Crimes | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Other Non-Violent Crimes/Investigations | 46 | 29 | 52 | 25 | 39 |
| Obstructing a Legal Process | 57 | 68 | 32 | 29 | 49 |
| Robbery | 9 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 11 |
| Sex Offense | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Theft Related Crimes | 21 | 21 | 6 | 0 | 28 |
| Traffic Violations/Accidents | 8 | 5 | 19 | 24 | 4 |
| Warrants | 19 | 21 | 18 | 22 | 14 |
| Weapons Calls | 19 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 35 |
| Medical/Persons in Crisis | 44 | 50 | 51 | 48 | 72 |
| **Total** | **453** | **423** | **382** | **426** | **545** |

## Officer Demographics

The below tables depict data collected on December 31, 2020.

| Officer Race | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Asian | 51 | 59 | 61 | 69 | 66 |
| Black | 25 | 37 | 38 | 41 | 40 |
| Hispanic | 22 | 26 | 29 | 30 | 28 |
| Native American | 4 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Two or More Races | 34 | 33 | 30 | 32 | 31 |
| White | 460 | 463 | 459 | 456 | 433 |
| **Total** | **597** | **625** | **625** | **636** | **606** |

| Officer Gender | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Female | 95 | 94 | 90 | 94 | 90 |
| Male | 502 | 531 | 535 | 539 | 516 |
| **Total** | **597** | **625** | **625** | **636** | **606** |

| Force Incident by Police District | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| West | 151 | 141 | 105 | 123 | 136 |
| Central | 140 | 162 | 133 | 154 | 212 |
| East | 162 | 119 | 143 | 149 | 197 |
| OOC | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **453** | **423** | **382** | **426** | **545** |

# Subjects of Force

The demographics of the subjects of force were similar across all four years. Younger community members were proportionally more likely to be subjects of physical force with nearly 77 percent under 40 and 35 percent between 20 and 29.

| Subject Race and Gender | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| **Asian** | 27 | 33 | 26 | 42 | 41 |
| Female | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Male | 27 | 29 | 24 | 39 | 32 |
| **Black** | 249 | 222 | 216 | 271 | 329 |
| Female | 46 | 52 | 41 | 64 | 53 |
| Male | 203 | 170 | 175 | 207 | 276 |
| **Hispanic** | 34 | 41 | 16 | 26 | 37 |
| Female | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Male | 32 | 34 | 12 | 23 | 34 |
| **Native American** | 4 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 18 |
| Female | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| Male | 2 | 7 | 22 | 4 | 10 |
| **Unknown** | 34 | 17 | 25 | 15 | 19 |
| Female | 10 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Male | 22 | 14 | 16 | 10 | 7 |
| Unknown | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| **White** | 153 | 128 | 107 | 109 | 131 |
| Female | 30 | 23 | 24 | 37 | 34 |
| Male | 123 | 105 | 83 | 72 | 97 |
| **Other** | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| Male | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| **Total** | **501** | **453** | **396** | **474** | **581** |

| Subject Race | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Asian | 27 | 33 | 26 | 42 | 41 |
| Black | 249 | 222 | 216 | 271 | 329 |
| Hispanic | 34 | 41 | 16 | 26 | 37 |
| Native American | 4 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 18 |
| Unknown | 34 | 17 | 25 | 15 | 19 |
| White | 153 | 128 | 107 | 109 | 131 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| **Total** | **501** | **453** | **396** | **474** | **581** |

# Subject Age Data

62 percent of the subjects were between the ages of 20-40.

| Subject Age Data | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| 10 to 14 | 20 | 23 | 19 | 22 | 22 |
| 15-17 | 34 | 61 | 42 | 44 | 39 |
| 18-19 | 43 | 25 | 21 | 29 | 28 |
| 20-29 | 189 | 161 | 148 | 156 | 202 |
| 30-39 | 108 | 96 | 89 | 120 | 157 |
| 40-49 | 42 | 42 | 41 | 52 | 63 |
| 50-59 | 24 | 24 | 21 | 21 | 32 |
| 60 and older | 6 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Unknown | 35 | 15 | 11 | 24 | 28 |
| **Total** | **501** | **453** | **396** | **474** | **581** |

# Subject Dispositions

Several use-of-force incidents involved people who were not taken into custody or identified. One scenario where this could occur might involve crowd control, where officers release chemical gas to regain order and the subjects fled or were not detained.

| Subject Disposition | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Cited | 38 | 34 | 14 | 29 | 41 |
| Detox | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Hospital | 70 | 65 | 84 | 69 | 102 |
| LEC (Jail) | 317 | 295 | 252 | 311 | 356 |
| Other | 34 | 19 | 6 | 17 | 40 |
| Released | 40 | 37 | 34 | 46 | 39 |
| **Total** | **501** | **453** | **396** | **474** | **581** |

Many subjects of force were not arrested by the police officers who used force following the incident. Officers frequently turned juveniles over to their parents, assisted those in crisis to care facilities or found other remedies that best fit individual situations.

| Subject Resident of Saint Paul | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Non-Resident | 97 | 86 | 83 | 88 | 106 |
| Unknown | 52 | 25 | 15 | 43 | 313 |
| Unsheltered | 50 | 46 | 44 | 67 | 72 |
| Saint Paul Resident | 302 | 296 | 254 | 276 | 90 |
| **Total** | **501** | **453** | **396** | **474** | **581** |

## Firearms Pointing

Although the pointing of a firearm is not a physical application of force, the SPPD does consider the action a reportable use of force.

Officers documented incidents where they pointed a firearm in the direction of another person. This did not include times when officers merely unholstered their firearm or carried it in the "low ready" position when subjects may have been present.

Firearms are used during times when officers are searching for potentially dangerous suspects of crimes who could be armed, when conducting high-risk felony traffic stops and other times when it is reasonable to affect the arrest of a subject.

Considerable training is provided to officers related to safe weapons handling including that officers do not place their fingers inside the trigger guard of any weapon until a decision is made to discharge their firearm.

In 2016, officers pointed department issued weapons at subjects 457 times. Five officers discharged their firearms in 2016, during the course of two incidents.

In 2017, officers pointed department issued weapons at subjects 491 times. Four officers discharged their firearms in 2017, during the course of two incidents.

In 2018, officers pointed department issued weapons at subjects 600 times. Two officers discharged their firearms in 2018, during the course of one incident.

In 2019, officers pointed department issued weapons at subjects 599 times. One officer discharged their firearm in 2019, during the course of one incident.

In 2020, officers pointed department issued weapons at subjects 572 times. Four officers discharged their firearms in 2020, during the course of three incidents.

The SPPD fully understands the impact of pointing a firearm at a subject, which is why the department chooses to document and review these incidents as reportable force incidents.

Monitoring firearm pointing is not an industry standard because many departments do not consider firearms pointing to be a reportable use of force. However, the SPPD monitors and reviews every instance of firearm pointing.

| Calls for Service | |
|---|---|
| **2016** | 269,799 |
| **2017** | 300,610 |
| **2018** | 298,492 |
| **2019** | 292,765 |
| **2020** | 276,718 |

| Firearms Pointing Incidents | |
|---|---|
| **2016** | 457 |
| **2017** | 491 |
| **2018** | 600 |
| **2019** | 599 |
| **2020** | 572 |

| Percentage of Incidents | |
|---|---|
| **2016** | 0.17% |
| **2017** | 0.16% |
| **2018** | 0.20% |
| **2019** | 0.20% |
| **2020** | 0.21% |