



Force and Tactics Assessment Unit



2023 Annual Use of Force Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Chief of Police Al Jones 3

Summary 4

FBI National Policies on Reporting Use of Force 5

Calls for Service vs. Use of Force Incidents. 5

Key Analysis Points 6

Total Incidents by Call Type 6

Race of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used 7

Contact Category as a Percentage 7

CEW (TASER) Usage Analysis 8

Officer Involved Shootings 9

Police Employee and Subject Injuries 10



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF POLICE AL JONES

The most fundamental function of any law enforcement agency is to serve and protect its community. In carrying out that responsibility, there will be instances when the use of force is necessary to maintain the peace or even save lives. It's during those moments that officers have to make critical, often split-second decisions that can have tremendous consequences.

The Arlington Police Department strives to ensure that officers are equipped with the knowledge, training, and tools to make sound decisions that will help them respond appropriately to the situations they encounter and peacefully resolve incidents in our community.

At APD, we value and respect human life. Our commitment to de-escalation training and community engagement is unwavering.

All APD officers are required to attend at least 40 hours of In-Service training biennially, which ensures compliance with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), the regulatory agency for all peace officers in Texas. The training is regularly updated to align with industry best practices and includes topics such as defensive tactics, de-escalation techniques, and tactical medicine.

We require more use of force reporting by employees and capture more use of force data than nearly any law enforcement agency in the country to give us the most robust and comprehensive understanding of how we're using force.

The department also has a Force & Tactics Assessment Unit whose primary job is to review all use of force incidents, identify any trends that emerge, and make recommendations on changes to use of force policy or training.

I believe these efforts continue to pay dividends. In 2023, officers responded to more than 220,000 calls for service – and less than one percent of those calls resulted in a use of force report being generated.

That's not to say there's not room for improvement. But I firmly believe we're on the right track.

It's my hope that community members will come away with similar sentiments after they read this report. We make this report available to the public not only as a matter of transparency and accountability, but to continue fostering trust and positive engagement with those we serve.



2023 SUMMARY

This summary provides details related to how the Arlington Police Department (APD) reports and tracks Use Of Force (UOF) incidents by police employees.

2023 Use of Force (UOF) Report Highlights

- APD responded to 220,572 total Calls for Service, a 0.22% increase from total Calls for Service in 2022.
- There were 1,092 UOF Incidents, an increase of 8.8% from the number of UOF Incidents in 2022.
- There were 1,570* subjects involved in the UOF incidents, an increase of 11.5% as compared to 2022.
- There was only one reportable UOF Incident against an animal in 2023.
- Only 0.5% of the Calls for Service in 2023 resulted in a reportable UOF incident. This amounts to 4.6 UOF incidents for every 1,000 Calls for Service.
- There were two incidents in 2023 in which an officer discharged a firearm at a subject. Both incidents involved discharging firearms at a person. In the two incidents involving persons, one resulted in death.

Important Policy Highlights

- In 2020, policy was revised to clearly state, “An employee has a duty to intervene to prevent or stop the use of excessive force by any public safety employee or volunteer when it is safe and reasonable to do so,” and “An employee who witnesses, participates, or intervenes in an act of excessive force shall immediately report that event to a supervisor.”
- In 2022, the department began to capture the residency (i.e., Arlington Resident, Non-Arlington Resident, Unhoused, or Unable to Determine) information of the subjects who had forced used against them.
- In 2023, APD implemented the 40mm Less Lethal launched projectile weapon system program along with the force application data associated with it. The UOF categories for 40mm Launcher - Drew, 40mm Launcher - Pointed, and 40mm Launcher - Discharged became reportable for patrol operations. Prior to this year, SWAT was the only APD element with the 40mm launcher capabilities.

1,092 Use of Force Incidents

1,570 subjects (one animal) were involved in the Use of Force Incidents

109,151 Dispatched Calls for Service

46,716 Self-Generated Calls for Service

64,705 Traffic Stops

220,572 Total Calls for Service

0.22% Increase as Compared with 2022

4.6 Use of Force Incidents for every 1,000 Calls for Service

Two Incidents *Involving Firearm* – Discharged at a Subject. Two of the incidents involved a person, one of which resulted in a subject's death.

RESIDENCY

| Location at Time of Incident | Arlington Resident | Non-Arlington Resident | Unhoused | Unable to Determine | TOTAL | % for 2023 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| North District | 311 | 148 | 44 | 9 | 512 | 32.6% |
| East District | 297 | 56 | 37 | 11 | 401 | 25.5% |
| South District | 153 | 38 | 17 | 6 | 214 | 13.6% |
| West District | 172 | 37 | 24 | 1 | 234 | 14.9% |
| Retail District | 10 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 1.8% |
| School District | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0.7% |
| Out of City | 20 | 122 | 2 | 2 | 146 | 9.3% |
| City of Arlington Jail | 8 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 0.9% |
| AT&T Stadium | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0.3% |
| Globe Life Field | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0.3% |
| TOTAL | 979 | 432 | 127 | 32 | 1,570 | 100.0% |

FBI NATIONAL POLICIES ON REPORTING USE OF FORCE

2023 FBI National Use of Force Report

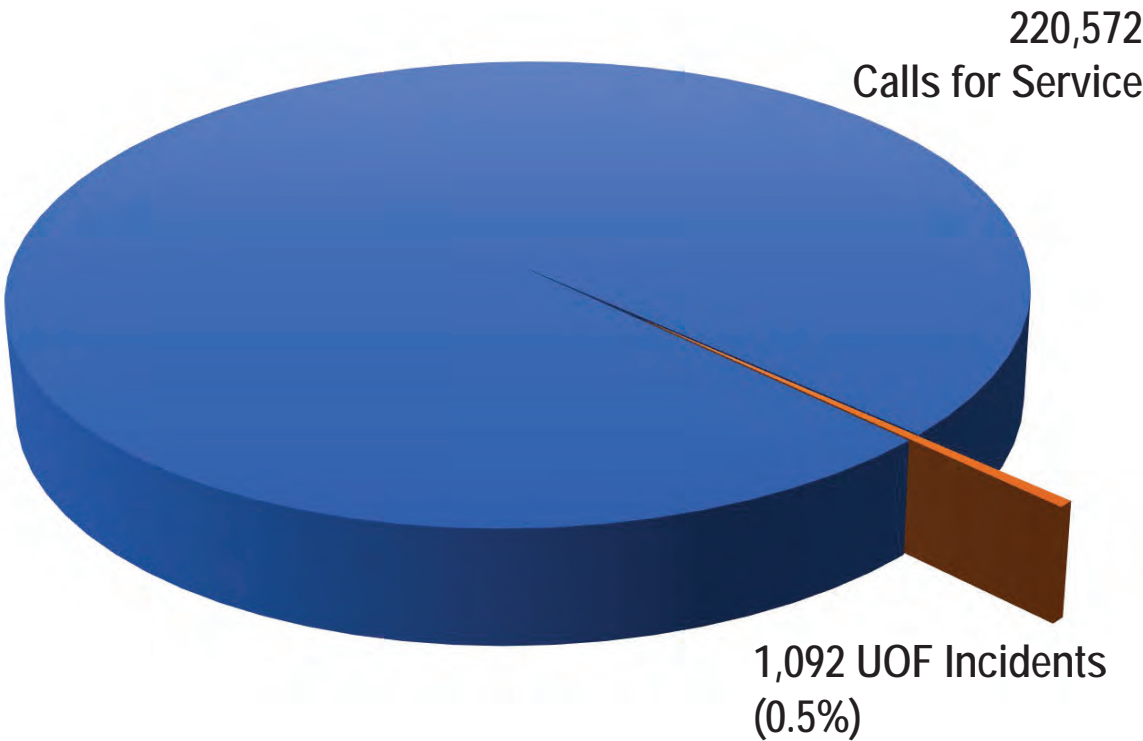
The FBI manages the National Use of Force Data Collection Program*. While there is no legal mandate for any police agency to report its use of force data to the FBI, APD is committed to transparency and voluntarily provides data to the FBI each month. To be reportable, the incident must:

- 1. Result in the death of a person,
- 2. The serious bodily injury of a person, or
- 3. When a law enforcement officer discharges a firearm at or in the direction of a person.

In 2023, APD reported two incidents which met these criteria. Both involved multiple officers who discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person. One of these incidents resulted in the death of the person.

**There is no national use of force standard. Each police agency creates its own use of force reporting standards based on jurisdictional requirements. Therefore, comparing agencies to one another is remarkably difficult.*

CALLS FOR SERVICE VS. USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS



KEY ANALYSIS POINTS

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | % Difference 2022-2023 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|
| Total Sworn Officers Departmentwide | 673 | 676 | 669 | 675 | 693 | 2.7% |
| Total Detention Officers Departmentwide | 44 | 40 | 32 | 31 | 38 | 22.6% |
| Number of UOF Incidents | 1,131 | 930 | 934 | 1,004 | 1092 | 8.8% |
| Number of Subjects Against Whom Force Was Used | 1,636 | 1,317 | 1,294 | 1,408 | 1570* | 11.5% |

*One of the subjects against whom force was used was an animal.

TOTAL INCIDENTS BY CALL TYPE

| Call Type | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | % for 2023 | % Difference 2022-2023 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| CID Investigative Contact | 14 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0.2% | -50.0% |
| Dispatched Call | 752 | 591 | 620 | 632 | 697 | 63.8% | 10.3% |
| Jail Custody | 14 | 23 | 9 | 29 | 14 | 1.3% | -51.7% |
| On-View Call | 170 | 142 | 122 | 145 | 165 | 15.1% | 13.8% |
| Traffic Stop | 115 | 92 | 82 | 65 | 70 | 6.4% | 7.7% |
| Warrant Service | 66 | 75 | 96 | 129 | 143 | 13.1% | 10.9% |
| Other (Tactical Operations) | * | * | * | * | 1 | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| TOTAL | 1,131 | 930 | 934 | 1,004 | 1,092 | 100.0% | 8.8% |

*In 2019, APD began to capture CID Investigative Contact and Warrant Service, and the contact category Other was eliminated.

RACE OF SUBJECTS AGAINST WHOM FORCE WAS USED

| Race of Subject | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | % for 2023 | % Difference 2022-2023 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Animal | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0.1% | NA |
| Asian Female | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 0.4% | 250.0% |
| Asian Male | 41 | 19 | 15 | 26 | 21 | 1.3% | -19.2% |
| Black Female | 177 | 180 | 159 | 205 | 220 | 14.0% | 7.3% |
| Black Male | 587 | 493 | 521 | 531 | 633 | 40.3% | 19.2% |
| Hispanic Female | 70 | 65 | 64 | 77 | 67 | 4.3% | -13.0% |
| Hispanic Male | 282 | 238 | 221 | 264 | 283 | 18.0% | 7.2% |
| Unable to Determine* | 3 | 14 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 0.7% | 22.2% |
| White Female | 129 | 75 | 88 | 84 | 89 | 5.7% | 6.0% |
| White Male | 340 | 226 | 213 | 209 | 238 | 15.2% | 13.9% |
| TOTAL | 1,636 | 1,317 | 1,294 | 1,408 | 1,570 | 100.0% | 11.5% |

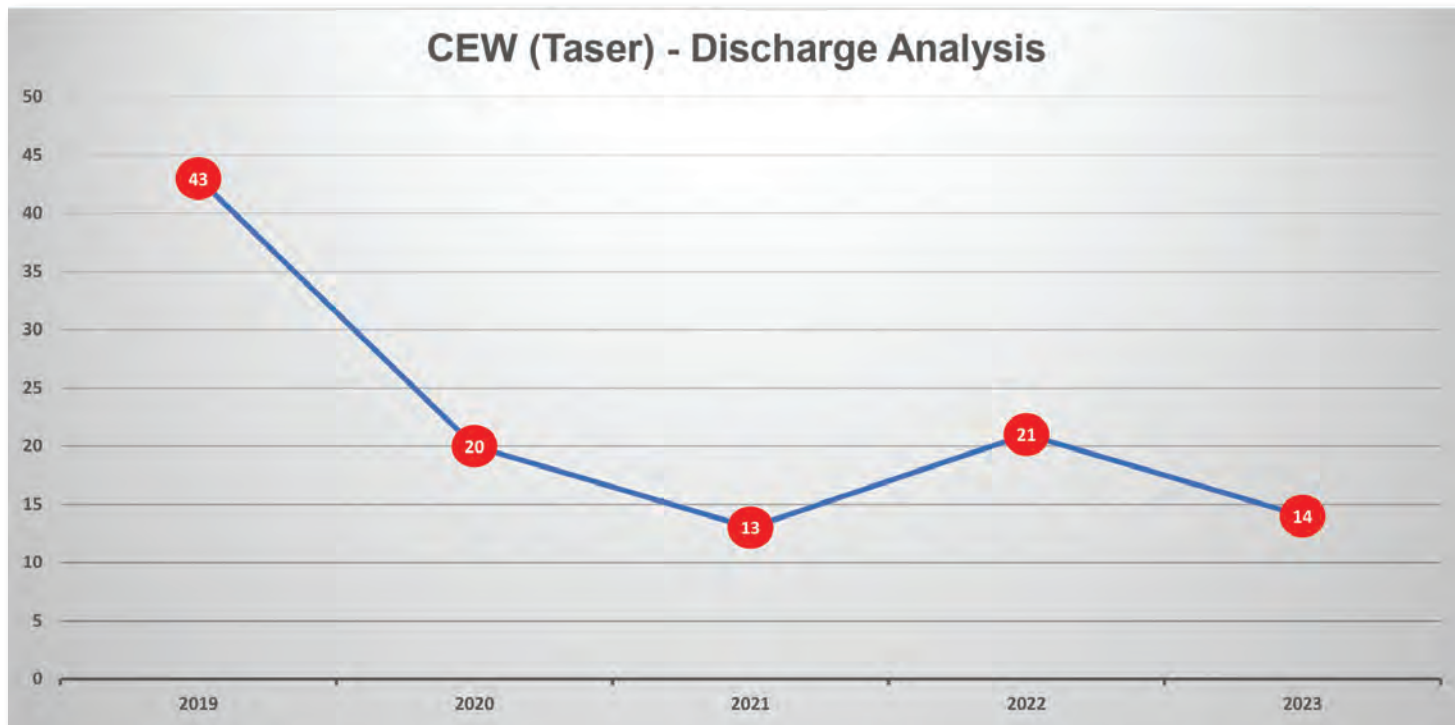
CONTACT CATEGORY AS A PERCENTAGE

| Race of Subject | Felony | % of Total Contacts | Misdemeanor | % of Total Contacts | Mental | % of Total Contacts | Jail Custody | % of Total Contacts | Total Contacts | % of Total Contacts 2023 |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Animal | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.1% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.1% |
| Asian | 18 | 1.1% | 9 | 0.6% | 1 | 0.1% | 0 | 0.0% | 28 | 1.8% |
| Black | 558 | 35.5% | 249 | 15.9% | 43 | 2.7% | 3 | 0.2% | 853 | 54.3% |
| Hispanic | 220 | 14.0% | 116 | 7.4% | 12 | 0.8% | 2 | 0.1% | 350 | 22.3% |
| Unable to Determine* | 6 | 0.4% | 3 | 0.2% | 2 | 0.1% | 0 | 0.0% | 11 | 0.7% |
| White | 184 | 11.7% | 107 | 6.8% | 35 | 2.2% | 1 | 0.1% | 327 | 20.8% |
| TOTAL | 986 | | 485 | | 93 | | 6 | | 1,570 | 100% |
| INCIDENT TYPE | Felony | 62.8% | Misdemeanor | 30.9% | Mental | 5.9% | Jail Custody | 0.4% | | |

*There are some instances where an officer is unable to determine the race and/or sex of a subject against whom force was used. For example, this may involve an officer drawing or pointing their firearm in response to a subject inside a vehicle at night. If the subject drives away without further police contact, the officer may not know the race and/or sex of the subject. However, because force was used, the officer will still complete a Use of Force report and will document that they were unable to determine the race and/or sex of the subject. .

CEW (TASER) USAGE ANALYSIS

- Policy requires that deployment of the CEW be associated to the following: (1) Assaultive Resistance (mere passive or active resistance does not justify the use of a CEW); (2) When an employee reasonably believes it would be unsafe, or likely to cause more severe injury to the employee or to others, to move into contact range of the subject without the use of the CEW; or (3) To address an immediate safety threat of serious bodily injury to any person and no reasonable alternatives exist.
- Discharges have dropped to low double-digit numbers; in 2023, there were only 14 occurrences.
- Despite more restrictions governing when a CEW can be discharged at a subject, overall police employee injury remained low, and in most cases, involved only minor injury.



OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

Arlington PD Case Number 2023-02710463

(Arlington PD Internal Affairs Control Number 2023-FI-0006)

On Thursday September 28, 2023, a former employee of the Vandergriff Honda car dealership came to the location armed with a loaded rifle. The suspect began shooting inside the dealership prompting a police response to an active shooter incident. The suspect retreated outside the business and into the parking lot of the dealership where officers located and challenged the suspect. The suspect pointed the weapon at officers and three officers responded by opening fire at the threat. The suspect was met with deadly force and was shot. The suspect was not fatally wounded, and no officers were injured. The shooting is still under Internal Affairs investigation.

Arlington PD Case Number 2023-03230123

(Arlington PD Internal Affairs Control Number 2023-FI-0009)

On Saturday November 11, 2023, officers were dispatched to a suicidal subject call for service. The subject contacted 911 and began a dialogue that prompted a police response. While officers arrived and staged to gain intelligence, the subject approached officers on foot armed with a shotgun. The suspect was challenged by officers and ordered to drop the weapon to the ground. The suspect responded by raising the shotgun towards officers. The officers responded with deadly force shooting the suspect. The suspect was transported to the hospital where he was officially pronounced deceased. No officers were injured. The shooting is still under Internal Affairs investigation.

POLICE EMPLOYEE AND SUBJECT INJURIES

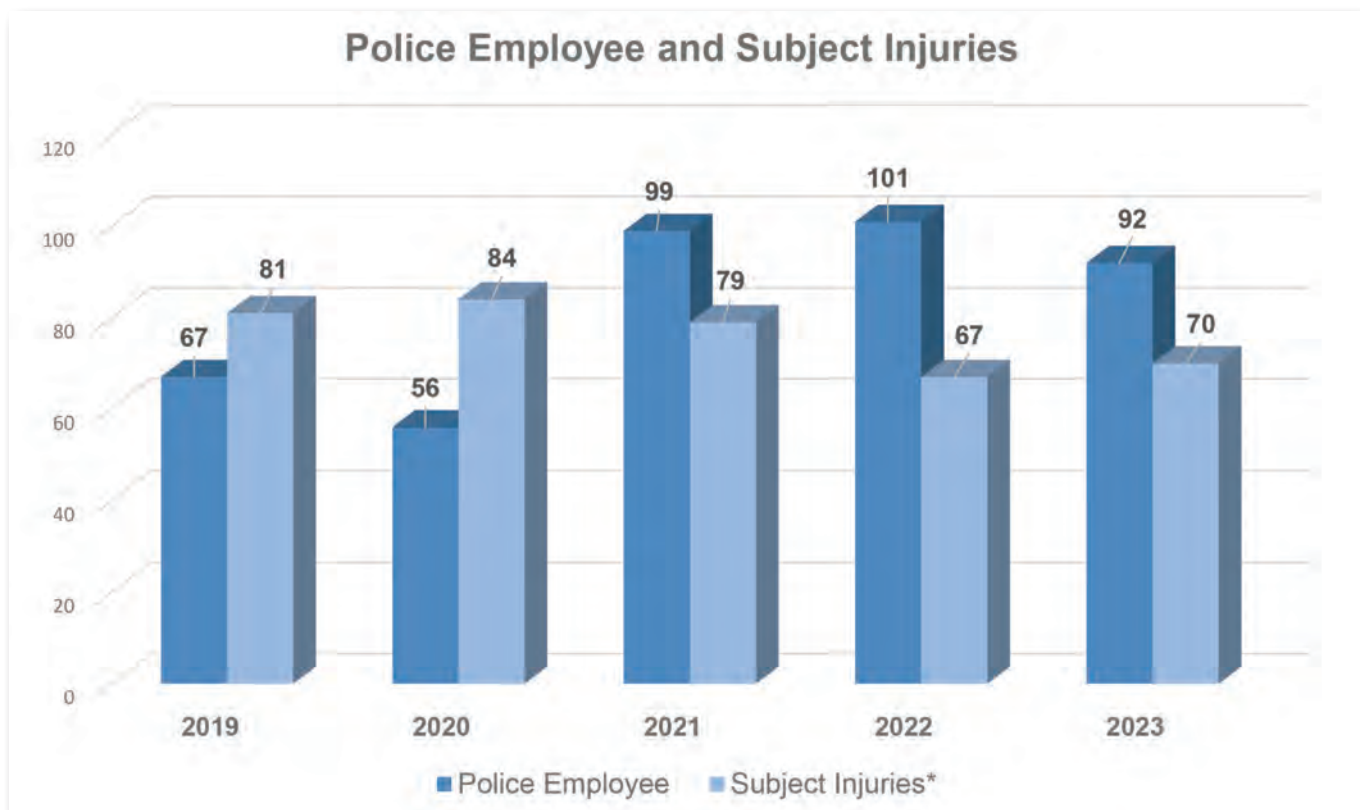
Police Employee Injuries

Police employee injuries, as documented on a Use of Force Report by either “Employee Injured During Force Application” or “Employee Injured by Subject” decreased slightly in 2023, going from 101 reported employee injured in 2022 to 92 reported injuries in 2023. This represents an 8.9% decrease. Each of the incidents was reviewed, and 88 out of the 92 injuries reported the employee sustained while engaged in Empty Hand Control against a non-compliant subject.

Additional analysis showed that of the 92 reported injuries, 51 required no documented medical treatment. The injuries were overwhelmingly described as pain, redness, soreness, abrasions, scratches, swelling, minor cuts, or strains. Several incidents also involved an officer being intentionally spat on by a subject, or having bodily fluids (i.e., blood) transferred to the officer during the application of Empty Hand Control. 26 of the reported injuries were treated in the field by EMS. They were generally described as minor in nature using words such as pain, minor cuts, scrapes, road-rash, and soreness.

The remaining 15 reported injuries were treated at a hospital and the employee was then released. These injuries were similarly described as minor in nature.

- One of these 15 officers was physically assaulted by a suspect causing bleeding from the head that needed treatment at the hospital.
- Another officer, while using Empty Hand Control tactics fell into a storefront plate glass window causing sever lacerations to his arm.
- A third officer, while pursuing a suspect, fell down two flights of stairs while catching the suspect.
- No police employees were killed in 2023 during the application of force.



POLICE EMPLOYEE AND SUBJECT INJURIES

Subject Injuries

While reported police employee injuries decreased slightly, the number of reported subject injuries increased from 67 to 70, a slight increase of 4.5%. Each of the 70 reported injuries were thoroughly reviewed.

- 53 of the reported injuries occurred as the result of Empty Hand Control used by police employees against non-compliant subjects.
- Additionally, 1 received superficial injuries from ground contact after being subdued with a CEW.
- 11 complained of pain from OC Spray application.
- 2 were injured from the impact the 40mm less lethal projectile.
- 1 subject was injured by a K9 bite.
- The final two subjects were injured after being struck by gunfire. Of the two subjects struck by gunfire, one was hospitalized after being struck in the face with a projectile and the other subject was pronounced deceased at the hospital post incident.

Additionally, 40 of 70 subjects who claimed injury had visible signs of it. Of the 70 reported injuries, 18 required no medical treatment, 50 were treated and released, and there were two subjects transported to the hospital after being shot by officers in a deadly force encounter. Excluding the two subjects struck by gunfire, all injuries were minor in nature and terms such as swelling, minor cuts, scrapes, scratches, abrasions, and bruising were used to describe their injuries.

- Out of the 220,572 total calls for service (dispatched, self-initiated, traffic stops) two involved a deadly force option application that resulted in one subject seriously injured and one subject killed by officer gunfire.



Arlington Police Department

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