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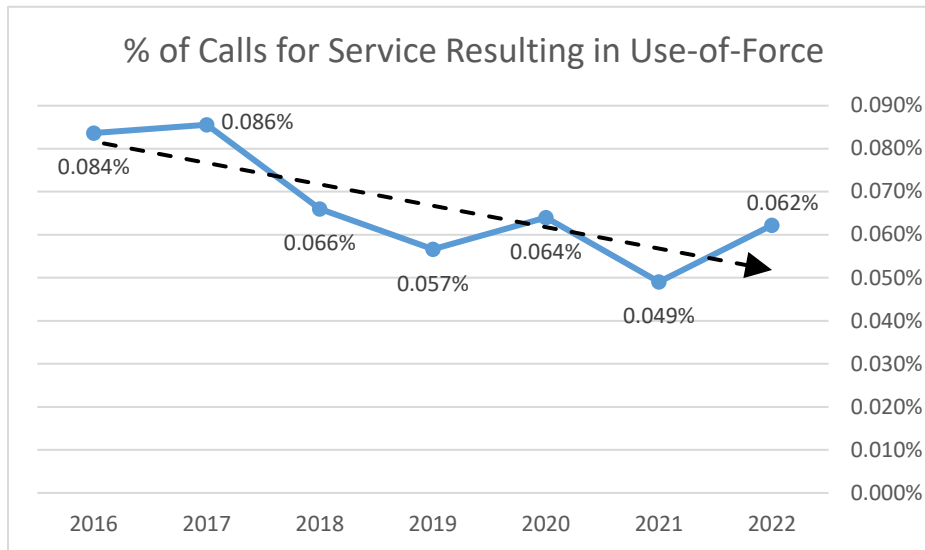
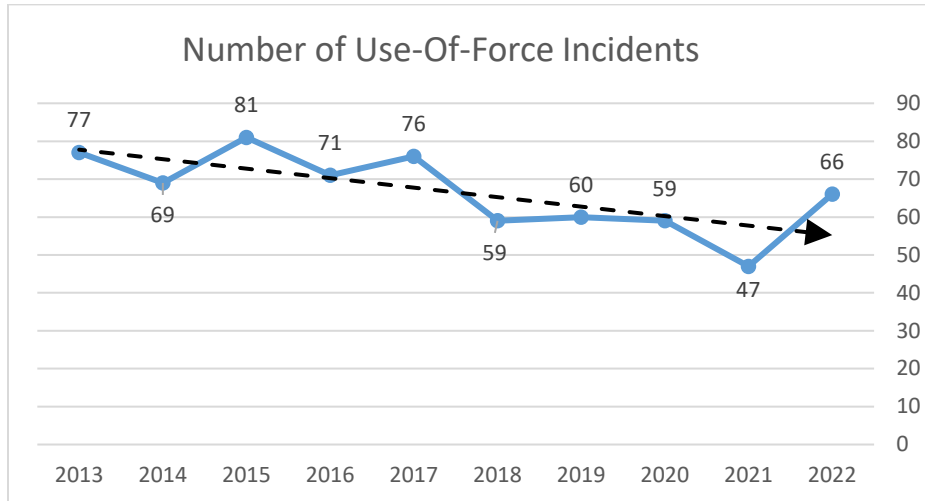
Yi-An Huang
City Manager

TO: Director James Mulcahy
FROM: Anna Wilhelm **REF:** AU2022-012
SUBJECT: Use of Force – 2022 Annual Report

The following report represents a review and analysis of the use-of-force incidents that department personnel were involved in throughout the calendar year 2022. Department policy requires all use-of-force incidents be reviewed by numerous supervisory levels with final approval by the Police Commissioner. All incidents where force was used were found to be justifiable and appropriate for the situation in accordance with the Use of Force Standards promulgated by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission found in 555 CMR 6.00.

OVERALL SUMMARY

In 2022, there were sixty-six (66) incidents in which officers used some level of force towards a citizen, requiring that a use-of-force report be generated and a formal review conducted. This is a 40% increase when compared to 2021 in which there were forty-seven (47) use-of-force incidents. However, there was also a significant increase of calls for service, including an increase of mental health-related calls and overall crime in 2022. There were 106,027 calls-for-service in 2022 with 0.062% of those calls resulting in a use-of-force incident compared to 2021 where there were 95,846 calls for service and 0.049% resulted in a use-of-force incident. While the total number of use-of-force incidents increased by 40%, the percentage of calls resulting in use-of-force increased by only 27%. Notably, there was also a fifty-eight percent (58%) increase of documented assaults on Cambridge police officers in 2022. Over the past 10 years, both the number of use-of-force incidents and the percentage of calls resulting in use-of-force has decreased as shown in the two graphs below.



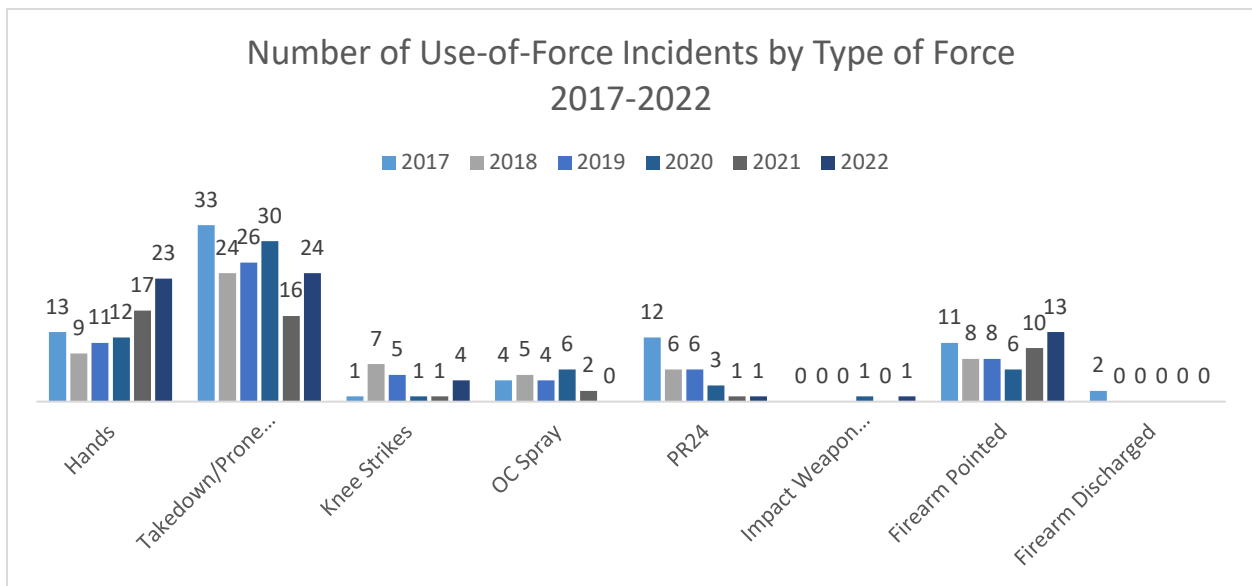
The analyses below will discuss in more detail the types of force used, the services rendered at the time force was used, the officers involved in these incidents, and the demographics of the subjects of the use-of-force in 2022.

TYPE OF FORCE USED

The following data represents the greatest type of force used in each incident. In some instances, multiple kinds of force were used during a single incident (e.g. use of hands and placing an individual in a prone handcuffing position) and, to alleviate any overlap or double counting, the greatest type of force used during each incident was documented and used in this analysis.

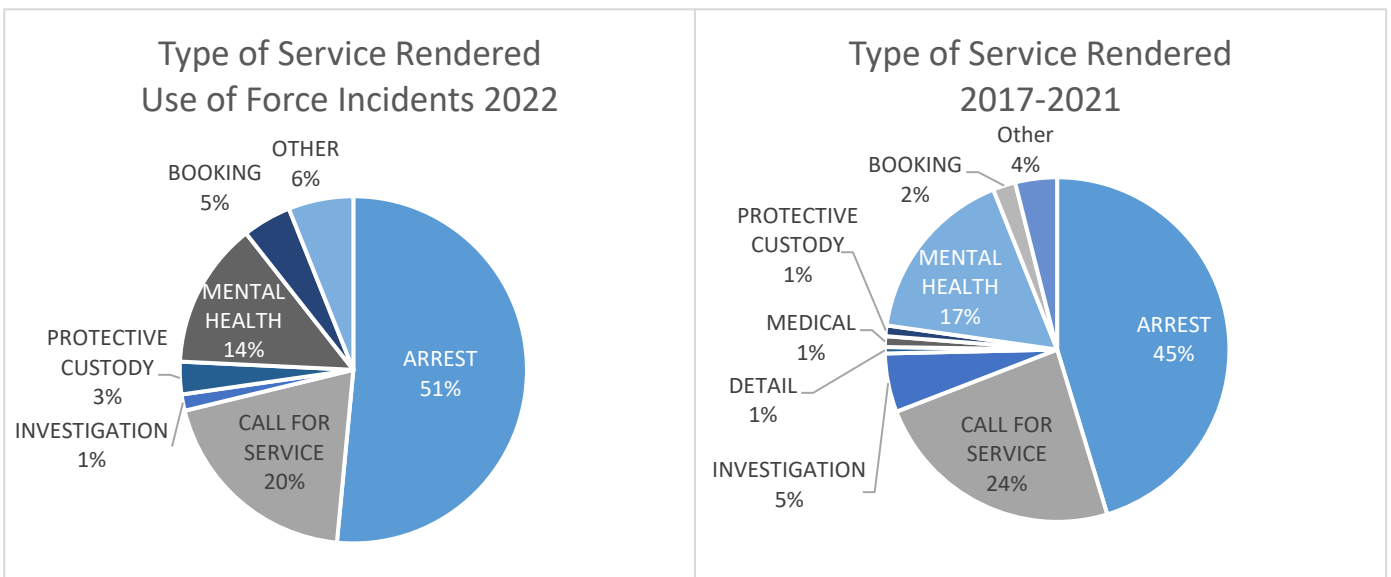
From 2018 to 2022, there were zero (0) incidents where a firearm was discharged, however, 2022 saw an increase in the number of times a firearm was pointed at a subject from ten (10) in 2021 to thirteen (13) in 2022, revealing a pattern of increased usage since dropping to six (6) incidents in 2020. After a review of each pointed firearm incident in 2022, it was found there were three (3) incidents in which the subject was armed, one (1) with a knife and two (2) with a firearm, and three (3) incidents where officers responded to a report of a person with a firearm, although no weapon was recovered from the scene. Of the remaining seven (7) incidents in which an officer or officers pointed their firearm(s), four (4) involved a stolen motor vehicle and three (3) occurred while responding to robberies.

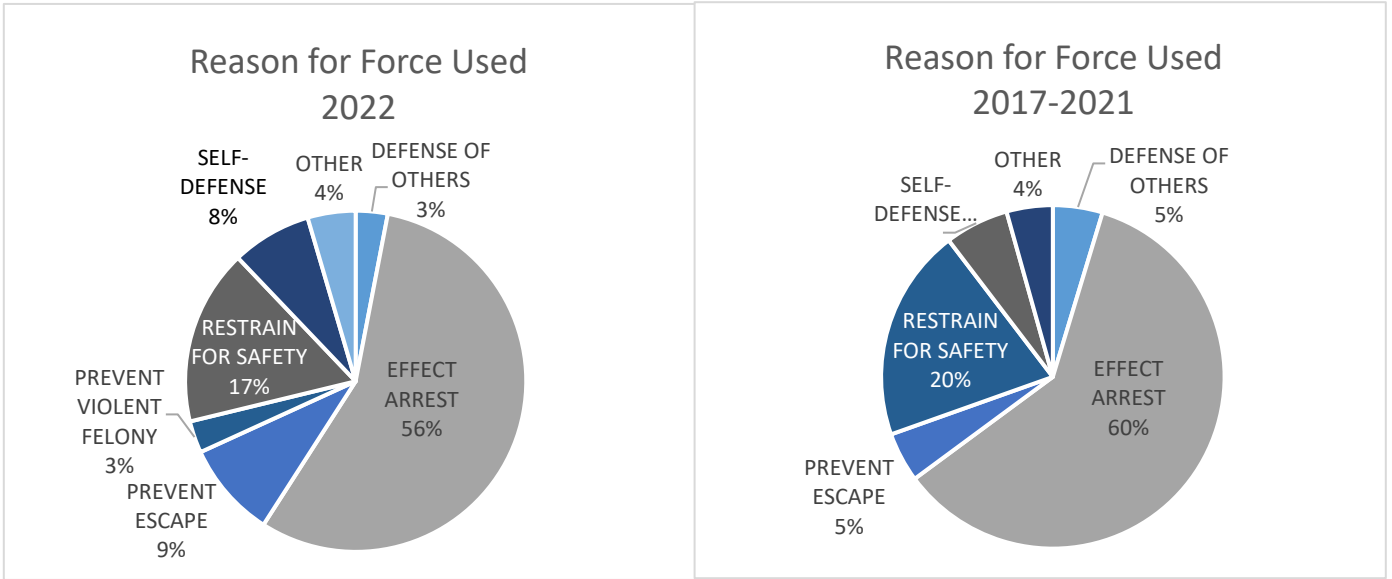
Compared to 2021, there was an increase in the following types of force used: Hands, Takedown/Prone Position, Knee Strikes, Impact Weapon Displayed, and Firearms Pointed. There was a decrease of OC Spray utilization from two (2) to zero (0) in 2022 and the number of times the PR24, or baton, was utilized stayed consistent at one (1). Examining the last five years of data, there has been an increase in use-of-force incidents where the greatest force used were hands, while the use of the PR24 shows a drop in usage. It is worth noting that through 2018, the PR24, was previously categorized as an “impact weapon”. From 2019 on, “impact weapon” only refers to the 40mm less lethal launcher, which has only been displayed, or pointed, through the year 2022 and never fired outside of training exercises. All sworn officers have been trained to deploy the 40mm less lethal launcher, however, only supervisor vehicles are equipped with them.



SERVICE RENDERED

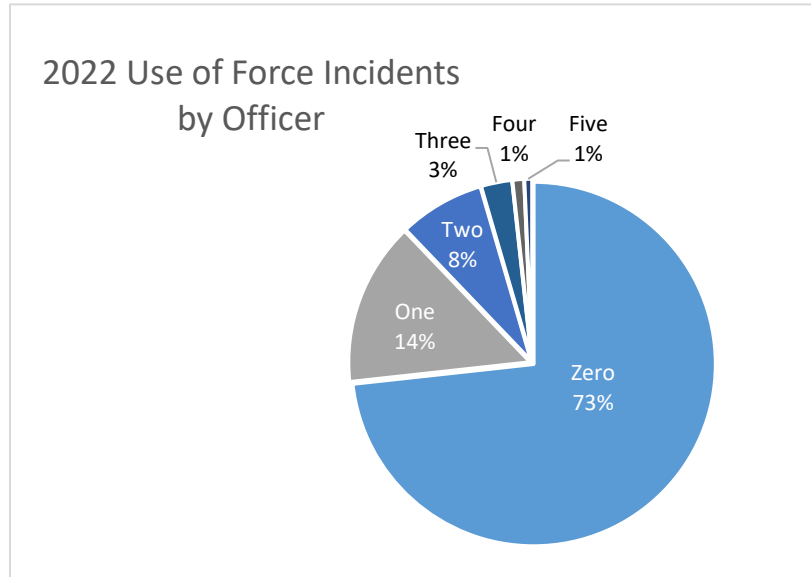
In thirty-four (34) of the sixty-six (66) incidents, the service being rendered at the time force was utilized was an arrest, making up fifty-one percent (51%) of the total use-of-force incidents. Other types of services resulting in force include calls for service, mental health interactions, bookings, protective custody, and investigations. Of the total number of use-of-force incidents, the reason for force in fifty-six percent (56%) of the incidents was to effect an arrest. The second most common situation in which force was used was to restrain for safety. This percentage includes six (6) involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations or mental health interactions, two (2) incidents during the booking process, one (1) incident while placing an individual into protective custody, and one call for service. The other reasons for force used in mental health-related incidents included one (1) preventing escape, one (1) effecting arrest, and one (1) categorized as “other.”ⁱ When the reason for force was to effect an arrest during a mental health incident, the individual was not placed under arrest, but transported to the hospital for a mental health evaluation and later summonsed to court after they threatened and assaulted a group of students, attempted to enter occupied vehicles in traffic, assaulted a police officer, and continued to yell threats while receiving treatment by medical professionals. The charts below display all services rendered when force was used as well as the documented reasons for force. The options provided in the software used to log and review use-of-force incidents are limited and vague and there may be more than one possible type of service rendered or reason for force used, both of which are up to the supervising officer’s discretion. The five-year average of services rendered and reason for force used has been added for greater context and comparison.



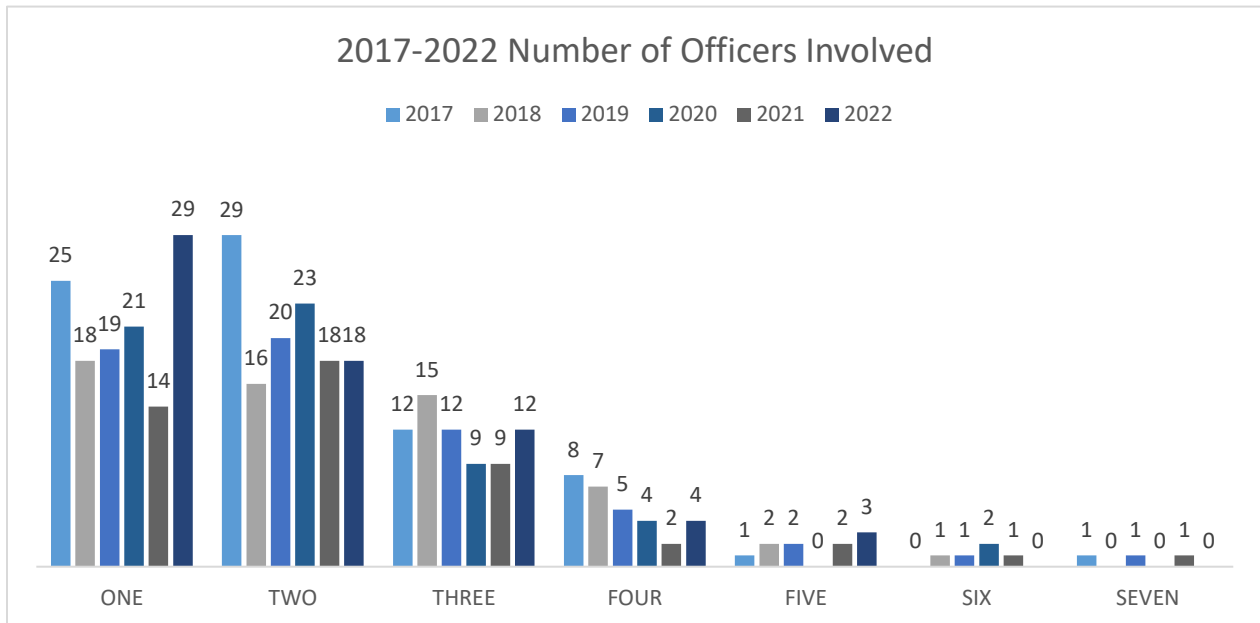


OFFICERS INVOLVED

In 2022, seventy-seven (77) officers were involved in an incident in which force was used, representing twenty-seven percent (27%) of all sworn officers. This is a twelve percent (12%) increase from sixty-nine (69) officers in 2021, however it is a thirteen percent (13%) decrease from 2020 and a twenty percent (20%) decrease from 2019. Of the seventy-seven (77) officers, thirty-five (35), or forty-five percent (45%), were involved in two or more incidents, which is a slight increase over forty-three percent (43%) of officers who used force in 2021. Comparatively, in 2020, only twenty-one (21) out of eighty-nine (89) officers who used force, or twenty-three percent (23%) of those officers, used force more than once, which is only marginally less than the twenty-six percent (26%) of officers of the same metric in 2019. There were two (2) officers who used force in five (5) separate incidents in 2022 and three (3) officers who used force in four (4) incidents. All use-of-force incidents in 2022 were deemed to be justified through the chain of command following internal reviews and investigations. The chart below outlines the number of use-of-force incidents by officer in 2022.



Also relative to the number of incidents in which an officer used force is the number of officers using force in an incident. The below chart indicates the number of officers that used force during each incident from 2017 to 2022. It is worth noting this analysis only counts the officers that used force and does not include officers that responded to the scene but did not use force.

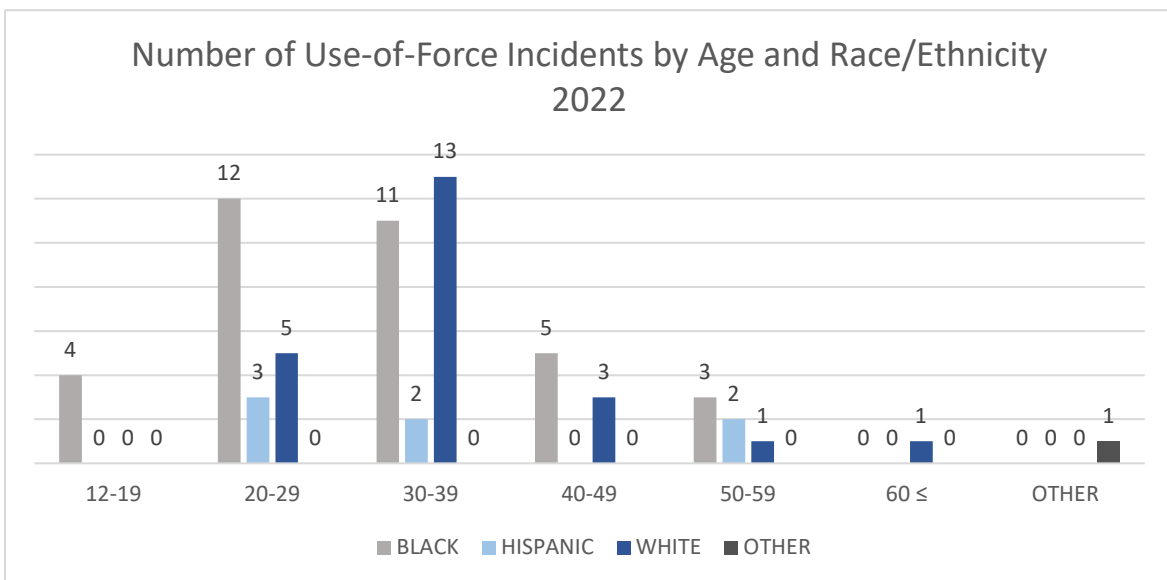


In most use-of-force incidents, any injuries sustained by the subject or the officer, were minor in nature. Eighty percent (80%) of incidents in which force was used resulted in no injuries which is down from seventy percent (70%) in 2021. Of the sixty-six (66) incidents, injuries to the subject

were reported in eight (8) of them, or twelve percent (12%). There were ten (10) incidents where force was used in which an officer sustained an injury, three (3) of those incidents resulting in injuries to more than one officer. Included in those numbers are (3) incidents where both the subject and at least one officer sustained injuries. Injuries sustained to subjects as a result of force used consisted of two (2) abrasions, two (2) lacerations, two (2) contusions, and one (1) incident of broken ribs. There was one (1) serious injury consisting of abrasions and a contusion to the head sustained resulting from an officer taking the subject to the ground after witnessing an assault. Officers sustained injuries comprised of six (6) lower body injuries, three (3) bite marks, two (2) abrasions, (1) laceration, and one (1) back injury.

DEOMGRAPHICS

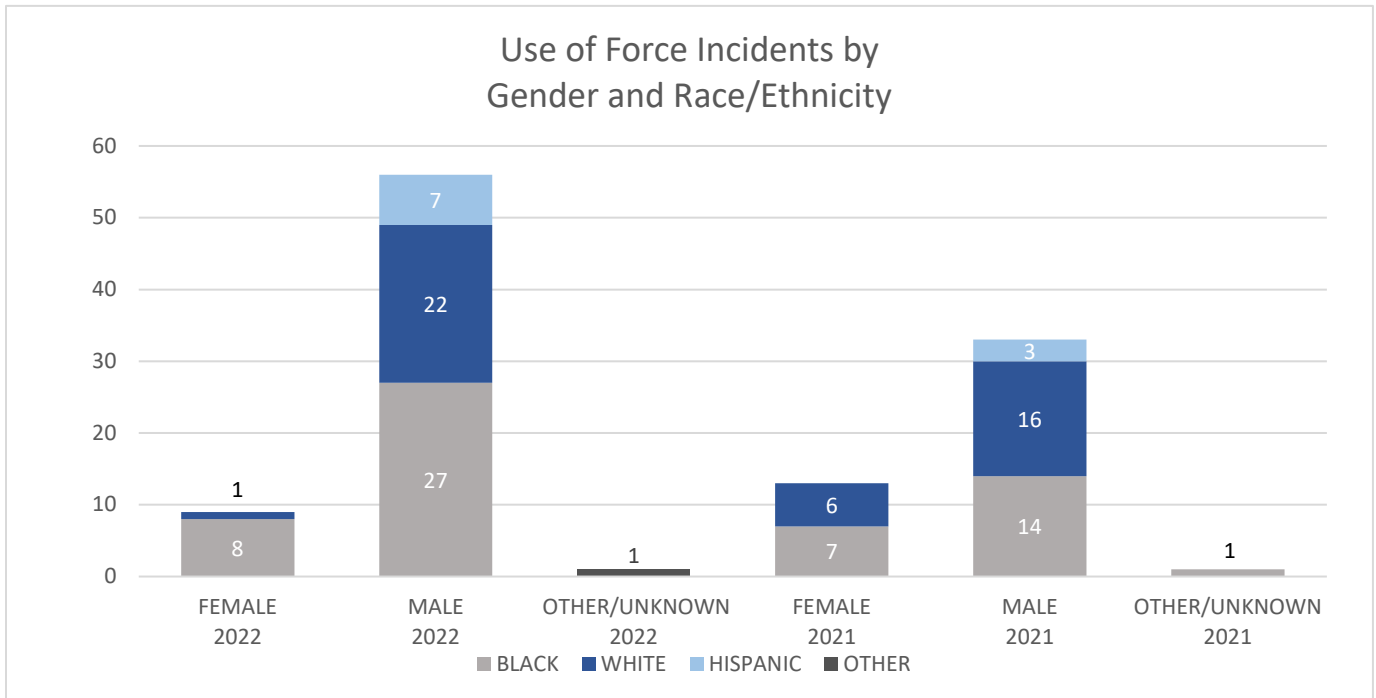
Sixty-five (65) of the sixty-six (66) subjects of use of force incidents can be broken down by age, race, and gender. One (1) incident, resulting from an unfounded report of an armed robbery with a firearm, involved four officers pointing their firearms at multiple individuals of different ages, genders, and races, until they could be pat down and cleared for weapons. For the purpose of this report, the gender, race, and age for that incident has been categorized as “Other.” The below chart represents a breakdown of age and race/ethnicity of the subject of the use of force for each incident in 2022.



Of the four (4) incidents involving force used on individuals aged 12-19, three (3) of those were juveniles under the age of 18, two males and one female, totaling five percent (5%) of use of force

incidents. One incident involved a 16-year-old male with a firearm, in which after receiving reports the juvenile was armed, an officer used a takedown/prone maneuver, grabbing the juvenile from behind during a foot pursuit. The other incident involving a juvenile male followed a physical altercation between two minors resulting in a school resource officer using hands-on force to retrieve a piece of glass from the juvenile's possession. Hands-on force was also used by three officers on a 16-year-old female during an involuntary psychiatric hospitalization to physically place her into an ambulance to be transported to the hospital for a mental health evaluation. There were no use-of-force incidents involving juveniles in 2021, however, force was used on juveniles on four (4) occasions, or in seven percent (7%) of incidents, in 2020.

The majority of force used by officers was on men, with nine total incidents, or fourteen percent (14%), involving the use-of-force on women. Sixty-five percent (65%) of use-of-force incidents in 2022 involved a person identifying as Black or Hispanic, compared to fifty-three percent (53%) in 2021 and fifty-eight percent (58%) in 2020. There were no incidents in 2022 or 2021 involving force used on anyone identifying as Asian. Below is a breakdown of use-of-force incidents by gender and race/ethnicity for 2022 and 2021.



CONCLUSION

A heightened amount of calls-for-service and crime brought an increase of total use-of-force incidents from 2021 to 2022. The number of incidents involving OC Spray decreased to zero (0) in 2022, but the number of firearms pointed at suspects increased to thirteen (13). Conversely, no officer discharged their firearm from 2018 through 2022. The use of the PR24 has also decreased over the past six years from twelve (12) utilizations in 2017 to just one (1) in both 2021 and 2022. There was also a reduction of injuries sustained as a result of force over the same time frame. Although there was an increase in the number of officers involved in a use of force incident from 2021 to 2022, the number of officers decreased from eighty-nine (89) in 2020 and ninety-six (96) in 2019. This is the first year age, race, and gender has been incorporated in the annual use-of-force report and in doing so, reveals that sixty-five percent (65%) of use-of-force incidents involve a person of color. The new Office of Procedural Justice and upcoming implementation of the Procedural Justice Dashboard will be able to enhance the department's ability to monitor and interpret demographical data of the police-citizen interactions, providing insight into possible racial profiling or racially biased-policing, specifically as it relates to use-of-force incidents for this report.

While 2022 witnessed an increase of use-of-force incidents, it is important to acknowledge outside factors that may explain this uptick. COVID-19 arrived in 2020 and shut Massachusetts down starting in March of 2020, with restrictions continuing through 2021. At the same time, there was a renewed call for police reform and departments across the country, including the Cambridge Police, faced scrutiny by both the public and the media following the death of George Floyd. Calls for service dropped from 105,914 in 2019 to 92,178 in 2020 and 95,846 in 2021 but surged to 106,027 calls in 2022. In addition, there was a fifty-eight percent (58%) increase of documented assaults on police officers in Cambridge, signifying a possible increase of hostility towards police.

Though the number of use-of-force incidents increased from 2021 to 2022, the past year nearly aligned with the 10-year average, despite a sharp increase in calls for service, due to the continued emphasis on training and policy compliance. In 2019, the Cambridge Police Department partnered with Northeastern University to launch the Cambridge-Northeastern Police Academy, which is currently training its fifth class of student officers. The department is also working towards obtaining The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)

accreditation and has been in the process of modernizing all policies and procedures with the goal of a 2024 completion. The Cambridge Police Department strives towards continuously improving and adapting to the public safety needs of the City of Cambridge in alignment with the four pillars of procedural justice: fairness, voice, transparency, and impartiality.

ⁱ Use of force was the result on an involuntary civil commitment.