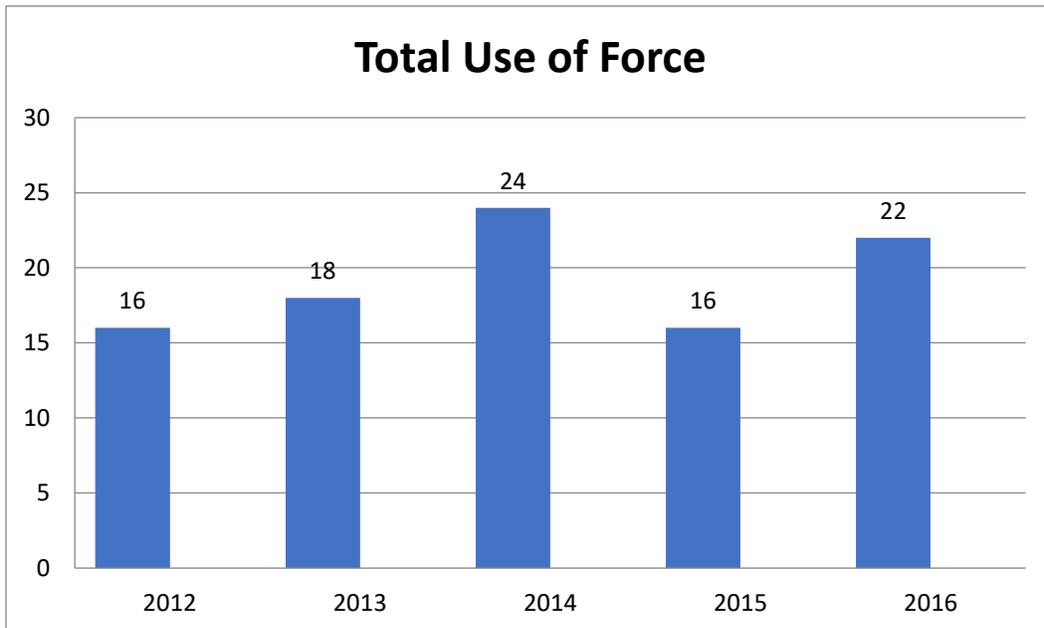


# Use of Force Analysis 2016

Attached is the 2016 Use of Force Report. I conducted an analysis of all Hudson Police Use of Force incidents.

## Total Use of Force Incident(s)

In 2016, there were twenty-two (22) instances where officers were required to use force while conducting their duties. All of the incidents were justified under the Hudson Police Department Policies and Procedures, and New Hampshire State Law. In 2015, there were sixteen (16) incidents involving the use of force. In 2016, the number of Use of Force reports was increased by six (6). In 2015, there were six (6) instances where the Animal Control Officer or a Police Officer was authorized to euthanize an injured or sickly animal. In 2016, there were fourteen (14) instances where the Animal Control Officer or a Police Officer was authorized to euthanize an injured or sickly animal.



\*\*Information regarding the Animal Euthanization is not accounted for in the Use of Force Analysis.

## **USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS**

More Use of Force incidents occurred on Thursday (7) than any other day of the week. The second most Use of Force incidents occurred on Tuesdays (5). B Squad (1500-2300) had seventeen (17) Use of Force incidents, A Squad (0700-1500) had one (1) Use of Force incident, and C Squad (2300-0700) had four (4) Use of Force incidents.

## **INJURIES**

In 2016, there were eight (8) incidents resulting in injury to a suspect. In four (4) instances the suspect's injuries were a result of being shot with the officer's Taser. The Taser prongs caused minor bleeding or they received minor irritation to the skin as a result of being drive stunned. One female suspect was pushed by an officer while he was attempting to get her handcuffed; she fell and hit her head on a cabinet inside of the Walmart. Two suspects received minor abrasions to their legs while the officers were attempting to handcuff them, and one suspect received an abrasion to his right wrist and a sore back.

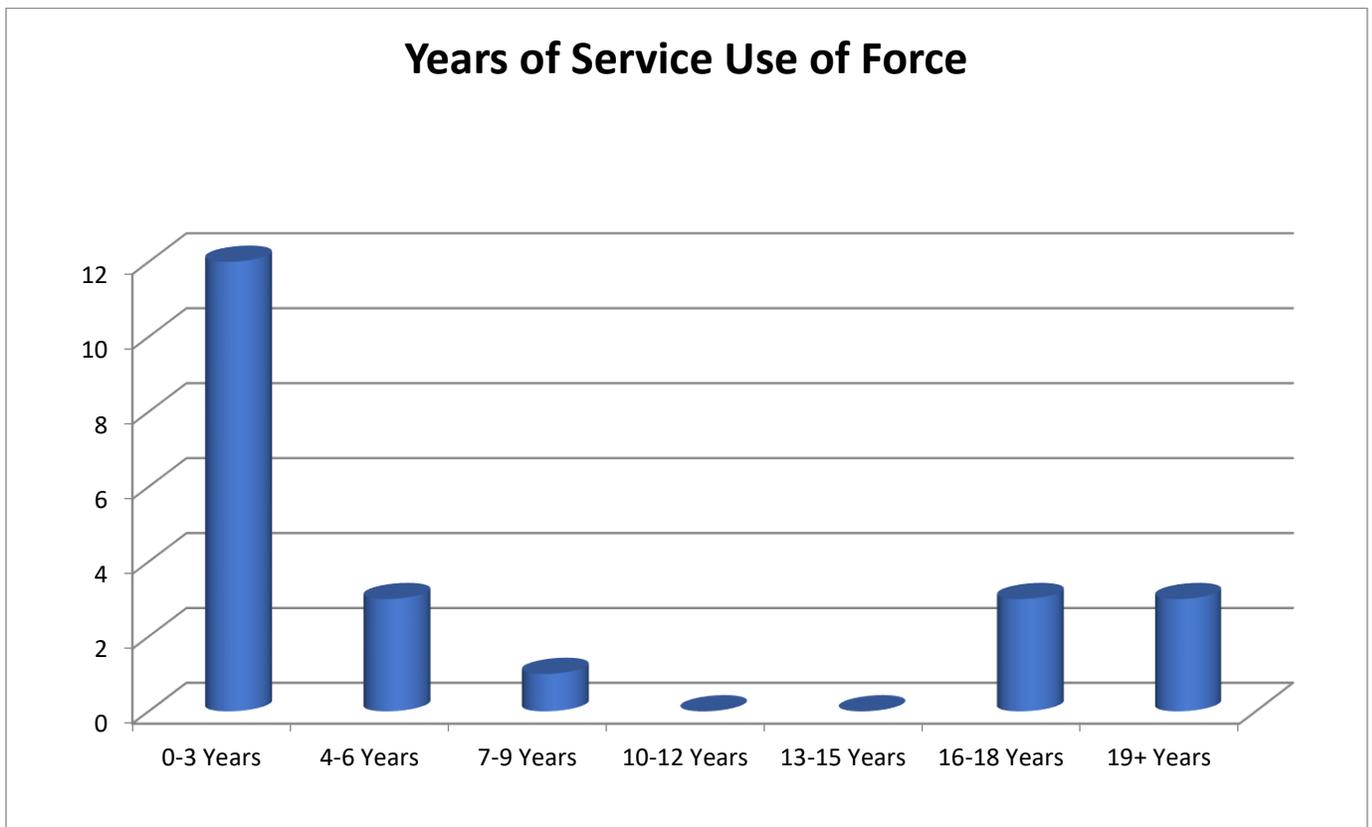
In 2016, we had four (4) officers reported being injured as a result of a Use of Force situation. Although, we had zero officers injured during 2015. Two (2) officers were pushed while attempting to take a suspect into custody; one (1) officer had the skin on his finger ripped from the finger nail; and one (1) officer was bit on his left arm while attempting to arrest a male suspect.

Although, we had an increase of officers assaulted/injured this year the Taser Weapon System combined with training on how to deal with unruly suspects appear to be contributing factors as to why we are seeing less SERIOUS injuries to officers as well as suspects. With the deployment of the Taser Weapon System the officers have another tool to remain at a safer distance from violent suspects until they are neutralized. Officers' have also used the Taser Weapon System to "drive stun" suspects opposed to utilizing other defensive tactic techniques. Regular training on Use of Force issues and tactics assists officers in maintaining the level of proficiency the public expects.

## **OFFICERS AGE AND YEARS OF SERVICE**

In 2016, the average age of the officers involved in Use of Force incidents was 35 years old; while the average age of the Hudson Police Sworn Officers is 36.5 years old.

This is the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) year I have tracked the years of service of officers involved in Use of Force situations. Currently, the Hudson Police Administration is seeing a trend that younger inexperienced officers are more apt to resort to using force compared to more experienced officers. Twelve (12) Use of Force incidents were from police officers who had 0 to 3 years of experience while the average years of service for Hudson Police Sworn Officers is just over ten and a half (10.5) years. The other correlation I can conclude from analyzing the Use of Force data is 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (1500-2300) is consistently where the Hudson Police sees the majority of Use of Force incidents. In 2016, we had fourteen (14) Use of Force incidents by Patrolmen; while three (3) of the Use of Force incidents were by the shift Lieutenant and two (2) from the Sergeant on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift; the average years of service (excluding supervisors) on this shift was 2.8 years of service. History has shown the Hudson Police experience more Part 1 crimes on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift than on any other shift. Traditionally, the Hudson Police senior officers bid A Squad and C Squad which leaves B Squad with inexperienced police officers; however B Squad is adequately staff as the Shift Commander (Lieutenant) and Supervisors ( two Sergeant's) have a total of 52+ years of experience between the three of them. I will continue to closely monitor the above information.



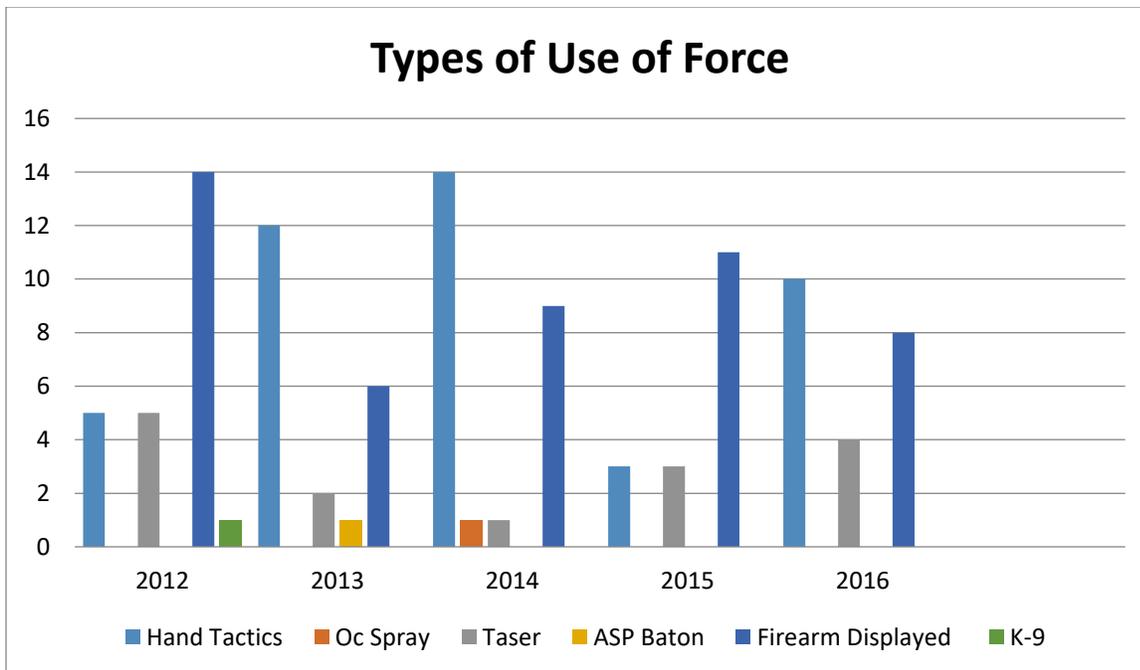
#### SITUATION

- The most common initial call that resulted in a Use of Force incident was officers initiating an arrest, there were nine (9); responding to a disturbance five (5), followed by four (4) incidents that were the result of motor vehicle stops; two (2) incidents occurred while responding to armed robberies; one (1) instance occurred while dealing with a person suffering from mental health issues; and one (1) instance occurred while dealing with a suicidal person.
- It appears from reviewing the Use of Force reports there were sufficient police personnel present for each incident.
- All Use of Force incidents involved uniform officers except for two (2). On both occasions plain clothes detectives displayed their firearms while taking arm robbery suspects into custody; both instances happened shortly after the robberies occurred.
- In each case where the officer(s) displayed a firearm, the officers were justified based on the fact they were investigating a felony or the suspect had committed a felony involving the use or threatened the use of a weapon.

#### **TYPE OF FORCE USED**

The most common types of force used in 2016 were officers using defensive tactic techniques to gain compliance. This occurred on ten (10) occasions. Officers' displaying their firearms to gain control of a suspect occurred on eight (8) occasions. Officers deployed their Taser Weapon system on four (4) occasions. During 2016, officers did not utilize their ASP, OC, nor did the K-9 use force to apprehend a suspect.

Officers used the Taser Weapon system in four (4) Use of Force situations in 2016. It appears that inexperienced officers are becoming more apt to utilize Defensive Tactic techniques rather than utilizing their Taser or OC. As mentioned above, twelve (12) out of our twenty-two (22) Use of Force incidents were by officers with between 0-3 years of service. As these officers gain experience I believe they will be more apt to utilize either their Taser or OC Spray rather than going "hands on". (See Training section for Plan of Action)



## SUSPECT INFORMATION

Males were involved in Use of Force situations in eighteen (18) instances, while females four (4). The average age of both male and female suspects is 33 years of age. During 2015, the average age of suspect(s) was 36 years old.

## Training Issues

I have conducted a careful review of all Use of Force incidents, and as a result of this analysis report the Hudson Police Administration is going to implement more Roll Call Training conducted by Supervisors and Defensive Tactic Instructors to insure officers are more aware of physical and verbal indicators by suspects which may dictate whether they will resist arrest. These indicators may enable officers to be prepared to both utilize their Taser or OC, and will reduce the amount of “hands on” Use of Force incidents.

I have further conducted an annual analysis of Use of Force incidents and policies; based upon the review, I did not identify any areas of the policies that need to be modified.

## **SUMMARY**

The highlights of this analysis are listed below:

- 22 Use of Force Reports
- 8 Suspects received minor injury (4 of 8 were from the Taser)
- 2 Officers injured
- Average age of Suspect: 33 years old
- Average age of Officers involved in Use of Force incidents: 35 years old
- Average age of the Hudson Police Department: 36.5 years old
- Average years of service for the Hudson Police Department: 10.6 years