



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Police Department

*Partners with the Community*

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*Chief of Police*

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*Captain Tad Dionne*  
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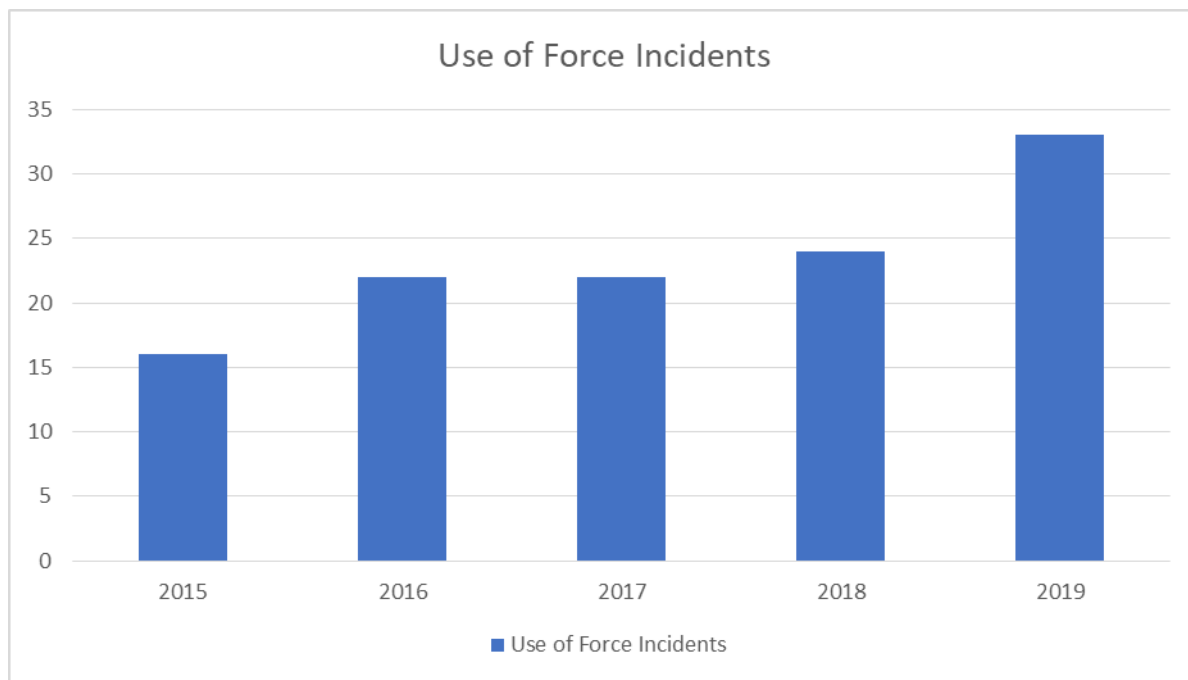
*Captain David Bianchi*  
*Administrative Bureau*

**To: Chief William Avery**  
**From: Captain Tad Dionne**  
**Date: January 16, 2020**  
**Ref: 2019 Use of Force Analysis Report**

Attached is the 2019 Use of Force Analysis Report. I conducted an analysis of all Hudson Police Use of Force incidents.

### **Total Use of Force Incident(s)**

In 2019, there were thirty- three (33) 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 2018, there were twenty-four (24) incidents involving the use of force. In 2019, there were eight (8) instances where the Animal Control Officer(s) or a Police Officer was authorized to euthanize an injured or sickly animal. In 2018, there were 17 instances where the Animal Control Officer(s) 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 Wednesday and Friday with seven (7) each, respectively, than any other day of the week. The second most Use of Force incidents occurred on Sunday, Thursday and Saturday, five (5) each respectively, then three (3) on Tuesdays and one (1) on a Monday. A Squad (0700-1500) had nine (9) Use of Force Incidents, B Squad (1500-2300) had seventeen (17) Use of Force incidents, and C Squad (2300-0700) had seven (7).

### Injuries

In 2019, there were eleven (11) Use of Force incidents resulting in the suspect being injured. In 2018, there were six (6) Use of Force incidents resulting in the suspect being injured. All of the injuries were minor in nature. The injuries included; torso soreness, hand pain, hip pain, knee pain, Taser probe punctures, minor cuts on the wrist from the handcuffs, and minor lacerations to the ear and face, and bruising.

In 2019, the Hudson Police Department had three (3) officers injured during a Use of Force incident. Again, the injuries were relatively minor, and consisted of; laceration to hand, small puncture to the hand, and abrasion to the eye and soreness. None of the injuries resulted in the officers missing work.

### Assaults on a Police Officer

In 2019, eighteen (18) Hudson Police Officers were assaulted during the course of gaining compliance from a suspect(s), while in 2018 only four (4) officers were assaulted. The assaults in 2019 on the officer(s) consisted of being choked, punched in the face, punched elsewhere, spit on in the face, spit on elsewhere, kicked in the thigh, kicked in the leg, kicked in the shin, mule kicked, and punctured by a fingernail.

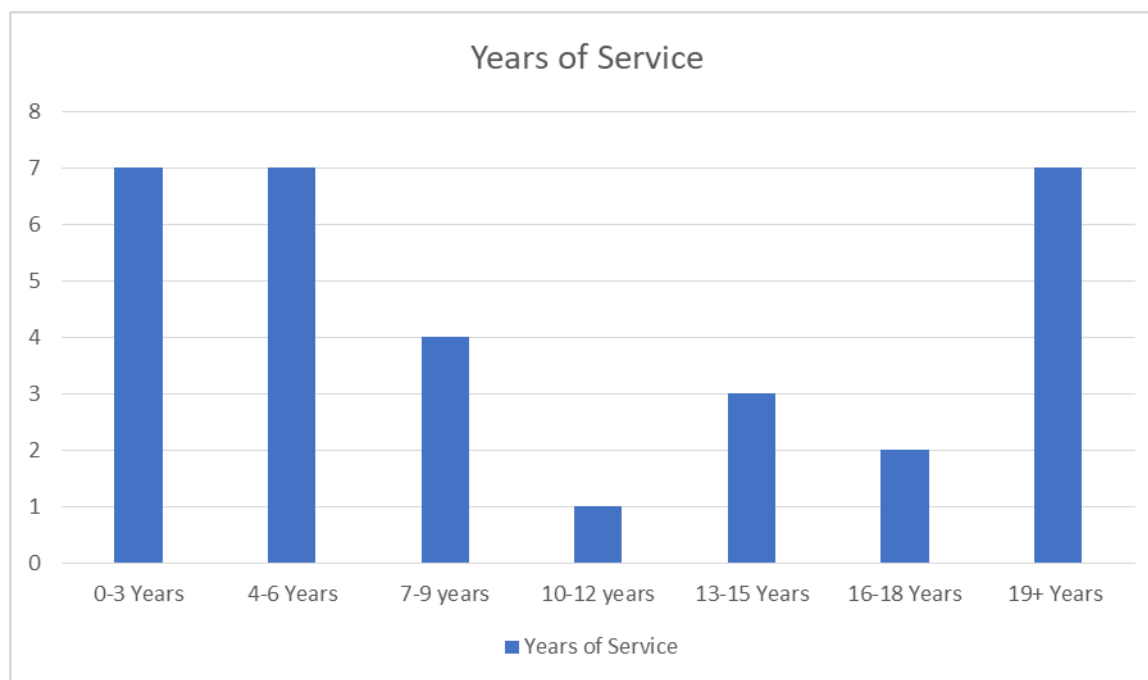
During my analysis of the Use of Force incidents for 2018, it was apparent the officers involved in each Use of Force incident reverted back to their defensive tactics and officer safety techniques. The Hudson Police Department's Defensive Tactic Instructors have done an exceptional job preparing the officers for Use of Force encounters with unruly individuals. The officers also displayed "good decision making" during several incidents throughout the year; knowing when to disengage vs. physically engaging a suspect may be a contributing factor why the injuries to the officers were minor.

In 2019 there was a vast increase in the number of officers assaulted, while the Hudson Police Department observed a large turnover and was down at least 10 officers for more than half the year.

## Officers Age and Years of Service

In 2019, the average of the officers involved in Use of Force incidents was 35.62 years old; while the average age of the Hudson Police Sworn Officers is 37.09 years old.

This is the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year the Hudson Police Department has tracked the years of service of the officers involved in Use of Force situations. For the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year in a row the average age of the officers involved in the Use of Force incidents is less than the average age of the sworn officers, however, this year the gap was reduce. Seven (7) Use of Force incidents were from police officers who had 0 to 3 years of service while the average years of service on the Hudson Police Department is 10.87. Traditionally, the officers with 5 or less years of experience are assigned the Patrol Division, and are more apt to be involved in Use of Force situations. This year, however, at least twenty six (26) Use of Force Incidents involved officers with more than three years of service. Thirteen Use of Force incidents involved officers with over ten years of service and many were supervisors.

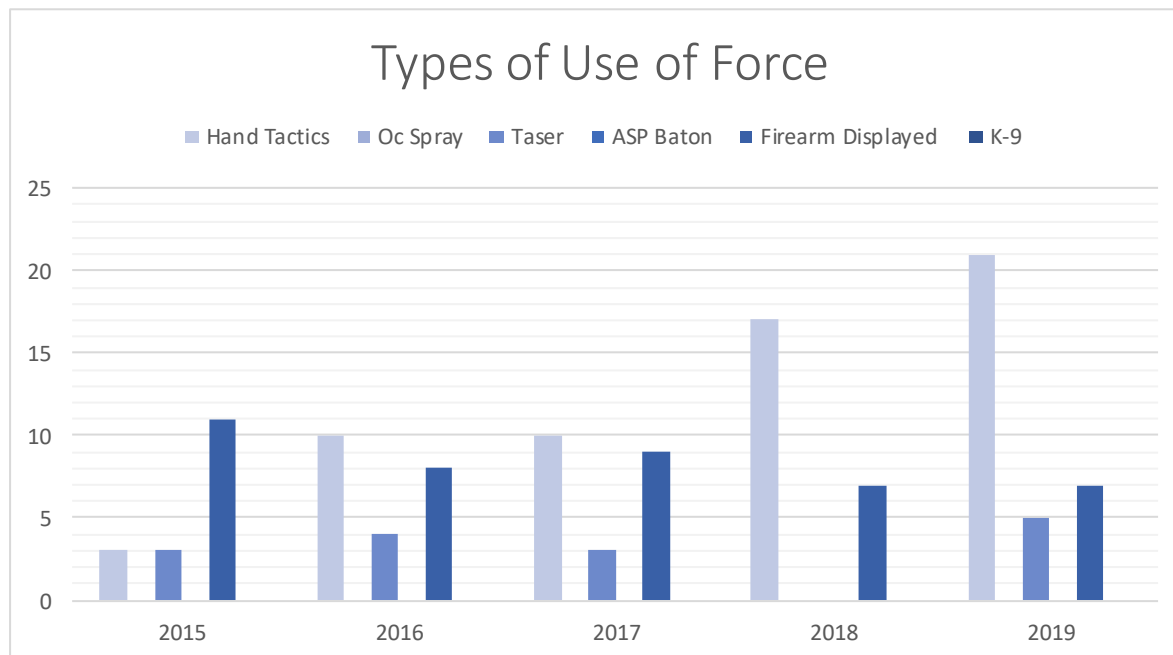


## Situation

- The most common initial calls that resulted in a Use of Force incident was officers responding to a disturbance - ten (10). There were five (5) school incidents where students refused to leave or fled after causing a disturbance. Initiating an arrest also had five (5), as well individuals who were suicidal five (5). Three (3) incidents occurred during motor vehicles stops, two (2) occurred when dealing with intoxicated or high individuals, one (1) during booking/transport, one (1) incident occurred while officers were conducting an investigation for a search warrant, and one (1) occurred during a motor vehicle crash.
- Each incident involving Use of Force there were sufficient police personnel present or additional officers were responding (in close proximity) for backup.
- Twenty-eight (28) of the Use of Force incidents involved uniform patrol officers. Five (5) of the incidents involved School Resource Officers, however, three of those cases Patrol Officers assisted.
- In each of the seven (7) cases where the officer(s) displayed a firearm, the officers were justified based on the fact they were investigating a felony, or a crime where a weapon was alleged to be brandished, or alleged suicidal subjects with deadly weapons.

## Types of Force Used

The most common types of force used in 2019 were officers using defensive tactic techniques to gain compliance. This occurred on seventeen (17) occasions. Officers' displaying their firearms to gain control of a suspect occurred on seven (7) occasions. Officers deployed their Taser Weapon system five (5) times. ASP, OC and the K-9 was not used to apprehend a suspect.



## Suspect Information

Males were involved in Use of Force situation in twenty four (24) instances, while nine (9) females were involved. The average age of both male and female suspects was 33 years old. The oldest person was 68 years old while the youngest was 9 years old.

## Areas of Town

After a careful analysis of all Use of Force reports; I was able to determine that one area/sector is more apt to deal with a Use of Force incident than other areas/sectors. The center of town, which is the most densely populated area had 9 Use of Force Incidents. The Use of Force incidents were, however, geographically spread out throughout Hudson.

## Training Issues

I have conducted a careful review of all Use of Force incidents, and I have not identified any areas of concern. One officer had a higher number of Use of Force Incidents, all with policy, attended a De-escalation Training. All the officers who were involved in a Use of Force incident performed exceptionally and professionally. All incidents of Use of Force followed the Hudson Police Department Policies and Procedures.

During the 2018 Defensive Tactics Class; the Defensive Tactic Instructors focused on several techniques to help the officers with individuals who are non-compliant. The areas of focus included: Patterns of Movement, Use of Oleoresin Capsicum, Handcuffing, and Ground Fighting Techniques. Officers are scheduled for Defensive Tactics Training in spring of 2020 and December of 2020.

## Use of Force Complaints

There were no 2019 complaints generated as a result of Use of Force.

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

## Summary

The highlights of this analysis are listed below:

- 33 Use of Force Reports
- 11 Suspects received minor injuries
- 3 Officers received minor injuries
- 18 Officers were assaulted
- Average age of Suspects: 33 years old
- Average age of Officers involved in Use of Force incidents: 35.62 years old
- Average age of the Hudson Police Department: 37.09 years old.
- Average years of service of Officers involved in Use of Force incidents: 10.33 years
- Average years of service of Hudson Officers: 10.87

