



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Police Department

*Partners with the Community*

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1 Constitution Drive, Hudson, New Hampshire 03051  
Voice/TTY (603) 886-6011/Crime Line (603) 594-1150/Fax (603) 886-0605



*William M. Avery, Jr.*  
*Chief of Police*

*Captain David Cayot*  
*Special Investigations Bureau*

*Captain Tad Dionne*  
*Operations Bureau*

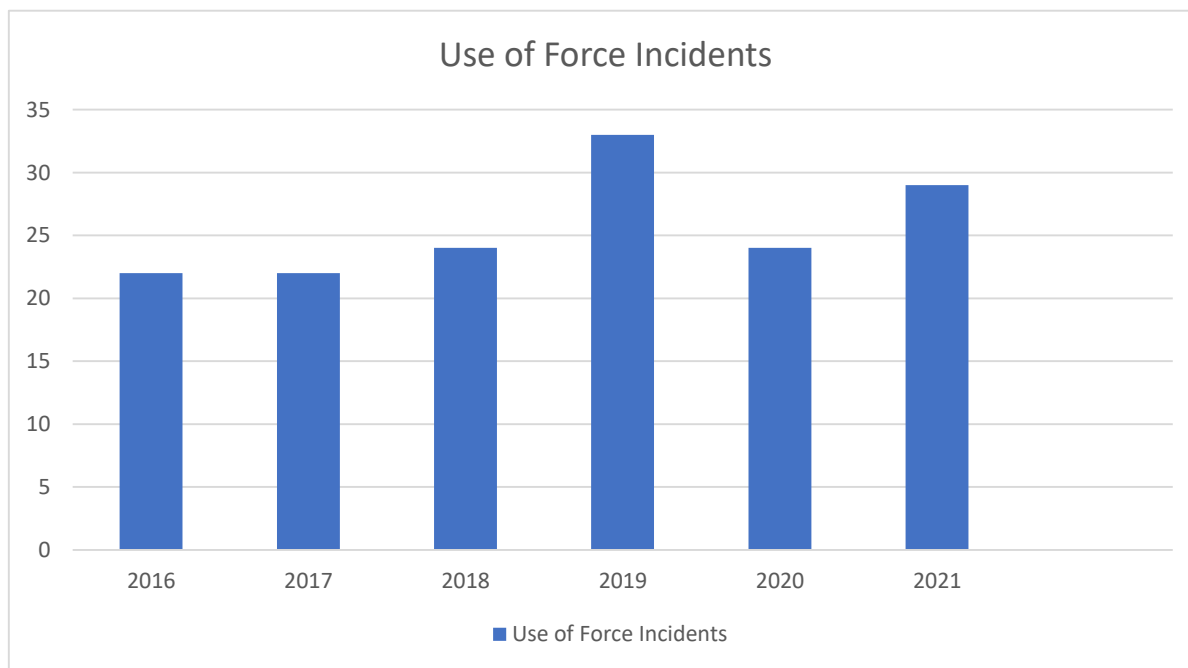
*Captain David Bianchi*  
*Administrative Bureau*

**To: Chief William Avery**  
**From: Captain Tad Dionne** TD  
**Date: January 6, 2022**  
**Ref: 2021 Use of Force Analysis Report**

Attached is the 2021 Use of Force Analysis Report. I conducted an analysis of all Hudson Police Use of Force incidents.

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

In 2021, there were twenty- nine (29) 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 2020, there were twenty-four (24) incidents involving the use of force. In 2021, 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 2020, there were eleven (11) instances where the Animal Control Officer(s) or a Police Officer was authorized to euthanize an injured or sickly animal.



\*\*Information regarding animals euthanized is not accounted for in the Use of Force Analysis.

### Use of Force Incidents

In 2021, more Use of Force incidents occurred on Wednesday and Saturday with seven (7) each, than any other day of the week. The next most Use of Force incidents occurred on Monday with five (5) then Sunday and Thursday, three (3), each. There were (2) Use of Force Incidents on Tuesday and Friday, each. A Squad (0700-1500) had eight (8) Use of Force Incidents, B Squad (1500-2300) had fourteen (14) Use of Force incidents, and C Squad (2300-0700) had seven (7).

### Injuries

In 2021, there were four (4) Use of Force incidents resulting in the suspect being injured. In 2020, there was (1) Use of Force incidents resulting in the suspect being injured. The injuries in 2021 were minor in nature. One occurred from Taser prongs after a Taser deployment. One occurred when a subject was filming her suicidal threat with a knife. She was cut at her eyebrow when the officer forced a door open to secure her from harming herself. One had abrasions on her bare feet from pavement as she resisted forcibly with the officers. The last suspect was injured during the Use of Force incidents when he purposely rammed his own head and continually kicked the “padded” cell door in the booking area.

In 2021, four (4) Hudson Police Officer were injured during Use of Force Incidents. The officer had a protracted wrist injury while trying to handcuff and actively resisting individual. One officer sustained a laceration to his wrist during a foot pursuit. One officer was scratched in the face while attempting to detain a suspect. Another officer was received abrasions to his knee and hand while tackling a fleeing suspect. Lastly, an officer fractured his hand while striking a subject that was trying to bite him. This injury resulted in a loss of full capacity work for several weeks. In 2020, the Hudson Police Department had one (1) officers injured during a Use of Force incident. The injury in 2019 also resulted in several weeks’ loss of work.

### Assaults on a Police Officer

In 2021, seven (7) Hudson Police Officers were assaulted during the course of gaining compliance from a suspect(s), while in 2020; four (4) Hudson Police Officers were assaulted during the course of

gaining compliance from a suspect(s). The assaults in 2021 on the officer(s) consisted of being bit, spit on, scratched, grabbed and pushed.

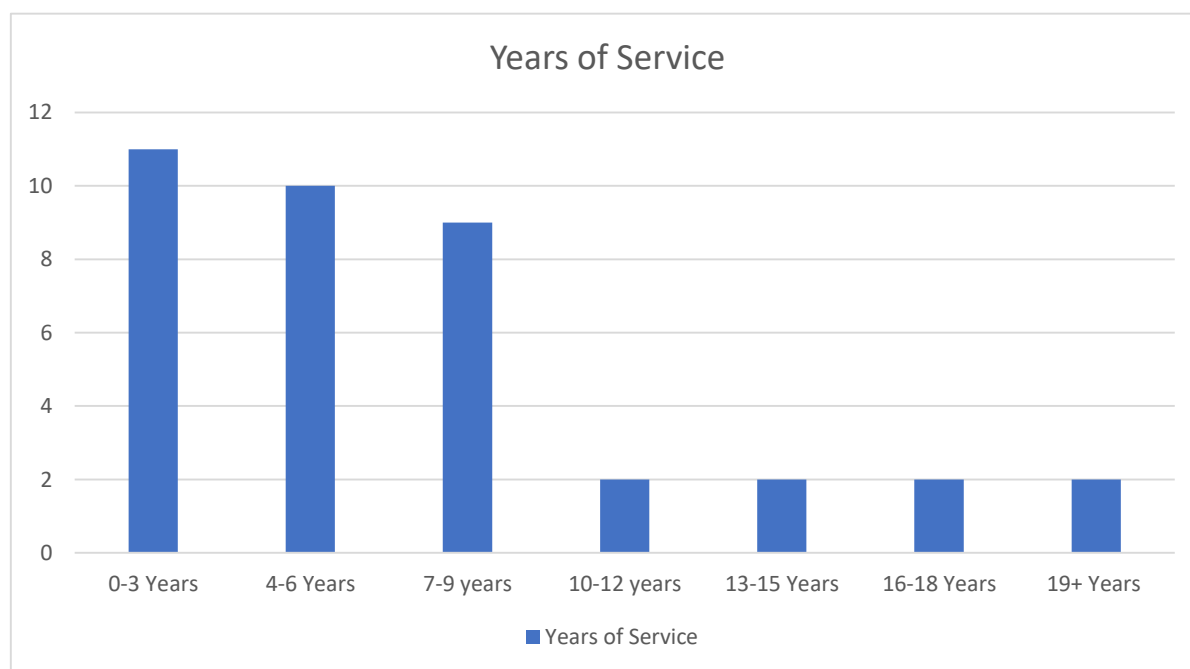
During my analysis of the Use of Force incidents for 2021, it was apparent the officers involved in each Use of Force incident reverted to their defensive tactics and officer safety techniques. The Hudson Police Department's Defensive Tactic Instructors have done an exceptional job preparing the officers for Use of Force encounters with unruly individuals. Overall, officers also displayed "good decision making" during several incidents throughout the year. Three of the Use of Force incidents involved some training that is discussed further below.

In 2020, there had been a decrease in the number of officers assaulted as compared to 2019. In 2020, the Federal Government was placed into a lockdown to Covid-19; however, public unrest in other parts of the country against law enforcement was non-existent or minimal in Hudson, NH.

### Officers Age and Years of Service

In 2020, the average age of the officers involved in Use of Force incidents was 30.81 years old; while the average age of the Hudson Police Sworn Officers is 36.47 years old.

This is the seventh (7th) year the Hudson Police Department has tracked the years of service of the officers involved in Use of Force situations. The average years of service of the Officers involved in Use of Force Incidents was 6.76 years while the average years of service on the Hudson Police Department is 9.89. Eleven (11) Use of Force incidents were from police officers who had 0 to 3 years of service. Traditionally, the officers with five (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-one (27) officers involved in Use of Force had more than three years of service. Eight (8) Use of Force incidents involved officers with over ten years of service and many were supervisors.



### Situation

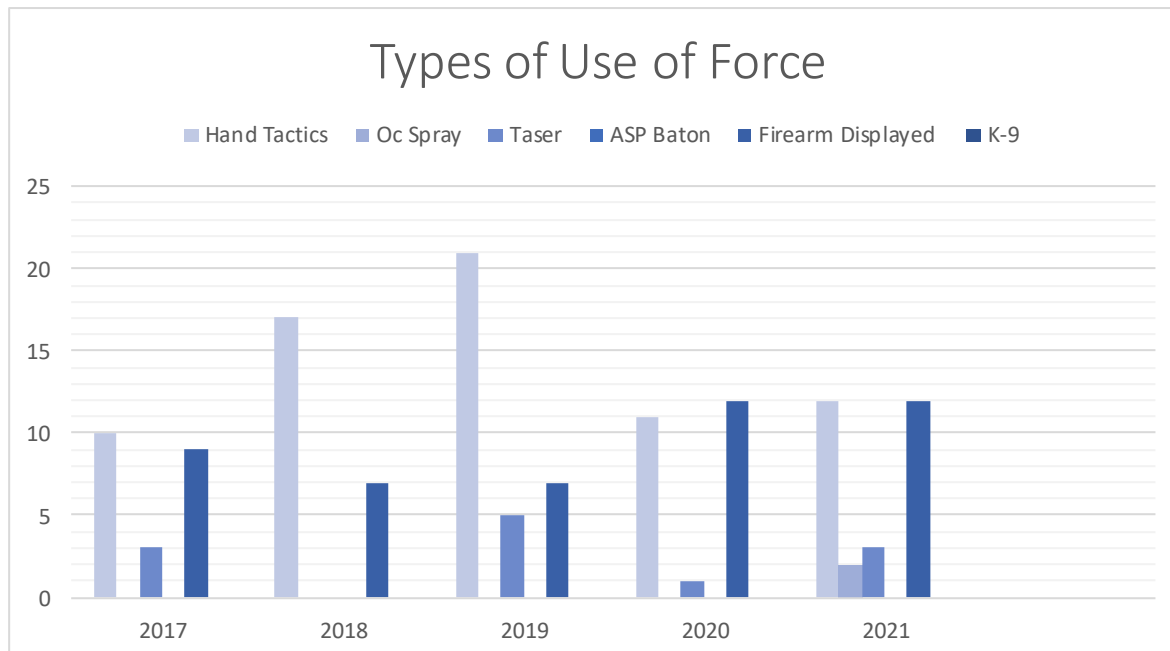
- The most common initial calls that resulted in a Use of Force incident was officers responding to a disturbance – ten (10). Three (3) involved a motor vehicle pursuit. Five (5) incidents began with suspicious activity and (1) one involving drug activity. There were for (4) incidents when dealing with a highly intoxicated or disorderly subjects, three (3) dealing with a suicidal subjects, (2) two serving

warrants, one (1) while initiating a motor vehicle arrest, one (1) dealing with a juvenile matter, and one dealing with an obviously mentally ill subject. There were zero (0) school incidents with students.

- Each incident involving Use of Force there were sufficient police personnel present or additional officers were responding (in close proximity) for backup.
- Twenty-four (24) of the Use of Force incidents involved uniform patrol officers. Three (3) of the incidents involved Detectives from SIB and two (2) involved the Narcotics Unit.
- In each of the twelve (12) 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 2020 were officers using defensive tactic techniques to gain compliance. This occurred on twelve (11) occasions. Officers' displaying their firearms to gain control of a suspect occurred on twelve (12) occasions. In all (12) cases, Officer did not discharge the weapons. Officers deployed their Taser Weapon system three (3) time. OC was used (2) twice. ASP and the K-9 was not used to apprehend a suspect in Hudson.



## Suspect Information

Males were involved in Use of Force situation in twenty-two (22) instances, while seven (7) females were involved. The average age of both male and female suspects was 33.38 years old. The oldest person was 81 years old while the youngest was 13 years old. Twenty-seven (27) of the subjects were white. Two (2) were black.

## 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 fifteen (15) 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 identified minor concerns on three occasions. On one occasion, officers encountered a vehicle running hose into it from a propane tank. Officers were lead to believe the subject may be suicidal with a deadly flammable weapon – the tank. Officers attempted to contact the suspect from a safe distance. The suspect did not engage directly, but collected the tank and began driving slowly in a narrow wooded path in his vehicle. Officers presented firearms towards the vehicle. It stopped. The subject exited as ordered and was safely detained. The officers were in a tight area. Training was conducted as to Deadly Force with a moving vehicle.

In another situation, Officers arrested an intoxicated subject in a disturbance. The subject violently resisted with officers whenever the officers attempted to place him into a cruiser. He was uncooperative, but not violent when outside the cruiser. Officers repeatedly tried to get him into a cruiser and repeatedly he would resist violently. Eventually, he was forced into the cruiser, where he tried to bit an officer. The officer had to strike him in his mouth to defend himself. Officers were tired and frustrated when the subject was finally subdued. Training was completed to encourage officers and supervisors to call for EMT's to sedate unnaturally agitated violent arrestees. One Officer was also instructed not to unnecessarily place oneself in a situation where force would automatically have to be used.

Last, two officers responded to a Trespass and Criminal Threatening. An employee refused to leave the property at request of the property owner and the police. Officers finally engaged the subject, had him in a disadvantage, but failed to follow through with a takedown. Taser was deployed, but the officers let go of the subject on deployment. One prong hit the suspect and he then escaped on foot. A debrief with Use of Force Instructors and the officers were completed using video footage as well. Training was conducted to utilize a take down technique in that case. Officers were also reminded there is no need to release the suspect just because the Taser is being deployed. In none of these cases was there any concern for excess force.

In the remaining twenty-four occasions, 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 Fall 2021 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: de-escalation Patterns of Movement, Use of Oleoresin Capsicum, Handcuffing, and Ground Fighting Techniques. All Officers at Hudson Police Department completed Biased Base Training and De-escalation Training. In 2022, we hope to have at least four Use of Force trainings, to include firearms.

## **Use of Force Complaints**

There were no 2021 complaints generated because 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 needed to be modified. We did begin use of Body Worn Camera's and have incorporated the viewing of the Body Worn Cameras of all officers on seen when reviewing Use of Force Reports.

Further, NH law changed in 2021 with regard to reporting any complaint of assault by a police officer. Our policy will be updated to reflect any complaints of excessive force or assaults against a police officer will need to be reviewed by the Attorney General as well.

## Summary

The highlights of this analysis are listed below:

- 29 Use of Force Reports
- 4 Suspects received minor injuries
- 3 Officer received minor injuries
- 1 Officer received an injury with loss of full time work
- 7 Officers were assaulted
- Average age of Suspects: 33.38 years old
- Average age of Officers involved in Use of Force incidents: 30.81 years old
- Average age of the Hudson Police Department: 36.47 years old.
- Average years of service of Officers involved in Use of Force incidents: 6.76 years
- Average years of service of Hudson Officers: 9.89



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