

A summary report of use of force incidents for calendar year 2019.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM POLICE USE OF FORCE REPORT

By: University of Texas System Police Academy Staff

Summary

During the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, UT System Police Officers encountered 124ⁱ situations that required the use of force above the level of command presence, verbal commands and low-level handcuffing techniques. This represents a 5.98% increase from the 2018 Use of Force Reports.

The 124 situations involved the uses of force against 142 individual subjects. An average of 2.15 officers were involved in uses of force against an average of 1.15 subjects. The largest number of officers involved in one event was six, and the largest number of subjects involved was three. The average age of officers involved in uses of force events was 37.73 years old (versus 37.5 for 2018). The youngest officer was 22 years of age and the oldest was 62 years old. The average age of the subjects was 31.55 years old (versus 30.74 in 2018) with 64 years old as the oldest (In this incident, officers were responding to a disturbance in a medical facility where the subject who was recently released was using Passive Resistance and Verbal Resistance. Officers used Passive Guidance measures to arrest the subject for Criminal Trespass). Three juveniles (one 13-year-old, one 14-year-old and one 16-year-old) were subjects of uses of force in disturbances in emergency rooms at medical institutions. Twenty percent of uses of force situations involved an Emergency Detention of the subject(s) (the same percentage as the 2018 report).

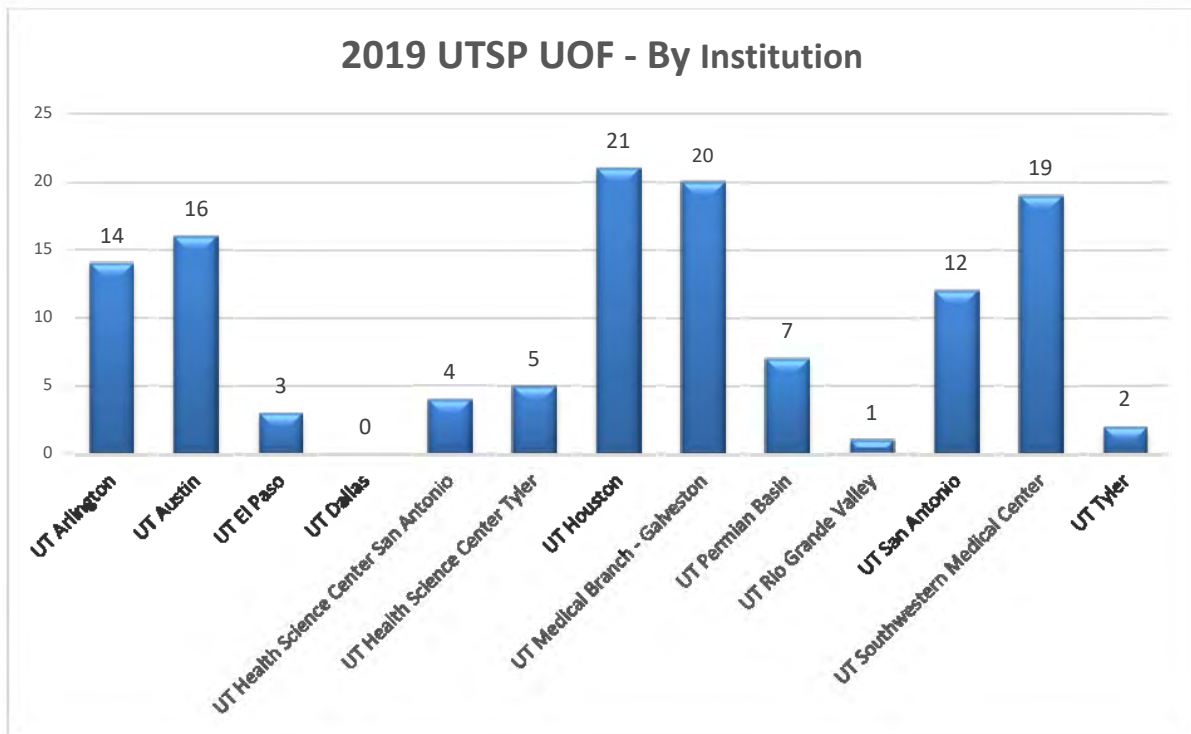
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Use of Force – Incidents	124	117	111	78	93
Taser Use or Exhibition	20	9	7	12	11
Pepper Spray Use of Exhibition	3	0	0	2	3
Baton Use or Exhibition	0	1	0	0	0
Empty Hand Tactics	74	73	67	48	47
Exhibit Firearm	26	34	26	17	26
Discharge of Firearm*	1	2	0	1	0

* Includes humanitarian euthanasia of wounded/injured/suffering animals.

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Institution

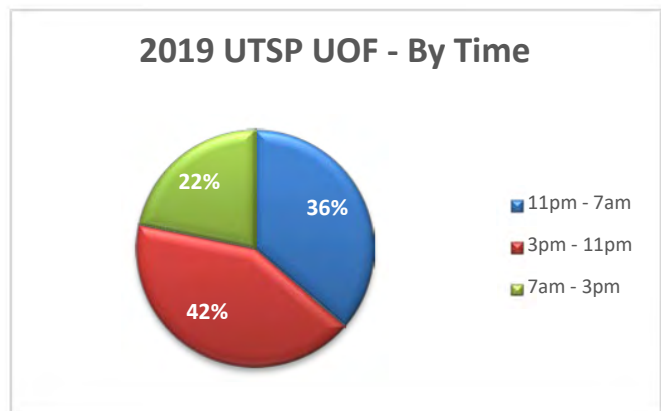
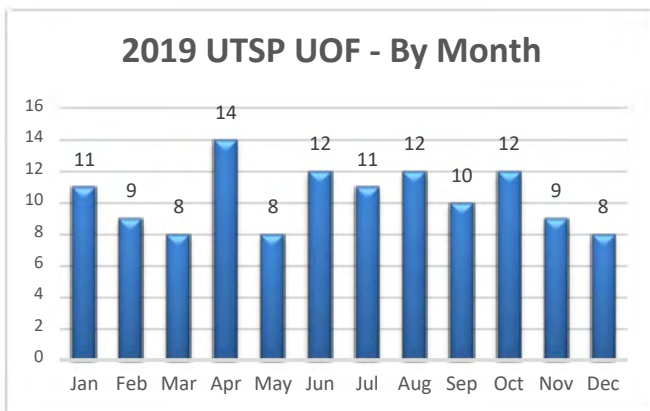
Demographically by campus, 17% of all uses of force occurred at UT Houston with 21 incidents. UT Medical Branch-Galveston had 20 use of force incidents and UT Southwestern had nineteen use of force incidents. UT Austin had sixteen incidents and UT Arlington had fourteen incidents. UT San Antonio had twelve use of force events while UT Permian Basin have seven. UT Heath Science Center - Tyler had five. Of the 124 uses of force reports, approximately 30% (37 incidents) occurred at medical facilities where officers used low level control measures to assist medical staff. UT Dallas did not report any use of force in 2019.



Date & Time

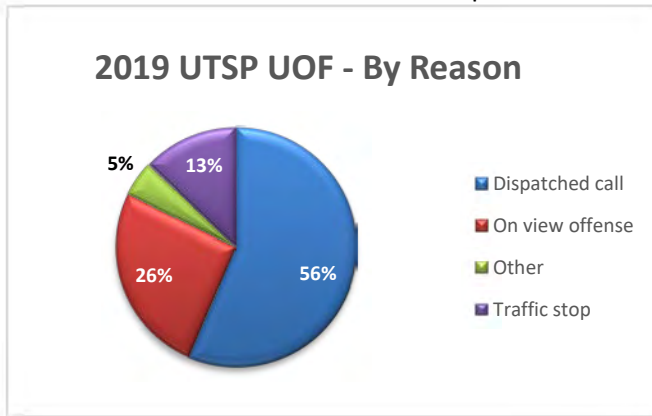
The majority of uses of force by University of Texas System Police (UTSP) officers in 2019 occurred in April with 14 incidents compared to March (total of 15) in 2018. June, August, and October had the next most occurrences of uses of force with 12 each. The months of January and July had 11 each of occurrences of uses of force.

The majority of uses of force occurred between the hours of 3pm and 11pm at 42%. The 11pm to 7am shift saw 36% of the uses of force followed by 22% for the hours between 7am to 3pm.

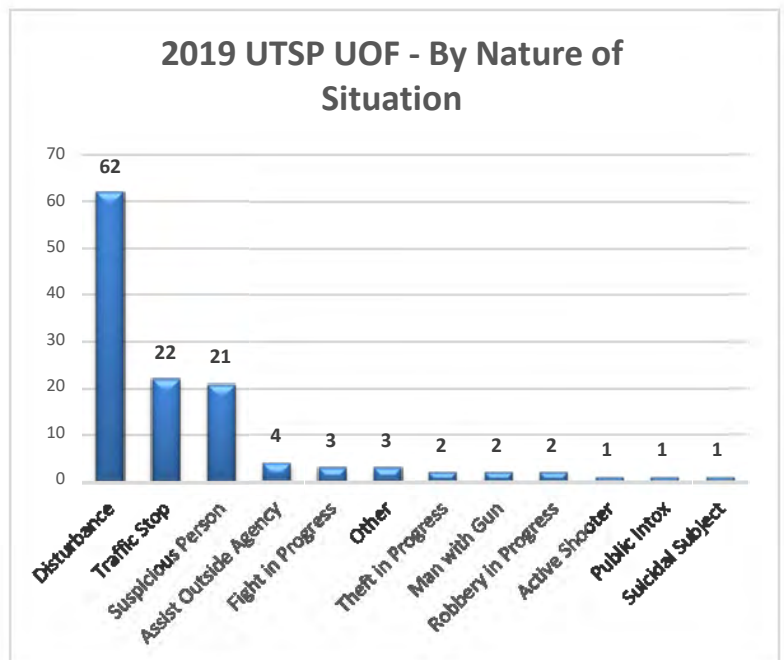


Incident Conditions

The reason for the officer and the suspects contact varied. In 56% of the reports, the incident was classified as a “Dispatched Call” in which the officer was assigned a call via the radio or telephone. Twenty-six percent of officer/subject contacts occurred when the officer directly saw the event unfold, which is classified as “On-view Offense/Incident” (32 total in 2019, compared to 30 total in 2018). Events classified as “Traffic Stop” accounted for 13% or sixteen incidents of all uses of force (compared to a percentage of 15% in 2018). “Other” (various events) made up 5% of reported uses of force.

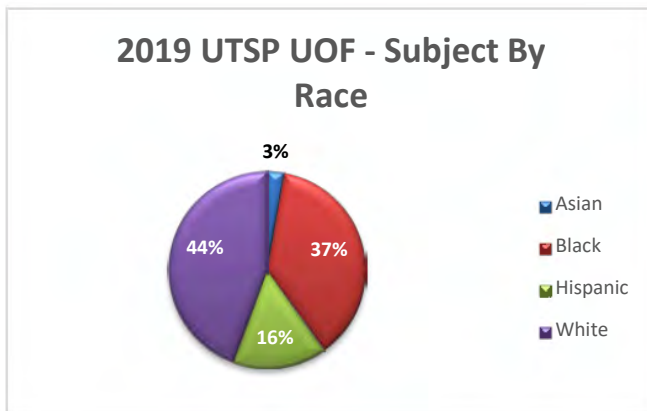
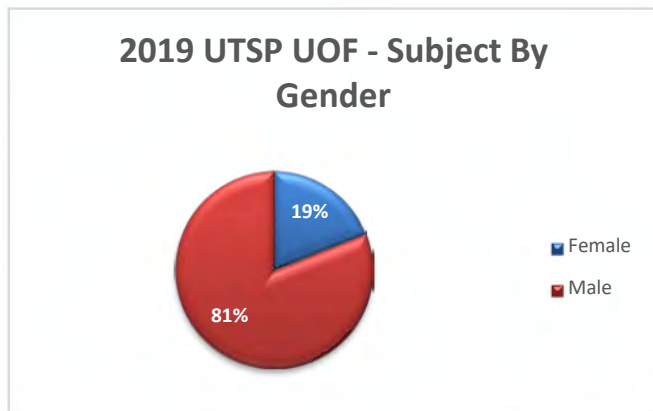


When classifying the nature of the situation in which uses of force occurred, there were several factors involved. “Disturbance” accounted for 50% concerning the nature of the situation (62 total). Other incident conditions where officers used force included traffic stops, suspicious persons, assist outside agency and a fight in progress. These four categories combined accounted for approximately 40% of all uses of force in 2019. In three incidents, officers responded to a report of a subject with a firearm including the active shooter incident that occurred in the Midland-Odessa area on August 31. Five incidents involved a subject armed with a knife. In three incidents, the subject attempted to disarm the officer of their weapon (Firearm, Taser or OC Spray).



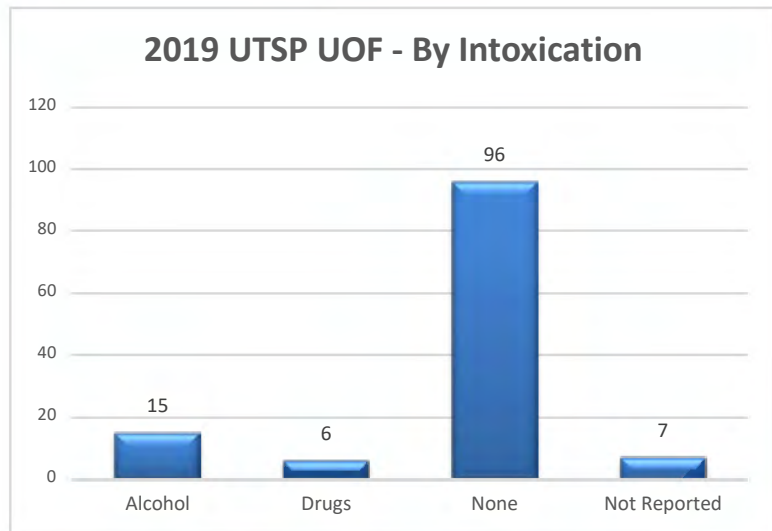
SUBJECT INFORMATION

Subject Demographics



In 2019, 81% of all subjects involved in uses of force situations by UTSP officers were male. Female subjects accounted for 19% of events. When classifying subjects by ethnicity, 44% of subjects were white, 37% were black, and 16% were Hispanic.

Subject Intoxication

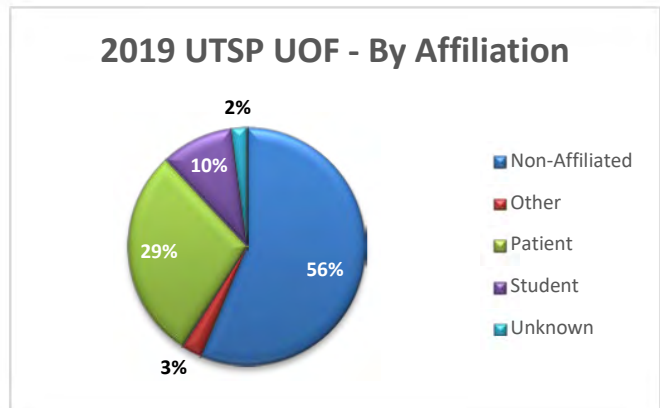


During use of force events, 12% of the subjects were under the influence of alcohol when they encountered UTSP officers in 2019, which is similar to the 13% in 2018. Another 5% were under the influence of drugs/controlled substances. This means that 16.93% of the force incidents involved subjects who were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This is the same percentage listed in the 2018 report (16.93% for 2019 versus 17.09% for 2018). In 77% of force incidents, the subject(s) were not under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In 5% of the

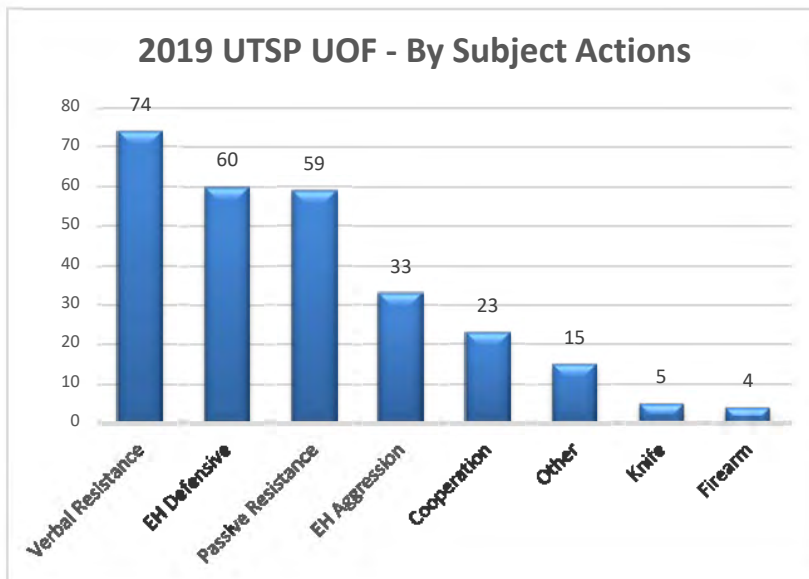
reports the use of drugs/alcohol was not indicated or documented.

Subject Affiliation

When analyzing affiliation of subjects in use of force situations, 56% were classified as “Non-Affiliated” with the institution, a decrease of 12% over last year. Twenty-nine percent of subjects were patients who were assaultive, combative or threatening physical violence to emergency room staff that occurred at the medical campuses. Ten percent were classified as students. Other/contract employees made up 3% of subjects. Two percent of the reports did not indicate the affiliation of the subject on the report and were labeled as “Unknown”.



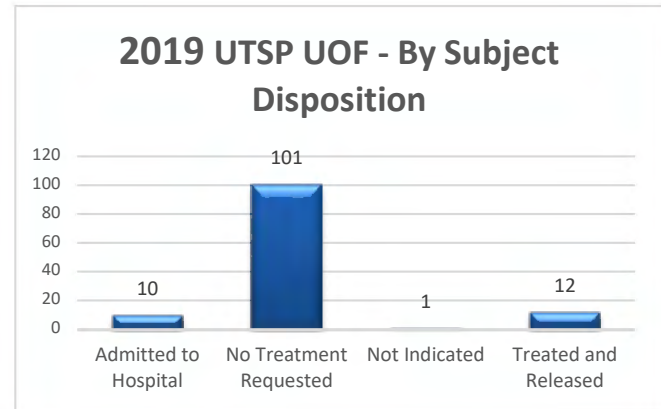
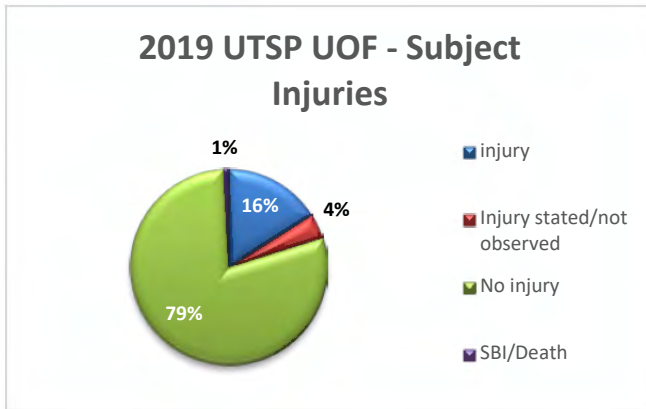
Subject Actions/Behaviors



A total of 273 separate actions or behaviors exhibited by the 142 subjects were documented in 2019. This is a 4.59% increase in the number of subject actions from 2018. Most of the actions took place in combinations where the subject exhibited two or more actions/behaviors together. Forty-nine percent of the time, subjects exhibited resistance to the officer(s) either through verbal resistance, passive resistance or both. Examples of passive resistance include dropping to the ground or using body weight to counter the officer’s

actions. In 34% of the incidents, empty hand resistance was used by the subject towards the officer(s). Examples of these actions include pulling away, pushing away or hitting, kicking and biting the officer(s). Three subjects attempted to disarm a UTSP officer in 2019. There were nine high-risk/felony stops conducted by UTSP officer(s) (or were assisting an outside agency with a high-risk/felony stop) where a firearm was displayed due to the potential danger of the incident, which represented 7% of all use of force incidents. There were four family violence situations where force was used against officers (including a Violation of a Protective Order) compared to one family violence situation in 2018. Nine incidents occurred when the officer was performing an arrest warrant.

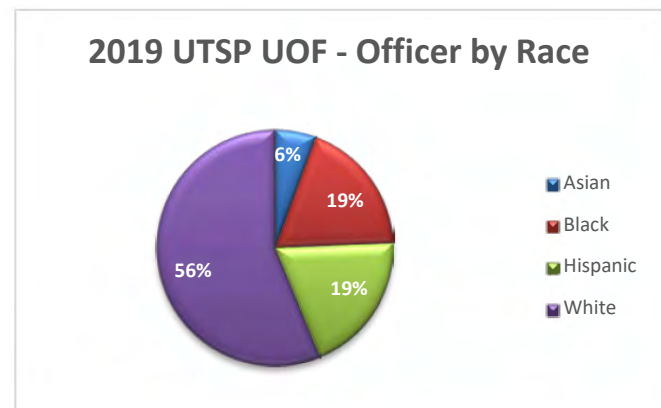
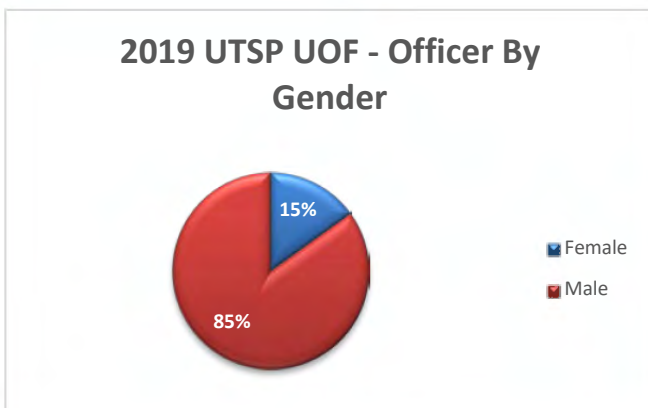
Subject Injuries



In 2019, there were 20 actual injuries sustained by the subject during the use of force event (16% of all events). In 4% (5 total) of the use of force reports, an injury was complained of by the subject(s); however, no injury was observed by the officers involved. There was no treatment required for subject(s) in 79% of use of force events. Eight percent of subjects required hospitalization due to injuries (10 total). Ten percent of subjects (12) were treated and released at the scene. The suspect in the mobile active shooter event on 8/31/19 in Odessa continued to fire on officers and ram law enforcement vehicles as the event concluded, and was ultimately surrounded by a number of officers from varying jurisdictions, including a UT Permian Basin PD officer, who then fired on and fatally wounded the suspect. This brought the multiple homicide event to a close.

OFFICER INFORMATION

Officer Demographics

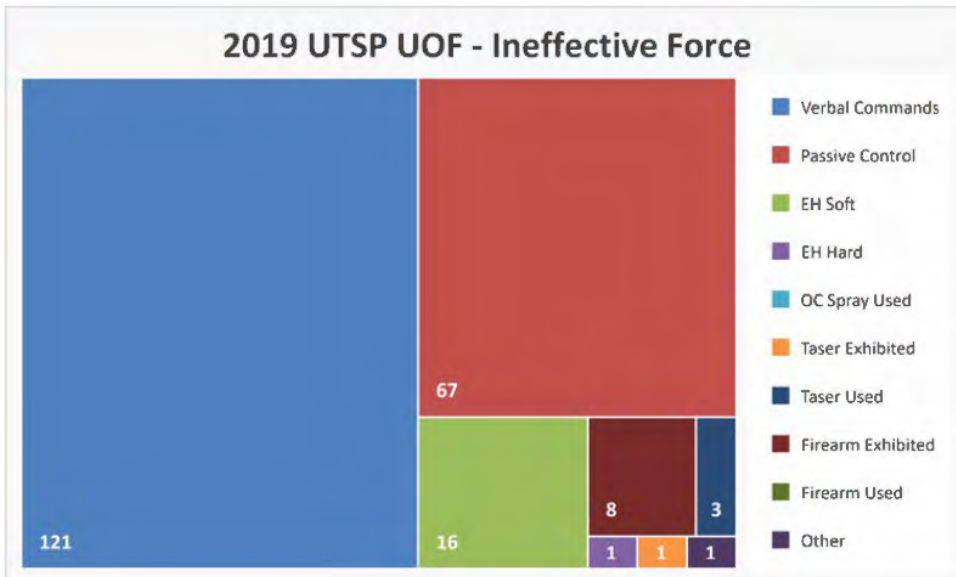
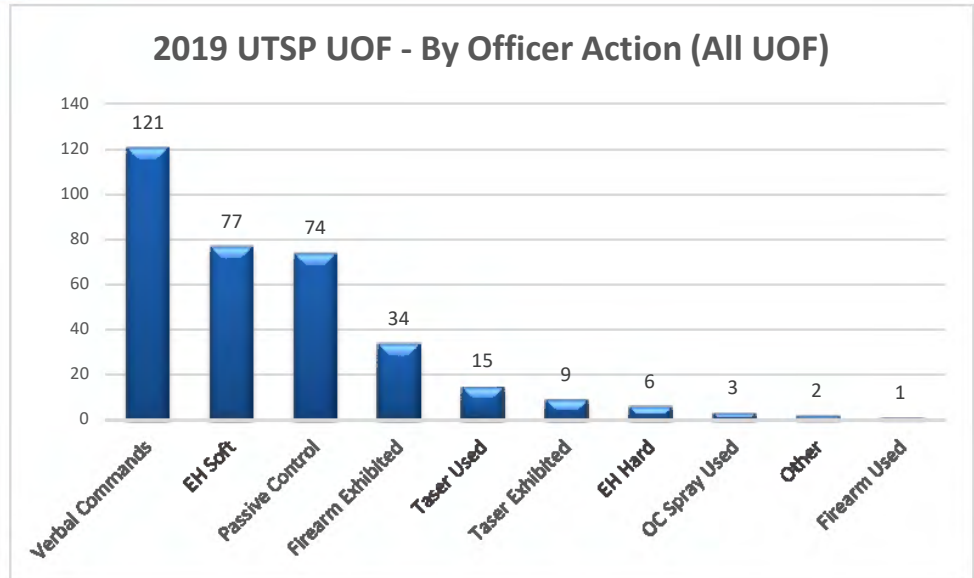


Of the 267 officers involved in uses of force in 2019, 85% of them were male and 15% were female. By comparison, in 2018 89% of officers were male and 11% were female. Fifty-six percent of officers involved in

uses of force were white, followed by 19% of officers were Hispanic, 19% were black and 6% were Asian. By comparison, in 2018 60% were white, 22% were Hispanic, 15% were black and 3% were Asian.

Officer Actions/Responses

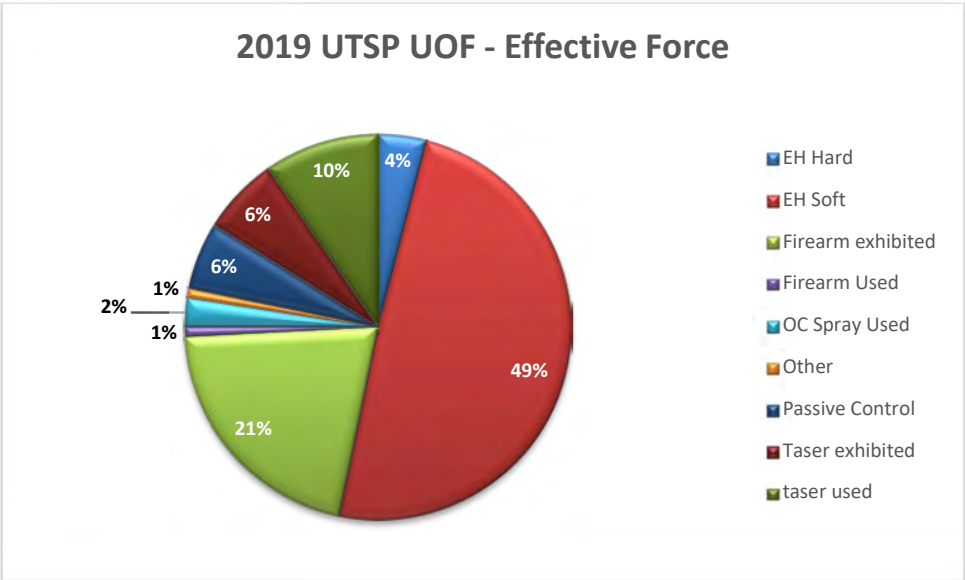
All Responses: A total of 342 separate actions/responses exhibited by the 267 involved officers were documented in 2019. These actions took place in combinations where the officer(s) utilized two or more actions together.



Ineffective Responses: Two hundred and eighteen of the force option responses selected by officers proved ineffective in gaining compliance from the subject(s). Verbal Commands by the officer were ineffective in 55% of the incidents. Examples of this include officers ordering the subject to comply, to put their hands behind their back, to stop resisting, etc. Passive

techniques (use of bare hands to guide or hold) were ineffective in nearly 31% of reports. Empty hand techniques (such as arm bars, pressure points & takedowns or striking techniques such as brachial stun or other strikes to key motor points) were ineffective in 8% of events. There were three incidents when an Electronic Control Device (Taser) was deployed but ineffective in controlling the subject due to probes missing the subject (20% of the time a Taser was used).

Effective Responses: UTSP officers took 124 separate actions that resulted in effective force responses within the Use of Force Report situations. An Empty Hand technique was the most common use of force and was effective in 53% of events. These techniques include arm bars, pressure points and takedowns or striking techniques such as the brachial stun or other strikes to key motor points to restrain an individual. Twenty-one percent of the time an exhibition of a firearm by the officer(s) proved effective in gaining compliance from the subject(s), which is 9% less than 2018 with 28%. These mainly occurred during potentially dangerous events such as a high-risk traffic stop. There were three deployments of OC Spray in 2019 and all were effective uses of force. There were 20 events where the display of an Electronic Control Device (Taser) or the actual use of a Taser by officers proved effective in gaining compliance from the subject(s) which accounted for 16% of effective use of force actions.

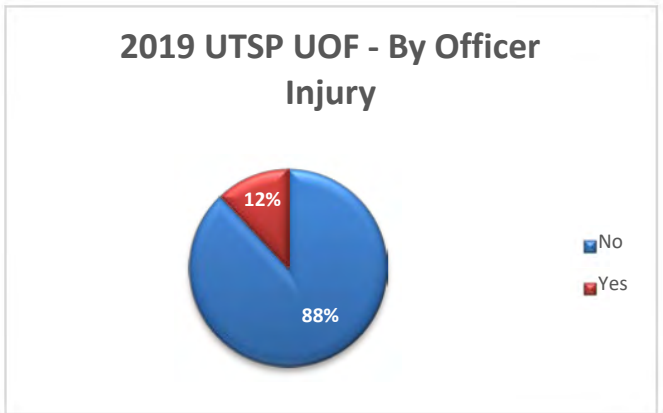


Officer Involvement; Duty Status

In 100% of the reports, UTSP Officers were on-duty at the time of the use of force events. There were no incidents in 2019 where a UTSP officer was off duty, working an off-duty job or engaged in an overtime event on campus when force was used (compared in 2018 where 9 use of force events occurred in off duty/overtime situations).

Officer Injuries

In 2019, 15 officers (12%) were injured as a result of the use of force events. No officers were hospitalized due to their injuries as recorded in the narrative portion of the DP-54.



CONCLUSION

The following conclusions can be made:

- UTSP Chiefs/Command Staff found that the uses of force by the officer(s) was necessary and reasonable in all 124 incidents.
- The UTSP Academy in collaboration with the institution department training officers will continue to assess the use of force training provided to officers against the real-world experience reflected in this report. Training will be adjusted and modified accordingly.
- This report will be distributed in full to all institution Chiefs of Police and their command staffs as well as all institution Police Department training officers.

ⁱ Delayed reports received from UTSA PD on 6/30/20 and UTPB & UT Arlington on 7/8/2020.