

Explanatory Notes

The 2022 Use of Force data includes Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) reportable uses of force and reportable force incidents that occurred between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. All data values represent information pulled from the Personnel Performance Management System (PPMS) as of March 24, 2023, followed by subsequent audits and updates. ***Totals are subject to change due to investigative findings, audits, and data improvement processes.***

As of April 27, 2023, MPD has an updated use of force policy. The data definitions below are consistent with the general order that was in place when these incidents took place in 2022: **GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force), effective date January 1, 2022.**

MPD defines use of force as any physical coercion used to effect, influence or persuade an individual to comply with an order from an officer.

A. The following actions are designated “reportable uses of force”:

- Deadly force;
- Serious use of force;
- Use of a less-than-lethal weapon;
- Any use of force indicating potential criminal conduct by a member; and
- Any use of force resulting in injury or a complaint of injury or pain where the injury or pain is directly associated with a member’s use of force.

B. The following actions are designated “reportable force incidents” as long as the use of force does not result in injury or a complaint of injury or pain. In the data, all reportable force incidents are included as one unique type of use of force:

- All solo or team takedowns, where there is no complaint of pain or injury; and
- The drawing and pointing of a firearm at, or in the direction of, another person when no other force was used.

NEAR Act Reporting Requirements

The Use of Force Incident worksheet represents information obtained from the final findings of closed cases and the original allegation(s) of open cases, which may include officers initially identified to have used force but later through the investigation, it was determined they did not use force. In addition, the records may not contain members who are later identified during an investigation to have been involved in the use of force incident but were not listed in the original allegation. We have undertaken a comprehensive process to fix these issues but as the audit is ongoing, data may be updated over time.

In accordance with the NEAR Act, MPD has included additional data fields in the 2022 use of force data set. These include the following (variable name in parentheses):

- The total number of officers involved in each use of force incident (“Officers_involved”);
- The total number of persons involved in each use of force incident (“Persons_involved”);
- If an arrest was made, the crime charged (“Arrest,” “ArrestCategory,” and “ChargeDescription”);
- The ethnicity of each person involved in a use of force incident (“Subject_ethnicity”); and
- The age and ethnicity of any officer involved in a use force incident (“OfficerEthnicity” and “OfficerAge”). The ethnicity field is not required for submission and is often left blank, in which case it is recorded as an “NA” value.

Definitions for each of these variables are available in the UOF Data Dictionary.

Updated Use of Force Category

Previously, MPD used the category “ASP Strikes” to refer to instances where an officer used the ASP to strike a subject and also where the ASP was used as a leverage tool to gain control of a subject’s arms. In the 2022 UOF data, MPD has split this category into two in order to more accurately reflect the two different uses of this tool. An “ASP Strike” is now used only for those instances where the officer used the ASP as a striking tool, and “ASP Mechanical” to delineate situations where the officer used it to apply leverage.