

# 2024

## USE OF FORCE IN TENNESSEE

- *DEADLY FORCE*
- *SERIOUS INJURIES*
- *FIREARMS DISCHARGED*



A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER | CJIS SUPPORT UNIT



**BILL LEE**  
Governor

**TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

901 R. S. Gass Boulevard  
Nashville, Tennessee 37216-2639  
(615) 744-4000  
Facsimile (615) 744-4500  
TDD (615) 744-4001



**DAVID B. RAUSCH**  
Director

July 1, 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation would like to present the 2024 Use of Force report. This publication which satisfies the requirements set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 38-8-131, has been produced by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's CJIS Support Center, and provides information on qualifying incidents as submitted by the state's law enforcement agencies to the TBI through the CrimeInsight Portal.

I am very proud of the efforts of all participating law enforcement agencies in the state to provide the data necessary to produce this report. Our combined efforts have resulted in a successful reporting program and the relationships necessary to produce a report of this nature.

Sincerely,

David B. Rausch  
Director



INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED SINCE 1994

## **INTRODUCTION**

Annually, the TBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division collects crime data through the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS). However, Use of Force incidents fall outside the scope of TIBRS and are therefore collected in the CrimeInsight portal using the appropriate web entry utility.

According to TCA § 38-8-131, law enforcement agencies are required to “establish a use of force reporting system that allows for the agency to effectively review and analyze all use of force incidents.” From the data collected pursuant to this statute, the TBI is able to compile all submitted information to put together a statewide report to be released publicly and to the legislature. The TBI has participated in the National Use of Force data collection since 2017.

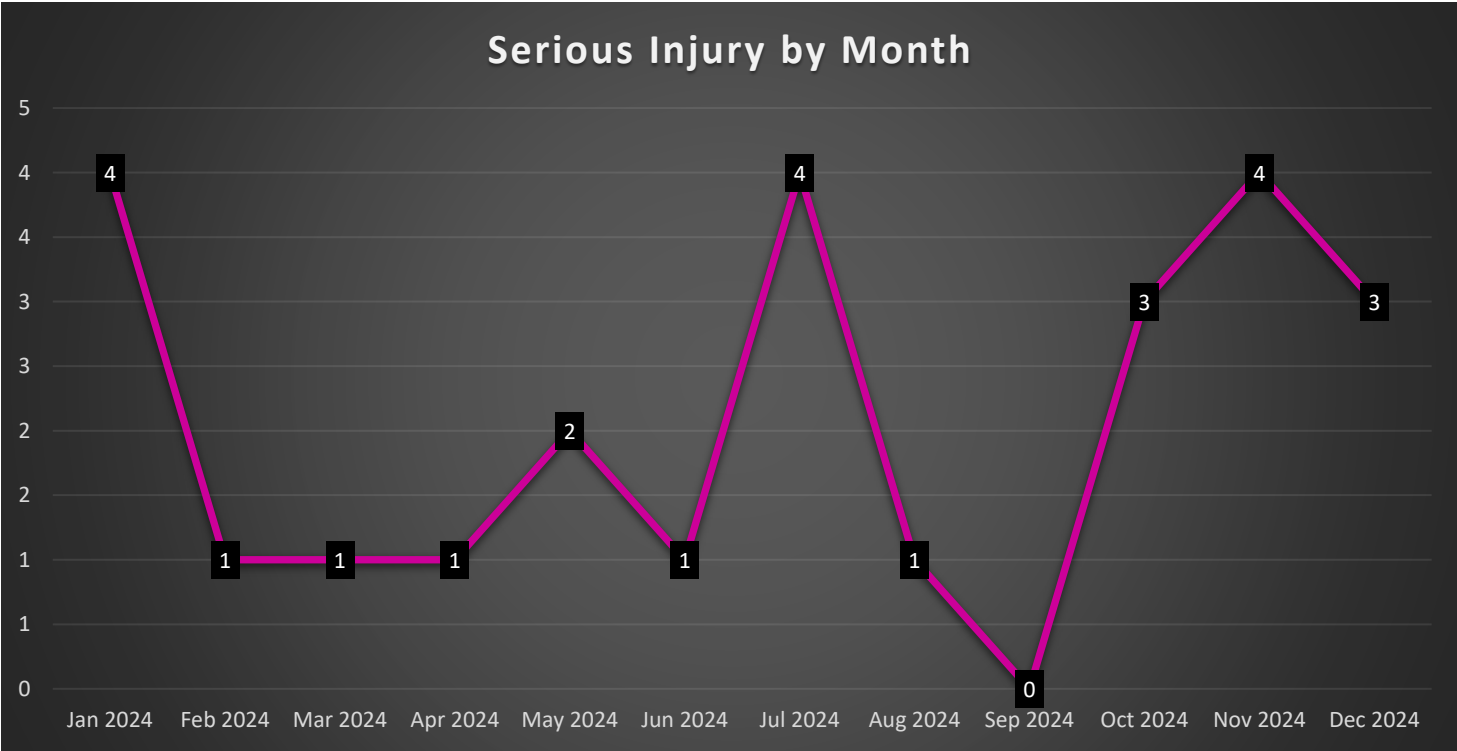
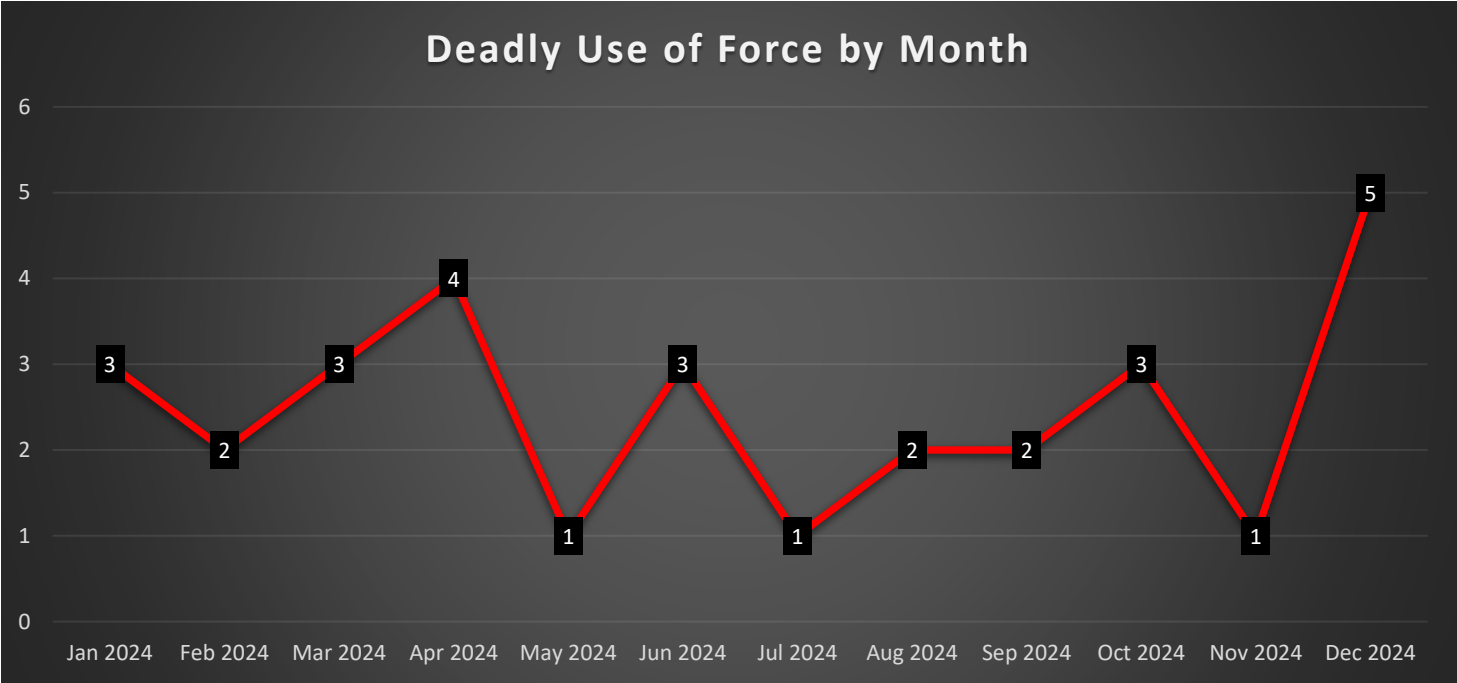
With current collection criteria, Use of Force incidents may be separated into three categories: the death of a person due to law enforcement use of force, the serious injury of a person due to law enforcement use of force, and the discharge of a firearm by law enforcement at a person not resulting in death or serious injuries. For the purposes of data reported, serious bodily injury is defined by 18 United States Code Section 2246 (4) as “bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.” Please note that this data is examining only use of force incidents made outside of correctional facilities. For data regarding correctional facilities, please refer to the Law-Enforcement Related Deaths publication which contains information pertaining to deaths in custody.

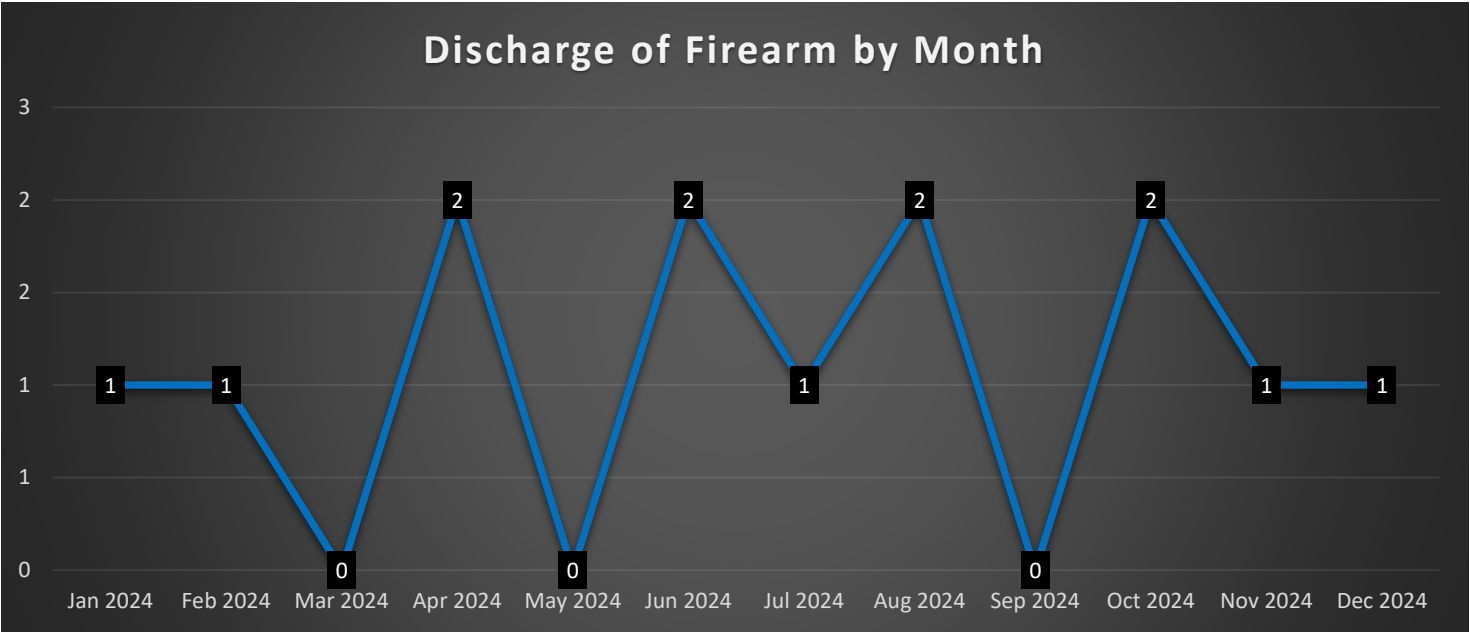
## **METHODOLOGY**

Each employing agency is responsible for submitting a report for its own officers connected to incidents meeting the criteria of data collection. The data in this publication is submitted to the TBI by their respective agencies. TBI does not edit or alter this data in any way, all data is presented as it was received.

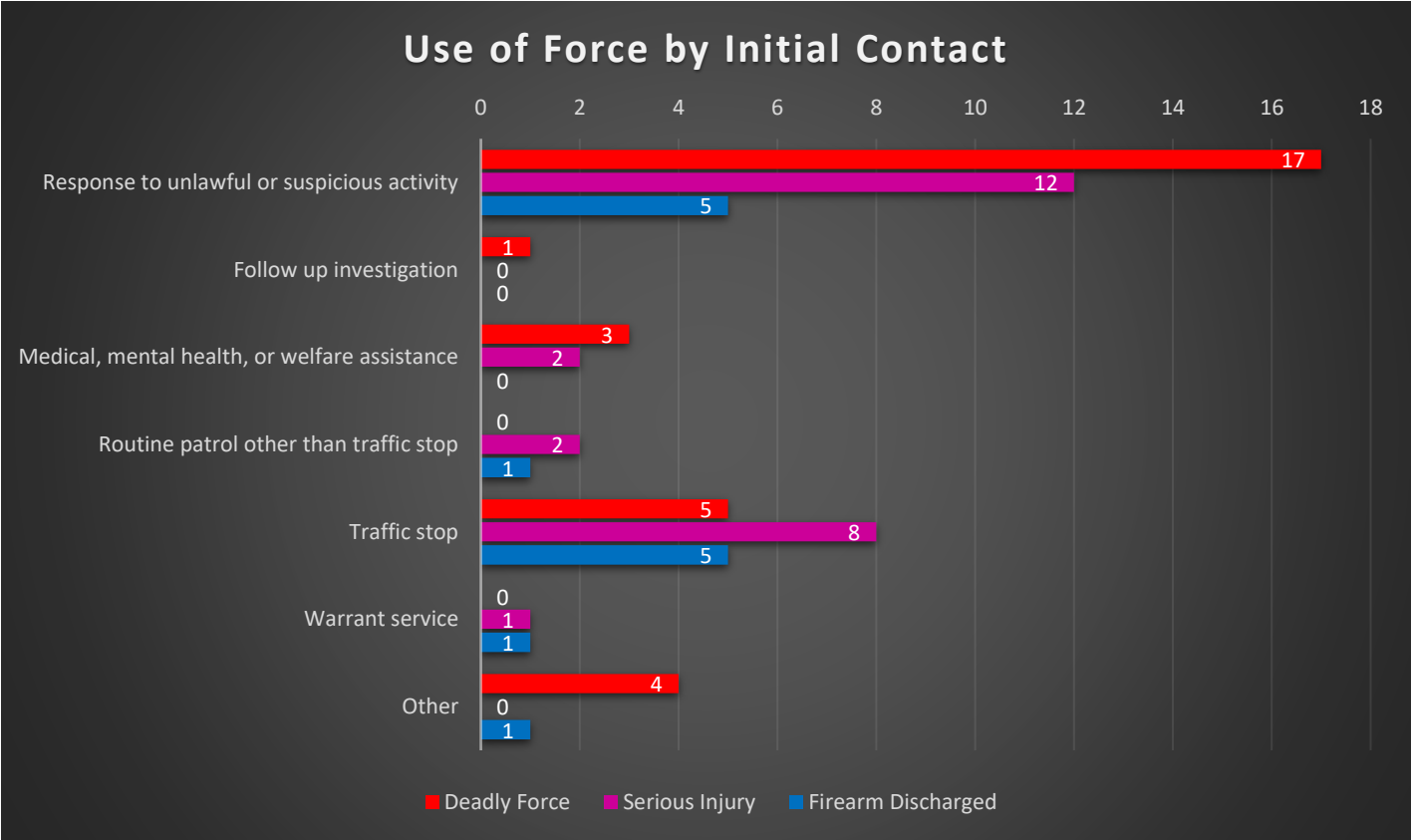
# USE OF FORCE IN 2024

As noted above, the incident categories for Use of Force are death of a person due to law enforcement use of force, serious injury of a person due to law enforcement use of force, and discharge of a firearm by law enforcement at a person not resulting in death or serious injury. To make data more legible, these categories will be referred to as Deadly Force, Serious Injury, and Firearm Discharged respectively for the remainder of the publication. In 2024, a total of 68 Use of Force incidents were reported. The breakdown of type by month is illustrated below.

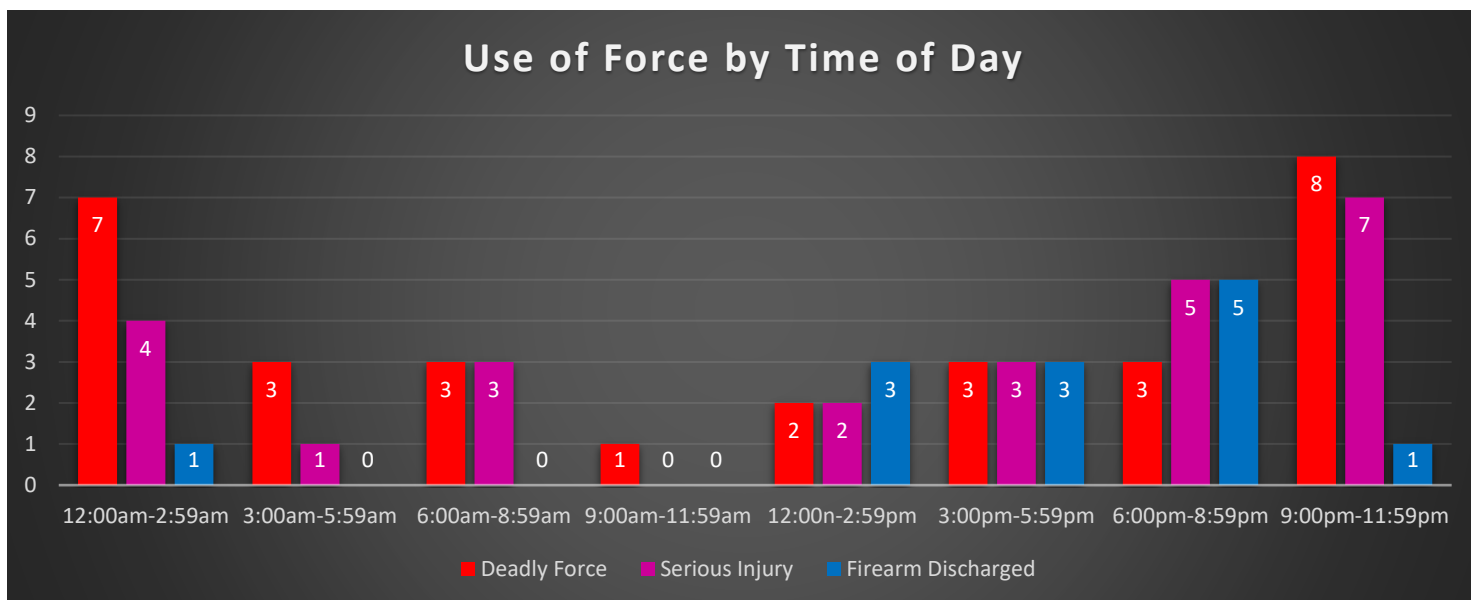




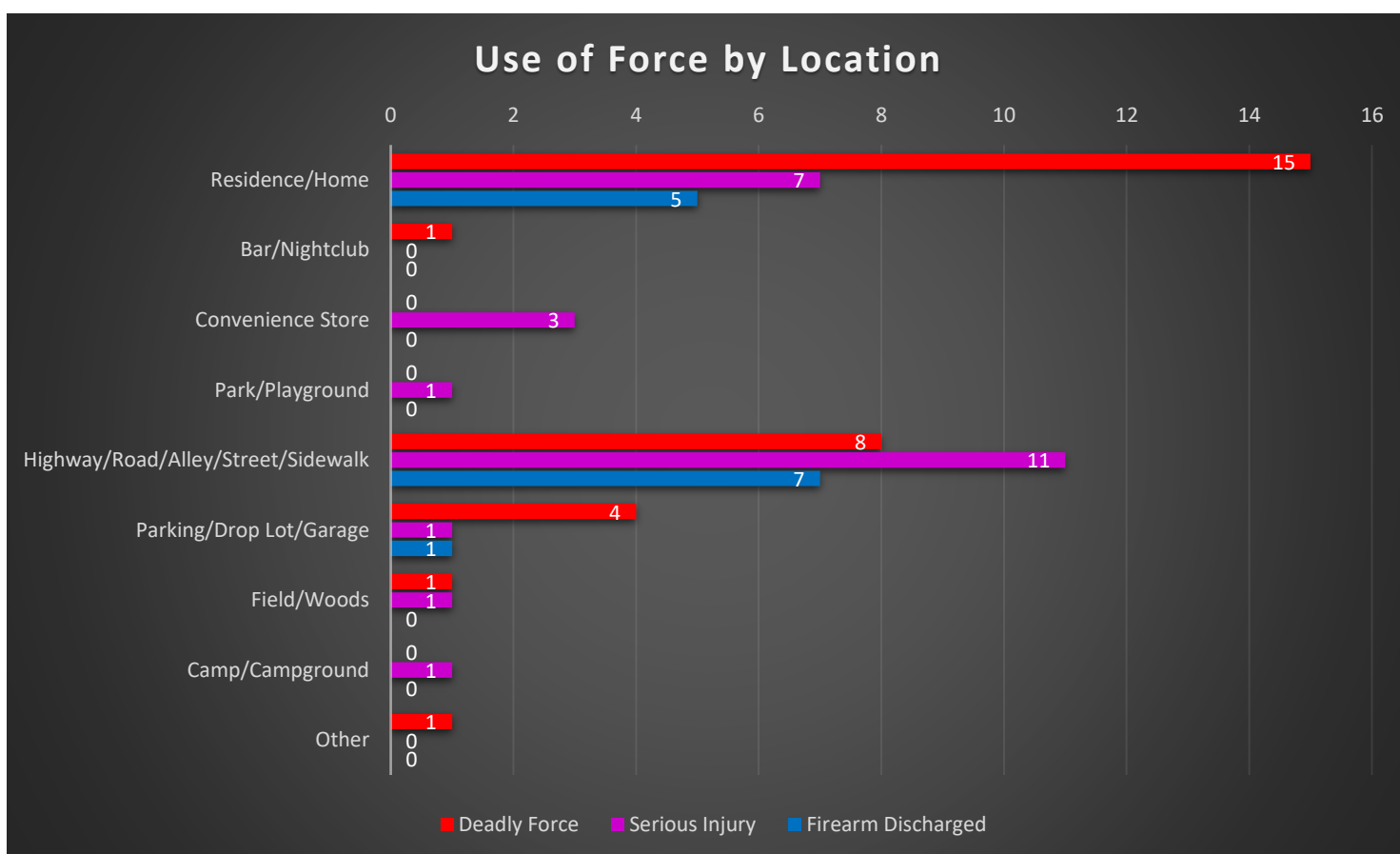
In 2024, 44.12% of Use of Force incidents were Deadly Force, 36.76% were Serious Injury, and 19.12% were Firearm Discharged. December had the highest total amount of Use of Force incidents with 9, or 13.24% of the total, while September had the fewest with 2, or 2.94%, both of which were Deadly Force.



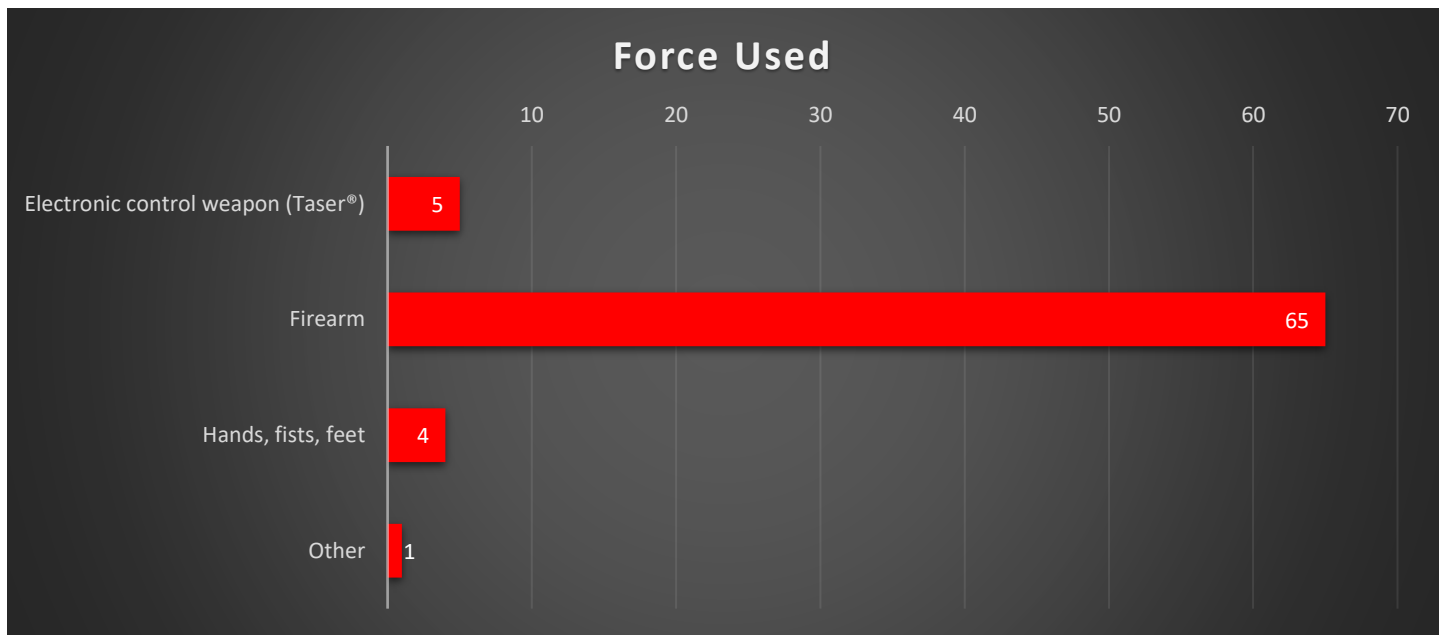
One of the aspects tracked in a Use of Force incident is the circumstances under which initial contact was made. Of these categories, the most frequently reported for all types was “Response to Unlawful or Suspicious Activity”, comprising exactly half of incidents. The other Initial Contact type that showed a significant occurrence was Traffic Stop at 26.47%. The other types of Initial Contact all had occurrences of under 10.00%.



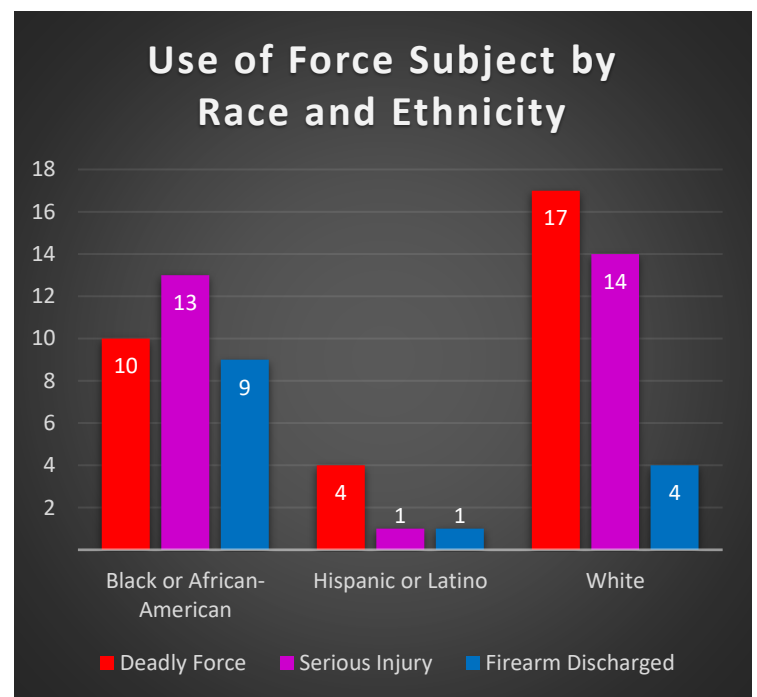
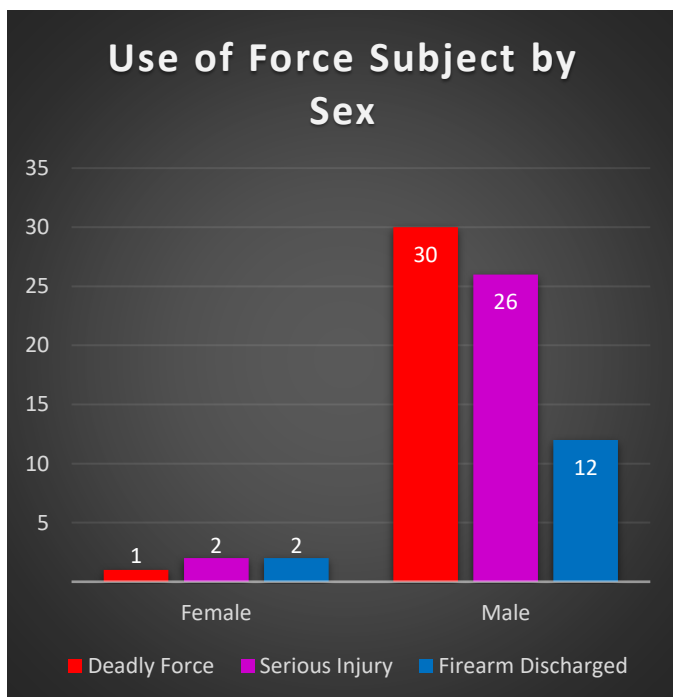
Examining Use of Force incidents by time of day showed the most commonly reported time was in the evening with 9:00pm-11:59pm comprising 23.53%. Use of Force primarily occurred in the afternoon into early morning hours, and a sharp drop occurred during the mid-day. The lowest amount of occurrences happened between 9:00am-11:59am with 1.47% of reported incidents.



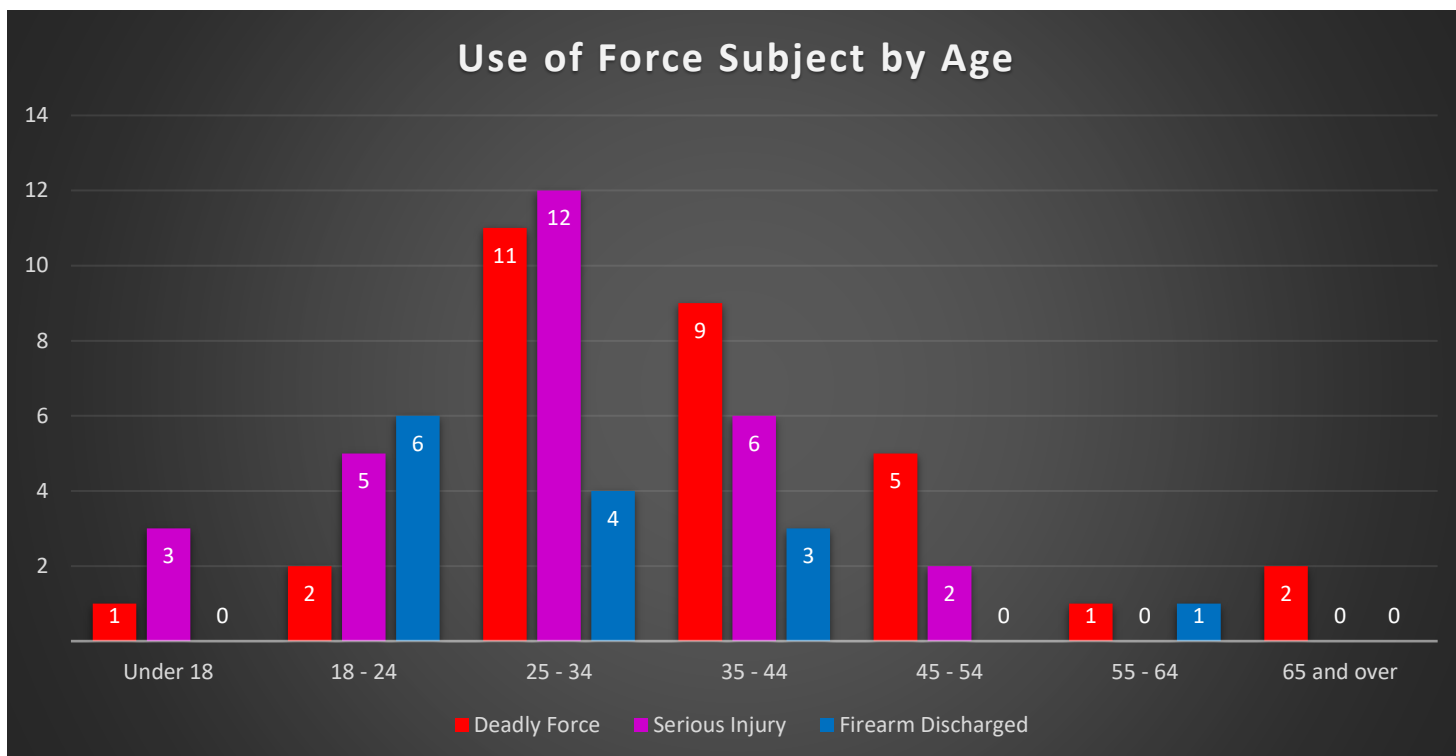
The most commonly reported location type for a Use of Force incident to occur is Residence/Home, comprising 39.71%. The other sizably reported location for Use of Force incidents of all types was Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk at 38.24%.



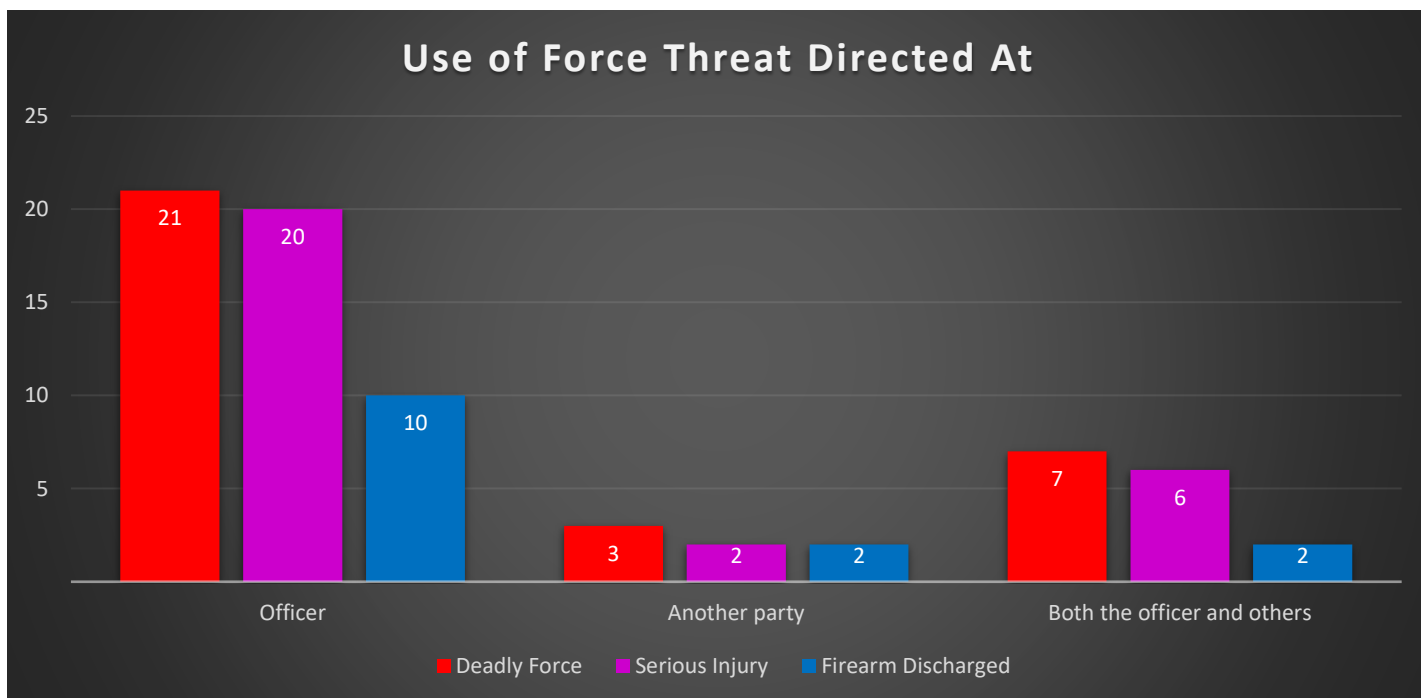
The Type of Force Used is a data element that may include multiple types per incident. The category of Firearm is by far the most reported at 86.67% of reported force types. Beyond that, Electronic Control Weapon (Taser) was the second most reported type at 6.67%.



Examining those who were subjected to Use of Force by sex reveals that they are almost entirely composed of Males, at 93.15% of subjects. When looking at the race and ethnicity of those effected, they mainly fell into the categories of White or Black/African-American, at 47.95% and 43.84% of reports respectively. Please note, a Use of Force incident may have multiple subjects, leading to a change in overall reported numbers.



The ages of those who experienced Use of Force are distributed somewhat unevenly with the age range most frequently reported being 25-34 at 36.99%. This age group had twice as many Serious Injury reports as the 35–44 bracket, which had the second-highest number.



Lastly, we examined how subjects were behaving with regard to threatening others prior to the Use of Force. In 69.86% of incidents, a subject's threat was reported as being solely towards law enforcement. In only 7 incidents, or 9.59%, was a Use of Force directed toward someone solely threatening another party.



## Use of Force by County

Deadly Force by County	
County	Number of Incidents
Anderson	1
Chester	1
Cumberland	1
Davidson	2
Fentress	1
Hamilton	3
Hardin	1
Knox	5
Lewis	1
Madison	2
McNairy	1
Robertson	1
Rutherford	1
Shelby	4
Sullivan	1
Tipton	1
Unicoi	1
Weakley	1
White	1

Serious Injury by County	
County	Number of Incidents
Anderson	1
Campbell	1
Carroll	1
Cocke	1
Davidson	1
Dyer	1
Fentress	1
Grainger	1
Greene	1
Hamilton	1
Haywood	1
Knox	3
Lawrence	1
Lewis	1
Montgomery	1
Shelby	5
Tipton	1
Washington	2

Firearm Discharged By County	
County Name	Number of Incidents
Blount	2
Davidson	3
Lawrence	1
Robertson	1
Sevier	1
Shelby	4
Tipton	1



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