

2025

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



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DAVID B. RAUSCH
Director

June 30, 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation would like to present the 2025 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Rausch".

David B. Rausch
Director



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.

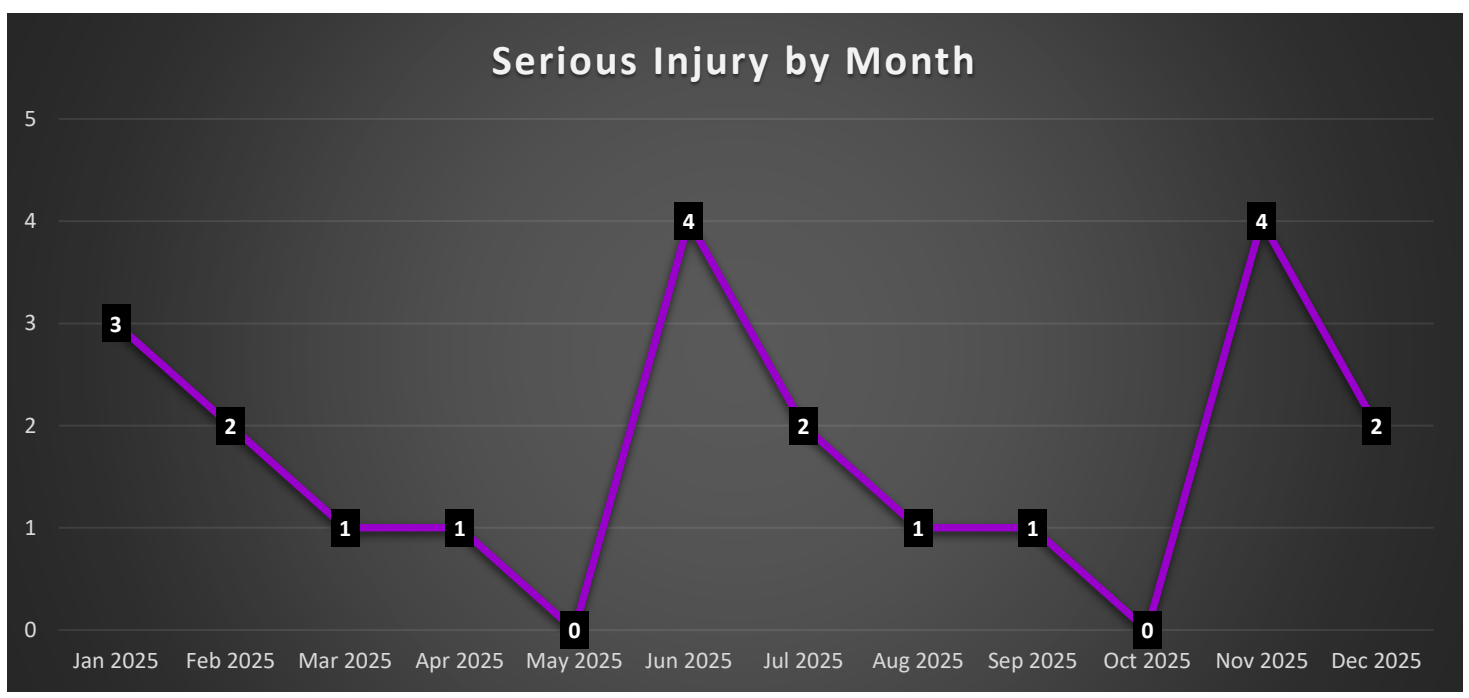
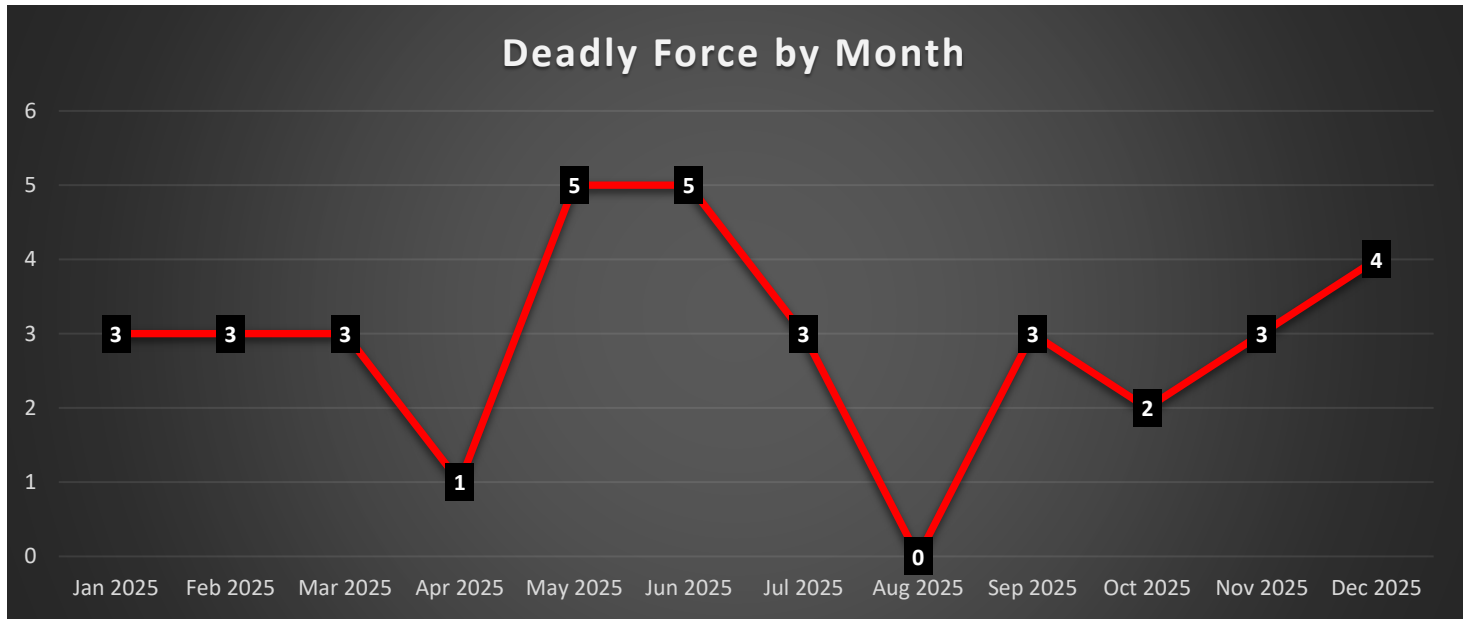
With current collection criteria, Use of Force incidents may be separated into three categories: the death of a person due to law enforcement use of force, the serious injury of a person due to law enforcement use of force, and the discharge of a firearm by law enforcement at a person not resulting in 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.

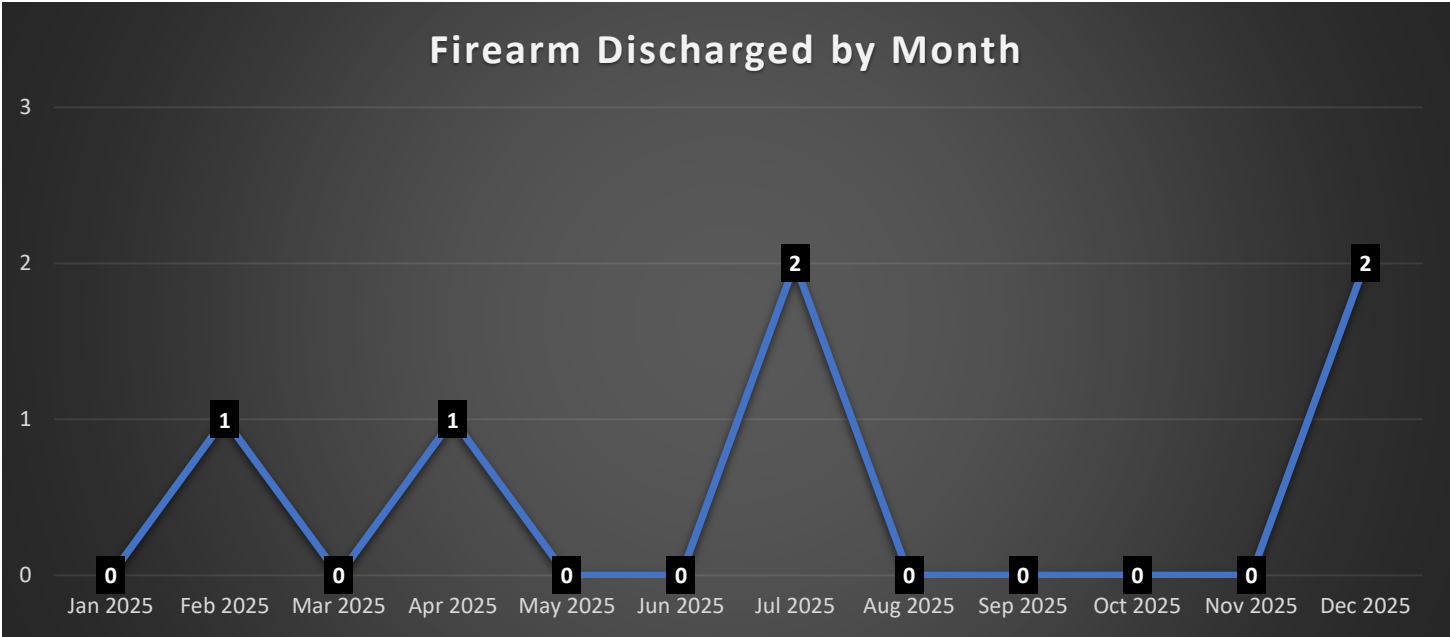
METHODOLOGY

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. All data is presented as it was received.

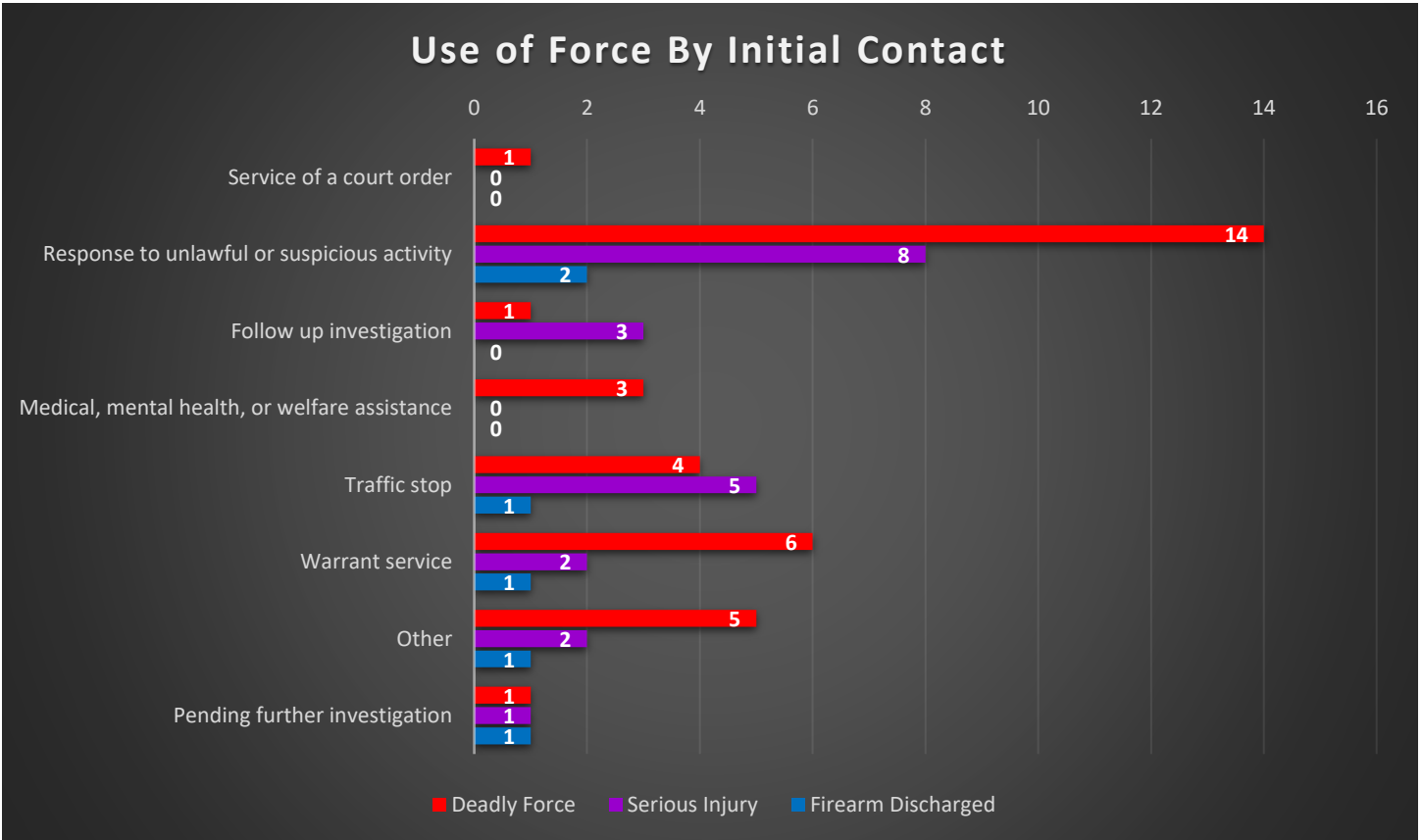
USE OF FORCE IN 2025

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 2025, a total of 62 Use of Force incidents were reported. The breakdown of type by month is illustrated below.

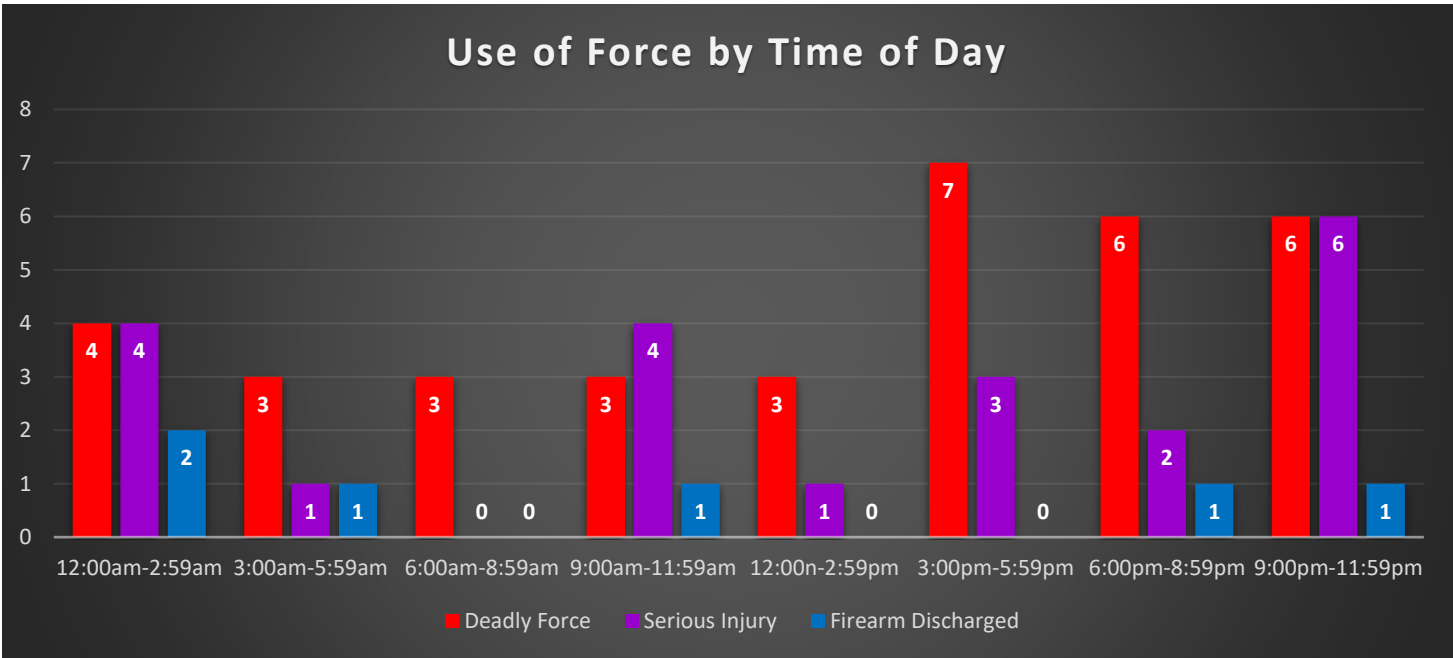




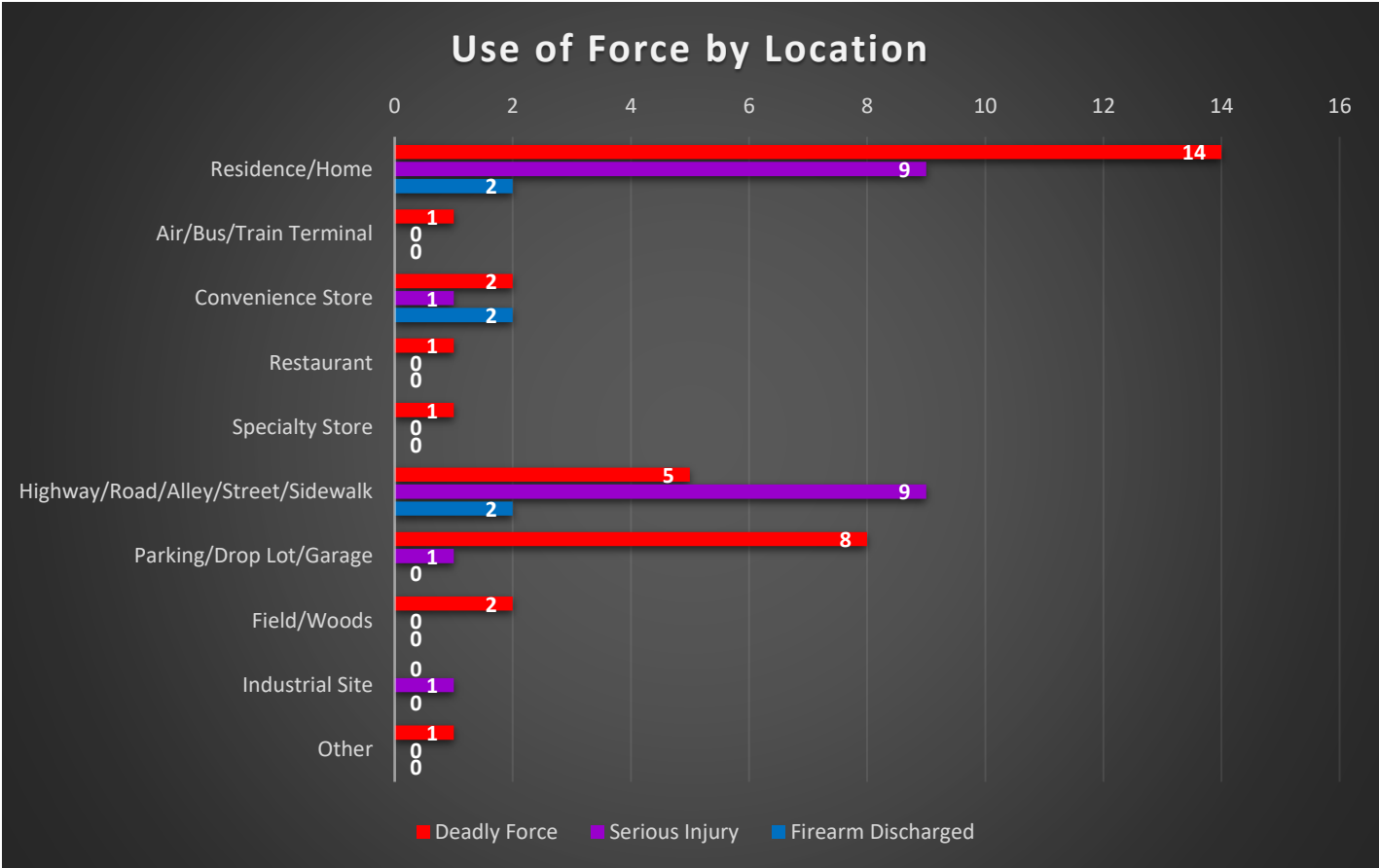
In 2025, 56.45% of Use of Force incidents were Deadly Force, 33.87% were Serious Injury, and 9.68% were Firearm Discharged. June had the highest total amount of Use of Force incidents with 9, or 14.52% of the total, while August had the fewest with only 1, or 1.61%, a Serious Injury.



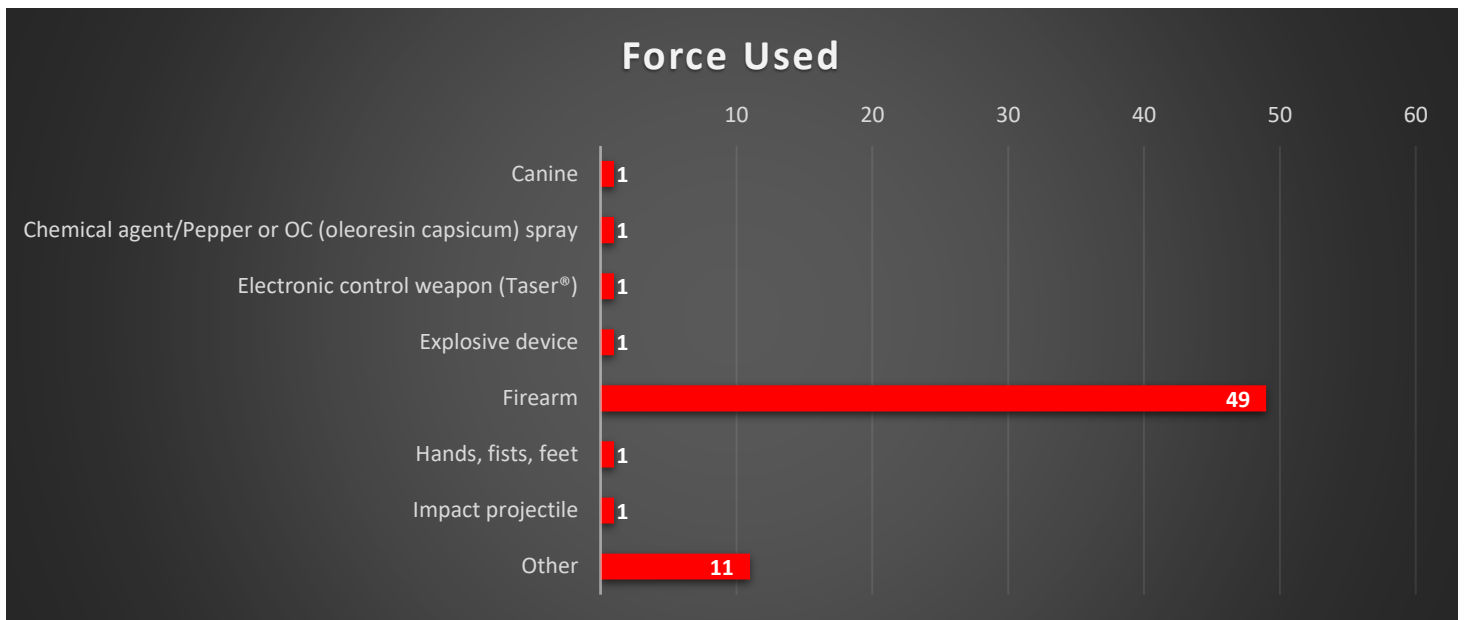
One of the aspects tracked in a Use of Force incident is the circumstances under which initial contact was made. Of these categories, the most frequently reported for all types was “Response to Unlawful or Suspicious Activity”, comprising 38.71% of incidents. The other Initial Contact types that showed a significant occurrences were Traffic Stop, Warrant Service, and Other, comprising 16.13%, 14.52%, and 12.90% of incidents respectively.



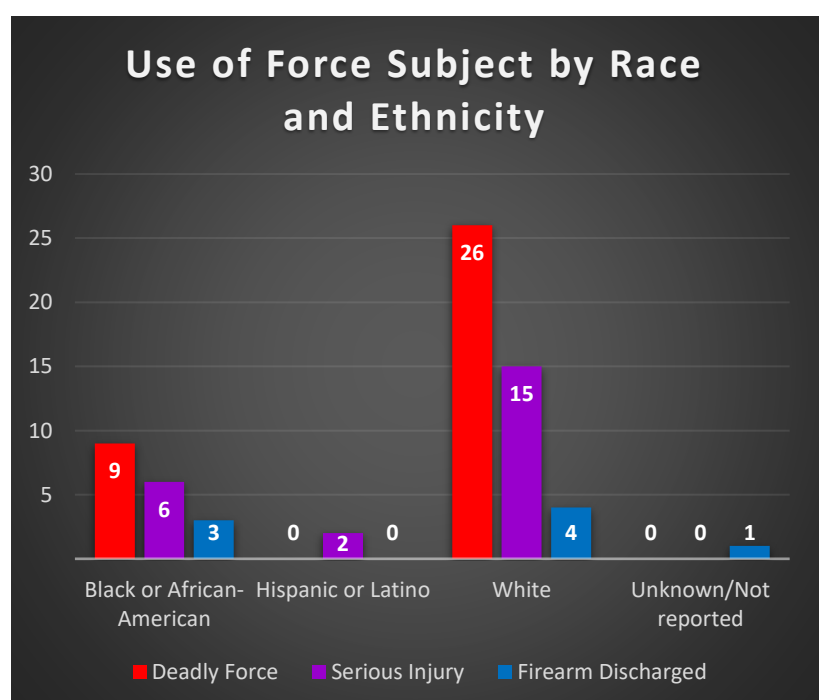
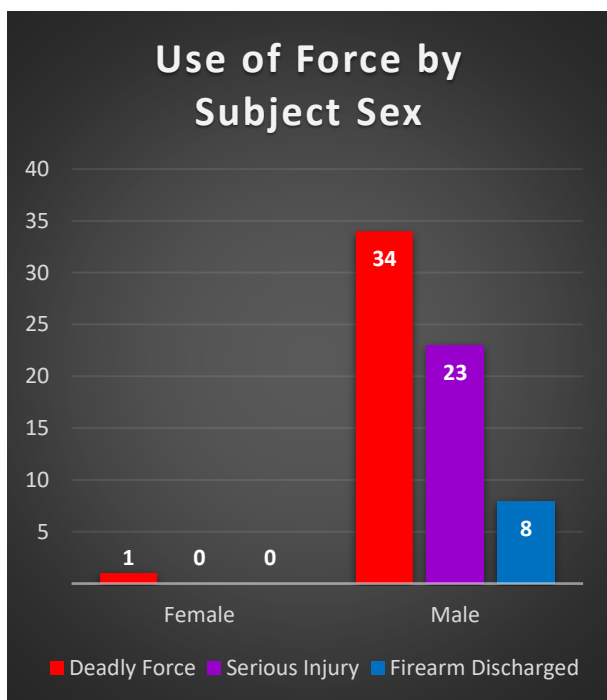
Use of Force incidents occurred most frequently in the evening, particularly between 9:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m., which made up 20.97% of reports. The fewest amount of occurrences happened between 6:00am-8:59am with 4.84% of reported incidents.



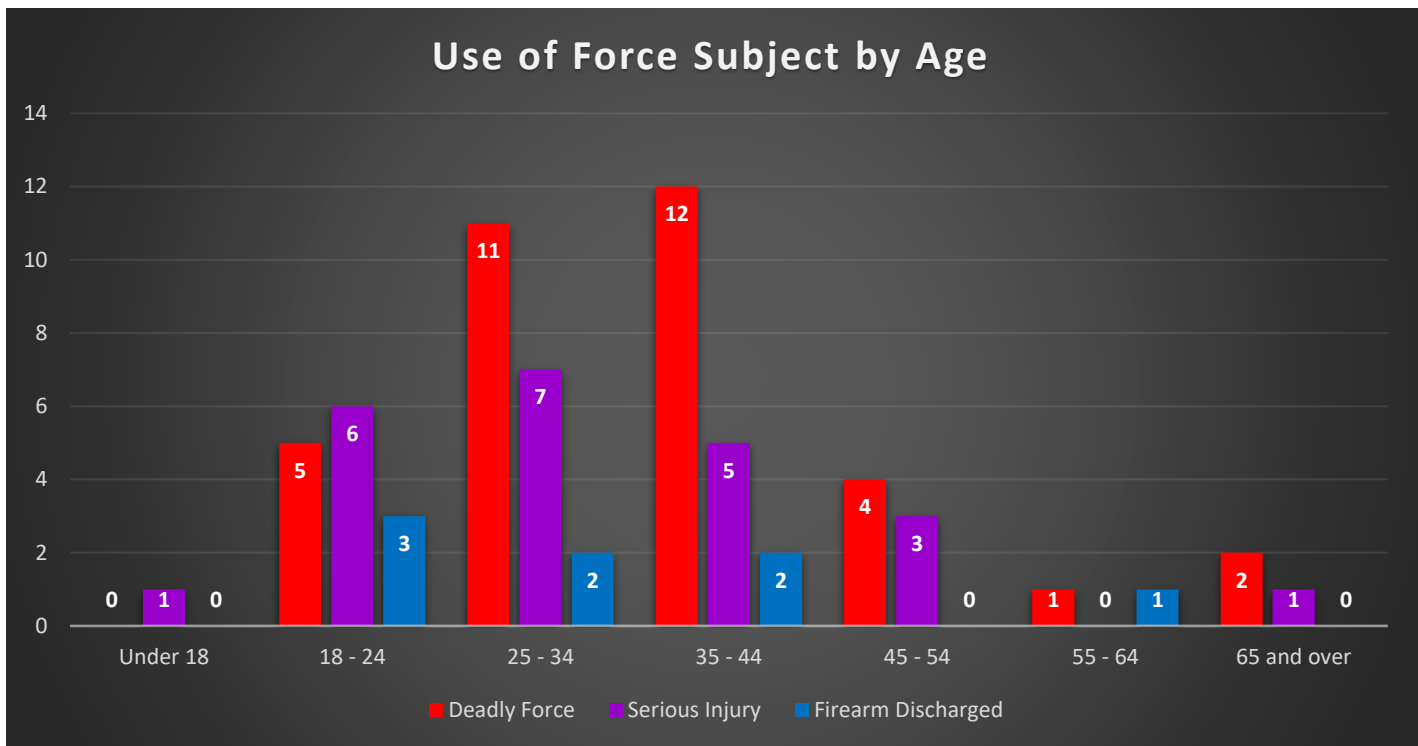
The most commonly reported location type for a Use of Force incident to occur is Residence/Home, comprising 40.32%. The other sizably reported location for Use of Force incidents of all types was Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk at 25.81%.



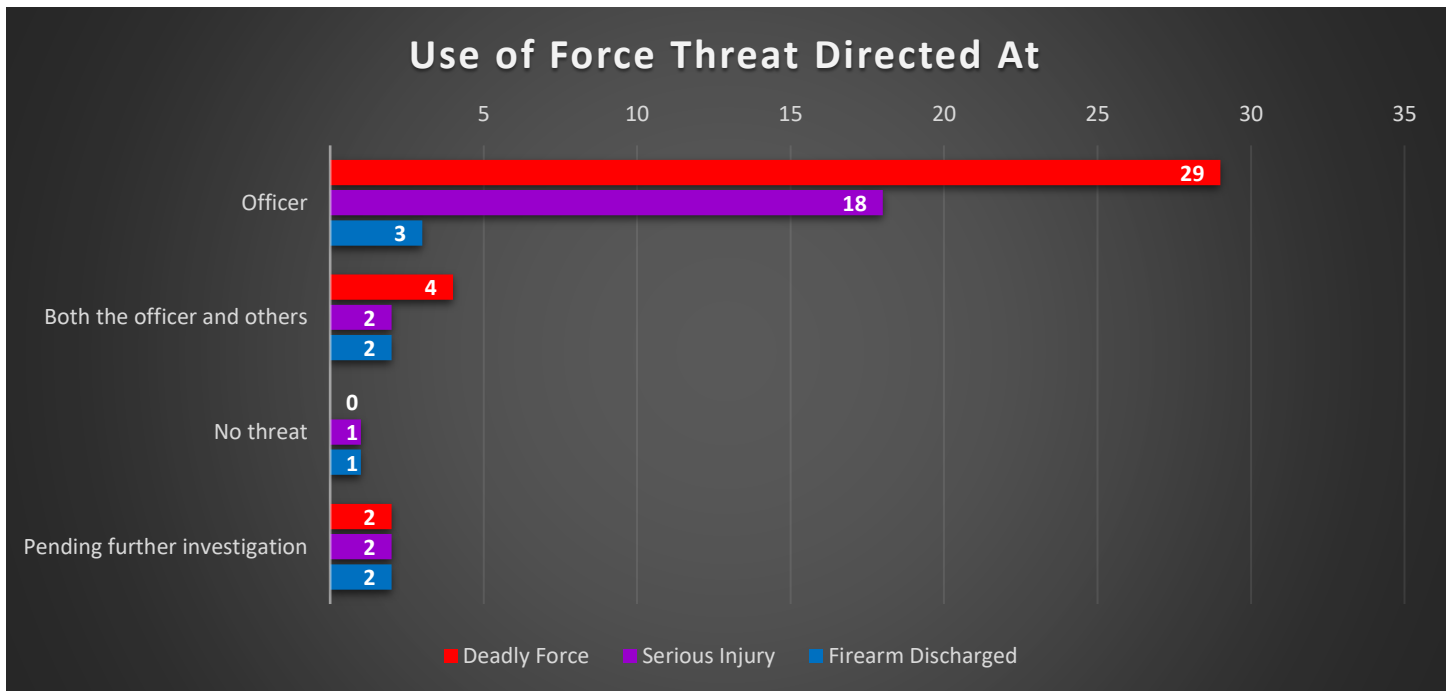
The Type of Force Used is a data element that may include multiple types per incident. The category of Firearm is by far the most reported at 74.24% of reported force types. Beyond that, Other was the second most reported type at 16.67%.



Examining those who were subjected to Use of Force by sex reveals that they are almost entirely comprised of Males, at 98.48% 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 68.18% and 27.27% of reports respectively. Please note, a Use of Force incident may have multiple subjects which leads to a change in overall reported numbers.



The ages of those who experienced Use of Force tended to cluster in young adult to middle age ranges with the most frequently reported being 25-34 at 30.30%. Following with only one fewer incident is the reported age range of 35-44, making up 28.79% of the total.



Lastly, we examined how subjects were behaving with regard to threatening others prior to the Use of Force. In 75.76% of incidents, a subject's threat was reported as being solely towards law enforcement. In only 2 incidents, or 3.03%, 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
Carter	2
Cumberland	1
Davidson	5
DeKalb	1
Hamilton	5
Henderson	1
Johnson	1
Knox	2
Madison	1
Maury	2
Monroe	1
Morgan	1
Putnam	3
Rutherford	1
Shelby	5
Sullivan	1
Tipton	1
Wilson	1

Serious Injury by County	
County	Number of Incidents
Bedford	1
Bradley	1
Claiborne	1
Crockett	2
Davidson	3
Dyer	1
Hamilton	1
Hardin	1
Johnson	1
Knox	1
Madison	1
Maury	1
Monroe	2
Morgan	1
Shelby	1
Tipton	1
Washington	1

Firearm Discharged By County	
County Name	Number of Incidents
Davidson	1
Fayette	1
Hamilton	1
Loudon	1
McMinn	1
Sullivan	1



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