



# CREVE COEUR POLICE DEPARTMENT INTEROFFICE MEMO

**DATE:** February 28, 2020  
**TO:** Chief Glen Eidman  
**FROM:** Capt. J. Romas  
**SUBJECT:** Annual Analysis of Use of Force & Assaults on Officers - 2019

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide an analysis of the Creve Coeur Police Department's Use of Force activities, policies and practices, as well as assaults on officers, for calendar year 2019 and in comparison, with recent years.

## SUMMARY OF 2019 INCIDENTS

There were 35 separate Use of Force reports were completed in 2019. Of these incidents, 23 reports involved use of force on people and 12 were administrative reports. This is an increase from 2018, when there were 18 uses of force on persons.

There was no use of lethal force by officers and there were no outright assaults/attacks on Creve Coeur officers during 2019.

There was one complaint of excessive use of force; an IA investigation determined that this complaint was without merit. Each use of force incident goes through a process of supervisory review and no use of force incidents were found to be excessive.

Of those 23 incidents involving the use of force on a person:

- No incident and/or use of force resulted in a subject's or officer's death or serious physical injury.
- Of the 23 total incidents, there were 25 total subjects involved and a total of 59 officers were involved. Of these incidents, two incidents involved the use of force on two people.
- Three subjects had minor injuries; this is down from four in 2018.
- Two officers were injured; this is down from four in 2018.
- Seven incidents were CIT related (up from 5 in 2018) and, of these, three involved subjects who were also under the influence of alcohol.
- In one case, the CCPD Officer was assisting an Officer from another jurisdiction (MSHP) with a resistive subject.

## USE OF FORCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A "Use of Force" report is required when an Officer or employee:

- Intentionally or accidentally discharges a firearm, less lethal weapon or TASER except for Department required training or testing, firearms or marksmanship training, ballistic tests, legal hunting or shooting sports.

- Applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons.
- Takes action that results in or is alleged to have resulted in, injury or death of another person; or anytime during the handling of an individual or prisoner when physical force was used to control the individual.
- Is required to use a "hands on" level of control technique in excess of verbal direction and routine handcuffing of a compliant individual.
- Points a firearm, to include a less lethal weapon, at someone to establish control of an individual or situation except during a court-ordered search warrant or a hostage/barricade incident.
- Is directed to do so by a Supervisor.

**ADMINISTRATIVE USE OF FORCE REPORTS**

In 2019 there were 12 Administrative Use of Force reports written which is a notable reduction from the previous three years.

<b>Type of Force Used (administrative)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Destruction of injured animal (deer)	16	14	16	12
Firearm Discharge (accidental)	0	0	2	0
TASER deployment (accidental)	0	0	0	0
Injury, no force used on a person	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>

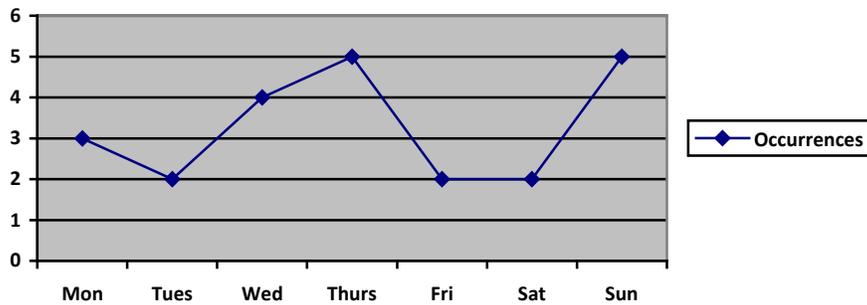
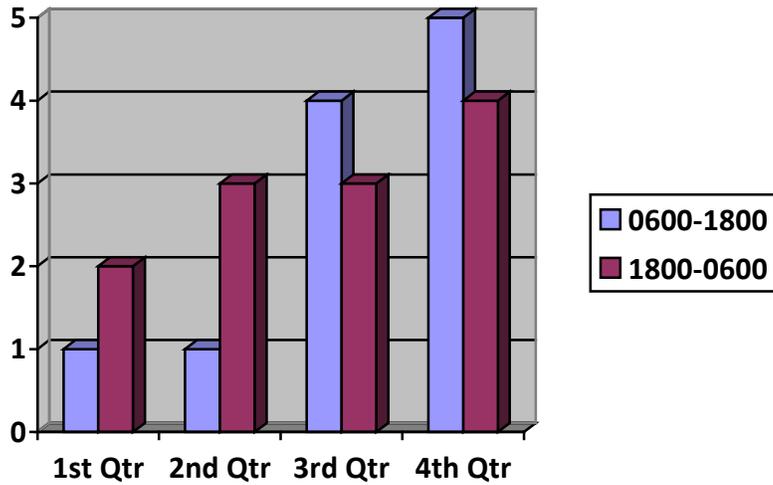
**USE OF FORCE ON PERSONS – 2019**

The 23-different use of force incidents involved a total of 25 subjects and a total of 59 officers. Incidents that Officers came upon while on patrol tended to involve fewer officers in the use of force. To the contrary, incidents that were dispatched or had a higher level of risk for a use of force to occur, tended to involve more officers:

<b>Type of Call</b>	<b>Avg. Number of Officers Involved</b>
CIT	5
Felony Stop (pursuit)	2.5
Burglary in Progress	2.5
Disturbance	2.4
Theft in Progress (Officer discovered)	2
Traffic Stop/DWI (Officer initiated)	1.7

This illustrates that dispatch and supervisory personnel recognize the need for additional Officers to be assigned to incidents that have a higher likelihood of a use of force incident occurring.

**USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS – WHEN THEY OCCURRED**



The most likely days for a use of force incident to occur in 2019 was a Wednesday night to Thursday morning or Saturday evening to Sunday morning. This coincides with past data (2016-2019) which has shown increasing chances of a use of force incident to occur in the periods between Friday - Sunday morning and Wednesday night - Thursday morning.

There was more use of force incidents in the second half of the year (July-December) than in the first half (January-June); this applied to both day and evening shifts. This also mimics prior data showing increased incidents in the second half of the year.

The St. Louis area experiences an average high temperature of 62 degrees in the first half of the year as compared to an average high temperature of 72 degrees in the second half of the year. Additionally, three of the four warmest months, July, August and September, fall in the second half of the year. Studies by E. G. Cohn (Weather and Crime, 1990) and J. L. Cotton (Ambient Temperature and Violent Crime, 1986) surmise that warmer weather has a correlation with increased crime. These statistics may support this theory.

**TYPE OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING USE OF FORCE: BY GENDER, RACE & AGE**

INCIDENT	CAUCASIAN	AFRICAN AMERICAN	MALE	FEMALE
ARREST ATTEMPT		1	1	
BURGLARY	1	1	2	
DISTURBANCE	2	2	3	1
DWI	1			1
FELONY STOP / PURSUIT	1	4	5	
SUICIDAL SUBJECT	4	1	3	2
THEFT	1	3	4	
TRAFFIC STOP / SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	1	1	2	
TRESPASSING	1			1

Vehicle stops and disturbances continue to be the most common incidents that involve a use of force, as in years past.

Race - Sex - Age										
	Caucasian									
	up to 19		20-29		30-39		40+		unk age	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2016	1	0	2	1	1	0	3	0	0	0
2017	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
2018	1	2	1	0	3	3	2	2	0	0
2019	1	1	0	1	1	1	5	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	3	3	5	2	6	5	10	6	0	0
	African Am.									
	up to 19		20-29		30-39		40+		unk age	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2016	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
2017	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
2018	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2019	2	0	4	0	2	0	4	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	4	1	11	1	5	0	4	1	1	1
<b>All Years &amp; Races</b>	7	4	16	3	11	5	14	7	1	1
<b>All Years, Races &amp; Sexes</b>	11		19		16		21		2	

The City of Creve Coeur is a diverse community, having institutions that draw a transient population, such as two major hospitals, numerous retail establishments, restaurants, shopping venues, theaters, private schools and colleges. This diversifies the population the Police Department encounters, thus, the use of force incidents also are diverse. In examining the data, there is no significant trend or pattern based upon race, gender, or age.

Although in certain years use of force incidents spiked or slowed in a given age range, there is no discernable pattern in age range and likelihood of a use of force incident. However, for all age ranges there is generally a higher likelihood of being involved in a use of force incident with a male subject vs. female subject.

There were more use of force incidents involving white females than African American females and African American males vs. white males, showing that race itself is not a determining factor if a use of force incident will occur.

The pointing of a firearm and weaponless control techniques were the leading types of force used (96%). This has been consistent in prior years (2016 - 93%, 2017 - 83%, 2018 - 83%)

**ARRESTS/CIT INCIDENTS AND USE OF FORCE**

During calendar year 2019 the Department arrested 968 people. Of these arrests, some amount of physical force, beyond pointing a firearm, was used by officers to affect the arrest of 6 of those persons. The number of times force has been used to make an arrest continues to trend lower, but many factors can affect this, making it difficult to predict (i.e. civil unrest, the economy, etc.).

<b>Arrests vs UOF</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total arrests	835	713	968	808
Force used to make arrest	14	9	8	6
Percentage	1.68%	1.26%	.83%	.74%

During calendar year 2019 the Department had 47 CIT related incidents (persons) and some amount of force had to be used with 7 of these individuals. Of those seven incidents, three CIT subjects were also impaired by alcohol.

<b>CIT vs UOF</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total Incidents	66	45	42	47
Force used	3	3	5	7
Percentage	4.55%	6.66%	11.90%	14.8%

**ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Although there was a 22% increase in use of force incidents in 2019 compared to the previous year (18 vs. 23), the overall percentage of uses of force compared to arrests went down from .83% in 2018 to .74% in 2019. CCPD Officers are making more arrests and, therefore, are involved in more uses of force. However, the frequency of uses of force when making arrests was down. This could be due in part to more emphasis being placed on de-escalation and more officers CIT trained, using CIT techniques.

A majority of the use of force incidents involve male subjects; only 5 were female. There is not a single dominate age range for the subjects involved, although the average of all the ages combined was 41 years of age.

Weapon pointing is the primary use of force with weaponless control techniques being the second most common type of force used. No incident and/or use of force resulted in a subject's or officer's death or serious physical injury. Although there were minor injuries, usually a minor scrape or small laceration incurred during the incident, there are no identifiable trends in regards to any increase in injury to suspects or Officers.

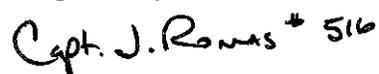
The examination of the 2019 Use of Force incidents revealed no concerns regarding any one officer's involvement in multiple uses of force. The type of force used was appropriate for each situation. No pattern of undue or excessive force was observed and the officers involved used only that force necessary to protect the public, legally arrest, overcome physical resistance or to protect themselves from assault. This reflects the fact that CCPD Officers are remaining professional, using force in accordance with law and policy, showing restraint and properly reporting the incidents.

The review and analysis for 2019 has not revealed any patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and/or policy modifications.

The use of force reporting tool lacks a description box for Officer and suspect injuries. Currently Officers are describing injuries in their CARE reports. I will follow up with IT to have this box added to the use of force reporting tool, which will make year-end analysis criteria more accurate.

Based upon this review and analysis, there appear to be no patterns or trends that would suggest an impact to training, equipment and practices, or modification to Department policy, procedure, or directive other than the minor edit to the reporting form noted above.

Respectfully submitted,



Capt. J. Romas DSN 516

CALEA ref: 4.2.4 and 4.2.5