

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS AND REVIEW



Mission Statement

“To preserve the peace and to protect our community with fairness, integrity, pride, and respect.”

Use of Force Analysis and Review

Overview

In accordance with the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC) a 2020 Use of Force Analysis and Review was conducted. Statistics are collected through yearly Use of Force reports and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) incidents. Use of Force reports are administrative reports that are separate from the incident report completed for CAD events. This analysis provided an overview of how Bloomfield Township Police Department is performing when it comes to Use of Force incidents, training, and policy review.

The officers of Bloomfield Township Police Department follow the guidelines set forth by the United States Supreme Court rulings in *Graham v. Conner* and *Tennessee v. Gardner*. The Department's Use of Force training goes beyond addressing force options, level of resistance, and case law. Use of Force training emphasizes gaining compliance through understanding of psychological factor, using effective communication skills, and other techniques designed to de-escalate situations when possible, and minimize the amount of force used.

Use of Force Policies

The Department divides Use of Force into two separate policies. Policy 4.01c is titled Deadly Force and states, *"The Bloomfield Township Police Department recognizes and respects the value of each human life. Therefore, it is the policy of this Department that police officers shall use only that force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the officer or another."*

Policy 4.02c is titled Use of Less Lethal Force and states, *"It is the policy of the Bloomfield Township Police Department to utilize the amount of force that is reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and others. The Use of Force must be objectively reasonable in affecting a lawful arrest and/or in the lawful performance of duty. Police Officers are obligated to protect the rights and ensure the health and well-being of*

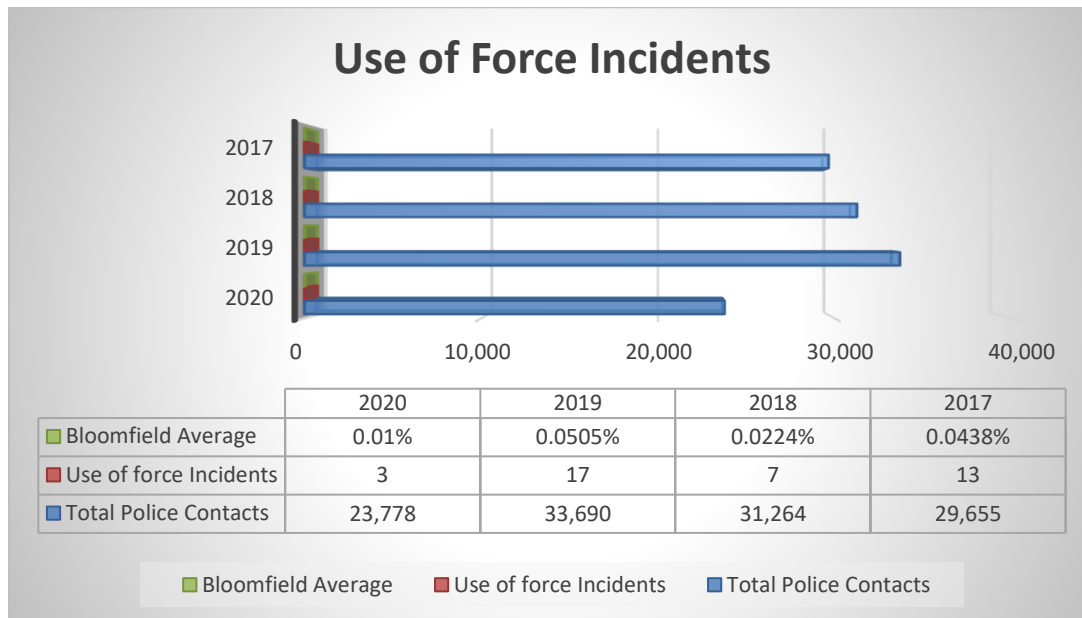
the public, including those accused of committing crimes, and /or those persons taken into protective custody.”

This year a duty to intervene policy was developed and added to the Department’s written directives. Policy 4.06 is titled Duty to Intervene and states, *“It is the policy of the Bloomfield Township Police Department that officers have an affirmative duty to intervene on behalf of a citizen whose constitutional rights are being violated in the presence of other officers. Bloomfield Township police officers shall intervene when they observe or hear conduct by a fellow member of this agency or any other law enforcement agency.”*

Use of Force Incidents

In 2020, calls for service decreased 29% from 2019 due to the COVID 19 virus. The department responded to 23,778 calls for service resulting in 3 Use of Force incidents for a total of .013% incidents involving force. This is a .038% decrease in the Use of Force incidents compared to 2019. In all three (3) incidents, the force used was within Department policy, procedure, and Michigan State Law. Figure A. shows a four (4) year comparison of force and calls for service.

Figure A.



Use of Force Demographics

A four (4) year breakdown regarding Use of Force with relation to race and gender is illustrated in Figure B and Figure C. In 2020, the average subject was 29 years of age. The oldest subject was 35 years of age and the youngest was 20 years of age.

Figure B.

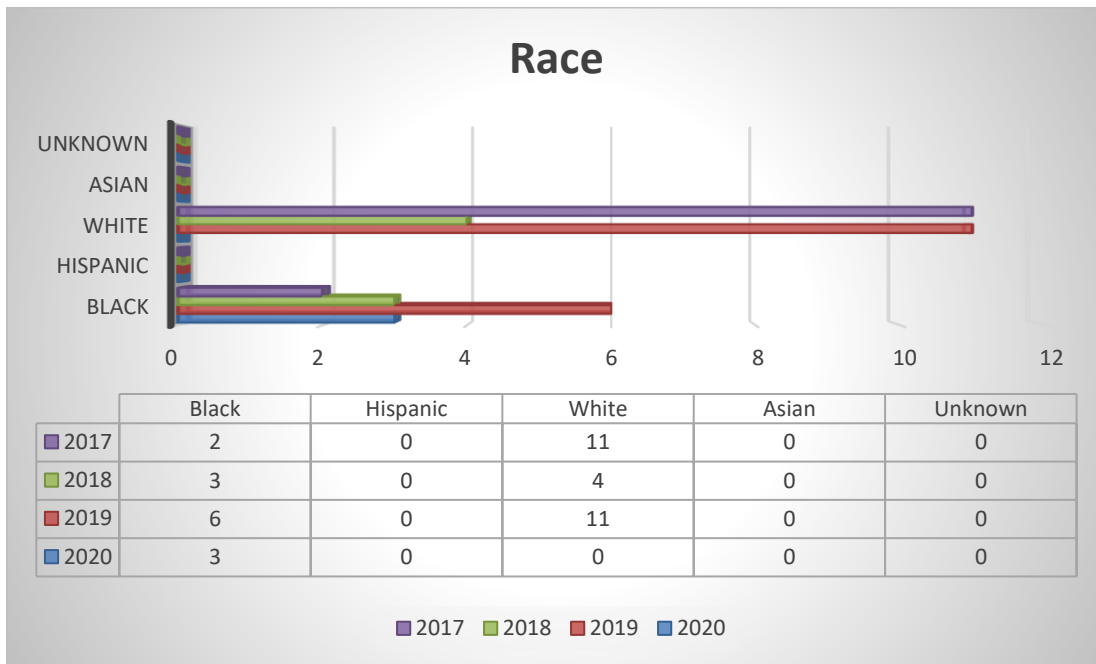
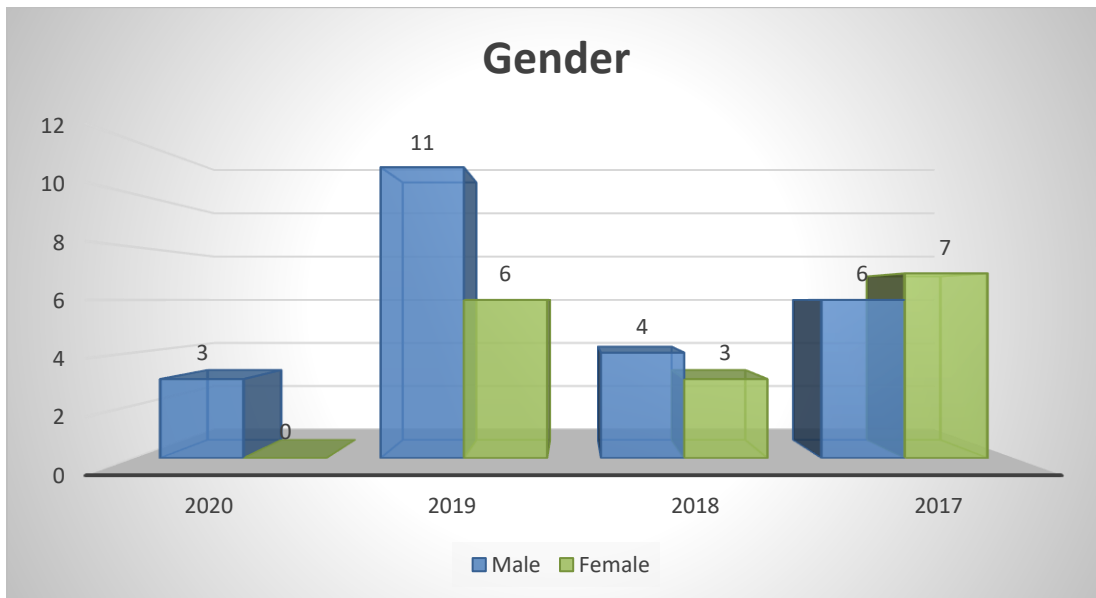


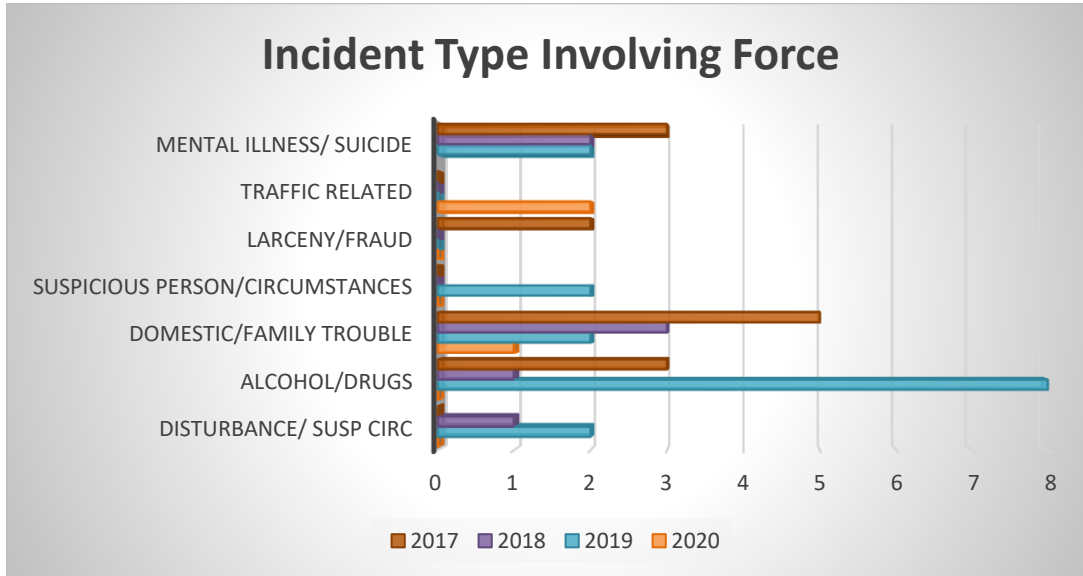
Figure C.



Use of Force Incidents

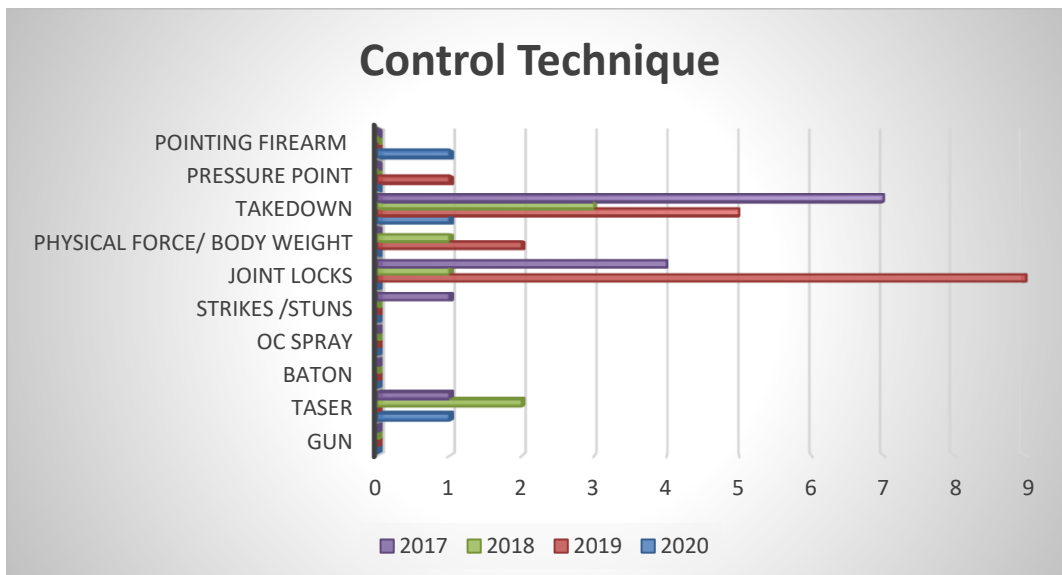
Three (3) Use of Force incidents occurred during the night shift, 1900-0700 in 2020. The four (4) year summary involving Use of Force incident types are shown in Figure D.

Figure D.



There were no deadly force incidents to report. There was one (1) TASER deployment, one (1) incident where a firearm was pointed at a subject and one (1) incident where a takedown was utilized for subject control. These findings are listed in Figure E.

Figure E.



Incident Summaries

BTPD officer observed a traffic infraction. Prior to conducting a traffic stop, the officer ran the plate through LEIN/SOS. LEIN revealed the registered owner to have valid felony warrant for Flee and Elude. While conducting the traffic stop, the subject's hands were not visible and he was making furtive movements while his hands appeared to be manipulating something near his lap. BTPD officer drew his firearm and pointed it toward the driver and began giving verbal directions. The subject complied with the officer's verbal directions. Subsequently, the officer holstered his firearm and the subject was taken into custody. BTPD #20-13515.

BTPD officers responded to a domestic assault in an apartment complex. The responsible subject had left the residence. Dispatch reported there may be weapons in the bedroom. While conducting the investigation, the responsible subject returned back to residence. Officers attempted to speak with the subject but he refused any verbal instructions. Subject balled up his fists and ran toward one of the bedrooms. The officer then deployed his TASER. The subject fell in a pile of clothing and was taken into custody. BTPD #20-8359.

BTPD officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle for a red light violation. The vehicle did not stop for the officer. The officer was able to get the license plate from the responsible vehicle. The vehicle registered to an address in Berkley. BTPD officers and Berkley officers went Berkley address to conduct a follow up investigation. Officers made contact with the responsible driver and attempted to speak with him regarding the incident. The subject ran from the officers. A Berkley and Bloomfield Township officer applied a takedown to the subject where he continued to struggle with officers. The subject was eventually taken into custody. BTPD #20-15656.

Injuries

There were no injuries reported due to the Use of Force incidents.

Discipline

There were no excessive force complaints. All Use of Force incidents were within policy and no discipline was required.

Training Trends and Suggestions

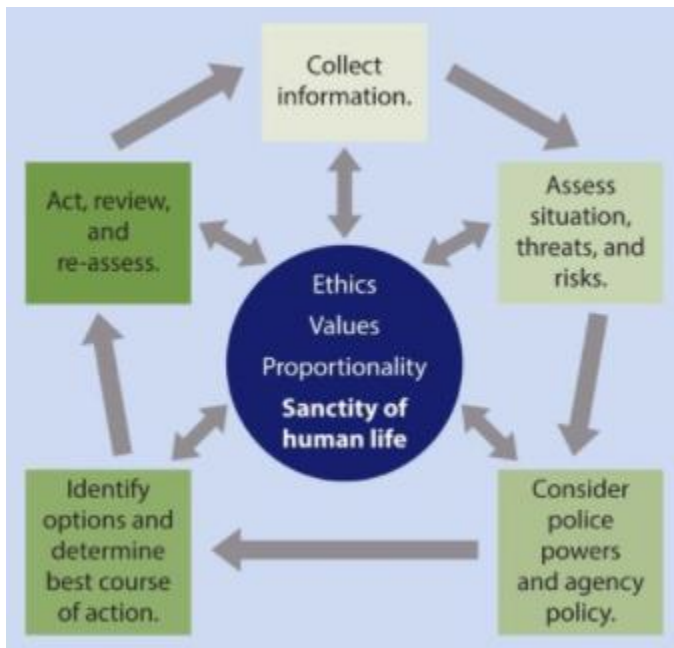
Training priorities in 2020 included defusion/de-escalation, critical decision making, and fair/impartial policing.

Defusion/De-Escalation:

This process refers to tactics used in an attempt to prevent, reduce, or manage behaviors associated with conflict— including verbal or physical agitation, aggression, violence or similar behaviors between two or more individuals. This training included early intervention, verbal and non-verbal interaction or communication styles, selecting appropriate and safe responses in potentially violent encounters. Training was conducted in both in a classroom and in force on force training scenarios.

Critical- Decision Making:

The Critical Decision-Making Model is a five-step critical thinking process developed by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). All five steps are built around the core values of the department and the policing profession. At the center of the CDM is an ethical core that provides grounding and guidance for the entire process. The four elements of the CDM core are:



- Police ethics
- Agency values
- Concept of proportionality
- Sanctity of all human life

The Critical Decision-Making Model provides a nice visual for critical thinking and determining use of force steps.

Fair/Impartial Policing:

Officers were trained in fair/impartial policing and covered topics such:

- Recognize, reduce, and manage your own biases.
- Recognize others' biases.
- Consider the viewpoint of people with whom you are interacting.
- Reduce ambiguity by slowing it down.

Officers will continue to train in PPCT, LOCKUP, Gracie Survival Tactics, Krav Maga techniques for subject control. Officers will continue to train a combination of these techniques bi-annually to cover a variety of non-compliant behaviors and actions. Critical-decision making and defusion/de-escalation will be embedded in all Use of Force training from classroom to force on force scenarios.

This yearly Use of Force analysis is required for the continuation of agency specific training, review, and implementation of department policy while maintaining department transparency to the citizens of Bloomfield Township.

Lieutenant Bryan J. Pizzuti #232