

# Yale University Police Department

2025 Annual Report

Use of Force



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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Yale University Police Department's Use of Force is governed by Federal and State law, Case Law, the Federal and State Constitutions, and the department's Use of Force General Orders.

### Chapter 9 – Use of Force

9.01 – Use of Force – General Considerations

9.02 – Use of Force – Lethal and Less-Lethal Weapons

9.03 – Use of Force – Electronic Control Weapons (ECW)

9.04 – Investigations of Use of Force and In-Custody Incidents Involving Death or Serious Physical Injury

The main responsibility of Department officers is to protect the life and property of civilians. In compliance with applicable law, officers shall use only the amount of force necessary and reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives and to control a situation, effect an arrest, overcome resistance to arrest, or defend themselves or others from harm. When force is necessary, the degree of force employed should be in direct relationship to the amount of resistance exerted or the immediate threat to the officers or others. There is a compelling public interest that officers authorized to use force do so in an objectively reasonable manner and in a way that does not violate the civil rights guaranteed by our Constitution and applicable law. Officers who use excessive or unjustified force degrade the confidence of the community that they serve, undermine the legitimacy of a police officer's authority, and hinder the Department's ability to provide effective law enforcement services to the community.

## **SUMMARY**

During calendar year 2025, members of the Yale University Police Department were involved in eighteen (18) incidents in which one or more officers had to use force. Twenty-seven (27) YPD Officers used some level of force during those eighteen (18) incidents. In almost all use-of-force encounters, Officers were able to control or apprehend the subject in a manner that did not require escalation beyond soft hand techniques. Nine (9) encounters required the subject to be taken to the ground to facilitate gaining control of the subject, and in three (3) of these incidents, officers reported first pushing the subject during pursuit to gain control over the fleeing individual. In two (2) incidents, a total of three (3) Officers reported drawing their weapons and pointing them at a subject in a vehicle until gaining control of the subject in one incident, and the vehicle/unknown subject fled in the other. There were no incidents in 2025 in which Officers were required to strike a subject to gain compliance and prevent or minimize injury to others, including fellow officers. There were also no ECW or OC Deployments in 2025.

Officers had to use force in eighteen (18) separate situations. Most of the situations where force was used involved intoxicated individuals, emotionally disturbed subjects, and resistant suspects. One instance even involved an emergency room doctor requesting assistance in restraining a suicidal patient.

Yale University Police Officers used force less than one-hundredth of one percent of police contacts when faced with a reportable citizen encounter. Yale University Police had 2701 case numbers in 2025. This number represents all documented police and citizen interactions for the Yale Police Department for the calendar year. This only includes times when citizen interaction required documentation; police have many more contacts with community members throughout their workday that do not require documentation. Using the number of documented interactions (case numbers), Yale PD used force eighteen (18) times out of 2701 contacts, which puts the total frequency of force used in overall police and public exchanges at 0.07%.

Below are the 2025 use-of-force statistics for the Yale University Police Department.

2025	
<b>Total Use of Force Incidents</b>	18
<b>Number of involved officers</b>	27
<b>Number of involved citizens</b>	18
<b>Amount of Force Techniques Used</b>	3
<b>Injuries to Officers</b>	4
<b>Injuries to Citizens</b>	4
<b>Total Frequency</b>	0.07%

## REPORTABLE USE OF FORCE

The authority to use force carries with it the need for accountability to safeguard the rights of the public and preserve the integrity of the Yale University Police Department. The Yale University Police Department is committed to documenting and investigating all use-of-force incidents. It is this Department's policy that officers report all use-of-force incidents in a timely, complete, and accurate manner, as prescribed by Department policy.

Officers shall complete a State of Connecticut POSTC Form PUOF, Revision 7, 7/15/25, Use of Force Report, whenever they use force or witness the use of force against an individual that reaches above the level of unresisted escorting or handcuffing.

Reportable uses of force fall into one of several categories, which are detailed in the State Use of Force Report and can be found on the POST website.

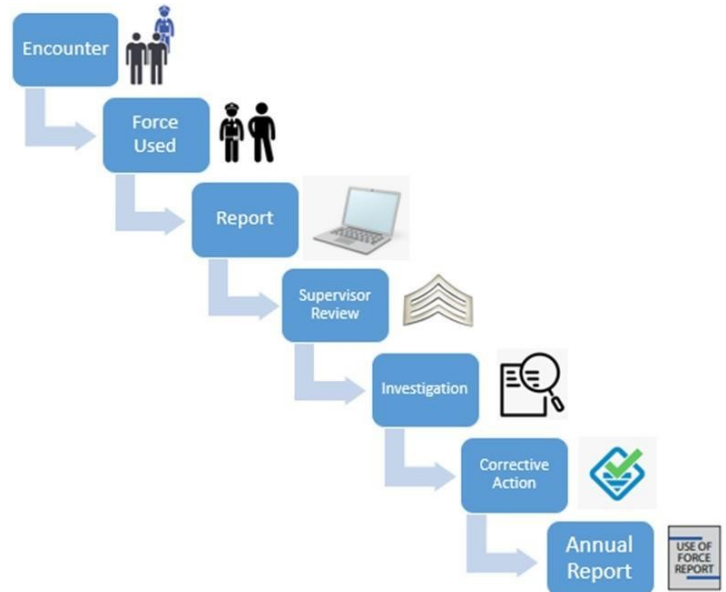


## WHEN FORCE MAY BE USED



## USE OF FORCE WORKFLOW

- Officer's encounter with the public
- Force used
- Electronic report written by the officer
- Supervisor responds to the scene & reviews the report
- Anything greater than hard hand control or any force resulting in an injury triggers a UOF investigation
- Corrective action if the force results in a policy violation
- Annual Use of Force Report



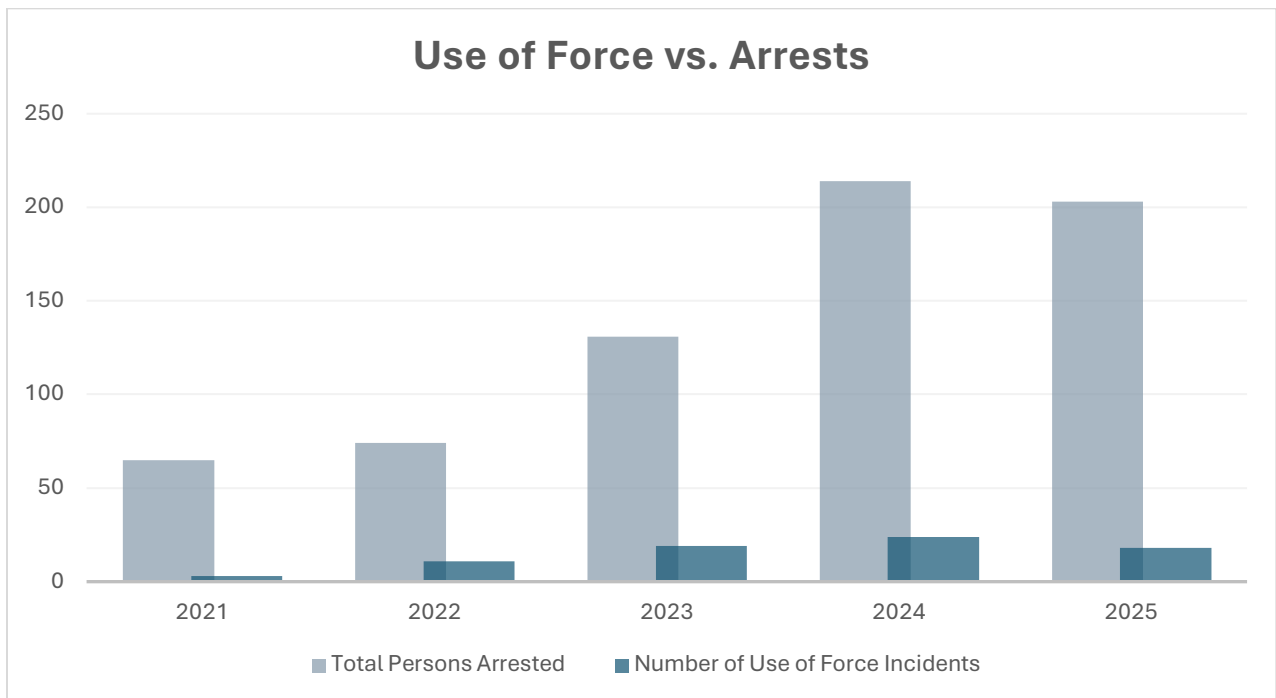
## YEARLY POINTS OF ANALYSIS

In 2025, YPD began the year with 91 sworn officers, but ended the year with just 84 officers. Over the course of 2025, those officers had 2701 documented interactions between police and the public, resulting in reports being written. Of those 2701 interactions, 203 arrests were made, and only 18 of those 2701 police contacts resulted in one or more officers using force. Over those 18 use-of-force incidents, a total of 27 officers were documented using force. These incidents resulted in injuries to 4 Officers and 4 subjects. All but one injury sustained by both the officers and the subjects was documented as minor injuries, such as abrasions, small lacerations, and bruising, resulting from the struggle and not necessarily the force required to bring the subject under control. One (1) subject complained of chest pains and was transported to the hospital and later released.

- **Total Documented Incidents:** This represents all incidents in which officers encountered a person or persons.
- **Number of Use of Force incidents:** This represents the number of cases requiring force, not the number of techniques used.
- **Force to Documented Incident Ratio:** This represents the ratio of cases requiring force to the total number of documented encounters.
- **Total Arrest Incidents:** This represents the total number of arrests, including both custodial and summons. This does not include the total of individual charges, simply the number of arrests.
- **Force to Arrest Ratio:** This represents the ratio of arrest incidents to force incidents.
- **Subjects Injured During Use of Force Incident:** This represents any subject that was injured during the incident but does not include any injuries sustained by an officer.
- **Force-to-Injury Ratio:** This represents the ratio of citizen injury compared to the total number of force incidents.
- **Number of Techniques Used:** This represents the number of all use-of-force techniques used by any officer for all documented use-of-force. This includes all techniques, whether effective or not.
- **Number of Officers who Used Force:** This represents the total number of officers with documented force. More than one officer may have used force in any singular incident.
- **Injuries to Officers:** This represents any injury sustained by an officer during a use-of-force incident.

The following charts show the number of Use of Force incidents compared to the total number of police interactions, and the total number of arrests over the previous five years.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Total Sworn Officers</i>	86	87	90	91	<b>84</b>
<i>Total Documented Incidents between YPD and Public</i>	1252	1447	1901	3095	<b>2701</b>
<i>Number of Use of Force Incidents</i>	3	11	19	24	<b>18</b>
<i>Force to Documented Incident Ratio</i>	0.002	0.007	0.01	0.006	<b>0.007</b>
<i>Total Arrest Incidents</i>	65	74	131	214	<b>203</b>
<i>Force to Arrest Ratio</i>	0.046	0.148	0.145	0.112	<b>0.089</b>
<i>Subjects Injured During Use of Force Incident</i>	0	0	2	6	<b>4</b>
<i>Injuries to Officers</i>	0	0	3	12	<b>4</b>
<i>Total Injuries (Subjects &amp; Officers)</i>	0	0	5	18	<b>8</b>
<i>Force to Injury Ratio</i>	0	0	0.26	0.75	<b>0.44</b>
<i>Number of Officers Who Used Force</i>	4	17	20	30	<b>27</b>
<i>Number of Techniques Used</i>	4	2	5	4	<b>3</b>



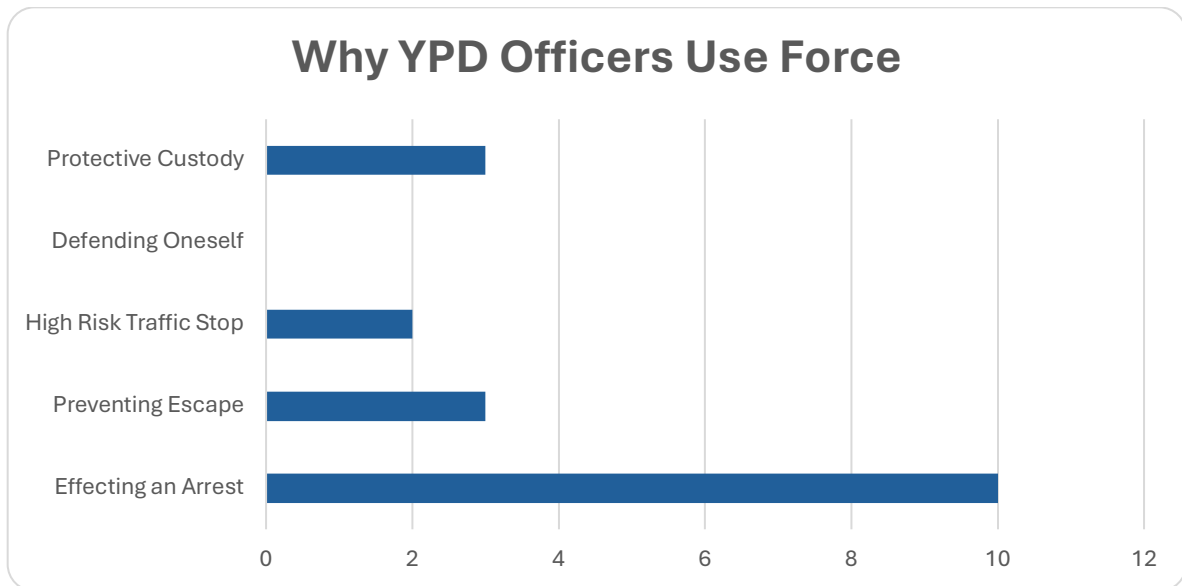
## WHY OFFICERS USED FORCE IN 2025

In 2025, the Yale University Police Department recorded eighteen (18) use-of-force incidents. The most common circumstance involved effecting an arrest, accounting for ten (10) incidents in which officers took an individual into custody or assisted the New Haven Police Department.

Use of force was also used in three (3) incidents related to protective custody, and three (3) incidents where officers acted to prevent an individual from escaping. Two (2) incidents occurred during high-risk traffic stops, during which officers pointed firearms at a suspect vehicle as a safety precaution when approaching potentially armed individuals. In one of these incidents, the vehicle fled the scene, and officers did not make contact with the occupants.

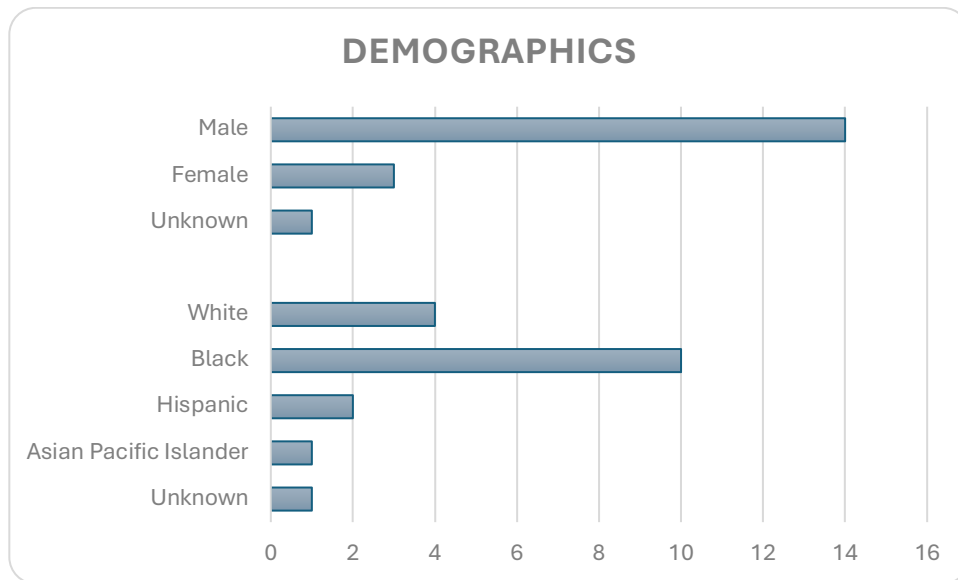
There were no incidents involving officers using force to defend themselves, and no ECW or OC spray deployments occurred during the year. The majority of incidents involved intoxicated individuals, emotionally disturbed persons, or individuals actively resisting officers. In these cases, officers used soft-hand control techniques and takedowns to safely gain compliance and maintain control while minimizing the risk of injury.

It is Yale University Police Department's policy to value and preserve human life in all situations. All use-of-force within the Yale Police Department is governed by both Federal and Connecticut State law.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

The chart below depicts a breakdown of subjects involved in Use of Force Incidents by race and gender.



## TECHNIQUES USED

Yale Police Department officers have multiple use-of-force options as outlined above. Officers use one or more of the following levels of force when authorized by the situation and applicable law:

- **Department Approved Control Techniques** – Department-approved control techniques consist of arrest and control techniques taught at a POSTC-approved basic police academy, as well as techniques taught at department-approved or sponsored in-service training programs. It should be noted that these fall under either soft or hard hand controls for recording purposes.
- **Soft Hand Control** – The use of physical strength and skill in defensive tactics to control arrestees who are reluctant to be taken into custody and offer some degree of physical resistance. Such techniques are not impact-oriented and include pain compliance pressure points, takedowns, joint locks, and simply grabbing a subject.
- **Hard Hand Control** – Impact-oriented techniques that include knee strikes, elbow strikes, punches, and kicks.
- **Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray** – An inflammatory agent that irritates the mucus membrane and eyes to cause tears and pain. It is an intermediate weapon that is classified as non-deadly.
- **Electronic Control Weapon (ECW)** – An incapacitating, intermediate weapon used for subduing a person by administering an electric shock for the purpose of disrupting superficial muscle functions.

- **Impact Weapons** – Department-approved tools that provide a method for gaining control of a subject when lethal force is not justified, but when empty-hand control techniques are not sufficient to effect control.
- **Firearm-Low Ready Position** – Holding a firearm with the trigger finger indexed along the frame of the weapon outside the trigger well with the weapon pointed at an angle not directly at, but in the general direction of the intended individual.
- **Firearm-Pointing** – Pointing a firearm in the direction of an individual.
- **Critical Firearm Discharge** – A discharge of a firearm by a Yale University PD officer to the extent such discharges are authorized under this policy and the Firearms Policy.

## **CALL TYPE**

Yale University Police Officers responded to eighteen (18) calls that required some level of force in the calendar year 2025. Twenty-seven (27) Officers reported using force during those calls. The types of calls that necessitated the use of force included emotionally disturbed persons (EDP) and apprehensions.

## **EVALUATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN**

Each use-of-force incident requires multiple levels of review, beginning with the first line supervisor and running through the office of the Chief of Police. The initial supervisor on scene conducts a preliminary interview and reports whether the use-of-force was within policy or not. The supervisor also reviews the use-of-force report completed by the officer and forwards it up through the chain of command. Each level within the chain reviews the use-of-force incident independently and determines if the use of force was within department policy.

Use-of-force training is designed based on the force used by officers, whether the force was determined to be within policy. This ensures that use-of-force decisions are continually made regarding policy and are constitutionally sound. The amount of Pressure Point/Control Hold techniques is a direct result of increased Self Defense Tactics Training that the department has been continually conducting over the last few years.

In 2025, there were eighteen (18) use-of-force incidents, and all eighteen (18) were found to be within policy.

## **INJURIES**

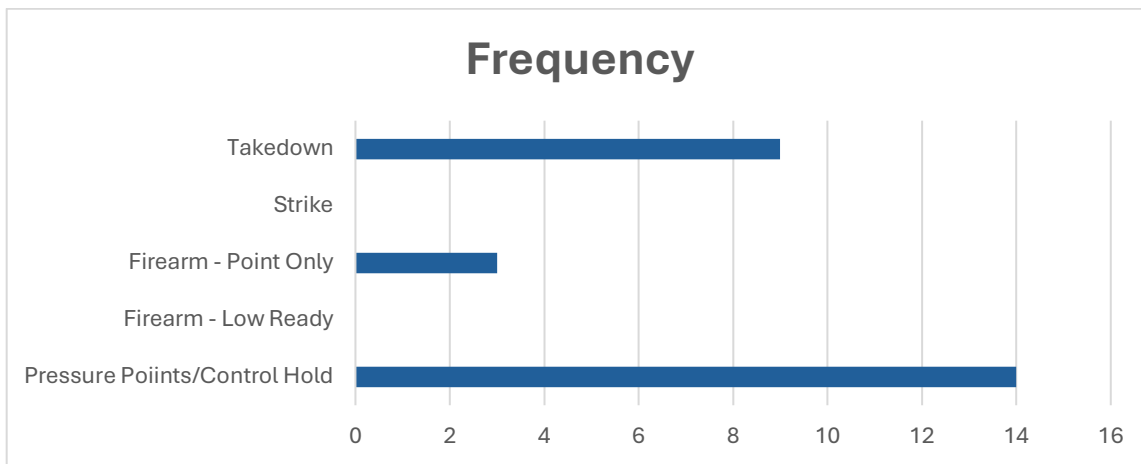
In 2025, there were four (4) citizens injured due to force being utilized by officers. Three of these injuries were only abrasions and/or minor lacerations that resulted from the interaction itself, and not necessarily the use-of-force technique utilized by the Officer. One subject was transported to the hospital for chest pains, but this was not a direct result of the use-of-force used in the incident by the officer.

Of the 4 officers reported injured in 2025, none were transported to the hospital immediately, but some may have sought medical attention afterwards. Reported injuries included minor abrasions/lacerations and contusions/bruising.

### FREQUENCY SUMMARY

Yale University Police Officers used the following force techniques in 2025: pressure point/control hold, firearm – point only, and takedown. The frequency of each technique is depicted below.

#### Frequency



### CONCLUSION

The 2025 data reflect continued stabilization and improvement in the department’s use of force practices, reinforcing a pattern of restrained, proportional, and policy-aligned force application. While overall documented incidents and arrests remained elevated compared to earlier years, the number of use-of-force incidents declined from 24 in 2024 to 18 in 2025, a 25% decrease, indicating a reduction in force usage despite sustained operational demands.

The force-to-documented incident ratio increased slightly to 0.007 in 2025, but remains historically low and consistent with prior years, demonstrating that force continues to be used in only a small fraction of public encounters. More notably, the force-to-arrest ratio decreased from 0.112 in 2024 to 0.089 in 2025, further supporting that officers are resolving enforcement actions with less reliance on force, even as arrest activity remains high.

Injury data in 2025 shows a meaningful improvement. Total injuries declined significantly from 18 in 2024 to 8 in 2025, with reductions in both subject and officer injuries. The force-to-injury ratio dropped from 0.75 in 2024 to 0.44 in 2025, reflecting safer outcomes and more effective application

of force when required. These reductions suggest that training, supervision, and post-incident review efforts are positively impacting officer performance and safety outcomes.

Although a comparable number of officers were involved in use-of-force incidents in 2025, the overall reduction in incidents, injuries, and force ratios indicates improved consistency in decision-making and application of de-escalation principles across the department. The limited number of techniques used further supports that force applications were controlled and within policy guidelines.

Overall, the 2025 data demonstrates continued progress toward the department's goal of minimizing the use of force while maintaining officer and public safety. The trends observed reflect effective training, supervision, and accountability measures. Continued emphasis on scenario-based training, injury reduction, and supervisory review will further strengthen department practices and reinforce public trust moving forward.

**END OF REPORT**