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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 Order.

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 exercise the use of 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 2023 members of the Yale University Police Department (YPD) were involved in 19 incidents where one or more officers had to use force. Twenty YPD officers used some level of force during those 19 incidents. In 19 of the use of force incidents, 20 officers were able to control or apprehend the citizen in a manner that did not require escalation beyond soft hand techniques. In two incidents, officers reported pointing their weapon at the suspect to gain compliance. In one incident, an officer pointed his taser at the suspect. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray was used effectively in one incident when soft hand techniques failed to gain compliance from the suspect.

Officers had to use force in 19 different situations. The type and level of force used by officers was effective 84% percent of the time. Situations where force was used were primarily controlling an intoxicated or resistant suspect.

Yale University police officers used force less than one percent of the time when faced with a reportable citizen encounter. Yale University police had 1,901 case numbers in 2023. This number represents all documented police and citizen interaction for the YPD for the year. This only includes times when citizen interaction required documentation, police have many more contacts with community members throughout their workday that requires no documentation. Using the number of documented interactions (case numbers), YPD used force 19 times out of 1,901 contacts, which puts the total frequency of force used to overall police and public exchanges at 0.99%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2023 Use of Force Statistics for the Yale University Police Department</th>
<th>Total Use of Force Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Involved Officers</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Involved Citizens</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Force Techniques Used</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries to Officers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries to Citizens</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Frequency</td>
<td>0.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 YPD. The YPD 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 departmental Use of Force Report whenever they use or witness the use of force against a suspect above unresisted escorting or handcuffing.

Reportable uses of force fall into one of several categories, which are detailed in Yale University Police General Order 302: Use of Force.
REASONS FORCE IS USED

It is the policy of the YPD to value and preserve human life in all situations.
YPD's use of force is governed by federal and Connecticut law.

THE REASONS FOR USING FORCE INCLUDE:

- Effect Arrest
- Prevent Escape
- Defend Self
- Defend Others
- Protective Custody
- High Risk Traffic Stop

USE OF FORCE WORKFLOW

1. Officer encounter with the public
2. Force used
3. Electronic report written by the officer
4. Supervisor response to the scene / report review
5. Hard hand control and above or force resulting in injury triggers a use of force investigation
6. Corrective action if the force results in a policy violation
7. Annual Use of Force Report
YEARLY POINTS OF ANALYSIS

In 2023, there were 90 sworn officers at the YPD. Over the course of that year, those officers had 1,901 documented interactions between police and the public. Of those 1,901 interactions, 131 arrests were made and only 19 of the 1,901 resulted in one or more officers having to use force. Twenty total officers used force over those 19 incidents. These incidents resulted in injuries to three officers and two citizens.

Below are the use of force statistics from the YPD for the past five years.

Total documented incidents represent all case numbers pulled for that calendar year. The number of use of force incidents are the number of cases requiring force, not the number of techniques used. Force-to- documented-incident ratio is the ratio of cases requiring force to the total number of cases.

Total persons arrested include all arrests, custodial or summons. This represents the number of arrests, not total individual charges. Force-to-arrest ratio is the ratio of arrest incidents to force incidents.

Number of techniques used is the total of all the use of force techniques used by all officers for all use of force incidents. This includes all techniques, whether effective or not. Force-to-injury ratio is the ratio of citizen injury compared to the total number of force incidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Sworn Officers</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Documented Incident</td>
<td>3,158</td>
<td>1,397</td>
<td>1,252</td>
<td>1,447</td>
<td>1,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>between YPD and Public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Use of Force Incidents</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force to Documented Incident Ratio</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Persons Arrested</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force to Arrest Ratio</td>
<td>0.097</td>
<td>0.167</td>
<td>0.046</td>
<td>0.148</td>
<td>0.145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons Injured During Use of Force Incident</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force to Injury Ratio</td>
<td>0.192</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Techniques Used</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Officers Who Used Force</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries to Officers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following charts show the number of Use of Force incidents compared to the total number of police interactions, and total number of arrests.

WHY YALE UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICERS USED FORCE

Yale University Police Department (YPD) had nineteen use of force incidents in 2023. Ten incidents involved arrests with YPD taking custody. In both incidents wherein the officers pointed weapons at suspects, this was not done to facilitate the arrest, but rather as a precaution in approaching and potentially armed suspects. In one arrest incident, soft hand techniques proved ineffective, so the officer deployed OC spray. In the remaining seven use of force incidents, officers were required to use soft hand techniques to maintain control of an individual which, in most cases, was intoxicated or emotionally disturbed.
DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the 19 use of force incidents for 2023, three of the subjects were identified as white males. Eleven of the subjects were identified as African American males. Three of the 19 incidents involved female subjects all of whom identified as African American. Three subjects identified as Hispanic male.

![Demographics Chart]

- White: 3
- African-American: 14
- Hispanic: 3
- Not Hispanic: 0
- Male: 17
- Female: 3
TECHNIQUES USED

YPD officers have multiple use of force options as outlined above. Officers use one or more of the following levels of forces 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 being non-deadly.

- **Electronic Control Weapon** — 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.

- **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.

- **Service Pistol** — Pointing a firearm in the direction of an individual.

- **Critical Firearm Discharge** — A discharge of a firearm by a YPD officer to the extent such discharges are authorized under this policy and the Firearms Policy.
TECHNIQUES USED (CONTINUED)

Each use of force technique is a separate use of force and must be documented as such. For instance, one interaction could result in both a soft and a hard hand control technique. Sometimes this occurs because a technique was not effective, other times it is a result of the tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving nature of the split-second decisions that officers are forced to make while deciding if force is necessary. For calendar year 2023 effectiveness rate was 84%.

There were 20 YPD officers who used force in 2023, with four total techniques used among those officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>African-American</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>American Indian</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soft Hands Control Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OC Spray</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taser (Pointing)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Pistol (Pointing)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CALL TYPE

Yale University police officers responded to 19 calls that required some level of force in the calendar year 2023. Twenty officers reported using force during those calls. The types of calls that necessitated the use of force included emotionally disturbed persons (EDP), intoxicated persons, and apprehensions.

EVALUATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN

Each use of force incident requires multiple levels of review starting at 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 decides if the use of force was within department policy or not.

Use of force training is created based on the force used by officers. This occurs whether the force was within policy or not. This ensures that use of force decisions are continually made with regard to policy and are constitutionally sound.

**In 2023 there were 19 use of force incidents and all 19 were found to be within policy.**

INJURIES

In 2023 there were two citizens injured as a result of soft hand techniques utilized by the officer. One of the citizens was transported to the hospital; however, this was the result of intoxication which precipitated the incident rather than injury sustained by officer interaction.

Of the three officers injured in 2023, two were transported to the hospital as a direct result of soft hand applications.
FREQUENCY SUMMARY

Yale University police officers used the following force techniques in 2023: soft hands control techniques, OC spray deployment, and the pointing a taser and service pistol at a suspect. The frequency of each technique is depicted below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soft Hands Control Techniques</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OC Spray</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taser (Pointing)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Pistol (Pointing)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technique Frequency