

# Yale University Police Department

Use of Force Annual Report

Calendar Year 2020



# Table of Contents

YPD Use of Force Policy Statement.....	2
Summary .....	3
Reportable Use of Force .....	3
Reasons Force is Used.....	5
Use of Force Workflow .....	5
Yearly Points of Analysis .....	6
Why YPD Officers Used Force .....	8
Demographics .....	8
Techniques Used.....	9
Call Type.....	10
Evaluation of Actions Taken.....	10
Injuries .....	10
Frequency Summary .....	11



## **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 2020 members of the Yale University Police Department were involved in 10 incidents where one or more officers had to use force. 18 YPD Officers used some level of force during those 10 incidents. Those 18 Officers combined for 22 use of force techniques.

The type and level of force used by officers was effective 100% percent of the time. Officers had to use force in a variety of situations. Situations where force was used included stolen vehicles, combative individuals, protective custody, fleeing suspects, and armed suspects. YPD officers had to use force on a subject who was armed with an edged weapon and was accused of a stabbing.

Yale University Police Officers used force less than three quarters of one percent of the time when faced with a reportable citizen encounter. Yale University Police had 1397 case numbers in 2020. This number represents all documented police and citizen interaction for the Yale Police Department 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) Yale PD used force 10 times out of 1397 contacts, which puts the total frequency of forced used to overall police and public exchanges at 0.72 percent.

Below are the 2020 use of force statistics for the Yale University Police Department.

2020	
Total Use of Force Incidents	10
Number of involved officers	18
Number of involved citizens	10
Amount of Force Techniques Used	22
Injuries to Officers	1
Injuries to Citizens	0
Effectiveness	100%
Total Frequency	0.72%

## REPORTABLE USE OF FORCE

The authority to use force carries with it the need for accountability in order 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 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 falls into one of several categories, which are detailed in the Yale University Police General Order 302: Use of Force.

**Reportable Use of Force**

- Approved Control Techniques
- Soft Hand Controls
- Hard Hand Controls
- Chemical (Pepper Spray)
- Electronic Control Weapon (Taser)
- Impact Weapon
- Firearm - Low Ready
- Firearm - Draw/Point
- Critical Firearm Discharge

Force above compliant handcuffing or escorting a subject with minimal to no resistance is a reportable use of force.



**REASONS FORCE IS USED**

It is the policy of the Yale University Police Department to value and preserve human life in all situations.

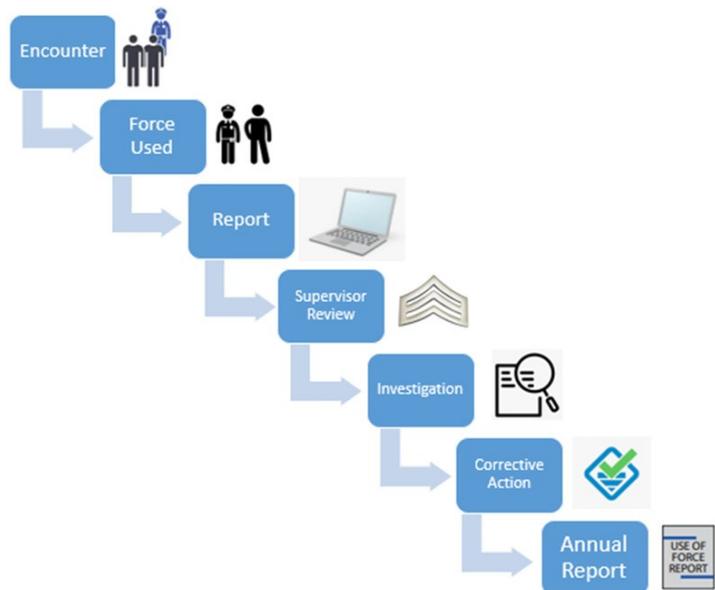
Yale University Police Department’s use of force is governed by Federal and Connecticut law.

The reasons for using force include:

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

**USE OF FORCE WORKFLOW**

- Officer encounter with the public
- Force used
- Electronic report written by the officer
- Supervisor response to the scene / report review
- Hard hand control and above or force resulting in injury triggers a use of force investigation
- Corrective action if the force results in a policy violation
- Annual Use of Force Report



## YEARLY POINTS OF ANALYSIS

In 2020, there were 93 sworn officers at the Yale Police Department. Over the course of that year, those officers had 1397 documented interactions between police and the public. Of those 1397 interactions, sixty (60) arrests were made and only ten (10) of those cases resulted in one or more officer having to use force. Eighteen (18) total officers used force over those ten cases, which resulted in no suspect injuries and one (1) officer injury.

Below are use of force statistics from the Yale University Police Department for the past five years.

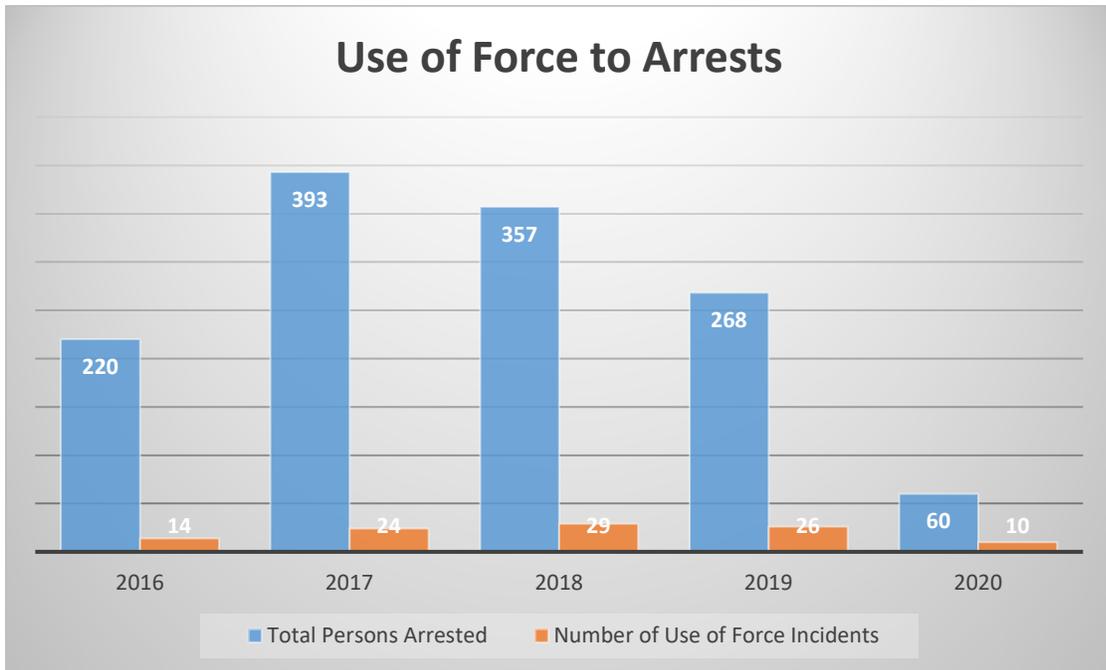
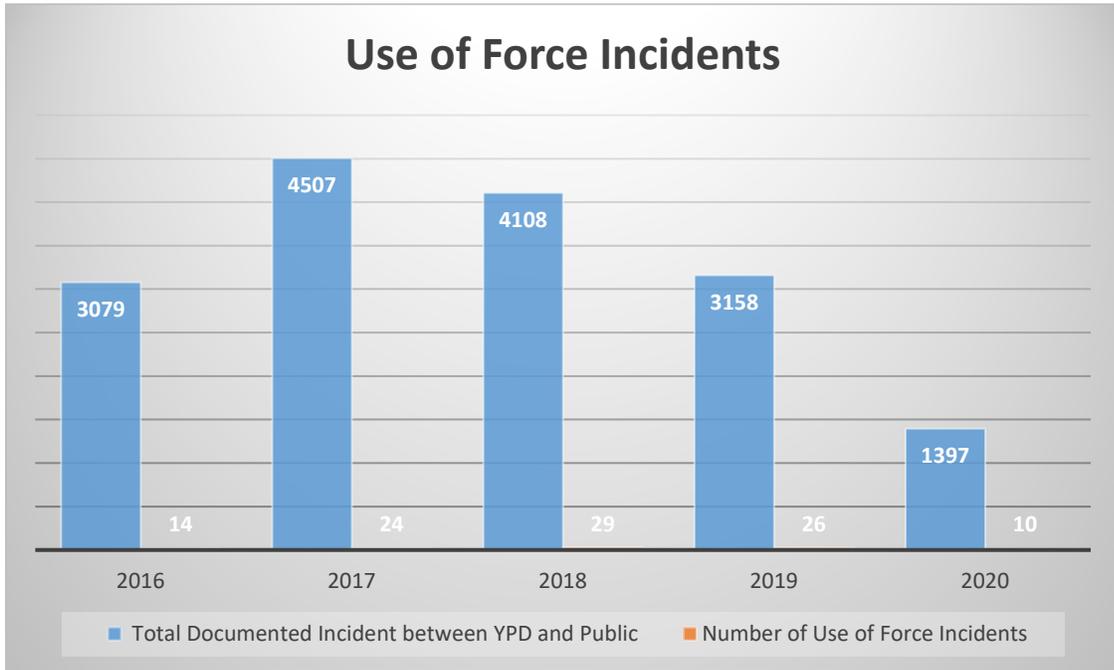
Total documented incidents represent all case numbers pulled for that calendar year. The number of use of force incidents are the number of cases requiring force, not the number of techniques used. Force to documented incident ratio is the ratio of cases requiring force to the total number of cases.

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 arrests 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.

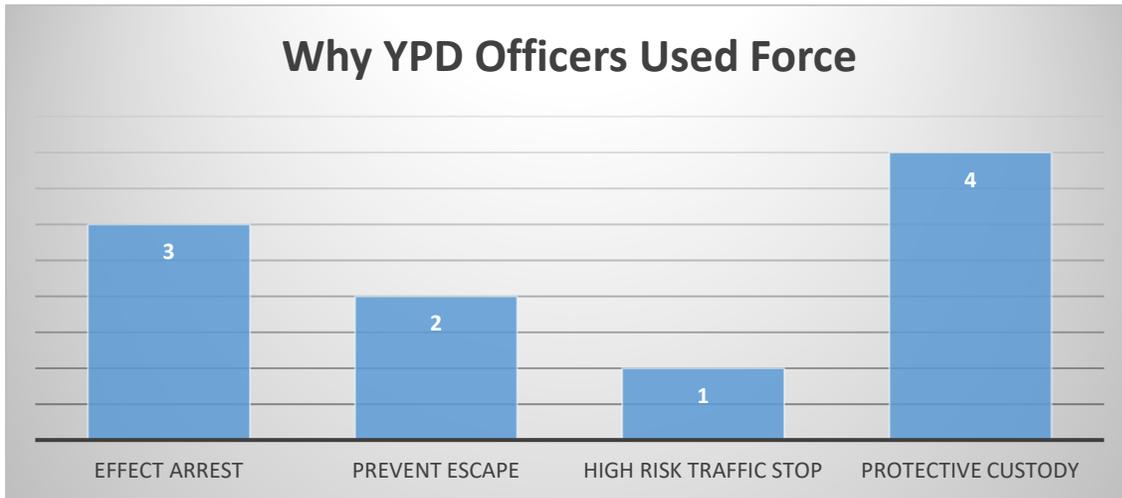
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
<i>Total Sworn Officers</i>	87	87	87	93	93
<i>Total Documented Incident between YPD and Public</i>	3079	4507	4108	3158	1397
<i>Number of Use of Force Incidents</i>	14	24	29	26	10
<i>Force to Documented Incident Ratio</i>	0.005	0.005	0.007	0.008	0.007
<i>Total Persons Arrested</i>	220	393	357	268	60
<i>Force to Arrest Ratio</i>	0.064	0.061	0.081	0.097	0.167
<i>Persons Injured During Use of Force Incident</i>	0	3	10	5	0
<i>Force to Injury Ratio</i>	0.000	0.125	0.345	0.192	0.000
<i>Number of Techniques Used</i>	21	67	62	79	22
<i>Number of Officers Who Used Force</i>	16	47	54	59	18
<i>Injuries to Officers</i>	0	11	13	8	1

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



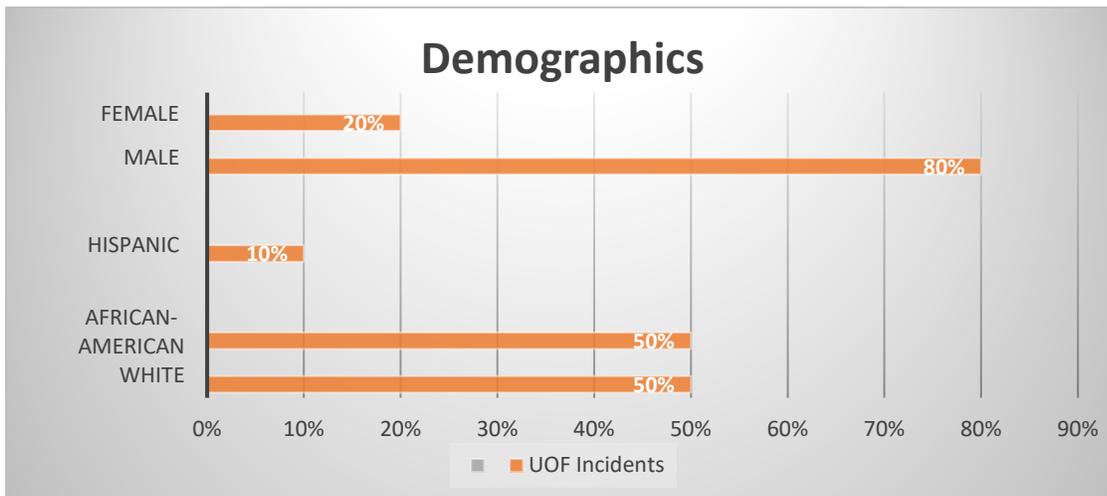
## WHY YALE UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICERS USED FORCE

The Yale University Police Department had ten use of force incidents in 2020. Six incidents involved arrests, four involved protective custody. The six arrest incidents included three times that use of force was necessary to effect the arrest, two times to prevent the escape of the suspect, and one for a high risk traffic stop. All six of the arrestable offenses were felony offenses. There were no use of force incidents for misdemeanor offenses or infractions.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

Of the ten use of force incidents for 2020, five of the subjects that force was used on were white, five were African American. One subject was of Hispanic ethnicity, nine were not Hispanic. Eight subjects were male, two were female.



\*<https://www.yale.edu/about-yale/yale-facts>

## 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 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.
- **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 Yale University PD officer to the extent such discharges are authorized under this policy and the Firearms Policy.

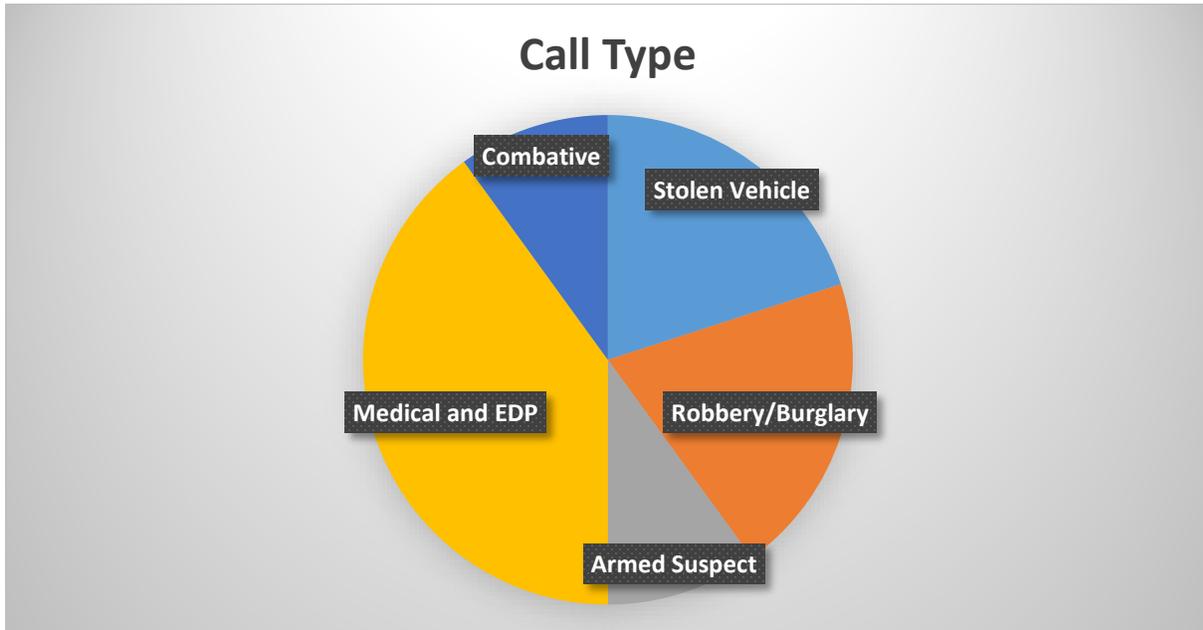
Each use of force technique is a separate use of force and must be documented as such. For instance, one interaction could result in both a soft and a hard hand control technique. Sometimes this occurs because the a technique was not effective, other times it is a result of the tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving nature of the split-second decisions that officers have to make while deciding if force is necessary. For calendar year 2020 effectiveness rate was 100%.

There were eighteen YPD officers who used force in 2020, with twenty two total techniques used among those eighteen officers. One example of why this happens is when an officer in once incident had to use two separate soft hand control techniques before gaining compliance.

<u><b>2020 Use of Force Techniques</b></u>	<b>White</b>	<b>African-American</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>American Indian</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Approved Control Techniques</b>	2						<b>2</b>
<b>Soft Hands Control Techniques</b>	7	5	2				<b>14</b>
<b>Electronic Control Weapon (ECW)</b>		1					<b>1</b>
<b>Low Ready Position</b>	2						<b>2</b>
<b>Service Pistol</b>	1	2					<b>3</b>

## CALL TYPE

Yale University Police Officers responded to a large assortment of calls during 2020. They used force ten times during those calls. The types of calls that necessitated the use of force included two cases involving a stolen vehicle arrest, an unarmed combative subject, an armed subject, a robbery arrest, a burglary arrest, and four instances of protective custody involving medical or emotionally disturbed persons (EDP).



## 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 thereafter who reviews the use of force incident independently reviews the case and makes a determination 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 2020 there were only ten use of force incidents. All ten were found to be within policy.

## INJURIES

There were zero (0) citizen injuries as a result of Yale Police Officers use of force. One (1) police officer reported back pain after using force but did not require hospitalization.

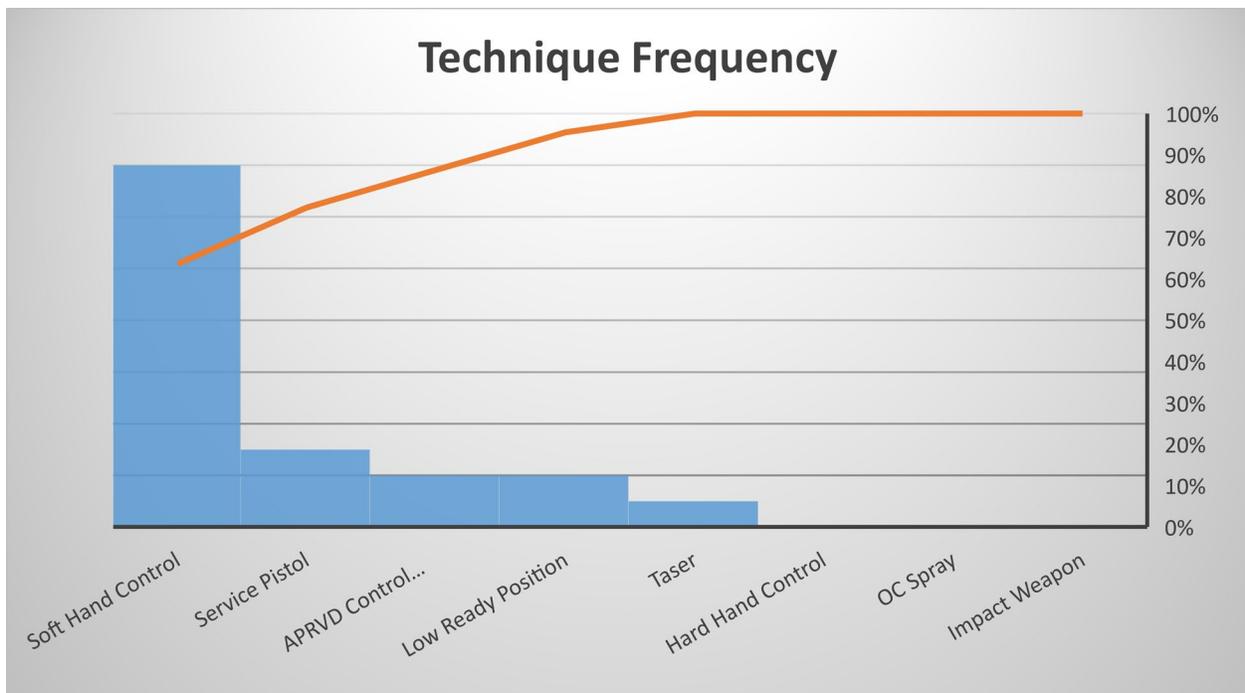
## FREQUENCY SUMMARY

Yale University Police Officers used the following force techniques in 2020: approved control techniques (2) two times, soft hands control techniques (14) fourteen times (nearly 90% if of the force techniques used), unholstering a Taser but not firing it (1) one time, drawing a firearm to the low ready position (2) two times, and drawing their firearm, pointing it, but not firing it (3) three times.

Protective Custody were the most frequent type of call where force was used (4 times). Protective custody calls in these instances were intoxicated individuals who were aggressive and suicidal individuals who were aggressive. None of the individuals in protective custody cases were criminally charged. Force was used to control the situation and get the individuals transported to the hospital for appropriate medical attention and treatment.

In 2020 there were (0) zero OC spray deployments, impact weapon strikes, hard hand control techniques utilized, Taser discharges, or firearm discharges.

APRVD Control Techniques	2
Soft Hand Control	14
Taser	1
Low Ready Position	2
Service Pistol	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>



**END OF REPORT**