In 2021, officers of the Knoxville Police Department engaged in 140 documentable force incidents (including one K-9 Apprehension report). This is an approximate 27% increase from 110 reports in 2020. 2018 was the highest year of reported Use of Force reports with 171. 2021 was the third highest year of the last eight years.
As reflected in the above chart, there was an increase of 30 Use of Force Reports in 2021 from 2020. As can be seen in the chart, 2021 was the third highest year for Use of Force reported in the last eight years. Of the 140 incidents that required a Use of Force Report in 2021, (1) one was a K-9 Use/Apprehension Report which resulted in a bite. This was down from (7) seven K-9 Use reports in 2020, an approximate 85% reduction. It is important to note that only those K-9 reports that resulted in a bite or some type of physical contact are included in this analysis.
Patrol has historically accounted for the majority of Use of Force Reports, as a function of their daily duties. It should be noted, units such as SRO, CERT, and SOS all fall under the Patrol Division. The Patrol Division accounted for one hundred and thirty-eight of the one hundred and forty Use of Force incidents in 2021. The Criminal Investigative Unit accounted for two of the Use of Reports filed. The Criminal Investigative Unit is comprised of units such as the Organized Crime Unit, Violent Crime Unit, Property Crime Unit, etc.
As per Knoxville Police Department General Order 1.6, “Use of Force,” during the 2021 calendar year any member who applied any type of lethal or less lethal weapon(s) (to include impact weapons and munitions, OC spray and Electronic Control Device) that was actually used (not merely displayed), and/or physical force was applied at the level of empty hand hard or greater, or instances where injury to the subject was visible or apparent, was required to document their actions as well as the subject’s precipitating actions, on a Use of Force Report.

USE OF FORCE REPORTS IN 2021 INCREASED ALONG WITH AN INCREASE IN CALLS FOR SERVICE.

In 2021, the Knoxville Police Department answered 298,955 calls for service (Dispatched Calls) compared to 290,847 calls for service in 2020. This is an increase of 8,108 calls or 2.8% in calls for service.

2021 Quarterly Summary

During the 2021 calendar year, the 3rd quarter accounted for the highest number of Use of Force Reports with forty-four having been submitted. The 4th quarter had thirty-five reported incidents, while the 2nd quarter reported thirty-one. The 1st quarter reported thirty incidents.
Below is a comparison over the past four years by quarter.
2021 Monthly Use of Force Reporting

The chart below shows that during the 2021 calendar year, July had the highest number of Use of Force reports with (17). January, August and November were close behind with (15) Use of Force Reports. In third place was June with (14) Use of Force Reports. In fourth place was December with (13). September had (12). April had (9). March and May both had (8). February and October had (7).
2021 Use of Force Reporting by Day of Week

Saturday, had the most Use of Force Reports. Monday had the second highest Use of Force reports. In 2020, Monday was the second lowest day listed with Use of Force Reports. In 2021, Tuesday and Friday had the next highest Use of Force reports, each with (21).
2021 Use of Force by Time of Day

During 2021, the most active single hour of the day was the hour between 23:00 and 23:59. This hour accounted for (17) Use of Force Reports. The most active (4) hour block of time was the hours between 20:00 and 23:59. These hours accounted for (46) Use of Force Reports, or (33 %) of the Use of Force Reports for the year. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the least active (4) hours for Use of Force reports were the hours between 05:00 and 08:59 that accounted for (9) Use of Force Reports.
The below chart depicts the number of Use of Force Reports submitted by Patrol Squad and District.
2021 SRO Use of Force Overview


![2021 School Resource Officer Use of Force Chart](image-url)
**Officers Documenting Use of Force During 2021**

During 2021 there were a total of (140) Use of Force reports. Multiple officers may have employed several types of force on an individual subject. These figures do not capture witnessing officers that may have observed the force response, but did not engage. The chart below statistically depicts the top (10) officers who employed (33%) of force responses in 2021. All of the officers are assigned to the Patrol Division.
Precipitating Factors to the Force Response

A wide variety of factors caused the application of force by officers in 2021. Nineteen (19) different types of calls for service were being answered when officers responded with force. The variety of calls demonstrates that any call has the potential to be dangerous. Officers routinely respond to situations and calls without knowing complete facts and circumstances before responding. Law enforcement officers approach unknown offenders on traffic stops and often respond to calls equipped with limited information provided by a biased or uninformed third party. Frequently, the details of most calls are not confirmed until an officer(s) has been on scene for an extended period of time or has received information first hand.

![Top Eight Calls Resulting in Use of Force 2021](image-url)
Types of Resistance Used by Subjects

Those who resisted the police chose a wide array of non-compliant behaviors and actions that required officers to respond. It is important to note, that many of the reported incidents involved several types of resistance which may have resulted in multiple types of responses by officers.

![Types of Resistance Chart]

The most prominent type of resistance utilized by arrestees was some type of aggression or assault on an officer. This would include such actions as attacking an officer or fighting with the officer. Types of assault against an officer to include: biting, kicking, punching and spitting on officer.
Response Types Used by Police Officers

In 2021, officers administered (19) different types of force (209) times. The most prominent type of force used by Knoxville Officers in 2021 was directional controls (53 times) which accounted for (25 %) of all responses. The following graphs give a reflection of the types of force used.

**Note:** Directional control utilized by itself does not require a Use of Force Report. However, when injury occurred or it was implemented along with other required reportable uses of force it is included in the Use of Force report.
Although they are similar in terms of force continuum, the Taser and OC spray are not included in the empty-hand hard figures. In 2021, the Taser was deployed (14) times, down from (18) times in 2020. OC spray (Chemical spray) was deployed (11) times which is up (1) time from 2020, when it was deployed 10 times.

**Injuries to Officers**

It should be recognized that there is a possibility of injury to officers as they respond to resistance and it is not possible to anticipate every situation they may face in order to prevent injury. However, officers receive defensive tactics training in order to minimize the possibility of injury to themselves and the resisting subject(s). This training is continually updated based upon current trends, research and new information.

During 2021, officers reported (66) injuries. An officer might report more than one type of injury on a single incident. The types of injuries are depicted in the chart below:

![Chart showing injuries to officers in 2021](image)

As can be seen above, the noted injuries are largely minor in nature, which again is a direct result of defensive tactics and tactical training received by officers throughout their careers. This is not to minimize the fact that a serious injury can occur at any time regardless of the type
and amount of training received as police work is inherently dangerous and the potential for responding to a volatile situation is always a factor.

During the course of the year 2021, 50 Officers were injured. 5 of those Officers was taken to a medical facility for treatment. By comparison in 2020, 15 Officers were injured and 1 Officer was taken to hospital.

During these incidents in 2021, there were 98 citizens injured and 28 citizens were taken to a hospital. It should be noted many of these trips to the hospital were to remove a Taser probe. In 2020 71 citizens were injured in Use of Force encounters and 21 citizens were taken to hospital.

2021 shows a significant increase in injuries to both Officers and Citizens, over the past year.
Use of Force by Subject/Race

The majority of persons upon whom police responded to resistance with force in 2021 were white males with 51% followed by black males with 30% of the total. Black females accounted for 6% and white females accounted for 9%. There were no Hispanic females involved in a Use of Force and only 4 Hispanic males that accounted for 3%. In 2021 there were 0% Asian male and females involved in a Use of Force. Similarly in 2020 there were no Asian males or females involved in any Use of Force.

Demographic of Citizens Involved in Uses of Force

White males represented the majority of those who resisted officers. In 2021, white males resisted officers 72 times, up from 60 in 2020. In 2021, there was an increase of 12 Use of Force Reports for black males involved in resistance, and an increase of (6) black females involved in resistance. There was an increase of (5) Use of Force reports in the white female category. The number of Hispanic males involved in resistance decreased by (1) from (5) in 2020 to (4) in 2021.
Total Arrests by Race 2021

Comparison of Total Arrests by Race 2021

Suspect Age

- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- unk

- B/M
- B/F
- W/F
- W/M
- A/M
- A/F
- H/M
- H/F
- O/M
- O/F

Arrest
Use of Force
During 2021, there were 1,855 black males arrested compared to 3,900 white males. Use of Force Reports were required for 2.2% of the arrests involving black males compared to 1.8% involving white males. In comparison, 576 black females were arrested in 2021, compared to 1,939 white females. Use of Force reports reflect 1.3% of black female arrests, compared to 0.06% of white females arrested. In 2021 there were 210 Hispanic males arrested. Use of Force reports were required in .01% of the arrests with Hispanic males. 52 Hispanic females were arrested in 2021. No Use of Force reports were required in the arrest of Hispanic females. Asian males accounted for 12 arrests in 2021 and no Use of Force reports were required in any of those arrests. 1 Asian female was arrested in 2021 and no Use of Force reports were required.

Note: In compiling arrest data it is important to note that this is a “fluid” number and changes as the next year progresses. The reason for this is that as the months pass, expungements are filed into the system lowering the number of arrests for previous years. Therefore, numbers shown in January of a year, for the previous year, usually will not be the same as if a request for arrests was tallied in July.

Note: For purposes of this report in regards to Hispanic arrests, Ethnicity was pulled and used for classification. 9 subjects were extracted from race Black; 11 subjects were extracted from race other; 1 subject was extracted from race unknown; and 241 subjects were extracted from race White.

**Firearms Use in 2021**

Patrol officers discharged their weapons eleven times outside of training in 2021. Nine incidents involved the approved use of the firearm to destroy an animal. There were two officer involved shootings.
The same recommendations for 2020 continue to apply for 2021.

➢ With a rise in “calls for service” and “Use of Force” reports, focus and training on de-escalation tactics in order to avoid the need to respond to resistance is strongly recommended. Continued improvement of communication skills will lead to legitimacy in the community and reinforce the practice of procedural justice. These recommendations are currently being utilized as part of annual training with both recruits and officers.

➢ A continued focus on “officer wellness” is also recommended to ensure that officers have the maximum potential to make critical decisions and optimal physical performance when required to respond to resistance.

➢ Continued expansion of CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) for officers assigned to Patrol and Investigative duties would be beneficial when engaged with the growing segment of society that struggles with mental health issues and comes into contact with the criminal justice system. It should also be noted all officers receive basic CIT Training in Academy as a recruit.