



URBANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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USE OF FORCE REPORT

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

The Urbana Police Department policy on Use of Force states:

"...Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests. The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional force in carrying out their duties [Graham v Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989)]. Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their constitutional and local authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties. Further, officers are reminded that de-escalation is the foundation of the Urbana Police Department's approach to public safety..."

UPD's policy on documentation of use of force states:

"...Any use of force by an employee of this Department shall be documented promptly, completely, and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why they believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances. Some form of documentation regarding the use of force will always be required. The responsibility for written documentation falls on the officer who uses force. Other personnel may be directed and/or required to document the incident. Such reports are not limited to arrest situations but include any use of force as required by this policy. Those instances also include:

- If an officer removed their OC spray can, baton, or TASER in anticipation of using them and displayed them to a person in an effort to gain compliance with their commands, a report shall be prepared.*
- In any situation where an officer removes their duty weapon from its holster in an attempt to control a person's action or displays a rifle in an attempt to control a person's action, the officer shall write a report.*

- *Any time a duty weapon or rifle is pointed at a person, regardless of whether the person is aware of the weapon or rifle, the officer shall write a report.*

Supervisors are required to ensure that the use of force is properly documented and reviewed. Higher levels of use of force shall require more detailed documentation. Reports shall thoroughly describe the incident both in terms of the offender's specific resistance and the officer techniques used to overcome that resistance. Officers shall use the proper terminology when writing reports. The data included in this report contains information compiled from police reports authored by the Urbana Police Department documenting use of force. These reports are subjected to review by case management, supervisors, and the Use of Force Committee..."

Use of force reports collected by Urbana Police Department reflect the National Institute of Justice definitions in the use-of-force continuum.¹ These definitions are:

- Empty-Hand Control — Officers use bodily force to gain control of a situation.
 - Soft technique. Officers use grabs, holds and joint locks to restrain an individual.
 - Hard technique. Officers use punches and kicks to restrain an individual.
- Less-Lethal Methods — Officers use less-lethal technologies to gain control of a situation.
 - Blunt impact. Officers may use a baton or projectile to immobilize a combative person.
 - Chemical. Officers may use chemical sprays or projectiles embedded with chemicals to restrain an individual (e.g., pepper spray).
 - Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs). Officers may use CEDs to immobilize an individual. CEDs discharge a high-voltage, low-amperage jolt of electricity at a distance.
- Lethal Force — Officers use lethal weapons to gain control of a situation. Should only be used if a suspect poses a serious threat to the officer or another individual.
 - Officers use deadly weapons such as firearms to stop an individual's actions.

The FBI collects national data on use of force as a component of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The Urbana Police Department has participated in this voluntary reporting program since 2019; beginning in 2021, this data is now submitted through the National Incident Based Reporting System on the Illinois State Police reporting portal. This reporting program is used by law enforcement agencies to report a law enforcement use of force that results in a fatality, serious bodily injury to a person, or the discharge of a firearm at or in the direction of a person. The definition of serious bodily injury is based in part on 18 United States Code 2246 (4) and means “bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.” Based on the federal definition used by the National Use of Force Data Collection, the Urbana Police Department has not had any reportable use of force incidents.

¹ <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/use-force-continuum>

Beginning in October 2023, UPD began collecting data on uses of force using Departmentware. Departmentware is customizable, public safety software that allows officers to provide more detail on the incident. Previously, officers indicated whether force was used on their police reports, and an administrative assistant entered this data into Excel. Now, the officers directly enter the information on use of force into Departmentware, which improves data quality and eliminates duplicative work. This 2023 Use of Force Report is a combination of data from both the previously-used spreadsheet and the newly-implemented Departmentware.

As outlined by Council Resolution No. 2021-02-007R, a Resolution Prioritizing Tactical De-Escalation in the Use of Force Policy and Police Transparency in Urbana, the following report includes, “in aggregated form, the number of use of force incidents, the findings of the Use of Force Review [Committee], and whether any disciplinary or training actions were taken as a result of the Board’s review. Further, the data [is] disaggregated by type of force used, as well as by the race, gender, and age of the individuals involved.”

Please note that within one incident where force was used, multiple individuals and multiple officers could have been involved. In Table 1, this information is presented by incident. In Table 2, this is counted by the number of times each type of force was used against individuals (e.g., during one arrest, if an officer displayed a taser and another officer used empty hand – soft force, each type of force would be included on Table 2. The incident would be counted once on Table 1.) Table 3 includes the age, race, and sex of any individual upon whom force was used.

Table 1. Use of Force Committee Findings, Incident-Level, January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Findings of Use of Force Committee	Number of Incidents
Use of Force within Policy	64
Tactical Training Action Taken	5
Disciplinary Action Taken	0
Total Incidents with Use of Force	69

Table 2. Use of Force by Type, Individual-Level, January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Type of Force Used	Times Used, Individual-Level
Empty Hand - Soft	51
Lethal Weapon Point/Display	36
Chemical Display/Deploy	0
Conducted Energy Devices Display/Deploy	5
Empty Hand - Hard	1
Blunt Impact Display/Deploy	0
Lethal Force	0

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Table 3. Disaggregated Demographics, Individual-Level, January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

	Sex	Race	Age at Contact	Lethal Force	Lethal Weapon Point/ Display	TASER Display/ Deploy	OC Display/ Deploy	Baton	Empty Hand/ Soft	Empty Hand/ Hard
1	F	B	29		X					
2	M	B	31		X					
3	M	B	33						X	
4	M	B	48						X	
5	F	B	22		X					
6	F	B	38		X					
7	F	H	22		X					
8	M	B	25		X					
9	F	W	22		X					
10	F	B	16		X					
11	M	W	24						X	
12	M	B	23						X	
13	F	B	21						X	
14	F	B	43		X					
15	M	B	20						X	
16	M	B	35						X	
17	M	B	40						X	
18	M	W	35		X					
19	M	B	18						X	
20	M	B	24						X	
21	M	B	29						X	
22	M	B	27						X	
23	M	B	35						X	
24	F	B	31		X					
25	F	B	30						X	
26	F	W	20						X	
27	M	B	32		X					
28	M	H	25						X	

29	M	B	63						X	
30	M	W	34						X	
31	F	W	22						X	
32	F	B	18						X	
33	M	B	19						X	
34	M	B	58		X				X	
35	M	A	29						X	
36	M	B	26		X					
37	M	B	17		X					
38	M	B	20		X					
39	F	B	35		X					
40	M	B	51			X			X	
41	M	B	31						X	
42	M	B	56		X					
43	M	B	31						X	
44	M	B	24						X	
45	F	B	22		X					
46	F	B	21		X					
47	M	W	39							X
48	M	B	22						X	
49	M	H	20						X	
50	M	B	31						X	
51	F	B	28						X	
52	M	B	17						X	
53	F	B	27						X	
54	M	B	17						X	
55	M	W	36						X	
56	M	B	37						X	
57	M	B	13						X	
58	M	B	21						X	
59	M	B	28						X	
60	F	W	29		X					
61	F	W	20						X	

62	F	B	24						X	
63	M	W	35		X					
64	F	B	21						X	
65	F	B	25		X					
66	F	B	34		X					
67	M	B	34		X					
68	F	B	28		X					
69	M	B	25						X	
70	M	A	30			X				
71	M	B	17		X				X	
72	M	B	15						X	
73	F	B	24						X	
74	M	B	22		X					
75	M	W	26		X					
76	M	H	19		X					
77	M	H	16		X					
78	M	B	23			X			X	
79	F	W	40		X					
80	M	H	24						X	
81	M	B	43			X				
82	F	B	18		X					
83	M	B	17		X					
84	M	B	22		X					
85	F	W	16						X	
86	M	H	18						X	
87	M	B	33		X				X	
88	M	B	43			X				