HAMILTON POLICE SERVICES BOARD

- INFORMATION -

DATE:	June 13, 2019
REPORT TO:	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
FROM:	Eric Girt Chief of Police
SUBJECT:	***Year End Report: Use of Force 2018*** ***PSB 19-045***

BACKGROUND:

Attached is the annual Use of Force Report for 2018. This report is completed to capture information forwarded to the Service Armourer/Use of Force Training Sergeant by members who have completed a Use of Force Report.

As per the *Police Services Act* Regulation 926 Sec. 14.5(1) Reports on Use of Force: A member shall submit a report to the Chief of Police or Commissioner whenever the member,

(a) draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public, excluding a member of the police force while on duty, or points a firearm, or discharges a firearm;

(b) uses a weapon other than a firearm on another person; or

(c) uses physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention.

Hamilton Police Service Policy & Procedure 1.02 *Use of Force* addresses the member requirements for submitting Use of Force Reports at the Hamilton Police Service.

Eric Girt
Chief of Police

EG/N. Goodes-Ritchie
Attachment: *2018 Use of Force Statistical Report*

cc: Frank Bergen, Deputy Chief – Support

2018 Use of Force Statistical Report

Prepared by Sergeants
Gino Ciarmoli and Scott Galbraith

A statistical summary of reported Use of Force Incidents by the Hamilton Police Service

Hamilton Police Service
Training Branch
Use of Force Section

Table of Contents

Introduction 2

Statistical Summary 4

Firearm Discharged 6

Firearm Pointed 6

Handgun Drawn 6

Aerosol Weapon 7

Impact Weapon Hard 7

Impact Weapon Soft 7

Empty Hands Hard 7

Empty Hands Soft 8

Conducted Energy Weapon 8

CEW Use 9

CEW by Incident Type 10

CEW Use by Service Branch 11

Use of Force by Incident Type 12

Use of Force by Branch 13

Use of Force by Years of Service 14

Use of Force by Incidents per Month 15

Use of Force by Incidents per Day of the Week 16

Use of Force Incidents by Time of Day 17

Suspects/Police Officers Injured/Require Medical Attention 18

Use of Force Incidents and Suspect's Weapons 19

Use of Force in Relation to Public Contacts 20

Conclusions / Trends 21

2018 Use of Force Statistical Report

Introduction

This report will provide a statistical summary of reports of Use of Force incidents that occurred in 2018; where a particular Use of Force option was utilized by a member of the Hamilton Police Service. The report will also compare the number of 2018 Use of Force incidents with the number of incidents from the years 2009 to 2017. The report will also compare the total number of force options used in 2018 to the total force options used in the years 2009-2017. In addition this report will focus on Use of Force incidents by Service Branch (i.e. Patrol, Support or other) and by officer's years of service. Lastly, there will be a breakdown of the 2018 incidents into the following categories: incidents per month, incidents per day of the week and incidents per time of day. The source material for the data is Use of Force Reports and/or Hamilton Police Service Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) Reports submitted by the involved officer(s). All data prior to 2005 was provided by the Professional Standards Branch.

As per the Ontario Police Services Act Regulation 926 Sec. 14.5(1) Reports on Use of Force and Hamilton Police Service Policy and Procedure 1.02, Use of Force Reporting, Hamilton Police Service members shall complete and submit Hamilton Police Service Use of Force Reports to the Chief of Police, through their Command Officer, prior to the completion of their shift, as follows:

Parts A and B of the Use of Force Report are required whenever the Member:

a. Draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public, excluding a Member of the Police Service while on duty, points a firearm at a person, or discharges a firearm other than on a Police Range; in the course of a training exercise, target practice or ordinary firearm maintenance, in accordance with Service Policies and Procedures;

b. Uses a weapon other than a firearm on another person, with the exception of a weapon other than a firearm used on another Member of a Police Service in the course of a training exercise in accordance with Service Policies and Procedures;

c. Uses physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention, with the exception of physical force used on another Member of a Police Service in the course of a training exercise in accordance with Service Policies and Procedures; or

d. Handles a Police Service Dog where the dog bites a suspect or any member of the public as the result of the involvement of the Canine Branch.

e. While operational as a Mounted Unit Officer, uses the equine to apply force to a member of the public that results in an injury requiring medical attention.

Parts A, B of the Use of Force Report and parts C, D of the CEW Report are required whenever the Member deploys a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) in the cartridge deployment mode.

Parts C and D are required whenever the Member draws, points or displays a Conducted Energy Weapon in the presence of a member of the public, excluding a Member of the Police Service while on duty, other than on a Police Range; in the course of a training exercise or ordinary CEW maintenance in accordance with Service Policies and Procedures.

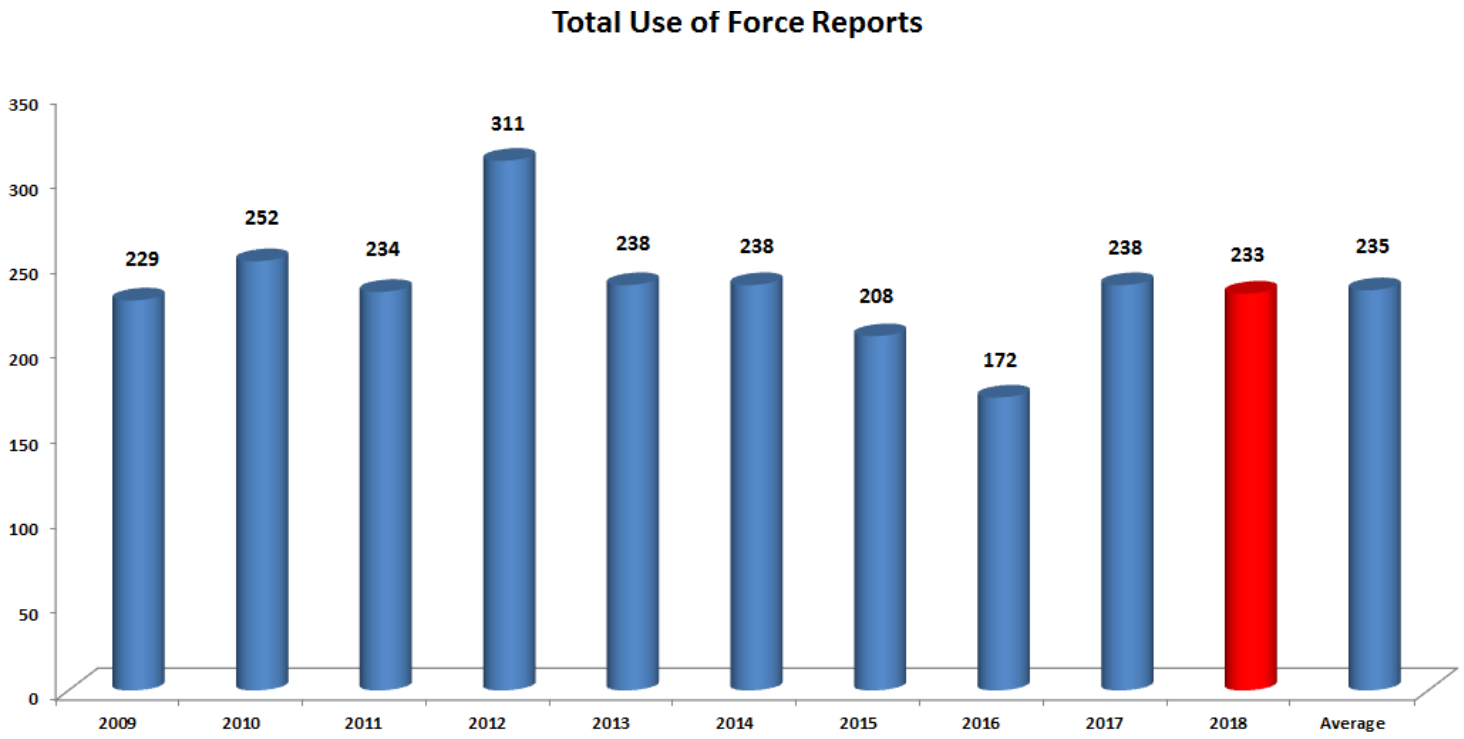
This report only summarizes those incidents in which a Use of Force Report was submitted and does not totally reflect all instances in which a Use of Force option was used upon a member of the public. For example, handcuffing a person is considered a Use of Force application; however if no injury is incurred a Use of Force Report is not required.

The Use of Force options that are tracked by Use of Force Reports are:

- Firearm Discharged
- Firearm Pointed
- Handgun Drawn
- Aerosol Weapon (Oleo capsicum (OC) spray or foam)
- Impact Weapon Hard (ASP Baton)
- Impact Weapon Soft (ASP Baton)
- Empty Hands Hard
- Empty Hands Soft
- Other (K9 bites, Mounted Patrol Unit, weapons of opportunity)
- Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) in the cartridge deployed mode.

Statistical Summary of Use of Force Incidents

During the ten year period from 2009 – 2018 the average number of incidents reported was 235 incidents per year, with a low of 172 incidents in 2016 and a high of 311 incidents in 2012. The total number of Use of Force incidents in 2018, 233, is lower than the 10 year average of 235 incidents per year.



In 2018, our officers reported 233 Use of Force incidents. There were 83 incidents where more than one Use of Force option was used. This number increased from 75 incidents in 2017. For example, an officer(s) may use more than one option to resolve an encounter, such as initially attempting empty hands soft and then deploying an aerosol weapon. Of note, there were an additional 107 CEW display mode reports (this number includes 27 multi option incidents). These reports do not factor into the statistics captured on the standardized Use of Force Report submitted to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for statistical purposes.

Total Use of Force Options

	Firearm Discharge	Firearm Pointed	Handgun Drawn	Aerosol Weapon	Impact Hard	Impact Soft	Empty Hands Hard	Empty Hands Soft	K9 Bite / Misc	CEW	Total Incidents
2009	45	91	18	28	10	1	17	8	2	27	229
2010	42	112	17	28	5	2	22	26	3	45	252
2011	43	110	13	21	6	1	19	31	4	22	234
2012	46	145	52	22	7	2	35	39	5	49	311
2013	62	99	22	13	7	4	32	21	0	41	238
2014	47	100	23	14	3	1	15	18	2	64	238
2015	30	145	59	9	4	0	13	12	0	47	208
2016	18	98	40	7	1	1	26	25	4	38	172
2017	24	125	19	3	3	0	22	44	1	58	238
2018	28	125	39	2	3	1	23	36	2	57	233
Avg	39	115	30	15	5	1	22	26	2	45	235

NOTE Adding the cells from any given year will not result in the sum calculated in the “Total Incidents” cell. This is due to the fact that some incidents involve multiple options therefore producing a number of a lower value when totalled.

2017 vs 2018 Options Used / Total Incidents

	2017	2018	Percentage increase or decrease
Firearm Discharge	24	28	17
Firearm Pointed	125	125	0
Handgun Drawn	19	39	105
Aerosol Weapon	3	2	-33
Impact Hard	3	3	0
Impact Soft	0	1	100
Empty Hand Hard	22	23	5
Empty Hand Soft	44	36	-18
K9 Bite/Other	1	2	100
CEW (Both Modes)	169	164	-3
Total Options	410	423	3

Firearm Discharged

The discharging of a service pistol, shotgun, or one of the tactical firearms is a very serious occurrence. Officers are taught as per the Ontario Use of Force Model and Police Services Act Regulation 926, Sections 9 and 10: "that they shall not draw a handgun, point a firearm or discharge a firearm unless he or she believes, on reasonable grounds, that to do so is necessary to protect against loss of life or serious bodily harm," or "to call for assistance in a critical situation, if there is no reasonable alternative; or to destroy an animal that is potentially dangerous or is so badly injured that humanity dictates that its suffering be ended."

There were 28 incidents in 2018 where Hamilton officers discharged a firearm. The ten year average for Firearm Discharged is 39 incidents per year. The most common use of service firearms is to euthanize injured animals. In 2018, 26 firearms discharged incidents were for this purpose. The two other incidents fell under the mandate of the SIU. One of those investigations has been concluded and the other is still ongoing. For tracking purposes, each firearm was counted as a statistic. This is a 16.7% increase compared to the 24 incidents in 2017.

Firearm Pointed

Again, officers are taught as per the Ontario Use of Force Model and Police Services Act Regulation 926, Section 9; "that they shall not draw a handgun, point a firearm or discharge a firearm unless he or she believes, on reasonable grounds, that to do so is necessary to protect against loss of life or serious bodily harm." The types of incidents where a service pistol is removed from its holster (or rifle, shotgun, etc.) and pointed at a member of the public, range from officers making high risk arrests where weapons are believed to be involved, to the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) making dynamic entries; i.e.: barricaded individuals, warrant execution involving weapons, etc.

The ten year average for Firearm Pointed is 115 incidents per year. In 2018 there were 125 firearm pointed incidents. This is a zero % change compared to 2017.

Handgun Drawn

The drawing of a member's handgun from its holster is something different than the pointing of a firearm, in that as per Regulation 926 s. 14.5(1)(a) a Use of Force Report is only submitted when a handgun is drawn in the presence of a member of the public. Again, officers are taught they can only draw their handgun if "he or she believes, on reasonable grounds, that to do so is necessary to protect against loss of life or serious bodily harm." The numbers reflected in this category are much lower than the pointing of a firearm. This can be attributed to the fact that an Officer will respond to a serious call that warrants the pistol being drawn, but at the time of deployment is not directly pointed at a member of the public; i.e.: pistols are drawn prior to a dynamic entry or building search and this is witnessed by members of the public; therefore a Use of Force Report is required to be submitted. Should an incident progress from Handgun Drawn to Firearm Pointed, the latter would ultimately be used to capture the occurrence as it is the more significant of the two. There were 39 incidents in 2018 where an officer drew their handgun in front of a member of the public. This is above the ten year average of 30 incidents per year and 105% increase from 2017's 19 incidents.

Aerosol Weapon (Oleo Capsicum – (O/C)

O/C is classified as an "intermediate weapon" and a subject/threat must exhibit at minimum, "actively resistant" behaviour before its use can be considered. There were 2 O/C incidents in 2018 which is below the ten year average of 15 incidents per year and 40% less than 2017's 3 incidents.

The use of O/C significantly decreased with the introduction of the CEW in 2005. In 2004, O/C was deployed 68 times but its' use plummeted to 39 incidents in 2005 when CEWs were introduced. It was anticipated that O/C use would continue to decline or plateau as CEW use became more widespread; and overall, O/C use has generally declined since 2005.

Impact Weapon Hard

Impact weapons "hard" refers to using the ASP Baton to strike an "assaultive" subject. The ASP Baton was used 3 times in 2018 to strike a subject displaying assaultive behaviour, which is lower than the ten year average of 5 incidents per year and no change from the 3 incidents in 2017.

Impact Weapon Soft

Impact weapons "soft" refers to using the ASP Baton as a point of leverage while depressing a pressure point on a subject. This option would generally be applied to suspects displaying passive resistant to active resistant behaviour and historically this option is very rarely utilized. There was 1 reported incident of Impact Weapon Soft in 2018, 100% more than 2017's zero incidents and on par with the ten year average of 1 incident per year.

Empty Hands Hard

The use of empty hands "hard" refers to the striking of a generally assaultive person. This would include punches, kicks, elbow strikes, knee strikes and grounding techniques. As per Reg. 926 s.14(c) an officer is only required to submit a report for Empty Hands Hard if they "use physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention." However, an officer is also required to submit a report if they use another force option that requires a report in conjunction with Empty Hands Hard even though medical attention was not required; i.e.: Empty Hands Hard in conjunction with O/C.

There were 23 reported incidents in 2018 of Empty Hands Hard. This is slightly above the ten year average of 22 incidents per year and an increase of 5% when compared to 2017's 22 incidents.

Empty Hands Soft

The use of empty hands "soft" refers to the application of joint locks, some grounding techniques and/or pressure points to a person. Again, as per Reg. 926 s.14(c) an officer is only required to submit a report for Empty Hands Soft if they "use physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention."; or if they use this option in conjunction with another option that requires mandatory reporting i.e.: Empty Hands Soft in conjunction with OC or CEW. In 2018, there were 36 reported incidents of Empty Hands Soft. This is above the ten year average of 26 incidents per year and a decrease of 20% compared to 2017's 44 incidents.

Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)

Conducted Energy Weapons, also known as TASERs were authorized for limited police use in Ontario in late 2004. Their use was originally limited to Tactical Teams, Containment Teams and Front Line Patrol Supervisors and designates when acting in a supervisory capacity. The HPS definition of Front Line Supervisor was expanded in 2007, 2008, 2009 to include Crime Managers, Vice and Drug Officers, Gangs and Weapons Enforcement Officers, Break, Enter, Auto Theft and Robbery Unit (B.E.A.R.) Officers, Fugitive Apprehension Unit Officers, Mounted Patrol Unit and Addressing Crime Trends In Our Neighbourhoods (A.C.T.I.O.N) Supervisors.

In August 2013, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services announced that they would be moving forward to eliminate restrictions on which police officers would be authorized to carry a CEW. The Hamilton Police Service implemented a training plan in September, 2013 in which all active officers would be trained in the use of a CEW. In November, 2013 the Ministry announced that each Police Chief in partnership with their Police Service's Board could designate which classes of officers within their organization would be authorized to carry a CEW. Effective August 11, 2014 any Hamilton officer trained to carry a CEW would be authorized to do so. The Hamilton Police Service currently has over 700 qualified CEW officers.

In 2005, a Hamilton Police Service TASER Report was implemented to track CEW use and deployment mode(s) that were not being captured by a Use of Force report. Officers are only required to submit a Use of Force report with respect to CEW use when a cartridge is fired at a subject or when directly applied in the contact mode.

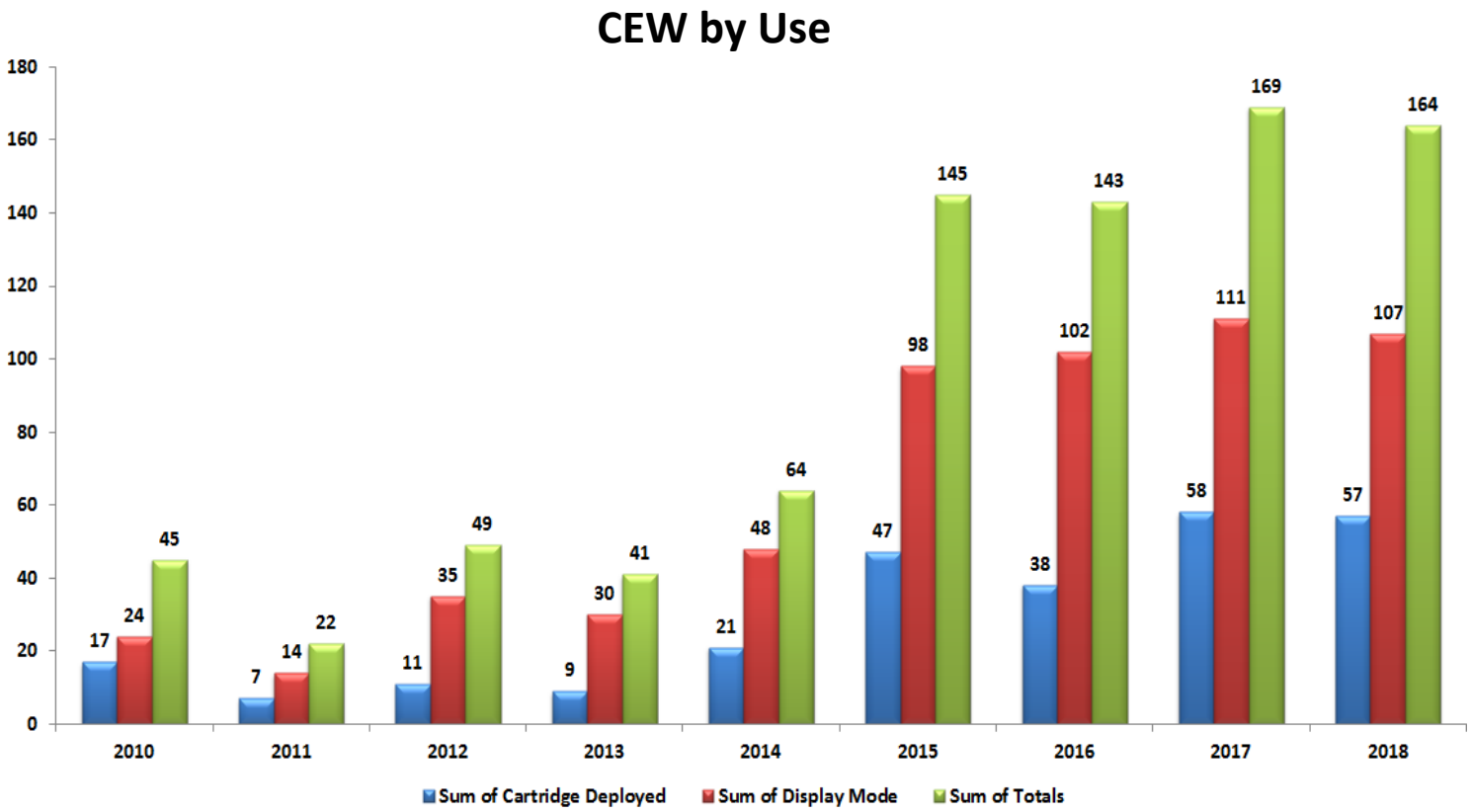
The TASER report captures the following deployment modes: a) CEW used in the "cartridge deployed" mode where a cartridge is fired at a subject; b) CEW used in the "contact" mode where the CEW is applied directly to a subject otherwise referred to as "touch tase, drive stun or push stun" and c) Force Presence/Display mode; in any instance in which the CEW is removed/drawn from its holster in front of a member of the public; or where the CEW's laser sight is applied to a subject; or when the CEW is "spark tested" in front of a subject in the effort to gain subject cooperation without having to actually apply the CEW. The use of the Hamilton Police Service TASER Report was discontinued in early 2006; but was re-designed and re-implemented in November, 2007. The report was further re-designed and is now Parts C and D of the H.P.S. Use of Force Report.

As per the Ontario Use of Force Model, the CEW is an "intermediate weapon", which police can consider to use when a subject exhibits "actively resistant" behaviour. However, in June 2009, the Hamilton Police Service

changed its CEW policy to; a subject must exhibit at minimum "assaultive and/or serious bodily harm or death behaviours to themselves or another person" before CEW use can be considered. This is a reflection of current National and Provincial best practices.

CEW Use

The CEW was used 164 times in 2018; a decrease of 3% from the 169 incidents in 2017. There were a total of 233 Use of Force incidents reported in 2018. In 83 incidents there were multiple Use of Force options used. In 27 of these incidents the CEW was included as one of the multiple options used. In 57 incidents the CEW was used in deployment mode meaning probes were fired from the cartridge. In 107 incidents the CEW was used in display mode meaning it was a show of force / de-escalation tool and no probes were fired from the cartridge. As per the below chart, since 2010, the majority of CEW use is in the display mode.

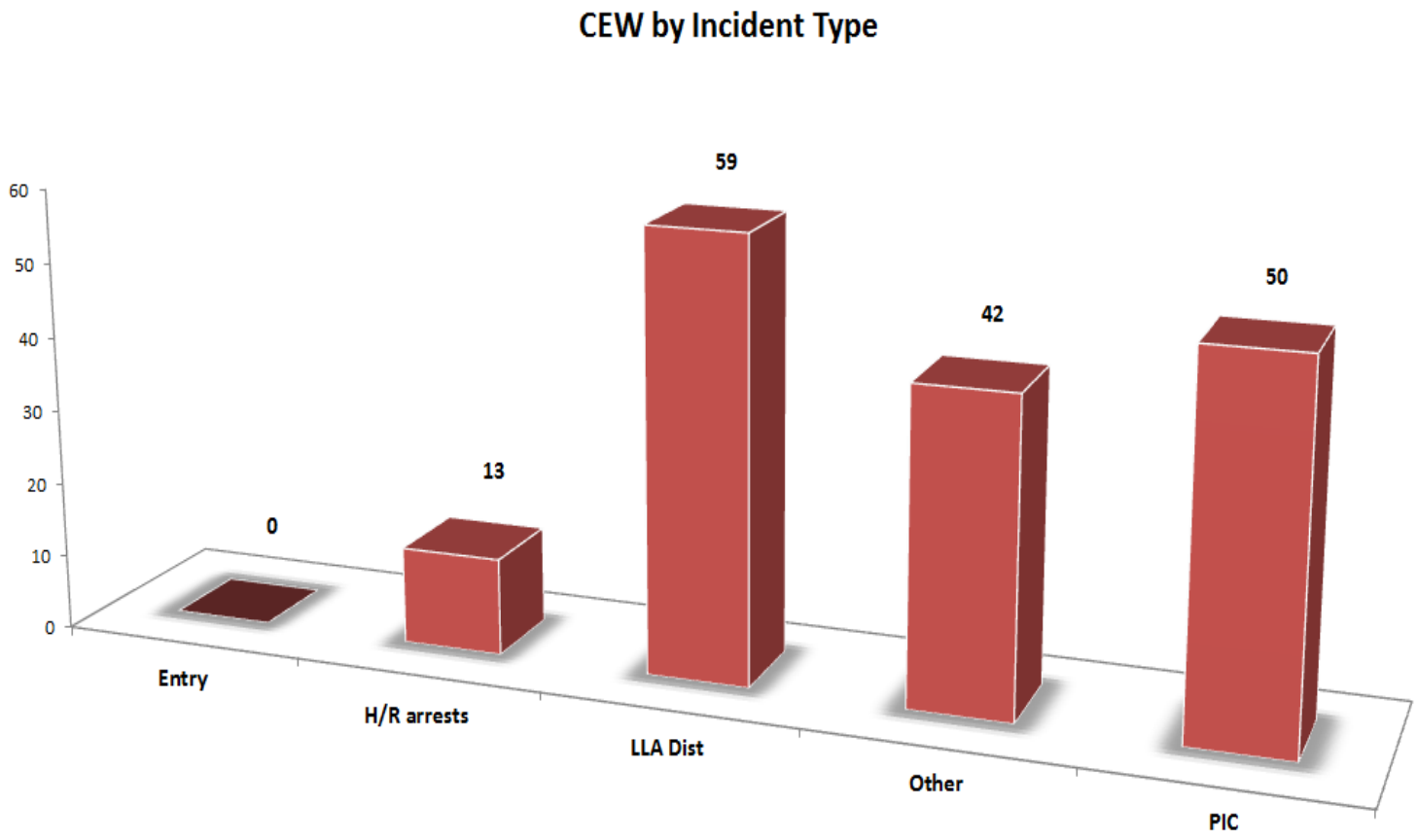


NOTE * 2015 represents the first year that contact mode has been discouraged in training as it cannot achieve neuromuscular incapacitation. As a result, the contact mode statistics from the previous years were not included as to give a proper comparison. When adding the totals (Deployment + Display) a lower number is explained by those missing contact mode incidents. A higher number is explained by multiple modes used in a single incident.

CEW by Incident Type

The CEW was deployed to apprehend/control persons in crisis or PIC's (50 incidents), High Risk Arrests where an individual was armed or thought to be armed with a weapon (13 incidents - **This is a 65% decrease from the 37 incidents in 2017),** Disturbances, usually involving Liquor License Act violations, Other Incidents, which are general arrests involving assaultive suspects and Dynamic Entry.

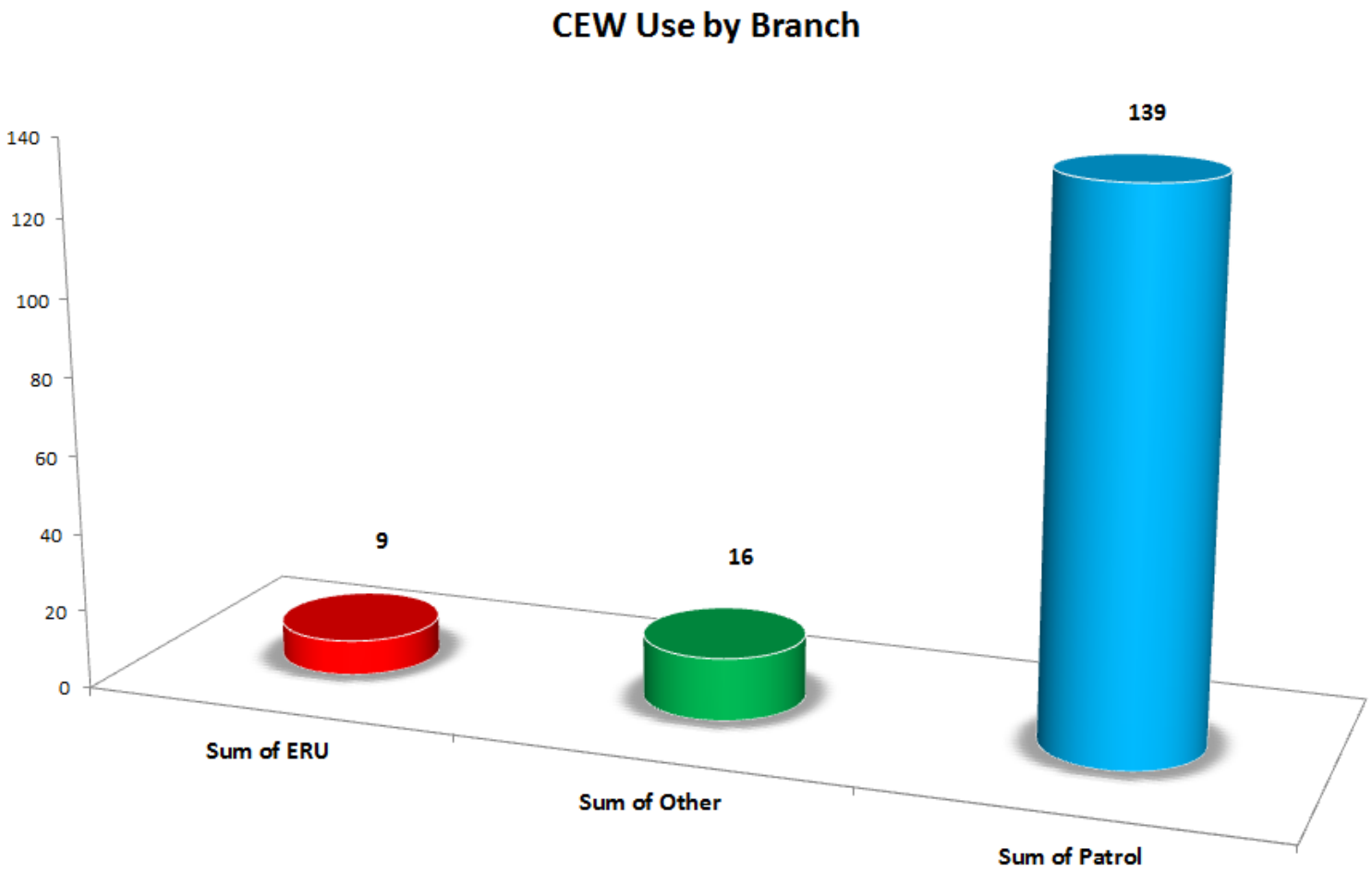
In 68 of the 2018 CEW incidents the subjects were displaying or had immediate access to a weapon. 37 involved a knife of some type, 6 involved a firearm or replica and 25 involved an "other" implement (axe, sword, hammer, razor blades, screwdriver, bat, metal pipe and glass).



CEW Use by Service Branch

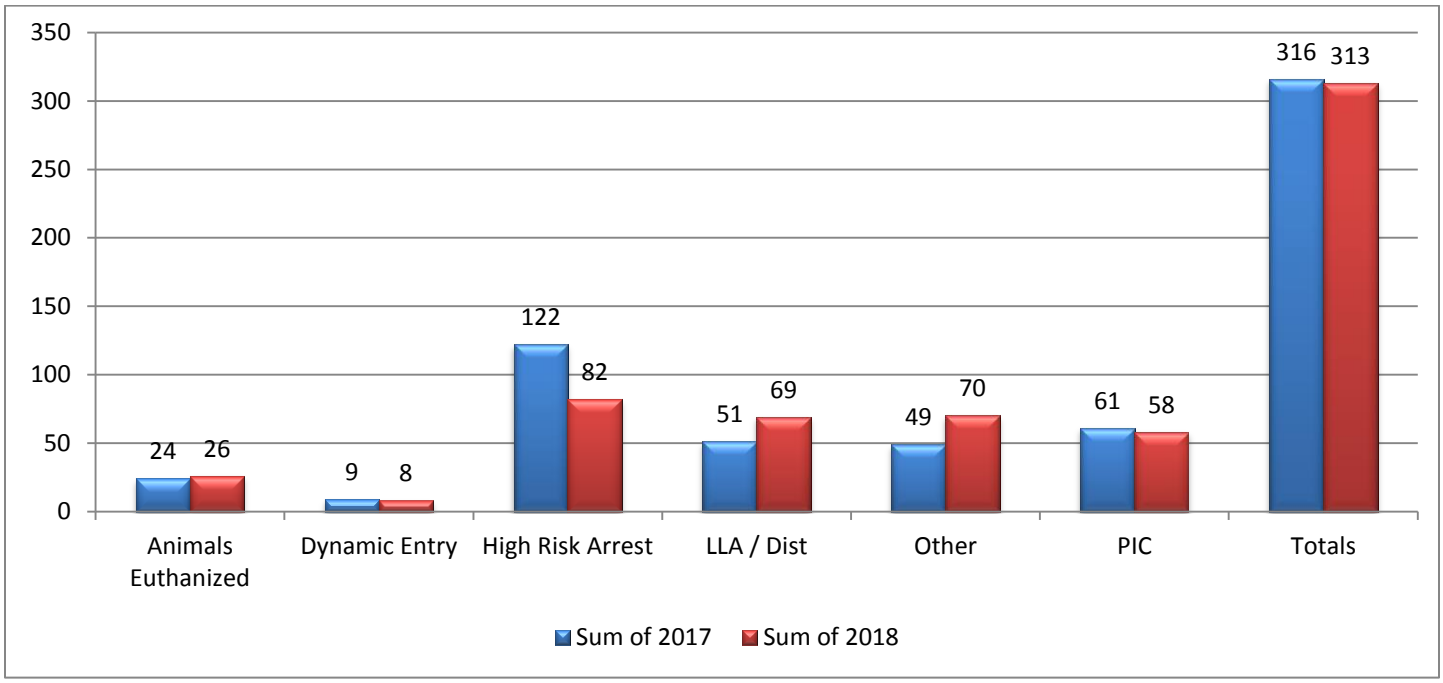
With respect to Use of Force by Branch, the Service is divided for statistical purposes into five groups or Branches; 1. Uniform Patrol 2. Emergency Response Unit (ERU) 3. Other (Vice and Drugs Intelligence, BEAR, HEAT, A.C.T.I.O.N., etc.) 4. Courts/Custody 5. Paid Duties. CEW use in 2018 by Branch is as follows; Emergency Response Unit - 9 incidents, Other -16 incidents and all other incidents were identified as Uniform Patrol (139). In 2 incidents the CEW was used in both display and deployment modes.

CEW use remained consistent in 2018 when compared to 2017 and was predominantly deployed in the Force Presence/Display Mode. The increase of the CEW in the Force Presence/Display in recent years would suggest that the presence of a CEW at an incident appears to act as a general deterrent and de-escalation tool.



Use of Force by Incident Type

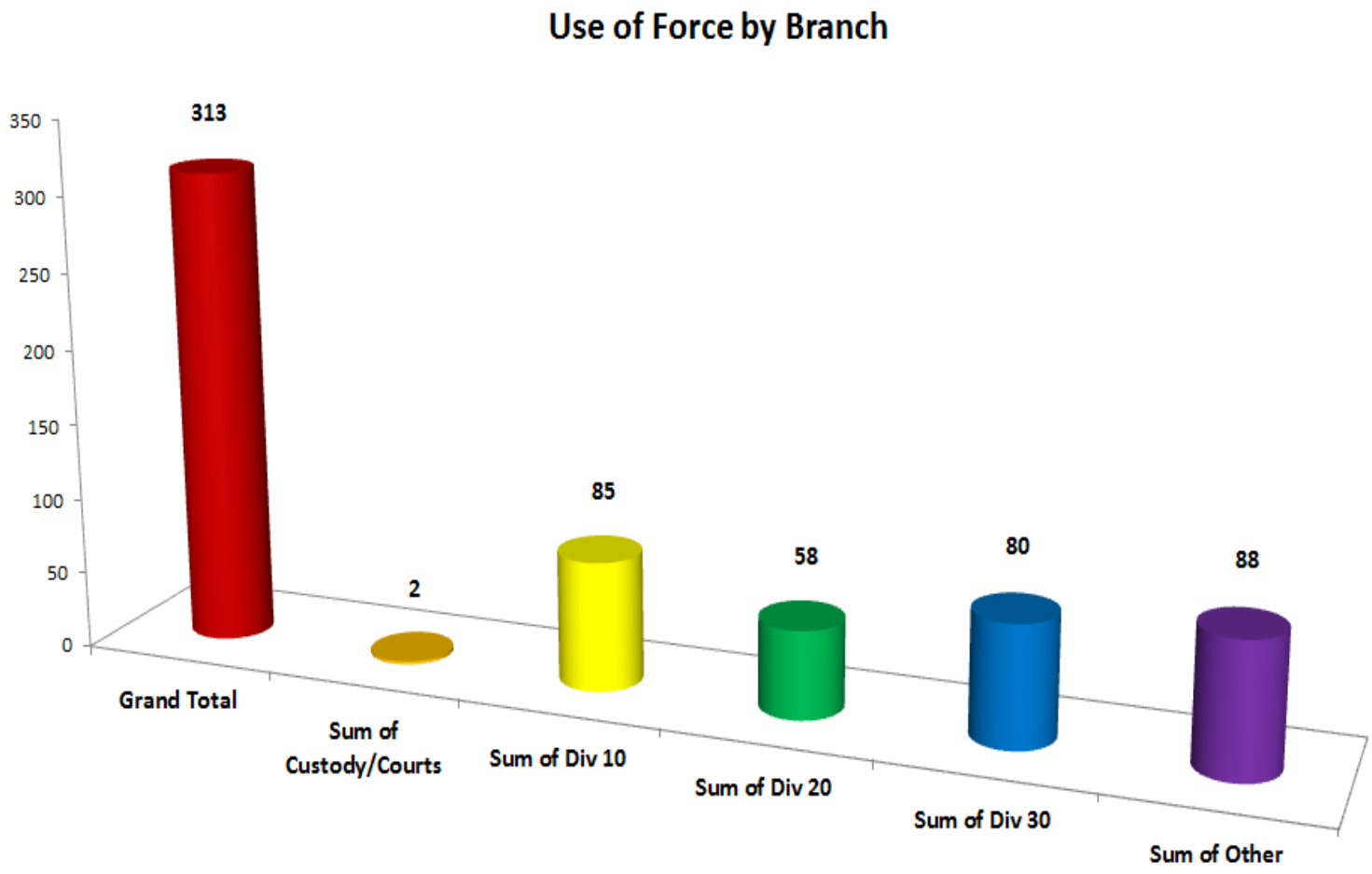
Use of Force incidents were grouped into the following categories: 1. High Risk Arrests where a subject was/believed to be armed with a weapon, 2. Persons In Crisis (PIC), 3. Liquor Licence Act/Disturbances, 4. Dynamic Entry Warrant Execution generally upon a premise, 5. Other; which includes subjects who were assaultive, as well as Court and Custody incidents and 6. Animals euthanized.



NOTE * this chart distinguishes between **incidents** and **Use of Force incidents**. 287 represent the total number of incidents reported by Hamilton Police on a member of the public (313-26 animal euthanizations). 233 represents the total from that 313 that are Ministry identified Use of Force incidents. Therefore, 107 incidents were CEW display, 27 of those transitioned to a Use of Force incident which would require a Use of Force report. This would leave 80 CEW incidents which were strictly Display Mode only and are not required to be reported to the Ministry therefore are not included in the 233 reported Use of Force reports.

Use of Force by Branch

As previously mentioned the Service is divided for statistical purposes into five groups or Branches; 1. Uniform Patrol, 2. Emergency Response Unit (ERU), 3. Other (Vice and Drugs, Intelligence, BEAR, HEAT, etc.), 4. Courts/Custody, 5. Paid Duties. Although there were 233 reported Use of Force incidents in 2018, in some incidents more than one Branch responded and used force; i.e.: Patrol plus B.E.A.R., Patrol plus E.R.U., etc. Note, CEW reported data as well as Use of Force reported data has been included in the following chart. Uniform Patrol Officers accounted for 223 (71%) of reported incidents and ERU / specialized "Other" Units accounted for 90 (29%). ERU incidents are primarily dynamic entries. There were 2 incidents reported by Custody/Courts and no incidents reported by Paid Duty.

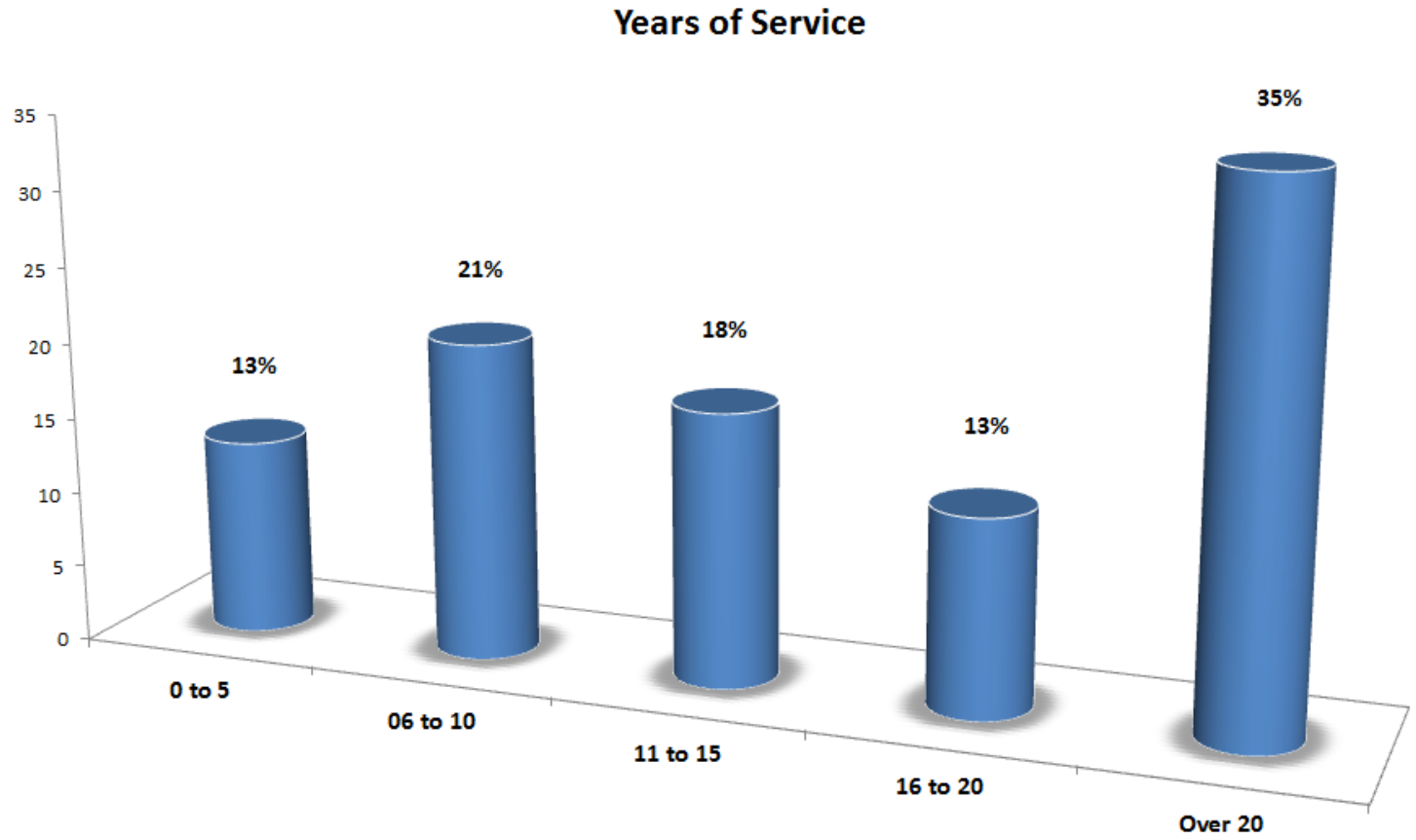


Use of Force by Years of Service

The Use of Force Report has a Length of Service section to be completed by the submitting officer. In certain circumstances this section is not completed. The most common reason for this area not being completed is when the Emergency Response Unit files a "team" report and the Years of Service area is not completed and/or a CEW is used in the display mode only. Currently as per HPS Policy and Procedure 1.02, only parts C and D of the Use of Force Report must be completed if the CEW is used in the display mode only and these sections don't have a Years of Service area.

A risk reduction strategy has been developed in relation to the Use of Force Reporting Policy (1.02) revised in 2012. If a Use of Force Report is required as a result of the actions of several officers in a common incident, each officer shall submit their own Use of Force Report. The ERU shall be the only unit permitted to submit a 'team' report.

For statistical purposes officers were grouped into the following Years of Service categories: 0-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-20 years, >20 years.

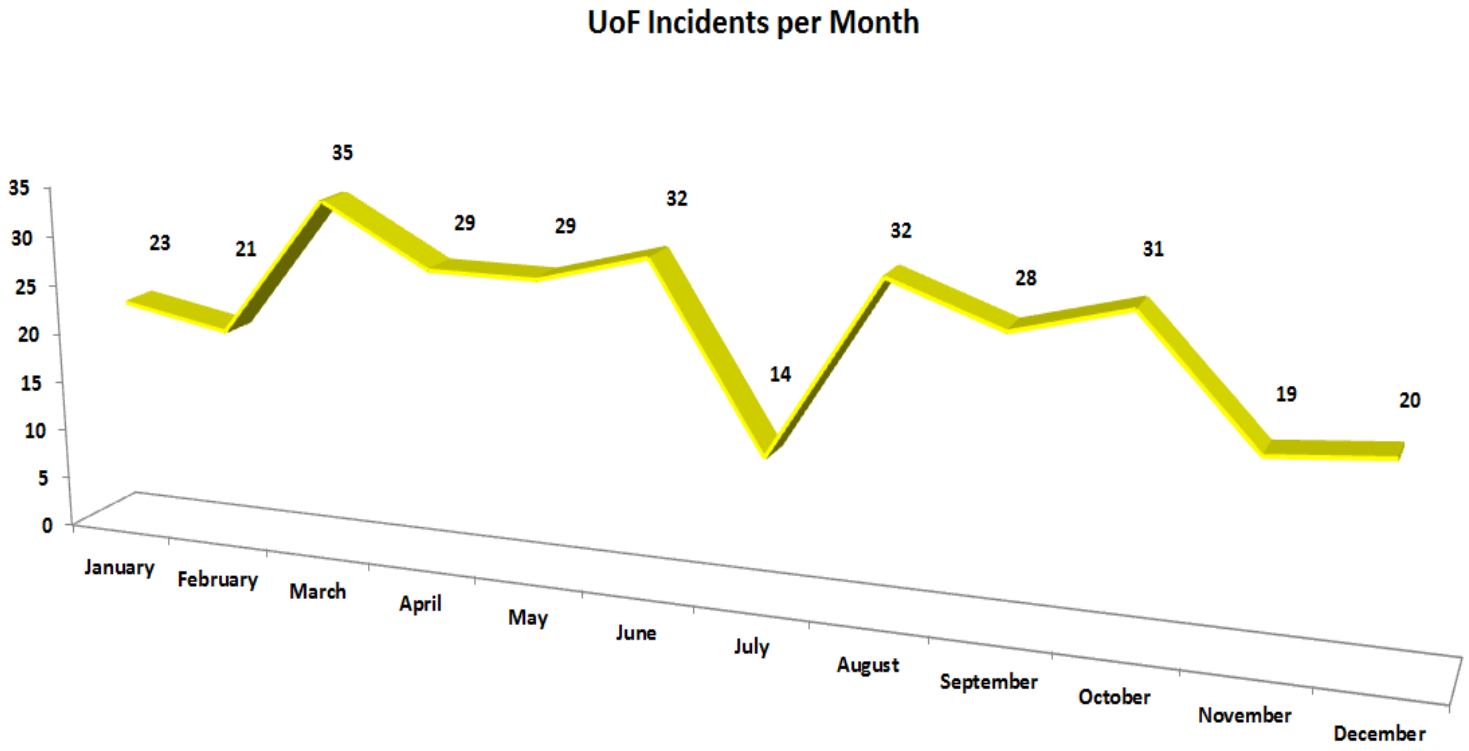


As per the Incidents by Branch and Incidents by Years of Service charts, Uniform Patrol is involved in the majority of 2018's Use of Force Incidents as would be expected. The 0-10 Years of Service group accounts for approximately 34% of the officers who completed the years of service section. This is easily explained as approximately 37%* of officers assigned to Uniform Patrol have less than 10 years of service so their involvement in Use of Force incidents is proportional to their numbers.

*Uniform Patrol and Years of Service data supplied by Human Resources.

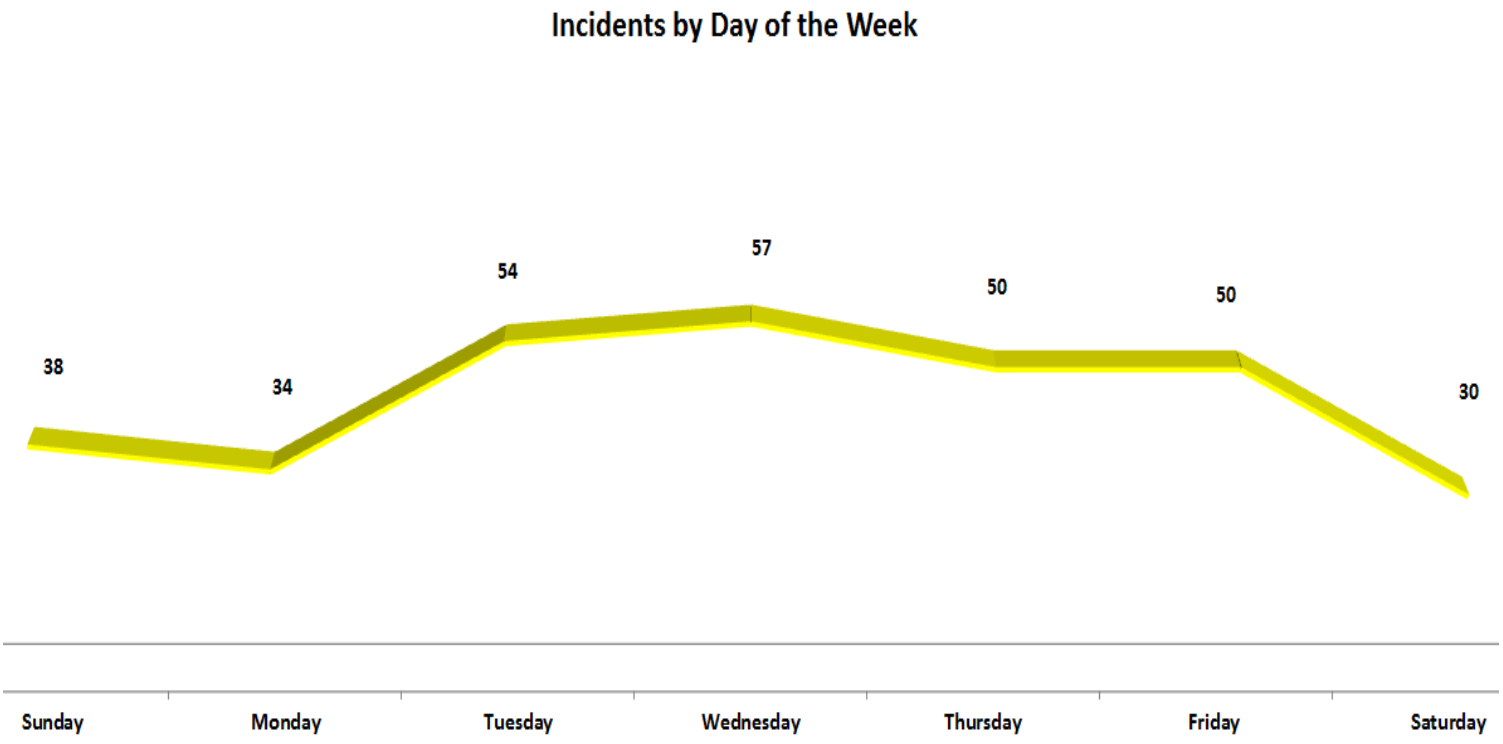
Use of Force by Incidents per Month

There were 313 reported incidents in 2018 for an average 26.1 incidents per month; with a high of 35 incidents in March and a low of 14 in July. The number of Use of Force incidents appears to rise slightly during the first part of the year before reaching its' lowest point in July and then rise again and plateau for the remainder of the year.



Use of Force Incidents per Day of the Week

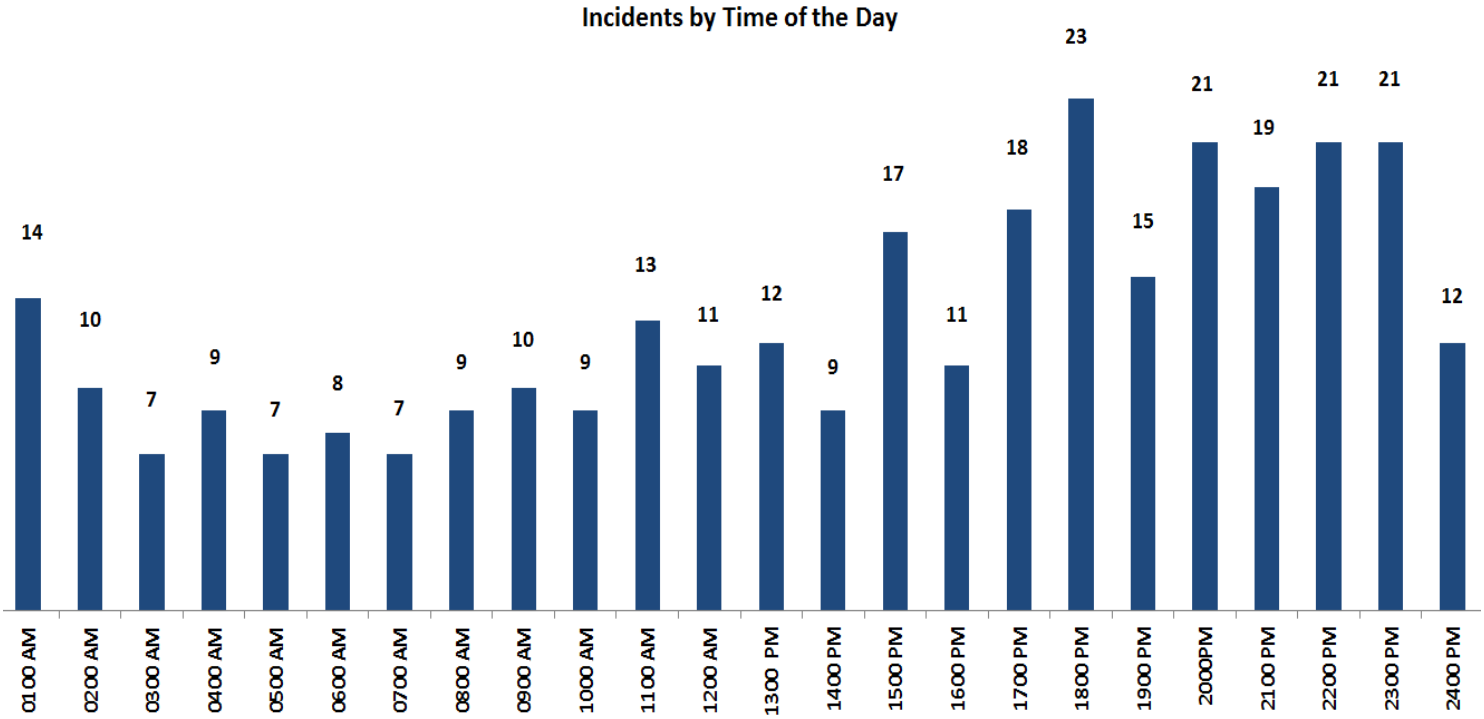
This is the tenth year that Use of Force incidents have been tracked by number of incidents per day of the week. In 2018, the day with the highest number of Use of Force incidents was Wednesday with 57 incidents and the lowest was Saturday with 30 incidents. When 2018 data is compared to the recent average (2008-2018) it is clear that the incident rate goes slightly down on Mondays, begins to rise and peaks during the mid-week, and then lowers once again over the weekend. There is no obvious explanation for this pattern.



Use of Force Incidents by Time of Day

This is the tenth year that Use of Force incidents have been tracked by the time in which they occur. Historically the time was separated into 6 time periods: 0801–1200, 1201-1600, 1601-2000, 2001-2400, 0001-0400 and 0401-0800. In 2015 each hour was tracked.

A review of the 10 year average data (2009-2018) indicates that the bulk of Use of Force incidents occur in the twelve hour period between 1600 to 0400 hours. The least number of incidents occur in the eight hour period between 0401 to 1200 hrs. The number of incidents begins to rise steadily beginning at noon hour and peaks between 2001 and 0400 hrs. The below data from 2018 indicates the majority of incidents occurred between the hours of 1500 to 0100hrs. There was a steady decline between 0300 and 0800 hours. The hours between 0800 hours and 1500 hours remain relatively consistent.



Suspects/Police Officers Injured/Require Medical Attention

In 2018, there were 66 incidents in which a subject, a Police Officer, or both, were reportedly injured. 66 subjects injured required medical treatment of a varying nature. 1 Officer was injured and required medical attention. In the majority of incidents the injuries to both Officers and subjects were reportedly minor in nature.

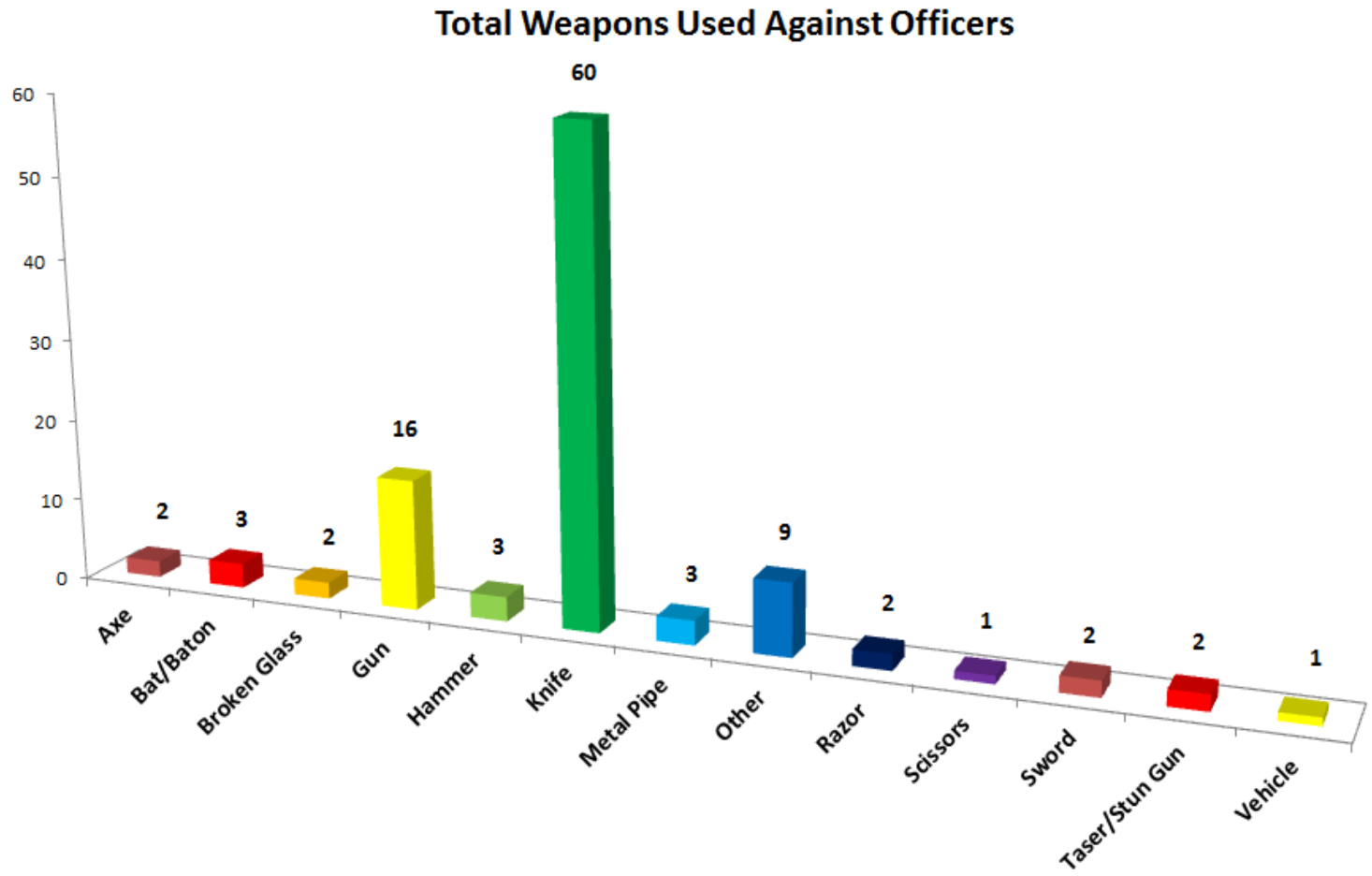
The reasons/causes for medical attention are as follows and may contain multiple causes for one incident: Grounding (2), Mental Health Assessment (44), Self-Inflicted/Occurred prior to Police Arrival (10), and CEW Probe Removal (23). The suspect can receive medical attention for several reasons; i.e.: MHA assessment, plus probe removal (23 incidents in 2018).

With respect to injuries by incident type, the majority of subjects were injured/required medical attention as the result of a Person In Crisis incident/call for service. In 44 of the PIC incidents the subject was taken to the hospital for a mandatory mental health assessment. **These apprehensions account for 14.1% of the 313 total Use of Force encounters.**

Use of Force Incidents and Suspect's Weapons

In 2018, there were 102 incidents reported where the suspect was actually carrying or had access to a weapon close-by. In 4 of the incidents the suspect(s) had access to more than one weapon type. An edged weapon of some type was the most frequently reported involving 60 knife incidents. There were 16 incidents where a firearm/replica/toy gun was used and in 2 incidents a sword was identified as the weapon, along with other edged weapons. An axe, hammer and a Taser/stun guns were also identified weapons.

In 2017, there were a total of 94 incidents involving weapons. Knives were the dominant weapon (45) carried by subjects followed by firearm/replica/toy gun (18).

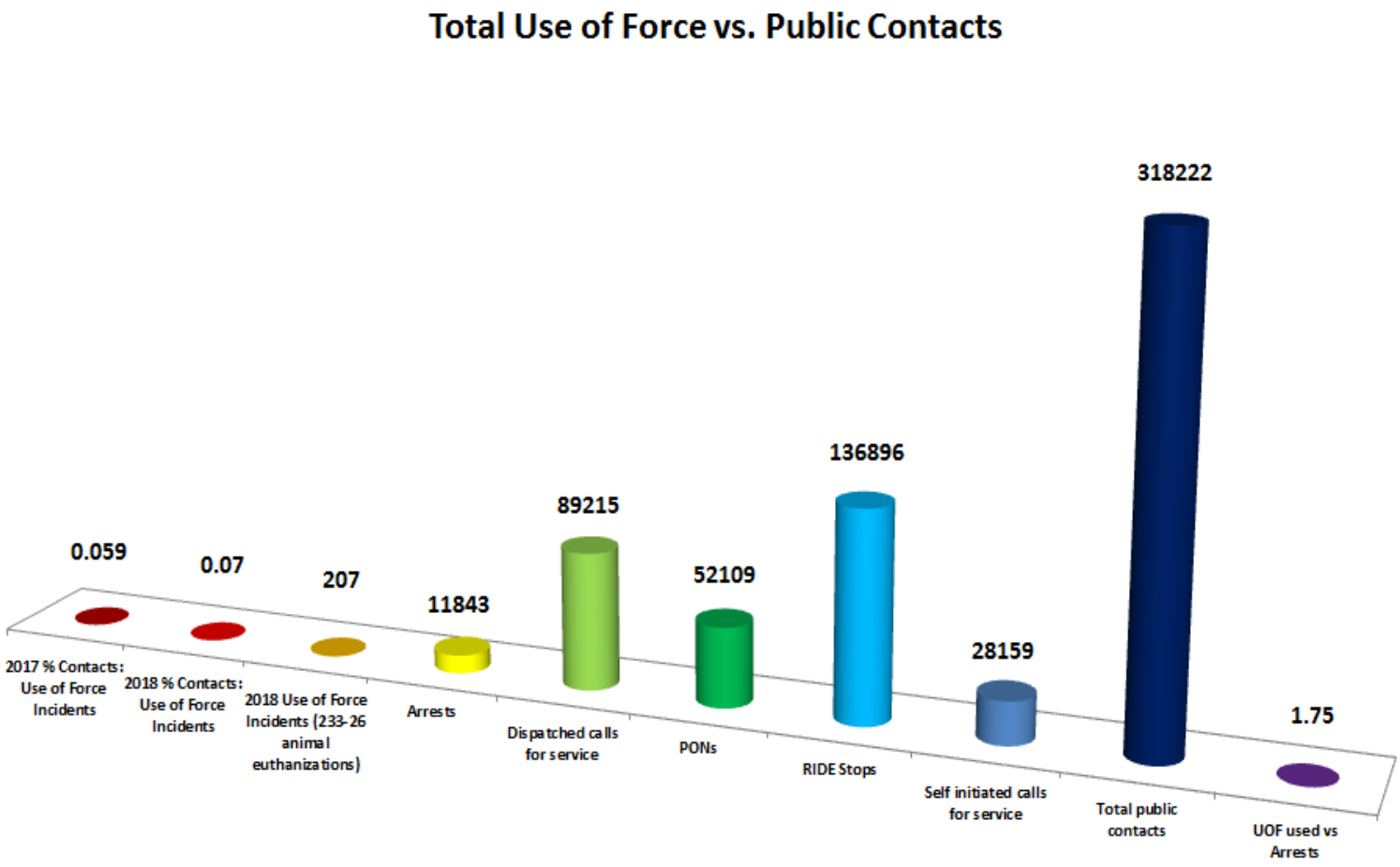


Use of Force in Relation to Public Contacts

In 2018, members of the Hamilton Police Service were involved in 233 incidents where a Use of Force Report was submitted. Included in that number are 26 animal euthanizations. This ultimately means that there were 207 incidents involving a member of the public where a Use of Force Report was submitted. Compared to the total number of contacts (318,222)* the police had with the public, only .070% of contacts resulted in a Use of Force incident.

In comparison, Use of Force incidents vs. public contacts rose slightly in 2018 (.070%) compared to 2017 (.059%) and 2016 (.037%).

*Public Contact data supplied by the Crime Information Analysis Unit and the Traffic Branch.



Conclusions / Trends

During the 10 year period from 2009-2018 the average number of reported Use of Force incidents is 235 per year. A low of 172 incidents were reported in 2016 and a high of 311 incidents in 2012. 2018 showed a decrease in Use of Force Reports over the previous year and remains below the 10 year average.

1. The number of times an Officer discharged a firearm increased to 28 incidents in 2018. The average since 2009 is 39 discharges per year. The 2018 statistics are greatly attributed to the number of times in which Officers are being called upon to euthanize injured animals. Hamilton officers euthanized 26 animals in 2018. 2 other incidents fell under the mandate of the SIU. One of those investigations has been concluded and the other is still ongoing.

2. There was a slight increase in the use of Empty Hands-Hard (5%) and a decrease in Empty Hands-Soft (18%) in 2018 compared to 2017. The use of these options in 2018 is slightly higher than the 10 year average of 22 for Empty Hands-Hard and a significant increase in Empty Hands-Soft which has a 10 year average of 26.

3. The use of Aerosol Weapons reached a plateau in the last several years with an average of 15 incidents per year since 2009. 2018 had only 2 incidents, well below the average and the lowest since records have been kept.

4. The introduction of the CEW in late 2004, early 2005 had an immediate impact on how Police Officers use force. In 2014/2015 the Hamilton Police Service began a gradual roll out of CEWs to frontline personnel. In 2014 there were 64 CEW incidents which rose to 145 incidents in 2015 and remained consistent at 143 incidents in 2016 and increased to 169 incidents in 2017 with a slight drop to 164 in 2018. Those incidents that are statistically captured in the Ministry Use of Force report (CEW Deployed) totaled 21 in 2014, 47 in 2015, 38 in 2016, 58 in 2017 and a slight decrease to 57 in 2018. The ten year average is 45 incidents per year. It was anticipated that CEW use would increase with full frontline deployment; however the CEW is utilized most often in the display mode.

5. Uniform Patrol is the Branch of the Service most likely to encounter incidents requiring an application of Force and therefore submits the most Use of Force Reports.

6. This is the 10th year that Use of Force incidents have been tracked by number of incidents per month. There does not appear to be a significant relationship between number of Use of Force incidents and the month of the year other than they appear to rise in March, June, August and October for an unknown reason and fall in July for an unknown reason and remain relatively consistent for the remaining months. Data from future years could solidify/confirm any trends.

7. This is the 10th year that Use of Force incidents have been tracked by number of incidents per day of the week. Comparative data shows it is clear that the incident rate goes down on Saturdays for an unknown reason. 2018 statistics illustrate a spike on Wednesdays with other weekdays remaining consistent. There is no obvious explanation for this pattern. Again, data from future years could solidify/confirm any trends.

8. This is the 10th year that Use of Force incidents have been tracked by the time in which they occurred. A review of historical data indicates that the bulk of Use of Force incidents occur in the twelve hour period between 1600 to 0400 hours. The least number of incidents occur in the eight hour period between 0400 to

12 noon. The number of incidents begins to rise steadily beginning at noon hour and peaks between 2001 and 0500 hours.

9. This is the 8th year where Suspects' Weapons has been tracked. It is clear that an edged weapon of some type is the weapon of choice. In 2018, 60 incidents involved a knife or some type of edged weapon, 16 incidents involved a gun or replica and 9 incidents involved an "other" item. Weapon use against officers in Hamilton has risen since 2014 and increased from 93 incidents in 2016, 94 in 2017 and 102 in 2018.

10. This is the 8th year in which Officer and Subject injuries have been tracked. The injury rate for both Officers and Subjects is relatively low (1 Officers and 66 Subjects). The majority of the injuries that were reported in 2018 were minor in nature. The most common causes for injuries to officers and subjects are the use of grounding techniques and/or a general struggle between the officer and subject while trying to affect an arrest. Use of Force should continue to train officers in proper grounding and self-defense techniques.

11. The Use of Force incident rate is extremely low when put into the context of total public contacts (318,222) compared to Use of Force incidents (207 incidents; 233 incidents minus 26 animal euthanizations), resulting in a Use of Force reporting incident rate of .070%.

12. Persons In Crisis or "PIC" incidents account for 14.1% of all Use of Force encounters by Hamilton Police in 2018.