U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Criminal Justice Information Services Division

National Use-of-Force Data Collection

Law enforcement use-of-force (UoF) has long been a topic of national discussion, but a number of high-profile cases in which subjects died or were injured during interactions with law enforcement have heightened awareness of these incidents in recent years. The opportunity to analyze information related to UoF incidents and to have an informed dialogue is hindered by the lack of nationwide statistics. To address the topic, representatives from major law enforcement organizations worked in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to develop the National UoF Data Collection.

With a national data collection, data users can view UoF incidents involving law enforcement from a nationwide perspective. The goal of the resulting statistics is not to offer insight into single UoF incidents but to provide an aggregate view of the incidents reported and the circumstances, subjects, and officers involved. The data collection focuses on information that is readily known and can be reported within the first few days after a UoF occurrence. Statistical reports emphasize the collective nature of the data and will not assess whether the officers involved in UoF incidents acted lawfully or within the bounds of department policy. Publications focus on descriptive information, trends, and characteristics of the data.

What data is collected about UoF?

Three types of UoF events and information related to each event are collected:

- When a fatality occurs to a person in connection to UoF by a law enforcement officer.
- When there is serious bodily injury to a person in connection with UoF by a law enforcement officer.
- In the absence of either death or serious bodily injury, when a firearm is discharged by a law enforcement officer at or in a direction of a person.

The definition of serious bodily injury is based, in part, on 18 United States Code 2246 (4). The term "'serious bodily injury' 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."

Law enforcement participation is key

The FBI continues to receive positive feedback from the law enforcement community about implementing the National UoF Data Collection. Many agencies already publish UoF statistics to their constituents and make transparency a priority in their communities. For the national data collection, each agency participating is responsible for reporting information for their own officers connected to incidents meeting the criteria of the data collection, either to their state or to the FBI. Submission of data is voluntary. Agencies and states report incidents electronically, either individually or by bulk submission, through a web application in the FBI Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP).

Key Events

February 12, 2015 – In a speech at Georgetown University, the FBI Director called for better data to address UoF concerns.

June 3, 2015 – The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board (APB) supported the recommendation that the FBI and major law enforcement organizations collaborate to develop a national UoF data collection.

September 18, 2015 – Representatives from major law enforcement organizations met and proposed an expansion to the FBI's efforts to include UoF incidents that result in serious bodily injury.

December 3, 2015 – The APB approved a series of motions to establish a new data collection on law enforcement UoF. The FBI Director signed the APB recommendations on February 9, 2016.

January 27, 2016 – The National UoF Data Collection Task Force, comprised of law enforcement leaders from across the United States, convened for the first in a series of meetings.

July 1, 2017 – The data collection pilot study began, concluding on December 31, 2017. A report detailing the findings was provided to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

January 1, 2019 – The data collection will launch nationwide. All law enforcement agencies are encouraged to participate.

National UoF Data Collection Task Force

National organizations and other law enforcement representatives who partner with the FBI for the National UoF Data Collection include:

- Local, state, tribal, and federal agency representatives
- Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
- Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Major County Sheriffs of America
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- National Sheriffs' Association
- Police Executive Research Forum

Representatives were instrumental in conceiving reporting requirements, data elements, and publication concepts. Other entities involved include Community Oriented Policing Services, the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

For more information or to enroll your agency:

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UoF Data Elements

The National UoF Data Collection includes the following data elements.

Incident Information

- Date and time of the incident
- Total number of officers who applied actual force during the incident
- Number of officers from the reporting agency who applied actual force during the incident
- Location of the incident (address or latitude/longitude)
- Location type of the incident (street, business, residence, restaurant, school, etc.)
- Did the officer(s) approach the subject(s)?
- Was it an ambush incident?
- Was a supervisor or a senior officer acting in a supervisory capacity present or consulted at any point during the incident?
- What was the reason for initial contact between the subject and the officer? (Response to unlawful or suspicious activity, routine patrol, traffic stop, etc.)
  - If it was due to "unlawful or criminal activity," what were the most serious reported offenses allegedly committed by the subject prior to or at the time of the incident?
  - If applicable, the reporting agency will enter the National Incident-Based Reporting System (or local) incident number of the report detailing criminal incident information on subject and/or assault or homicide of law enforcement officer
- If the incident involved multiple law enforcement agencies, the agency will include case numbers for the local UoF reports at the other agencies

Subject Information

- Age, sex, race, ethnicity, height, and weight
- Injury/death of subject(s) (gunshot wound, apparent broken bones, unconsciousness, etc.)
- Type(s) of force used connected to serious bodily injury or death (firearm, electronic control weapon, explosive device, blunt instrument, etc.)
- Did the subject(s) resist?
- Was the perceived threat by the subject(s) directed to the officer or to another party?
- Type(s) of subject resistance/weapon involvement
- Was there an apparent or known impairment in the physical condition of subject? (If yes, indicate: mental health/alcohol/drugs/unknown)
- At any time during the incident, was the subject(s) armed or believed to be armed with a weapon?

Officer Information

- Age, sex, race, ethnicity, height, and weight of the officer(s)
- Officer's years of service as a law enforcement officer (total tenure)
- At the time of the incident, was the officer a full-time employee?
- Was the officer readily identifiable as law enforcement?
- Was the officer on duty at the time of the incident?
- Did the officer discharge a firearm?
- Was the officer injured?
- What was the officer's injury type? (Gunshot wound, apparent broken bones, severe laceration, unconsciousness, etc.)

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