

2018 MPD Results - Deep Dive



Use of Force

Questions

1. How do we make an impact on our reported force incidents when so much of it is driven by disturbances at bar close, likely involving alcohol (making compliance even more difficult)?
2. How do we deal with the increasingly negative views of law enforcement by the public, which can further reduce compliance (as people may view police authority as less legitimate)?
3. What can we do to balance the effects of negative public attention and reduce reluctance to use force even when appropriate? How do we ensure consistency in our performance while adapting to the continuing changes in expectations and perceptions, and how do we make time for the additional training that is part of the new initiatives?

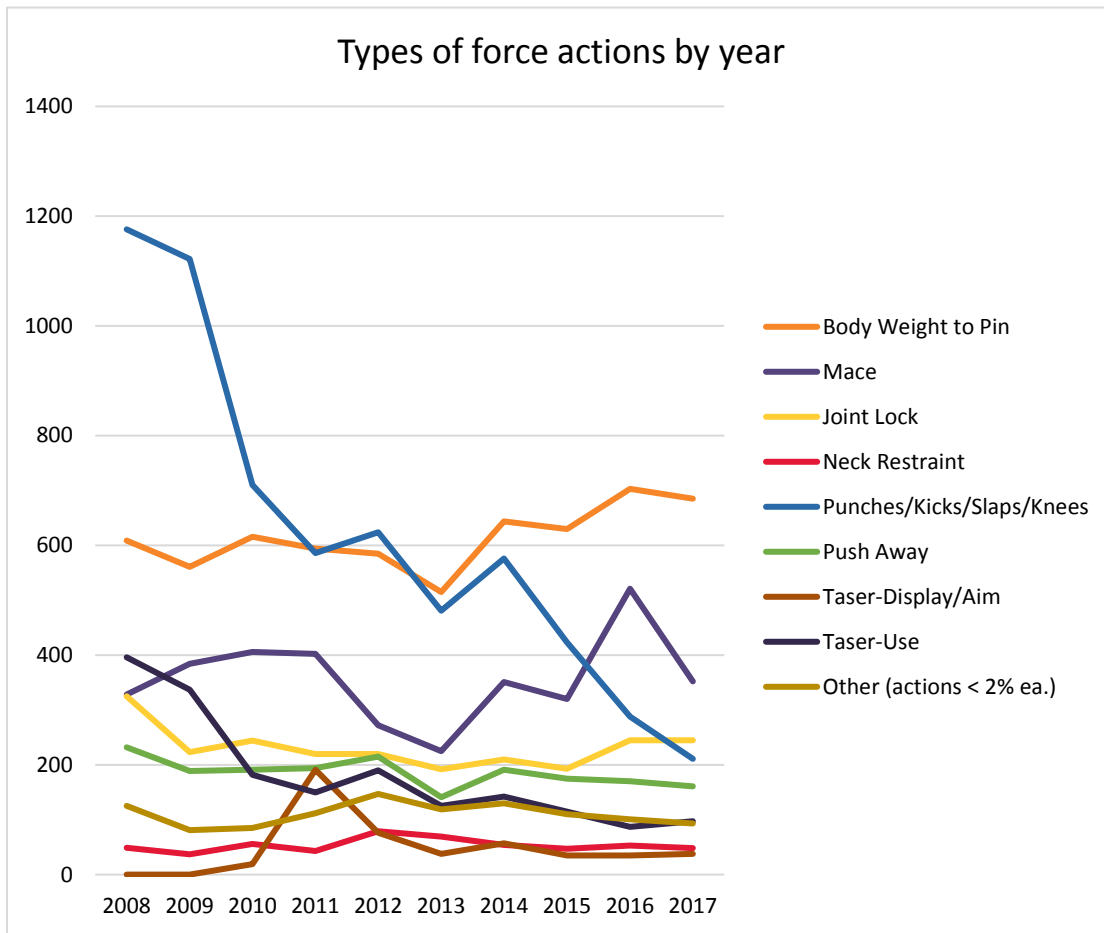
Background

- Use of force by peace officers is governed by federal and state law and by extensive case law. MN Statute section 609.06 Subd. 1 is the primary authorization for officers in our agency, stating: “reasonable force may be used upon or toward the person of another without the other's consent when the following circumstances exist or the actor reasonably believes them to exist: (1) when used by a public officer or one assisting a public officer under the public officer's direction:
 - (a) in effecting a lawful arrest; or
 - (b) in the execution of legal process; or
 - (c) in enforcing an order of the court; or
 - (d) in executing any other duty imposed upon the public officer by law”
- While only about 0.21% of calls for service result in uses of force, force captures the most media attention making it the most visible action by police. Even though it is necessary in some cases, uses of force can stir heated passions around police legitimacy.

What the data shows

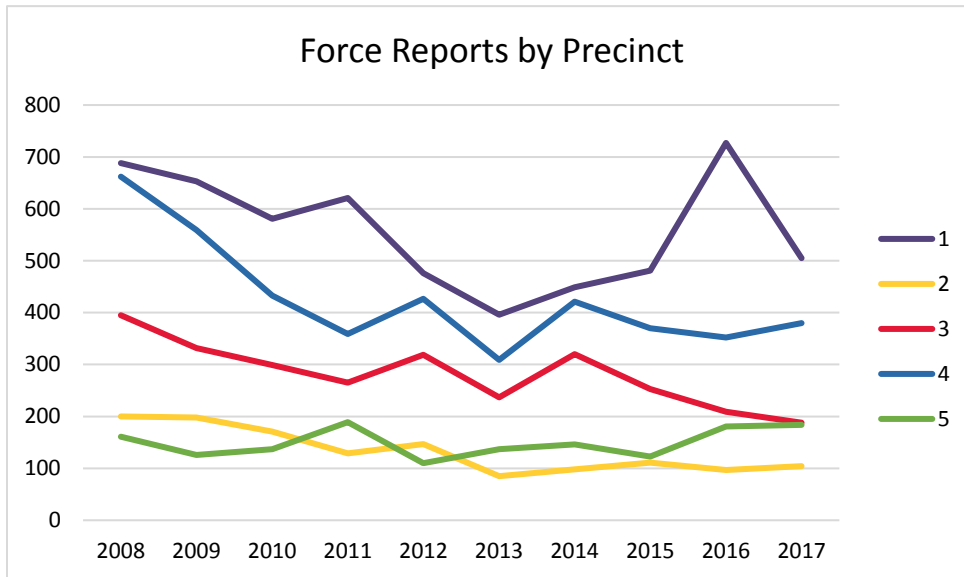
- MPD incidents with use of force have been declining over the past decade. 2016 saw a slight increase, but 2017 continued the downward trend with a decrease of 11% from 2016 and an overall 43% decrease since 2008. (See page 10 of Results report for chart of trend.)

Types of force used



- Punches, kicks, slaps, and knees have declined substantially over the last ten years.
- The proportion of force actions that are Body Weight to Pin or Joint Lock are increasing while many other types of force actions are decreasing. This may be due to specific training techniques and possible avoidance of other techniques.
 - Body Weight to Pin has been climbing since 2008, and though it declined slightly from 2016 to 2017 it remained higher than year prior to 2016. Body Weight to Pin now makes up 35% of all reported force actions, and is almost three times higher than the next most frequently reported action (Joint Locks).
 - Joint Locks remained steady, and were the second most reported individual action in 2017. Note that punches, kicks, slaps and knees are grouped together in the chart. Personal mace and crowd control (large capacity) mace are grouped together in the Mace category.
- Police K9 Bites declined by 35% from 2016 to 2017. Police K9 Bites are part of the Other category.

Use of force by precinct



Precinct 1 continues to have the most force incidents and force reports. This is largely due to the downtown entertainment district. Use of Force in Precinct 1 spiked substantially in 2016, but dropped in 2017.

- Precinct 1 is the only precinct where Crowd Control Mace (large capacity mace) is more than marginal, and it is the most reported force action in Precinct 1 for 2017, even with a 6% decline from 2016 to 2017.
- Crowd Control Mace and Personal Mace made up 40% of uses reported in 2017 in Precinct 1, but just under 15% Citywide.

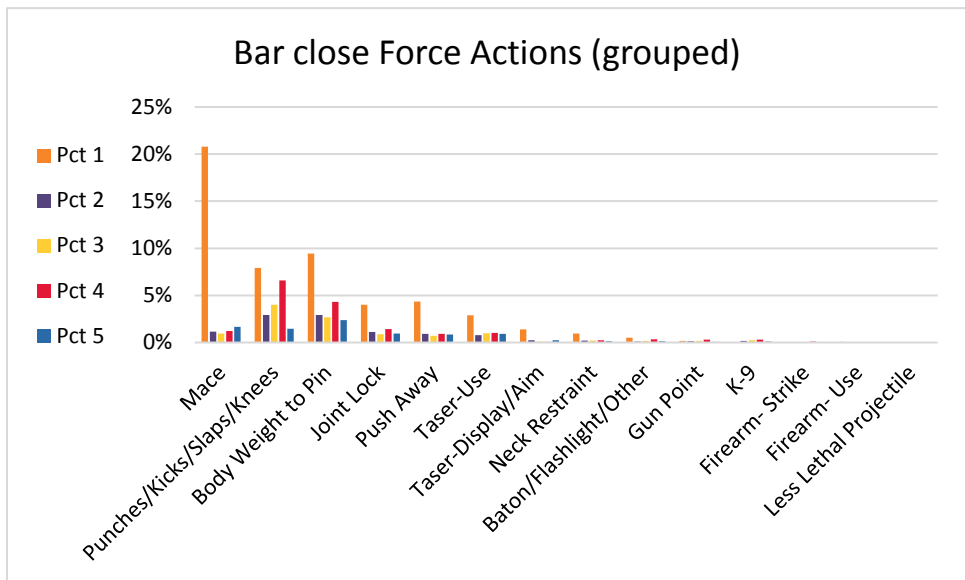
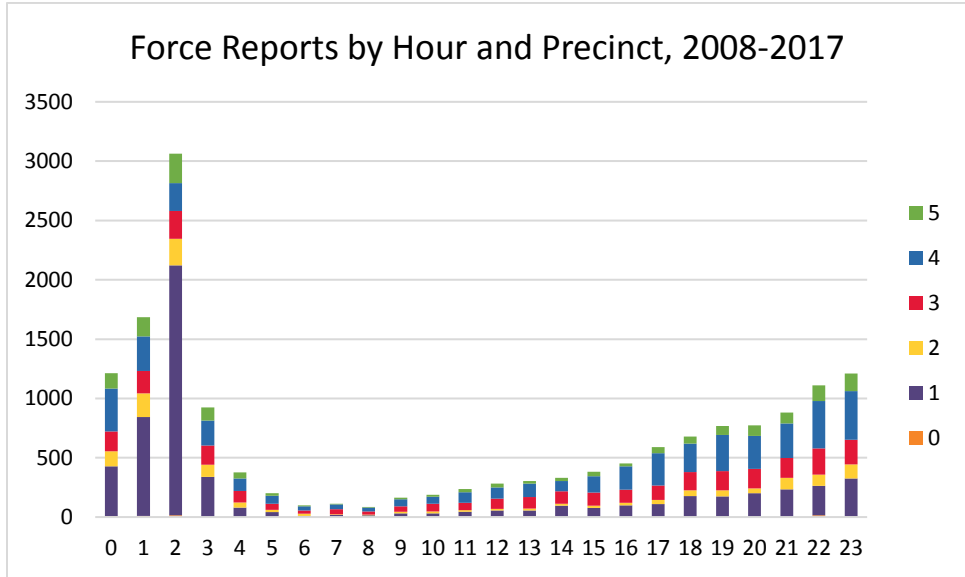
Challenges

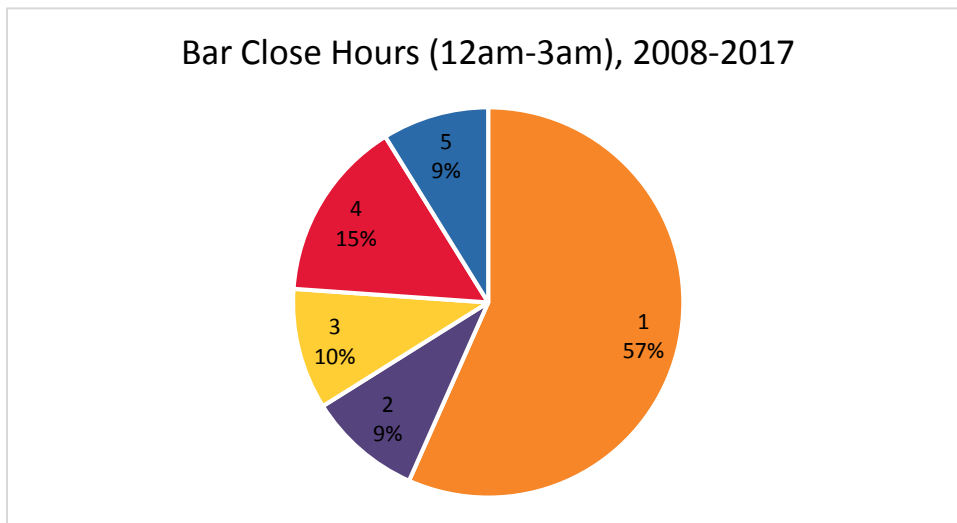
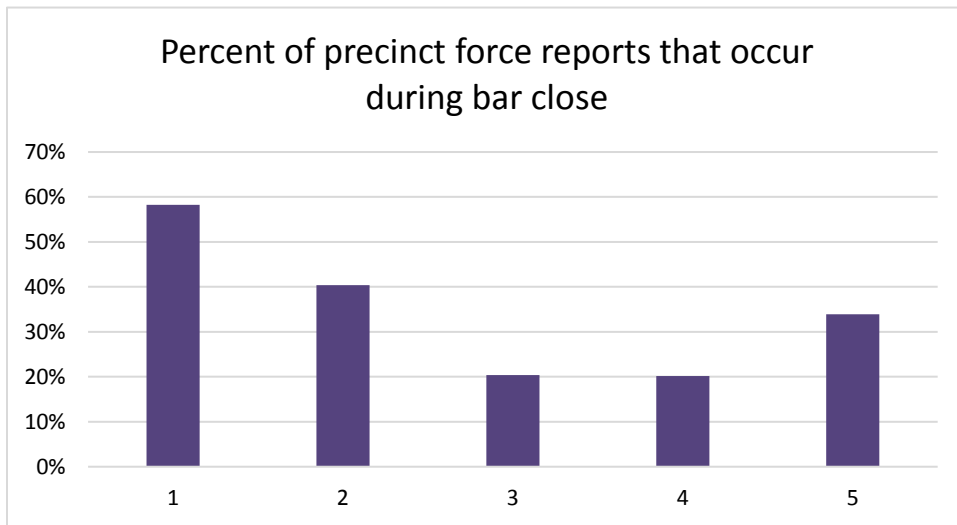
There are a number of challenges related to force. Two that pose particular difficulties in reducing use of force incidents are bar close and training/public views on law enforcement.

Bar close:

- Citywide, 35% of uses of force occur from 12am to 3am, and 27% occur just between 1am and 3am.
- There is variation by precinct; for Precinct 1, 57% of force reports occur from 12am-3am. Precincts 2 and 5 also have bar districts and a relatively high portion of force reports occurring during these hours.

- The top two problem codes that generate force reports are Fight and Disturbance. A chart is not included here because the City uses more than 70 different problem codes for calls including force. It is likely that alcohol is involved in many force situations as they occur during bar close.





Training/Public views of law enforcement:

- President Obama’s 21st Century Policing models have been threaded through our use of force training, especially focused on procedural justice. We train on the proportionality of force, de-escalation, and how to provide compassionate care after force is used.
- It is difficult to instruct new officers on the adrenal responses in use of force incidents, but we’ve been incorporating scenario based training to try and elicit those kinds of responses so that the officers can practice experiencing and controlling the emotions and behavioral responses that come out of that (ramping up and down during incidents). Public perception and media attention to high-profile incidents also have an impact on officer use of force- a 2017 Pew research study found that 76% of officers say officers in their department have been more reluctant to use force when it is appropriate, due to high-profile incidents.