



Chattanooga Police Department

Lt. Peker

Director of Training

3200 Amnicola Highway

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37406

January 14, 2026

Chief John Chambers
Chattanooga Police Department
3410 Amnicola Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37406

I. Use of Force Report Analysis (2025)

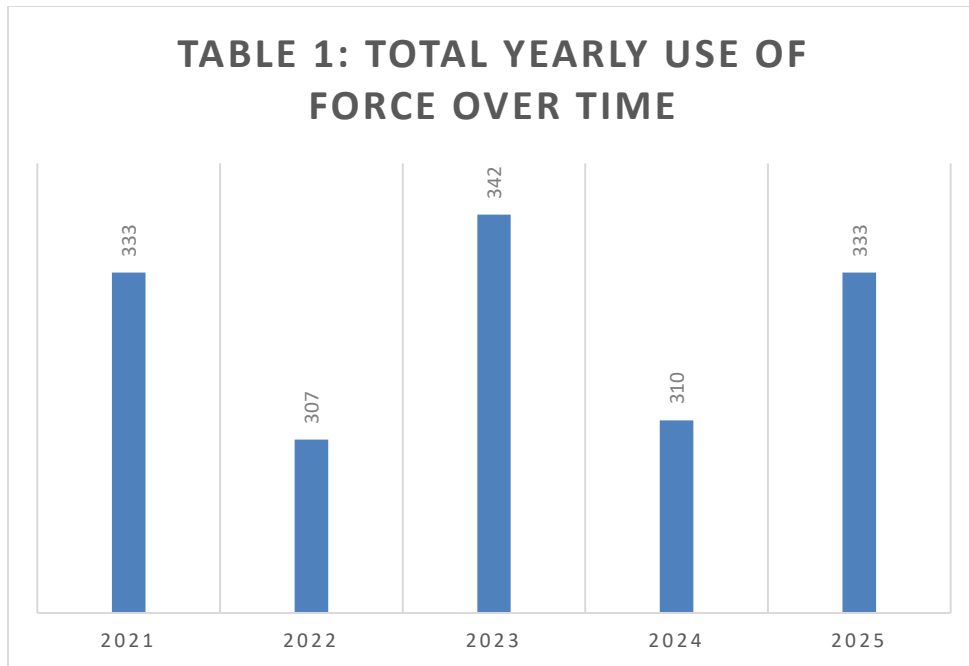
In 2025, Chattanooga Police Department officers responded to **175,858** calls for service. These calls resulted in **14,526** charges across **6,923** adult incidents, and **343** charges across **312** juvenile incidents, totaling **14,869** arrest charges for the year. This represents a significant **decrease** from 2024.

In 2025, the Chattanooga Police Department recorded **333 uses of force**, representing a 7.17% increase from the previous year, when the total was 310. Of these, 100% of completed Chain of Command (COC) investigations were found to follow department policy.



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*Data compiled and report written by Dr. Kyle Irwin, Data Analyst in Internal Affairs¹

A. Date and Time of Incidents

A temporal review of 2025 identifies March and April as the peak months for use-of-force incidents, accounting for 22% of the annual total—a figure significantly higher than those recorded in November or December (see Table 2). As indicated by the trend line, incidents steadily declined throughout the remainder of the year. Regarding weekly patterns, Sunday and Tuesdays saw the highest frequencies (17% each), followed closely by Wednesdays (16%) (see Table 3). Meanwhile, Table 4 geographically showed that Adam and Charlie reported the highest volume of incidents in 2025 at 25% each, a shift from 2024 when Baker recorded the highest percentage.

¹ Please note that some data totals in this report may not equal exactly 100% due to the technical configuration of the IAPro tallying system or rounding variations. These minor numerical discrepancies are inherent to the reporting software and do not impact the overall findings of the report.



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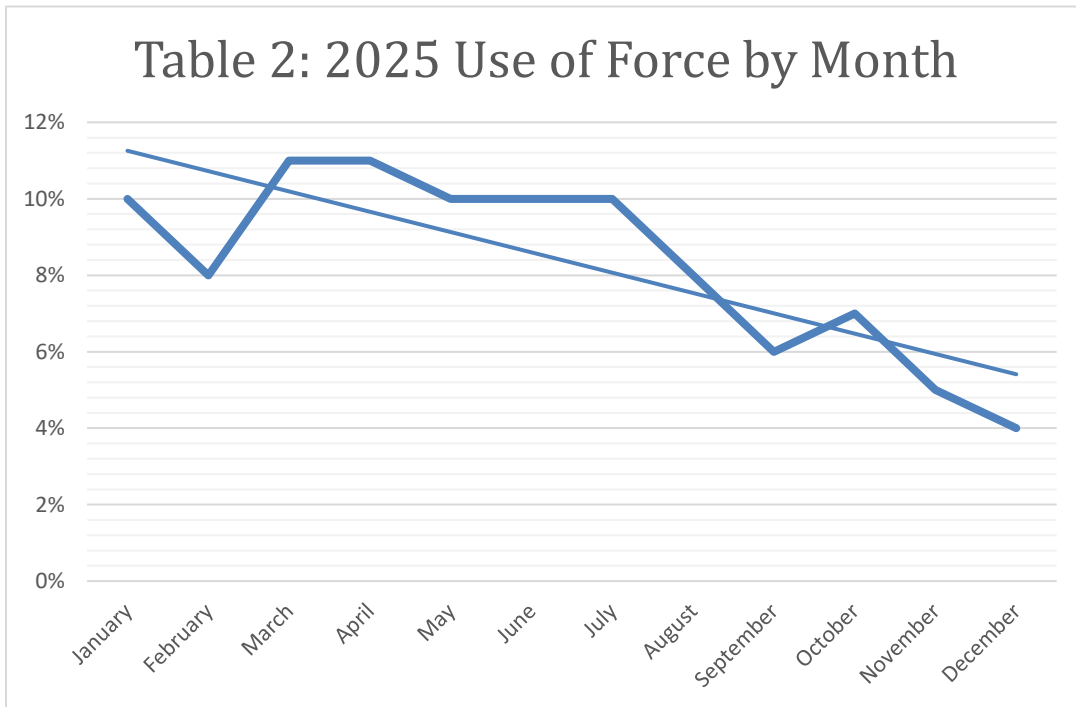
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Table 2: 2025 Use of Force by Month





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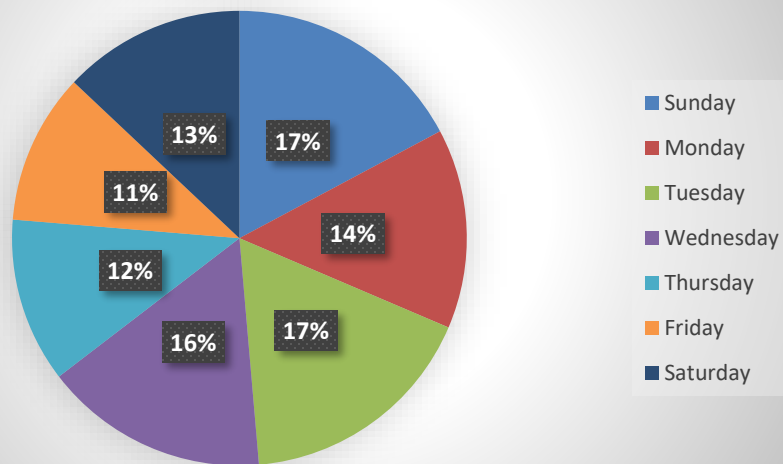
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Table 3: 2025 UOF Days of the Week

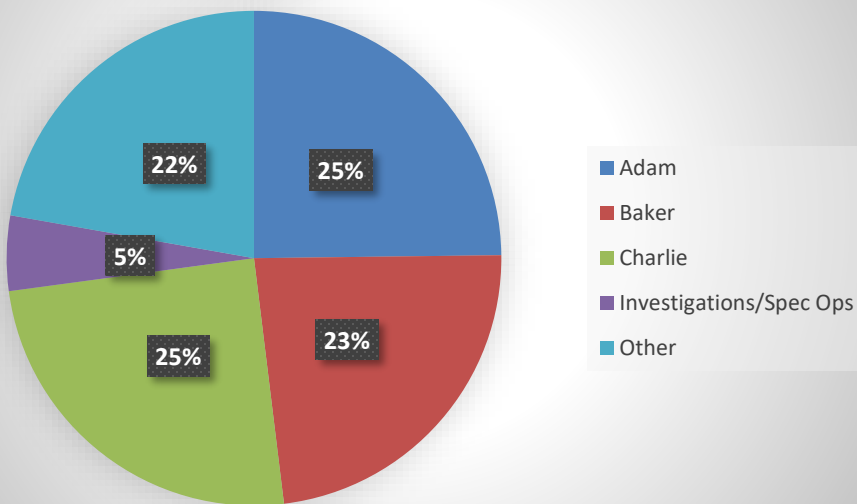




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Table 4: 2025 Use of Force by Sector



B. Types of Encounters Resulting in Use of Force

As previously mentioned, in 2025 there were 333 use-of-force encounters. These incidents occurred when officers faced resistance and applied some type of force to effect an arrest. When compared to the 7,235 total arrests made during the year, only 4.6% required use of force. These findings in 2025 were **lower** than 2024 where arrests represented a 6.36% of uses of force.

A detailed examination of the different types of force used in 2025 are provided below:

Weaponless Force:

In 2025, weaponless force, including soft hand, hard hand, and mechanical compliance—was utilized in 193 incidents, accounting for 58% of all uses of force. This reflects a 7.9% decrease from 2024 levels. While this decline is notable, the data indicates that officers continue to rely on physical control techniques when encountering resistant subjects. This trend underscores officer confidence in applying the minimum physical force necessary to maintain safety. By utilizing



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techniques designed to resolve encounters quickly and safely, officers successfully manage resistance without escalating to higher levels of force. The ongoing integration of de-escalation tactics alongside physical training ensures that officers can resolve these incidents with maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

CEW Discharge:

In 2025, Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) usage was reported in 111 incidents, accounting for 33% of all use-of-force encounters. This represents a 28% increase from 2024, when CEWs were utilized 83 times (27% of all cases). All but two reported CEW discharges were within policy. The data suggests a possible correlation between the increased reliance on CEW technology and the corresponding decrease in weaponless force, which may also be a factor in the overall increase in total use-of-force reports for 2025.

Chemical/OC:

Chemical/OC spray was utilized in 1.2% of all use-of-force incidents in 2025, totaling four applications. This represents a significant 66% decrease compared to 2024 (total was 8). Notably, there was one reported instance of the chemical spray being ineffective during these encounters.

Firearms:

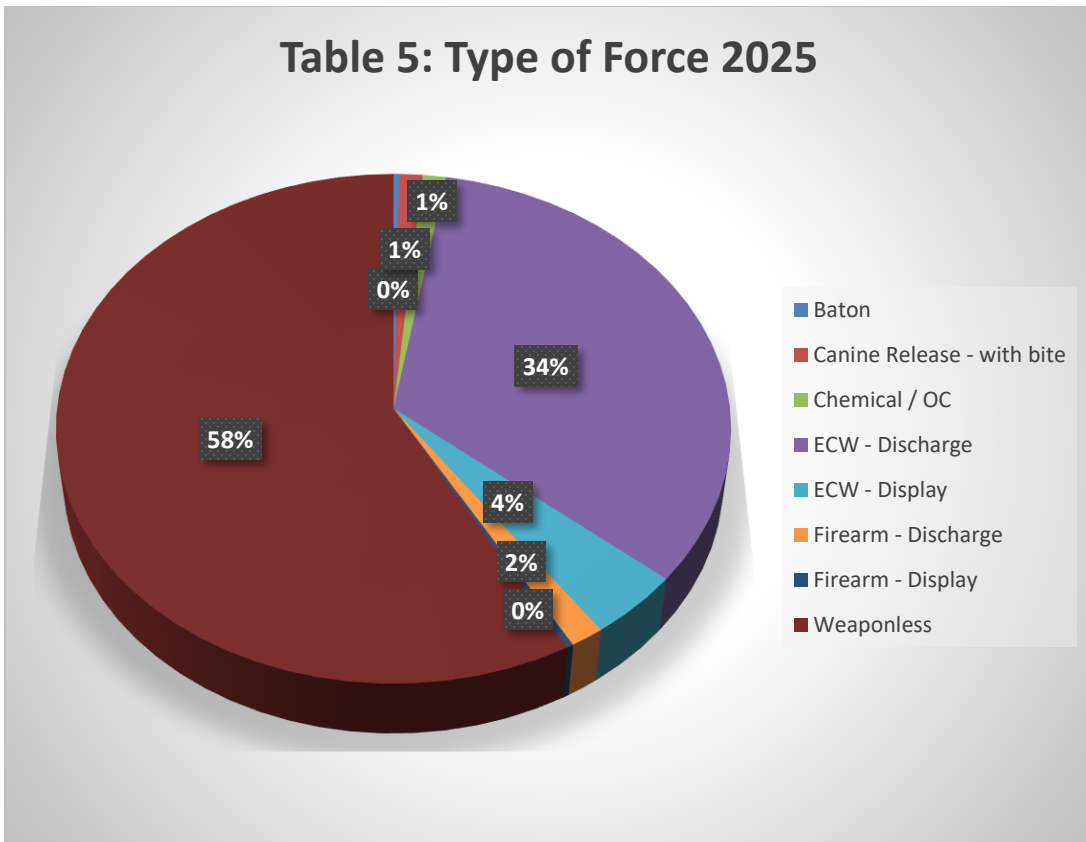
Per Chattanooga Police Department Policy ADM-05 (Use of Force), officers are required to complete a report for any discharge of a firearm. In 2025, the department recorded five Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents, compared to two in 2024. As a percentage of total uses of force, these incidents rose from 0.65% in 2024 to 1.5% in 2025.



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Table 5: Type of Force 2025



C. Trends and Patterns Related to Race, Age and Gender of Subjects Involved

Statistical data from 2025 indicates that use-of-force incidents involving resistant suspects primarily affected Black (56%) and White (35%) individuals, followed by Hispanic (8%) and those categorized as 'Other' (1%) (see Table 6). These findings differ from 2024, where Black individuals represented 63% of uses of force, and White individuals 29% of UOF.

The data in Table 7 identifies suspects aged 20–39 as the most frequent demographic involved in these encounters, with the 40–49 age range ranking third. Findings are very similar to data collected in 2024. Finally, the analysis in Table 8 confirms a gender distribution of 80% male



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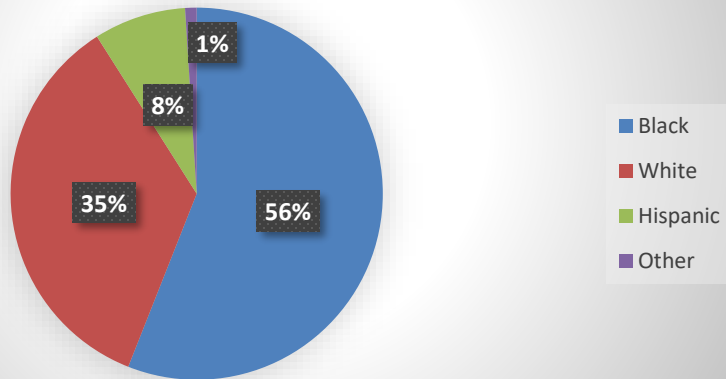
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and 20% female. In 2024, data show 75% male and 25% female, a slight difference year-over-year.

Table 6: Race of Citizens Facing UOF in 2025





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Table 7: 2025 Age of Citizens During UOF Events

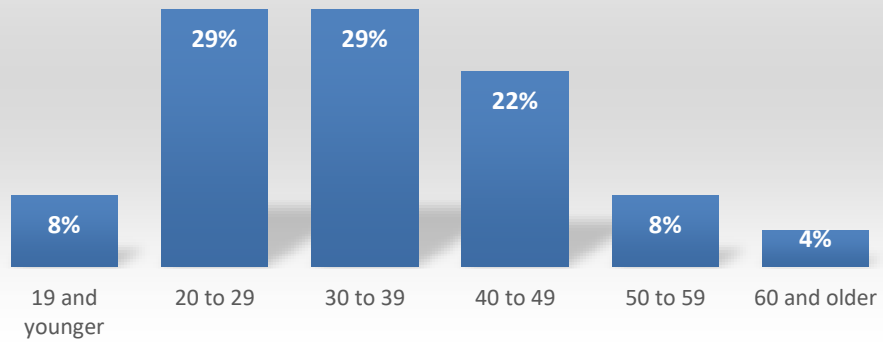
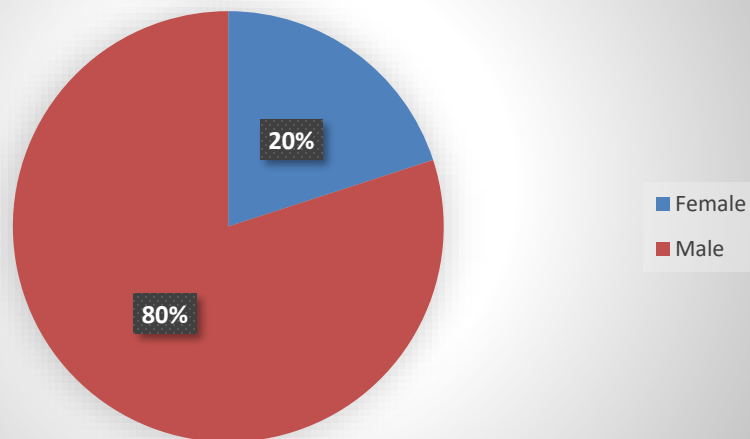


Table 8: Gender UOF in 2025





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D. Trends or Patterns Resulting in Injuries

Data from 2025 indicates that Chattanooga Police officers sustained injuries in 13% of use-of-force encounters, a slight increase from 10% in 2024. Despite this year-over-year fluctuation, officer injury rates have remained relatively consistent over the past several years (see Table 9).

In 2025, 39% of suspects sustained injuries during UOF encounters, representing a continued upward trend from 31% in 2023 and 39% in 2025 (see Table 9). Data extracted from IAPro indicates that this increase is not tied to a specific force application (e.g., Taser deployment); rather, injuries are distributed across various force types. Comprehensive data is available in Table 10 (page 8). Historically, injury rates in 2025 are relatively consistent with the levels observed between 2016 and 2018 (all exceeding 30%). This follows a notable decrease in reported injuries observed during the four-year period from 2019 to 2022.

In 2025, arrests occurred in 67% of use-of-force events (see Table 9). This rate remains identical to 2024 (67%), though it is notably lower than the 73% recorded in 2023.



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Table 9: Injuries and Arrests in 2025 UOF Events

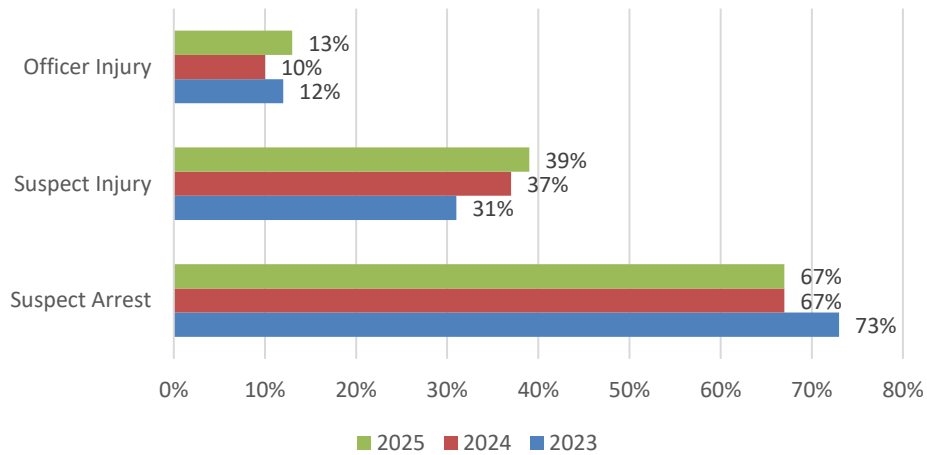
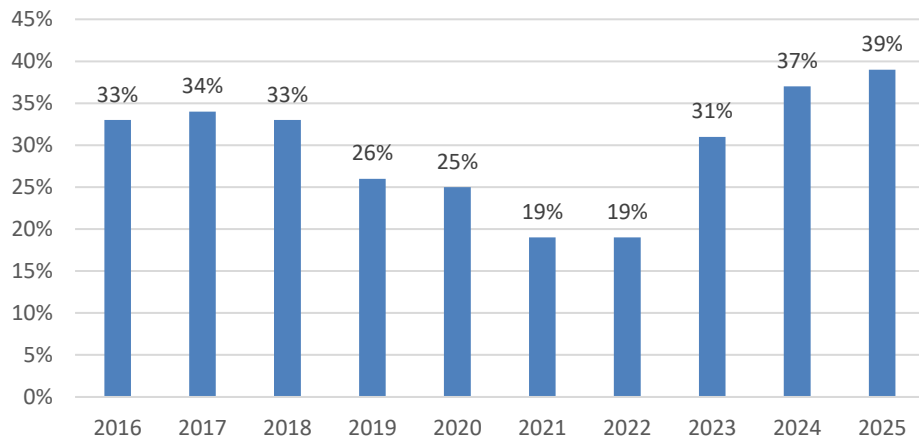


Table 10: Percentage of Suspect Injuries in UOF Events Over Time



E. Impact of Findings on Policies, Practices, Equipment, and Training



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As documented herein, the frequency of use-of-force incidents in 2025 remains consistent with trends from previous years, indicating that officers are applying force appropriately to effect arrests and secure custody. Temporal and geographic analysis revealed no concerning correlations regarding specific shifts or zones. Furthermore, the data does not suggest significant trends or patterns related to race, age, or gender in the application of force.

While injuries to both officers and suspects were documented, no direct correlation was found between specific types of force and resulting injuries. These findings suggest that current equipment, training, and policies are efficacious and sufficient for the department's needs.

Officers continue to document UOF incidents through the Blue Team system, a web-based platform accessible 24/7. This allows for immediate supervisor oversight. In accordance with department policy, UOF reports must be completed before the end of the officer's shift, with a mandatory supervisory review completed within 24 hours.

The primary policy recommendation for the near future involves the documentation of firearm displays. It is recommended that the department mandate a formal UOF report whenever an officer points a firearm at a suspect to gain compliance. This requirement would be distinct from unholstering a weapon to clear a building or maintaining a tactical position; it would apply specifically to instances where a firearm is directed at a resistant suspect to effect an arrest.

II. Assault on Sworn Officer Review (2025)

In 2025, "Assault on Police" occurred in 16% of reported use-of-force incidents, representing an increase from the 11% recorded in 2024. Despite this shift, the data does not indicate a systemic trend or pattern of heightened violence against officers, nor does it suggest that the agency is experiencing a significant surge in reported assaults. Rather, the findings suggest that the department's safety skills, policies, and training remain effective at maintaining a low assault rate. Moving forward, these data points will be monitored through annual reviews to ensure that any potential increases are identified and addressed proactively.



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Table 11: Assault on Police in 2025

