

# Validation of Concepts Used in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection

National Use-of-Force Data Collection is a new component of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The intent for this new data collection is to provide information on incidents where a use of force by law enforcement results in a fatality, serious bodily injury to a person, or if a firearm is discharged at or in the direction of a person.

In an effort to provide consistent and reliable information from law enforcement agencies of all types and from across the nation, we are asking for your perspective on several key concepts that could be open to interpretation.

Your participation is **voluntary**, and there are no right or wrong answers. No personally identifying information is requested from you on this survey, and your individual responses will be **confidential**. All results will be used in aggregate to help provide better guidance to the law enforcement community that choose to participate in the National Use-of-Force Data collection. Completing this survey should take approximately **30 minutes**.

## Time of the incident

A key component to understanding when any criminal justice event took place is time.

There are differences from one law enforcement agency to another in the types of information that is available to answer questions, and this can include time. Based upon the **typically requested** information included in a narrative description or other questions from **your agency** data systems on use-of-force events, please indicate whether these times would be available:

	Available as an actual value from a question on a form or data system	Available as an actual value from the incident narrative	Could be estimated based upon information available in the incident narrative	Not typically available
When the officer(s) <b>arrived</b> at the initial scene of the event	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
When the officer(s) first <b>contacted</b> the subject(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
When the officer(s) <b>used force</b> against the subject(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

When a law enforcement officer engages with a member of the public, the interaction can take place over a span of minutes or hours. Given this understanding, which time would be most representative of when a use-of-force event took place?

- When the officer(s) **arrived** at the initial scene of the event
- When the officer(s) first **contacted** the subject(s)
- When the officer(s) **used force** against the subject(s)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Location of the incident

An additional component that sometimes does not have a definitive answer is the location of an event. There are also differences from one law enforcement agency to another in the types of information that is available to answer questions about location.

Based upon the **typically requested** information included in a narrative description or other questions from **your agency** data systems on use-of-force events, please indicate whether these locations would be available:

	Available as an actual value from a question on a form or data system	Available as an actual value from the incident narrative	Could be estimated based upon information available in the incident narrative	Not typically available
Where the officer(s) <b>arrived</b> at the initial scene of the event	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Where the officer(s) first <b>contacted</b> the subject(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Where the officer(s) <b>used force</b> against the subject(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

When an event begins in one location and ends at another location, which would be most representative of the location of a use-of-force incident?

- Where the officer(s) **arrived** at the initial scene of the event
- Where the officer(s) first **contacted** the subject(s)
- Where the officer(s) **used force** against the subject(s)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Does your agency collect any of the following? (Check all that apply)

- Address information on calls for service
- Geocoded information on calls for service (e.g., latitude and longitude, state plane coordinates)
- Address information on recorded criminal incidents
- Geocoded information on recorded criminal incidents (e.g., latitude and longitude, state plane coordinates)
- Address information on use-of-force incidents
- Geocoded information on use-of-force incidents (e.g., latitude and longitude, state plane coordinates)

## Injury

According to the National Use-of-Force Data Collection, the definition of *serious bodily injury* includes, “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.”

While this question does not take into account situations where multiple injuries may increase the overall severity of injury to the person, we are interested in understanding which injuries listed below would you consider to meet the definition of *serious bodily injury* in of itself?

- Grazing gunshot wound
- Penetrating gunshot wound
- Internal bleeding
- Heart attack/cardiac arrest/cardiac event
- External head injury
- Brain damage
- Unconscious/“knocked out” for *less* than one minute
- Unconscious/“knocked out” for *more* than one minute
- Coma
- Abrasions/scratches
- Bruising/contusions
- Lacerations that do not require stitches
- Lacerations that require stitches
- Puncture wounds
- Canine bite
- Loss of teeth
- Loss of a finger or toe
- Loss of *part* of a finger or toe
- Loss of arm or leg
- Apparent broken bones
- Neck injury
- Eye damage
- Burns
- Paralysis

## Active aggression

Aggression is a complex concept to identify—especially in law enforcement scenarios. While this question does not take into account situations where multiple actions may escalate a situation between an officer and a subject, we are interested in understanding which of the following activities would you consider to be an act of **active aggression** in of itself?

- Attempted to escape or flee from custody
- Resisted being handcuffed or arrested
- Barricading self
- Attempting to gain possession of officer's weapon
- Displaying a chemical agent (acid, gasoline, pepper or OC (oleoresin capsicum) spray, etc.)
- Using a chemical agent (acid, gasoline, pepper or OC spray, etc.) against an officer
- Using a chemical agent (acid, gasoline, pepper or OC spray, etc.) against another person
- Displaying an edged weapon
- Using an edged weapon against an officer
- Using an edged weapon against another person
- Displaying an electronic control weapon (e.g., Taser®)
- Using an electronic control weapon (e.g., Taser®) against an officer
- Using an electronic control weapon (e.g., Taser®) against another person
- Displaying a firearm
- Using a firearm against an officer
- Using a firearm against another person
- Displaying a blunt object
- Using a blunt object against an officer
- Using a blunt object against another person
- Directing a vehicle at an officer
- Directing a vehicle at another person
- Display of hands
- Display of fists
- Display of feet
- Use of hands, fists, or feet against an officer
- Use of hands, fists, or feet against another person
- Spitting on an officer
- Spitting on another person
- Bleeding on an officer
- Bleeding on another person
- Making verbal threats against an officer
- Making verbal threats against another person
- Yelling or using foul language at an officer
- Yelling or using foul language an another person

Are there other actions that you have encountered in your duties as a law enforcement officer not on the list above that you would consider to be an act of active aggression?

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## Armed

If a subject is described as "**armed**," which of the following could the subject be in possession of?

- Firearm
- BB or pellet gun
- Knife
- Other cutting instrument or edged weapon
- Electronic control weapon (e.g., Taser®)
- Explosive device
- Blunt instrument
- Pepper or OC spray
- Motor vehicle

Please proceed to the final page of the questionnaire

To ensure the anonymity of individuals participating in the survey, this page will be maintained separately from your answers on the previous pages of the survey.

## Agency Information

**Please choose the value that best describes your agency**

- City police
- County sheriff
- State police
- Campus police
- Other state agency
- Task force
- Tribal
- Federal
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which region of the United States your agency resides in**

- Northeast
- Midwest
- South
- West
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select the best description of your current position or role within your agency**

### Sworn

- Chief Executive (Chief, Sheriff, Director, etc.)
- Assistant Executive (Deputy Chief, Undersheriff, etc.)
- Mid-level management (Captain, Major, Commander, etc.)
- Supervisor/Sergeant
- Investigator/Detective/Special Agent
- Line personnel (Officer, Deputy, etc.)

### Civilian

- Crime Analysis Unit management
- Crime Analysis Unit staff
- Records Unit management
- Records Unit staff