

Fairfax County Police Department
Internal Affairs Bureau
2019 Use of Force Report



Submitted by Major C. Matt Owens, Jr
Commander, Internal Affairs Bureau

Executive Summary

Accountability and transparency are essential towards maintaining the trust between the Fairfax County Police Department and the community members we serve. The following report is intended to provide a summary of use of force incidents tracked by the Fairfax County Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau. The statistics provided in this report are based upon use of force incidents that occurred in 2019 and that have been closed as of June 1, 2020.

While this report provides information on incidents involving a reported use of force, the statistics show that the majority of contacts between Fairfax County officers and Fairfax County community members do not result in a use of force. In 2019, there were 491,682 calls for service in Fairfax County. Of those calls for service, there were 594 use of force incidents which equates to 0.12% of the total calls for service, or 1.2 use of force incidents per 1,000 calls for service. Complete statistical information on agency activities is available on the Chief's Page under [Crime Statistics](#).

The Fairfax County Police Department uses a comprehensive system utilizing 27 different categories to identify and measure uses of force. It should be noted that several categories can be counted in a single use of force incident and multiple officers often respond to a single incident. As a result, the number of involved officers in a use of force incident is often disproportionate to the actual number of use of force incidents that occur. In 2019, there were a total of 1,251 officers involved in 594 reported use of force incidents. Of the 594 use of force incidents, 553 were reviewed by first line supervisors. The remaining 41 use of force incidents resulted in an administrative investigation to ensure that the Fairfax County Police Department complied with use of force policies and procedures. Additional information on use of force incident reviews and investigations can be found in the [Use of Force General Order 540](#).

In 2017, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors created the Civilian Review Panel and the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to serve as additional layers of accountability and transparency. Both the Civilian Review Panel and the Office of the Independent Police Auditor serve as independent forums to objectively and impartially review investigations of complaints involving the Fairfax County Police Department. Use of force complaint reviews are completed by the Office of the Independent Police Auditor while complaint reviews of abuse of authority and serious misconduct are completed by the Civilian Review Panel. The Office of the Independent Police Auditor is currently facilitating a racial disparity study with the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Cincinnati to identify trends and patterns in the Fairfax County Police Department's uses of force between 2016 and 2018. Additional information regarding reviews conducted by the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, as well as additional information for the racial disparity study can be found on the [Office of the Independent Police Auditor webpage](#).

Prior to 2016, the Internal Affairs Bureau recorded community member demographics based upon the five race categories established by the Census Bureau. However, this method did not provide a specific category for the Hispanic population of Fairfax County. While Hispanic is considered an ethnicity, not a race, use of force reports from 2016 to present will include a category for Hispanic community members.

This report also provides population data provided by the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services via the [Demographic Reports 2019](#), which recorded the total county population at 1,166,965. The following report will provide detailed information on use of force incidents involving persons in our community that live, work, shop, and travel in Fairfax County.

The information contained in this report may be disseminated outside of the department. Questions regarding this information should be directed to the Internal Affairs Bureau at (703) 246-2793.

Major C. Matt Owens, Jr
Commander, Internal Affairs Bureau

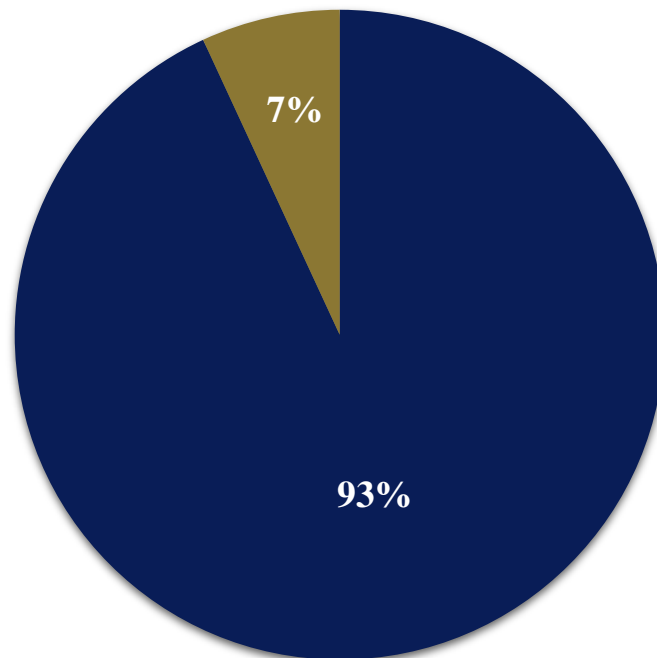
Use of Force Summary

Results of Use of Force Incident Investigations and Reviews 2019		
Use of Force Investigations/Reviews and Outcomes	2018	2019
Administrative Investigation with Sustained Violations	2	0
Administrative Investigation with In Compliance Outcome	67	41
Supervisory Review Documented with Use of Force Supplemental Report	441	553
Total	510	594

**The above chart reflects use of force administrative investigations that have concluded as of 06/01/2020.*

NOTE: Incidents involving less lethal uses of force, with non-serious injuries, are investigated by a supervisor and documented through a use of force supplemental police report ([Use of Force General Order 540](#)).

2019 Use of Force Incident Investigations and Reviews



■ Use of Force Supervisory Review
■ Use of Force Administrative Investigations

2019 Use of Force Reports by Officer Assignment

Officer Assignment	Number of Use of Force Reports
Community Resources Division	4
Crisis Intervention Team	3
Fair Oaks District Station	54
Franconia District Station	66
Major Crimes Bureau	4
Mason District Station	87
McLean District Station	87
Mount Vernon District Station	86
Organized Crime and Narcotics Division	58
Reston District Station	24
School Resource Officers	2
Special Operations Division	16
Sully District Station	45
Traffic Division	13
West Springfield District Station	45
Total	594

2015 - 2019 Use of Force Incidents Reported

Type of Report	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Community Member Generated Report	15	7	10	14	17
Internal Supplemental Police Report	524	493	482	496	577
Total Incidents Reported	539	500	492	510	594

NOTE: Incidents involving less lethal uses of force, with non-serious injuries, will be investigated by a supervisor and documented through a use of force supplemental police report ([Use of Force General Order 540](#)).

2019 Community Member Generated Use of Force Investigations Demographics

Community Member Race	Fairfax County Resident		Non-Fairfax County Resident		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Asian	0	0	0	1	1
Black	1	5	0	1	7
Hispanic	1	1	0	0	2
White	3	3	0	1	7
Total	5	9	0	3	17

NOTE: Community members include persons that live, work, shop, and travel in Fairfax County and is not based solely on residency.

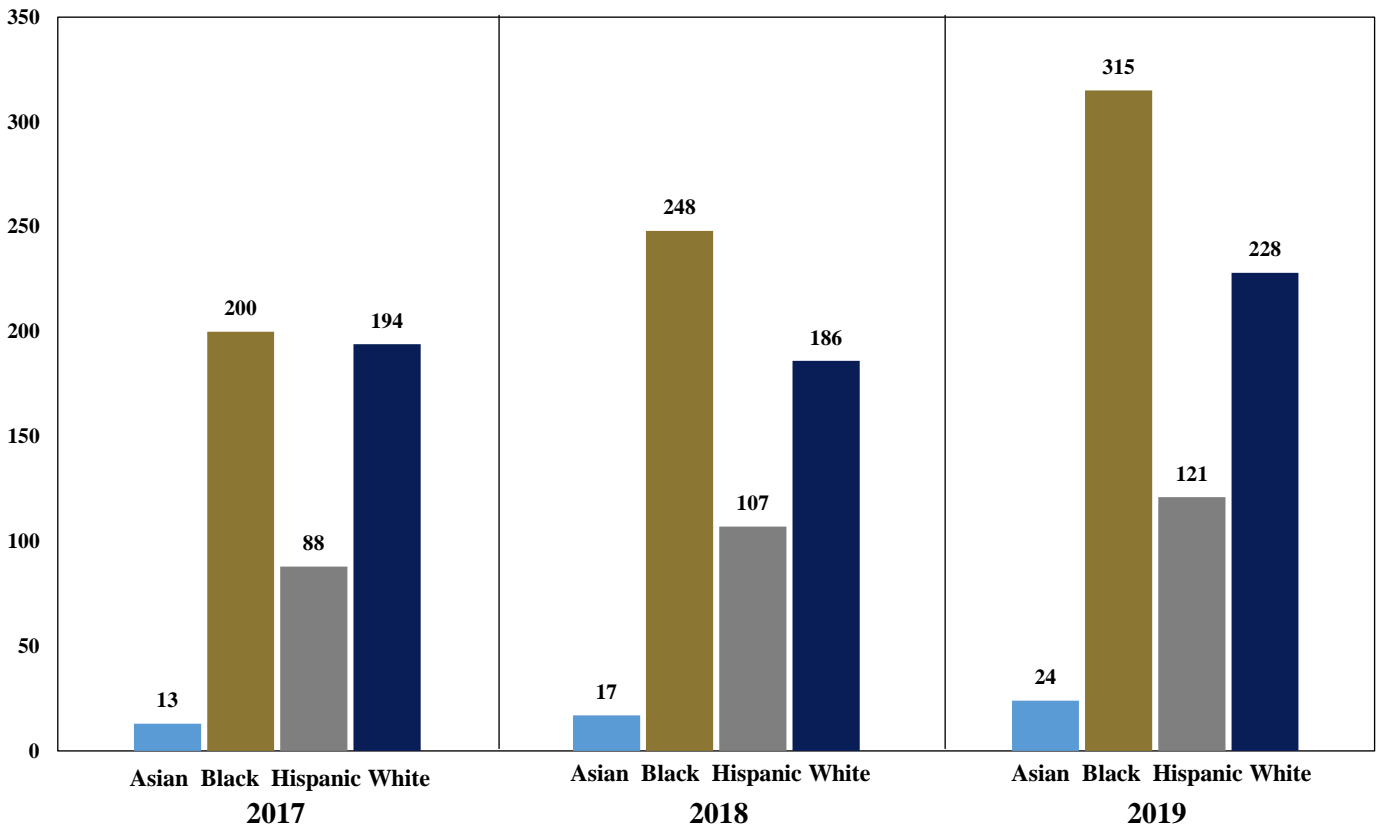
- Of the 17 community members who generated a use of force investigation, 14 were residents of Fairfax County. The nature of those 14 events include narcotics violations, fighting, assault on LEOs, public intoxication, a felony hit and run event, a domestic homicide event, and an individual experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Three community members who generated a use of force investigation were not residents of Fairfax County and the nature of the events include disorderly conduct, aggressive driving, and drug possession.
- There were no use of force violations found in those 17 investigations.

Demographics of Community Members Involved in a Use of Force

Community Member Race	2017		2018		2019	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Asian	3	10	1	16	5	19
Black	28	172	39	209	49	266
Hispanic	13	75	12	95	11	110
White	38	156	44	142	50	178
Grand Total	82	413	96	462	115	573

NOTE: Community members include persons that live, work, shop, and travel in Fairfax County and is not based solely on residency. More than one community member may be involved in a use of force incident, resulting in a higher number of involved individuals than actual incidents.

Demographics of Community Members Involved in a Use of Force 2017 - 2019



Fairfax County Police District Station Population Demographics and 2019 Demographics of Community Members Involved in a Use of Force

Station	Fairfax County Police District Station Population Demographics	Percent of Community Member Demographics by District Station	Demographics of Community Members Involved in a Use of Force by District Station	Percent of Community Members Involved in a Use of Force by District Station
Fair Oaks District Station				
White	86,744	59.78%	32	40.00%
Black	10,479	7.22%	32	40.00%
Asian and Pacific Islander	38,344	26.42%	5	6.25%
American Indian and Alaska Native	310	0.21%	0	0.00%
Other	9,237	6.37%	0	0.00%
Total	145,114	100.00%	80	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	<i>13,997</i>	<i>9.64%</i>	11	13.75%
Franconia District Station				
White	78,371	56.66%	25	27.47%
Black	23,177	16.76%	46	50.55%
Asian and Pacific Islander	23,429	16.94%	2	2.20%
American Indian and Alaska Native	375	0.27%	0	0.00%
Other	12,971	9.37%	0	0.00%
Total	138,323	100.00%	91	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	<i>25,805</i>	<i>18.65%</i>	18	19.78%
Mason District Station				
White	61,411	56.74%	37	36.64%
Black	11,690	10.80%	36	35.64%
Asian and Pacific Islander	19,039	17.60%	4	3.96%
American Indian and Alaska Native	194	0.18%	0	0.00%
Other	15,893	14.68%	0	0.00%
Total	108,227	100.00%	101	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	<i>28,612</i>	<i>26.44%</i>	24	23.76%
McLean District Station				
White	94,360	64.33%	29	25.44%
Black	6,873	4.69%	65	57.02%
Asian and Pacific Islander	32,587	22.22%	4	3.51%
American Indian and Alaska Native	188	0.13%	0	0.00%
Other	12,656	8.63%	0	0.00%
Total	146,664	100.00%	114	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	<i>16,132</i>	<i>10.10%</i>	16	14.03%

Mount Vernon District Station				
White	70,682	62.85%	22	17.19%
Black	19,048	16.94%	79	61.72%
Asian and Pacific Islander	8,790	7.82%	0	0.00%
American Indian and Alaska Native	113	0.10%	0	0.00%
Other	13,826	12.29%	0	0.00%
Total	112,459	100.00%	128	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	29,779	26.48%	27	21.09%
Reston District Station				
White	85,399	67.23%	14	48.28%
Black	10,466	8.24%	9	31.03%
Asian and Pacific Islander	22,607	17.80%	1	3.45%
American Indian and Alaska Native	113	0.09%	0	0.00%
Other	8,437	6.64%	0	0.00%
Total	127,022	100.00%	29	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	14,481	11.40%	5	17.24%
Sully District Station				
White	65,781	58.44%	31	42.47%
Black	8,218	7.30%	25	34.25%
Asian and Pacific Islander	29,862	26.53%	4	5.48%
American Indian and Alaska Native	243	0.22%	0	0.00%
Other	8,451	7.51%	0	0.00%
Total	112,555	100.00%	73	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	15,653	13.91%	13	17.80%
West Springfield District Station				
White	132,320	66.15%	38	54.29%
Black	16,198	8.10%	21	30.00%
Asian and Pacific Islander	35,670	17.83%	4	5.71%
American Indian and Alaska Native	811	0.40%	0	0.00%
Other	15,042	7.52%	0	0.00%
Total	200,041	100.00%	70	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	29,547	14.77%	7	10.0%
Total Population of All District Stations				
White	675,068	61.91%	228	33.24%
Black	106,149	9.73%	313	45.63%
Asian and Pacific Islander	210,328	19.29%	24	3.50%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,347	0.22%	0	0.00%
Other	96,513	8.85%	0	0.00%
Total	1,090,405	100.00%	686	100.00%
<i>Hispanic*</i>	174,006	15.96%	121	17.63%

NOTE: The Fairfax County Police District Station Population Demographics column provides Hispanic as a **subset** of the total. Conversely, the column titled Demographics of Community Members Involved in a Use of Force by District Station does **not** provide Hispanic as a subset of the total; rather, Hispanic is **added** to the other races to determine the total. The data collection process utilized by the Fairfax County GIS Department is separate from the data collection process utilized by the FCPD. There were no use of force incidents involving community members identified via race or ethnicity as American Indian/Alaska Native or Other in 2019. District station population demographics were derived from the [American Community Survey 2018 Data Release](#).

*Two community members were involved in use of force incidents outside of the county as part of felony arrest warrants.

Demographics of Community Member Population and FCPD Officers

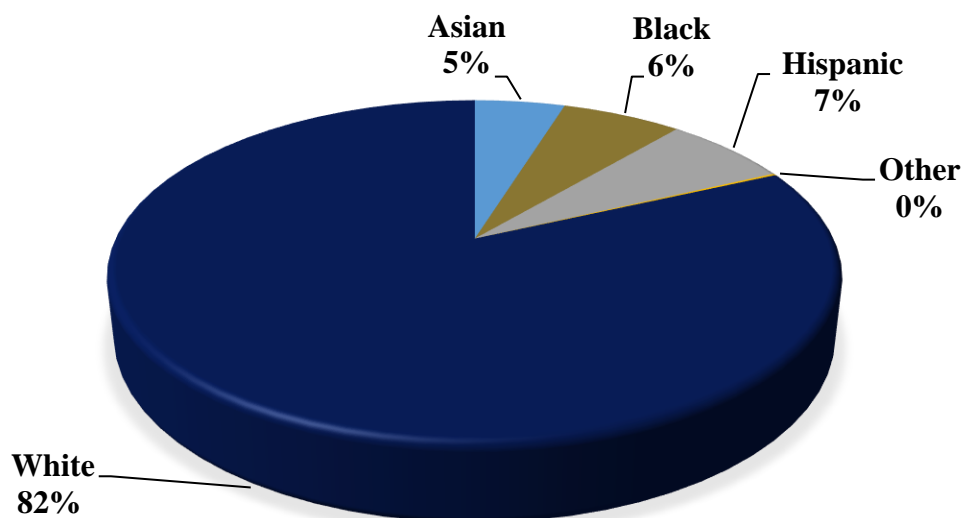
Fairfax County Demographics			FCPD Sworn Officer Demographics				
Race	Persons	Percent	Race	Male	Female	Total	Percent
White	713,016	61.1%	White	960	182	1,142	80.60%
Black	113,196	9.7%	Black	94	13	107	7.55%
Asian and Pacific Islander	225,224	19.3%	Asian and Pacific Islander	66	5	71	5.01%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,334	0.2%	Hispanic/Latino	72	18	90	6.35%
Other	113,196	9.7%	Other	6	1	7	0.49%
<i>Fairfax County Total Population</i>	<i>1,166,965</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	Total	1,198	219	1,417	100%
Hispanic*	191,382	16.4%					

*Hispanic persons may be of any race. Population information was derived from the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services [Demographic Reports 2019](#). Sworn Officer Demographic data was provided by Fairfax County Department of Human Resources – Human Resources Information Systems.

Demographics of Officers Involved in Use of Force Incidents

Officer Race	Female	Male	Total	Percent
Asian	1	59	60	4.80%
Black	8	72	80	6.40%
Hispanic	7	78	85	6.79%
Other	0	2	2	0.16%
White	76	948	1,024	81.85%
Grand Total	92	1,159	1,251	100.00%

*It should be noted that multiple officers often assist in the same use of force incident.



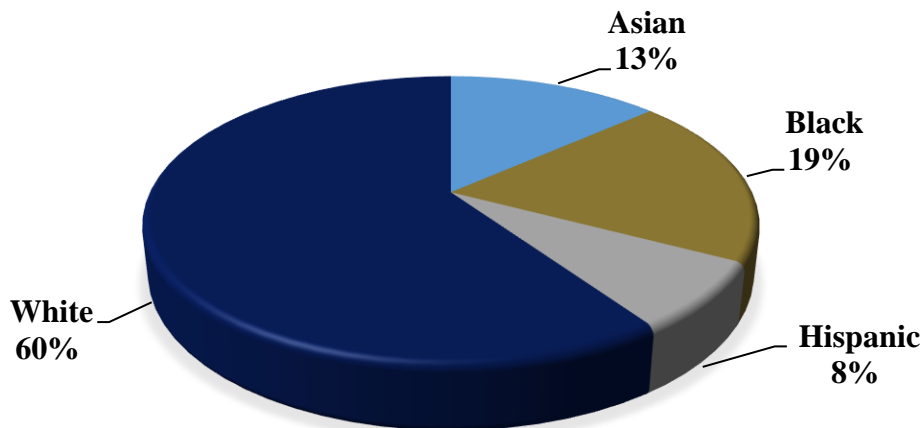
2019 Use of Force Incidents Involving Community Members Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis

Calls for Service Involving a Mental Health Crisis (6,015) Incidents Involving a Mental Health Crisis Not Dispatched as a Mental Health Event (1,875) Suicide/Attempted Suicide Events (224)	8,114
Use of Force Incidents Involving Persons Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis	52
Percentage of Use of Force Incidents Involving Persons Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis	0.64%

The above data captures incidents involving a mental health component. This data includes calls for service, incidents that were closed as a mental health event (not dispatched as a mental health event), and suicide/attempted suicide events.

Demographics of Community Members Suspected of Suffering from a Mental Health Crisis Involved in Use of Force Incidents

Race	Female	Male	Total
Asian	2	5	7
Black	3	7	10
Hispanic	0	4	4
White	9	22	31
Total	14	38	52



2019 Use of Force Instrument Used by Officer

Instrument	2018 Number of Uses	2019 Number of Uses
40 MM Oleoresin Capsicum Impact Round	0	1
Baton/Expandable Baton	24	9
Bean Bag/Sponge Round	5	1
Canine	10	16
Carried	7	19
Discharged Electronic Control Weapon	77	66
Discharged Firearm	1	1
Force to Cuff	202	206
Force to Hold	169	255
Hands on Escort	95	104
Intentional Vehicle Contact	7	1
Nylon Limb Immobilization System	47	116
Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray)	24	21
Pointed Electronic Control Weapon	23	14
Pointed Firearm	205	396
Pressure Points	15	16
Spit Guard Applied	3	20
Strikes with Hands/Feet	81	61
Tactical Vehicle Intercept	157	80
Take Down	190	229
Total	1,353	1,632

**It should be noted that a use of force incident will often involve more than one instrument or technique, as well as multiple officers.*

Officer Use of Force Instruments Vs. Hands Only Use of Force Techniques

Instrument Vs. Hands Only	2018	2019
Hands On Techniques Used	1,144	1,380
Instruments/Tools Used	209	252
Total	1,353	1,632

**Hands on techniques include take downs, force to cuff, hold, escort, pressure points, hand/foot strikes, and carrying. Instruments include electronic control weapons, firearms, vehicle contact, spit guards, canine, OC and nylon limb immobilization systems.*

2019 Community Member Use of Force Actions and Weapon Types

Action and Weapon Type	2018	2019
Blunt Object	6	1
Firearm	5	6
Flight/Concealment	109	117
Knife/Lethal Cutting Instrument	14	18
Passive Resistance	232	251
Personal Weapons (Hands/Feet)	159	288
Spitting/Biting	10	12
Threatening Self-Inflicted Harm	7	9
Vehicle	16	20
Total	558	722

**Community members involved in a use of force incident may use more than one action or possess more than one force type.*

NOTE: Passive Resistance is defined in [Use of Force General Order 540](#)

Assault on Law Enforcement Officers Summary

The FBI reported that 48 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in 2019. While the FBI has released the number of officers killed in 2019, they have yet to release the total number of officers assaulted in 2019. In 2018, the FBI reported that 58,866 of the nation’s law enforcement officers were assaulted. The national rate of assaults on officers in 2018 was 10.8 assaults per 100 officers.

In 2019, there were 231 assaults on Fairfax County Police Department officers. This is an increase of over 21.58% from the 190 assaults on Fairfax County Police Department officers in 2018. The rate of assaults on Fairfax County Police Department officers in 2019 was 16.30 assaults per 100 officers. In 2018, the rate of assaults on Fairfax County Police Department officers was 12.89 assaults per 100 officers.

**Additional statistical information on law enforcement officers assaulted and killed in the line of duty can be found in the [FBI’s LEOKA 2019 Annual Report](#).*

Assault on Fairfax County Law Enforcement Officers and Attempted Capital Murder Incidents			
Incident Type	2017	2018	2019
Aggravated Assault on LEO	11	9	8
Simple Assault on LEO	209	181	221
Attempted Capital Murder on LEO	1	0	2
Grand Total	221	190	231

Fairfax County Officers Involved in a Use of Force Incident 2019	
Total Number of Officers Involved in a Use of Force	1,251
Total Number of Use of Force Incidents	594

**It should be noted that multiple officers often assist in the same use of force incident.*

Electronic Control Weapon Use by Officer Assignment

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Pointed Only	Deployed	Pointed Only	Deployed	Pointed Only	Deployed	Pointed Only	Deployed	Pointed Only	Deployed
Fair Oaks District Station	6	6	2	4	5	10	5	2	0	2
Franconia District Station	6	8	5	8	3	8	2	8	3	7
Mason District Station	7	20	3	8	5	18	2	7	2	7
McLean District Station	8	17	8	3	5	5	7	5	3	6
Mount Vernon District Station	10	15	8	11	5	13	2	18	3	8
Operation Support Bureau	1	1	0	2	2	3	3	2	1	3
Organized Crime and Narcotics Division	0	11	0	14	0	10	0	18	0	14
Planning and Research Bureau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Reston District Station	6	15	2	3	2	7	0	4	2	6
School Resource Officer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sully District Station	4	4	4	1	1	3	2	7	0	7
West Springfield District Station	8	11	1	10	2	5	0	6	0	5
Total	56	108	33	64	30	82	23	77	14	66

Electronic Control Weapon Effectiveness 2015 - 2019

