



# Nassau County Police Department

## Use of Force Reporting and Findings

**Nassau County Police Department estimates having at least one million public interactions each year. When comparing the number of Use of Force incidents to the number of public interactions, force is used in less than .02% of all interactions.**

### **Use of Force Definitions:**

**Actively Resistant Person/Self-Destructive Behavior** - An actively resistant person is one who takes an offensive or a physically resistant action. These actions can take the form of the person standing at the ready and menacing with an object, device, or material capable of inflicting serious injury; the person using bodily force such as punching, striking, scratching, grabbing/holding; the person using active physical resistance to custody or presenting an imminent biohazard threat such as spitting or throwing a biohazard at the member or attempt of same. Also, in this category: evading custody (escape), destroying evidence, or attempting to harm self (ingesting narcotics, suicide attempt), making explicit verbal threats to cause injury to the member or others present and which the member reasonably believes the person will carry out that threat. The member objectively and reasonably perceives an actual or imminent threat to self, others or evidence.

**Deadly Active Person** - A deadly active person is one who is presenting a deadly threat with a firearm, edged weapon, deadly ordnance, electronic control device (ECD), motor vehicle, or any other instrument or substance capable of causing death or serious physical injury. Also included is an attempt to disarm the member, incapacitate the member or a life-threatening weaponless assault. The member objectively and reasonably perceives an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to self or innocent others.

**Force** - Means the following actions by a member: any physical strike or instrumental contact with a person, or any significant physical contact that restricts movement of a person. The term includes, but is not limited to, the use of firearms; electronic control devices (ECDs); chemical spray; empty hands; the taking of a person to the ground; physical force such as kicks, punches, or martial arts techniques; compliance and control holds such as twist locks, wrist locks, pressure point; or the deployment of a canine. The term does not include escorting or handcuffing a person, with no or minimal resistance.

**Deadly Force** - Means force which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or other serious physical injury to another human being...It may involve firearms, but also includes any force or instrument of force (e.g., vehicle, edged weapon) capable of causing death or serious injury. Deadly force includes the firing at or in the direction of a person and head strikes with a police baton or any hard object.

**Imminent** - Does not mean immediate or instantaneous, but rather that an action is pending. Thus, a subject may pose an imminent danger even if he is not at that very moment pointing a weapon at a Police Officer. For example, imminent danger may exist if Police Officers have probable cause to believe any of the following: 1. a subject possesses a weapon or is attempting to gain access to a

weapon under circumstances indicating an intention to use it against the police officer or others, or 2. a subject is armed and running to gain a tactical advantage of cover, or 3. a subject with the capability of inflicting death or serious physical injury or otherwise incapacitating a police officer and is demonstrating an intention to do so, or 4. a subject is attempting to escape from the vicinity of a violent confrontation where the subject inflicted or attempted to inflict death or serious physical injury.

**Intermediate Weapons** - Compliance devices authorized, approved, and issued by the Department and used to stop and control individuals when the use of force is reasonable and necessary. These instruments or devices include, but are not limited to, the following: OC pepper-spray, the police baton, the electronic control device (ECD), a propelled beanbag round, and the deployment of a canine.

**Passively Resistant Person** - A passively resistant person is one who fails to follow voice commands. A passively resistant person may be verbally abusive using non-threatening language. A passively resistant person is also any person who resists arrest simply by passively refusing to comply as directed (dead weight). The police member does not objectively and reasonably perceive an imminent physical threat.

**Reasonable and Necessary** - Is that level of force that is appropriate when analyzed from the perspective of a reasonable officer possessing the same information and faced with the same circumstances as the officer who actually used force. The use of reasonable and necessary force is not analyzed with hindsight, but will take into account, where appropriate, the fact that officers must make rapid decisions regarding the amount of force to use in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations. This policy guideline applies to all uses of force, not only the use of deadly force.

**Serious Physical Injury** - Means physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes death or serious and protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ. (PL §10.00)

**Totality of circumstances** - All facts and circumstances known to the police officer at the time, reasonably perceived by the police officer, as the basis for the use of force decision.

**Electronic Control Device (ECD)** - An electro-muscular disruptor designed to disrupt a subject's motor and sensory functions of the nervous system by deploying battery-powered electrical energy sufficient to cause motor skill dysfunction and override voluntary motor responses.

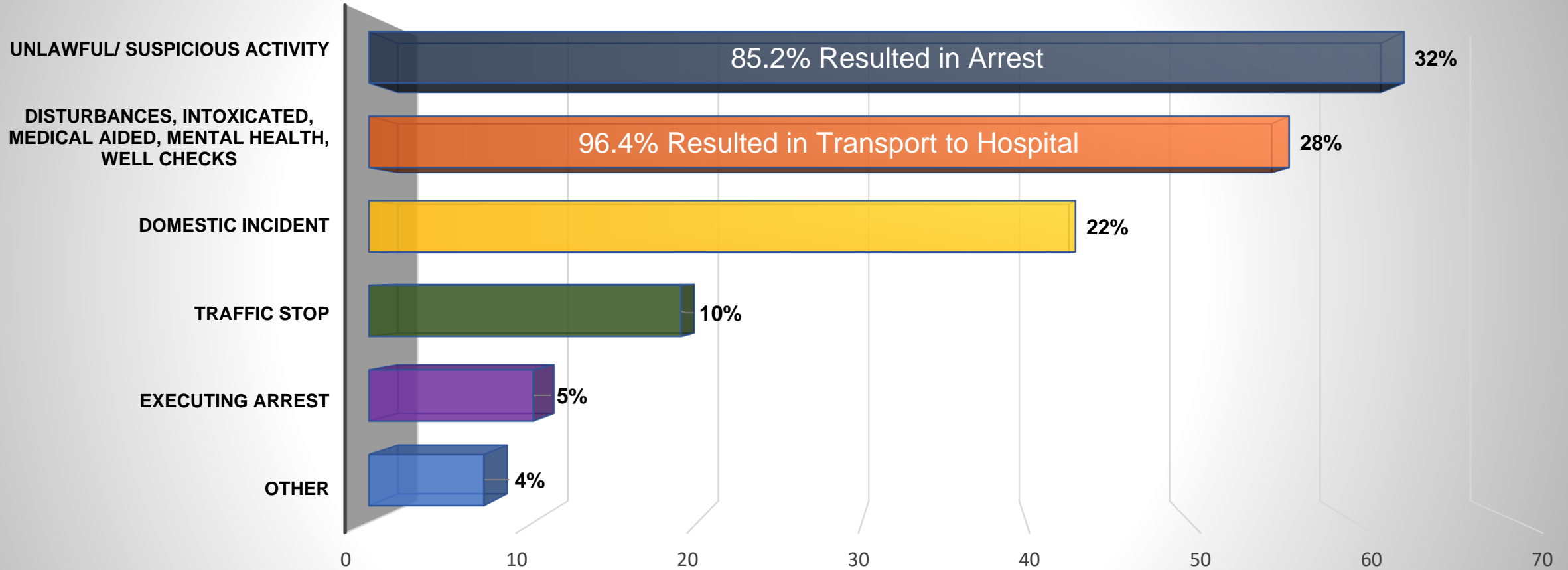
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**Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)** - An inflammatory agent derived from the oils and waxes of crushed cayenne peppers. The physical effects on a person caused by OC will usually lessen his ability to resist or retaliate.



# Nassau County Police Department 2020 Use of Force by Circumstance

Nassau County Police Department estimates having at least one million public interactions each year. When comparing the number of Use of Force incidents to the number of public interactions, force is used in less than .02% of all interactions.



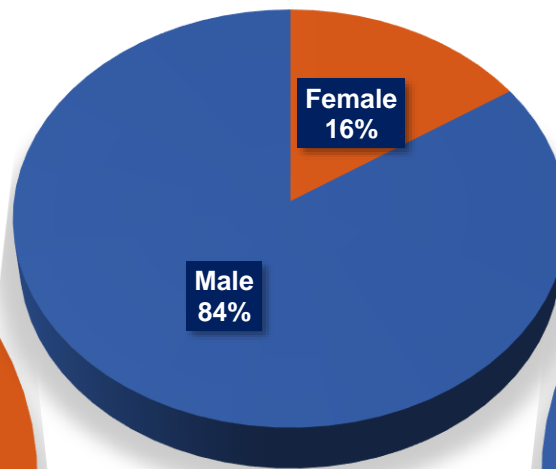
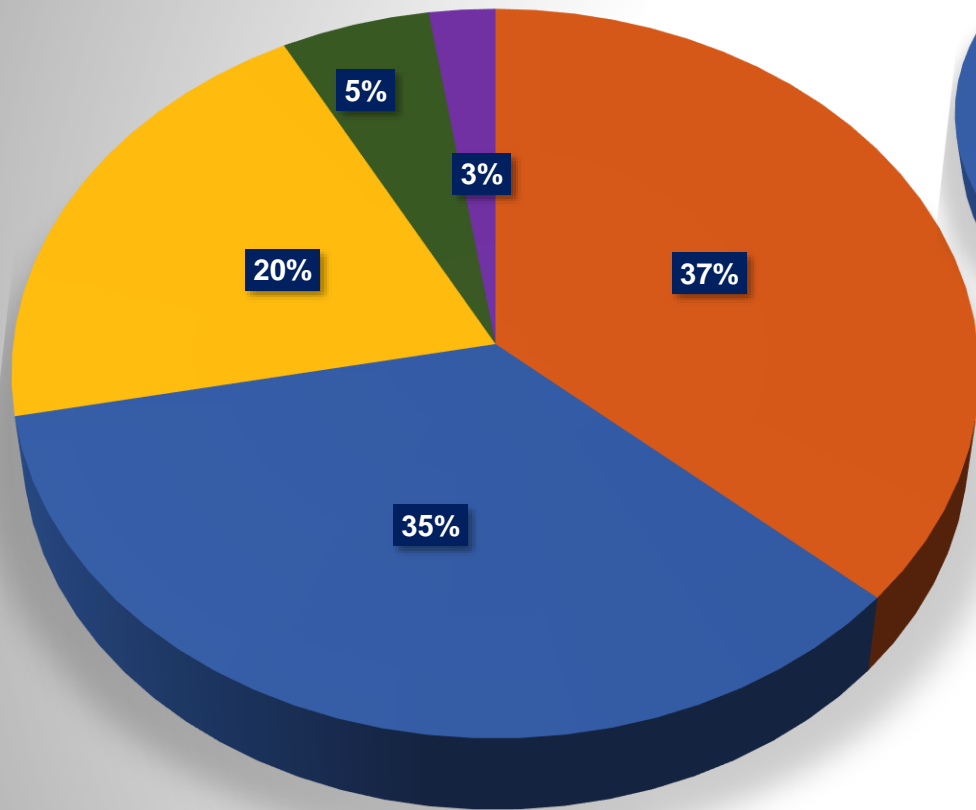
**Total Number of Incidents: 198**

Unlawful/ Suspicious Activity	Aided / Well Checks	Domestic Incident	Traffic Stop	Executing Arrest	Other
63	56	43	19	10	7

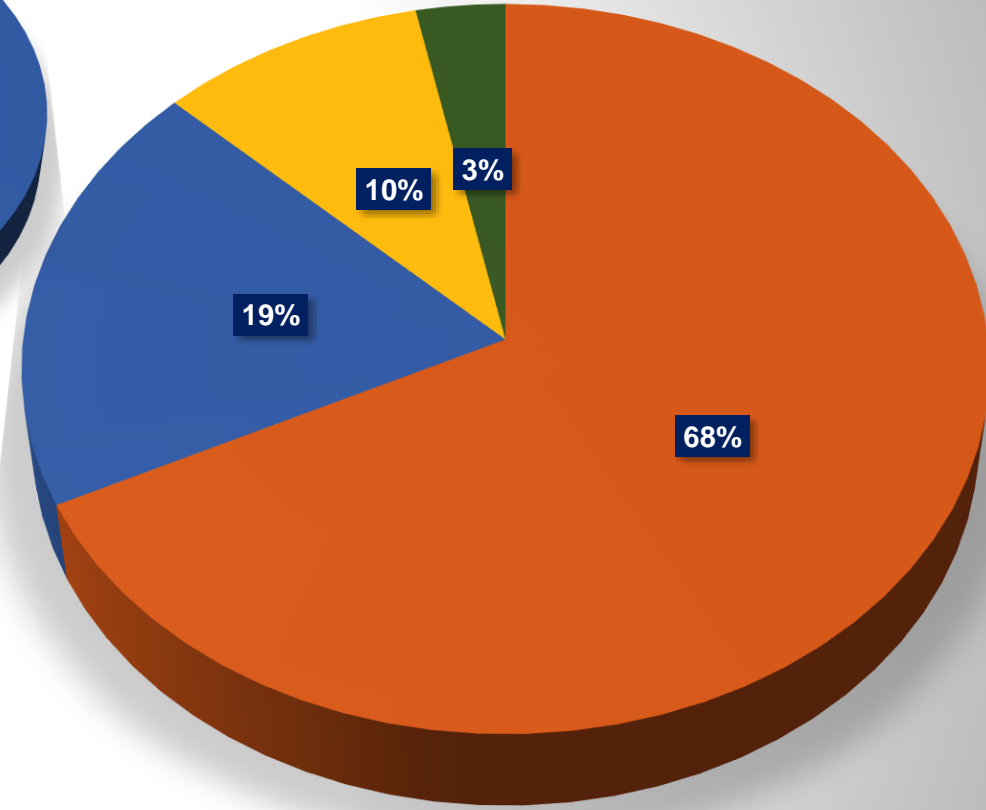


# Nassau County Police Department 2020 Use of Force Demographics

**Male**  
Total: 167



**Female**  
Total: 31

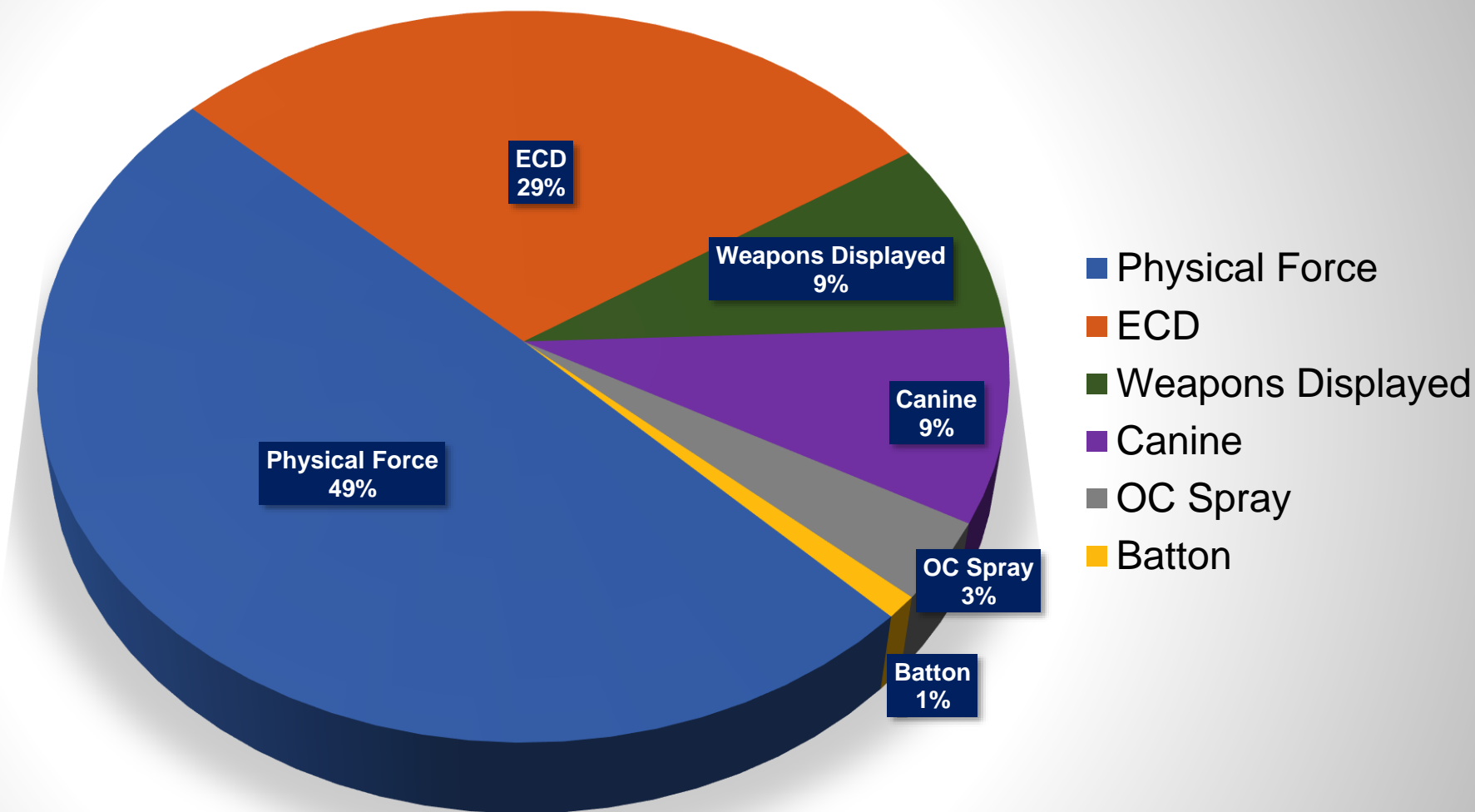


- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian/ Pacific Islander
- Other

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other
Female:	21	6	3	1	0
Male:	61	59	34	9	4



# Nassau County Police Department 2020 Use of Force by Type



Total Number of Incidents: 198

Type of Force	Physical Force	ECD	Weapon Displayed	Canine	OC Spray	Batton
	98	57	17	17	7	2



# Nassau County Police Department 2020 Use of Force by Community

Total Number of Communities: 55

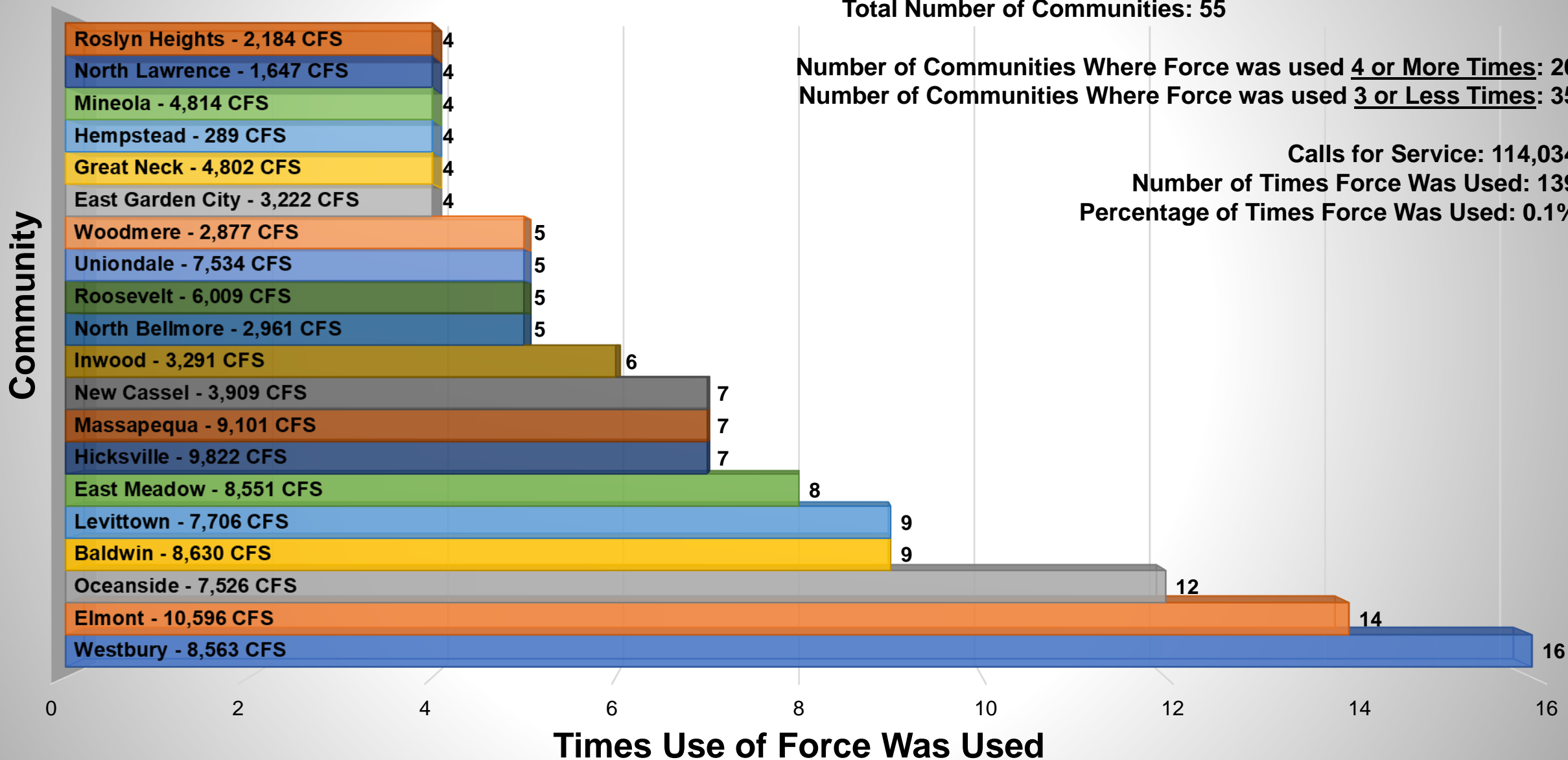
Number of Communities Where Force was used 4 or More Times: 20

Number of Communities Where Force was used 3 or Less Times: 35

Calls for Service: 114,034

Number of Times Force Was Used: 139

Percentage of Times Force Was Used: 0.1%



\*CFS – Calls for Service