



Police Department  
Dubuque Law Enforcement Center  
770 Iowa Street  
P.O. Box 875  
Dubuque, IA 52004-0875  
Office (563) 589-4410  
Fax (563) 589-4497  
TTY (563) 583-1711  
E-mail: [police@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:police@cityofdubuque.org)  
[www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)

# CY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## STAFFING:

Authorized Sworn Staff: 113

Actual Sworn Staff as of 12/31/22: 96

Authorized Civilian Staff: 7 Full Time, 8 Part Time (part time includes paid internships)

Actual Civilian Staff as of 12/31/21: 7 Full Time, 3 Part Time (includes paid internships)

## CALLS FOR SERVICE:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
56,153	55,695	53,445	54,367	50,047	53,941

## PART 1 CRIMES:

[illegible]

## TRAFFIC CRASHES:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
1,547	1,624	1,609	1,406	1,510	1,539.2

Traffic crashes consist of property damage, personal injury and fatality crashes. In 2022, there were six (6) fatalities in four crashes, a five-year high. One of these crashes accounted for three deaths. The most common crash causations were speed and failure to maintain control. The majority of the crashes are along major traffic corridors.

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
10,327	9,731	7,848	6,912	7,473	8458.2

The above total per year includes written citations, warnings, OWI's, and equipment retests.

## PURSUIT:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
34	16	20	28	24	24.4

The Dubuque Police Department has a restrictive pursuit policy. Of the twenty-four pursuits in 2022, eighteen pursuits were either at the misdemeanor level or assumed to be misdemeanor level because the suspect was not apprehended. Eight of the total pursuits were deemed to be a felony level once the suspect was apprehended. Pursuing officers terminated one (1) pursuit, and supervisors terminated nine (9) pursuits. Five (5) of the pursuits ended when the driver crashed either during the pursuit or after police terminated the pursuit. "Stop Sticks" were successfully deployed on one (1) occasion to stop the pursuits.

## ARRESTS:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
3,698	3,208	2,534	2,465	2,589	2898.8

This would include arrests that led to custodial arrest, as well as arrests when suspects were cited and released. This does not include simple misdemeanor traffic violations.

## USE OF FORCE:

Dubuque Police Department policy states a Use of Force Report (UOF) is to be completed under the following circumstances:

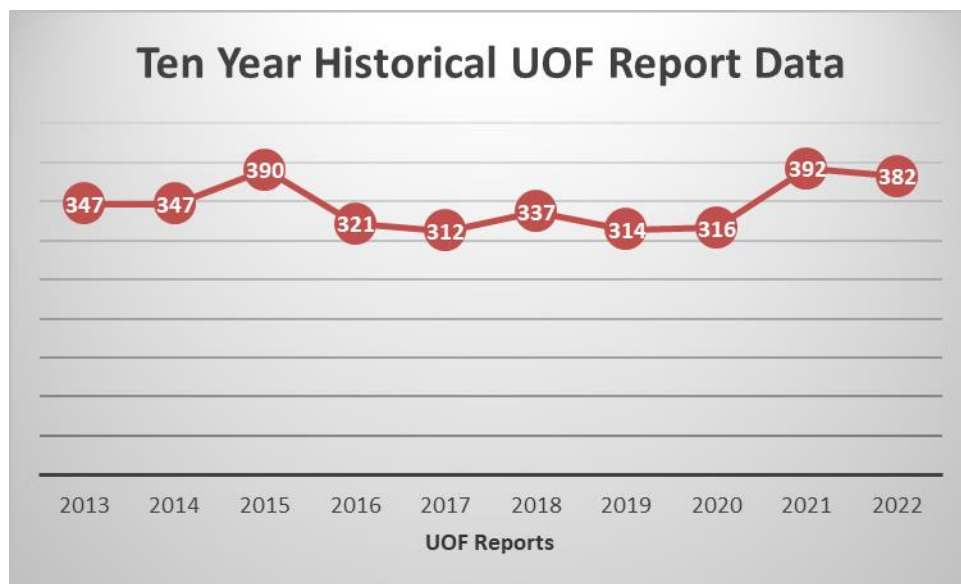
*All incidents requiring the application of force involving the use of lethal or less-lethal weapons will be reported in writing to the Chief of Police. A Reportable Use of Force report will be submitted in all cases where an injury or death results from, or is alleged to have resulted from, actions by an employee of this Department whether through the use of lethal, less-lethal, or weaponless physical force; or whenever physical force is used at a level greater than soft hand techniques or simple handcuffing.*

*Officers will file a use of force report to the Chief of Police, through their immediate commanding officer, detailing any incident in which the officer draws and displays a Departmental firearm...A use of force report will generally not be required in instances where an officer has drawn his/her weapon as a safety precaution only, such as during a building search...*

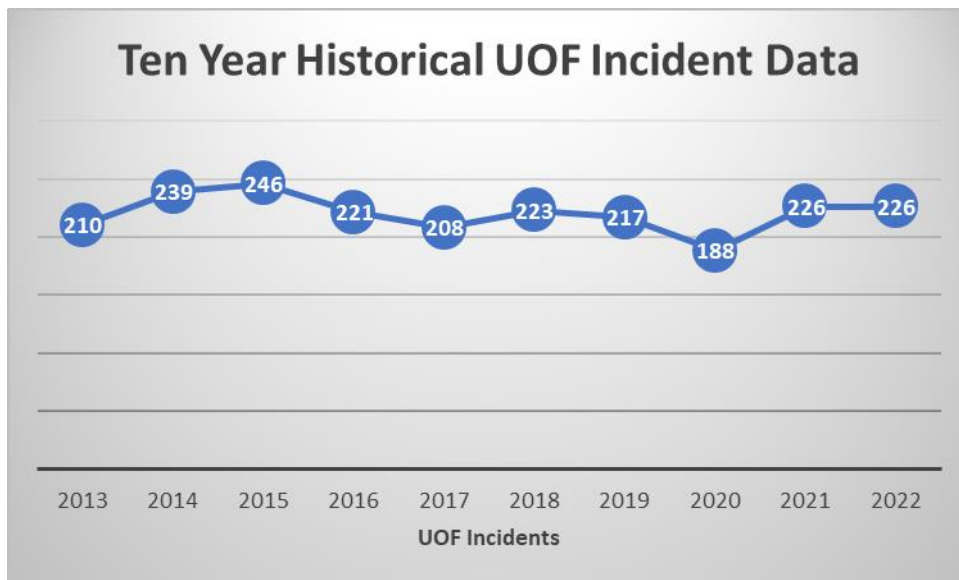
Use of Force Reports are also required when a weapon is discharged for the purpose of dispatching an injured/sick/vicious animal.

### **USE OF FORCE DATA:**

There was a total of 382 Use of Force (UOF) Reports filed in 2022. This a slight decrease compared to 2021 when a total of 392 UOF Reports were filed.



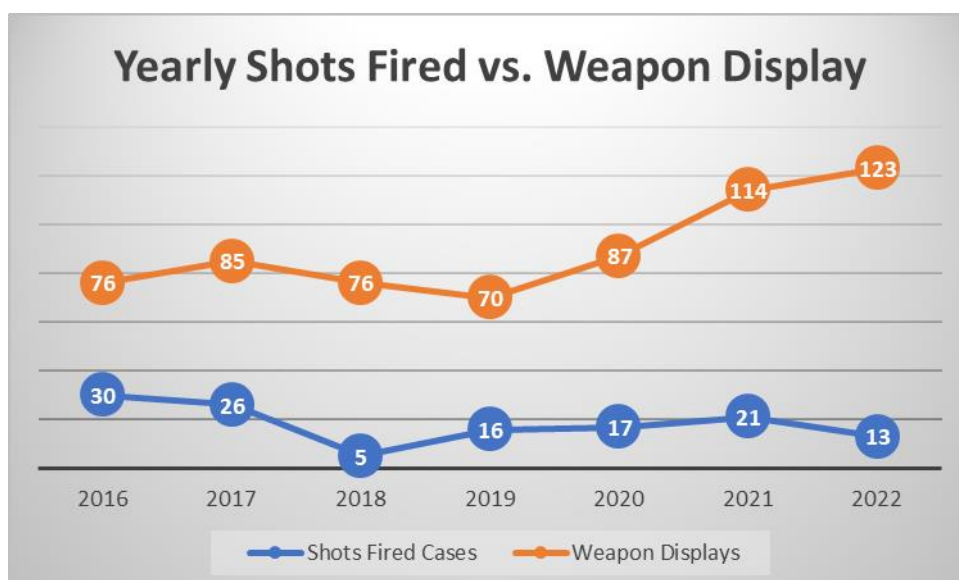
One call or incident may result in multiple officers filing UOF Reports, therefore the total number of UOF Reports filed should not be interpreted as the total number of calls or incidents where officers used force. The actual number of Use of Force incidents or calls during which officers used force in 2022 totaled 226 incidents. As a comparison, there were also 226 UOF incidents in 2021 and 188 Incidents in 2020. Our ten-year high figure continues to be the 246 UOF incidents experienced in 2015.



## FIREARMS DISPLAY:

The display of weapons/firearms by police is a result of confrontations with potentially dangerous suspects or in response to potentially dangerous situations which may result in deadly force encounters. In 2022, 123 UOF reports were filed documenting a display of a firearm. It should be noted that one call for service may result in multiple officers displaying their weapons.

The number of shots fired (with criminal intent) reports trended downwards in 2022. There were 13 shots fired calls in 2022 compared to 21 in 2021. The below chart shows the yearly shots fired cases compared to the yearly display of weapon reports.



## **FIREARMS DISCHARGE:**

There were no Officer-Involved Shootings in 2022.

Officers used a firearm to dispatch 16 different animals that were sick or injured in 2022. In each case, the officer obtained clearance from a supervisor prior to using a firearm to dispatch the animal. The location of the sick or injured animal and overall community safety determines whether a firearm is used for this purpose.

## **WEAPONLESS USE OF FORCE:**

Use of Force that consists of bodily force/strength, pain compliance, and weaponless striking techniques, or restraint use are included in this category (Handcuffs and Personal Hands/Feet/Fist force reporting options). Officers used these techniques 253 times in 2022.

This is by far is our most often used method of force. This method of force is often accompanied by the use of pepper spray or other force options. Because of this, one UOF report may contain additional force options that are counted in multiple categories listed in this report (e.g. Officer Smith tries to use bodily force/strength to handcuff a suspect and pepper sprays the suspect when bodily force fails to control the arrestee).

## **LESS LETHAL:**

This category includes the use of pepper spray, pepper ball, impact munitions shot through a 12 gauge shotgun and 37 MM), ASP collapsible baton, and other striking instruments.

The less-lethal shotgun was displayed once in 2022 but was not discharged. The 37 MM launcher was not used.

The pepper ball launcher was used twice in 2022.

No UOF Reports documented the use an ASP baton or the use of a flashlight or other striking instrument on a suspect.

21 UOF Reports filed in 2022 listed the use of pepper spray as either a primary or secondary UOF option.

## **DEADLY FORCE:**

There were no deadly force incidents in 2022.

## **TRENDS:**

The use of physical force to make arrests remains relatively low. Based on five-year averages, officers used reportable force on 216 of the 2915.2 arrests, or 7.4% of arrests, meaning 92.6% of arrests are completed with verbal commands or minimal hands-on guidance.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Arrest Reports</b>	<b>Use of Force Incidents</b>
2018	3679	223
2019	3309	217
2020	2534	188
2021	2465	226
2022	2589	226
Average	2915.2	216

## **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:**

### **COMPLAINTS:**

All allegations of employee misconduct or complaints made against the Department, including anonymous complaints, are appropriately received, recorded and investigated.

Complaints which are less serious in nature, such as alleged rudeness, tardiness, etc. are referred to and investigated by the employee's immediate supervisor.

Complaints of a serious nature, such as, allegations of criminal misconduct, corruption, excessive force, breach of civil rights, or ongoing negative behavior by an employee are referred to the Police Chief, Assistant Chief, or Professional Standards Supervisor for formal investigation.

Disciplinary action is intended to be corrective and progressive in nature. The degree of severity is determined on an individual basis, considering the seriousness of the offense and the employee's record of service with the Department.

All complaints, regardless of the degree of seriousness, are forwarded to the Professional Standards Supervisor for review. The Assistant Chief and Professional Standards Supervisor are responsible to ensure that the Chief of Police is notified of all complaints, regardless of the degree of seriousness.

In 2022 there were 32 complaint cases completed. 29 of these cases were initiated by citizens, one was initiated by an officer and two were initiated by DPD command staff.

Two cases rose to the level of a Formal Investigation. Both of these formal cases were "Founded". Both founded cases resulted in unpaid time off for the officer involved.

30 cases remained at the Inquiry or Informal Complaint level. Five of these cases were founded.

The majority of our 2022 complaints were for poor job performance (28). Excessive force complaints are rare. The department only received two excessive force complaints in 2022. Both excessive force complaints were unfounded.

Most of our complaints, 25 out of 32, were deemed unfounded once the investigation had concluded.

There were 38 complaints received in 2021. There were 33 complaints received in 2020 and 15 complaints in 2019. The increase in complaints experienced in 2020 through 2022 as compared to 2019 can be attributed to several factors.

### **PERSONNEL EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (PEWS):**

Dubuque Police Department supervisors monitor patterns of behavior to include job performance, complaints, use of force, discipline, and other incidents that may be predictors of potential improper behavior.

Because of the relatively small size of the department, and its individual divisions and shifts, supervisors have the advantage of consistent contact with their subordinates. This allows for frequent interaction as well as a consistent review of work production and behaviors. To this end, our current system of early warning is effective in recognizing concerning behaviors or actions.

Additionally, the Dubuque Police Department's RMS computer software is designed to capture data from multiple different report forms which are part of our PEWS program. Included are Citizen Complaints, Use of Force Reports (UFR's), Pursuit Reports, and Fleet Vehicle Accident Reports. The computer system identifies this data as early intervention warnings. The department sets the parameters/thresholds for this warning system and an Early Warning Threshold Report is sent to Professional Standards once these parameters/thresholds are reached. The current PEWS parameters are as follows:

- 5 UFR's within the last 60 days.
- 2 vehicle pursuit events in the last 60 days.
- 2 citizen complaints within the last 30 days.
- 2 fleet vehicle accidents within the last 60 days.
- Or a combination of 10 events of any type (listed above) within the last 90 days.

There were five formal PEWS reviews conducted in 2022 involving four officers. In comparison, there were six formal PEWS threshold reports triggered in 2021, five reports in 2020, and none in 2019.

Jeremy Jensen  
Chief of Police  
Dubuque Police Department