

## Report Detail Info

**Date of Report \***

2/28/2025	
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**Year of Data Covered in this Report \***

2024
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**Reporting Period \***

January 1st - December 31st	▼
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**Check the box below to confirm**

**Report has been reviewed by and endorsed by the agency's law enforcement executive. \***

## Contact Information

**Your Title \***

Chief of Police
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**Phone Number (Please enter a valid telephone number) \***

908-722-4111
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**Email (example@example.com) \***

<a href="mailto:jmitzak@bridgewater.nj.gov">jmitzak@bridgewater.nj.gov</a>
--

**Email Address for Submission to Prosecutor's Office \***


<a href="mailto:SCPOIA@co.somerset.nj.us">SCPOIA@co.somerset.nj.us</a>
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## Upload Files

Please upload a copy of your Use of Force Annual Trend Report from Benchmark. To obtain the report, please refer to the instructions distributed by OPIA. \*

Change File	Use of Force 2024.pdf ( <a href="https://le.lps.nj.gov/File/download.aspx?Entity=doait_uofandvpincidentreport&amp;Attribute=doait_uofupload&amp;Id=b4db8b03-def5-ef11-a4de-001dd805399f">https://le.lps.nj.gov/File/download.aspx?Entity=doait_uofandvpincidentreport&amp;Attribute=doait_uofupload&amp;Id=b4db8b03-def5-ef11-a4de-001dd805399f</a> )	 Delete
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Please upload a copy of your Vehicle Pursuit Annual Trend Report from Benchmark. To obtain the report, please refer to the instructions distributed by OPIA. \*

Change File	Vehicle Pursuit 2024.pdf ( <a href="https://le.lps.nj.gov/File/download.aspx?Entity=doait_uofandvpincidentreport&amp;Attribute=doait_vpupload&amp;Id=b4db8b03-def5-ef11-a4de-001dd805399f">https://le.lps.nj.gov/File/download.aspx?Entity=doait_uofandvpincidentreport&amp;Attribute=doait_vpupload&amp;Id=b4db8b03-def5-ef11-a4de-001dd805399f</a> )	 Delete
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## Use of Force Annual Review

### Section One: BWC/Video Audit. \*

Your review must include a brief description of your agency’s random and risk-based audit process (e.g., how videos are selected, who reviews the videos, etc.). If your agency did not conduct a risk-based and/or random BWC/video audit last year, please indicate how you plan to remedy that in the coming year.

Each month the Chief of Police will assign every supervisor a random BWC incident to review. Incidents are randomly selected from the previous month. The incidents will include all types of calls, not just motor vehicle stops. A memo is sent to supervisors indicating which incident/case they are to review. Once the supervisor’s review is complete, they will document in a memo form to the Chief, any issues, or concerns from their review. If the supervisor did not find anything wrong with their review, their memo will indicate this to the Chief. Supervisors are looking for the following during their review: safety issues, policy/procedure issues, rules/regulations issues, and overall professionalism. Each review is stored by year and month on the server.

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**Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints. \***

Your analysis must include a review of internal affairs complaints related to use of force incidents incidents and must include the following:

1. Number of IA complaints filed related to use of force incidents
2. Number of such complaints filed by civilians
3. Number of such complaints initiated by the agency
4. Number of such complaints sustained
5. Number of such complaints still pending

In 2024, we had one (1) IA complaint filed for Use of Force. The complaint was filed by a civilian. The investigation concluded that the complaint was "Unfounded."

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**Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Uses of Force. \***

Section 7.5 of the Attorney General’s Use of Force Policy requires that every use of force must undergo a meaningful command level review. Your annual review should include a brief description of your agency’s meaningful review policy. If your agency was not able to conduct a meaningful review of each use of force incident, please explain why you were unable to do so and please indicate how you plan to do so going forward.

The Bridgewater Police Department conducted a Meaningful review on all 12 Use of Force Incidents that occurred in Bridgewater in 2024. Of those 12 incidents, 30 separate officers were involved. Command level Meaningful Reviews were conducted for every incident.

Our Policy states that: Every use of force must undergo the following procedures for a meaningful command level review pursuant to a written policy established by the law enforcement executive. The meaningful command level review of the incident shall be undertaken by at least two levels of supervisors. These levels shall include the lieutenant and the internal affairs commander. At least one reviewer must be two levels or more above the officer who used force. The review shall include an examination of all available sources of information about the incident, including any video of the incident, reports, officer or other witness statements, medical records and records of injuries. The review shall include an analysis of whether force was used in a non-discriminatory fashion to ensure officers are treating every person equally without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. The reviewing supervisors shall make a recommendation of what action, if any, should be undertaken, including commendation of the officer, policy changes, remedial training, administrative action, disciplinary action or, if appropriate, referral for criminal prosecution. The Chief shall review each use

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**Section Four: Non-Discriminatory Application of Force. \***

Your review must include an explanation of how you concluded whether force was applied in a non-discriminatory manner based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. Your analysis should include a review of your community's demographics and demographic data from the Use of Force portal. If you conclude that any use of force was applied in a discriminatory manner, please explain what steps you have taken and will take to address this conclusion.

In 2024, Bridgewater Township's demographics were comprised of the following: White- 58%, Asian- 24%, Hispanic- 11%, African American- 3%, Two or more races- 3% and Other- 1%. In 2024, Bridgewater Officers used force against 12 individuals. Of the 12 individuals, 41.67% were Caucasian, 16.67% were Asian and 41.67% were African American.

Breaking this numbers down even further, the 12 Use of Force incidents were used against 16.67% in town Caucasian Residents compared to 25% out of town Caucasian individuals. 8.33% of Asian in town residents compared to 8.33% of out-of-town Asians individuals and 16.67% African American residents, compared to 25% out of town African Americans. There was zero (0) use of force with Hispanic individuals.

The Bridgewater Township Police Department responded to 41,746 calls for service in 2024. Force was

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**Section Five: Overall Review of Use of Force. \***

Please utilize as much space as needed to conduct a thorough review of your agency's use of force during the preceding calendar year. Your review should evaluate whether force was used in compliance with the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy and your agency's policy. Even if the use of force itself was compliant with those policies, your review should include any recommendations for training, equipment, or room for improvement (e.g., additional de-escalation efforts could have been made).

In 2024, thirty (30) Bridgewater Police Officers used physical minimum force against twelve (12) individuals. Eight (8) of the individuals were actively committing a crime. One juvenile female engaged in two separate incidents. The first incident she was actively assaulting an individual and the second incident she was threatening to harm herself with an edged weapon. Three (3) individuals were known to us to have mental health issues. Three (3) incidents involved Domestic Violence/Resisting Arrest. Four (4) of the individuals were impaired due to drugs or alcohol.

In all of the twelve (12) use of force incidents, officers only used physical force, which consisted of arm bars, wrist locks and takedowns. One of the individuals that force was used upon complained of pain and was transported to the hospital for evaluation. The other eleven (11) incidents, neither the officers nor the suspects were injured.

Over the last three years (2024, 2023 and 2022), the Use of force incidents have decreased. 2024- 12 incidents. 2023- 13 incidents. 2022- 18 incidents.

As I stated in last year's report, we are having less use of force incidents for the following reasons: 1.

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**Section Six: Further Action. \***

Please explain what further action your agency has taken, or will take, to implement any changes in departmental structure, policy, training, or equipment you have deemed appropriate. These actions can include department-wide changes, or changes applicable to specific officers or divisions.

At the end of 2023, Bridgewater Police Department set a goal to thoroughly train our officers during the 2024 calendar year. The command staff of the Bridgewater Police Department recognized that in order to ensure our officers perform to the best of their ability, training must be standardized and conducted on a regular basis due to the fact that many skills are perishable. In 2024, Bridgewater Township Police Department's Professional Development Bureau planned to successfully implement numerous department-wide training sessions regarding: active shooter response, defensive tactics, and pain compliance techniques. Not only did the Bridgewater Township Police Department accomplish this goal; it was exceeded. The Bridgewater Police Department's Professional Development Bureau successfully developed a training program where our entire agency conducted standardized training thirteen days throughout the year. These training days were focused on the following: Constitutional Law, DV strangulation awareness, stop the bleed, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, felony motor vehicle stops, Close

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## Vehicle Pursuit Annual Review

**Section One: BWC/Video Audit. \***

Your review must include a brief description of your agency's random and risk-based audit process (e.g., how videos are selected, who reviews the videos, etc.). If your agency did not conduct a risk-based and/or random BWC/video audit last year, please indicate how you plan to remedy that in the coming year.

Each month the Chief of Police will assign every supervisor a random BWC incident to review. Incidents are randomly selected from the previous month. The incidents will include all types of calls, not just motor vehicle stops. A memo is sent to supervisors indicating which incident/case they are to review. Once the supervisor's review is complete, they will document in a memo form to the Chief, any issues, or concerns from their review. If the supervisor did not find anything wrong with their review, their memo will indicate this to the Chief. Supervisors are looking for the following during their review: safety issues, policy/procedure issues, rules/regulations issues, and overall professionalism. Each review is stored by year and month on the server.

In addition, supervisors are reviewing random BWC on their own. This is also saved to the department server. Finally, every Use of Force and Pursuit is reviewed by at least two supervisors when completing

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**Section Two: Internal Affairs Complaints. \***

Your analysis must include a review of internal affairs complaints related to vehicle pursuit incidents and must include the following:

- 1. 1. Number of IA complaints filed related to vehicle pursuit incidents
- 2. number filed by civilians
- 3. number initiated by the agency
- 4. numbers sustained
- 5. number still pending

In 2024, Bridgewater Township Police Department had zero (0) internal affairs complaints filed by civilians or from within the agency with regard to vehicle pursuits.

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**Section Three: Meaningful Review of Individual Pursuits. \***

Section 12.1 of the Attorney General’s Vehicular Pursuit Policy requires that every vehicle pursuit must undergo a meaningful command level review. Your annual review should include a brief description of your agency’s meaningful review policy. If your agency was not able to conduct a meaningful review of each vehicle pursuit incident, please explain why you were unable to do so and please indicate how you plan to do so going forward.

It is the policy of the Bridgewater Police Department that every pursuit has a Command Level Meaningful Review. The meaningful review policy states, the review must be undertaken by at least two levels of supervisors where at least one reviewer must be two levels or more above the officer who engaged in the vehicular pursuit. Furthermore, the reviewer shall include an examination of all available sources of information regarding the pursuit. This information shall include, if available, all officer reports, 911 recordings, police radio transmissions, officer and or witness statements, medical records, and body and vehicle camera recordings. In 2024 all pursuits (2) underwent a Command Level Meaningful Review conducted by a Lieutenant and a Captain, who is the Internal Affairs Commander

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**Section Four: Analysis of Non-Compliant Reports. \***

Your review must include an analysis of all pursuits determined to not be in compliance with the Attorney General’s Vehicular Pursuit Policy, or agency policy, and the steps taken to address the non-compliance. Please indicate whether all non-compliant pursuits were referred to the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability or the County Prosecutor in compliance with Section 12.1(e) of the Attorney General’s Vehicular Pursuit Policy.

In 2024, the Bridgewater Police Department were involved in two (2) pursuits, on the same day, initiated by the same subject. The first incident occurred at approximately 2251 hours. Officers were dispatched to an attempted burglary into a home. When officers arrived on scene, they confronted the subject, who had previously stolen a car in a neighboring town. The subject entered the stolen car and fled the scene. An officer pursued this vehicle for two minutes with speeds reaching 75mph. A Sergeant told the officer to terminate the pursuit, which he did. This pursuit was authorized under the Attorney General pursuit policy. There was no issues discovered with the officers’ actions for this pursuit. On the same day, approximately fifteen minutes later, officers were dispatched to a Burglary in progress. The same subject from the previous pursuit, entered an attached garage to a home, and stole a pickup truck. Officers provided details of the stolen truck to other officers. An officer observed the truck and attempted to stop the truck. The truck did not stop and fled. The officers pursued along a state highway

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**Section Five: Non-Discriminatory Pursuits. \***

Your review must include an explanation of how you concluded whether vehicular pursuits were conducted in a non-discriminatory manner based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. Your analysis should include a review of your community’s demographics and demographic data from the Use of Force portal. If you conclude that any pursuit was conducted in a discriminatory manner, please explain what steps you have taken and will take to address this conclusion.

Since Bridgewater PD only had two (2) pursuits in 2024, and it was on the same day with the same subject, and the subject was actively committing crimes the pursuits were justified. The pursuits were not conducted in a discriminatory manner.

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**Section Six: Overall Review of Vehicle Pursuit Analysis. \***

Please utilize as much space as needed to conduct a thorough review of your agency's vehicle pursuit incidents during the preceding calendar year. Your review should include but is not limited to: the reason the pursuit was initiated; the number of officers who engaged in pursuits; whether supervisors approved or terminated pursuits; role of any outside agencies; length of pursuits by time and distance; top speeds reached; nature of any injuries, crashes, or property damage; reason for termination (if terminated), and the outcome of pursuits. Your review should evaluate whether pursuits were compliant with the Attorney General's Vehicular Pursuit Policy and your agency's policy. Even if pursuits were compliant with those policies, your review should include any recommendations for training, equipment, or room for improvement.

Since Bridgewater PD only had two (2) pursuits in 2024, and it was on the same day with the same subject, and the subject was actively committing crimes the pursuits were justified.

The 1<sup>st</sup> pursuit was initiated since the subject had just attempted a burglary to a residence and he was operating a stolen vehicle. There were two officers involved in this pursuit. The pursuit lasted 2 minutes and it was terminated by a Sergeant. The top speed was 75mph. There were no crashes or injuries to officers, public or subject. The pursuit was terminated due to driving actions of the subject. The subject was arrested by a neighboring town several hours later operating a stolen vehicle. This pursuit followed the NJ Attorney General Pursuit Guidelines.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> pursuit was initiated due to the subject from the previous pursuit burglarizing an attached garage to a residence and stealing the homeowner's pickup truck. There were three officers involved in this pursuit. The pursuit lasted 5 minutes, with a distance of 8.9 miles with a top speed of 88mph. The pursuit was terminated by a Sergeant since the officer was not able to further see the vehicle. There were

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**Section Seven: Further Action. \***

Please explain what further action your agency has taken, or will take, to implement any changes in departmental structure, policy, training, or equipment you have deemed appropriate. These actions can include department-wide changes, or changes applicable to specific officers.

The department will continue the practice of issuing agency pursuit training twice yearly as mandated by the Attorney General's Office. We will also conduct roll-call training discussing pursuits and trends throughout the country. We will also continue to stress de-escalation techniques during roll call.

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Select 'Submit' to send your report.



**Your last report was submitted on the following date. Do not submit additional data from the current reporting period unless the data have changed since you last submitted.**

**Submission exists for current reporting period:**

No  Yes

**Date of last submission:**

—

**Last Submitter**

—

**Save Progress**

**Submit**

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## Use of Force

PDF snapshot report as prepared by Benchmark Analytics on 02-28-2025

Completed Use of Force Reports: **30**

Primary Officers in Use of Force Reports: **24**

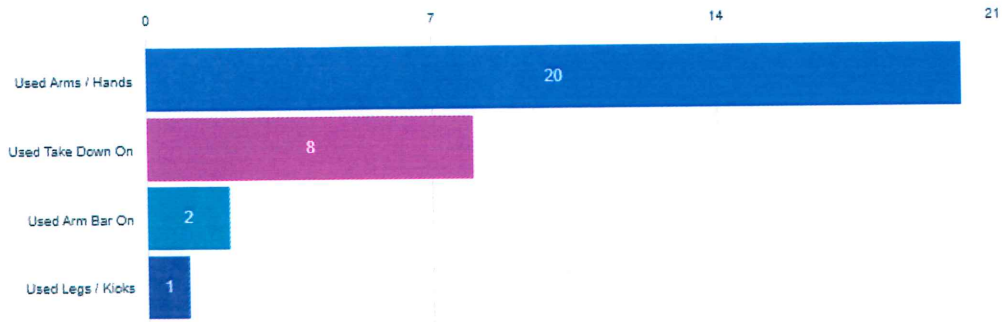
### Reports and Incidents



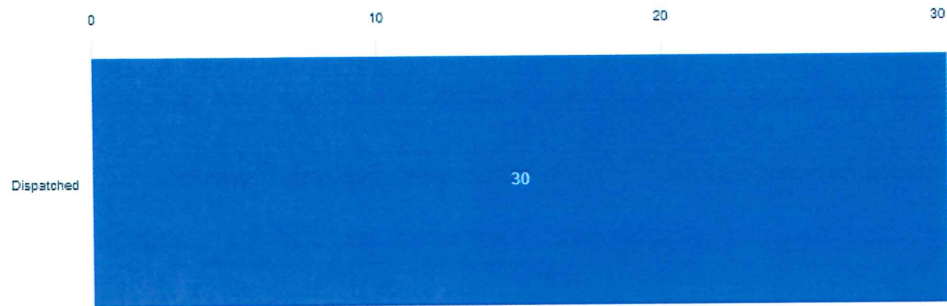
# Use of Force Report Trend



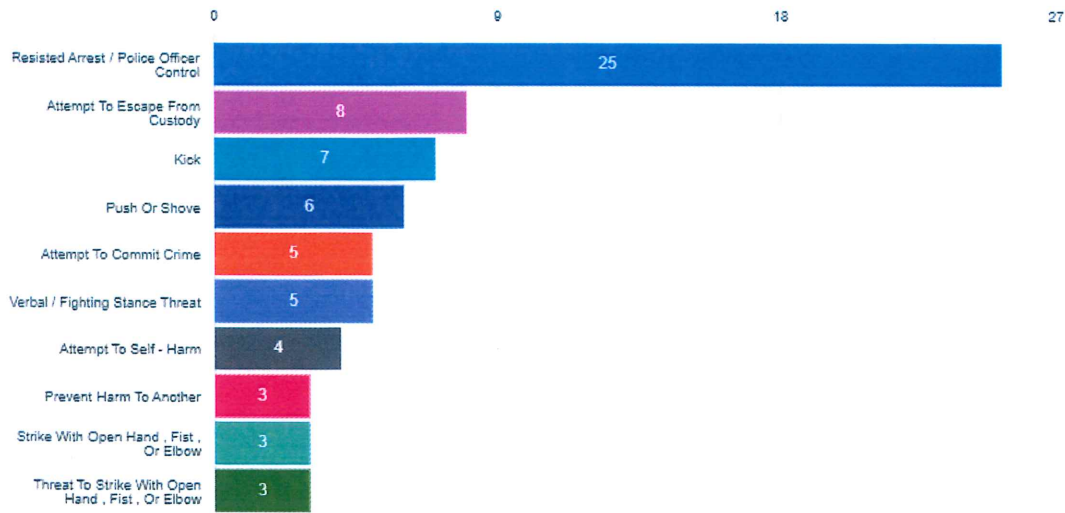
# Officer Force Applied



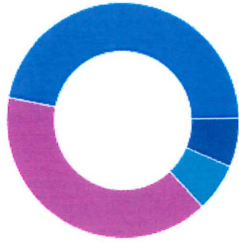
## Reasons for Interaction



# Subject Actions Led to Force



## Subject Race



● Black Or African American ● White ● Asian ● Native Hawaiian Or Other Pacific Islander





## Vehicle Pursuit

PDF snapshot report as prepared by Benchmark Analytics on 02-28-2025

Completed Vehicle Pursuit Reports: 5

Primary Officers in Vehicle Pursuit Reports: 5

# Reports



# Vehicle Pursuit Trend

