

Data Dictionary

The Use of Force data provided by the BPD is at the subject/incident level for 2012 through 2018. Each row represents one subject during one use of force incident. One use of force incident may involve multiple subjects. *NA* indicates the data is missing, unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Stetson, BPD's Crime Data Analyst, at nstetson@bpdvt.org.

| Variable | Type | Description |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| incident_number | character | Identification number for a police incident. The first two digits represent the year, the next two the department (BU). Example: 18BU001234 |
| call_type | character | Characterizes the nature of the incident, generally classified as the most serious offense investigated. If an incident number was recorded incorrectly, it may be missing. |
| date | date | Format: year-month-day hour:minute:second |
| bpd_area | character | The Burlington Police Department divides the city into five lettered areas, A through E. Each area roughly corresponds to existing city neighborhoods: New North End, Old North End, University/Northern Hill Section, Downtown, and South End. A shapefile of the areas is available on request. Range: A - E |
| officers_involved | number | Count of officers involved in the use of force against the subject. Range: 1- 7 |

Subject Variables

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|-----------------|-----------|---|
| subject_id | character | Random number generated to mark subjects involved in use of force in the form of "Subject 123". |
| race | character | Category for race, generally as perceived by officer. |
| age | number | Age of subject in years. Range: 7 - 83 Mean: 35 |
| gender | character | Category for gender. |
| subject_mh | logical | A binary flag for a subject's perceived mental state, indicating when an officer believes a subject is under the influence of drugs or alcohol or mentally/emotionally disturbed. |
| subject_alcohol | | |
| subject_drug | | |

Types of Force Used

Flags for types of force used against a subject during an incident. Multiple types of force may be used in any given incident. TRUE indicates that type of force was used at least once during the incident against the subject.

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| physical_emptyhand | logical | Physical force or empty hand techniques. |
| oc_spray_display | logical | OC spray displayed. |
| oc_spray | logical | OC spray deployed. |
| taser_displayed | logical | Taser displayed. |
| taser | logical | Taser deployed, including multiple types of Tasers (a drive stun, probes discharged, etc). |
| firearm_pointed | logical | Firearm pointed at subject. |
| firearm_fired | logical | Firearm fired. |

Types of Subject Resistance

Flags for types of subject resistance during an incident. Multiple types of resistance may be used in any given incident. TRUE indicates that type of resistance was used at least once during the incident.

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| sub_refused_commands | logical | Subject refused to follow officer's commands. |
| sub_walk_ran | logical | Subject walked or ran away from officer during incident. |
| sub_threats | logical | Subject verbalized threats to officer. |
| sub_escape | logical | Subject escaped from detention. |
| sub_assault_cues | logical | Subject displayed pre-assault cues, such as fist clenching or target glancing. |
| sub_passive | logical | Subject failed to comply with officer. |
| sub_active | logical | Subject actively resisted compliance with officer, for example by tensing or pulling arm away. |

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|-----------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| sub_assaultive | logical | Subject assaulted officer. |
| sub_used_weapon | logical | Subject used weapon against officer. |

Incident Outcomes

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| arrest | logical | Indicates that the use of force incident resulted in an arrest of that subject. |
| most_serious_charge | character | The most serious charge when a subject is arrested during the incident, if the charge is available. |
| officer_injured | logical | Indicates whether an officer was injured during the incident. |
| subject_injured | logical | Indicates whether a subject was injured during the incident. |
| subject_medical | character | Indicates whether a subject was medically monitored after the incident, including evaluation at the scene, transport to the hospital, or admitted to the hospital. |
