

# Use of Force Data Collection Program Information Sheet



**COLORADO**  
**Bureau of Investigation**  
Department of Public Safety

## Program Overview

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began collecting Use-of-Force (UoF) data in 2018, under consultation with representatives from law enforcement in collaboration with the FBI. To aid in this effort, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is planning to begin the voluntary collection of Use-of-Force (UoF) incident data as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting program on January 1, 2019. This is being initiated with the goal to have all Colorado law enforcement agencies reporting this information to the CBI by December 31, 2019. Although there has been some interest by Colorado agencies in participating in this national collection, the CBI knows a number of public safety agencies are not aware of the program launched by the FBI earlier this year.

Law enforcement use-of-force (UoF) has been a topic of national interest. The opportunity to analyze information related to UoF incidents and to have an informed dialogue is hindered by the lack of nationwide statistics. The FBI, with support of the CBI, believes collection of this data will assist law enforcement in analyzing how and when their officers uses force, and under what circumstances. This type of data can improve the consistency of training and responses.

With national data collection, data users can view UoF incidents involving law enforcement from a nationwide perspective. The goal of the resulting statistics is not to offer anecdotal insight into single UoF incidents, but to provide an aggregate view of all incidents and the circumstances involved. This data collection was developed by law enforcement representatives to focus on information that is readily known and can be reported within days of a UoF occurrence. Statistical reports emphasize the collective nature of the data and will not assess whether the officers involved in UoF incidents acted lawfully or within the bounds of department policy.

## UoF Data Elements

This national collection will be broader, with three types of UoF events and information related to each event collected:

- When a fatality occurs to a person in connection to UoF by a law enforcement officer
- When there is serious bodily injury to a person in connection with UoF by a law enforcement officer
- In the absence of either death or serious bodily injury (defined, in part, on Title 18 United States Code 2246) when a firearm is discharged by a law enforcement officer at or in the direction of a person.

## Incident Information

- Date and time of the incident
- Number of officers who applied force during the incident
- Number of officers from the reporting agency who applied force during the incident
- Location of the incident
- Location type of the incident (street, business, residence, restaurant, school, etc.)
- Did the officer(s) approach the subject(s)?
- Was it an ambush incident?
- Was a supervisor or senior officer acting in a supervisory capacity present or consulted at any point during the incident?
- Reason for the initial contact between the subject and the officer

- If due to “unlawful or criminal activity,” the most serious reported offenses allegedly committed by the subject
- National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) incident number of the report detailing criminal incident information on subject and/or assault or homicide of law enforcement officer.
- If the incident involved multiple law enforcement agencies, the agency will include case numbers for the local UoF reports at the other agencies.

### **Subject Information**

- Age, sex, race, ethnicity, height, and weight
- Injury/death of subject(s) (gunshot wound, apparent broken bones, unconsciousness, etc.)
- Type(s) of force used connected to serious bodily injury or death (firearm, electronic control weapon, explosive device, blunt instrument, etc.)
- Did the subject(s) resist?
- Was the perceived threat by the subject(s) directed to the officer or to another party?
- Type(s) of subject resistance/weapon involvement in the physical condition of subject? (If yes, indicate: mental health/alcohol/drugs/unknown)
- At any time during the incidents, was the subject(s) armed or believed to be armed with a weapon?

### **Officer Information (for each officer involved)**

- Age, sex, race, ethnicity, height, and weight of the officer(s)
- Officer’s years of service as a law enforcement officer (total tenure)
- At the time of the incident, was the officer a full-time employee?
- Was the officer readily identifiable as law enforcement?
- Was the officer on duty at the time of the incident?
- Did the officer discharge a firearm?
- Injuries to the officer and type

### **Colorado Submission Process**

In Colorado, UoF will be reported through the state Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program software already in use by our law enforcement agencies. The CBI will consult with the Colorado CJIS Systems Advisory Boards consisting of the Board of Executive Directors (BED) and Board of Working Advisors (BWA) on issues or training needs that may arise through this new program.

The CBI has no immediate plans to release the data publicly, and will be closely monitoring how the FBI plans to make the UoF data publicly available. Publication by the FBI is still being planned, but is intended to focus on descriptive information, trends, and characteristics of the data. When a standard of what will be contained in the FBI UoF report has been developed, the CBI will again consult with the Colorado CJIS Systems Advisory Boards.

This program is separate from the existing program operated by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice collecting officer-involved shooting data. That program will continue this collection through its expiration in the year 2021, as Colorado transitions into the national collection.

For questions or concerns regarding this data collection, please reach out to the NIBRS Team via email at [cdps.cbi.ucr@state.co.us](mailto:cdps.cbi.ucr@state.co.us), or Assistant Director Ted DeRosa at [ted.derosa@state.co.us](mailto:ted.derosa@state.co.us).