Briefing on 2018 Officer-Involved Shooting Report

Community Police Review Commission
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ATXPoliceOversight.org

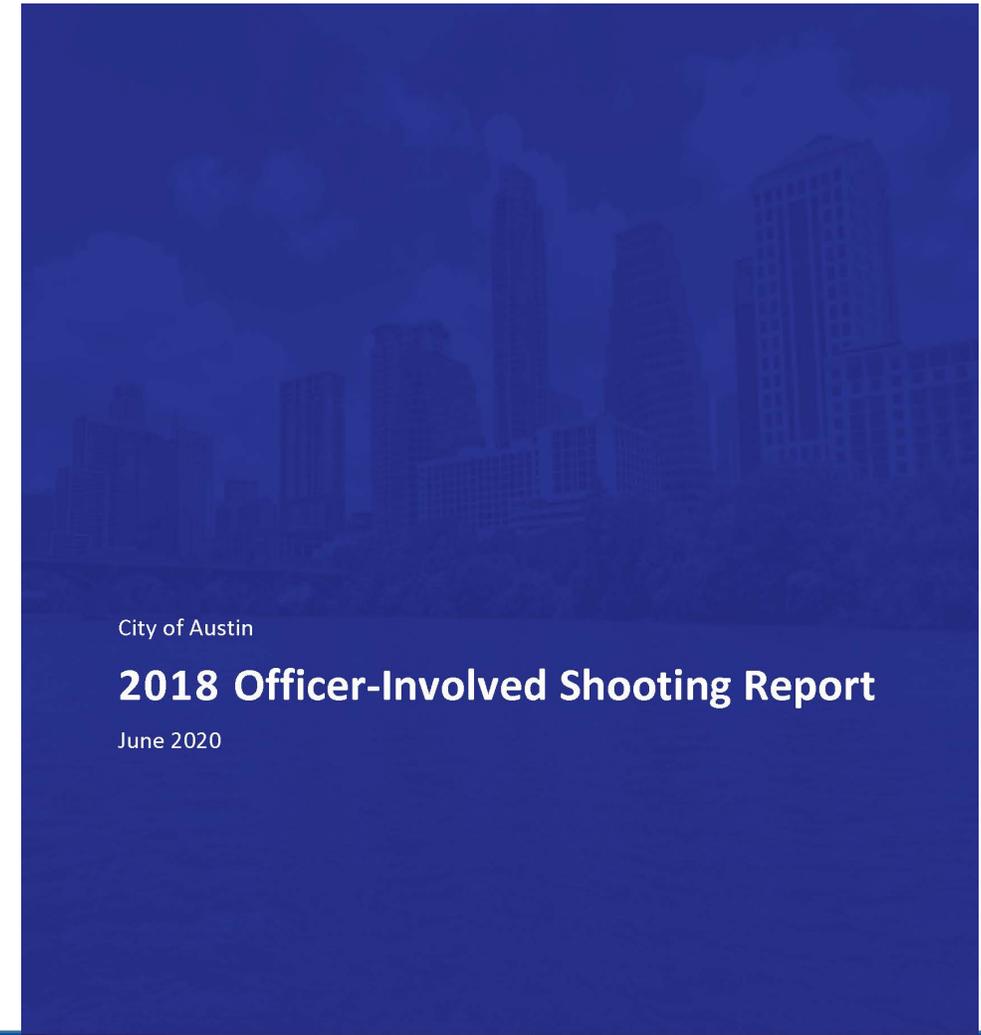(512) 974-9090

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Points of Context

- First report of its kind by OPO or OPM
- Defining officer-involved shootings
- Why the report matters

Report Overview

- A review all officer-involved shooting (OIS) incidents involving APD in 2018

- Summarization of each incident

- Data specific to involved individuals and involved officers

- Identification of recurring factors

- Recommendations in areas for improvement

City of Austin

2018 Officer-Involved Shooting Report

June 2020

OFFICE OF
POLICE OVERSIGHT

Key Findings

- **12 officer-involved shooting incidents**
  - 11 individuals and 33 officers were involved in the OIS incidents

- **7 incidents were fatal**
  - 5 fatalities caused by police
    - All 5 involved Black and Latinx individuals.
  - 2 suicides

- **Southeast region of Austin experienced the highest concentration of OIS incidents in 2018**
  - Austin City Council District 2 (southeast Austin) had the highest concentration of incidents (5 incidents)
  - APD's Frank sector (southeast Austin) had the highest concentration of incidents (4 incidents)

- **All fatalities caused by police took place in central, east, or southeast Austin**

CHART 1: CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS WHERE INCIDENTS OCCURRED

Legend:
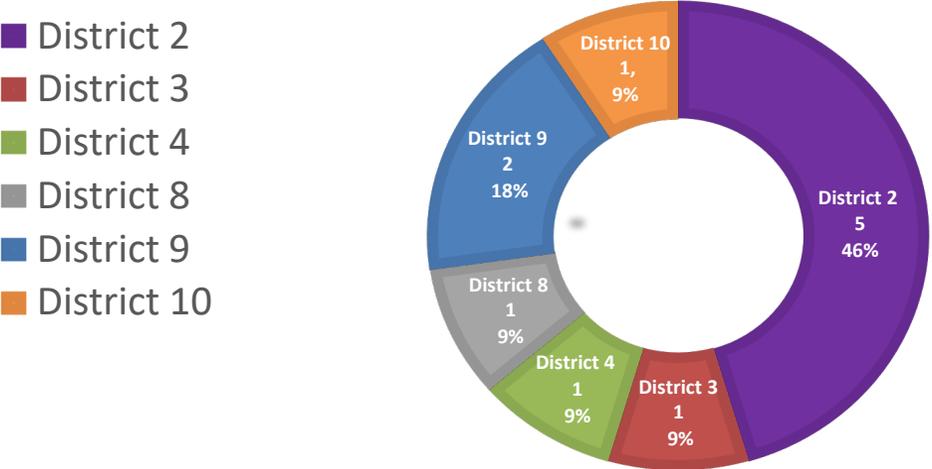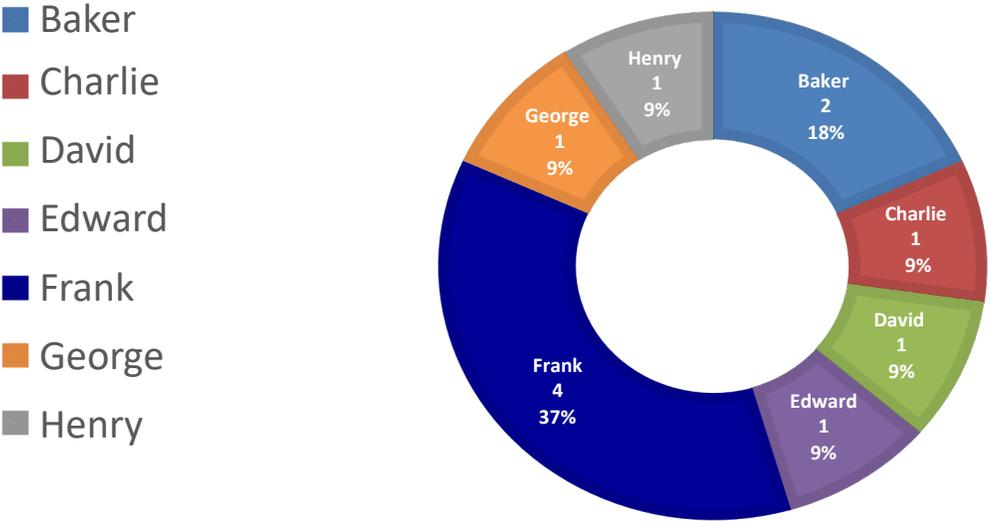- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 8
- District 9
- District 10

District 2 — 5 — 46%
District 3 — 1 — 9%
District 4 — 1 — 9%
District 8 — 1 — 9%
District 9 — 2 — 18%
District 10 — 1 — 9%

Geographic Location

CHART 2: APD SECTORS WHERE INCIDENTS OCCURRED

Legend:
- Baker
- Charlie
- David
- Edward
- Frank
- George
- Henry

Baker — 2 — 18%
Charlie — 1 — 9%
David — 1 — 9%
Edward — 1 — 9%
Frank — 4 — 37%
George — 1 — 9%
Henry — 1 — 9%

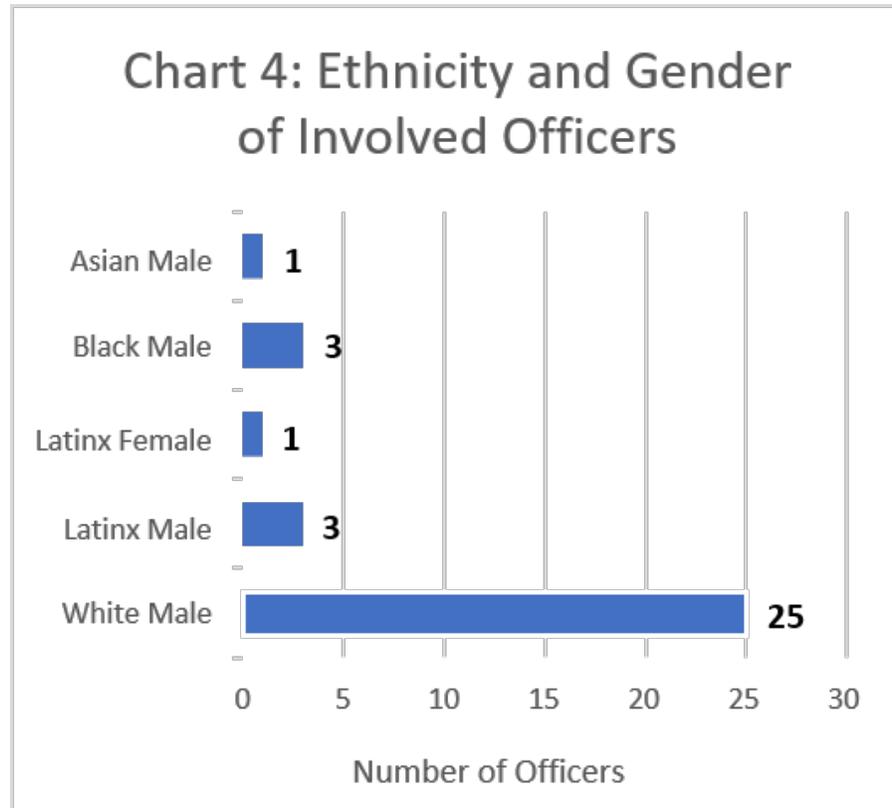# Demographic Information: Involved Individuals

Gender and Ethnicity

- **Latinx individuals were disproportionately impacted by officer-involved shooting incidents in 2018**
  - 6 incidents involved Latinx males
  - 1 incident involved a Latinx female
  - 1 incident involved a Black male
  - 4 incidents involved White males

- **5 OIS incidents resulted in fatalities caused by police. Only ethnic minorities were involved in these incidents.**
  - 3 fatalities involved Latinx males
  - 1 fatality involved a Latinx female
  - 1 fatality involved a Black male

Age

- 8 OIS incidents involved individuals between 20-28 years of age. Other individuals were over 45 years old.

Demographic Information: Involved Officers

Chart 4: Ethnicity and Gender of Involved Officers

Ethnicity and Gender	Number of Officers
Asian Male	1
Black Male	3
Latinx Female	1
Latinx Male	3
White Male	25

Gender and Ethnicity
- 25 of the 33 involved officers were White males.

Age
- 18 involved officers were between 30-39 years of age

Prior Involvement in OIS Incidents
- 3 officers involved in 1 prior OIS incident
- 1 officers involved in 2 prior incidents

Officer Experience and Rank
- 25 officers had 6 or fewer years of APD experience
- 32 officers held the rank of Officer
- 1 held the rank of Sergeant

Mental Health | Weapons | Less-Lethal Force

Incidents Involving Mental Health Components
- At least half of the OIS incidents in 2018 involved a mental health component.
- 2 of the 5 fatal OIS incidents involve a mental health component.

Presence of Weapons
- 10 incidents involved an individual observed to be armed with a weapon at the time of the shooting.
- Weapons in these incidents included firearms, knives, pickaxes, and improvised explosive devices/bombs.

Use of "Less-Lethal" Force
- In only 1 of the 12 incidents did officers use "less-lethal" force before using their firearms

Conclusion

Every OIS incident requires a thorough analysis and review. APD was involved in 12 officer-involved shooting (OIS) incidents in 2018, a historically high number.

Recurring Factors Identified
- Lack of de-escalation
- Limited use of less-lethal force options
- Disparate concentration of incidents involving ethnic minorities, especially Latinx individuals
- Disparate concentration of incidents in areas of Austin that are historically minority-majority

5 Areas of Recommendation
- Civilian Oversight Access
- Reporting Requirements
- Training
- Mental Health Response
- Personnel Safety and Wellness

Recommendations for APD

1. <u>**Civilian Oversight Access:**</u> **Increase OPO access to officer-involved shooting incident data**
   - Provide OPO with unprompted access to ballistics reports and autopsy reports related to officer-involved shooting incidents when they become available
   - Inform OPO in writing of the total number of sworn employees present at the scene of each incident, both at the time of the shooting and afterward

2. <u>**Reporting by Austin Police Department:**</u> **Publish annual reports related to officer-involved shooting incidents**
   - Begin publishing annual officer-involved shooting reports that identify characteristic data points, outline the steps taken by APD immediately following the incidents, and include preventative measures the department will implement (or has already implemented) as a result of the incidents
   - Present findings annually to Boards and Commissions and community stakeholders

Recommendations for APD

3. **Post-Academy Training Requirements: Increase continuing education for patrol officers**
   - Institute consistent and ongoing training for patrol officers in the following areas:
     - de-escalation;
     - response to resistance; and
     - crisis intervention and mental health response

4. **Mental Health Response: Ensure mental health response training, policies, and procedures follow best practices and address shortcomings found in the 2018 City Auditor report**
   - Engage in substantive efforts to meet or exceed the requirements for best practices in the area of mental health and crisis response. Training specific to mental health and crisis response is critical.

Recommendations for APD

5. **Personnel Safety and Wellness: Ensure policies and procedures align with best practices for personnel safety and wellness**
    - Align practices with national best practices that support proactive wellness programs
    - Review current health and wellness programs and provide a written assessment detailing whether they are in alignment with best practices and supportive of the department's stated goals for community policing

Questions

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