

Table 1
Complaints Received on Police Use of Force: Police-Civilian Encounters (1997-2000)

No	Category	Definition	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total	%
1	Gun Drawn Without Cause	Drawing gun unnecessarily	50	39	40	34	163	5
2	Criminal Damage	Damaging / destroying property	39	33	30	40	142	4
3	Battery	Any use of force which can range from a mere jostling to severe beating	249	235	199	201	884	25
4	Threatening Behavior	Using abusive or obscene language	153	216	196	191	756	22
5	Harassment	Repeated verbal attacks and threats to incarcerate or shoot	273	277	251	225	1,026	29
6	Illegal Entry	Entering premises without any warrant	65	67	47	55	234	7
7	False Imprisonment	Illegally incarcerating persons	11	11	20	33	75	2
8	Extortion	Obtaining money / benefits through force or threats	9	6	5	9	29	1
9	Unlawful Arrest	Wrongful arrest	31	33	38	79	181	5
	TOTAL (9)		880	917	826	867	3,490	100
	TOTAL FOR ALL COMPLAINTS (24)		1,405	1,663	1,286	1,488	5,842	-

Source:

Police Complaints Authority. (2000). Fourth Annual Report. Port of Spain: Government Printery

Police Complaints Authority. (1999). Third Annual Report. Port of Spain: Government Printery

Police Complaints Authority. (1998). Second Annual Report. Port of Spain: Government Printery

Police Complaints Authority. (1997). First Annual Report. Port of Spain: Government Printery

FIGURE 1
Expected and Actual Use of Force by Police
Under Varying Levels of Direct Threat



FIGURE 2

AN INTERACTIONIST PERSPECTIVE ON USE OF FORCE

