

# 2023

## USE OF FORCE REPORT

TEMPLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



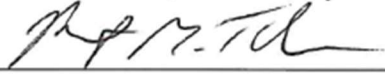
PROTECTING, SERVING, AND WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO  
PREVENT, REDUCE, AND SOLVE CRIME WITH INTEGRITY, HONOR, AND DEDICATION

## Signature Approval Page

This Use of Force Report was prepared by the Crime Analysis Unit. It has been reviewed by the Professional Standards Unit Supervisor and the Administration Bureau Deputy Chief and is recommended for approval.

**Prepared by:** Mike Trehern, Crime Analyst


**Date:** 2/23/24

**Signature:** 

**Unit:** Administration Bureau

**Reviewed by:** Robert Mallett, Lieutenant

**Date:** 2/23/24

**Signature:**  214

**Unit:** Professional Standards Unit

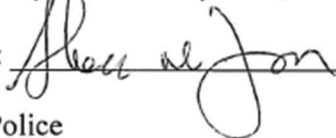
**Accepted by:** Allen Teston, Deputy Chief

**Date:** 2/23/24

**Signature:** 

**Bureau:** Administration Bureau Commander

**Approved by:** Shawn Reynolds, Chief

**Signature:**   
Chief of Police

**Date:** 2/23/2024

## **Use of Force Report**

This document summarizes essential data pertaining to use of force reporting for calendar year 2023.

### **Policy**

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

The Temple Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and careful balancing of all interests.

A police officer's duty is to protect the life and property of citizens and to preserve the peace. Officers may use reasonable force to effect an arrest, search, prevent escape, or overcome resistance.

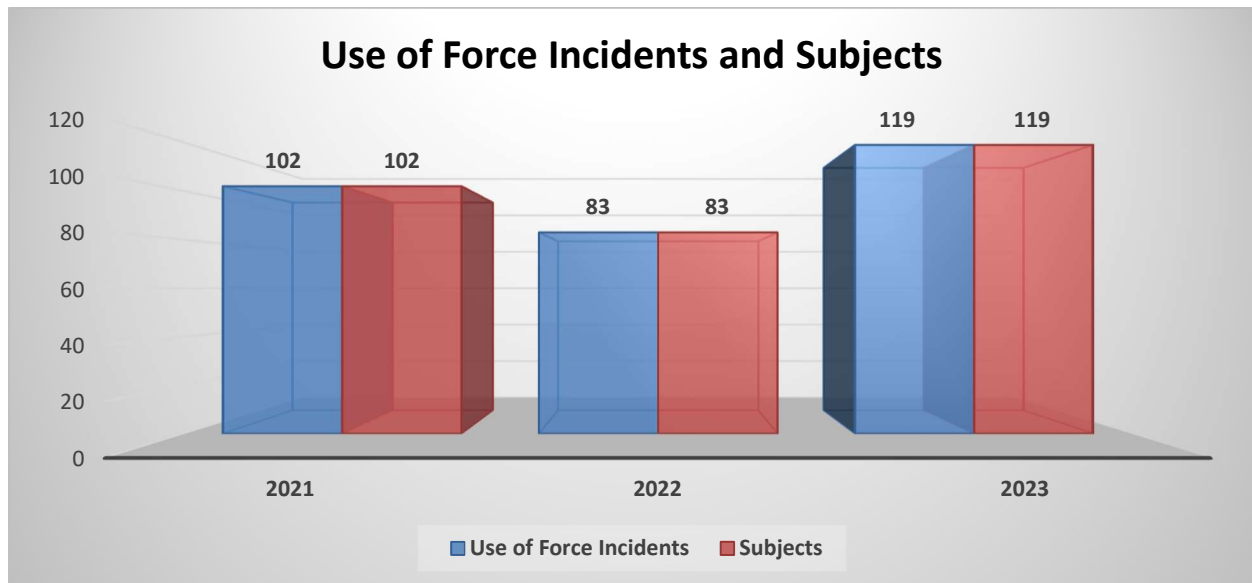
**Force** is defined as: The application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows him/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained.

### **Training**

Temple Police Department policy requires officers to receive annual training on this policy and demonstrate their knowledge and understand.

## Number of Use of Force Incidents and Subjects

In 2023, there were 119 use of force incidents involving 119 subjects which required application of various levels of force to stop their resistance.



To provide context, the department tracks the total number of official police contacts with the public (102,808 in 2023), and the total number of arrests (2,864 in 2023). For this reporting period, less than 0.115% of police contacts with the public resulted in use of force incidents, and 4.16% of the total arrests involved resistance by the suspect where force was applied by the officer.

	2021	2022	2023
Number of Use of Force incidents	102	83	119
Number of subjects where force was used	102	83	119
Total number of contacts	96,998	95,544	102,808
Total number of arrests	2,560	2,562	2,864
% of subjects receiving force compared to the total # of contacts	.105%	.088%	0.115%
% of subjects receiving force compared to the total # of arrests	3.98%	3.24%	4.16%

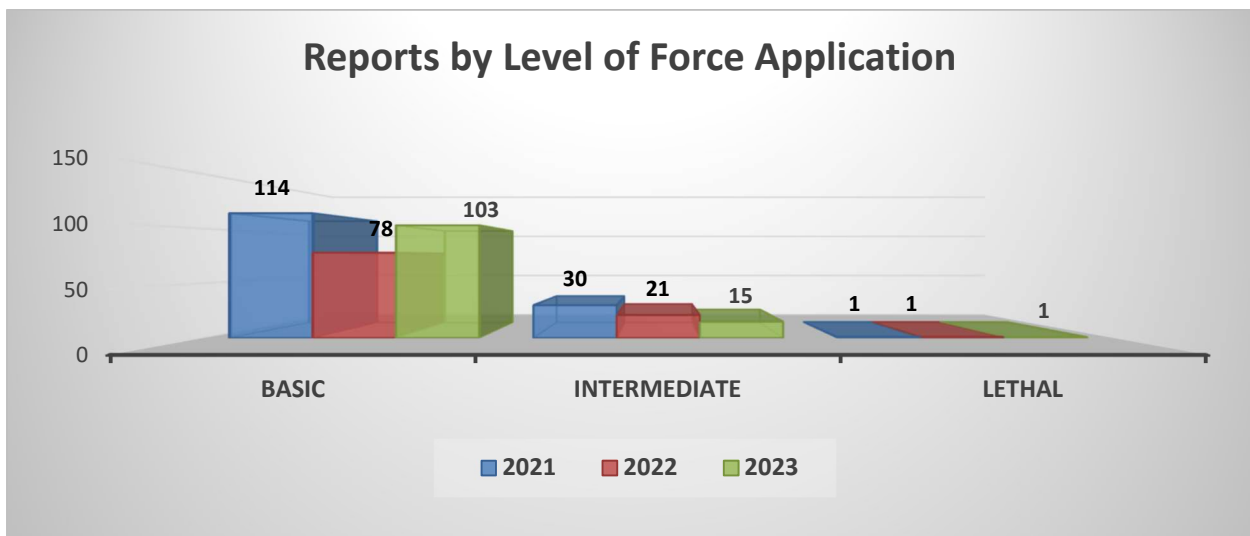
The above data shows that 99.86% of officer/citizen contacts and 95.84% of arrests do not result in use of force incidents.

## Reports by Level of Force Used

The department follows a policy categorizing the use of force levels officers can use to control subjects exhibiting resistive behaviors. When responding to an incident, and depending on the level of resistance, an officer may have to use more than one technique to gain control over a subject. In those instances, each technique is counted separately. This tracking procedure produces a higher count of force applications compared to the total number of reports. The following three levels are identified for reporting, investigative, and review purposes:

Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soft empty hand control (pain compliance holds, non-striking pressure point control tactics, escort techniques)</li> <li>▪ Hand and/or leg strikes to motor points (excluding the head)</li> <li>▪ Takedowns/grappling</li> <li>▪ Wrap restraint</li> <li>▪ Taser in drive stun mode (direct contact without probes)</li> <li>▪ Use of chemical agents</li> </ul>
Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strikes to the head using empty hand techniques</li> <li>▪ Baton strikes to motor points (excluding the head)</li> <li>▪ Taser deployment (striking the subject)</li> <li>▪ Less lethal munition deployments (striking the subject)</li> <li>▪ Impact weapons</li> <li>▪ Baton strikes</li> <li>▪ Less lethal munitions</li> <li>▪ K-9 apprehensions (where there is a bite by the K-9)</li> </ul>
Lethal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Force resulting in substantial risk of serious bodily injury or death</li> <li>▪ Intentional or unintentional discharge of a weapon at a subject, building or object</li> <li>▪ Use of impact weapon to the head, neck, throat or groin</li> </ul>

One force application consists of each individual technique applied by an officer to counter a specific level of resistance. There were 119 use of force applications in 2023, 86.6% of which were categorized at the Basic level. Intermediate level techniques were used 12.6% of the time and lethal levels 0.8% of the time.



(2023 based on 119 use of force applications)

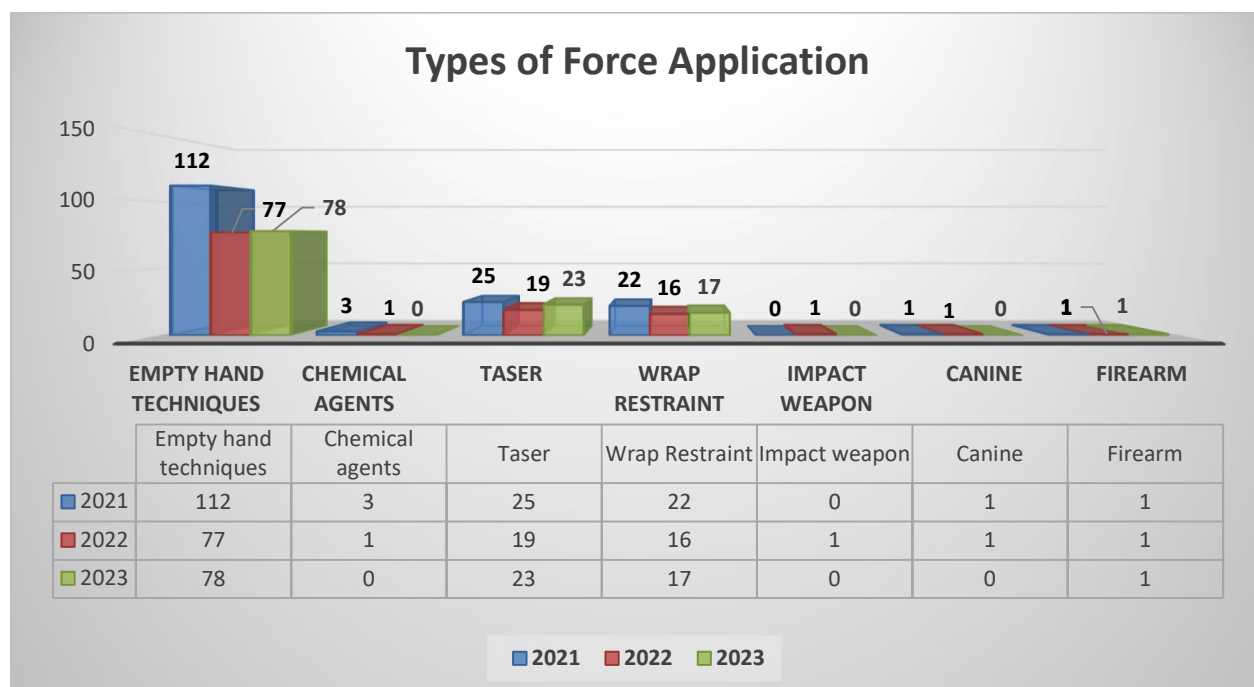
## Reports by Level of Force Used (Continued)

During a single use of force incident, more than one officer may be involved. As a result, a use of force report may include more than one type of compliance technique used.

Below are the use of force techniques identified as having been used in 2023 in order from the lowest level to the highest level.

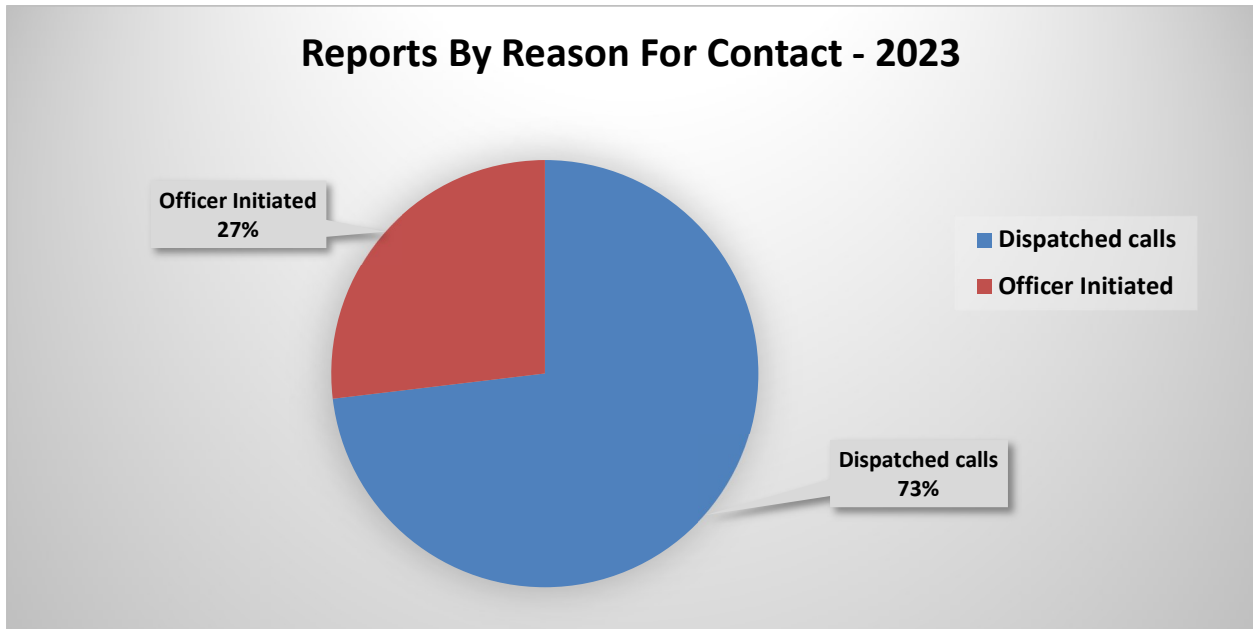
- Empty hand techniques include soft empty hand controls (joint locks, escorts, pressures points) and hard empty hand controls (hand and leg strike).
- Wrap Restraint: a four (4) piece restraint system designed to immobilize a person's body while protecting the immobilized person, bystanders, officers, and staff by restricting the person's ability to kick, hit, or inflict harm upon themselves or others.
- Taser: a less-lethal device that uses electronic muscular disruption technology that may cause temporary loss of voluntary muscle control.
- Firearm: the intentional or unintentional discharge of a firearm in the direction of an individual.

The below chart provides a count of the number of times each technique was used. In 2023, the most frequent type of force used was “empty hand techniques.” These techniques are considered the lowest level of force application an officer can apply to gain control over a resisting subject.



## Use of Force Reports by Reason for Contact

In 2023, 87 of the 119 use of force reports resulted from dispatched calls for service. Officer initiated contacts were made based on the officer observing and responding to suspected criminal activity or a crime in progress. Officer initiated contacts accounted for 32 reports.



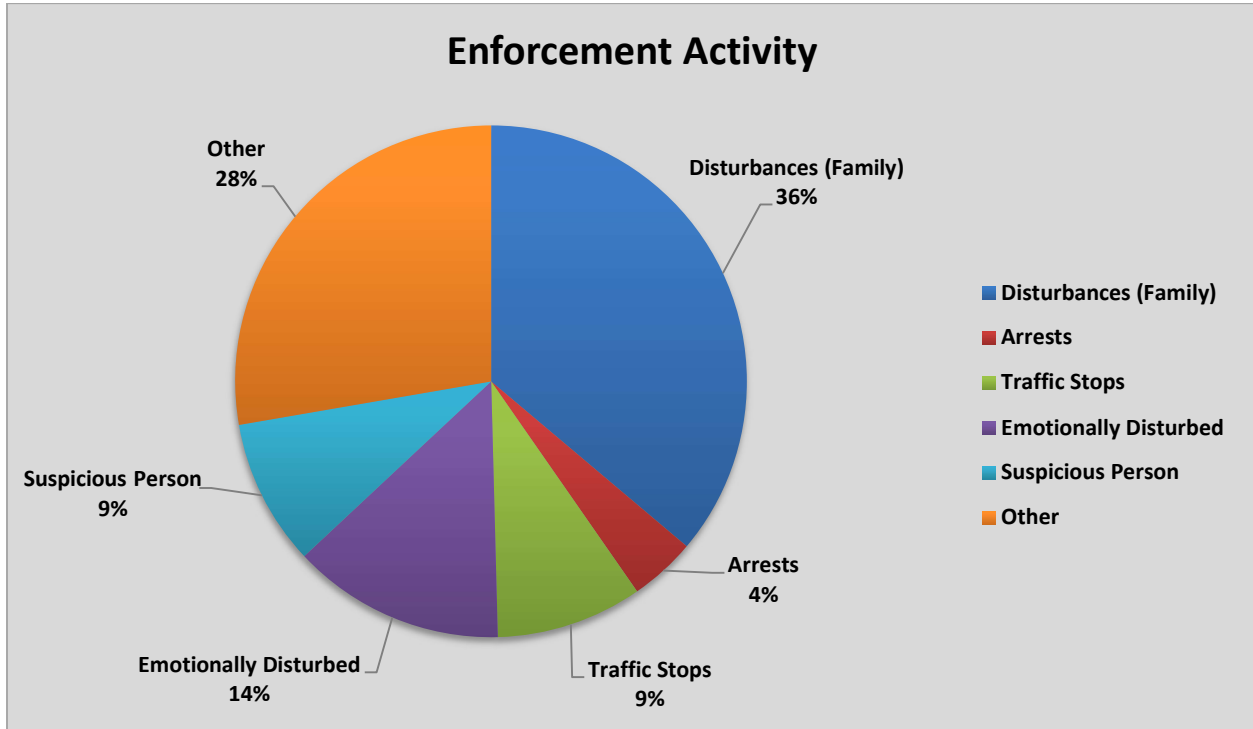
*(2023 based on 119 response to resistance incidents)*

Reports by Reason for Contact	2021	% of 2021 Reports	2022	% of 2022 Reports	2023	% of 2023 Reports
Dispatched Calls	85	83%	67	81%	87	73%
Officer Initiated	17	17%	16	19%	32	27%
Total	102	100%	83	100%	119	100%

## Use of Force by Activity

The chart and graph below show the types of situations the officer was handling when the resistance occurred. In this reporting period, thirty-seven percent (37%) of use of force reports were generated while responding to family disturbance calls.

The “other” category includes activities not listed in one of the below categories such as civil disturbances, crimes in progress, prisoner transport, accidents, and warrant service.



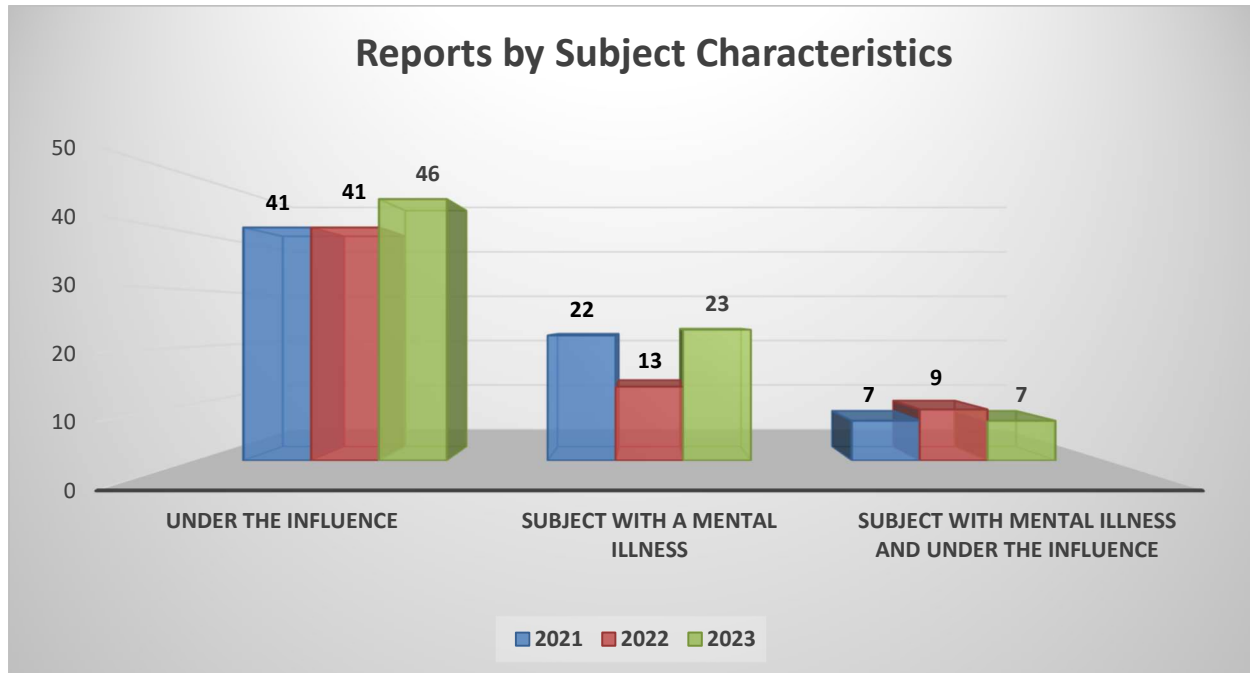
(2023 based on 119 response to resistance incidents)

Reports by Officer Activity	2021	% of 2021 Reports	2022	% of 2022 Reports	2023	% of 2023 Reports
Disturbances (family)	38	37%	30	36%	43	36%
Arrest	0	0%	10	12%	5	4%
Traffic stop	5	5%	5	6%	11	9%
Emotionally Disturbed	11	11%	10	12%	16	14%
Suspicious Person	5	5%	5	6%	11	9%
Other	43	42%	23	28%	33	28%
Total	102	100%	83	100%	119	100%



## Reports by Subject Characteristics

In 2023, 46 (39%) of use of force reports involved subjects who were under the influence of alcohol and/or narcotics, 23 (19%) involved a person suspected of having a mental illness, and 7 (6%) involved a person under the influence of alcohol and/or narcotics who also suffered from mental illness. 43 (36%) of the use of force reports did not fall into any of these categories.



(2023 based on 119 Use of Force Reports)

## Use of Force by Individual Race/Ethnicity

Response to resistance incidents occur when an officer attempts to make an arrest. In 2023, there were 119 subjects involved in response to resistance incidents. This number equates to 4.16% of the 2,864 subjects arrested. The data shows that 95.84% of all arrests did not involve resistance or force. The table below shows the distribution of force based on race/ethnicity.

	White			Black			Hispanic		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2021	996	38	3.82%	972	42	4.32%	580	22	3.79%
2022	969	35	3.61%	998	43	4.31%	585	5	0.85%
2023	1,075	47	4.37%	1,111	60	5.40%	657	12	0.18%

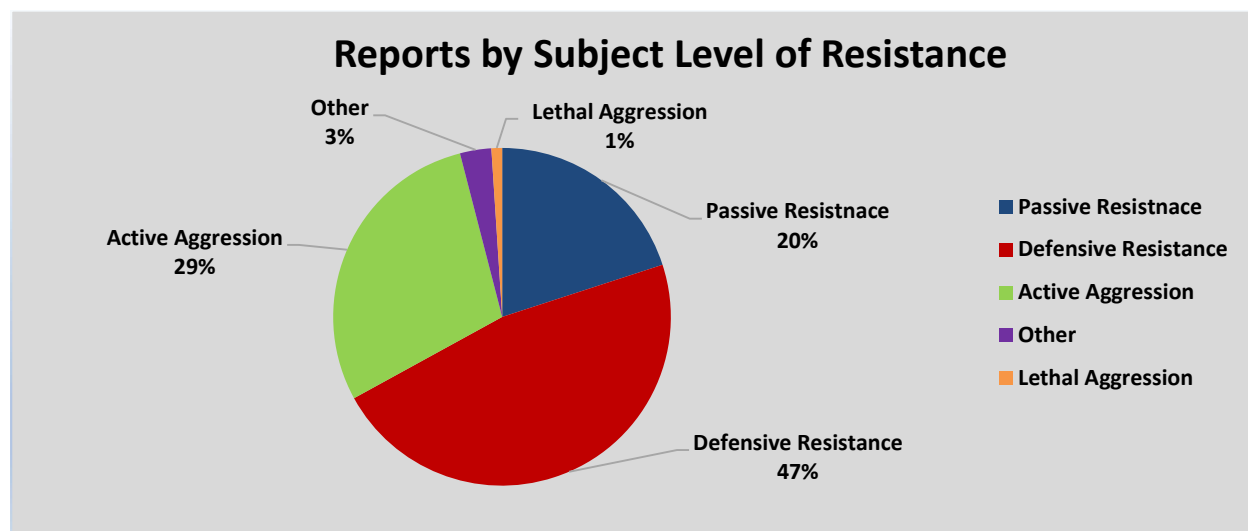
	**Other			Total		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2021	12	0	0%	2,560	102	3.98%
2022	10	0	0%	2,562	83	3.24%
2023	21	0	0%	2,864	119	4.16%

\*\* Other includes Native American, Asian, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

## Reports by Subject Actions

In 2023, defensive resistance was the most frequent form of resistance officers encountered. In some instances, subjects exhibited more than one type of resistance. In those cases, only the most severe level is identified on the chart below. Levels of resistances are defined and listed from lowest to highest.

- **Passive Resistance** - Any type of resistance during which the subject does not attempt to defeat the officer's attempt to touch or control him/her, but he/she still will not voluntarily comply with verbal and physical attempts of control.
- **Defensive Resistance** - Any action by a subject that is an attempt to prevent an officer from gaining control of the subject (e.g., pulling/pushing away to defeat the escort position, running away). It is not an attack on the officer, but a physical act designed to prevent the officer from gaining control.
- **Active Aggression** - A level of resistance that includes physical actions/assaults against the officer, or another person, with less than deadly force (e.g., advancing, challenging, punching, kicking, grabbing, wrestling. etc.).
- **Deadly force** - Force reasonably anticipated and intended to create a substantial likelihood of causing death or very serious injury.
- **Other** - Offenses that do not meet the above criteria such as vehicle pursuit or a mental subject holding a weapon on themselves.



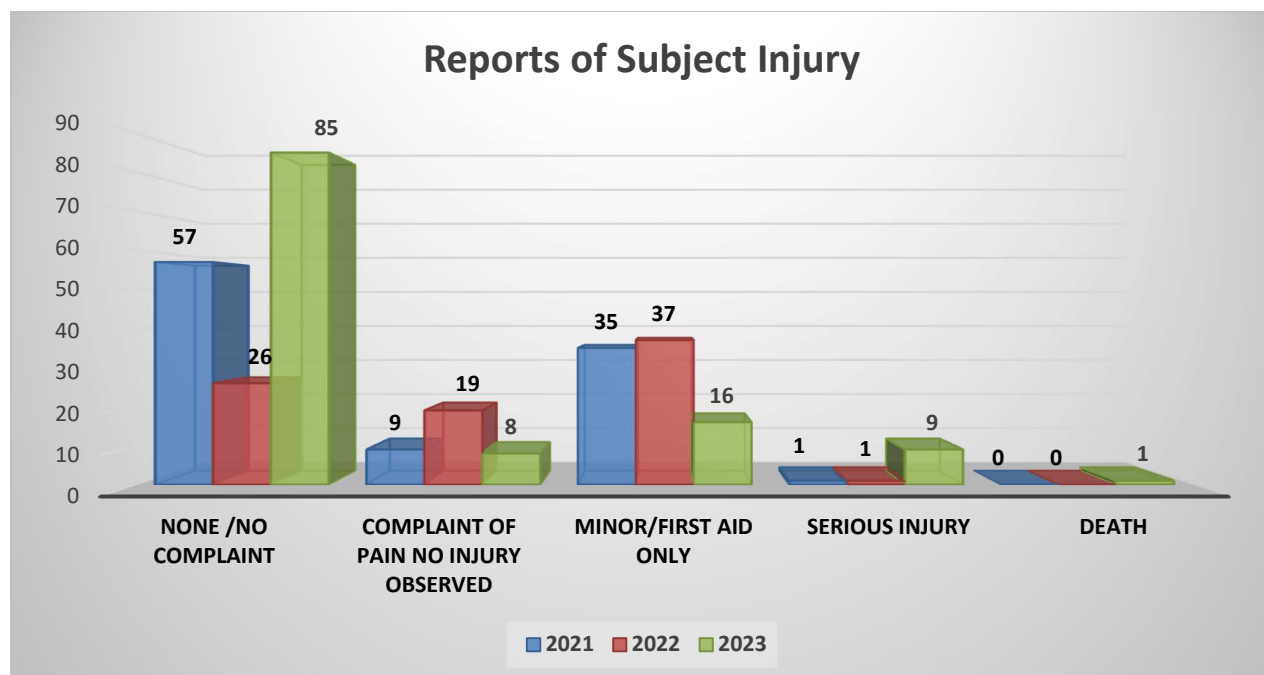
(2023 based on 119 acts of resistance)

Reports by Subject Resistance	2021	% of 2021 Reports	2022	% of 2022 Reports	2023	% of 2023 Reports
Passive Resistance	28	27%	17	20%	24	20%
Defensive Resistance	41	40%	45	54%	57	47%
Active Aggression	27	26%	19	23%	34	29%
Lethal Aggression	2	2%	1	1%	1	1%
Other	4	4%	1	1%	3	3%
Total	102	*99%	83	*99%	119	100%

\*NOTE: Does not equal 100% due to rounding percentages in 2021 and 2022 data.

## Report by Subject Injury

In 2023, the most frequent category of subject injury was None/No Complaint with 85 (71%), followed by minor injury/first aid at 16 (13%).

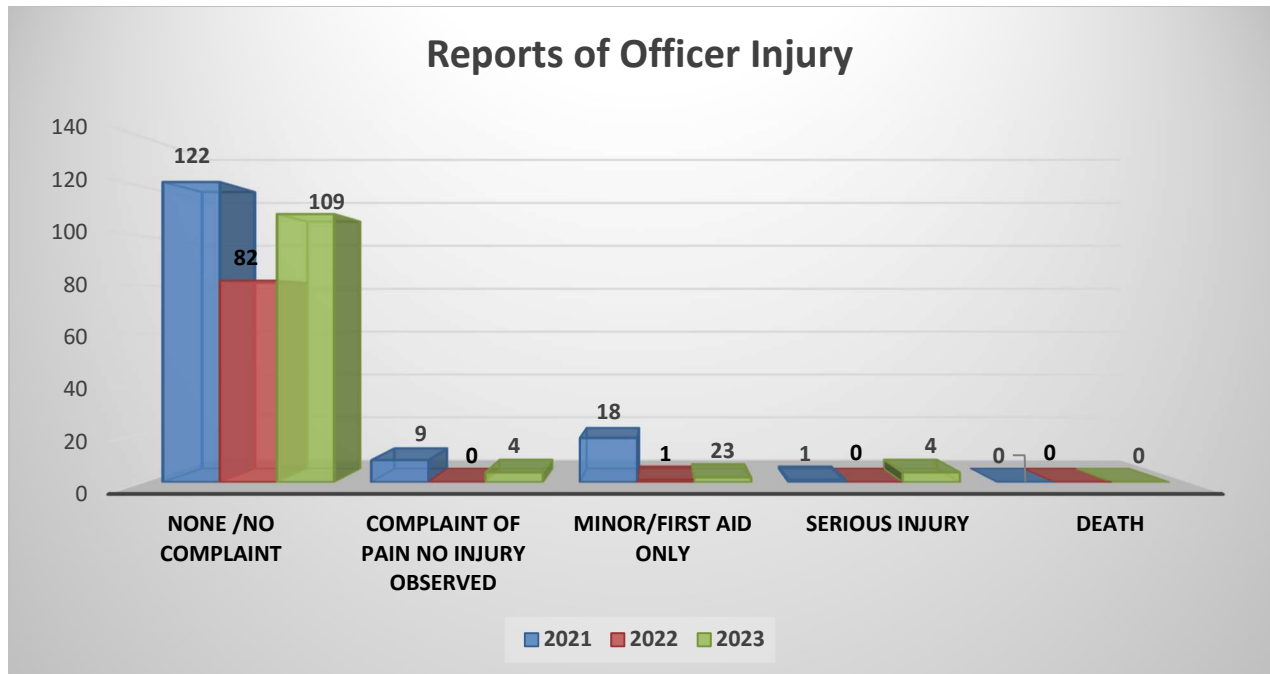


Reports by Subject Injury	2021	% of 2021 Reports	2022	% of 2022 Reports	2023	% of 2023 Reports
None/ No Complaint	57	56%	26	31%	85	71%
Comp of pain no injury	9	9%	19	23%	8	7%
Minor injury/first aid	35	34%	37	45%	16	13%
Serious Injury	1	1%	1	1%	9	8%
Death	0	0%	0	0%	1	1
Total	102	100%	83	100%	119	100%

- **None/ No Complaint** - Subject makes no verbal complaint of pain and or injury.
- **Complaint of pain observed no injury** - Subject complains of pain but there are no signs of a visible injury.
- **Minor injury/first aid only** - Subject sustained a minor injury during the event that requires no medical treatment or receives first aid on the scene (scratches, bruising, small lacerations, normal effects of chemical agent, Taser probes). The subject may or may be transported to a hospital.
- **Serious injury** - Subject sustained an injury that is not considered minor and requires hospital treatment. (broken bones, large altercations, an injury that requires surgery).
- **Death** - Subject died as a result of the force applied.

## Report by Officer Injury

In 2023, the most frequent category of officer injury was “None/No Complaint” with a total of 109 (92%), followed by “Complaint of Pain/No Injury” and “Serious Injury” with 4 (3%) each.



(2023 based on 119 incidents)

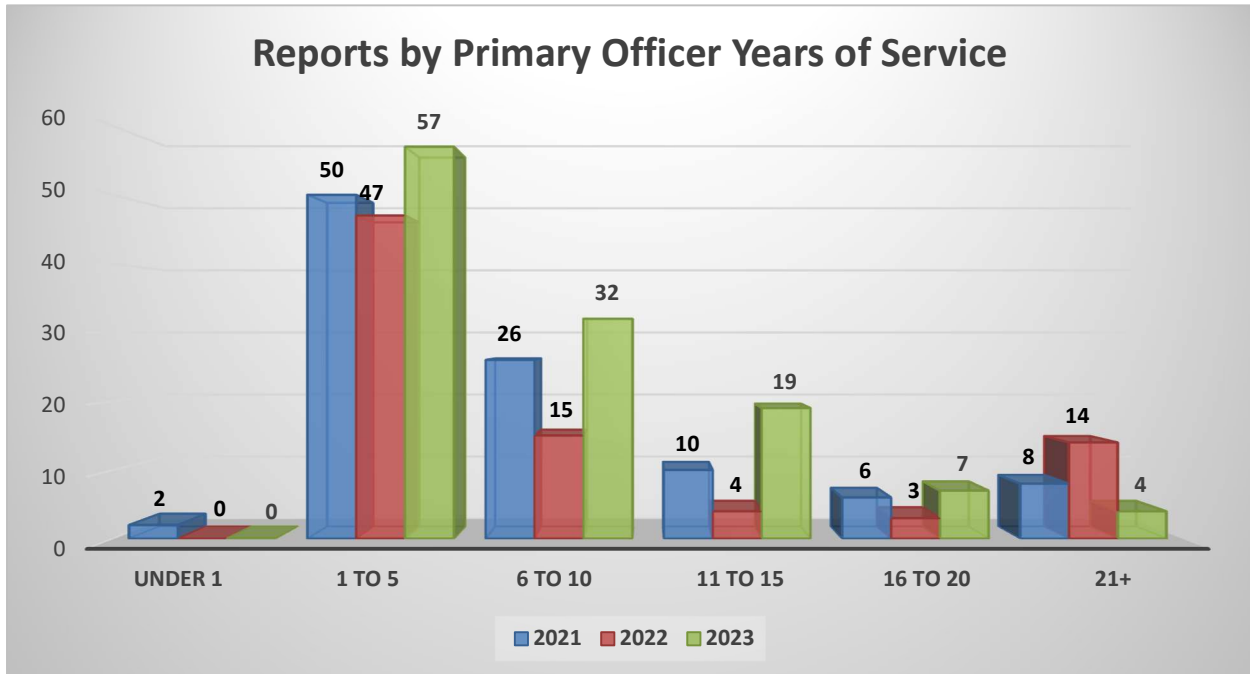
Reports by Officer Injury	2021	% of Officer Involvements	2022	% of Officer Involvements	2023	% of Officer Involvements
None/ No Complaint	109	81%	82	99%	109	92%
Comp of pain no injury	9	6%	0	0%	4	3%
Minor injury/first aid	23	12%	1	1%	2	2%
Serious Injury	1	1%	0	0%	4	3%
Death	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	142	100%	83	100%	119	100%

- **None/ No Complaint** - Officer makes no verbal complaint of pain and or injury
- **Complaint of pain no injury observed** - Officer complains of pain but there are no signs of a visible injury.
- **Minor injury/first aid only** - Officer sustained a minor injury during the event that requires no medical treatment, or receives first aid on scene (scratches, bruising, small lacerations, normal effects of chemical agent, Taser probes). Officer may or may not be transported to a hospital.
- **Serious injury** - Officer sustained an injury that is not considered minor and requires hospital treatment. (broken bones, large altercations, injury that requires surgery).
- **Death** - Officer died as a result of the force applied.

## Reports by Officer Years of Experience

In 2023, officers with one to five years of service turned in the most use of force reports with 57 (48%). Officers with six to ten years of service submitted 32 (27%) reports. Overall, officers with less than ten years of service accounted for 89 (75%) of the total use of force Reports submitted. To provide perspective, most of the use of force reports are submitted by patrol officers. The department's patrol officer population is primarily comprised of officers with less than 10 years of experience. The patrol officer's primary responsibility is to respond to calls for service which makes up 85 (83%) of the 119 use of force reports.

The graph and chart below show the years of service of the primary officers (initial officer on scene) involved in the use of force incident.



(2023 based on 119 incidents)

Primary Officers Years of Service	2021 Reports	% of 2021 Reports	2022 Reports	% of 2022 Reports	2023 Reports	% of 2023 Reports
Under 1 years	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%
1 to 5 years	50	49%	47	57%	57	48%
6 to 10 years	26	25%	15	18%	32	27%
11 to 15 years	10	10%	4	5%	19	16%
16 to 20 years	6	6%	3	4%	7	6%
Over 20 years	8	8%	14	17%	4	3%
Total	102	100%	83	*101%	119	100%

\*Total for 2022 exceeds 100% due to rounding.