



COLUMBUS DIVISION OF POLICE

ANNUAL USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

2024

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EXECUTIVE Summary

The Columbus Division of Police (CPD) is committed to transparency by presenting this report, which outlines its officers' use of force and any trends associated with these incidents. The analysis will provide information on each level of force used, the subjects involved, the officers involved, and the environmental factors. The data set provided the necessary information to identify what we do well as a Division and where we may fall short. We also used the data to look at multi-year comparisons and hot spots in the City of Columbus. The results and analysis within the report will allow us to identify gaps and needs.

It should be noted that after the police protests in the summer of 2020, The City of Columbus hired BakerHostetler Law to investigate whether officers violated policy. The Columbus Division of Police provided all reports, to the law firm, that would have tracked Level 7 uses of force. Those reports have not been reviewed by Columbus Police. Since that investigation there has been zero Level 7 uses of force due to an injunction issued by US District Court Judge Algenon L. Marbley.

Additionally, Level 8 data is tracked differently and separately than all other use of force data. The City and Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure that investigations are unbiased and independent when there is a use-of-force resulting in life-threatening injury or death. As a result, CPD does not always have the requested data regarding Level 8 incidents until Ohio BCI completes their investigations. Once received, this data is tracked by the Criminal Investigations Subdivision.



INTRODUCTION & METHODS

The 2024 Use of Force Analysis was compiled by records provided by each officer who used force as outlined in the Columbus Police Division Directive 2.01, Use of Force. The policy provides guidelines to ensure officers are exerting the appropriate level of force that is reasonable to control another's movement or actions. The ranges of force analyzed in this report include Level one through Level eight (deadly force). The goals of this analysis are to identify patterns, trends, or correlations that might be apparent or not throughout the City, zones, or precincts. The report will also identify any deficiencies that exist within the reporting process, leading to inaccurate data collection and information, as well as identify targeted training needs that the Division should consider implementing to address any of those patterns or trends that were identified.

The findings outlined in this report will be presented as quantitative and qualitative data. Both sets of data findings were compiled by manually inputting raw data into a SharePoint database created by the Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs. The students, under the direction of Dr. Russell Hassan, along with the assistance of officers from the Advanced Training Operations Unit (ATU), reviewed every U-10.128, Use of Force Report from 2024, line by line, and input each field into the SharePoint database. After the data was all entered, Dr. Hassan and his team ran computer code to get the final output. The narrative section of the form was read and interpreted by ATU and Dr. Hassan's team. Some of the data used the narrative to generate a dataset to identify whether officers were working a special duty or guard duty assignment when force was used. Other valuable data that was extracted from the narrative was whether, during a call for service, the officer identified citizens experiencing a mental health episode or were intoxicated by alcohol or other substances. After the final output was received, the Use of Force Analysis Team analyzed the data in search of actionable information to drive training and policy development.

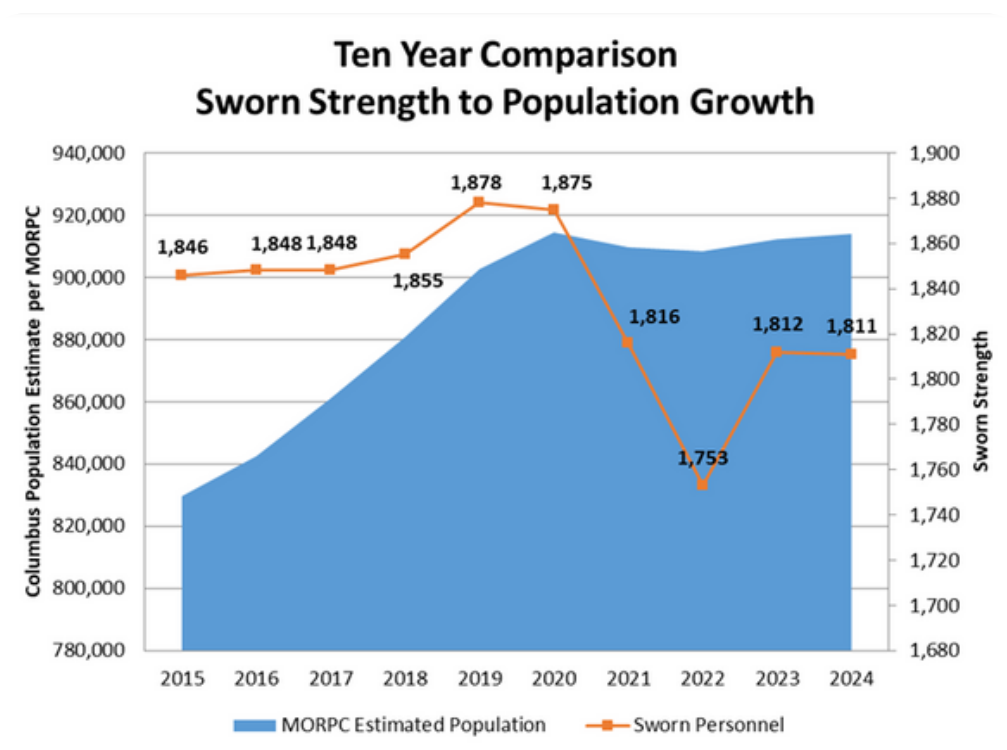
Other data sources that contributed to the report were provided by the Homicide Unit, the Research and Development Unit, the Emergency Communications Center, and the PremierOne database.

City Snapshot

SWORN STRENGTH - POPULATION GROWTH - ARRESTS

According to the new estimates for 2024, the U.S. Census indicates that the City of Columbus grew by 1.4 % or 12,694 residents from July 2023 to July 2024. This data shows that the City had a population of 933,263 residents. The City continues the pattern of a steady growth rate for the Columbus region. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) data is showing slower growth for the City of Columbus, estimating a population of 913,985. While the numbers are different, both sources indicate that the City is growing with an increased population. MORPC also estimates continued growth in central Ohio over the next 25 years. The data can be used for multiple analyses.

The population is relevant when looking at the use of force within the Division for several reasons. This report will discuss a few of those instances. First, the population compared to our sworn strength can highlight if any specific patterns or trends are apparent, resulting in more use-of-force incidents. For example, if the population is growing and the sworn strength remains consistent, are there more instances of using force? Is there less?



This data can also help draw parallels between the population and the crime rate. Which then can be related to the use of force. In 2024, overall violent crime in the City of Columbus decreased. There was an increase reported for aggravated assaults, and all other Part I crimes show a decrease from 2023. The Division recorded a minimal increase in arrests for Part I crimes and fewer arrests for Part II crimes.

The reporting data is also showing an overall decrease in force incidents in 2024. The following table shows the 5-year trends. This table outlines the decrease in most levels of force for 2024. 2023 is showing corrected data from last years report.

Uses of Force – 5 Year Trend						
Level	Type of Response	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	All Level 1s	1251	1131	1130	1303	1263
2	Use of Chemical Spray	85	61	51	53	47
3	Use of TASER	130	123	150	126	142
4	Striking with Hands or Feet	68	39	57	64	63
5	Striking with Impact Weapon	0	1	2	3	1
6	Canine Bite	2	4	1	1	1
7	Less Lethal Weapons	3	0	0	0	0
8	Use of Firearm	15	13	11	15	15
Totals		1554	1372	1402	1565	1532

This table reports both the total number of unique incidents (Levels 2-8) and the number of force instances (Level 1) by level. For Level 8, the number shows fatal force incidents, rather than the number of CPD officers involved in those incidents.

When examining population growth, crime rates, arrests, and the impact on use-of-force reporting, the results show that the growing population did not have an adverse effect on the number of use-of-force incidents. Even though the population has increased, the overall use of force decreased in 2024. There is also no apparent correlation between the number of sworn officers, population, and the use of force. The population has increased, while the number of sworn officers has remained nearly the same, and the use of force has decreased compared to the numbers reported in previous years.

The arrest data and use of force incidents identify a similar outcome. The Division reported fewer total arrests (combining Part I & Part II offenses) for 2024. Use-of-force incidents were also lower. Assumptions can be made that because the arrest numbers are lower, that results in the use-of-force incidents also being lower. Using the table below, you can identify a trend over 5 years. We can also infer that the use of force directly correlates with the number of arrests, based on the similar patterns we observed over the same timeframe.

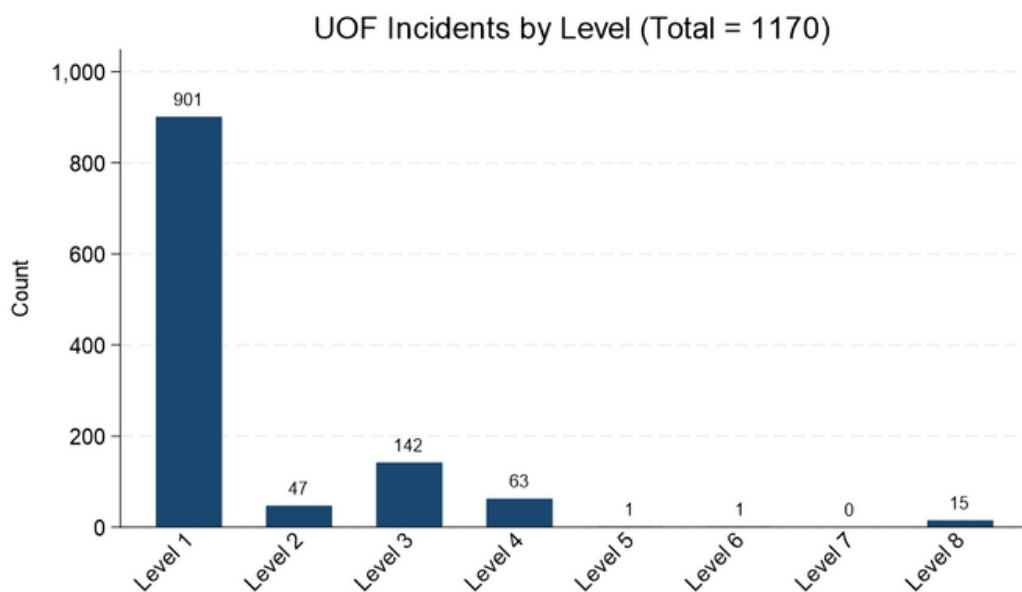
ARRESTS	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Part I Offenses (Serious Crimes)	1,896	1,954	1,888	2,144	2,173
Part II Offenses (Less Serious)	14,363	12,107	12,269	12,256	11,799
Total	16,259	14,061	14,157	14,397	13,972

These results align with the 2024 Violent Crime Survey produced by the Major City Chiefs Association. Columbus' data falls right in line with what the national totals are showing as far as crimes and crime rates. The Crime Survey indicates a decline in reported violent crime across major cities in the United States.

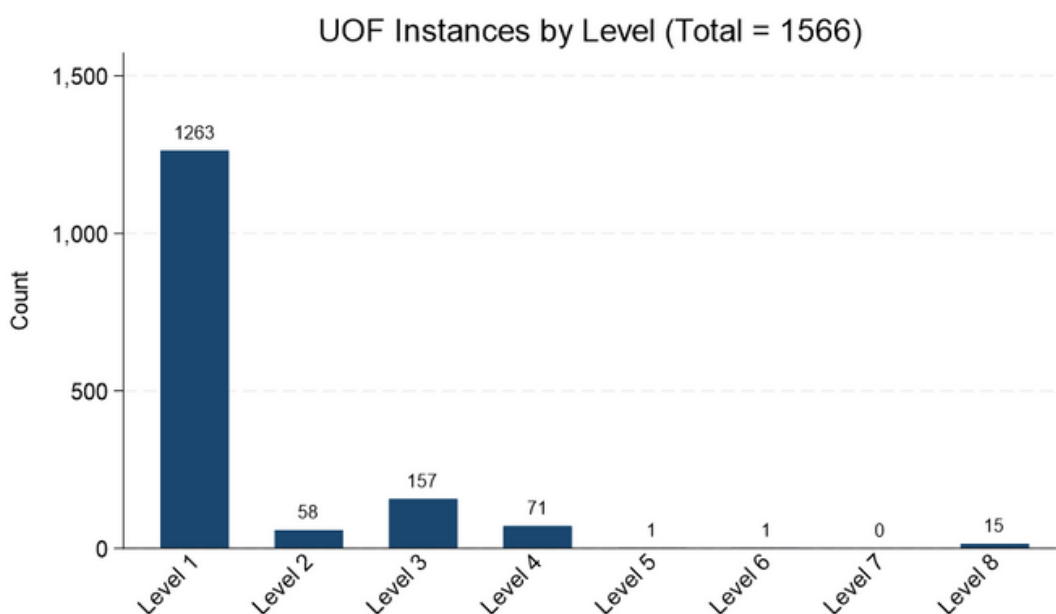
Use of Force Levels

TOTAL REPORTED APPLICATIONS OF FORCE

Uses of force can be analyzed using various data sets and who those instances were used against, and how each application of force was utilized. The charts below will give a visual snapshot of the total number of use-of-force incidents and instances, as well as the level of force used. The first graph shows incidents of use of force reported for each unique incident number, as collected from Use of Force Reports filled out by the officer using force. The second chart will show the number of officers who used each level of force.



The chart above shows the numbers of unique Use of Force incidents in 2024, categorized by level of force. Since each incident may involve multiple officers, it can result in multiple instances of force being recorded/counted.



The chart above shows the number of unique Use of Force instances reported in 2024, categorized by level of force. Each incident may involve multiple officers and/or multiple suspects. Consequently, the total number of UOF instances differs from the total number of UOF incidents. However, importantly, the Level 8 UOF bar above represents the number of fatal force incidents, not the number of officers involved.

Level One: The data indicates a decrease in level one use of force. A total of 1,263 officers used level one in 901 incidents. This was a slight decrease from the previous year, when 1,303 officers used level one in 2023.

The 2024 DTU CPT training phase included training that emphasized multiple officer level one control techniques. This training included a two-officer hi/lo takedown, two-officer ground control techniques, and two and three-officer ground handcuffing techniques. Although there was a slight decrease from 2023, the total number of level one incidents remained relatively consistent with the previous five years. Level one techniques continue to be the most commonly used force option. Of the total number of officers who used force (1,585), nearly 80% used a level one technique. DTU will continue to emphasize level one techniques for future training phases and expects the vast majority of incidents involving the use of force will be effectively managed using level one techniques only.

Level Two: The use of chemical spray has continued to decrease since the 2020 riots. A slight increase can be observed in 2023; however, the 2024 use of level two were down nearly 30% with only 58 total instances from 47 incidents. The overall use of chemical spray has decreased dramatically since before 2020 and is likely to remain consistent.

Level Three: The use of taser in 2024 was similar to previous years, with an increase in total incidents (142). The instances reported were 157. The primary focus of the 2024 DTU CPT Phase was the introduction and certification of the new Taser 7. As with any new equipment, the implications of the Taser 7 will take additional data to analyze (2025 and 2026 data). Officers are permitted to use a taser when controlling an actively resistive subject, and the increase in taser use may simply be a result of an increase in interactions with actively resistive subjects.

Overall, the use of a taser was about 58% effective. Many factors contribute to the effectiveness rate of the taser. Distance from the subject, loose-fitting clothing, a probe missing the target, and a narrow probe spread are just a few. DTU will continue to re-certify officers annually in the Taser 7 and should increase confidence with the taser's capabilities and limitations – likely increasing the effectiveness rate too.

Level Four: The incidents involving level four uses of force for 2024 were similar to previous years, with 63 total incidents. DTU typically emphasizes level one ground control and takedowns during annual In-service. Some training does include striking options; however, the time spent annually is not significant enough to impact yearly stats one way or the other. Additionally, Recruit Training has significantly decreased the amount of time spent on level four striking options. New recruits receive minimal training on striking options and striking defense.

Level four uses of force have been relatively consistent over the last 5 years; however, the statistics are significantly lower than 10–15 years ago. For example, in 2013, there were 141 incidents involving level fours. In other words, as a result of shifts in DTU In-service and changes made to recruit-level training, the total number of level four uses of force is nearly half of the total from just 10 years ago.

Level Five: Total use of impact weapons consistently remains low or non-existent. The Taser 7 implementation included issuing all uniformed personnel a taser. Officers who were issued a Taser 7 are required to carry the taser while in uniform, making the division-issued baton only an optional intermediate weapon. Level five uses of force will likely stay low; however, DTU will continue to include impact weapon certification as part of annual In-service, as required per CALEA. No trend is identified.

Level Six: Total use of K9 bite consistently remains low. The CPD K9 units continue to be utilized for various patrol and/or tactical operations; however, incidents involving a level six use of force are extremely rare. No trend is identified. In 2024, the K9 units were dispatched on 3932 calls for service, that doesn't include pick-up runs, or demonstrations, and only had one level six use of force.

Level Seven: No single level seven use of force has been used in the previous five years—no trend identified.

Level Eight: Level eight uses of force remain unique to each incident. Each of the 15 incidents, involving 34 officers, should be analyzed individually based on the totality of circumstances. Without the specific details of each investigation, a trend is difficult to identify from the previous year. However, other than a dip in 2014 and 2015, the number of level 8 uses of force has been consistent since 2011.

Year By Year Use Of Force Comparison

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Level 1				931	901
Empty Hand Control	(1251)	(1131)	(1130)	(1303)	(1263)
Level 2	85	61	51	53	47
Chemical Spray	(133)	(70)	(74)	(82)	(58)
Level 3	130	123	150	126	142
TASER	(145)	(127)	(170)	(134)	(157)
Level 4	68	39	57	64	63
Strike w/Hands-Feet	(78)	(43)	(64)	(74)	(71)
Level 5	0	1	2	3	1
Impact Weapon	0	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)
Level 6	2	4	1	1	1
Canine Bite	(2)	(4)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Level 7	0	0	0	0	0
Less Lethal	0	0	0	0	0
Level 8	15	13	11	15	15
Use of Lethal Force	(26)	(15)	(14)	(30)	(34)
Total				1193	1165
(Officers Involved)	(1635)	(1391)	(1455)	(1627)	(1585)

Instances are articulated in parenthesis.

As DTU continues to emphasize Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) and the CPD Combatives program, officers enrolled in the training programs will become more confident with “hands-on” control. This will likely lead to fewer uses of higher levels of force (levels two through five), yet an increase in lower levels of force (level one). DTU anticipates that the trend of more Level ones, yet fewer Level 2-5s, will continue.

Additionally, the BJJ and Combatives elective training program is designed to reduce both officer and suspect injuries during a resistant encounter. Although suspect injuries make up 13% of the total incidents involving uses of force and officer injuries make up 8%, injuries to both the suspect and the officer are significantly decreased when analyzing level one incidents. Typically, 1% of all level one incidents result in suspect injury, while only 3% result in officer injury. Furthermore, these injuries tend to be minor injuries that do not require hospitalization.

DTU recommends that the BJJ and Combatives programs continue to be resourced with personnel and equipment. DTU also recommends increasing the number of temporary or full-time instructors to accommodate additional elective training courses. As these programs continue to evolve and more officers are enrolled, DTU anticipates an impact on future use-of-force statistics.



Types of Encounters

REASON FOR CONTACT

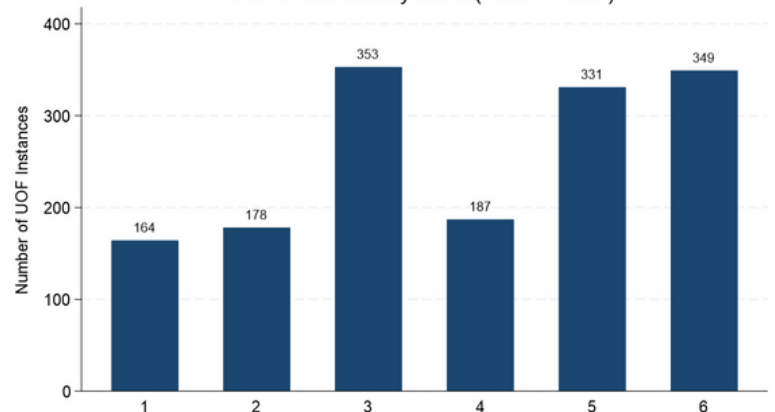
911 emergency dispatched calls for service are the leading documented reason officers made contact with citizens in 2024. Nearly 41% of calls for service came in as 911 emergency calls. When attempting to draw a connection between calls for service and the use of force, the Division lacks the necessary data or the ability to link it, thereby creating a clear picture. For this report, OSU developed a code to determine if there is a pattern of escalation in use-of-force incidents. That data helps identify patterns of escalation for levels of force. However, to accurately assess whether there is a connection between calls for service and the use of force, the data that should be analyzed would be the aggregated level of force used, and the initial crime reported, which is not available.

Looking purely at the number of calls for service, we cannot draw a solid conclusion that the volume of calls results in a higher incidence of use-of-force incidents. As you can see in the table and chart below, the distribution of calls for service indicates that Zone 5 has the highest number of calls, while Zone 3 reports the most instances of use of force.

Distribution of Service Calls (Unique Incidents)

Zone	Frequency	Percent
1	77,182	15.25
2	78,473	15.51
3	106,285	21.01
4	66,926	13.23
5	106,981	21.14
6	70,128	13.86
Total	505,975	100

UOF Instances by Zone (Total = 1562)



Note: Not all UOF forms include zone numbers. Hence, the total number of incidents reported in the plot above is different than the total number of incidents displayed in Use of Force Instances by Level.

The conclusion will not establish a definitive connection between the two data sets as far as it relates to the use of force.

The table below is looking specifically at Division 10-codes and the category for which they were dispatched. The numbers are showing that disturbances or fights had the highest amount of use of force incidents, as well as instances, and following close behind are domestic disturbances. Both of those categories are consistently identified as hazardous for officers. Domestic violence and shooting related situations are likely the most high-risk situations.

Category	Incidents	Instances
Traffic Related	27	37
Mental Health	39	59
Domestic Disturbance	115	191
Juvenile Complaint	0	0
Narcotics Complaint	4	5
Vice Complaint	2	3
Warrant/Arrest	33	45
Shooting-Related	19	31
Demonstration	31	46
Unknown	43	58
Disturbance or Fight	181	261

Note: The categories in the table correspond to the following 10-codes:

- Traffic Related: 23B, 35, 45, 45A, 46, 52, 54
- Mental Health Related: 16B
- Domestic Disturbance: 17, 17A, 17B
- Juvenile Complaint: 29
- Narcotics Complaint: 49A
- Vice Complaint: 49, 49C
- Warrant/Arrest: 50, 50A
- Shooting-Related: 43, 43A, 43B, 43S
- Demonstration: 16A, 16a
- Unknown: 34
- Disturbance or Fight: 16, 26

Examining the run priority level calls for service and revisiting the calls for service data, there may be a connection between priority level calls and use of force incidents. Taking Zone 3, for instance. In the chart on page 11, Zone 3 was identified as having the highest number of force incidents in the city (353). Comparing that data with Zone table below, Zone 5 had the highest number of calls for service at a level 1 priority. The assumption cannot be definitive that higher calls for service result in higher uses of force incidents.

Call Priority Level	Zone						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	888	1,210	1,590	796	1,486	1,190	7,160
2	30,413	29,398	39,260	23,666	35,870	27,868	186,475
3	23,473	22,570	31,098	19,300	27,012	20,087	143,540
4	19,850	22,510	31,737	18,034	33,104	17,203	142,438
5	2,558	2,785	2,600	5,130	9,509	3,780	26,362
Total	77,182	78,473	106,285	66,926	106,981	70,128	505,975

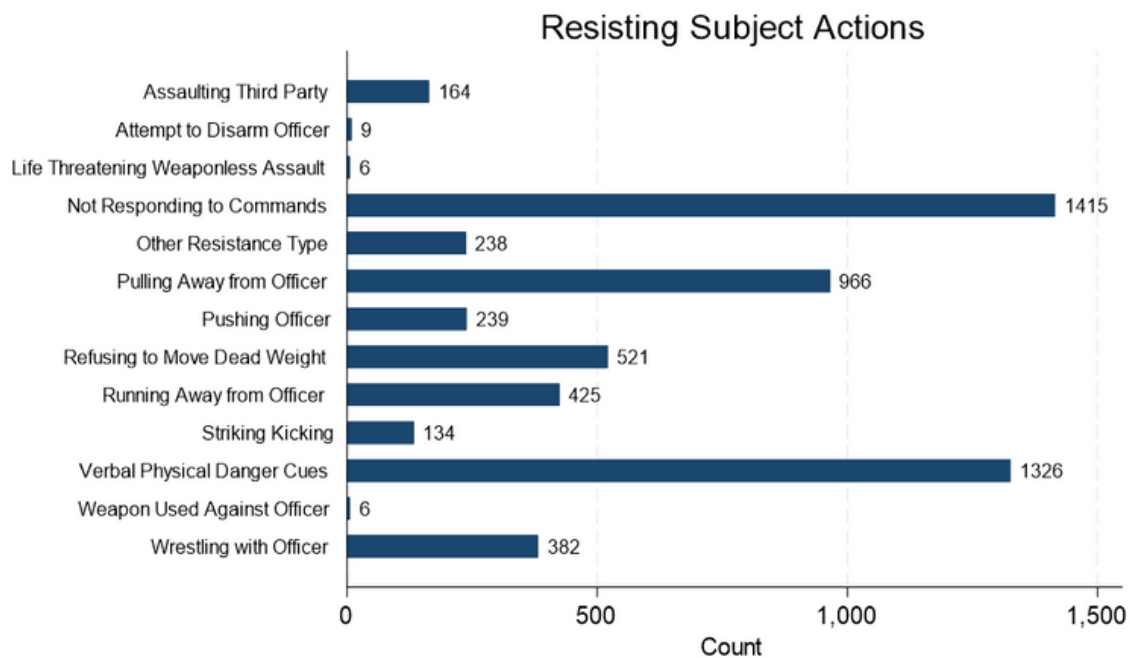
Category	Incidents	Instances
Special Duty	89	116
Guard Duty	2	2
Mental Health Issue	43	64
Alcohol or substance use	127	195

OSU was able to pull data out of the narrative to give the Division a fundamental idea of some of those instances when there may have been a mental health or substance use factor that may have contributed to a use of force incident or instance. Additionally, the narrative was used to identify some of the incidents that happened while an officer was working a special duty assignment or guard duty.

Highest level	# of Levels Used	Level Pattern	Count
1	1	L1	788
2	1	L2	28
2	2	L1 L2	14
3	1	L3	66
3	2	L1 L3	49
3	2	L2 L3	2
3	3	L1 L2 L3	2
4	1	L4	10
4	2	L1 L4	34
4	2	L2 L4	1
4	2	L3 L4	4
4	3	L1 L3 L4	13
5	4	L1 L3 L4 L5	1
6	1	L6	1
8	1	L8	10
8	2	L3 L8	5

The table to the left summarizes the escalation patterns within use-of-force incidents. Each row represents a unique pattern of force that was used across incidents. The first column shows the highest level of force used. The second column displays the number of levels used in each incident, followed by the column that reveals the pattern of force level combinations applied. Finally, the last column shows the count of each pattern. For example, an incident where an officer used both Level 1 and Level 5 force would be counted under highest level = 5,

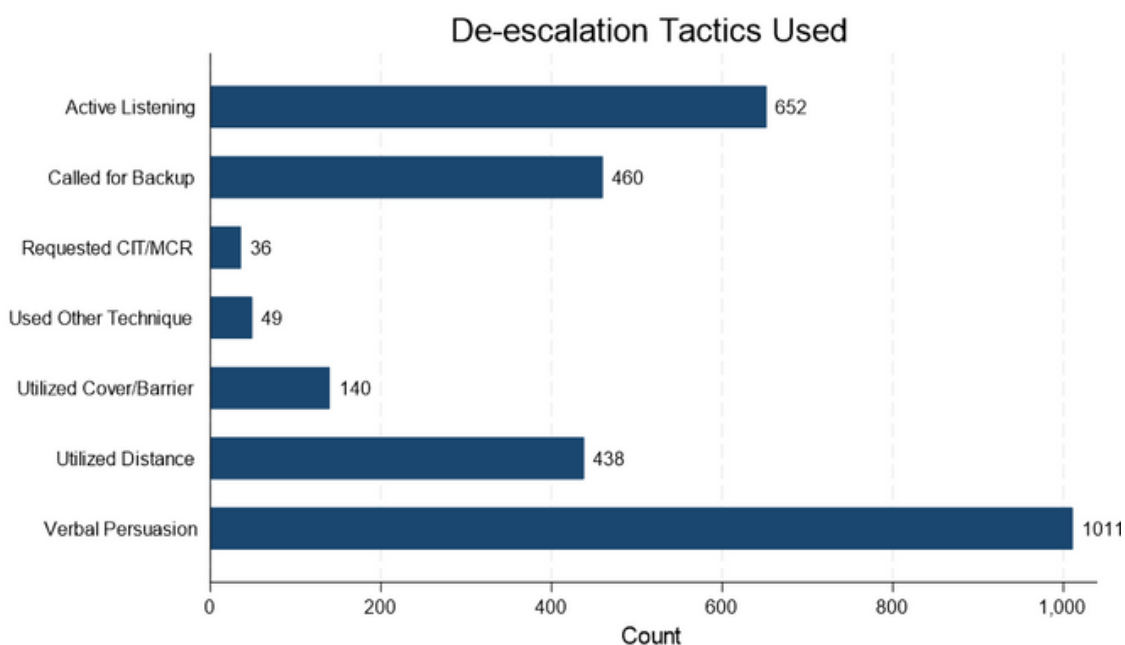
levels used = 2, and level pattern = "L1 L5". This allows assessment of whether higher levels were used alone or in conjunction with lower levels, providing insight into escalation dynamics.



As mentioned before, the actions of others cannot be controlled. The graph titled, "Resisting Subject Actions", shows the actions that were present before or during the use of force. The number one resistant action that officers saw in 2024 was the lack of response to commands. 1,415 reports indicated that citizens did not respond to officers' commands during an interaction. This is usually the first indicator that may lead to the potential use of force. The second highest action was showing signs of a danger cue. Officers use these cues to identify possible threats and will react based on what cue they observe.

The Division also collected data on de-escalation tactics. This data is collected on the U-10.128 and lists attempted techniques for de-escalation. Last year, the Division provided training to help understand more about citizen interactions and the rules of justice that can help reduce the escalation of interactions. The training titled “Confident Policing” was a 2-hour class that can reinforce confidence in officers, build effectiveness with the public, reduce high levels of force, develop professionalism, ensure a professional mentality, and use each situation as a learning experience. During this training, officers were presented with Gerald Leventhal’s Six Rules of Justice. By applying these six rules and combining interpersonal and technical skills, officers are better equipped to demonstrate higher levels of proficiency during each interaction with citizens. The actions of others cannot be controlled, but teaching officers how to control their actions effectively will lead to better success in de-escalation tactics, resulting in fewer uses of force.

In 2024, the Division reported 1,011 uses of verbal persuasion to de-escalate situations. Using spoken words to encourage certain behaviors or actions is often a successful tool that officers use to change the public's perception. The second most commonly used de-escalation technique employed last year was active listening. Active listening is a valuable skill for officers to employ when interacting with the public. This allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the entire situation and can help establish a mutual understanding among all parties involved. Using de-escalation tactics can decrease the total number of incidents and instances in which force is used. Although these tactics can be beneficial in certain situations, the expectation should not be set that they will eliminate all use-of-force incidents entirely.



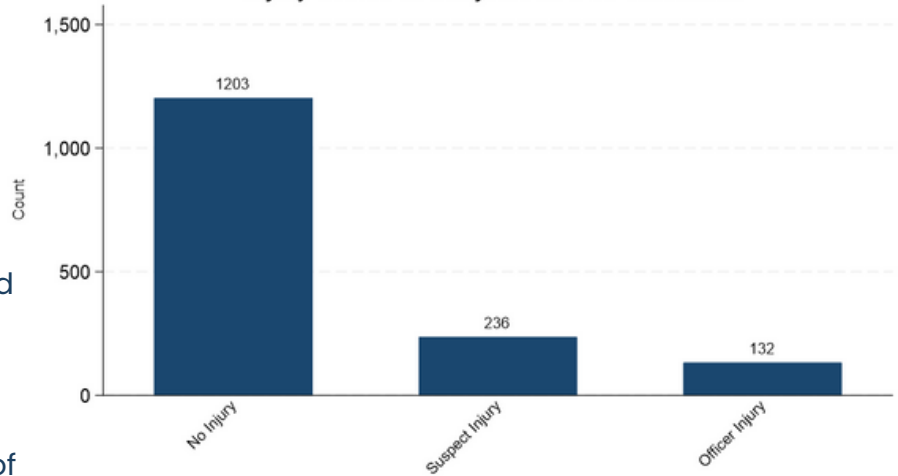
Injuries

ASSAULTS ON OFFICERS AND SUBJECT INJURY

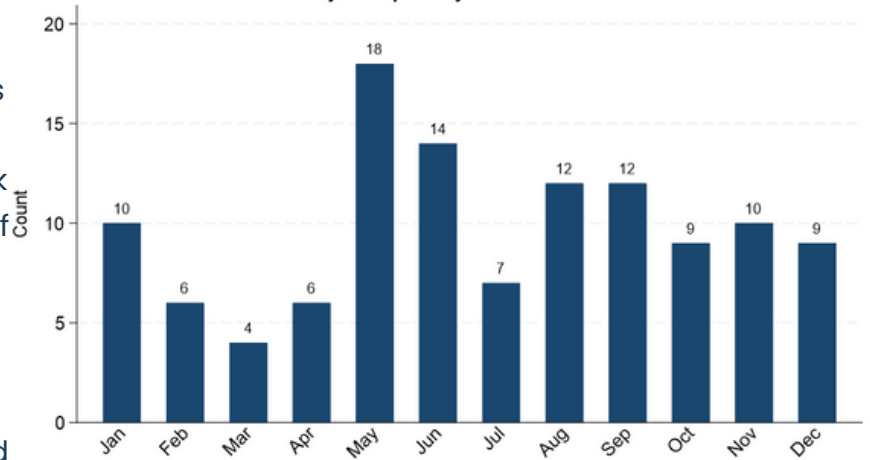
Nearly 76% (1,203) of use-of-force incidents reported no injury to either the suspect or officer in 2024. That breaks down to approximately 15% (236) of suspects were injured and 8% (132) of officers. To better identify if trends or patterns exist, more data is needed. CPD should use existing data on 10-codes and types of runs in the CAD to determine if specific call types result in more injuries than others. However, CPD must then identify if the injury was directly a result of the subject of the call. CPD does not currently have an easy way to gather more in-depth statistical data on officer injuries and officer assaults. Several forms contain some information, but they are not completed consistently and often lack details. To gain a clearer understanding of this data, the Division should adopt a single reporting method/database and ask targeted questions to improve record-keeping and reporting outcomes. No trends or patterns have been identified regarding injuries.

When looking at the data that is available, the numbers show that assaults on officers are more likely to happen in the warmer months and often on Saturdays and Sundays. Comparing the data to last year, CPD reported that July was the highest month with 27 officer assaults, as opposed to May, with 18 reported assaults for this year. Tuesday had a similar number to Saturday and Sunday in 2023, which is consistent with the reported numbers for 2024.

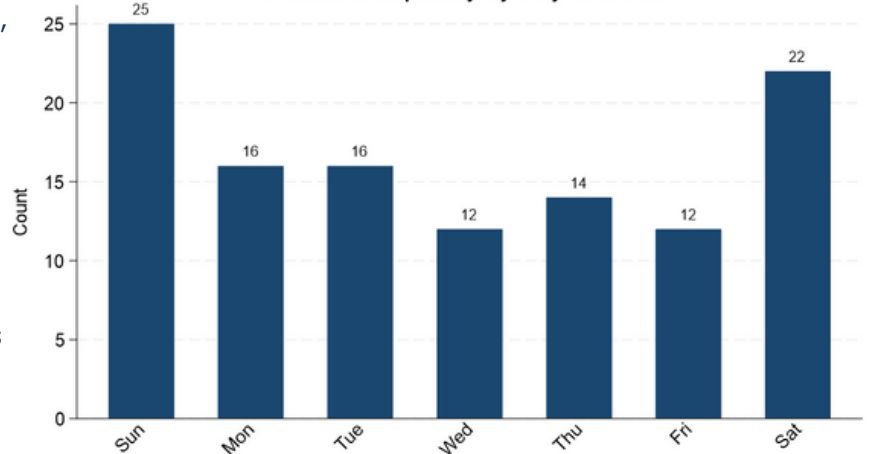
Injury Status of Subjects in UOF Instances



Monthly Frequency of Officer Assaults



Assault Frequency by Day of Week



In 2024, CPD reported 117 officers were assaulted. 53% of those reported assaults were blunt force trauma. Although the number is down from the 151 reported assaults in 2023, 117 is still a substantial number. There were 155 reported assaults in 2022; hopefully, this is the beginning of a downward trend that continues. 86% percent of the assaults are against white male police officers. This aligns with the demographics of sworn personnel. 84% of CPD sworn officers are white, and 89% are male. The sworn race and gender demographics provide a more accurate picture as to why the majority of assaults on officers are against white males.

Methods of Officer Assaults

Assault Method	Percent	Cumulative
Blunt Force Trauma	53	45.3
Cutting Instrument	7	5.98
Firearm	12	10.26
Other Weapon	43	36.75
Unknown	2	1.71
Total	117	100

Distribution of Officer Assault by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Female	16	13.68
Male	101	86.32
Total	117	100

Note: The data for Assaults on Police Officers is strictly data from the Felony Assault Unit. There are other units within the Division that may have additional data that is not represented in this report.

Distribution of Officer Assaults by Race

Race	Frequency	Percent
Asian	1	0.85
Black	13	11.11
Hispanic	1	0.85
Other	2	1.71
Unknown	6	5.13
White	94	80.34
Total	117	100

The only trend or pattern identified regarding assaults on officers relates to the demographics of the Division. Similar to officer/suspect injuries, there is not enough data to correlate the call types or tactics used to assaults on officers.

To enhance officer safety the Division should continue to utilize new technology and tools such

as the WRAP and Virtual Reality along with continued use of scenario-based training. In addition, ATU will present a pre-attack indicators class at 2026 In-service training.

Last year, there were 76 reported complaints from citizens regarding use of force and four bias-based policing complaints. Both of those numbers are less than what was reported in 2023. These numbers are likely to fluctuate and align with the crime rate, as they typically do each year. As training and tactics are perfected and trust with the public is regained, these numbers should also decrease. CPD has emphasized the importance of building and maintaining public trust over the past two years. As that work continues, expect to see a decrease in injuries and assaults on officers.

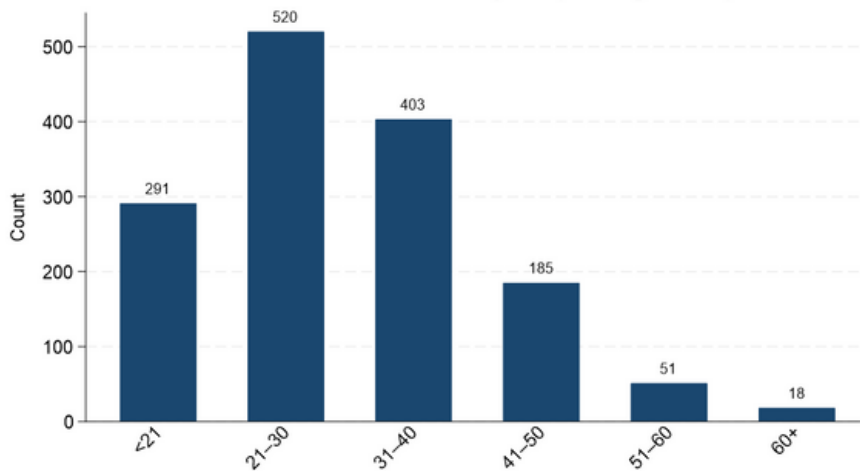
Citizen Complaints

Citizen Complaints	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	2024
Bias-based Profiling Complaints	13	9	11	19	8	7	4
Type or Nature	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Force	48	41	187	56	52	118	76

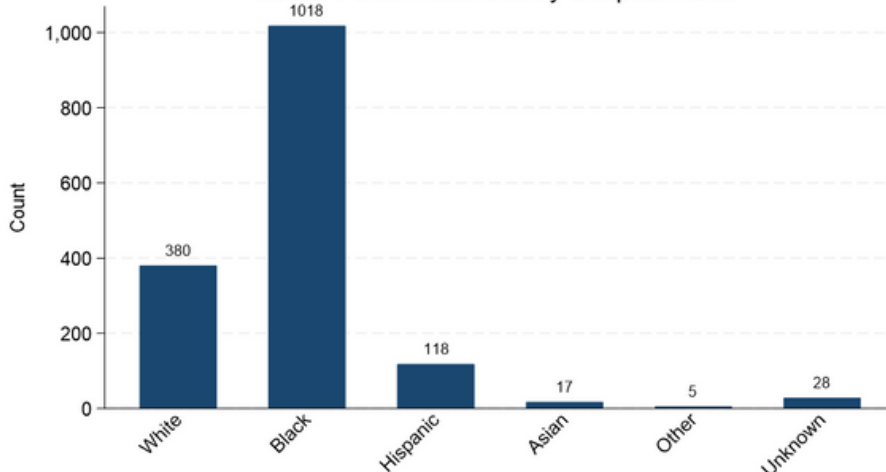
Demographics – Suspect

AGE - RACE - SEX

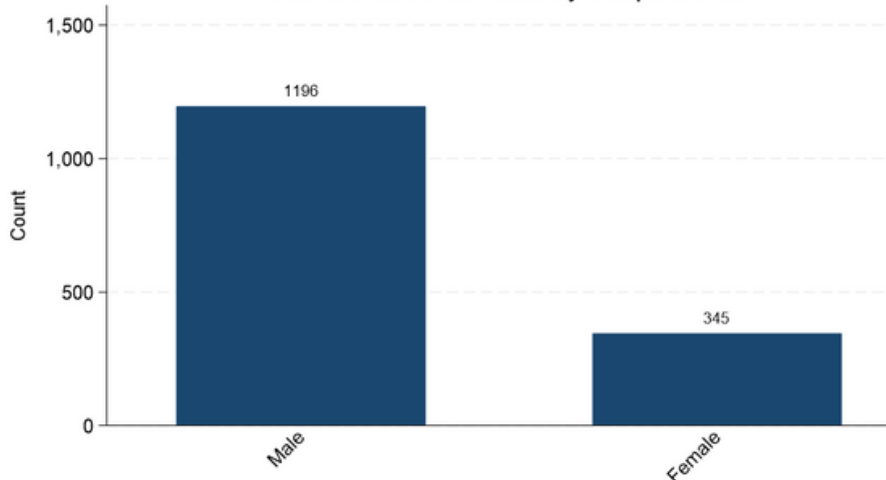
Use-of-Force Instances by Suspect Age Group



Use-of-Force Instances by Suspect Race



Use-of-Force Instances by Suspect Sex



Demographic data allows the Division to identify any potential disparities, biases, or disproportionality in the application of force. Comparing the numbers from last year, the outcomes are similar. Ages 21-30 and 31-40 have the highest number of incidents involving the use of force.

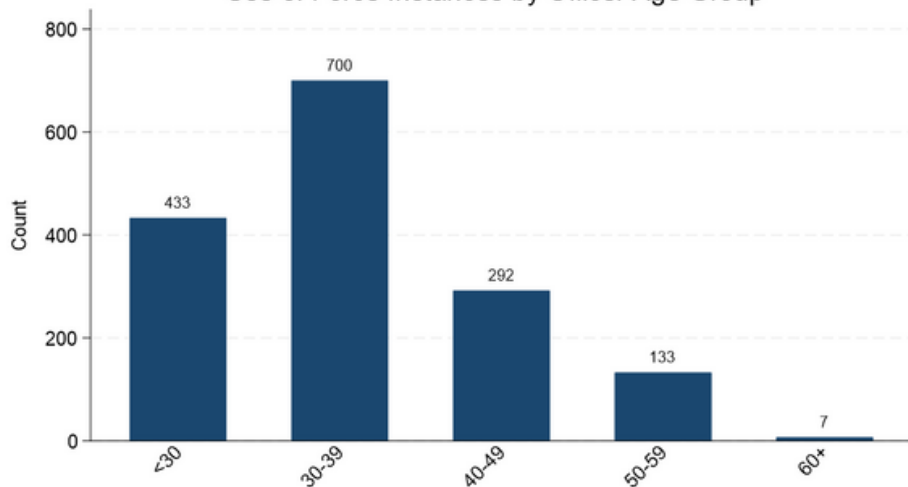
Looking at the suspect's race, there are many higher instances of force for blacks over any other race. Looking back over the previous year's data, this identifies a trend for Columbus. It is not unusual for statistical data on demographics to show this same pattern over the years. To determine why this is happening, we need to examine the issue with a broader scope than the use of force data. There are likely many reasons why this data continues to show the same trend year after year. Poverty levels, gang relationships, and opportunities in general may all play a role in this data.

The same outcome for the use of force by sex. The data follows suit, indicating that there are more instances of force used on males than females.

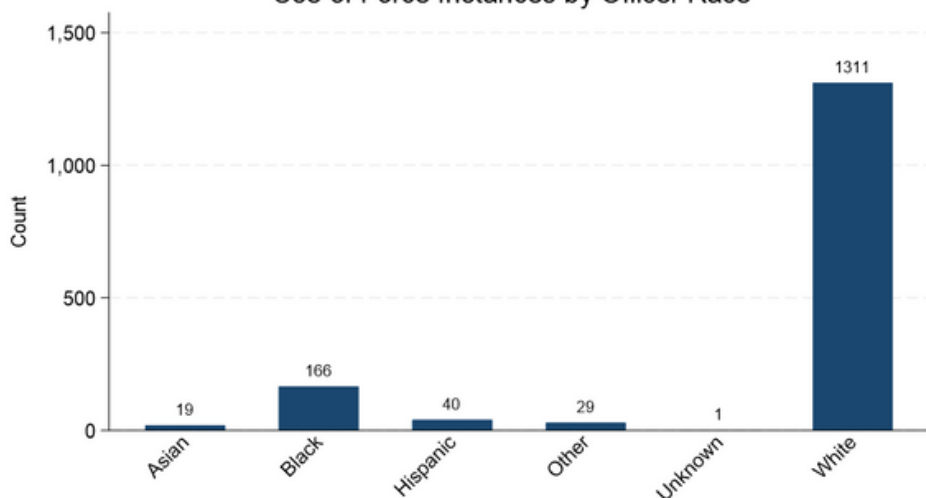
Demographics – Officer

AGE - RACE - SEX

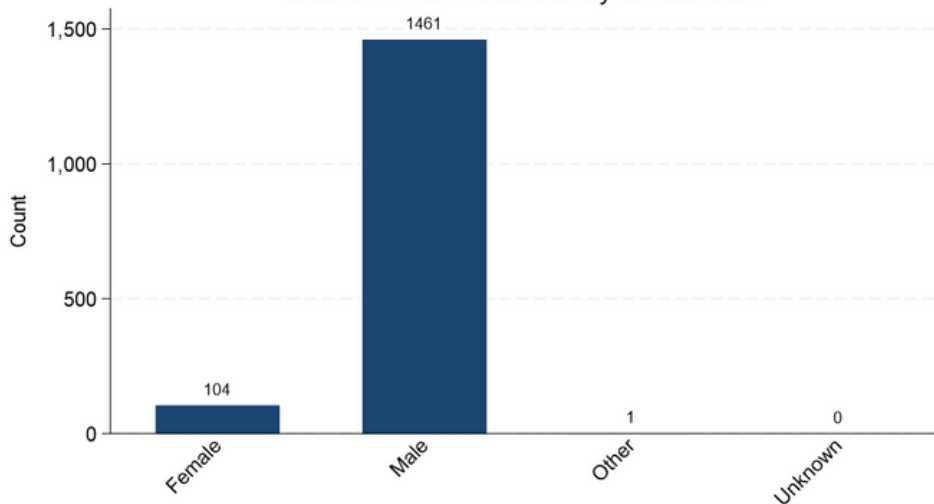
Use-of-Force Instances by Officer Age Group



Use-of-Force Instances by Officer Race



Use-of-Force Instances by Officer Sex



Similar to the demographics of suspects, the two largest age groups for officers who used force were the 30–39 age group and below 30 age group. This aligns with the average age of officers on patrol. The average age of an officer on patrol is 38.42 years old, which falls within the age group of 30–39. This identifies a pattern of the highest age group of officers using force directly relates to the average age of the officers on patrol. CPD uses a seniority-based system to assign jobs. 10 years is the average amount of service years for a patrol officer. Considering the length of time it traditionally takes to get in a Bureau assignment, the pattern could also align with length of service, age of recruits, and possibly even effectiveness of de-escalation training.

Use-of-force instances by race follow a very recognizable pattern. The numbers from this chart directly relate to the demographics of our sworn diversity. As mentioned on page 15, data from 2024 show that 84% of our sworn diversity is white and 10% is black. More white officers use force on subjects because over 80% of sworn personnel are white.

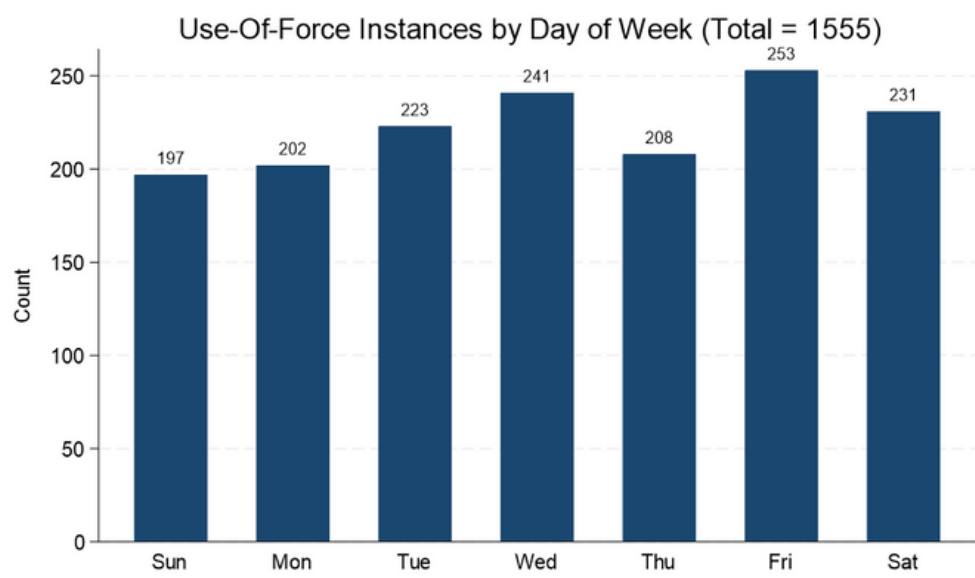
The same correlation for use-of-force by sex. The numbers for 2024 show that 89% of sworn personnel are males, with 11% female. The same trend is identified as more males will use force, because males make up nearly 90% of sworn personnel.

Environmental Factors

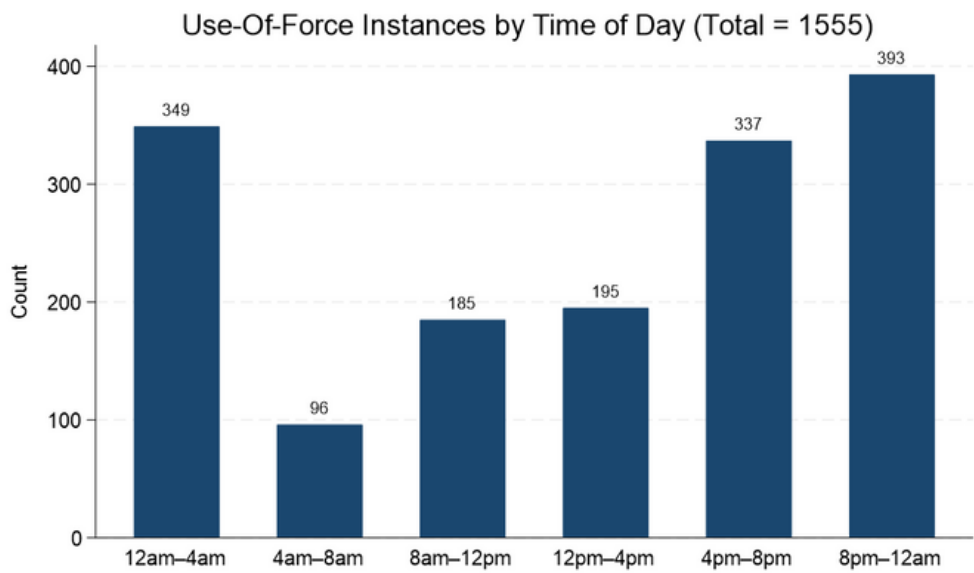
DAY - TIME - MONTH

Use of force is not unique to the time of year, day of the week, or time of day. Force can be applied to any call type at any point during the run/interaction, depending on the subject's actions. The environmental data can provide insight into appropriate staffing levels to ensure the Division is adequately staffed. If a trend is identified during a specific timeframe, such as a year, month, or time of day, informed decisions can be made about staffing levels. The data can be used to determine if there is an increased likelihood of a use-of-force incident occurring based on specific environmental factors. In the chart below, Friday shows the highest number of use-of-force instances in 2024, followed closely by Wednesday.

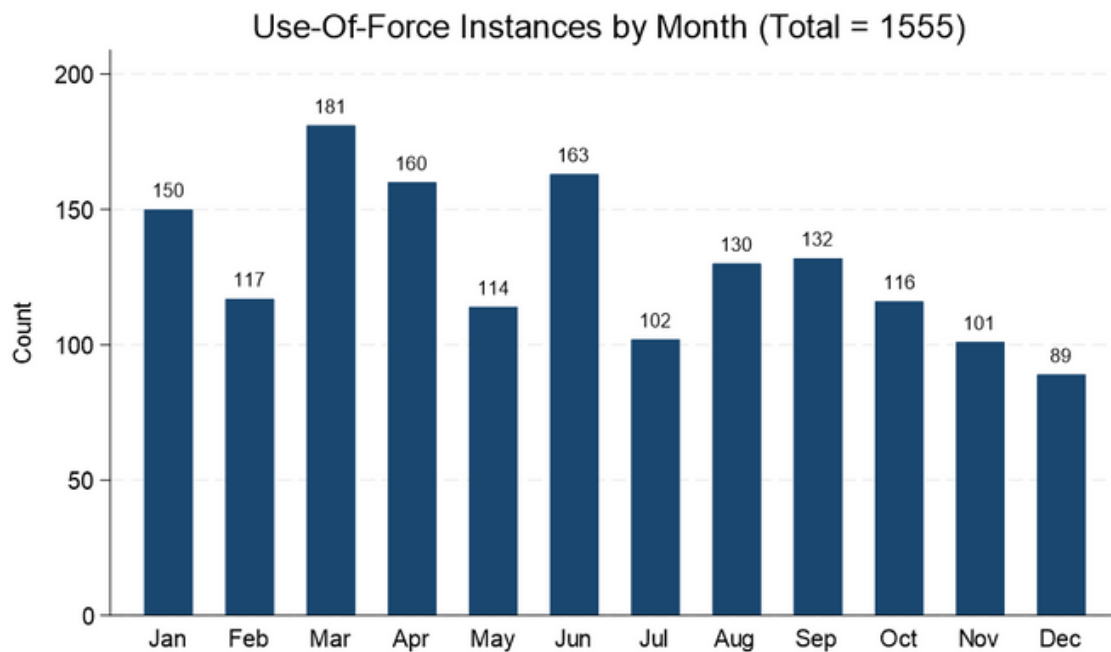
This data is consistent with the number of calls for service. Similar to that data, there is not a day of the week that appears to be an outlier, either on the high or low end. All days have a relatively even distribution of instances. No pattern or trend can be identified explicitly regarding the use of force on each day of the week.



When examining instances of use of force by time of day, a pattern emerges. Looking at the graph to the left, the majority of instances happen at three distinct time frames in a 24-hour period. Nearly 70 percent of all use-of-force instances can be accounted for between 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. For the Division, this means that Second, Third, and evening Midwatch are seeing most of these instances.



Lastly, examining the use of force instances by month reveals no discernible pattern or trend in this grouping. There are a few spikes in March and June, but neither shows a clear trend. This chart does not follow the same pattern as we see in the monthly calls for service. Therefore, no identifiable patterns or trends can be identified.



The environmental factor data does not reveal any new information that has not been previously observed. The only apparent pattern was identifying the peak period within a 24-hour timeframe when the most instances of force were used. Using this knowledge can help ensure that shifts within the same period are staffed efficiently, allowing personnel to determine the appropriate level of force, if any, that is needed. Ensuring the shifts are staffed appropriately affects more than just the use of force. Staffing levels can impact officers in various ways, including increased officer burnout, delayed response times, and higher turnover rates in precincts.

Conclusion

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Overall, the Division and its sworn personnel do not exhibit disparities in the use of force. The impact of findings throughout the report shows a lack of precision in report writing and data collection methods. Policies, practices and training of tactics, continue to identify a positive impact. Sworn personnel regularly encounter citizens who need help, often during very stressful situations. There are a variety of variables that can lead to elevated stress levels, such as the citizen being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, mental health issues, psychological issues, or any disability. Often, citizens who are experiencing one or a combination of the factors listed above can escalate a situation. Officers are consistently entering situations, sometimes with little to no prior knowledge or information regarding distraught or impaired individuals, on calls for service. Officers are expected to assess the situation and make decisions about their response within seconds. When examining and analyzing the data on officers' responses to resistance, the actions of the officers remain consistent with those of previous years. The data does not reveal any disparities in training and very few trends have been identified.

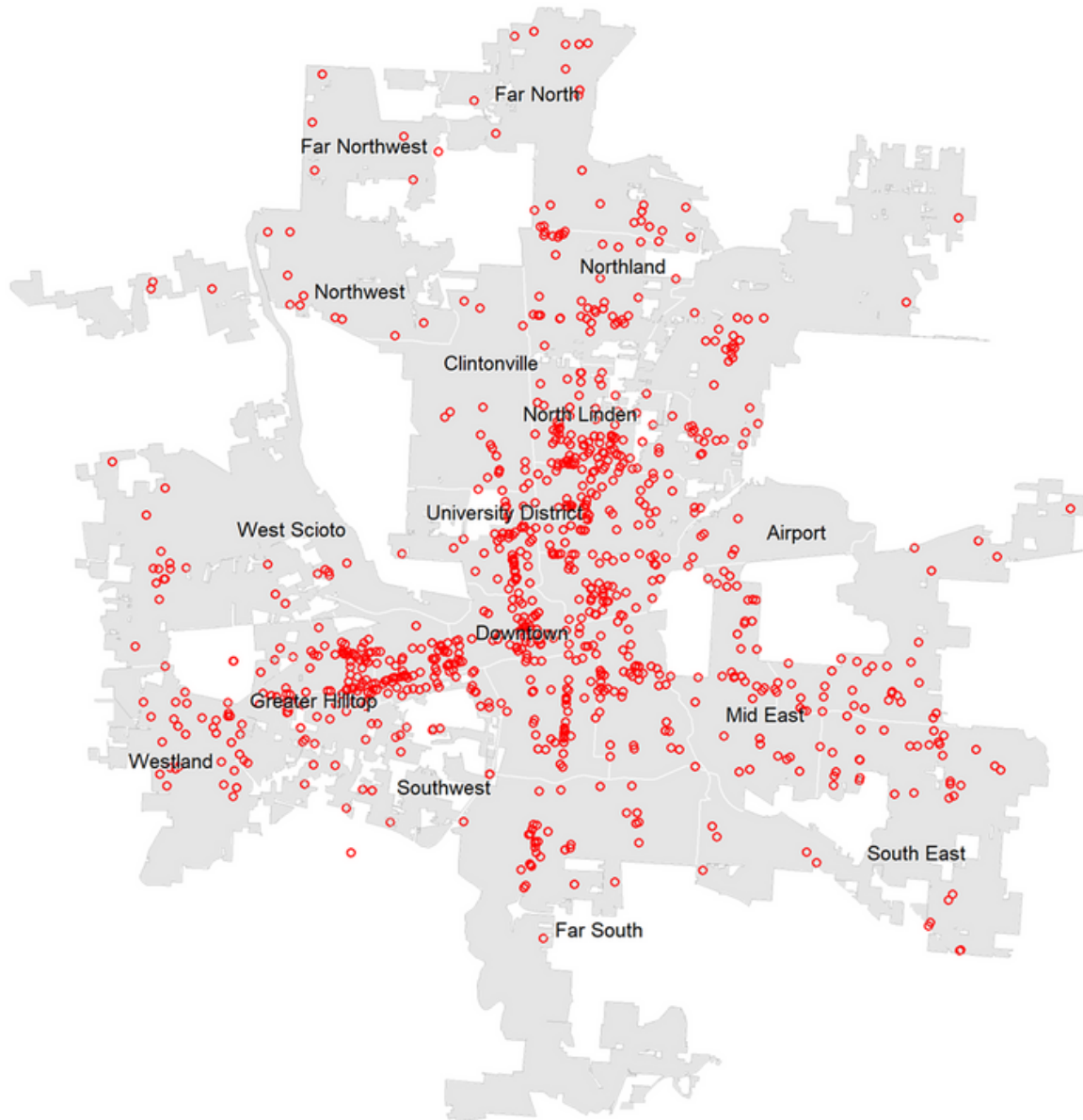
The trends and patterns identified have been trending in the same direction as crime rates. CPD can definitively state that the use of force occurs more frequently in high-crime areas. The more calls for service related to crimes, the higher the use of force will be. The more violent the crime, the higher the likelihood that there will be uses of force. The number of Level one uses-of-force incidents will likely continue to grow as the crime rate decreases. The effectiveness of the techniques associated with Level one vastly outweighs the ineffective instances.

Effective v. Ineffective Techniques

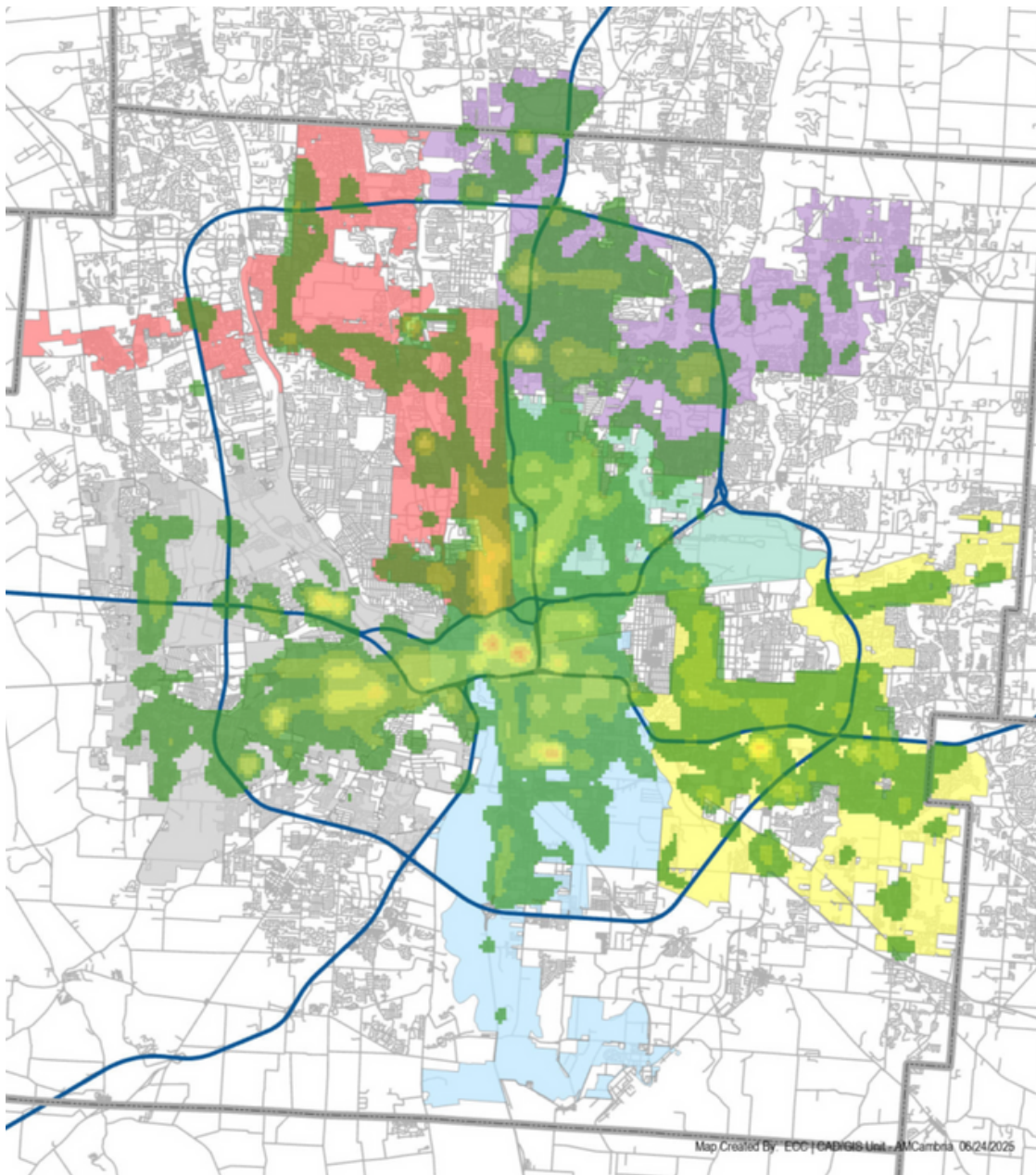
UOF Level	Technique Description	Effective	Ineffective	Total
Level 1	Mandibular Angle Pressure Point	14	3	17
	Escort Hold	61	14	75
	Armbar	240	15	255
	Jugular Pressure Point	4	1	5
	Wristlock	18	1	19
	Wrist Roll	26	4	30
	Hypoglossal Pressure Point	8	3	11
	Other Technique A	361	43	404
	Other Technique B	86	12	98
Level 2	OC Spray / Other Aerosol Device	54	7	61
Level 3	Taser / CEW Used	90	64	154
	Air-Propelled Launcher	0	1	1
Level 4	Strike Used	0	1	1
	Common Peroneal Strike	0	0	0
	Suprascapular Strike	2	0	2
	Brachial Plexus Origin Strike	0	0	0
	Femoral Nerve Strike	1	0	1
	Radial Nerve Strike	0	0	0
	Brachial Plexus Tie-In	0	0	0
	Tibial Nerve Strike	0	0	0
	Median Nerve Strike	0	0	0
	Other Technique	40	14	54
Level 5	Common Peroneal	0	0	0
	Radial Nerve	0	0	0
	Femoral Nerve	0	0	0
	Median Nerve	0	0	0
	Tibial Nerve	0	0	0
	Other Technique	1	0	1
Level 6	Canine Bite	1	0	1

When examining the maps on the following pages, a conspicuous correlation is evident between the distribution of use-of-force incidents across the City and the distribution of calls for service. If the two images were to overlay each other, there would be definitive lines that match up.

Spatial Distribution of Use of Force in the City of Columbus



Location Density of Dispatched Calls for Service



Recommendations

The preparers of this report make the following recommendations:

Use of Force Report – Specific

The Division should invest in a new Records Management System. This would enable better reports, cleaner data, and more comprehensive data, ultimately providing a more effective way to analyze the data the Division is capturing. There is a clear lack of data collection to accurately assess where there are trends and/or patterns between two or more data sets.

The Division lacks personnel whose job is to specifically collect, analyze, and create reports for the varying sets of data that is being collected. It is recommended the Division create a new Statistical Analysis Unit to absorb the various reports, data collection, and statistical reports that are housed in several different units throughout the Division.

The Division should invest in an Early Warning System to better identify specific trends or patterns. The process the Division currently uses does not allow for a cohesive cross-reference of use-of-force data to determine if any trends or patterns are emerging.

Use of Force – Specific

The Division should continue training specific to lower-level tactics such as the WRAP, TASER 7, Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, and other new and upcoming training identified by Defensive Tactics.

The Advanced Training Unit should continue to seek new and emerging training on de-escalation tactics.

The Division should develop or continue to utilize the following:

- CIT & Advanced CIT
- ABLE Training
- Advances in Technology such as VR training, utilizing Drones on calls for service, camera systems like body and license plate reader cameras
- Scenario-based training