



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE
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Spokane Police Department
2023 Annual Comprehensive Analysis of Reviewable
Use of Force Incidents



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Executive Summary

The Spokane Police Department (SPD) is committed to protecting people, their property, and their rights. 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 objectively reasonable force in carrying out their duties. The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use objectively reasonable force and to protect themselves and the public requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.

The primary purpose of the Comprehensive Analysis of Reviewable Use of Force Incidents is to provide the Spokane Police Department information about officers' use of force and trends associated with use of force. The analysis provides information on many factors involving the subjects and involved officers, as well as environmental details. The document also describes the training issues identified during the incident review. SPD's Training Unit and the Training Plan Committee use the information in the report to assist in their development of training curriculum.

The report also serves to inform the community about use of force. The analysis and prior year analysis reports, along with narratives about each use of force incident, are available on SPD's website at the following link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/accountability/use-of-force/>

Trends Identified in the Annual Comprehensive Analysis

The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (0.07%). In 2023, SPD officers were involved in 107,567 incidents with citizen contact. This number includes calls for service and officer-initiated incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 85 incidents in 2023.

Use of force incidents were low across racial demographics – less than 2% of arrests involved force.

Comparing the City of Spokane Police Department arrest demographics with the use of force demographics shows that officers used force on less than 2% of subjects arrested. To keep data presentation consistent with prior years, arrestees were not separated by sex for each racial group. See Appendices C on Arrests by Race.

- American Indian/Native Alaskan Force Rate: 1.2%
- Asian Force Rate: 0%
- Black/African American Force Rate: 1.2%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Force Rate: 1.3%
- Unknown Race Force Rate: 0%
- White Force Rate: 1.1%

Total Individuals Arrested: 7852



Use of force incidents were in compliance SPD policy and state law 95% of the time. In 5% of the cases, the force was out of compliance with policy.

During the review, the chain of command examines the entire incident and all officer actions. Four of the 85 (5%) use of force incidents were found to be in violation of policy.

In one incident, the officers' force was found to be outside of policy because they did not attempt to de-escalate the situation prior to using force. The officers received training and the training unit provided training to supervisors.

In three out-of-policy incidents, the use of force was pointing a firearm directly at the suspect for more than a momentary period of time. The direct pointing of a firearm at a suspect under these circumstances is not consistent with department training – the firearm should have been lowered sooner. In the first incident, the detective received training on the department's firearms training philosophy. In the second incident, the officers were members of the SWAT team, and received a Document of Counseling (DOC) and ten hours of firearms training. In the third incident, the officer was a member of the K9 Unit; he also received a Document of Counseling.

The Chain of Command review identified several training issues while reviewing non-deadly force incidents, recommending individual training in areas such as officer safety, victim safety, report writing, criminal procedures, professional language, and giving a command to warn other officers before a TASER™ deployment. In each case where reviewers identified issues, they arranged for training. Several incidents were debriefed as a team or shift at roll call, and several were debriefed during Supervisor Training.



2023 Use of Force – At a Glance

- **2023 Annual Total of Non-deadly UOF:** 85 use of force incidents.
- **2023 Annual Total of Deadly UOF:** Two deadly use of force incidents.
- **UOF Frequency per Incidents:** The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low (0.07%). In 2023, SPD officers were involved in 107,567 incidents. This number includes calls for service and officer-initiated incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 85 incidents in 2023.
- **Origin:** Incidents most often develop from a call for service (911 call).
- **Call type:** Most commonly a Domestic Violence (DV) call.
- **Reason for Force:** Most commonly, involved person was resisting arrest.
- **Type of Force used:** Most frequently, a TASER™ device deployment.
- **Environment:** Most often occurring in the Downtown police district, where violent crime statistics are highest.
- **Day and Time:** Most often occurring on Mondays and Wednesdays, in the late evening or early morning.
- **Intoxication:** Drugs and/or alcohol played a part in 42% of incidents.
- **Mental Status:** Subjects were documented as appearing to be mentally unstable in 30% of the use of force incidents in 2023.
- **Incident Outcome:** Most often a felony arrest of the involved subject.
- **Subject Demographics:** Most often a White male, average age of 35.
- **Force Rate:** The force rate was low across racial demographics; officers used force on less than 2% of subjects arrested.
- **Officer Demographics:** Most often a White male officer, average age of 38 years old, with 11 years of experience with SPD.
- **Investigation Outcome:** Officer actions during use of force incidents followed SPD policy and state law. In 5% of the cases, the force was out of compliance with policy.
- **Secondary Review:** Each UOF incident receives a secondary review by the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB).
- **Training Issues:** Issues addressed on the individual level and department-wide level included officer safety, report writing, criminal procedures, professional language, and giving a command to warn other officers before a TASER™ deployment. Due to several issues with TASER™ deployments, the UOFRB recommended more hands-on TASER™ training during the annual TASER™ re-certification training.



Introduction

Total Use of Force Incidents

This report analyzes non-deadly applications of force (e.g., TASER™ device deployment, K9 application). There were 85 reviewable non-deadly use of force incidents in 2023. There were five duplicate incident numbers where a K9 tracking number was assigned in addition to the original tracking number. Those duplicates have been removed from the total so that each incident is only counted once. Two deadly force incidents occurred in 2023; those incidents are not part of this analysis.

Reviewable Use of Force with Chain of Command Review

Reviewable uses of force involve an officer's deployment of control tactics and/or control devices for which officers have successfully completed department-required training. When a person allows himself/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained, it is not considered a reviewable use of force; it is considered compliance. Less intrusive control tactics are not normally deemed a "Reviewable Use of Force." For example, when an officer uses his body weight to control a suspect while handcuffing the person in the prone position, that situation would not require a use of force investigation. However, if an injury occurred that is not consistent with an applied control technique or tactic, or if the subject complains of injury, a use of force investigation occurs. Most reviewable use of force incidents occur when an officer uses a physical tactic or device, such as a TASER™ device. The intentional pointing of a firearm at a subject is a reviewable use of force incident, although it does not involve the application of physical force.

Reviewable Non-Deadly Use of Force Applications

- Any application causing a visible injury (with the exception of minor marks on the wrist consistent with being handcuffed or minor marks as a result of prone handcuffing)
- The subject claims an injury resulted from a use of force, even if no injury is visible (with the exception of minor marks on the wrist consistent with being handcuffed and/or minor marks or abrasions to portions of the body consistent with prone handcuffing)
- All applications of a Conducted Energy Weapon (e.g., TASER™)
- Intentional pointing of a firearm - where the officer is intentionally "pointed in" (muzzle is covering the subject) with their firearm, with the intent to use the firearm in defense of themselves or another
- Any deployment of chemical agents OC or CS by means of spray or by means of physically or mechanically delivered techniques where a person is exposed to the substance
- Any application of an impact weapon whether personal, issued or improvised to a subject, including Level 2 strikes (e.g., baton strikes, knee strikes)
- Any K9 deployment where a reviewable contact has occurred
- When an individual alleges any of the above has occurred

Use of Force Policy Update

Spokane Police Department updated the existing Use of Force policy and added a De-Escalation Policy in October 2019. Legislative changes in 2021 resulted in several changes to multiple policies. SPD updated the policies in July 2021 and provided training to the department. In 2022, SPD continued to update the Use of Force policy to be consistent with state law.

In 2023, the Use of Force policy was not updated. However, the Control Devices and Techniques policy was updated to include the WRAP Restraint System and to provide guidelines on TASER™ deployment.

308.8.7 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER™ DEVICE OR UTILIZING MORE THAN ONE TASER™ SIMULTANEOUSLY

Officers should apply the TASER™ device for only one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation before applying subsequent cycles. Total exposure to the TASER™ device should not exceed 15 seconds. If exposure exceeds 15 sections, the subject shall be transported to a medical facility for examination prior to booking. In extenuating circumstances, utilizing more than one TASER™ may occur. If this occurs, the officers' report(s) will document the reason for the simultaneous deployment.

Equipment Update

In 2021, Washington State allotted funds for new less-lethal pepper ball weapons to provide a less lethal option that can quickly incapacitate suspects from a distance. SPD acquired sufficient pepper ball systems to equip all of patrol with this less-lethal platform. These systems are crucial to fill a gap in response to violent encounters. Officers were certified in pepper ball use during Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 In-Service training.

SPD removed 40 mm and beanbag shotguns from patrol cars in July 2021, due to House Bill 1054. Those less-lethal weapons were restored in March 2022 with the passing of legislation that allowed their use. In 2023, SPD continued to use those less-lethal weapons. SPD also added the WRAP Restraint System.

Investigation and Administrative Review of Use of Force

When a use of force incident occurs, the involved officer's supervisor utilizes Blue Team software to generate the use of force report. Blue Team reports contain the administrative review and supplemental documents such as police reports, radio transmissions, and investigative summary narratives. The chain of command (Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain) reviews the Blue Team report before sending to a Major for the final determination. This review process guarantees multiple levels of review and ensures that the application of force is in compliance with policy and law and meets department expectations. See "Non-Deadly Use of Force Investigation" flow chart at the end of the report for more information.

This review process measures the objective reasonableness of each application of force considering the following:

- The threat factors pertaining to victims, public, officers and the involved subject
- The subject's resistance level/ability and attempts to flee officer control efforts



- The severity of the crime or community care-taking elements of the incident

The review also takes into consideration the involved officers' level of training and experience and the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions during situations that are often tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving. After the final determination, the use of force report is then distributed to the involved officer(s)' chain of command, and executive-level leadership (Major, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Assistant Chief, and Chief).

The Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) conducts a secondary review of all non-deadly use of force incidents. The UOFRB meets monthly to debrief use of force incidents with the intent to evaluate training, equipment needs, and policy/standard operating procedure (SOPs) in place or practiced department wide. The UOFRB debrief includes discussion of the following:

- Tactical Plan (approach, cover, concealment, containment, verbal commands, etc.)
- Training
- Warning of impending force application
- Demeanor
- Report writing (completeness, etc.)
- Proper Tool/Equipment Selection, if applicable
- Policy/Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- Post-care/First Aid
- Peer Assistance Team care, if appropriate

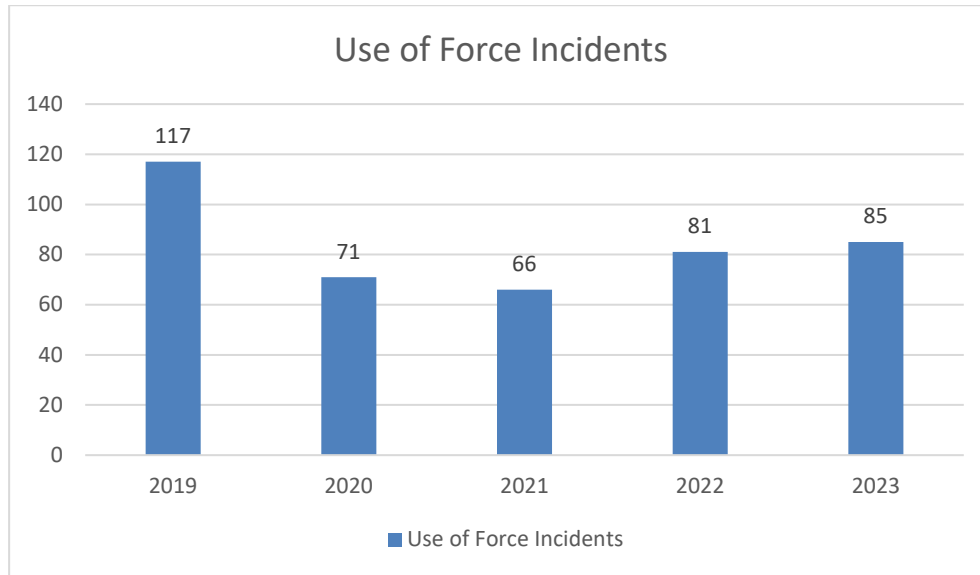
The UOFRB only reviews incidents that have received a final determination, and the UOFRB does not recommend discipline or conduct investigations in unresolved use of force incidents. UOFRB members include SPD's Training Director, Assistant Training Director, Range master/Firearms Instructor, Internal Affairs Lieutenant, Defensive Tactics Instructors (subject matter experts), Program Professional, and the Police Ombudsman/Assistant Ombudsman.



Use of Force Data: January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023

Total Reviewable Use of Force Incidents

Figure 1



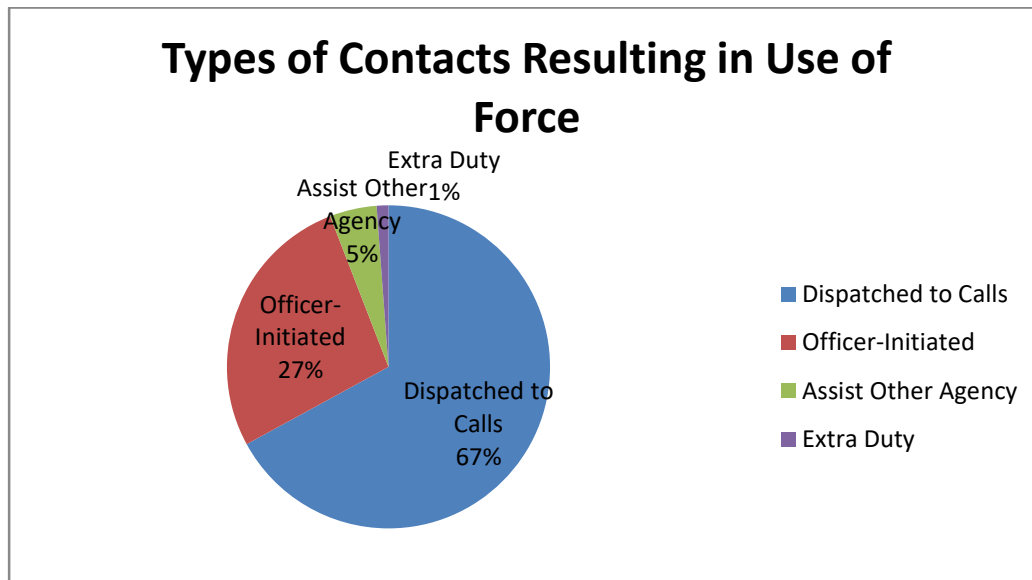
Use of force numbers are often compared against the total number of police-citizen contacts. It is difficult to provide a definitive number of police-citizen contacts, as there are many informal contacts and non-enforcement contacts with citizens (e.g., partnerships, meetings, business contacts, and outreach). Examining total calls for service numbers can be helpful, as these numbers provide context to the large quantity of interactions between SPD and the community that occur every year. While we know most incidents involve multiple parties, and contacts per incident, the number of incidents provides the absolute minimum number of community contacts.

In 2023, SPD officers were involved in 107,567 incidents. This number includes calls for service and officer-initiated incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 85 incidents in 2023. In 2022, SPD officers were involved in 99,751 incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 81 incidents in 2022. The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low. In 2021, SPD officers were involved in 94,377 incidents. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 66 incidents in 2021. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 71 incidents in 2020 and 117 incidents in 2019. See Figure 1.

The total number of use of force incidents increased 5% in 2023. However, SPD officers were involved in 7,996 more incidents in 2023, a 7.4% increase. The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts remains very low (0.07%).

Calls for Service versus Officer-Initiated Contacts

Figure 2



Use of force incidents continue to stem most often from officers responding to a call for service, rather than court-ordered contacts, officer-initiated contacts, or contacts from assisting another agency. 2023 data showed that 57 (67%) of the 85 use of force incidents resulted from officers being dispatched to 911 or Crime Check calls. In 23 (27%) of incidents, officers initiated the contact, often apprehending suspects with warrants. Four incidents (6%) originated from involved officers assisting other agencies, Airway Heights Police Department, Kalispel Tribal Police Department, Spokane Fire Department, and Spokane County Sheriff’s Office. One incident started with an officer working extra duty at a retail store. This trend has continued over the past five years and confirms most use of force incidents are associated with calls for service requests. See Figure 2.

Type of Call

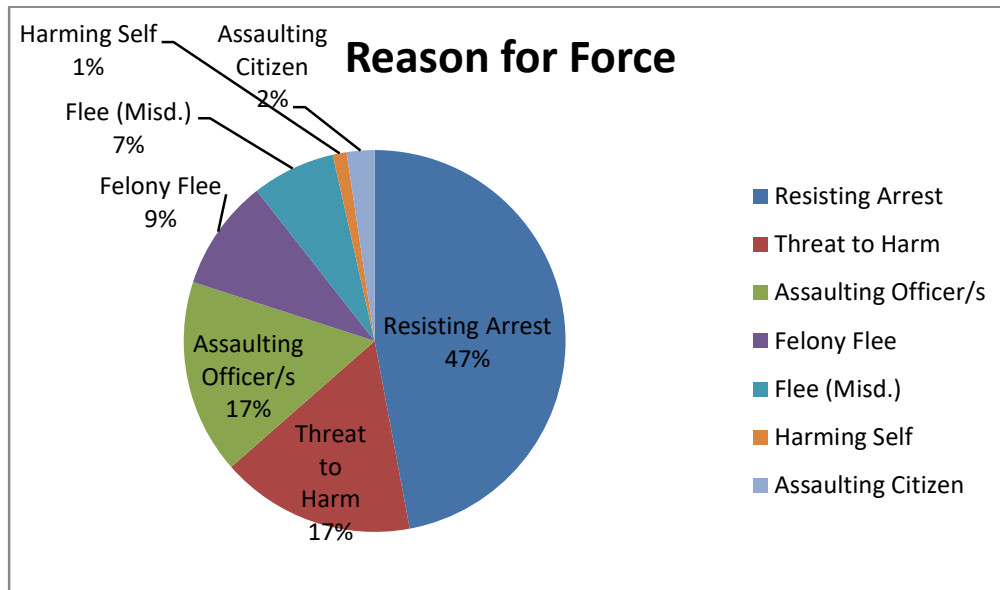
Domestic Violence-related calls were the most common type of call resulting in a reviewable use of force. DV-related calls (including a wide variety of classifications from DV protection order violations to DV Assault) made up 19 (22%) of incidents. The other common types were Burglary (6) and Assault (5).

Due to the prevalence of domestic violence in Spokane, and the dangers associated with responding to these types of calls, SPD trains officers using Reality Based Training (RBT) scenarios that involve responding to DV calls. RBT sessions provide officers opportunities to apply de-escalation, crisis intervention, use of force, and patrol procedures training in the context of a domestic violence call.

Other incidents involving use of force included call classifications such as Person with a Weapon, Assist Other Agency, Fight, Shooting, Check Welfare, Hit and Run, Traffic Stop, Suspicious Vehicle, etc.

Reason for Force

Figure 3



Spokane Police officers are required to document the circumstances of use of force incidents and articulate the reason that they used force. The most common reason was Resisting Arrest, followed by Threat to Harm Others and Assaulting Officer. See Figure 3.

Resistance Threshold Guidelines

During the process of choice and application of reasonably applied force, officers are trained to identify, interpret, predict and evaluate resistance from a subject(s). Resistance thresholds will assist as a guide in force decision-making. However, resistance thresholds alone will not determine the reasonableness of applied force whether excessive or insufficient.

Level of Resistance

Objectively Reasonable Officer Response

Compliant:

- Presence**
- Verbal Commands/Draw and Direct**
- Compliant Handcuffing**
- Cursory Search for Weapons**
- Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques**

Passive:

- Escort Compliance Techniques (Joint Locks)**
- Neuromuscular Control**
- Passive Resistant Handcuffing**
- Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques**



Active: Active Resistant Handcuffing
Takedown Techniques
Roll Over Technique
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Assaultive: Impact Techniques
OC / CS spray
TASER™
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Life Threatening: Firearms
Weapon Retention Techniques
Reasonably Objective Exceptional Techniques

Level of Resistance Definitions:

- Compliant: Cooperative response to lawful commands.
- Passive: Noncompliance to lawful authority without physical resistance or mechanical enhancement.
- Active: Use of physical effort or mechanical resistance in achieving and/or maintaining noncompliance.
- Assaultive: Noncompliance perceived as, or resulting in, an actual assault on an individual or officer. The scope and severity of the attack would support the reasonable assumption that the actions would not result in death or serious bodily harm.
- Life Threatening: Noncompliance perceived as, or resulting in, an actual assault on an individual or officer. The scope and severity of the attack would support the reasonable assumption that the actions would result in death or serious bodily harm.

Tactical Interaction Commitment

Interaction with citizens is a primary function for the officers of the Spokane Police Department. The Spokane Police Department expects that every officer demonstrate the five interaction tactics on which they are trained. The first tactic will be maintained regardless of the situation. The next four will be implemented when safety of the officer, subject, citizens and property allow.

- Treat all people with dignity and respect.
- When practical, ask people instead of order.
- When practical, explain why we are asking.
- When practical, give them options that will allow them to save face yet achieve the desired goal.
- When practical, give the subject at least one additional chance to comply.



Tips for Safety

The ACLU Washington published a wallet card entitled “Know Your Rights When Stopped by the Police.” The card includes the following Tips for Safety:

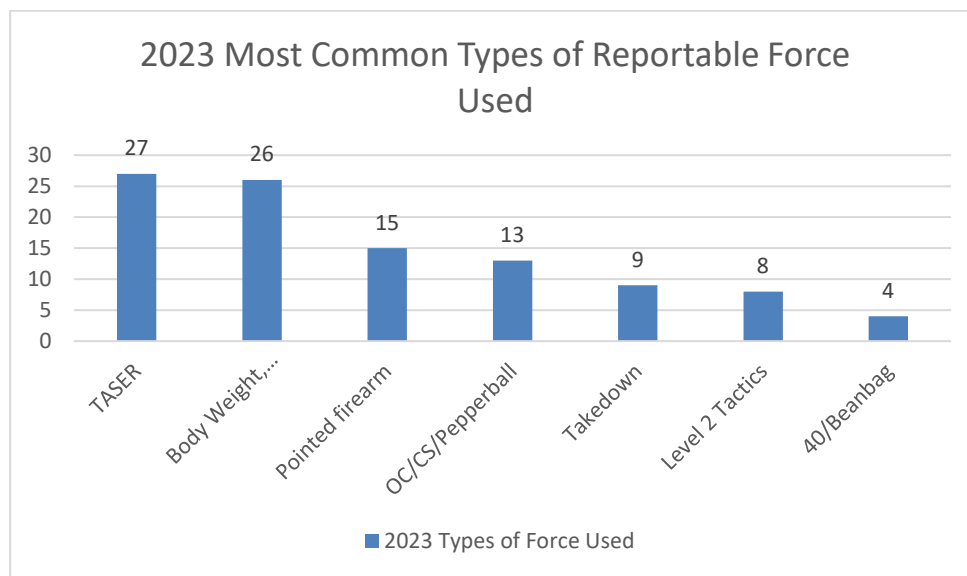
- Stay calm and stay put. Don’t run or suddenly move.
- Keep your hands where the officer can see them and free of any objects if possible.
- Never touch any police officer.
- Follow instructions. You can always make a complaint later if you feel your rights were violated.



Law Enforcement and ACLU Washington agree on the need to educate people on these safety tips. SPD instructors convey these safety tips to the public at community presentations and classes at the Citizens Academy. The wallet card is available at this link: <https://www.aclu-wa.org/docs/what-do-if-you-are-stopped-police-0>.

Type of Force

Figure 4



Applications of Reviewable Force in 2023 (see Figure 4)

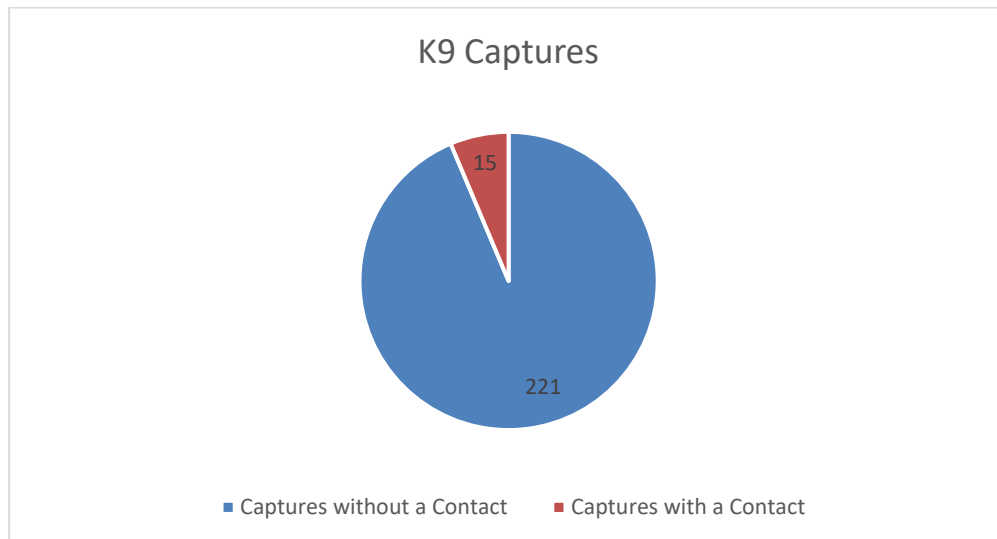
- Officers deployed a TASER™ device in 27 incidents.
- In 26 incidents, body weight/manual force, arrest tactics, and/or handcuffing techniques causing minor injury was reported as the sole type of force used.
- The intentional pointing of a firearm application was utilized in 15 incidents.
- Officers deployed OC/CS spray, commonly known as pepper spray, in various forms to include the Pepper Ball and compressed air system, in 13 incidents.
- Takedown techniques causing injury were used as a reviewable use of force in 9 incidents.

- Officers used Level II tactics (e.g., open palm strike) in 8 incidents. Four of the incidents involved closed fist strikes to the face. Two involved knee strikes to other areas. One involved an open palm strike to the face and one involved hammer strikes to the face.
- A special impact weapon (40 mm/beanbag shotgun) was deployed in 4 incidents.
- In two incidents, the officer used an Exceptional Technique. In one case, the officer pushed the person from behind and the subject fell to her face, causing injury. In the other case, the officer put his knee on the subject’s head. Both instances were determined to be within policy.
- No batons were used.

Note: Many of the incidents involved multiple officers and more than one type of force. For example, while taking a subject into custody, one officer might use a Takedown Technique while another officer uses a TASER™ device.

K9 Applications

Figure 5



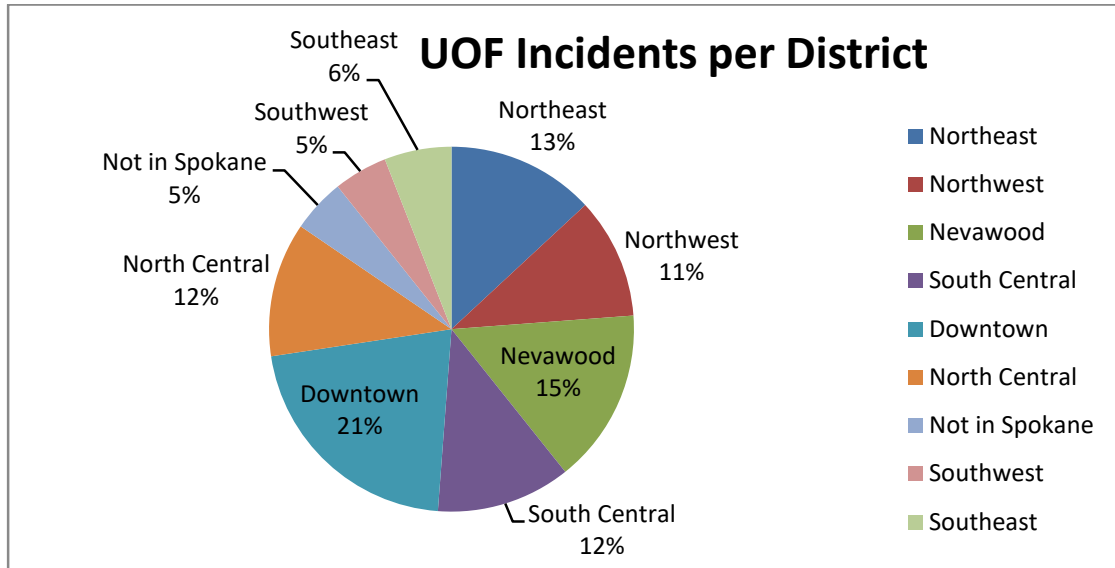
Use of force incidents involving K9 contacts totaled 15 for the year 2023.

The K9 Unit had 573 Patrol deployments in 2023, locating 221 people. To be clear, the instances of the K9s locating people are the “captures” from which the bite ratio is calculated. The K9 Unit does not just count the arrests. In order to be classified as a capture, the dog has to be a factor in the finding or apprehension of the individual — whether the apprehension results in an arrest or not. Of the 221 people located, the K9 Unit had 15 K9 contacts. The unit “bite ratio” for 2022 was 7%. Industry best practices suggest that the contact to apprehension ratio should be below 30%, based on *Kerr v City of West Palm Beach*.

Environmental Characteristics

Police District (Neighborhood)

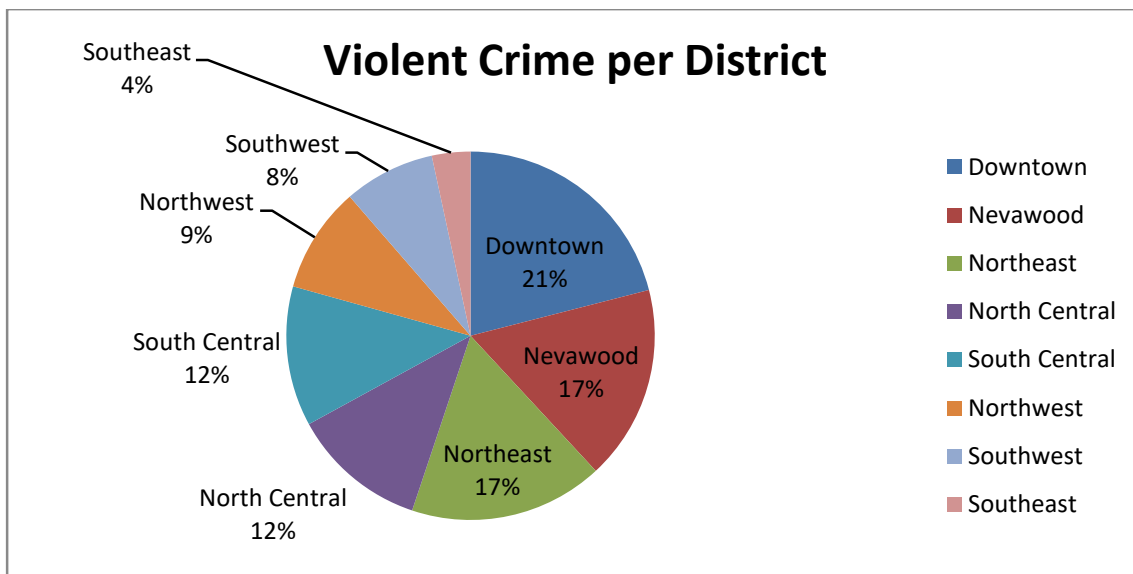
Figure 6



Use of force incidents took place most often in the Downtown police district in 2023, followed by the Nevawood district. See Figure 6.

Violent Crime per District (Neighborhood)

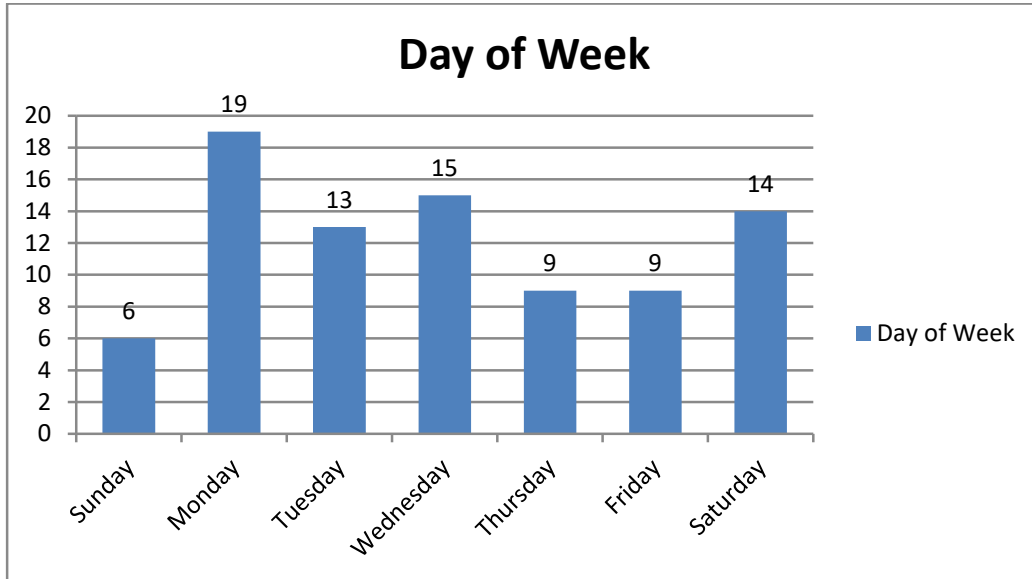
Figure 7



2023 Violent crime statistics were the highest in Downtown, Northeast, and Nevawood police districts. Refer to Figures 6 and 7, and to the attached map of the districts.

Day of the Week

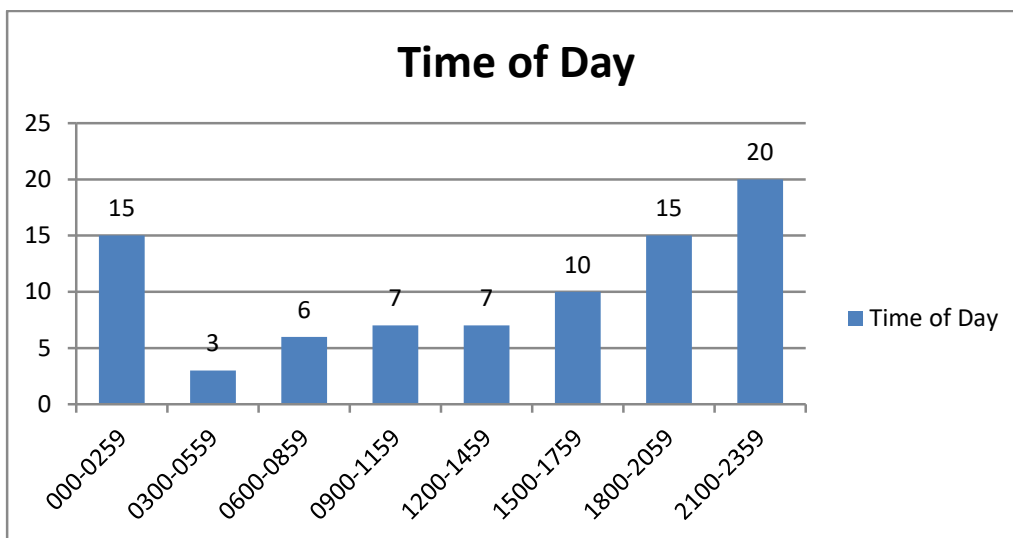
Figure 8



In 2023, use of force incidents occurred most frequently on Mondays and Wednesdays. See Figure 8.

Time of Day

Figure 9

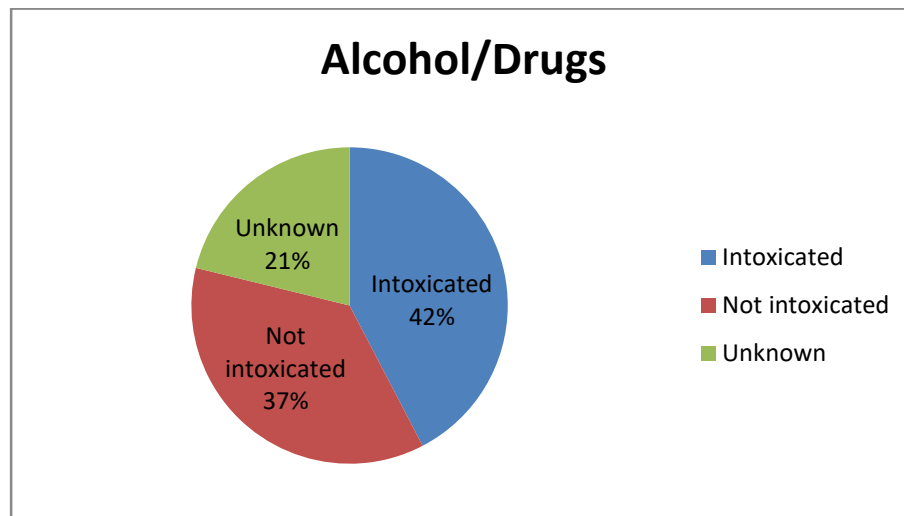


2023 use of force incidents occurred most often in the evening between 2100-2359 (9:00 pm-11:59 pm). They also happened frequently between 1800-2059 (6:00 pm-8:59 pm) and between 000-0259 (12:00 am-2:59 am). Day Shift Patrol hours are from 0600-1640. Swing shift hours are from 1000-2040. Mid Shift hours from 1200-2240. Power Shift hours are from 1600-0240. Grave Shift hours are from 2000-0640. See Figure 9.

Subject Characteristics

Subject under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs

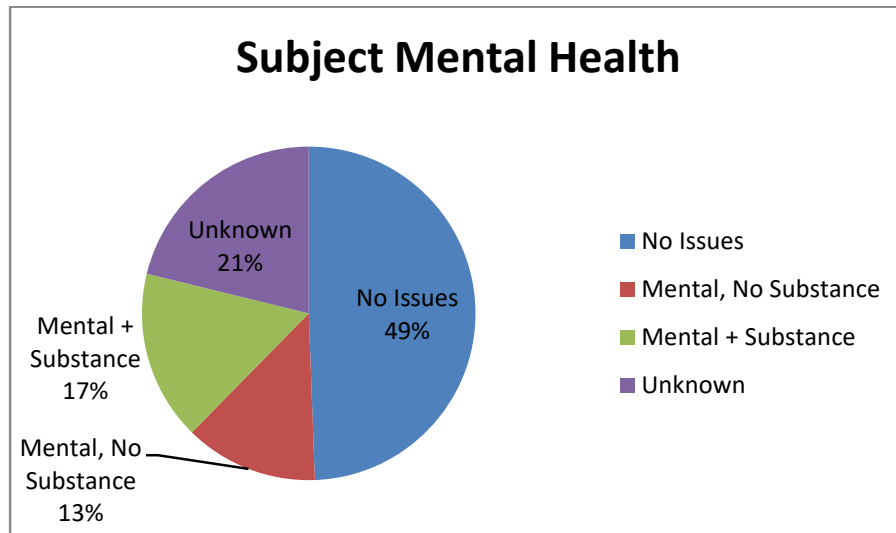
Figure 10



36 of the 85 (42%) involved subjects were documented to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. It is difficult to determine the extent of drug and alcohol use in the incidents, as sometimes subjects are in possession of drugs but claim not to be under the influence at the time of the incident. It is also difficult to discern which drug/s or which combination of drugs that subjects are using. In 18 (21%) incidents, the supervisor reported that the subject's behavior was unusual due to unknown reasons (alcohol, drugs, mental health issues, or a combination of those factors). See Figure 10.

Mental Health Status

Figure 11



In 42 (49%) incidents, officers were not aware of any mental health issues. Subjects were documented as appearing to be mentally unstable in 25 (30%) of the 85 use of force incidents in 2023. 14 (17%) of incidents involved drugs and/or alcohol as well as mental instability. Specifically, individuals were identified as mentally unstable without drug and alcohol intoxication in 11 (13%) cases. Some of these incidents involved people who were actively harming themselves. In these situations, force is used in a community caretaking function, with the need to take the person to the hospital rather than arrest the person.

In 18 (21%) incidents, the supervisor reported that the subject's behavior was unusual due to unknown reasons (alcohol, drugs, mental health issues, or combination of those factors). It is difficult to know if a person exhibiting signs of intoxication and speaking incoherently has underlying mental health issues, or if the behavior is solely due to the intoxicating substance. See Figure 11.

Warrant Status

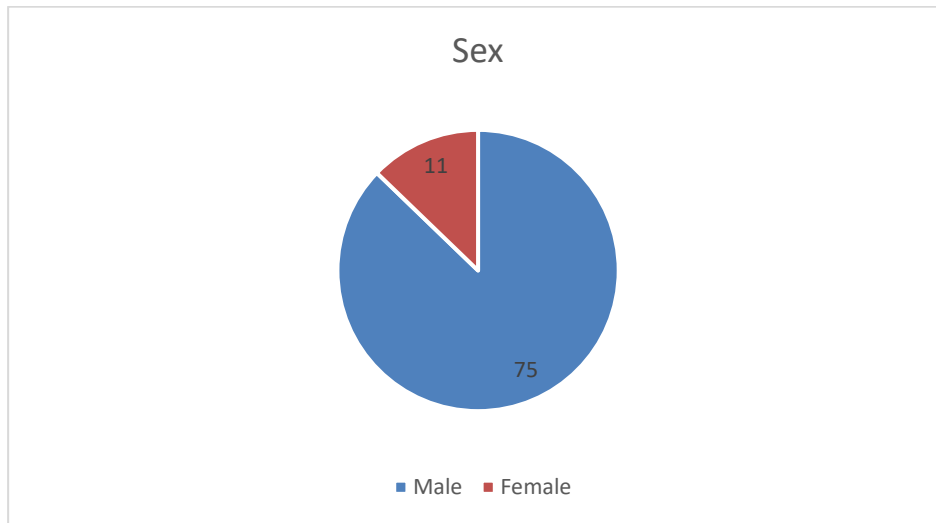
In 34 (40%) of the incidents, subjects had outstanding warrants.

Subject Age

The average age of the subjects was 35 years old. There were three juvenile subjects. One 14-year-old was apprehended for Theft of Motor Vehicle, 3rd Degree Malicious Mischief, and 2nd Degree Possession of Stolen Property. The other juveniles were 14 and 12, and they were apprehended for 1st Degree Armed Robbery and 2nd Degree Assault. The oldest suspect was 63 years old. He was assaulting officers at the time of his apprehension for 2nd Degree Assault charges.

Subject Sex

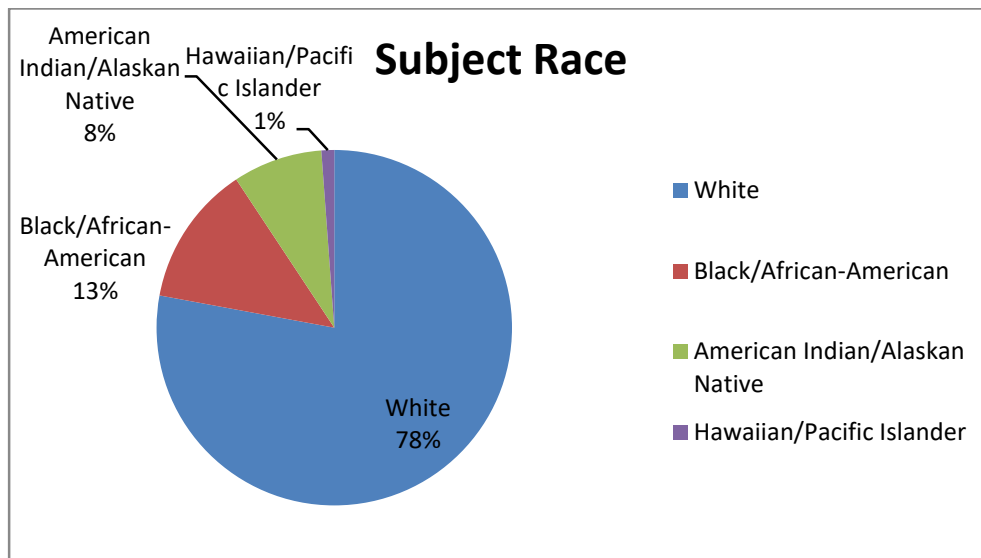
Figure 12



Most of the involved subjects in the 2023 use of force incidents were male (87%). There were 86 subjects within the 85 incidents. 11 subjects (13%) were female. In 2023, Spokane Police officers arrested 5692 males, 2142 females, and 18 people of unknown sex. See Appendix C for arrest demographics. See Figure 12.

Subject Racial Demographics

Figure 13



67 of the 86 (78%) of individuals involved in use of force incidents were White, 11 (13%) were Black/African American, seven (8%) were American Indian/Alaskan Native. One individual (1%) was Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. No individuals

were listed as Asian or Unknown race. Ethnicity: Three of the individuals were listed as White with Hispanic ethnicity. See Figure 13.

Arrest Demographics Compared to Use of Force Demographics

Comparing the City of Spokane Police Department arrest demographics with the use of force demographics shows that officers used force on 0-1.9% of subjects arrested. To keep data presentation consistent with prior years, arrestees were not separated by sex for each racial group. See Appendices C on Arrests by Race.

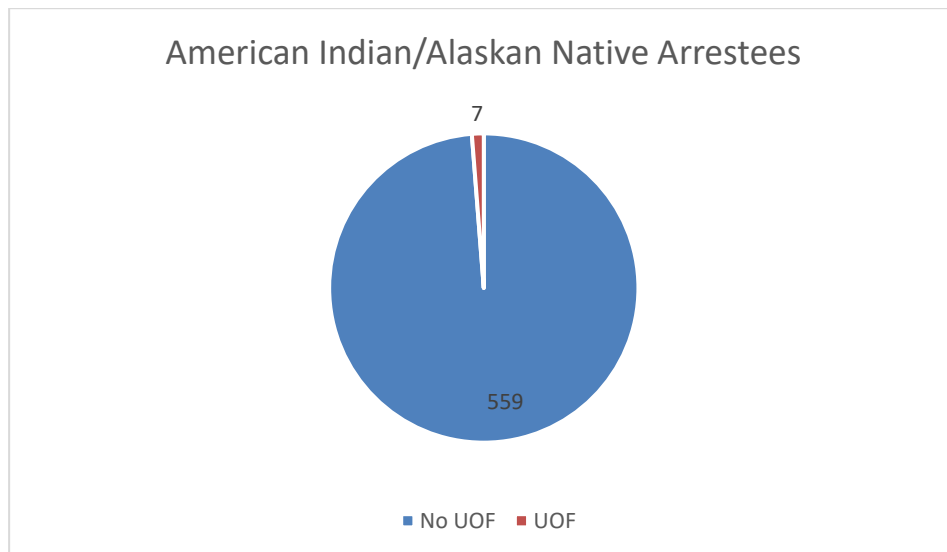
- American Indian/Native Alaskan Force Rate: 1.2%
- Asian Force Rate: 0%
- Black/African American Force Rate: 1.2%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Force Rate: 1.3%
- Unknown Race Force Rate: 0%
- White Force Rate: 1.1%

Total Individuals Arrested: 7852

Race	Arrests in 2023
White	5917
Black/African American	915
American Indian/Alaskan Native	566
Unknown	245
Asian	133
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	76

Force Rate for American Indian/Alaskan Native Arrestees

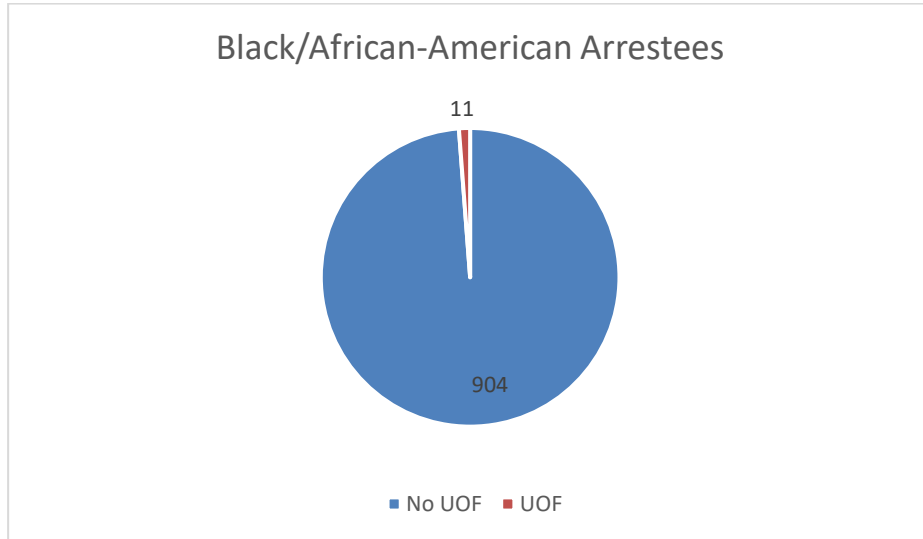
Figure 14



566 American Indian-Alaskan Native individuals were arrested. Seven American Indian-Alaskan Native individuals were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.2%. See Figure 14.

Force Rate for Black/African American Arrestees

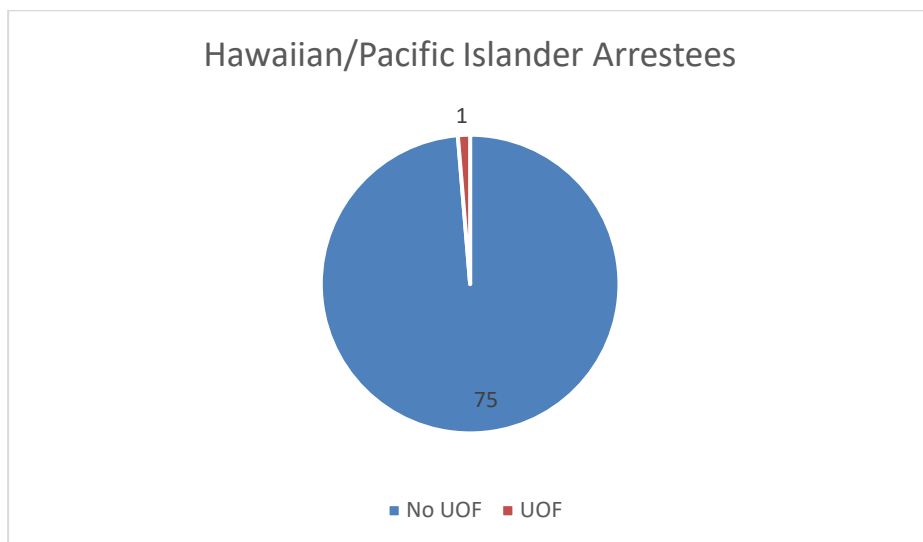
Figure 15



915 Black/African American individuals were arrested. 11 Black/African American individuals were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.2%. See Figure 15.

Force Rate for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Arrestees

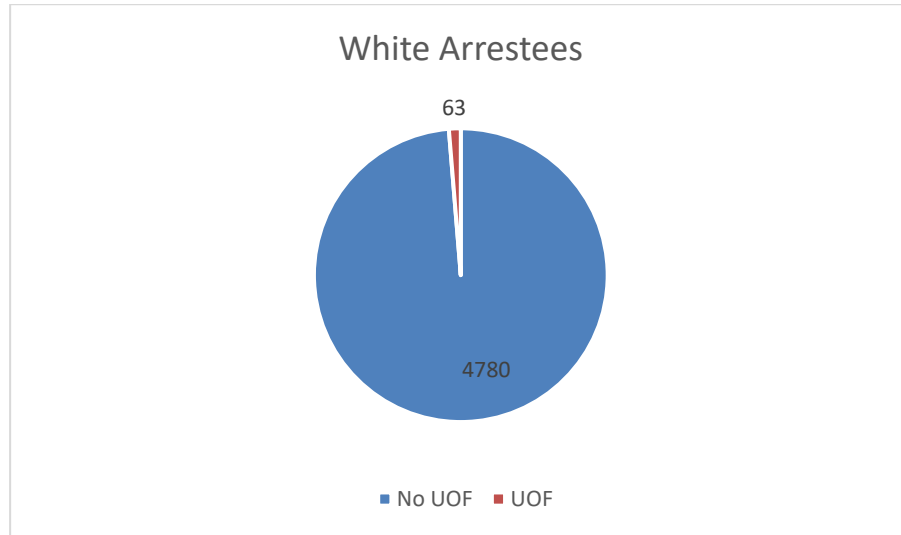
Figure 16



915 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander individuals were arrested. 1 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander individual was involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.3%. See Figure 16.

Force Rate for White Arrestees

Figure 17



5917 White individuals were arrested. 67 White individuals were involved in use of force incidents. The force to arrest ratio is 1.1%. See Figure 17.

Summaries each use of force incident are available on SPD’s website at the following link:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/police/accountability/use-of-force/>

2023 Racial/Ethnic Breakdown of Use of Force

Incidents Involving American Indian/Alaskan Native Individuals

One incident involving American Indian/Alaskan Native Individuals was a request to assist another agency. The other six incidents stemmed from calls for service: Stabbing, Disorderly, Domestic Violence, Vehicle Prowling, Assault, and Burglary. The incidents concluded with felony charges, except one instance where there were misdemeanor Domestic Violence charges that mandated an arrest.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	Reason	Outcome
F23-004	Stabbing Call for Service (CFS)	TASER™, Less Lethal Bean Bag Rounds	Harming Self	Jail. 1 st Degree Assault.



F23-019	Disorderly CFS	Handcuffing with complaint of injury	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault.
F23-024	Assist Kalispel Tribal Police	Pointed firearm	Felony Flee	Jail. Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle, Attempt to Elude.
F23-029	Domestic Violence CFS	TASER™	Misdemeanor Flee	Jail. 4 th Degree Assault-DV (Mandatory arrest), 3 rd Degree Malicious Mischief-DV, Fail to Stop.
F23-031	Vehicle Prowling CFS	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Cited and released for 2 nd Degree Vehicle Prowling and 2 nd Degree Criminal Trespassing.
F23-071	Assault CFS	Pointed firearm	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault.
F23-072	Traffic Stop	Level II Strikes – knee strike to torso	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Weapons charge, Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle, 2 nd Degree Malicious Mischief, Attempt to Elude.

Incidents Involving Asian Individuals

No Asian individuals were involved in use of force incidents in 2023.

Incidents Involving Black/African American Individuals

Incidents starting with a call for service involved Domestic Violence, Threat, Suspicious Circumstances, and Assault calls. In six use of force incidents involving Black/African American individuals, the officer initiated contact (e.g. warrant, traffic stop, bike stop, intervening in a fight). The incidents concluded with felony charges in nine of the eleven instances.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	Reason	Outcome
F23-007	Officer-Initiated – apprehending suspect with a warrant	Takedown Technique	Felony Flee	Jail. Felony warrant, false statements.
F23-014	Fight Call for Service (CFS)	Takedown Technique	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Disorderly Conduct. A different male on scene was arrested for Assault.
F23-018	Threat CFS	OC	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 1 st Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Felony Harassment-Domestic Violence
F23-028	Traffic Stop	Arrest Tactics / Body Weight	Felony Flee	Hospital, although subject had felony warrants.
F23-033	Domestic Violence CFS	TASER™	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault, Felony violation of DV Protection Order.



F23-035	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Person	Pointed Firearm	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Theft of Motor Vehicle, 3 rd Degree Malicious Mischief, 2 nd Degree Possession of Stolen Property.
F23-038	Officer-Initiated – apprehending suspect with a warrant	Takedown Technique	Resisting Arrest	Hospital. Cited and Released for False Statements.
F23-041	Domestic Violence CFS	TASER™	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault, Felony warrant.
F23-051	Officer-Initiated – apprehending suspect with a warrant	TASER™	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault.
F23-058	Assault CFS	Body weight	Assaulting Citizen	Jail. 1 st Degree Armed Robbery, 2 nd Degree Assault.
F23-066	Bike Stop	Level II Strikes – closed fist strikes to torso	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Felony warrant, Pedestrian Interference.

Incidents Involving Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Individuals

One Hawaiian/Pacific Islander individual was involved in a use of force incident. Officers initiated contact as they were conducting surveillance on a suspect wanted for Murder.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	Reason	Outcome
F23-011	Officer-Initiated – apprehending suspect with a warrant	TASER™	Felony Flee	Jail. Warrants for 1 st Degree Murder, 1 st Degree Robbery, 1 st Degree Assault.

Incidents Involving White Individuals

Most incidents were calls for service and involved felony charges.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	Reason	Outcome
F23-001	Person with a Weapon Call for Service (CFS)	TASER™, Level II Tactic – stop kick	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault, 2 nd Degree Malicious Mischief, Felony Harassment.
F23-002	Domestic Violence Protection Order CFS	Level II Tactics – knee strikes, closed fist strike	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault, violating DV protection order.
F23-003	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Person	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault, felony warrant.
F23-005	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Person	Takedown Technique	Resisting Arrest	DUI Warrant, Resisting Arrest.

F23-006	Burglary CFS	Body Weight	Threat to Harm Others	Hospital. Involuntary Treatment Act.
F23-008	Officer-Initiated – apprehending person with warrant	Body Weight	Assaulting Officer	Jail. Felony warrants for drive by shooting, 1 st Degree Assault, Unlawful Possession of Firearm. Mom was charged with Obstructing for interfering with son’s arrest.
F23-009	Officer-Initiated – stolen vehicle	Handcuffing with complaint of injury	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. Theft of Motor Vehicle.
F23-010	Domestic Violence Protection Order CFS	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 1 st Degree Burglary-DV, violating DV protection order.
F23-012	Special Police Assignment CFS	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 3 rd Degree Theft, warrant.
F23-013	Assist other Agency – Spokane Fire Department	Body Weight	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. 4 th Degree Assault-DV, a felony due to previous DV assaults.
F23-015	Argument CFS	Handcuffing, Body Weight with complaint of injury	Threat to Harm Others	No probable cause for criminal charges. Claim of injury to complainant when he was detained.
F23-016	Officer-Initiated – Person Bothering	Handcuffing with complaint of injury	Misdemeanor Flee	Pedestrian Interference, Obstructing.
F23-017	Assault CFS	TASER™, Pointed Firearm	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault.
F23-018	Threat CFS	OC	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 1 st Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Felony Harassment-Domestic Violence.
F23-020	Domestic Violence CFS	TASER™, Takedown Technique	Assaulting Officer	Jail. Mandatory arrest. 4 th Degree Assault, 3 rd Degree Assault.
F23-021	Behavioral Health Unit CFS	TASER™, Level II Strike to thigh	Assaulting Officer	Hospital. Charges filed for 2 nd Degree Assault-DV and 3 rd Degree Assault after release from hospital.
F23-023	Domestic Violence Protection Order CFS	Handcuffing with complaint of injury	Misdemeanor Flee	Probable cause for a crime was not established. Person detained only.
F23-025	Domestic Violence CFS	Level II Strikes – knee strike to torso, strike to face	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault, 4 th Degree Assault-DV.
F23-026	Person with a Weapon CFS	OC – Pepper ball	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault.
F23-027	Domestic Violence CFS	CS	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault, 4 th Degree Assault-DV, Unlawful Possession of Firearm, Felony Harassment.
F23-030	Disorderly Conduct CFS	Handcuffing with complaint of injury	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Harassment, 3 rd Degree Malicious Mischief, Trespassing.



F23-034	Malicious Mischief CFS	TASER™, OC	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault, 2 nd Degree Malicious Mischief, Protection Order Violation.
F23-036	Domestic Violence CFS	Pointed Firearm	Assaulting Citizen	Jail. 1 st Degree Assault, 1 st Degree Burglary, 3 rd Degree Malicious Mischief.
F23-037	Domestic Violence Protection Order CFS	TASER™, Pepper ball	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Residential Burglary, felony protection order violation, Interfering with reporting of DV.
F23-039	Person with a Weapon CFS	Takedown Technique, OC Pepper ball, Less- lethal 40mm rounds	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. Felony warrants, 2 nd Degree Assault, Felony Harassment, 2 nd Degree Criminal Trespass.
F23-040	Domestic Violence CFS	TASER™, Pepper ball	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 1 st Degree Assault-DV, 1 st Degree Arson-DV.
F23-042	Person with a Weapon CFS	OC, CS	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Weapon Brandishing or Intimidating.
F23-043	Officer-Initiated – apprehending suspect with warrant	Pointed Firearm	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 2 nd Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, felony warrant.
F23-044	Crisis CFS	TASER™, Less-lethal 40mm rounds, Pointed Firearm	Resisting Arrest	Hospital for Involuntary Treatment Act and self-inflicted stab wounds.
F23-045	Alarm CFS	Takedown Technique	Felony Flee	Jail. Commercial Burglary.
F23-046	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Person	TASER™	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault, felony warrant.
F23-047	Officer-Initiated – Trespass Violation	Body Weight	Misdemeanor Flee	Jail. Felony 2 nd Degree Identity Theft, 2 nd Degree Criminal Trespass, Making False Statements, warrants.
F23-049	Domestic Violence CFS	TASER™, Level II Tactic – closed fist strike to face	Felony Flee	Jail. Felony warrants, Residential Burglary-DV, 2 nd Degree Malicious Mischief, 2 nd Degree Theft, felony protection order violation.
F23-050	Malicious Mischief CFS	Handcuffing with complaint of injury	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Reckless Endangerment, Malicious Mischief.
F23-052	Suspicious Person CFS	Body Weight	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. 4 th Degree Assault, 1 st Degree Criminal Trespass.
F23-053	Extra Duty – Shoplifting Detail	Body Weight	Misdemeanor Flee	Jail. Commercial Burglary.
F23-054	Assault CFS	Body Weight	Felony Flee	Felony warrant but went to hospital for injury.
F23-055	Burglary CFS	TASER™	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. Residential Burglary, 3 rd Degree Malicious Mischief.
F23-056	Assault CFS	TASER™	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 4 th Degree Assault.
F23-057	Officer-Initiated – Trespass violation	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Felony warrant, Trespassing.



F23-058	Assault CFS	Body Weight	Assaulting Citizen	Jail. 1 st Degree Armed Robbery, 2 nd Degree Assault.
F23-059	Argument CFS	Body Weight	Misdemeanor Flee	Jail. DUI, Reckless Driving, Operating Vehicle with License Suspended.
F23-060	Domestic Violence CFS	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Obstruction. No probable cause for DV.
F23-061	Assist other Agency – Airway Heights PD	Pointed firearm, OC/CS	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 1 st Degree Assault, Attempt to Elude, possibly other charges from AHPD.
F23-062/K23-013	Domestic Violence CFS	Pepper ball, K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 2 nd Assault-DV, 1 st Degree Burglary-DV, felony warrants.
F23-063	Assist other Agency- Spokane County SO	Pointed Firearm	Threat to Harm Others	1 st Degree Assault, Drive by Shooting.
F23-064	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Person	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Fugitive warrant, Possession of Controlled Substance, False Statements.
F23-065	Domestic Standby CFS	OC/CS	Resisting Arrest	2 nd Degree Assault-DV, 2 nd Degree Unlawful Possession of Firearm, felony Harassment threats-DV, Fugitive felony warrant.
F23-067	DUI CFS	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Jail. DUI, Obstructing.
F23-068/K23-015	Domestic Violence Protection Order CFS	Less-lethal pepper gun, K9	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault, Harming a Police Dog, violation of DV protection order.
F23-069	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Vehicle	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault, False Statements, 2 nd Degree Criminal Trespass.
F23-070	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Vehicle	Takedown Technique	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Felony warrants.
F23-073	Officer-Initiated – Suspicious Vehicle	Body Weight	Resisting Arrest	Cited and released for 3 rd Degree Driving with a Suspended License, Resisting Arrest.
K23-001	Burglary CFS	K9	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. 2 nd Degree Burglary, Harming Police Dog, 3 rd Degree Malicious Mischief.
K23-002	Alarm CFS	K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 2 nd Degree Burglary.
K23-003	Threat CFS	K9	Threat to Harm Others	Felony Threat to Kill-DV.
K23-004	Welfare Check CFS	K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Felony Warrant, Resisting Arrest.
K23-005	Burglary CFS	K9	Threat to Harm Others	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault.
K23-007	Domestic Violence CFS	K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault – Strangulation.
K23-008	Robbery CFS	K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 1 st Degree Robbery.



K23-009	Robbery CFS	K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. 1 st Degree Robbery.
K23-010	Officer-Initiated – apprehending suspect with warrant	K9	Resisting Arrest	Felony warrants, Possession of Dangerous Weapons, 2 nd Degree Burglary, 2 nd Degree Theft, 3 rd Degree Theft.
K23-011	Domestic Violence CFS	K9	Threat to Harm others	Jail. 2 nd Degree Assault - Strangulation, 3 rd Degree Malicious Mischief - DV, Harassment – DV.
K23-012	Officer-Initiated – apprehending suspect with warrant	K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Felony violation of protection order, felony warrants.
K23-014	Stolen Vehicle Recovery CFS	K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Possession of Stolen Vehicle, Possession of Stolen Property.

Incidents Involving Individuals of White/Hispanic Ethnicity

Three White individuals of Hispanic ethnicity were involved in a use of force incident.

Incident	Type of Call	Force Used	Reason	Outcome
F23-022	Trouble Unknown CFS	TASER™	Assaulting Officer	Jail. 3 rd Degree Assault.
F23-032/K23-006	Domestic Violence Protection Order CFS	Less-lethal 40 mm, OC/CS, K9	Resisting Arrest	Jail. Mandatory arrest for violation of a protection order.
F23-048	Shooting CFS	Pointed Firearm	Threat to harm others	Jail. 1 st Degree Assault.

Officer Characteristics

98 different officers were involved in the 85 use of force incidents in 2023. This includes supervisors who did not use physical force but ordered another employee to use force. In four incidents, officers and detectives were working in an investigative role. In the other incidents, involved officers were working in a patrol function at the time of the incident. A patrol assignment may include a SWAT operator, when SWAT assists patrol with a situation such as an armed barricaded suspect.

Most involved officers held the rank of officer. Two employees held the rank of detective, six officers held the rank of corporal, and five officers held the rank of sergeant when they used force. Several supervisors were listed as involved because they ordered other employees to use force, including five captains, one lieutenant, and four sergeants.

Involved officers averaged 11 years of service with the Spokane Police Department. Officers' previous law enforcement experience at other agencies was not factored in (only their time with SPD). The average age of officers



involved in use of force incidents was 38 years old. Two of the involved officers were female; the rest were male. SPD officer demographics are 8% female and 92% male.

Of the 98 officers involved in use of force incidents in 2023, 82 of the involved officers identified their race/ethnicity as White, eight as Hispanic, three as Black/African American, two as multi-ethnic, two as Other/Not Indicated, and one as Asian.

Of officers employed in 2023, the majority have identified as White. 21 officers identified as Hispanic; six as Black/African American; five as Native American; eight as Other/Not Indicated; four as Multi-Racial; one as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and two as Asian. Note: It is important to note that these numbers do not reflect current staffing numbers. The numbers above included officers employed by SPD in 2023 regardless of hire, retirement, or separation date.

Outcomes of the Investigation and Review of Use of Force

During the review, the chain of command examines the entire incident and all officer actions. Officer actions during use of force incidents were in compliance with SPD policy and state law 95% of the time. In 5% of the cases, the force itself was out of compliance with policy. In 7% of the cases, the force officers used was in compliance with policy but there were other policy violations associated with the incident.

Four of the 85 (5%) use of force incidents were found to be in violation of policy.

In one incident, the officers' force was found to be outside of policy because they did not attempt to de-escalate the situation prior to using force. The officers received training and the training unit provided training to supervisors.

In three out-of-policy incidents, the use of force was pointing a firearm directly at the suspect for more than a momentary period of time. The direct pointing of a firearm at a suspect under these circumstances is not consistent with department training – the firearm should have been lowered sooner. In the first incident, the detective received training on the department's firearms training philosophy. In the second incident, the officers were members of the SWAT team, and received a Document of Counseling (DOC) and ten hours of firearms training. In the third incident, the officer was a member of the K9 Unit; he also received a Document of Counseling.

Six incidents of the 85 were associated with secondary policy violations.

- F23-049: The secondary policy violation was for poor demeanor. The officer received a DOC.
- F23-053: The secondary policy violations were de-escalation for the involved officer. For the supervisor, the violations were for Policy 301.10A (supervisor should have had the suspect checked by medical personnel) and 301.11-UOF Report Writing (supervisor needs to scrutinize officer reports). The officer and supervisor received training.
- F23-059: The secondary policy violation was a failure to act; the officer should have initiated a DUI arrest and should have closed the gate as the suspect requested. Further, the officer did not have his BWC activated. Sanction: DOC.
- F23-061: The secondary policy shortfall was because the SWAT operator deployed CS without giving a warning first, as policy requires. The Chain of Command felt the decision was justified in this case, where the suspect had created a very dangerous situation (he had shot at deputies, fled from police at high speeds, and



refused to follow all commands. One of the reviewing supervisors wrote that the officer's actions likely prevented a lethal force situation. The Chain of Command directed the officer to submit an additional report explaining the circumstances and his conscious choice to deploy the agent. The issue was addressed with all involved and no sanction was given.

- F23-069: The secondary policy violation was for poor demeanor. The officer received a DOC.
- F23-072: The secondary policy violation was for report writing deficiency. The officer's report only documented that the suspect continued to resist and did not provide justification for the tactic used. The officer failed to articulate the danger that the suspect posed, and that gaining control of him was critical in reducing the threat posed to officers. The force was effective as it caused the suspect to remove his hand from under his body. As soon as the suspect's hands could be controlled, that use of force was terminated, and officers transitioned into handcuffing the subject.

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The other 81 incidents (95%) were found to be in compliance with policy.

A review of 2023 Internal Affairs Investigations confirms that no Excessive Force allegations were Sustained.

Training Issues Identified During the Review Process

SPD's extensive reviews of incidents often identify opportunities for training, both on an individual basis and for the entire department. The Chain of Command review identified several training issues while reviewing non-deadly force incidents, recommending individual training in areas such as officer safety, report writing, criminal procedures, demeanor, using professional language, and giving a command to warn other officers before a TASER™ deployment. In each case where reviewers identified issues, they arranged for training. Several incidents were debriefed as a team or shift at roll call, and several were debriefed during Supervisor Training. The secondary review by the Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) also generated suggestions for future training, such as incorporating more hands-on TASER™ training in the TASER™ re-certification.

Conclusion

Thorough review of use of force incidents is critical to the Spokane Police Department. These reviews provide a comprehensive analysis of all incidents that have been individually reviewed and reveals trends that inform future training decisions. A proper review also helps improve the police department's legitimacy and relationship with the community. Police departments derive their authority from legal and constitutional principles designed to uphold the safety and dignity of the public, and unreasonable use of force undermines the community's trust. Therefore, thorough evaluation is required when vesting officers with the authority to use objectively reasonable force. The Spokane Police Department is committed to providing a comprehensive annual review of incidents and making that review available to the public.

Main Findings of 2023

The ratio of use of force incidents compared to citizen contacts is very low. In 2023, SPD officers were involved in 107,567 incidents with citizen contact. SPD officers used non-deadly force in 85 incidents in 2023, which is 0.07% of incidents.

Use of force incidents were low across racial demographics – less than 2% of arrests.

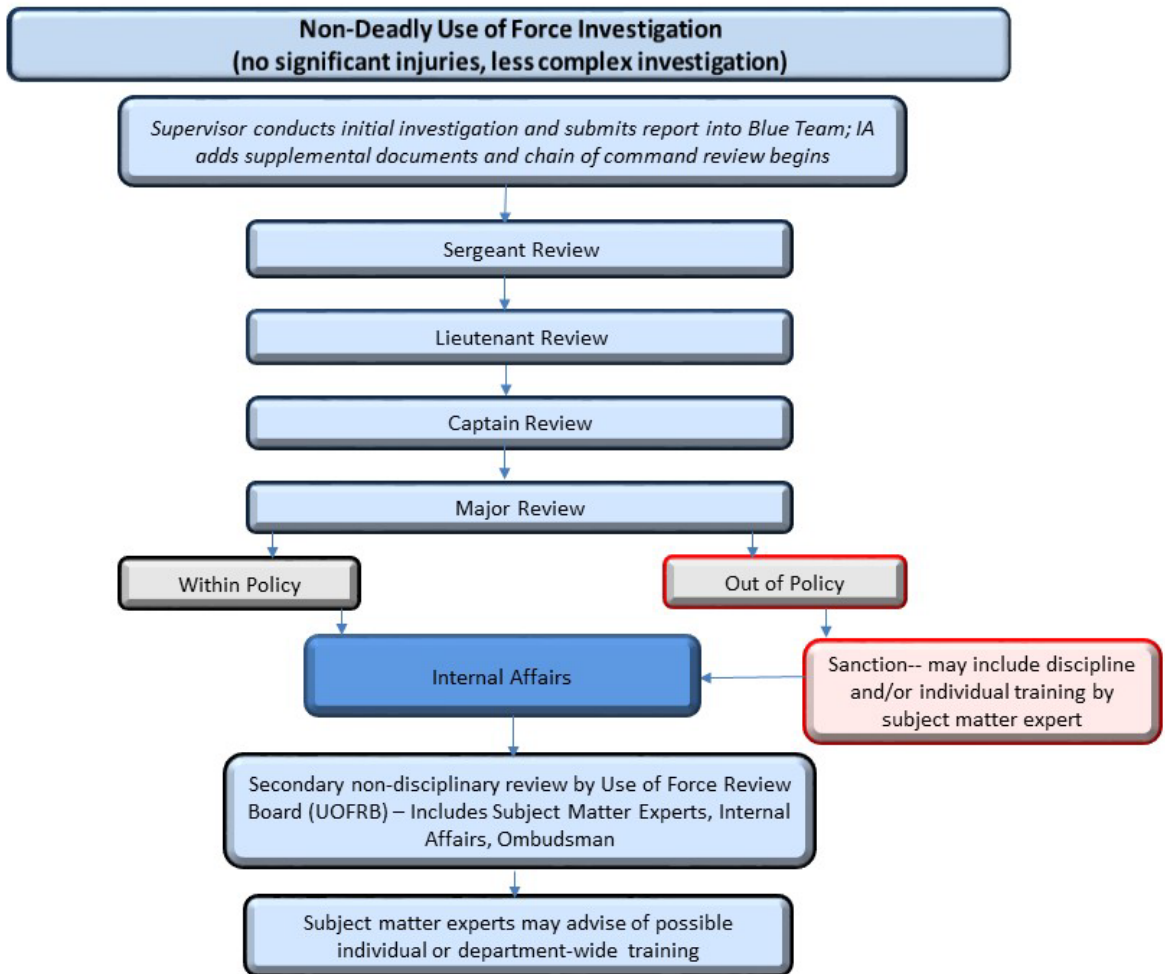
Comparing the City of Spokane Police Department arrest demographics with the use of force demographics shows that officers used force on 0-1.9% of subjects arrested. To keep data presentation consistent with prior years, arrestees were not separated by sex for each racial group. See Appendices C on Arrests by Race.

- American Indian/Native Alaskan Force Rate: 1.2%
- Asian Force Rate: 0%
- Black/African American Force Rate: 1.2%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Force Rate: 1.3%
- Unknown Race Force Rate: 0%
- White Force Rate: 1.1%

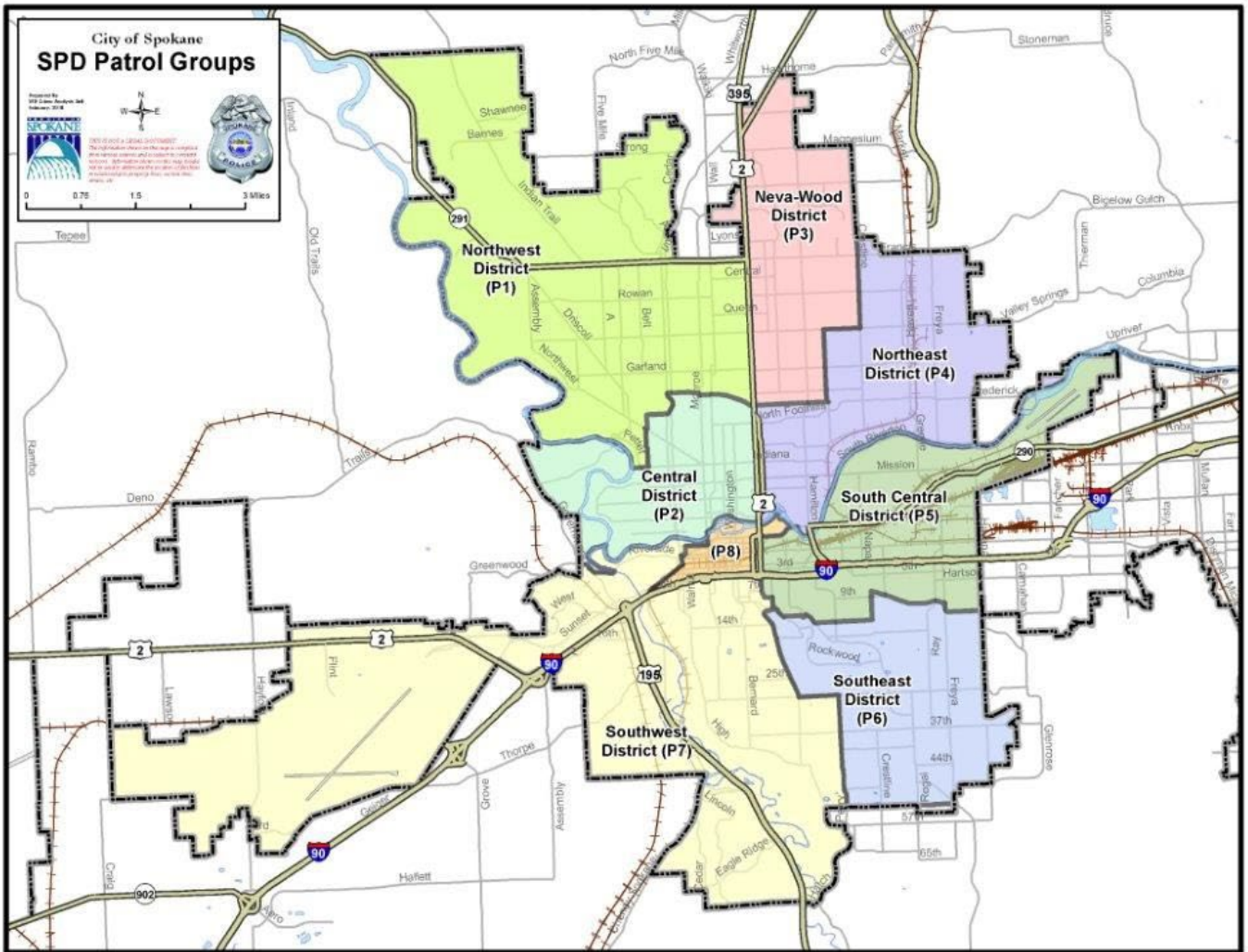
Officer actions during use of force incidents followed SPD policy and state law 95% of the time. In 5% of the cases, the force was out of compliance with policy. In 7% of the cases, the force was in compliance with policy but there were other policy violations.

The Chain of Command review identified several training issues while reviewing non-deadly force incidents, recommending individual training. In each case where reviewers identified issues, they arranged for training. Several incidents were debriefed as a team or shift at roll call, and several were debriefed during Supervisor Training.

Appendix A: Non-Deadly Use of Force Investigation Flow Chart



Appendix B: Police Districts



Appendix C: Arrests by Sex and Race

Arrests by Sex, Ethnicity, and Race (where an Arrest Report was written or a Citation was Issued)

Gender	Count of Arrest Total
Female	
⊕ American Indian-Alaskan Nativ	234
⊕ Asian	17
⊕ Black	192
⊕ Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	7
⊕ Unknown	75
⊕ White	1617
Male	
⊕ American Indian-Alaskan Nativ	332
⊕ Asian	116
⊕ Black	723
⊕ Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	69
⊕ Unknown	167
⊕ White	4285
Unknown	
⊕ NULL	1
⊕ Unknown	2
⊕ White	15
Grand Total	7852

