

Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Date: 10 January 2017

To: Brian Costa, Police Chief *BCCAH*

Through: Steven Stewart, Captain *SMS #156*

Through: Steven Russo, Captain *SR-140*

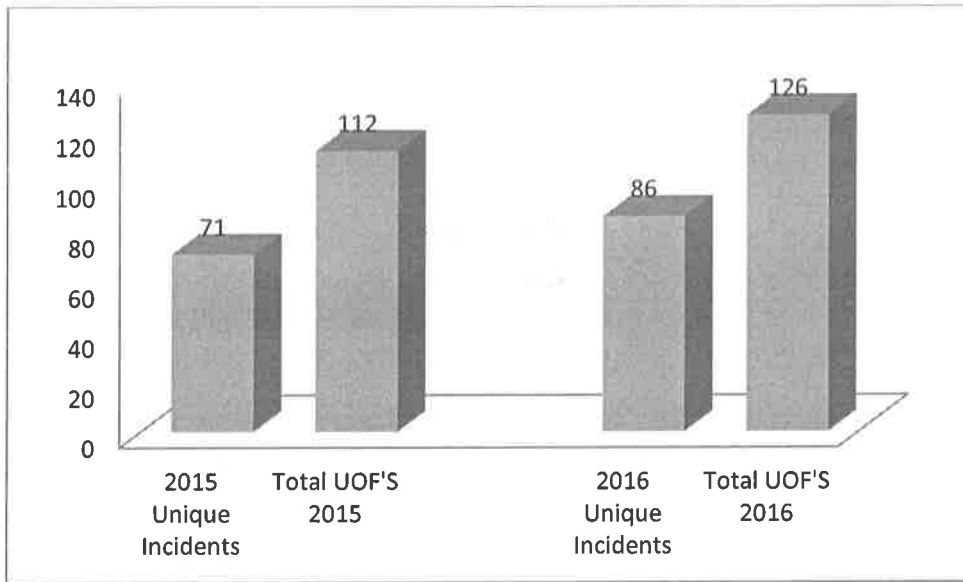
From: Todd B. Lawrence, Lieutenant *TBL #123*

Subject: 2016 Use of Force Analysis

During January of 2017, I conducted an analysis of all 2016 Use of Force (UOF) reports filed by Keene Police Officers. An analysis and review of the UOF reports for completeness, developing trends and effectiveness of weapons, techniques and training was completed.

Over the course of 2016 there were a total of 86 unique incidents (62 Arrest Reports (AR's), 24 Offense Reports and Field Interviews (OF's and FI's), inclusive of "Dispatched Animals") resulting in 126 Use of Force reports filed. Arrest Reports produced 98 UOF filings, while OF's and FI's produced the remaining 28 UOF's.

The 86 incident total for 2016 was a 19.72% increase from 2015, which had 71 unique incidents. The 126 total UOF's filed in 2016 was also significantly higher (9.23% higher) than 2015, which had 112 UOF's filed. This relationship is illustrated, below.

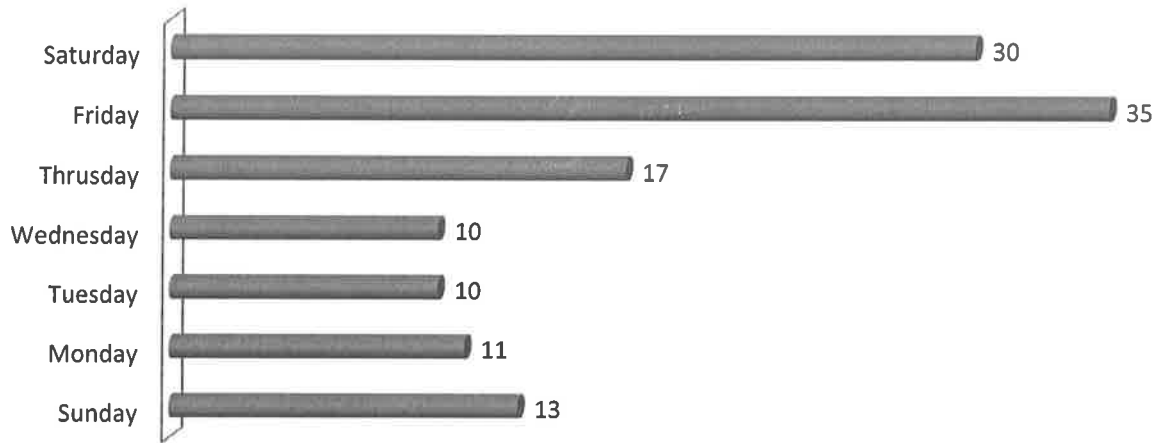


Analysis of the UOF's themselves revealed no specific reasoning for the increase from 2015 to 2016, nor could any correlation be made regarding call volume. The "Calls For Service" total from 2016 (30042) was only 0.63% higher than 2015 (29855).

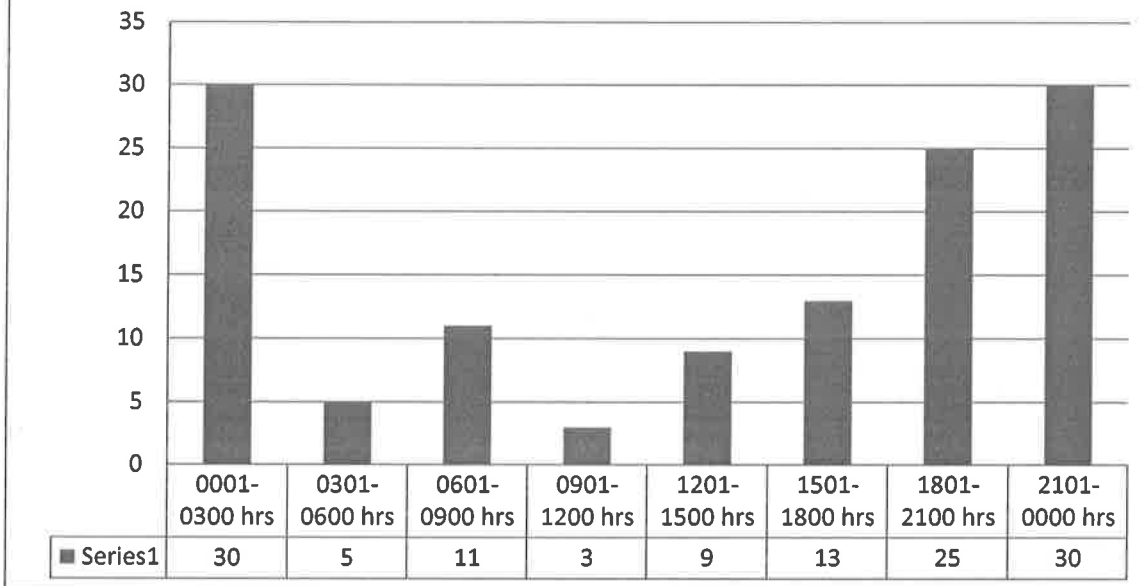
The characteristics of the AR-involved UOF's were varied, as expected and included pre-arrest UOF's to booking room UOF's. The OF-related UOF's involved mostly IEA's and "assist other agency" cases.

A day / time analysis of the 86 unique UOF incidents showed the following breakdown by day of week and then by time of day. Friday was the heaviest, followed by Saturday and Thursday. No specific reason for this breakdown was garnered from the data. Nighttime and early morning hours were the heaviest.

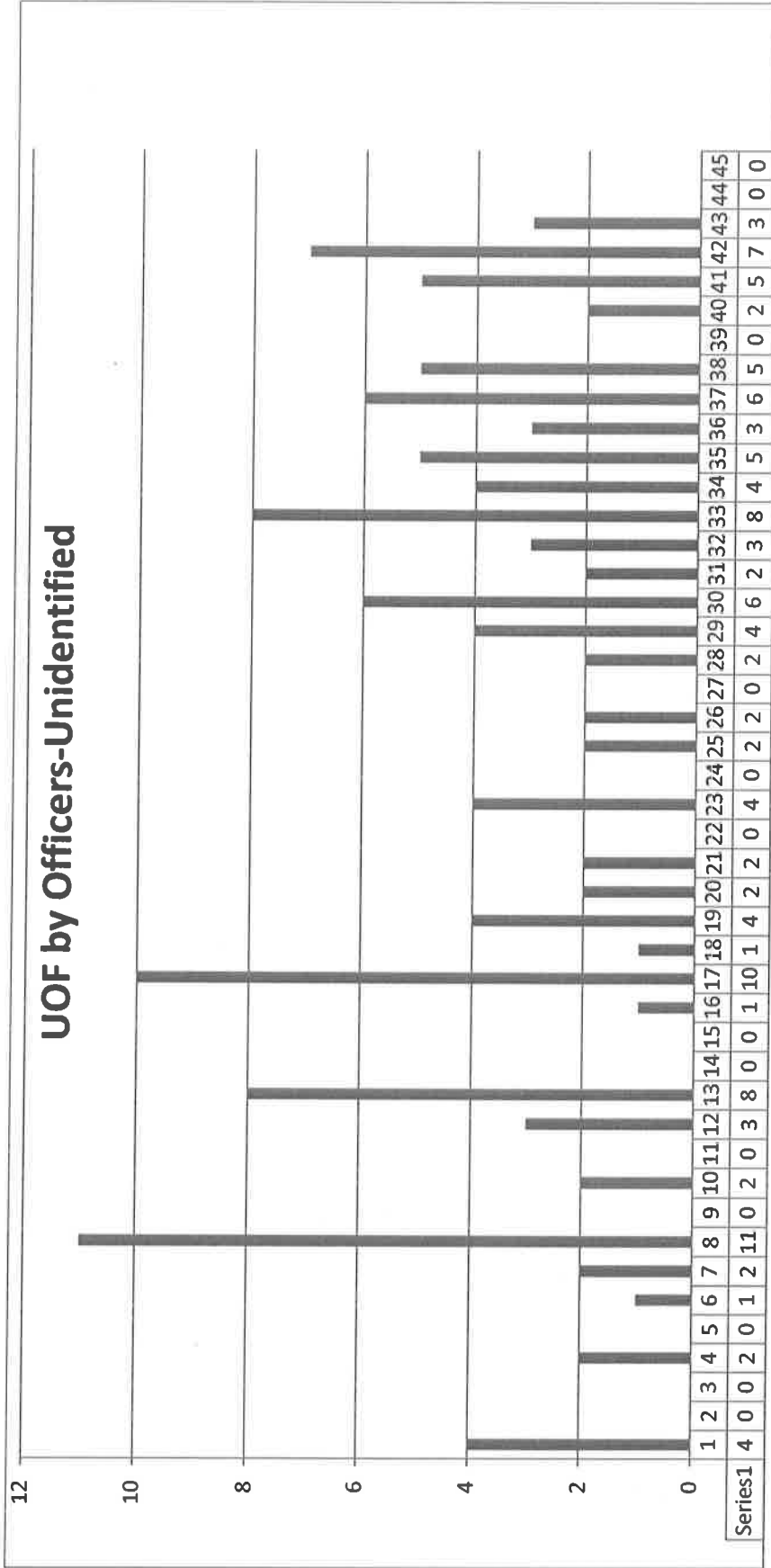
Days of the Week



Times of Day

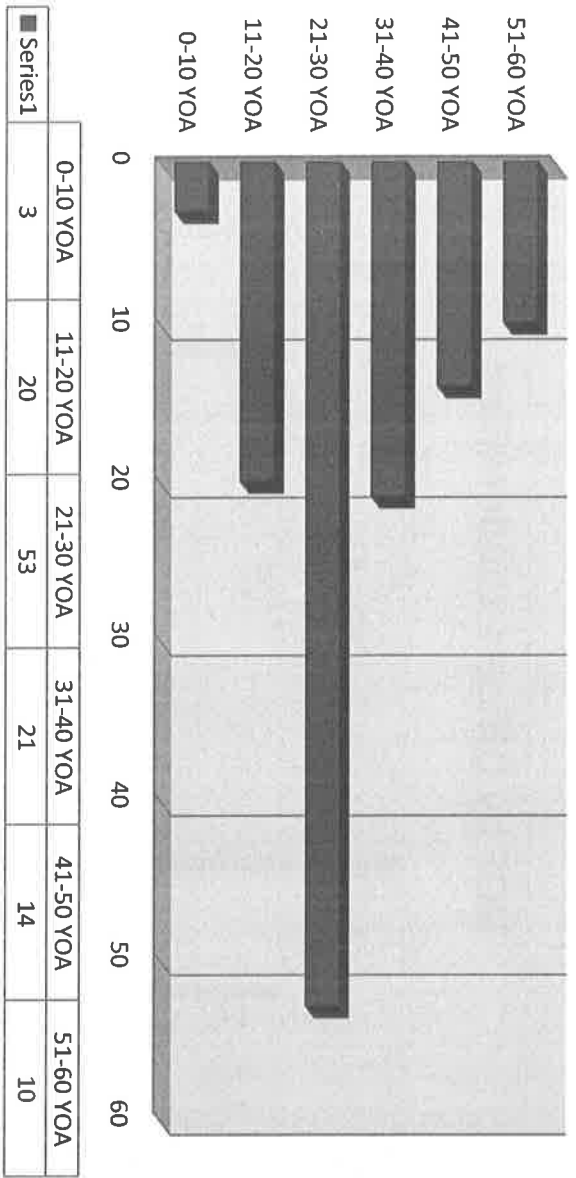


Analysis of the numbers of UOF reports filed by individual officers showed the predictable (and historic) trend that dayshift officers report fewer uses of force than evening or night shift officers.

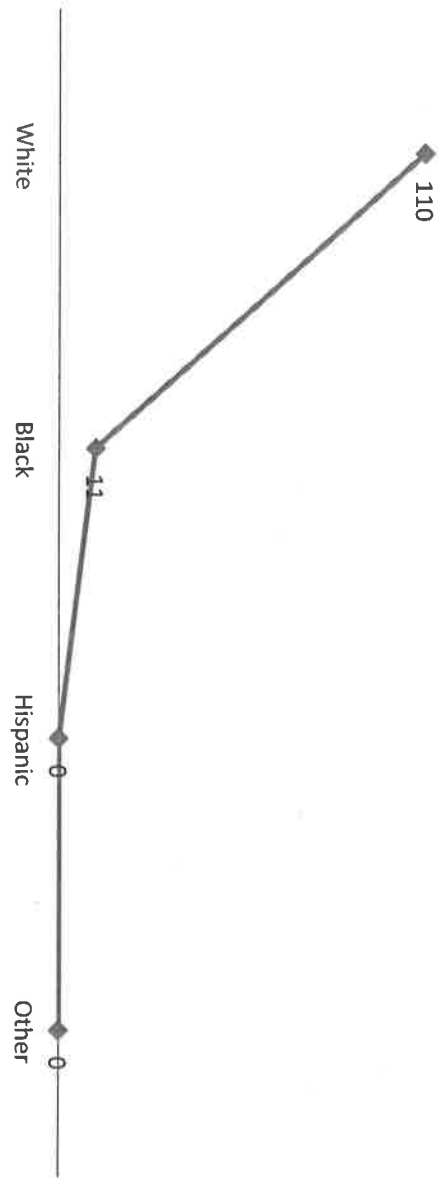


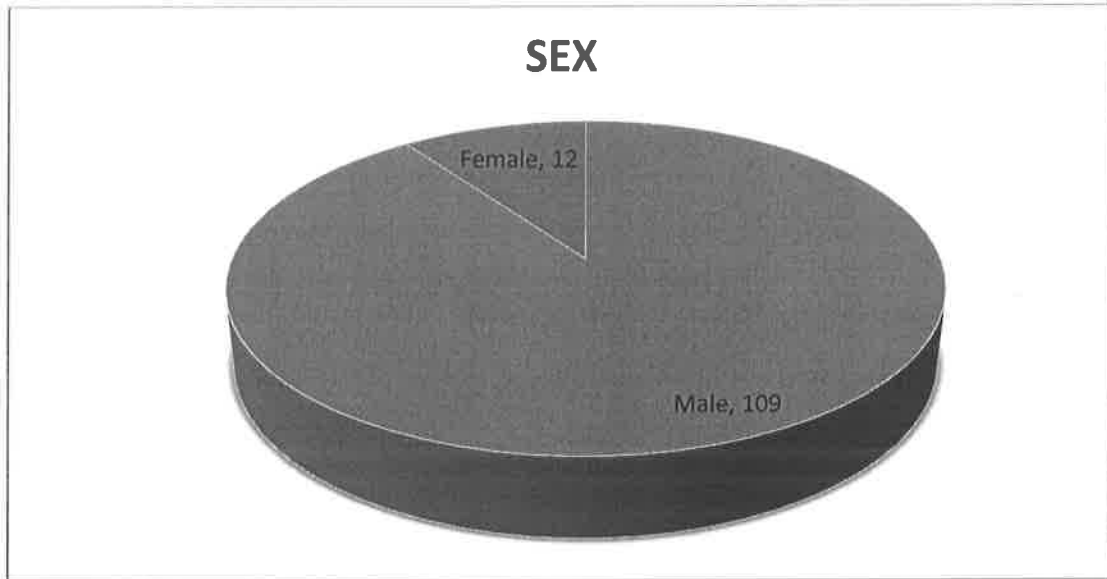
Analysis of the suspects involved showed the bulk of UOF's applied on white males in their early twenties to early thirties.

AGE

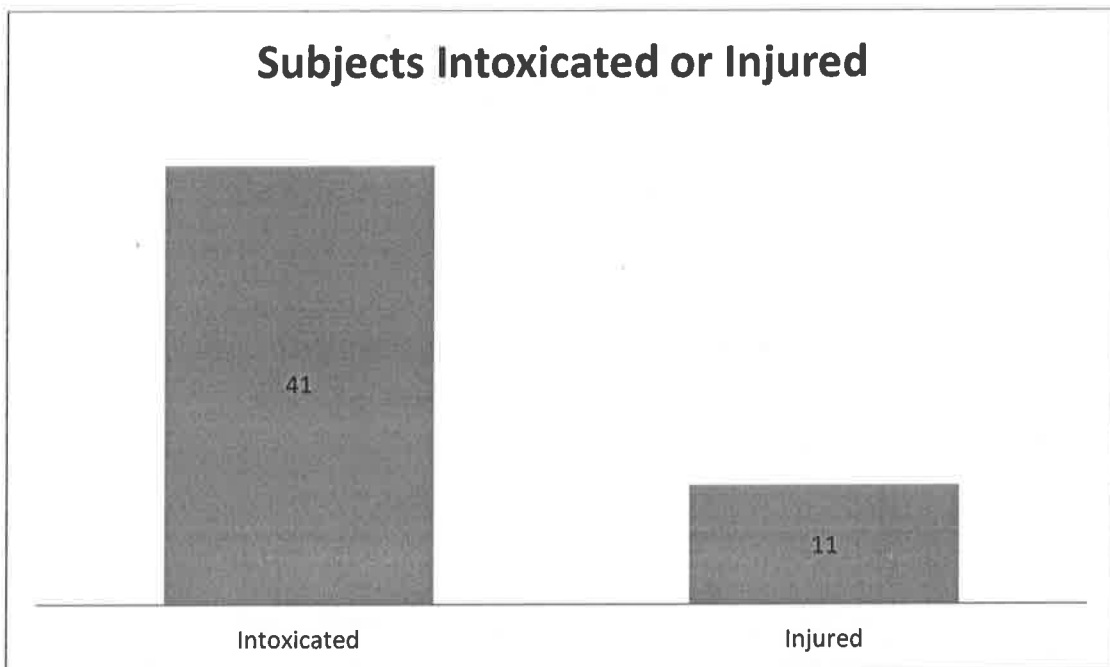


Race





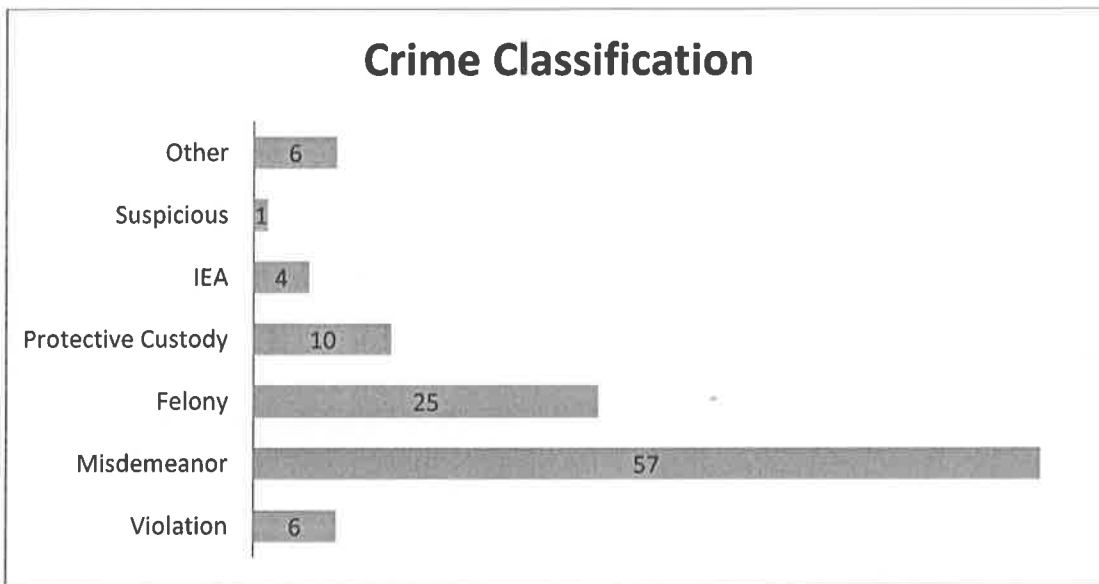
Of the 86 unique incidents, suspects were intoxicated in 41 of them and injured in 11 instances.



This translates to a 48% intoxication rate and a 16% injury rate for 2016. Comparable data for 2015 showed a 44% intoxication rate and a 14% injury rate.

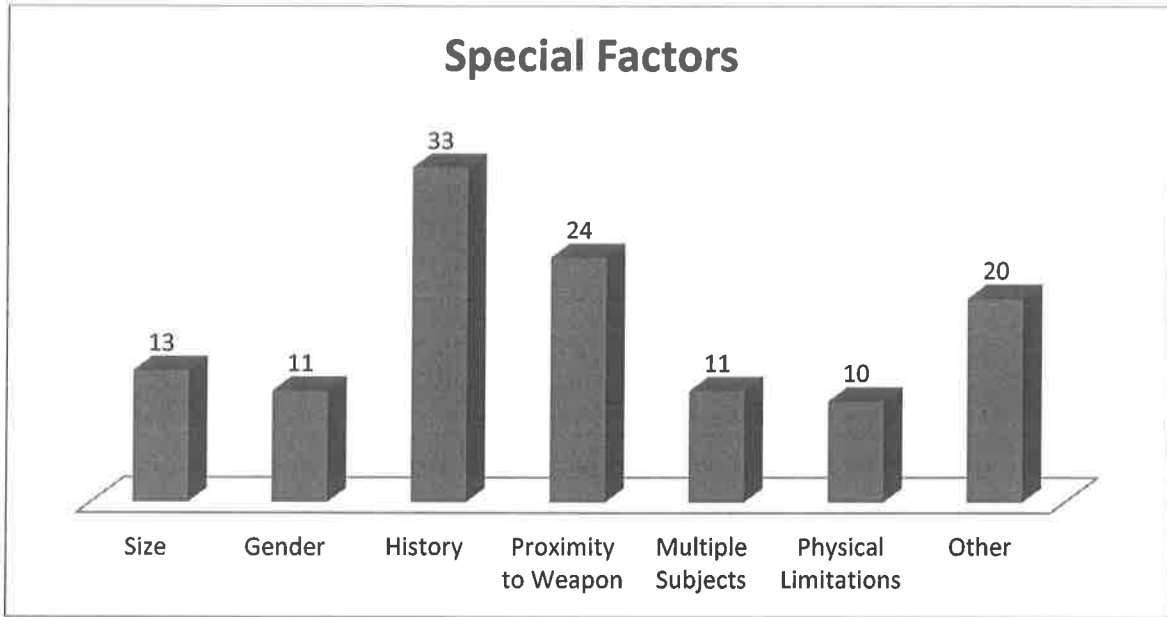
Of the 11 subjects listed as "Injured" in the 2016 UOF's, ten received medical attention for minor injuries. Nine of those received contusions and abrasions while being captured after fleeing on foot while two received a laceration while actively fighting officers attempting to arrest him. One subject completely waived medical attention.

Analysis of the encounters themselves showed that the majority of them resulted in (or stemmed from) misdemeanor charges for the suspects, followed closely by felony incidents. Other level charges and dispositions were far fewer.



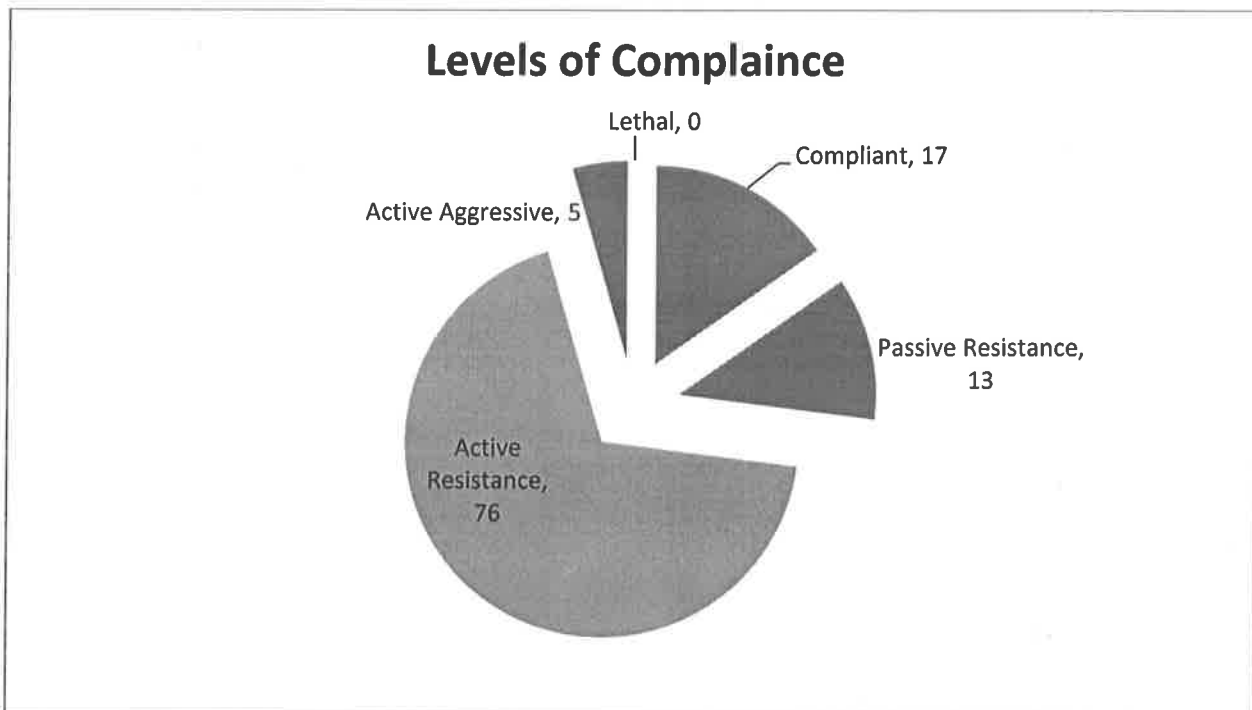
A comparison of 2016 UOF by Crime Classification to the same categories from 2015 showed violations for 2016 at 6, 2015 at 6. Misdemeanors for 2016 were at 57 of the total, 2015 were at 41. Felonies for 2016 were at 25 of the total, 2015 were at 16. Protective Custodies for 2016 were at 10 of the total, while 2015 PC's were at 2.

Understanding that an officers perception of their opponent plays a big part in their choice of tactics to deal with them, I noted that the majority of UOF's filed listed "Special Factors" relating to either the choice to employ force or the choice of tactic:



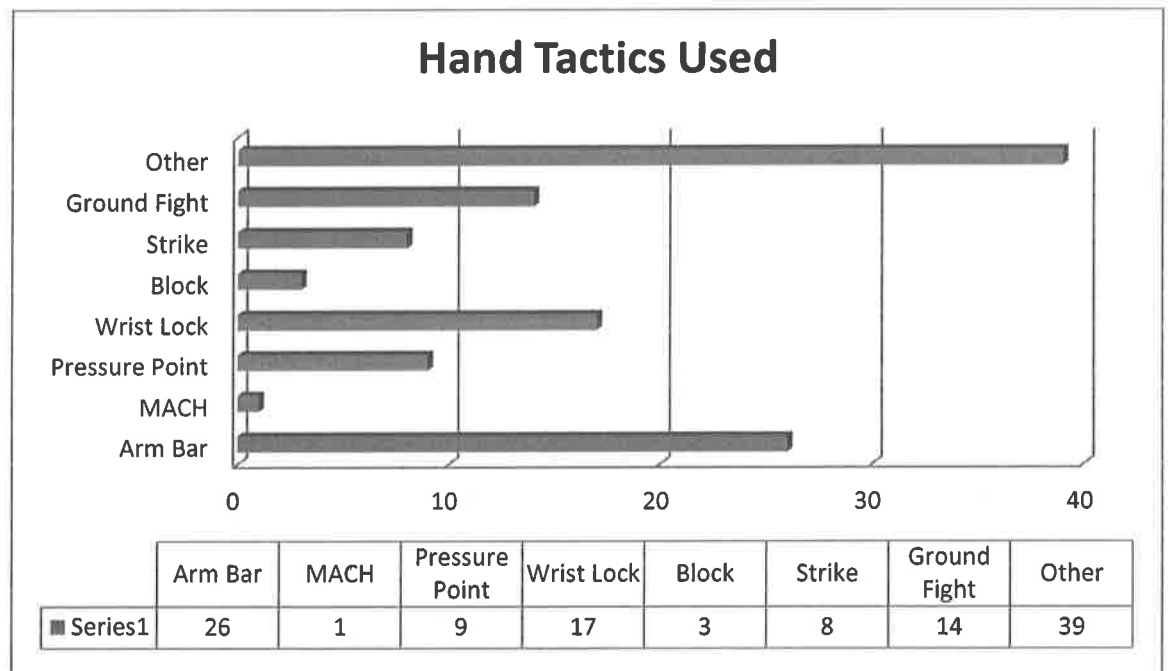
Note the high numbers for "Prior History / Knowledge," which belies multiple encounters with the same suspects, or in some cases effective dispatchers conveying information more than the minimum.

Also pertaining to officers' perception of opponents is the level of resistance encountered. Similar to historic data, "Active Resistance" by far outnumbers other levels of resistance perceived by Officers, as illustrated here:

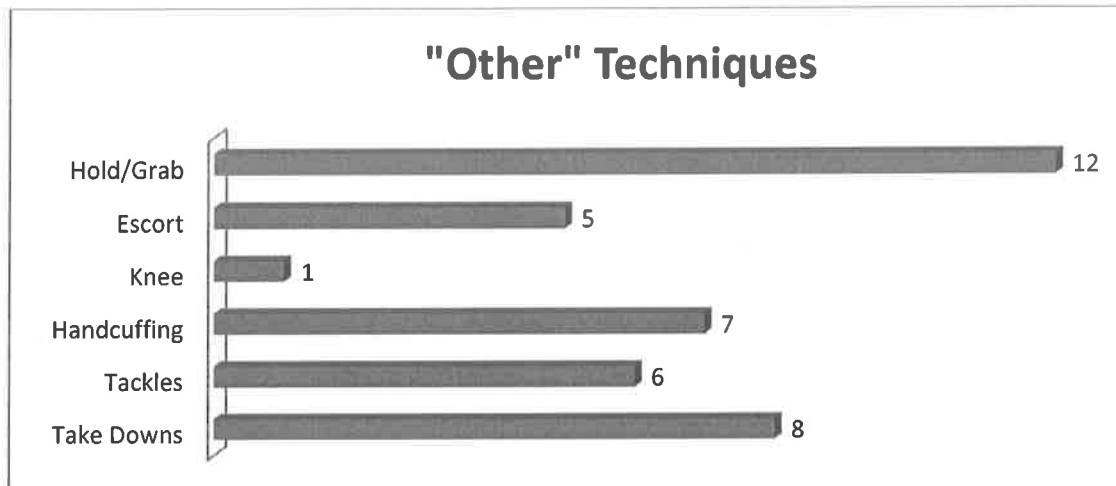


Officers used "Hand Techniques" most often (85 times during 125 UOF's), which makes sense historically and practically as it is the most readily available force option. Next common was "Firearms or Special Weapons" (36 uses, "displayed only" for all except one incident where the 40mm Direct Impact launcher was used) then "OC Spray" (12 uses), then "Baton" (1, for an armlock). Many of the UOF reports filed the officers used a combination of the forces at their disposal.

Given the commonplace use of "Hand Techniques" I charted that category to aid in training planning with the UOF / Defensive Tactics team.



Arm bars were used 2nd most often for the provided techniques, proving the ease and usefulness of this technique. Things that filled up the "Other" category included any hand technique that didn't fit into any of the classic categories, such as hold/grab or handcuffing. Another common "other" technique were takedown's or tackling. I charted the "other" techniques below.



"Firearms and Special Weapons" utilized in 2016 included the Glock, the M4-style rifle, and the 40mm launcher, in that order. Most were "displayed only" except for one use of the 40mm Direct Impact launcher system which was used to apply a single sponge round to an uncooperative IEA suspect, who at the time of the incident was cutting themselves with a knife.

OC spray was used 12 times, and was mostly "very effective," with (3) "moderately effective" and (1) "not effective".

Baton use consisted of a single arm lock.

The KPD Tactical Team filed 2 UOF reports. During the 2 incidents, their firearms or special weapons were displayed only. One (1) call was for a barricaded subject during a felony level offense and the other was deemed a vehicle assault during a misdemeanor level offense.

Two UOF reports listed officers as being injured (16-194-AR and 16-217-AR). One report indicated the officer sustained minor abrasions on his hands while arresting a large, combative person. The other had a different officer sustaining a minor leg injury while tackling a fleeing subject pursuant to a theft arrest.

The 126 total UOF's filed in 2016 was higher (11.61% increase) than 2015, which had 112 UOF's filed. This increase is opposite than trend of recent years, and could be reflective of officers responding to more calls for service and encountering more unique incidents where UOF incidents may be required.

Pursuant to this UOF Analysis, coordination is ongoing with the UOF staff to ensure that future UOF training is pertinent and effective, as well as the continual review of equipment, techniques, practices and policy, to support the officers in the field in keeping with the Department mission. At present, current training appears to be

meeting this agency's needs, and the training calendar covers all force options, concentrating on mastery of basic skill.