

Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Date: 15 February 2022

To: Steven Russo, Police Chief *SR-140*

Through: Steven Stewart, Captain *SMS #106*

Through: Todd Lawrence, Captain *TJ+123*

From: Shane C. Maxfield, Lieutenant *Shane C. Maxfield 083*

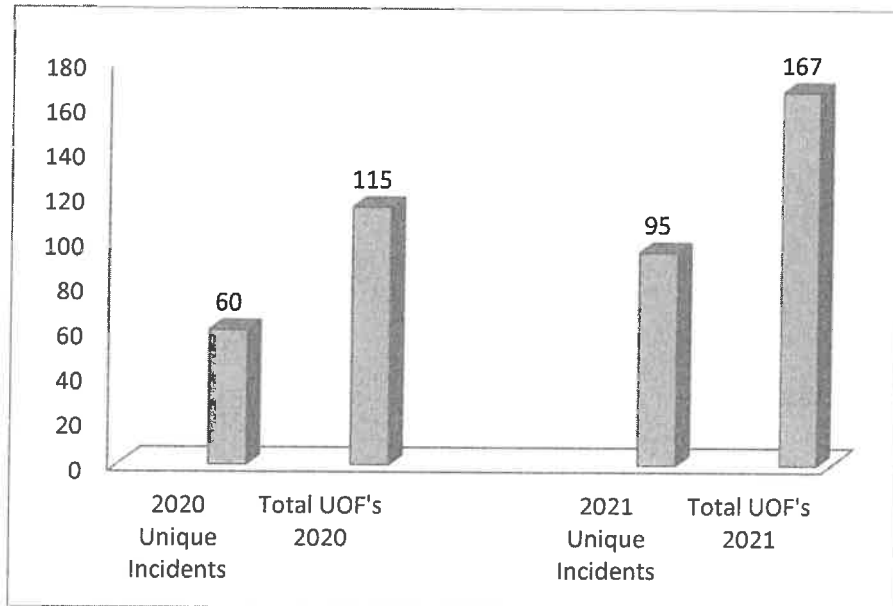
Subject: 2021 Response to Resistance Analysis

During January of 2022, I conducted an analysis of all 2021 Use of Force (UOF) reports filed by Keene Police Officers for completeness, developing trends and effectiveness of weapons, techniques and training.

In calendar year 2021 the Keene Police Department made 1159 arrests, including releases on Court Summonses. Suspect initial behavior or resistance towards KPD officers lawful commands led to some level of force response in 95 unique incidents (66 Arrest Reports (AR's), 29 Offense Reports (OF's)) or 8.2% of total suspect detentions. From these 95 unique incidents, 167 Use of Force reports were filed, the result of multiple officers often being present and applying force in response to suspect resistance. Arrest Reports produced 118 UOF filings, while OF's produced the remaining 49 UOF's.

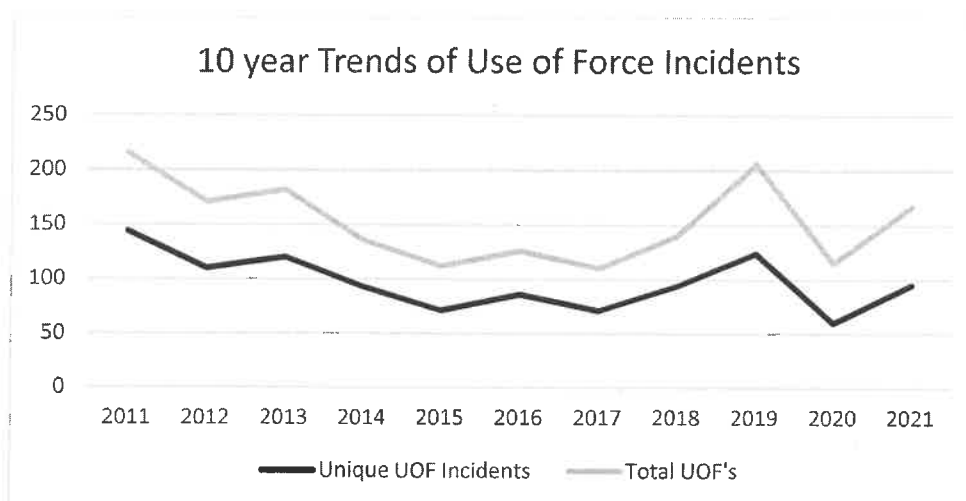
The nature of the AR-related UOF's varied widely, from subduing aggressive shoplifters, combative trespassers, several foot- and motor vehicle pursuits, domestic violence incidents, uncooperative inebriates and a handful of drug transportation cases. The OF-related UOF's involved IEA's or suicidal subjects who were combative, firearm-involved calls resulting in no criminal charge, uncooperative JV CHINS, assisting other agencies with higher-risk calls or miscellaneous felony-level investigations.

The 95 unique incident total for 2021 was a 58.3% increase from 2020, which had 60 unique incidents. The 167 total UOF's filed in 2021 was also more (45.2% more) than 2020, which had 115 UOF's filed. This relationship is illustrated, below.

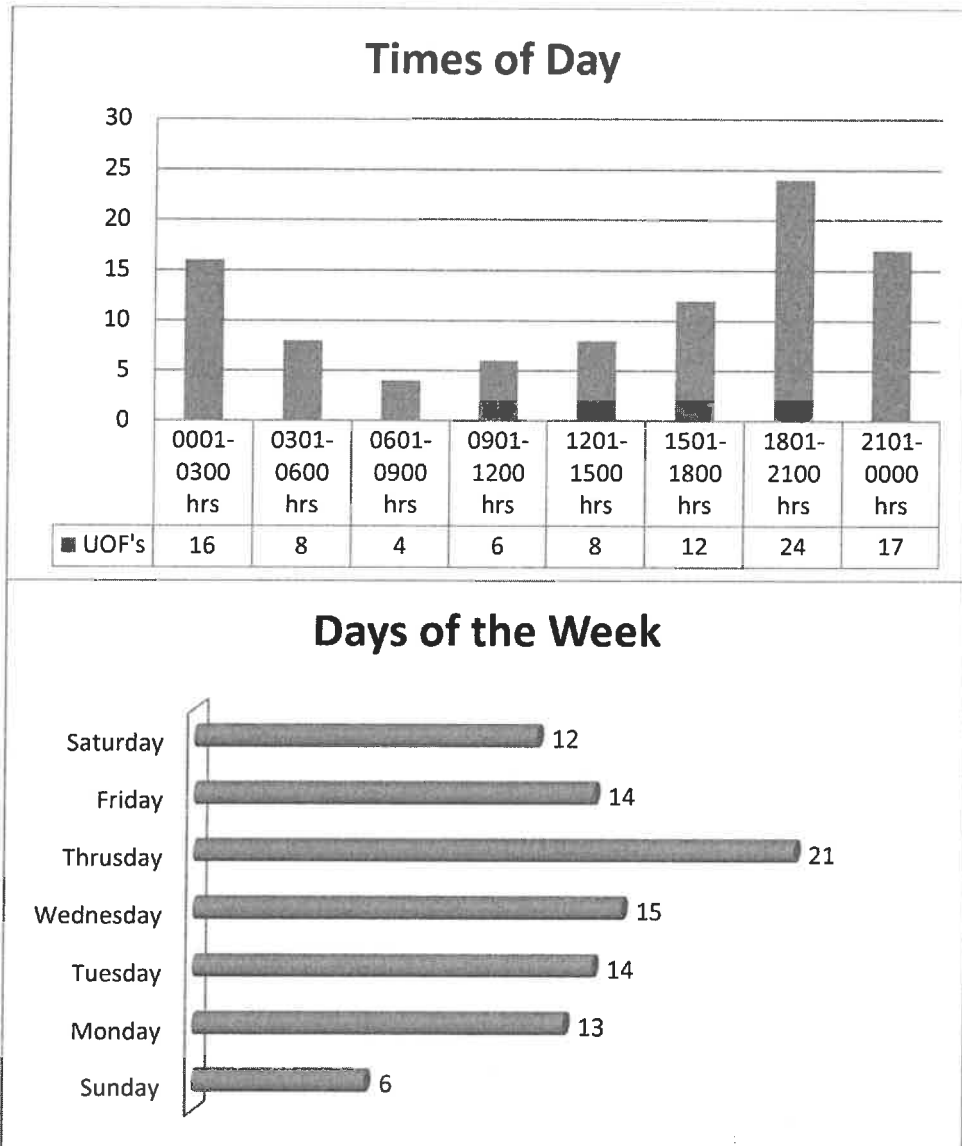


Call volume increased 13.2% from 2020 (27112 calls) to 2021 (30701 calls). Some of this increase can probably be credited to increased societal activity as COVID-19 restrictions relaxed. A large number of individual incidents had multiple officers responding to a suspect's resistance. Two or three officers using force to overcome resistance was most common, though there were a few cases where up to five officers utilized force. Additional agency training in de-escalation techniques often results in officers slowing incidents down, allowing additional officers and other resources to arrive. This also often allowed officers on the scene to resolve the issue at a much lower level of force, such as simply forcing a suspects hands back for handcuffing rather than having to resort to strikes or other techniques.

An examination of the past ten years of UOF data is illustrated, below. Factors affecting these trends vary widely, from staffing levels and relative tenure and experience of officers, to current equipment, training trends and organizational self-accountability.

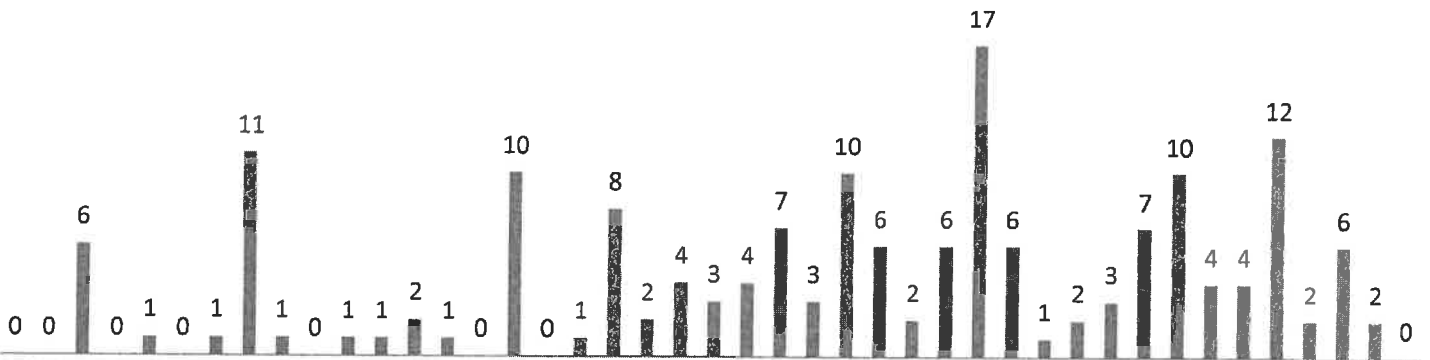


A day / time analysis of the 95 unique UOF incidents showed the following breakdown by time of day and then by day of week. The hours between 0300hrs and 0900hrs saw the fewest UOF's, which includes typical sleep times and low activity levels. Thursday accounted for the most UOF incidents, Sunday the fewest, with the remaining days roughly equal.



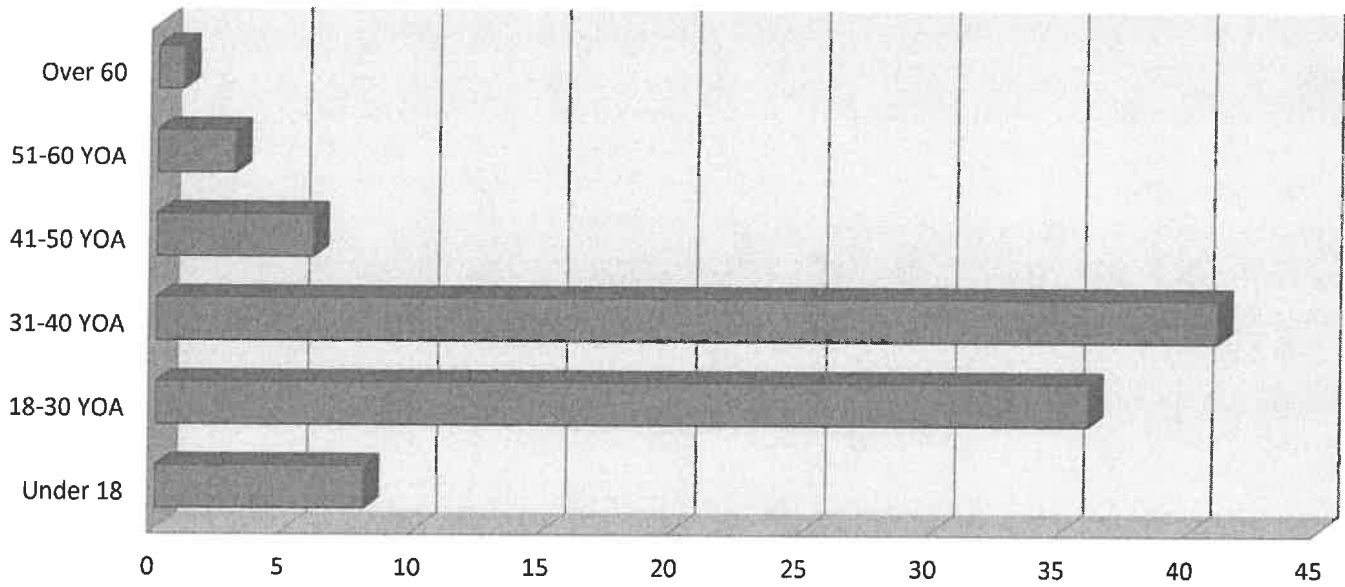
Analysis of the numbers of UOF reports filed by individual officers generally showed the predictable (and historic) trend that dayshift officers report fewer uses of force than evening or night shift officers. All uses of force were reviewed for compliance with NH statutes and Department policy, and all were found to be compliant.

Uses of Force by Officer



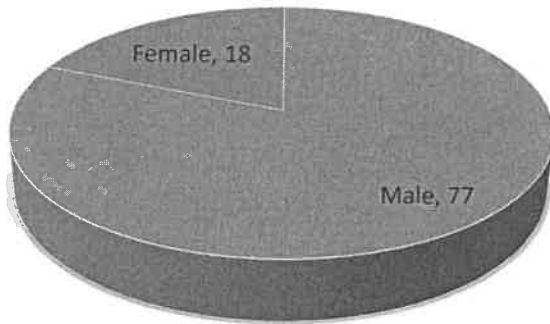
Analysis of the suspects involved showed the bulk of UOF's applied on white males between eighteen and forty years of age.

AGE

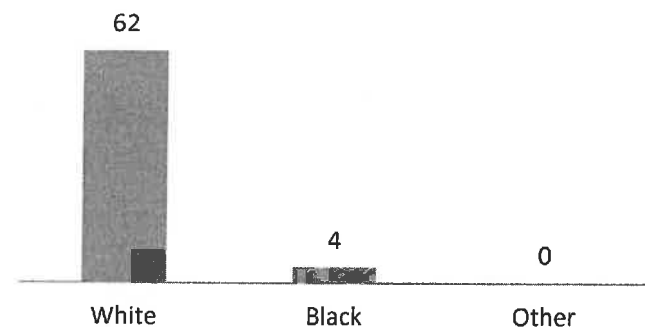


	Under 18	18-30 YOA	31-40 YOA	41-50 YOA	51-60 YOA	Over 60
Series1	8	36	41	6	3	1

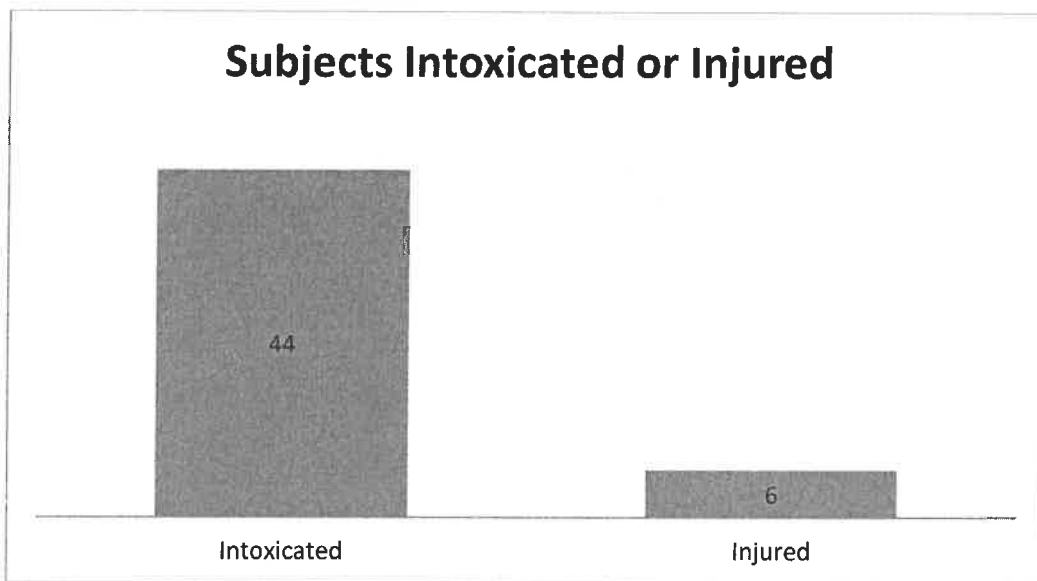
SEX



Race

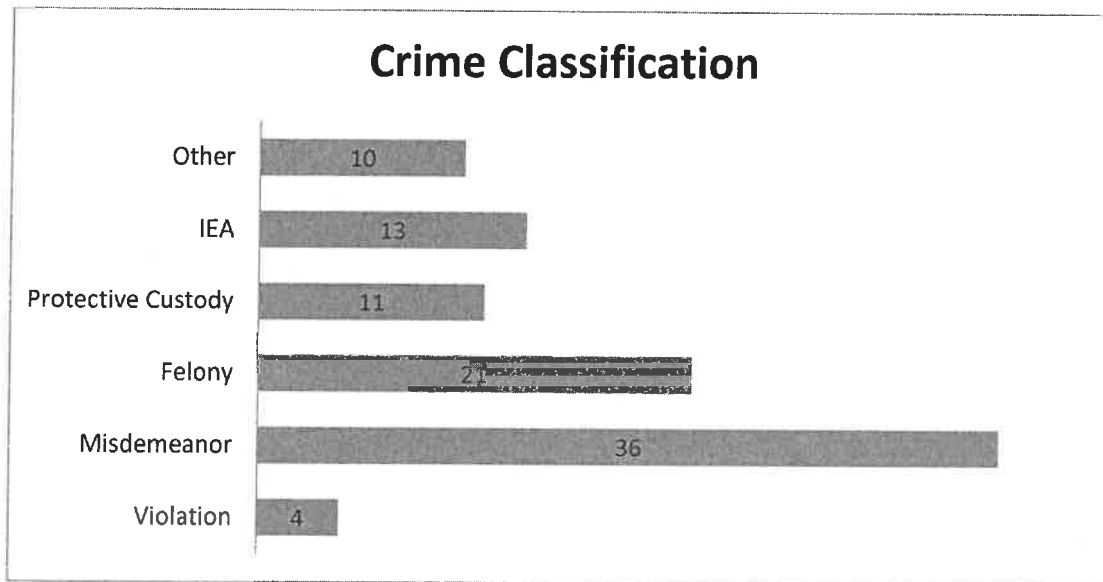


Of the 95 unique incidents, suspects were intoxicated in 44 of them and injured in 6 instances. Of the injured suspects, two suffered self-inflicted injuries, one was sprayed with pepper spray and punched, one was struck with less-lethal munitions and the remainder suffered minor abrasions.



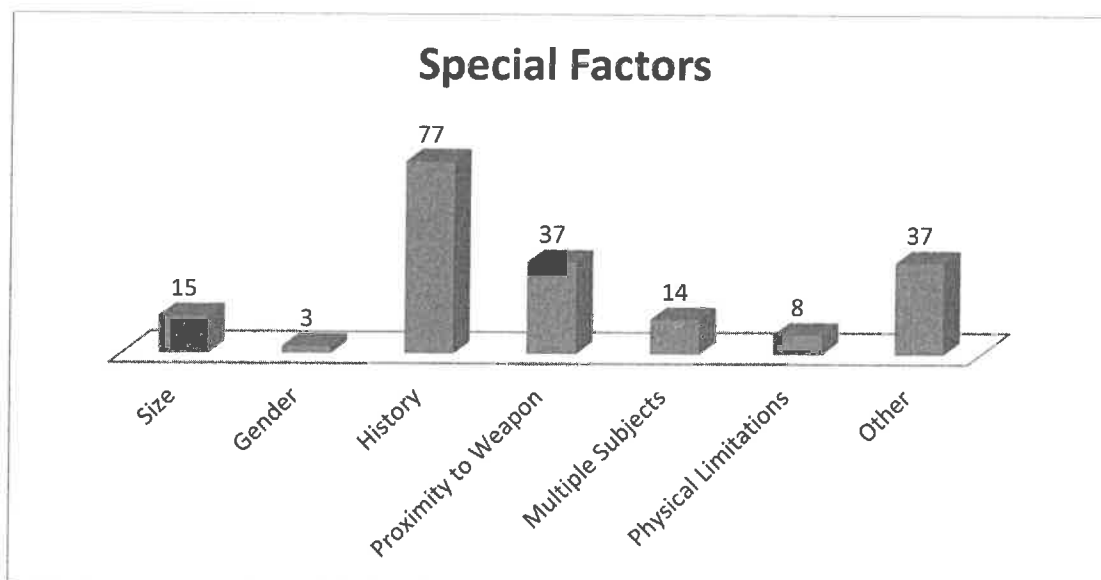
This translates to a 46.3% intoxication rate and a 6.3% injury rate for 2021. Comparable data for 2020 showed a 44.2% intoxication rate and a 4.6% injury rate.

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



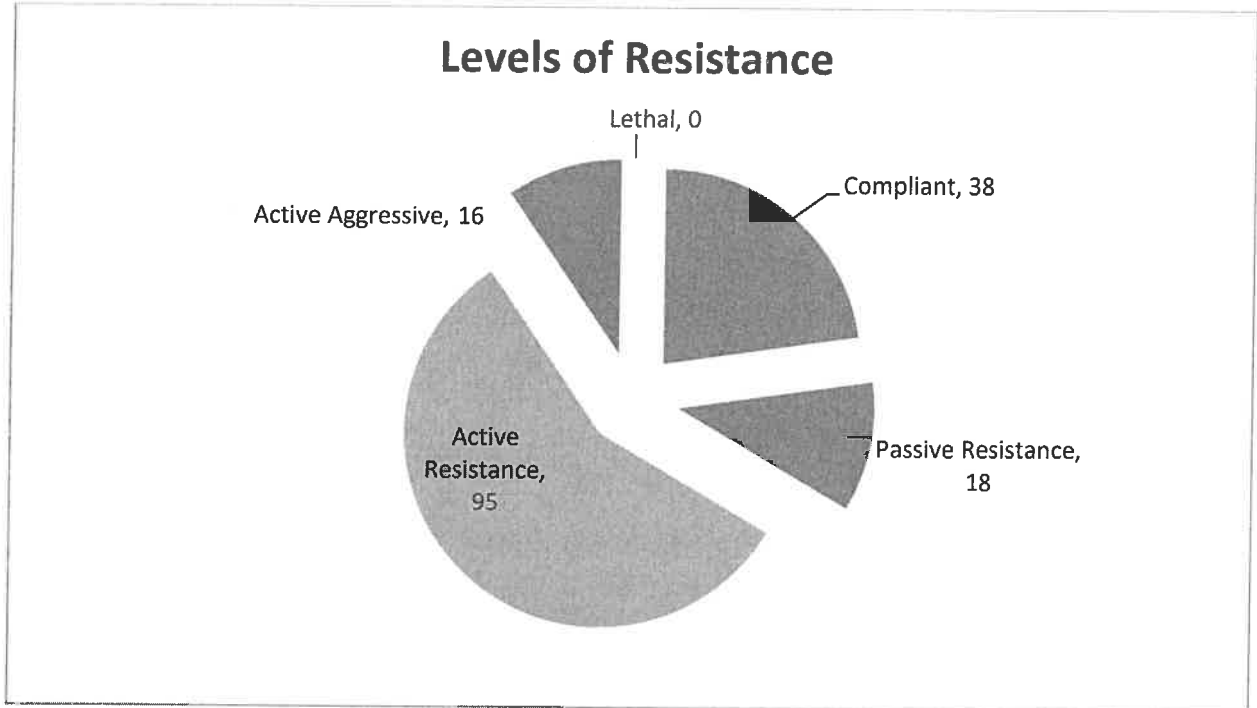
A comparison of 2021 UOF by Crime Classification to the same categories from 2020 showed violations for 2021 at four, 2020 at two. Misdemeanors for 2021 were at 36 of the total, 2020 were at 26. Felonies for 2021 were at 21 of the total, 2020 were at 15. Protective Custodies for 2021 were eleven of the total, while 2020 PC's were at five.

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



Note the high number for "Prior History / Knowledge," which suggest prior encounters with the same suspects, or in many cases, dispatchers effectively conveying information. Historically, the "Other" category scores high each year in the Special Factors group. Officers are directed to explain what unlisted factors influenced their use of force. Several indicate they used force to safeguard other individuals in close proximity to the incident or to head off a potentially dangerous situation.

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



Officers used "Hand Techniques" most often (147 during the year), which is logical as it is the most readily available force option. The most commonly used techniques within that category included "arm bars," "wrist locks," and "other" techniques such as tackling or just pushing, pulling or holding a suspect down.

Next common was "Firearms or Special Weapons" with 46 uses, with all but one being "displayed only." One suspect was hit with two shots from a 40mm less-lethal launcher. Within this category there were several instances of felony vehicle stops of drug transporting cars, criminal threatenings with guns or knives, vehicle pursuits and other incidents where officers aimed firearms or less-lethal special weapons at suspects and successfully gained their compliance. Issued weapons, such as the Glock pistol, patrol rifle and the 40mm Less Lethal Launcher were utilized.

OC spray was used eleven times, mostly with very good or moderate results. The application of pepper spray usually ended the conflict, the few times it didn't were the result of poor officer aim or suspects who just muscled through the discomfort.

The expandable baton was used a single time, to "arm bar" a resisting suspects arm behind his back for handcuffing.

There were no K9 uses this year.

The Tactical Team (or elements thereof) was used six times, four times for pre-planned anti-drug operations or high-risk warrant service, one time to form a hasty Immediate Action Team to intervene in a potential hostage situation and once to safely take a suicidal, heavily armed man into custody.

Many of the UOF reports filed indicated the officers utilized more than one force option to resolve the incident, starting with their own official presence and increasing when forced to, based upon the suspect actions. Officers are trained to de-escalate situations by using verbal negotiating and smart physical tactics. Police response to suspect resistance elevated only when the suspect refused to be reasonable and comply, and they themselves increased the tensions of the incident. Multiple-officer responses happened often, in attempts to keep the levels of force applied at lower levels and reduce risk for both suspect and Police. The trend of suspects to reject Police authority contributed to the majority of these encounters.

Pursuant to this UOF Analysis, coordination is ongoing with the UOF staff to ensure that future UOF training remains 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. We continue to conduct De-Escalation training in excess of the formal requirements. At present, current training is meeting this agency's needs, and the training calendar covers all force options, concentrating on mastery of basic skills.