Police Force Analysis System℠
Third Summary Report
Data from 2021, 2022 and 2023
Dallas Police Department

July 2024

Police Strategies LLC

www.policestrategies.com

This study was funded by the Dallas Police Department. This research was conducted independently, and the findings and recommendations presented within this report are from the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions or opinions of the Dallas Police Department.

Please direct questions regarding this report to Bob Scales at: bob@policestrategies.com

Contents

Background – The Lack of Data on Police Uses of Force 2

Building the Data Infrastructure to Support Democratic Policing 7

Police Strategies LLC 8

Police Force Analysis System℠ 9

Use of Force Data Collection from Dallas Police Department 12

Police Force Analysis System℠ – Summary of Use of Force Incidents for the Dallas Police Department 13

- **Date, Time, and Location of Use of Force Incidents** 13
- **Force Justification** 17
- **Force Factor** 18
- **Force Tactics** 20
- **Injuries** 24

Police Force Analysis System℠ – Summary of Show of Force Incidents (Weapon Pointing) for the Dallas Police Department 25

- **Date, Time, and Location of Use of Force Incidents** 25
- **Reason for Contact** 29
- **Force Frequency** 29

Use of Force Trends – 2021 to 2023 33

Show of Force Trends – 2021 to 2023 34

Interagency Comparative Analysis Using the Police Force Analysis Network℠ 37

- Risk Factor Comparisons 38

Glossary 41

Background – The Lack of Data on Police Uses of Force

In response to a recent series of highly publicized police shootings, the public and policy makers are demanding that law enforcement be more accountable and transparent about its use of force, particularly with regards to the impact on communities of color. But, as made clear in a 2013 survey by the U.S. Department of Justice,[1] there is wide variance in agency approaches to tracking force, a lack of in-depth review of force within many individual police departments, and simply no data allowing for a meaningful evaluation and comparison of use of force practices across the United States. Understanding police use of force in all its complexity requires a systematic examination of when, where, how, and why force is used in the approximately 400,000 police use of force incidents occurring each year throughout the country.

While the FBI has attempted to collect information on justifiable homicides by police officers, this amounts to an extremely small percentage of all police uses of force that occur each year and the data is limited and incomplete. In 2015 the FBI launched a new effort to collect national use of force data.[2] In 2023 the FBI released some of the data collected under the program.[3] Unfortunately, due to low participation rates from law enforcement agencies, the data release has limited value. The US Government Accountability Office has provided some recommendations for improving publication of use of force data.[4]

There are no reliable and comprehensive data sources available that could be used to develop evidence-based best practices for use of force. As a result, there currently exists a plethora of policies, training programs and procedures designed to guide officers on how to appropriately use force. Since none of these policies or programs have been evaluated for their effectiveness, agencies have no way of knowing whether their existing practices should be maintained,

[1] "Data on Use of Force by Police Across U.S. Proves Almost Useless," New York Times, August 11, 2015.
[2] .National Use-of-Force Data Collection
[33] Federal Bureau of Investigation – Crime Data Explorer – National Use of Force Data
[4] Law Enforcement: DOJ Can Improve Publication of Use of Force Data and Oversight of Excessive Force Allegations, U.S. Government Accountability Office, December 7, 2021.

modified, or overhauled. Some organizations such as the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) have attempted to develop guidelines on how officers should appropriately use force.[5] Unfortunately, with no data or evidence to back up the effectiveness of these new proposals, they are often met with skepticism and resistance by the law enforcement community.[6] By issuing recommendations for sweeping reforms without providing any data to support those recommendations, the chasm between the public and police may actually widen as we debate how the police should reform themselves.[7]

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has attempted to reform dozens of law enforcement agencies over the last 27 years through a series of consent decrees and collaborative reform projects.[8] Consent decrees can cost local governments millions of dollars and it can take a decade or more to reach compliance with court ordered mandates.[9] Unfortunately, one thing that all consent decrees have lacked is a systematic and comprehensive data collection program that would be capable of assessing the effectiveness of the reforms and the long-term impacts of the decrees.[10] A few studies by academic researchers have determined that the benefits of consent decrees are mixed at best.[11]

In May 2015, the Obama Administration launched the Police Data Initiative.[12] This initiative was the result of recommendations from the Task Force on 21st Century Policing[13] and it has two

[5] Guiding Principles on Use of Force, Critical Issues in Policing Series, Police Executive Research Forum, March 2014.
[6] Statement of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police on PERF's Proposed Use of Force Standards, February 2014.
[7] Protocol for reducing police shootings draws backlash from unions, chiefs group, Washington Post, March 31, 2014.
[8] POLICE REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, US Department of Justice, December 4, 2015.
[9] Are police consent decrees an asset? Depends on who you ask, AP News, May 22, 2023.
[10] Police Consent Decrees Are Coming Back — But They Might Not Make Sense Anymore, NPR, June 22, 2021.
[11] "Do federal consent decrees improve local police departments? This study says they might," Washington Post, May 24, 2014.
[12] "Launching the Police Data Initiative," The White House President Barack Obama, May 18, 2015.
[13] Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, May 2015.

primary goals: (1) Use open data to build transparency and increase community trust, and (2) Provide internal accountability and effective data analysis. One of the data elements collected by the initiative is police use of force. This data is currently available on an open data portal managed by the Police Foundation.[14] Only 19 law enforcement agencies have provided their data on use of force incidents and each of those agencies has a different method for reporting their stats.[15] Some agencies only include three fields of information while others have more than thirty fields. Some agencies only report on officer involved shootings while others report on all uses of force including the pointing of a firearm. Unfortunately, the use of force data provided to the Police Data Initiative provides little insight into how officers are using force and where efforts on reform need to be focused.

The State of California recently adopted one of the most comprehensive use of force data collection programs in the country.[16] The URSUS system uses an online reporting tool[17] to collect data from all law enforcement agencies in the state. The California DOJ provides access to some of the data on its Open Justice Portal[18] and releases annual reports.[19] The main limitation of URSUS is that it only collects data on use of force incidents that result in serious bodily injury or death of a civilian or officer or the discharge of a firearm. Each year about seven hundred use of force incidents that meet the URSUS reporting criteria (deadly force or serious bodily injury) are reported to the California Attorney General's Office. This amounts to is less than 2% of the estimated 45,000[20] uses of force that occur in the state each year. Only twenty-two of the state's

[14] Police Data Initiative Open Data Portal
[15] Police Data Initiative, Use of Force.
[16] "California Launches Digital Platform to Collect Police Use-of-Force Data," Techwire.net, September 22, 2014.
[17] California Department of Justice URSUS Use of Force Incident Reporting
[18] California DOJ Open Justice Portal
[19] Use of Force Incident Reporting 2021, California Department of Justice.
[20] This estimate of the total number of use of force incidents in the state was derived from the total number of arrests in 2016 (1,120,759) multiplied by 4% which is the average use of force rate per arrest of the thirty-two law

568 law enforcement agencies had more than five incidents to report to URSUS in 2021 and three-quarters of all agencies in the state did not have any deadly force incidents to report. While the URSUS system is a good first step, the limited amount of data it contains will provide little guidance to any department that wants to implement data-driven reforms.

While URSUS captures data on all firearms discharges, most officers will go their entire careers without ever discharging their firearms in the line of duty.[21] By contrast, half of the nation's 800,000 law enforcement officers will use some type of force at least once each year. We need to begin collecting and analyzing data on all use of force incidents so that agencies can craft evidence-based best practices and closely monitor officer behavior in the field.

A few other states like New Jersey,[22] Ohio,[23] and New York[24] have recently begun collecting use of force data with limited success. Since these data collection systems were not designed by data scientists, the information collected is not useful for academic research and analysis and the data can be easily misinterpreted and misused.[25]

As a result of the lack of available data on police use of force several advocacy groups[26] and media outlets[27] have created crowdsourced databases from news reports and other public records. The data is limited to officer involved deaths and only captures less than 2% of all police uses of force.

---

enforcement agencies in the Police Force Analysis System℠. A use of force incident includes the use of any physical force to overcome resistance and/or the use of any weapon.

[21] According to a 2017 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 73% of law enforcement officers never fired their service weapon while on the job during their entire careers.

[22] REDUCING USE OF FORCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, Office of the Attorney General for the State of New Jersey.

[23] Police reported more than 2,000 cases to Ohio's use of force database last year, 19 News, January 20, 2024.

[24] Division of Criminal Justice Services for New York State – Use of Force Reporting

[25] Which cops are the roughest? Check the AG's website, NJ.com, April 11, 2021.

[26] See Mapping Police Violence and Fatal Encounters

[27] See The Washington Post and The Guardian

While these crowdsourced databases have many limitations and problems,[28] they do provide a more comprehensive data set than any federal source of national use of force statistics.[29]

The Attorney General of Texas does provide limited data on officer involved shootings.[30] The data collection program began in October 2015 and links are provided to short summary reports of each incident. It appears that there is data on about 1,500 deadly force incidents over the last seven years, but the raw data cannot be downloaded.

Some of the largest municipal police departments in Texas, including Dallas PD, provide use of force data to the public in a variety of formats:

- Dallas Police Department
- San Antonio Police Department
- Austin Police Department
- Houston Police Department
- Fort Worth Police Department
- Arlington Police Department

Each of these agencies provides different types of information on use of force incidents and each of them presents the data in different ways. For example, Houston PD provides use of force data on interactive dashboards. Dallas PD and Austin PD allow the raw use of force data to be downloaded, while Fort Worth PD and Arlington PD produce written use of force reports annually.

[28] Comparing Fatal Encounters, Mapping Police Violence, and Washington Post Fatal Police Shooting Data from 2015–2019: A Research Note, Criminal Justice Review, January 5, 2023.
[29] FBI may shut down police use-of-force database due to lack of police participation, Washington Post, December 9, 2021.
[30] Officer Involved in Shooting Reports, Attorney General of Texas.

Building the Data Infrastructure to Support Democratic Policing

The core function of the police in a democratic society is to protect life, liberty, and property, and coercion is the fundamental means by which they achieve those democratic goals. While the police perform many complex and important roles within the communities they serve, the single defining characteristic of the police is their capacity to both verbally and physically coerce individuals to do things that they are not otherwise inclined to do, particularly those individuals who are not obeying the rules. To be able to do this efficiently and effectively, the police must be viewed as a legitimate authority by the citizens they serve. This perceived legitimacy is driven by transparency in police decision-making, the presence of sufficient accountability structures, and perhaps most important, fundamental fairness in the distribution of coercive authority.

Democratic policing is thus a process rather than an achievable end in itself, and it can only be demonstrated through constant evaluation in order to ensure that these democratic ideals are being satisfied. This process of evaluation requires adequate information about coercion. Recent tragic high-profile events have renewed our focus on an old problem: the fact that we simply do not have enough data about police coercion. The most important task to improve the quality of policing in the United States is to systematically collect and report data on police coercion, and to understand the distribution of coercion across people, places, and time.

Police Strategies LLC has partnered with the Crime and Justice Research Center at Seattle University to develop comprehensive information about the intersection of individual and contextual factors that explain situational, temporal, and spatial variation in the distribution of police coercive authority with attention to the ways in which demographic factors such as race/ethnicity, gender, and age, situational/historical/individual characteristics such as mental illness, homelessness, and location impact police-citizen interactions and police coercive control. Data from this system will produce research and support community engagement about the relationship between the intersection of race, age, gender, status, and behavior on police coercion.

Police Strategies LLC

Police Strategies LLC is a Washington State based company that was formed in February 2015. The company was built by law enforcement professionals, attorneys, and academics with the primary goal of helping law enforcement agencies use their own incident reports and existing information to make data-driven decisions and develop evidence-based best practices. The company's three partners are all former employees of the Seattle Police Department and were directly involved with the Department of Justice's 2011 pattern or practice investigation of the Seattle PD as well as the federal consent decree that followed. They wanted to take the lessons learned from that experience and provide other police departments with the tools they need to monitor their use of force incidents, identify high risk behavior, and evaluate the outcomes of any reforms that are implemented.

Bob Scales is a former King County officer prosecutor and Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington. He worked for 14 years for the City of Seattle as a public safety policy advisor for three Mayors. Kathryn Olson served as an EEOC attorney and the Director of the Office of Professional Accountability for the Seattle Police Department. She is a past president of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Chief Mike Sanford has over 30 years of law enforcement experience serving as Assistant Chief for the Seattle Police Department and Chief of Police for the cities of Wapato and Algona Washington. Mike was a patrol tactics trainer for the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

The company has partnerships with the Crime and Justice Research Center at Seattle University and the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department at the University of Texas at Dallas. Academic researchers have used the data from the Police Force Analysis System℠ to produce peer reviewed journal articles including:

- Use of vascular neck restraints in law enforcement: A case-study of Spokane, WA, Police Practice and Research, July 5, 2021.
- Prevalence and correlates of spitting on police officers: New risks in the COVID era, Forensic Science International, May 2021.
- Police Use of Force and Injury: Multilevel Predictors of Physical Harm to Subjects and Officers, Police Quarterly, November 8, 2021.
- Threat Dynamics and Police Use of Force, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, August 23, 2023.

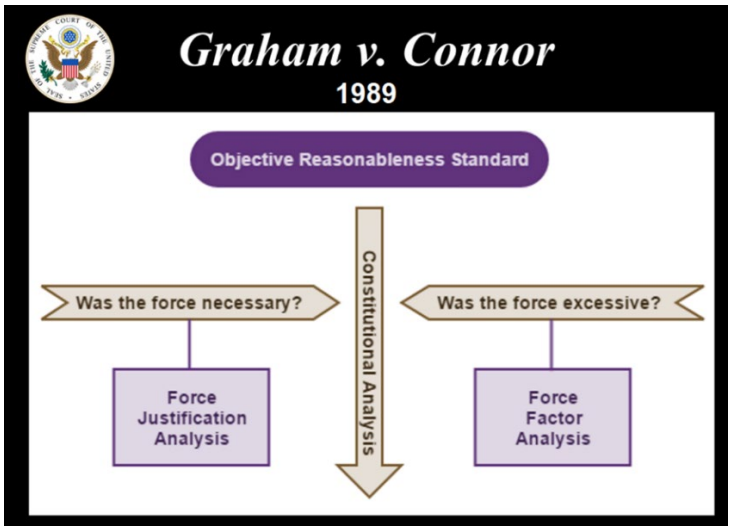
Police Force Analysis System℠

In the summer of 2015, Police Strategies LLC launched the Police Force Analysis System℠ (PFAS). PFAS combines peer-reviewed research with state-of-the-art analytical tools to produce a powerful data visualization system that can be used by law enforcement, policy makers, academics, and the public.[31] The core of PFAS builds upon the research work of Professor Geoff Alpert and his Force Factor method. Force Factor analysis formed the basis of Professor Alpert's 2004 book "Understanding Police Use of Force – Officers, Subjects and Reciprocity"[32] and has been the subject of several scholarly articles.[33]

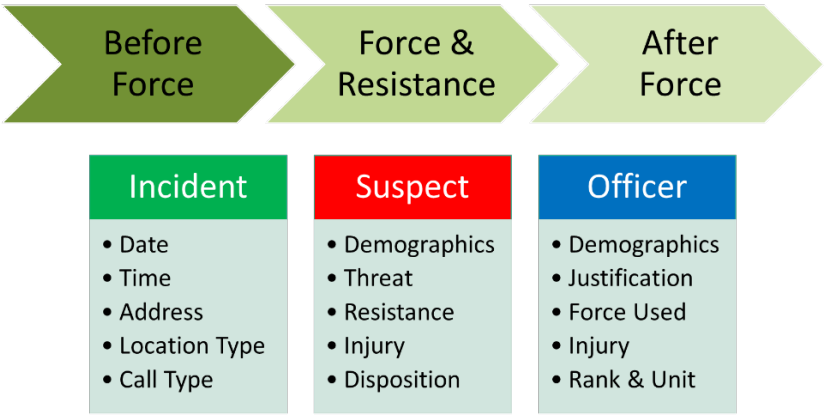
PFAS is a relational database that contains 150 data fields of information extracted from law enforcement agencies' existing incident reports and officer narrative statements. The data is

[31] Capitola Police creates online database to track use of force stats, Santa Cruz Sentinel, August 2014.
[32] Understanding Police Use of Force – Officers, Subjects, and Reciprocity, Cambridge Studies in Criminology, 2004.
[33] See, e.g., Reliability of the Force Factor Method in Police Use-of-Force Research, Police Quarterly, December 2015.

analyzed using legal algorithms that were developed from the evaluation criteria outlined in the United States Supreme Court case of *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). The Court adopted an objective reasonableness standard which evaluates each case based upon the information that the officer was aware of at the time the force was used and then comparing the officer's actions to what a reasonable officer would have done when faced with the same situation. PFAS uses Force Justification Analysis to determine the risk that a use of force incident would be found to be unnecessary and Force Factor Analysis to evaluate the risk that the force would be found to be excessive.



PFAS examines relevant temporal data from immediately before, during and after an application of force.



PFAS uses powerful data visualization software to display information on dynamic interactive dashboards. These dashboards can be used by police management to identify trends and patterns in use of force practices and detect high risk behavior of individual officers. The system can also be used to spot officers who consistently use force appropriately and effectively. Since the system can find both high risk and low risk incidents, PFAS can be used to correct problematic behavior as well as a training tool that highlights existing best practices among officers.

PFAS contains historical data for each agency and is designed to be updated on a regular basis. This allows the department to immediately identify trends and patterns as well as measure the impacts and outcomes of any changes that are made to policies, training, equipment, or other policing practices. For example, if a department provides crisis intervention and de-escalation training to its officers, the PFAS will be able to evaluate whether that training has had any impact on officer behavior.

PFAS currently has use of force data from 102 law enforcement agencies in eight states involving about 15,000 incidents and 8,000 officers who used force more than 25,000 times. PFAS is the largest and most comprehensive database of its kind in the nation. Although the incident reports from each of these agencies uses a different format, all the data extracted and entered into the system has been standardized which allows us to make meaningful interagency comparisons. The Police Force Analysis Network℠ allows agencies to compare their use of force practices with other agencies using the system.

The Police Force Analysis System℠ provides comprehensive information about police use of coercive authority and permits the study of the intersection of individual and contextual factors that explain situational, temporal, and spatial variation in the distribution of police uses of force. PFAS supports meaningful community engagement about police coercion by providing comprehensive and relevant data to address and inform public concern regarding police-citizen interactions.

Use of Force Data Collection from Dallas Police Department

Police Strategies LLC began working with Dallas Police Department in April 2022. Our first task was to code the Department's use of force reports and enter the data into the Police Force Analysis System℠. Dallas PD and Dallas Information and Technology Services (ITS) provided electronic extracts from those incident reports that included summaries of the incidents and officer statements. The data was shared through a secure online file sharing system.

Since 2014 Dallas PD has collected data and information on use of force incidents using their IAPro/BlueTeam™ records management system. Police Strategies LLC has a partnership with IAPro which allows us to extract raw data directly from the IAPro records management system. Dallas PD provided eight years of historical use of force data from IAPro which was incorporated into the analysis.

The data from IAPro was combined with the data extracted from the incident reports and officer narrative statements and entered into a relational database. Interactive dashboards were then built for use by Dallas PD and the public.

The Police Force Analysis System℠ contains data on all use of force incidents where an officer used a weapon and/or used any physical force. Dallas PD also provided data and reports on incidents where officers pointed a weapon (firearm, ECW[34] or projectile weapons) at a subject but the weapons were not discharged, and no other force was used. We identify these cases as "show-of-force" incidents and distinguish them from actual uses of force. Show-of-force incidents are qualitatively different from actual use of force incidents, and they cannot be analyzed using the same methodology. Therefore, this report will discuss show-of-force cases separately from use of force incidents.

The dashboards will be updated on a regular basis and annual written reports will be produced that summarize the analysis and findings. This report provides data from 2023 and makes comparisons with data from 2021 and 2022. The dashboards are updated on a quarterly basis and an annual report will be produced each summer.

[34] ECW means an electronic control weapon commonly known as a Taser™.

Police Force Analysis System℠ – Summary of Use of Force Incidents for the Dallas Police Department

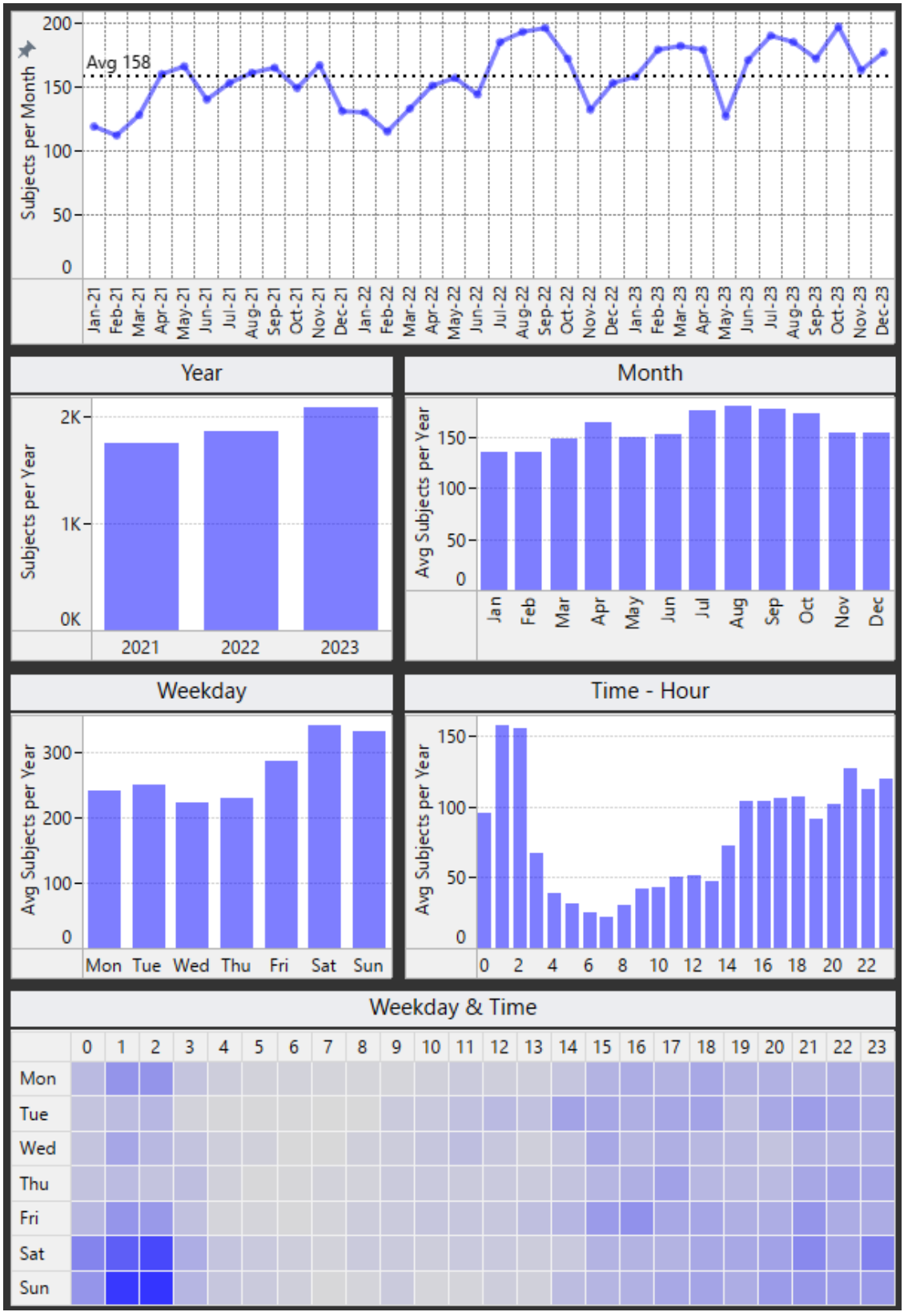
Dallas Police Department's Police Force Analysis System℠ (PFAS) contains use of force data from 2021, 2022 and 2023. The system will continue to be updated on a quarterly basis. This section of the report summarizes the 2023 data on actual use of force incidents and does not include show-of-force incidents which will be summarized later in this report. The use of force data from 2023 includes detailed information on 2,080 subjects who had force used against them and the 1,262 officers who used force during the year. These officers used force a total of 3,948 times.

Date, Time, and Location of Use of Force Incidents

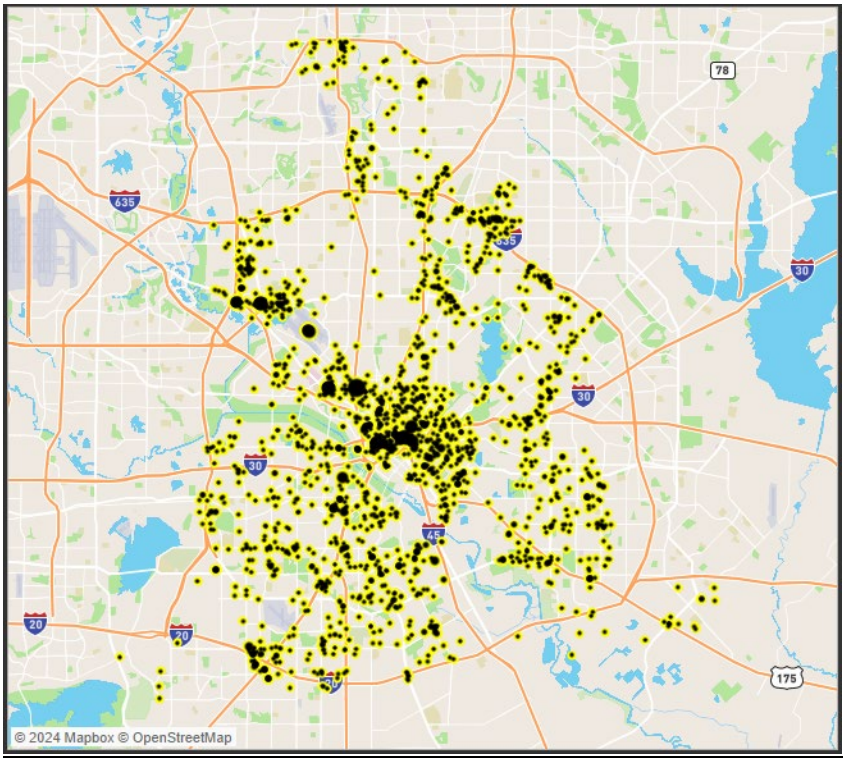
In 2023 the months with the most force incidents were October (197), July (190) and August (185) while the month with the fewest incidents was May (127). During the week, Saturdays (370) and Sundays (348) had the most incidents while Wednesdays (264) and Thursdays (264) had the fewest. The peak hours for force incidents were between 1am and 3am (316). The peak hours for use of force incidents were between 1am and 3am (353) and the fewest force incidents occurred between 6am and 8am (52). The most use of force incidents occurred on Saturday March 11, 2023 (16 incidents). Two days was the longest period of time without any force incidents (January 30-31, 2023).

Forty-six percent of all force incidents occurred on the street, 24% occurred at a business, and 24% occurred inside or outside of a residence. Seventy-one incidents occurred at a medical facility, 42 at a park and 7 at a school.

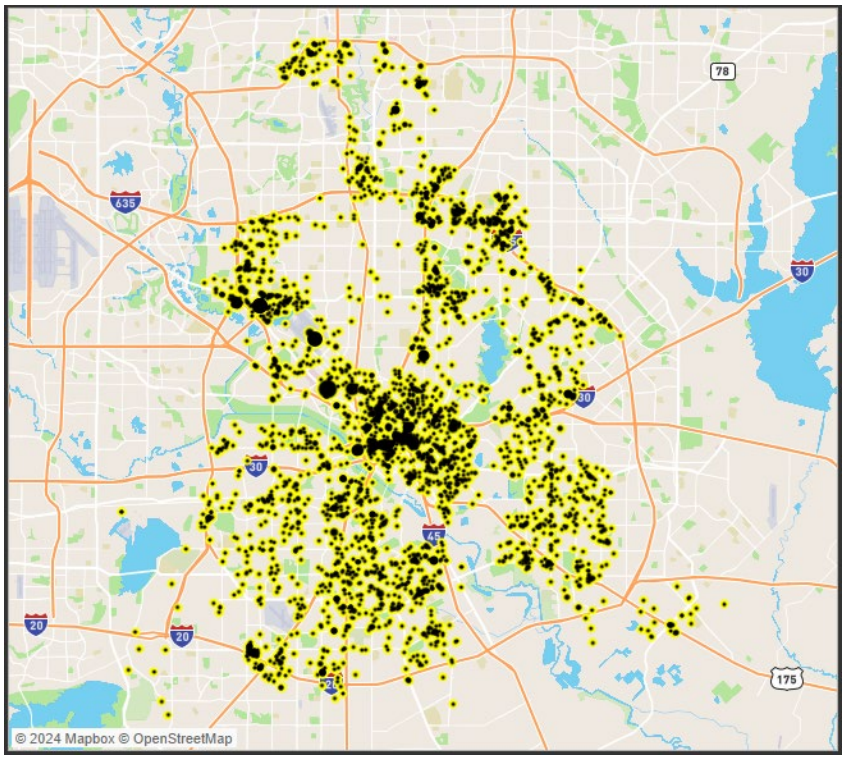
Dallas PD – Use of Force Incidents – 2021 and 2023



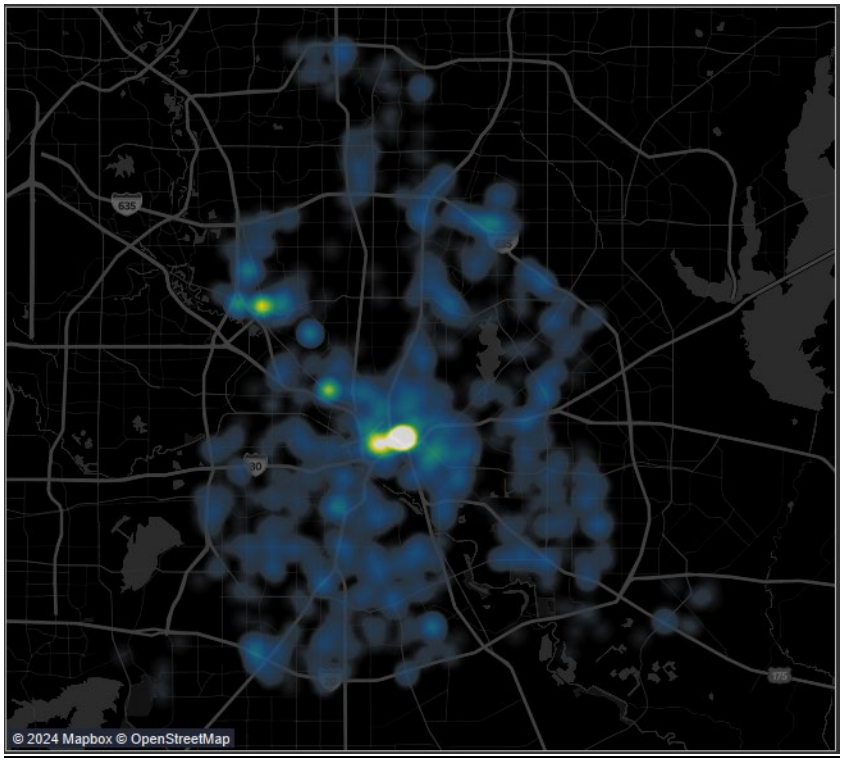
Use of Force Incident Locations – 2023



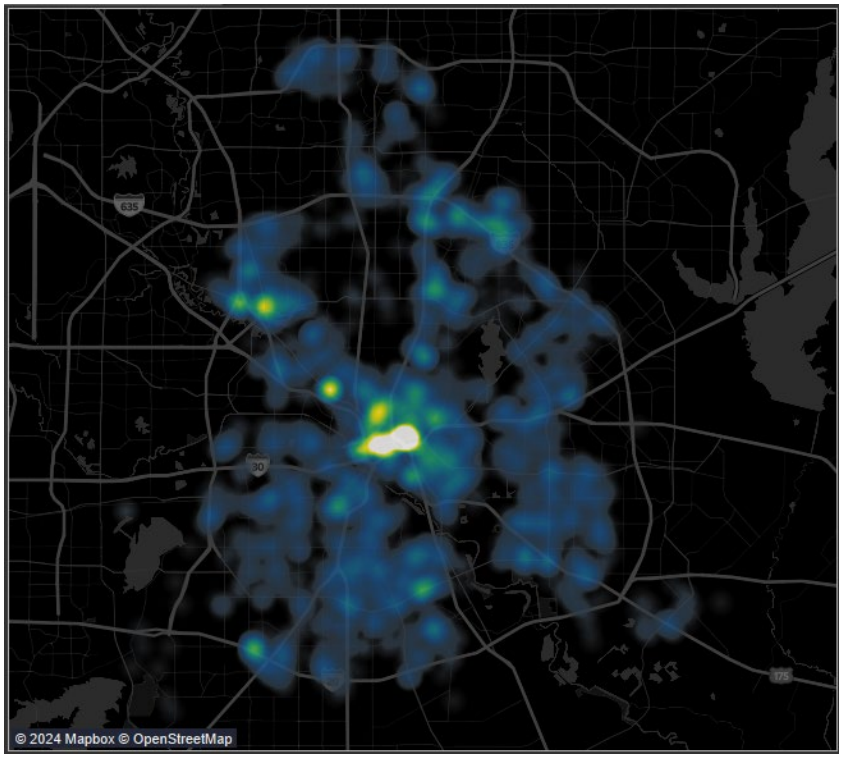
Use of Force Incident Locations – 2021 & 2022



Use of Force Heat Map – 2023



Use of Force Heat Map – 2021 & 2022



Reason for Contact

In 2023 61% of officers who used force were responding to a dispatched call for service. Twenty-nine percent of officers were making an officer-initiated contact and 10% of officers were responding to assist other officers.

The most common initial call types for force incidents were disturbance/suspicious calls (28%), violent crimes (23%) and property crimes (17%). In 2023 436 use of force incidents were the result of a call about a disturbance, 291 started as a traffic stop and 239 involved a welfare check. Even though the initial call type may have been for a minor offense or a welfare check, most of these incidents that involved a use of force resulted in more serious crimes being charged. For example, 26% of traffic stops where force was used involved an arrest for a warrant while another 20% involved the illegal possession of drugs or firearms. Only 5% of traffic stops where force was used involved an arrest for only a traffic offense. By contrast, 62% of welfare checks where force was used involved an individual who resisted being taken to a medical facility for a mental health evaluation or treatment.

Force Justification

The Force Justification Score is based upon the four Graham Factors: (1) seriousness of the crime being investigated; (2) the level of threat to the officer or others; (3) the level of resistance; and (4) whether the subject fled from the officer. Low Justification Scores are indicative of incidents where subjects were not committing serious crimes, did not pose a significant threat to the officer or others, did not present a high level of resistance, and did not flee. Low Force Justification scores can also be the result of inadequate report writing or insufficient information provided in the incident reports and officer narratives.

In 2023, 19% of the Department's use of force incidents (405 incidents) had low Force Justification scores (<6). The average Force Justification score was 8.9 on a scale of 0 to 20. There were 140 incidents that received the highest justification score of 20. These incidents involved an assault on the officer before the officer made the decision to use force.

In 2023 there were 508 officers who were involved in at least one incident with a low Force Justification score. Eight officers were involved in 5, 6 or 7 low Force Justification incidents each, 47 officers were involved in three or four incidents each, 99 officers were involved in two incident each, and 354 officers were involved in only one incident each with a low Force Justification score.

Low Force Justification incidents were more likely to have the following characteristics than cases with higher Force Justification scores:

	Force Justification Score	
Incident Characteristic	**Low**	**Medium & High**
Subject was Female	26%	21%
Subject was White	22%	13%
Subject was under the influence of alcohol or drugs	53%	44%
Subject was charged with a liquor violation or DUI	22%	6%
Force incident was resolved within two Force Sequences	40%	29%
Subject had mental health issues	29%	15%

The average Force Justification Score was the same for Male and Female subjects (8.9). Asian subjects had lowest average Force Justification Score (6.9) and Native American subjects had the highest average scores (14.8). By age subjects between 40 and 49 had the lowest average Force Justification score (8.5) and subjects over 50 had the highest average score (9.3).

Force Factor

The Force Factor Score is based upon the proportionality of force to resistance and scores range from -6 to +6. A negative score means that the subject's resistance level was higher than the officers' force level. A medium Force Factor Score is between 0 and +2. This is the range where most officers can gain control of a subject by using force that is at least proportional to the level of resistance or slightly above. A Force Factor of +3 or above is considered a high score. This does not mean that the force was excessive, but these incidents do present a higher risk of being found to be excessive under the Graham v. Connor standards.

In 2023, 8% of all force incidents had a high Force Factor score (+3 or above) (171 incidents). There were 178 officers involved in at least one high Force factor incident in 2023. One officer was involved in eight high Force Factor incidents and another officer was involved in six incidents. Eight officers were involved in three or four high Force Factor incidents each and the remaining 168 officers were involved in one or two incidents each.

Average Force Factor scores were lower for Female subjects (0.0) than for Male subjects (0.6). Average Force Factor scores were highest for Native American subjects (1.3) and were lowest for White subjects (0.4). Subjects between 40 and 49 had the highest average Force Factor score (0.6) and Juveniles had the lowest Force Factor Score (0.1).

The most common Force Factor Score was +1 (34%) followed by 0 (30%) and +2 (16%). There were 30 incidents with a +4 Force Factor score and no incidents with a +5 or +6 Force Factor score. Since 80% of all force incidents are between 0 and +2, this indicates that most officers in the Department behave very consistently when faced with a given level of resistance and they tend to use the minimal amount of force necessary to gain compliance.

When higher levels of force are used against lower levels of resistance, the subjects are controlled much faster with lower injury rates for officers but higher injury rates for subjects.

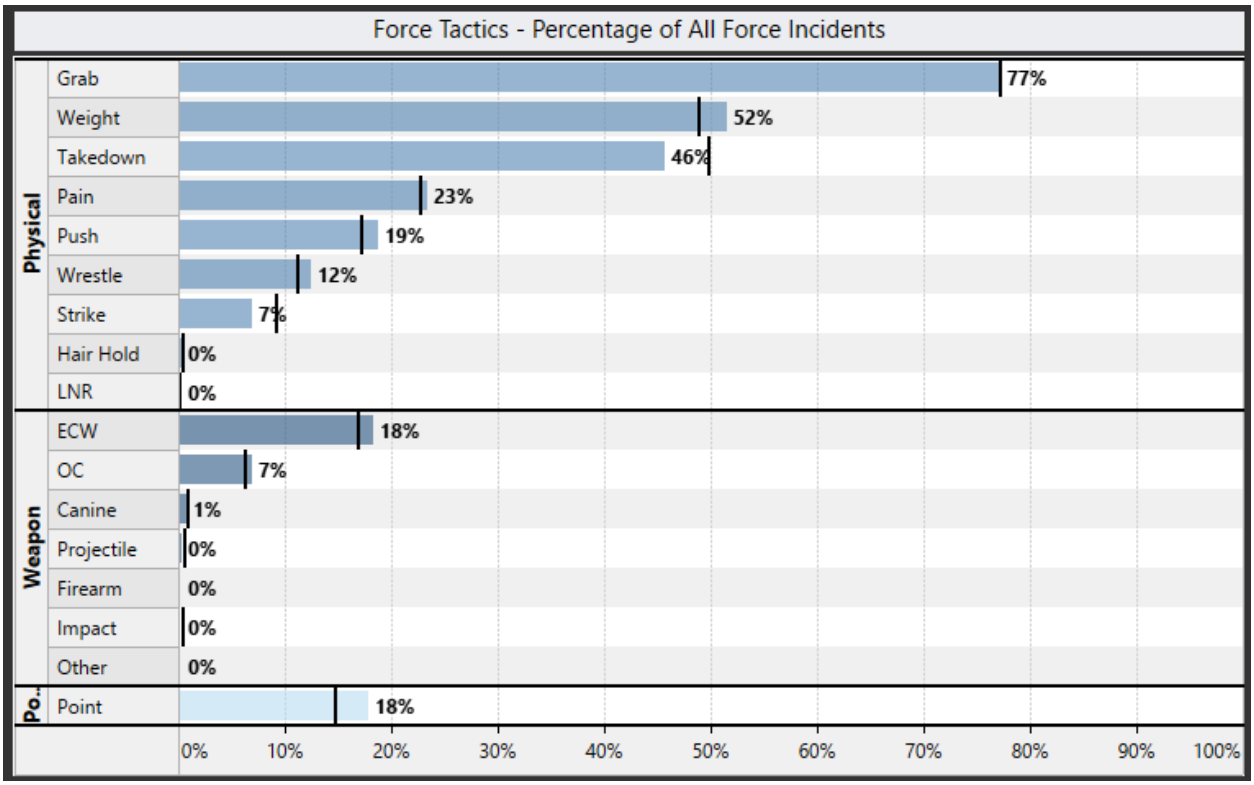
	Force Factor for 2023 Incidents		
	Low (-1 to -3)	Medium (0 to +2)	High (+3 to +5)
Subject brought under control within 1 or 2 Force Sequences	22%	28%	68%
Subject Injury Rate	25%	29%	51%
Officer Injury Rate	14%	8%	9%

Force Tactics

Of the 2,080 use of force incidents that occurred in 2023, 74% involved physical force only, 11% involved only the use of weapons by officers and 15% involved both physical force and the use of a weapon.

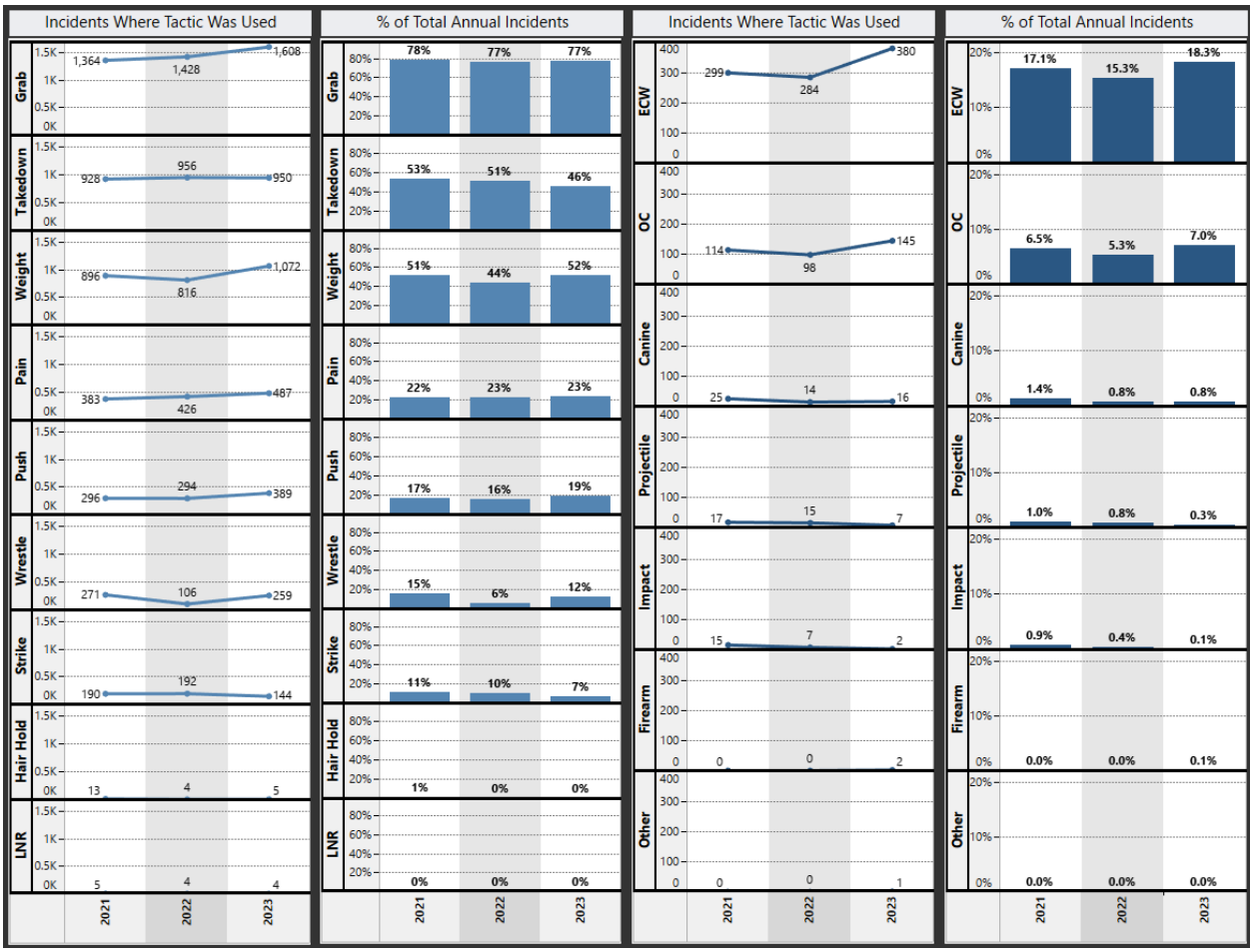
Grabbing/pulling (77%), using weight to hold a subject down (52%), and takedowns (46%) were the most common physical tactics used while ECWs (18%) and OC (7%) were the most frequently used weapons.

Force Tactics Used - 2023



In 2023 officers used 8,963 individual physical force tactics and weapons during 2,080 incidents. Between 2021 and 2023 the use of ECWs and OC increased by 27% while the use of canines decreased by 36%, projectile weapons fell by 59% and impact weapons dropped by 87%. The frequency of use of physical tactics between 2021 and 2023 was similar but the use of takedowns fell from 53% of incidents in 2021 to 46% of incidents in 2023 while the use of strikes fell from 11% to 7% during the same time period.

Annual Number of Force Tactics Used – 2021 to 2023



Subjects

In 2023 there were three demographic groups (gender, race, and age) that made up 52% of all use of force subjects (Black and Hispanic Males between 18 and 39 and Black Males over 40). This is a similar demographic pattern to 2021 & 2022.

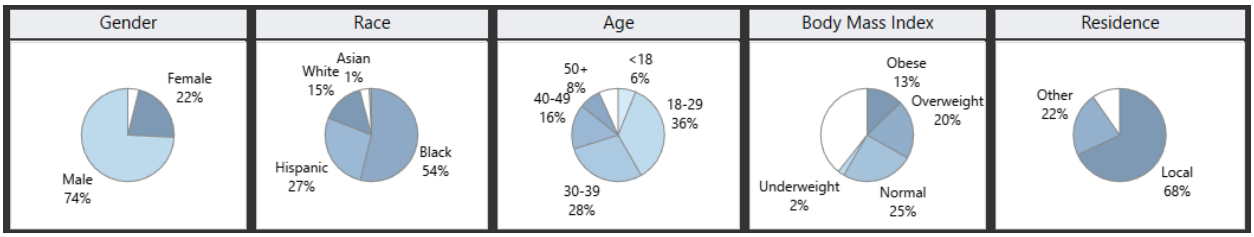
Most Common Characteristics of Use of Force Subjects 2023				
Gender	**Race**	**Age**	**Number of Subjects**	**Percentage of Force Incidents**
Male	Black	18-39	555	27%
Male	Hispanic	18-39	309	15%
Male	Black	40+	201	10%
All Other Demographic Groups or Unknown			1,015	48%

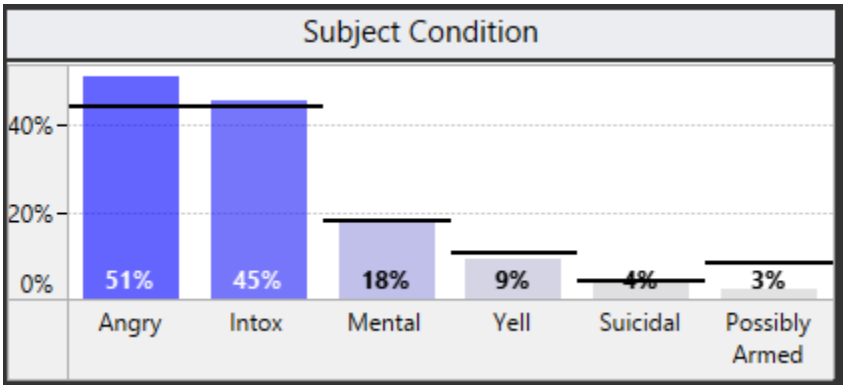
Most Common Characteristics of Use of Force Subjects 2021 & 2022				
Gender	**Race**	**Age**	**Number of Subjects**	**Percentage of Force Incidents**
Male	Black	18-39	967	27%
Male	Hispanic	18-39	648	18%
Male	Black	40+	379	10%
All Other Demographic Groups or Unknown			1,618	45%

Nearly three-quarters of use of force subjects were Male and two-thirds were residents of Dallas. Six percent of use of force subjects were juveniles and 8% were over 50.

Forty-five percent of subjects were under the influence of drugs or alcohol when force was used. Eighteen percent of subjects appeared to have mental health issues and 4% of subjects were suicidal.

Use of Force Subject Characteristics - 2023





Injuries

In 2023 there were 208 officer injuries during force incidents. One officer was injured 8 times. Three officers were injured three times each and 17 officers were injured twice. Five percent of force applications by officers resulted in an injury to the officer who used force. Most officer injuries were minor: 12% of injured officers complained of pain only, 52% had a bruise or a scrape, 15% received a minor cut, and 20% of officers were contaminated with bodily fluid. Two officers received a fracture or broken tooth, and one officer received a gunshot wound. Most officers did not receive any medical treatment for their injuries. Seventeen percent of injured officers were treated by EMTs and 13% received treatment at a hospital.

In 2023 637 subjects who had force used against them were injured (31% of all incidents). Of the subjects who were injured, most of those injuries were minor: complaint of pain (9%), ECW probe (30%), bruise/scrape (28%), minor cut (17%), and OC spray (13%). Fifteen subjects were bitten by canines, one subject lost consciousness, and eight subjects received serious injuries.

Eighty-four percent of subjects who were injured or complained of injury received medical treatment. EMTs treated 38% of injured subjects and 46% were treated at a hospital. Thirty-five percent of injuries were to the subjects' torso and 31% of injuries were to the head.

Police Force Analysis System℠ – Summary of Show of Force Incidents (Weapon Pointing) for the Dallas Police Department

Dallas Police Department's Police Force Analysis System℠ (PFAS) contains data on incidents where only a show of force was involved (i.e. pointing or displaying and threatening to use a weapon). This section of the report summarizes the 2023 data on show of force incidents. In 2023 there were 437 subjects that were involved in a show of force incident. During the year 374 officers pointed their weapons a total of 686 times.

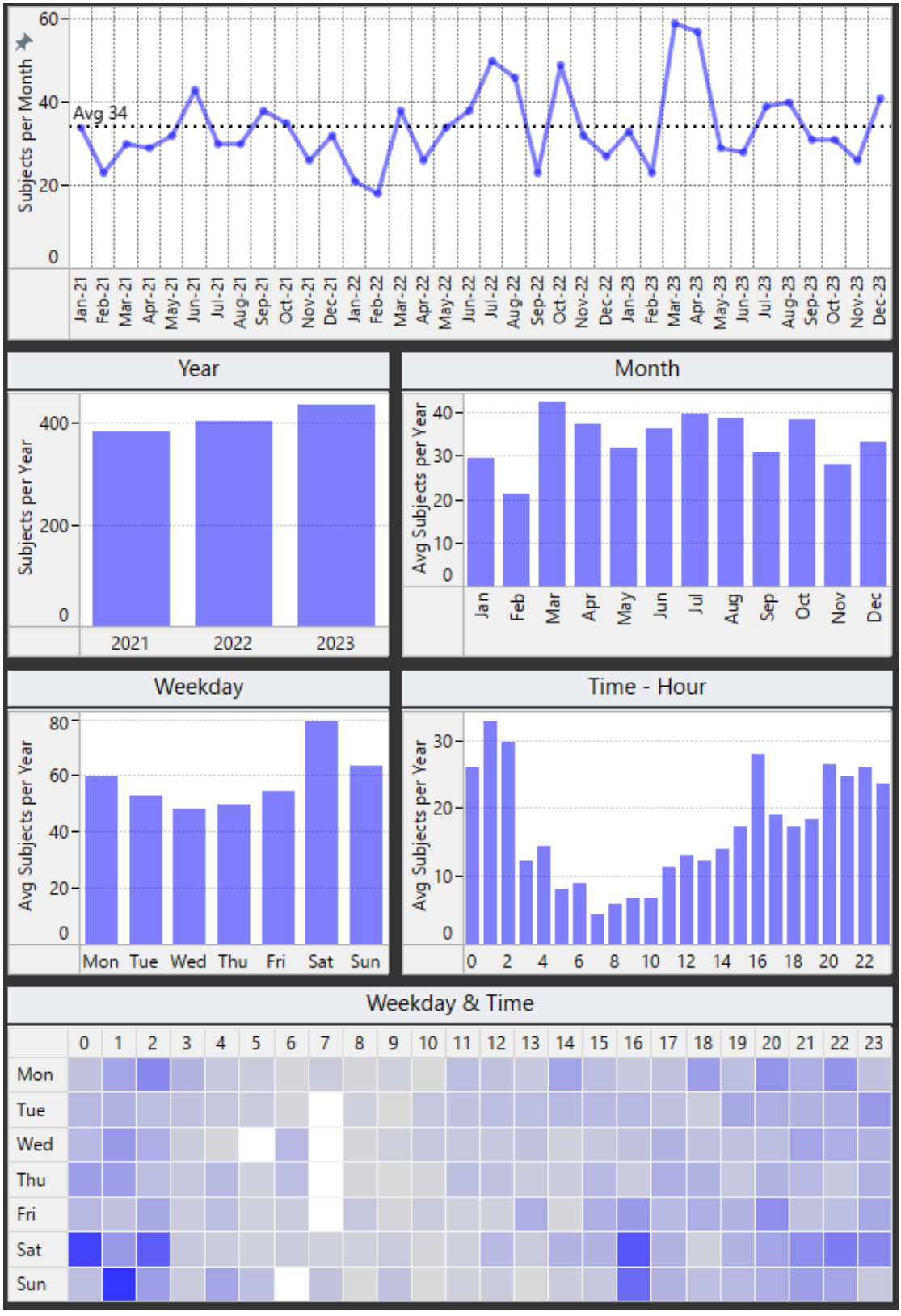
Date, Time, and Location of Use of Force Incidents

In 2023 the months with the most show of force incidents were March (59) and April (57) while the month with the fewest incidents was February (23). During the week, Saturdays (79) had the most incidents while Wednesdays (48) had the fewest. The peak hour for show of force incidents was between 1am and 2am (38). The peak hours for use of force incidents during the week were on Sundays between 1am and 2am (10).

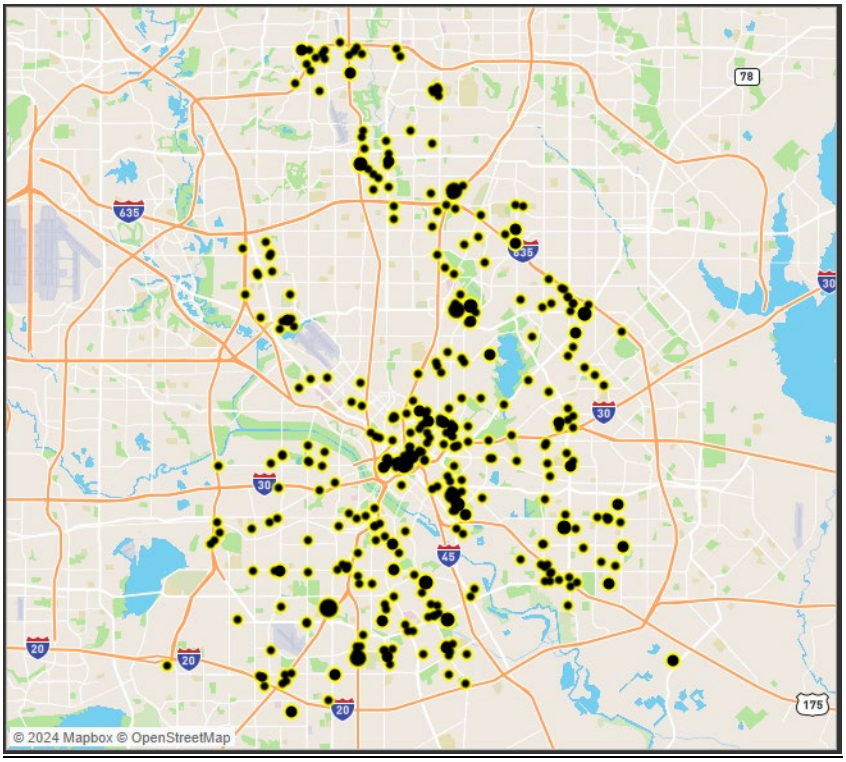
The most show of force incidents occurred on Friday December 8, 2023 (7 incidents). The longest period of time without any show of force incidents was between May 9 and May 16, 2023.

Forty-six percent of show of force incidents occurred on the street, 19% occurred at a business, and 32% occurred inside or outside of a residence. Six incidents occurred at a park and three incidents occurred at a school.

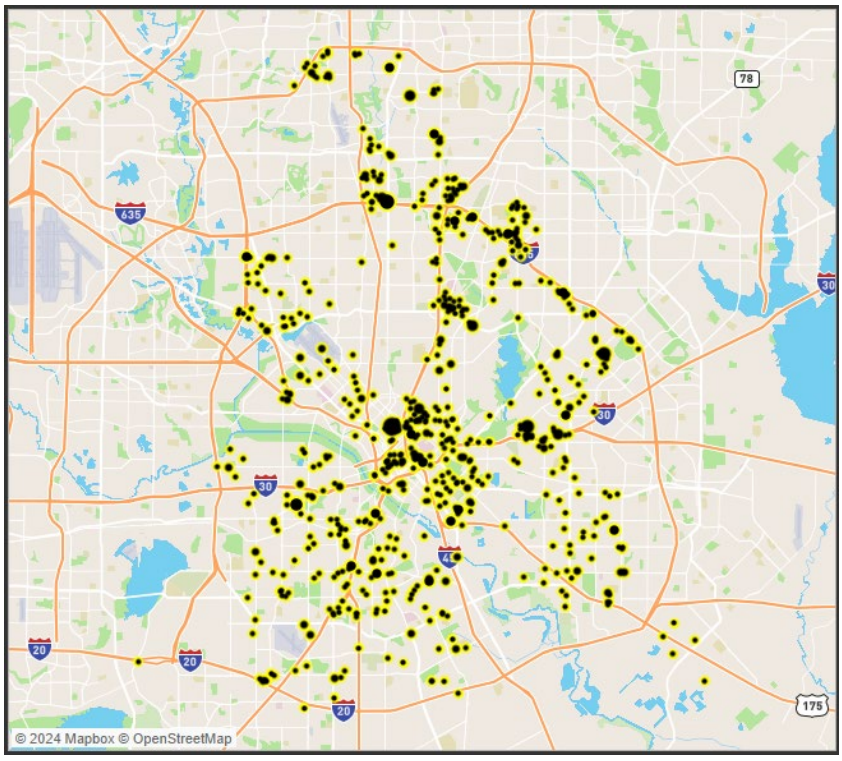
Dallas PD – Show of Force Incidents – 2021 to 2023



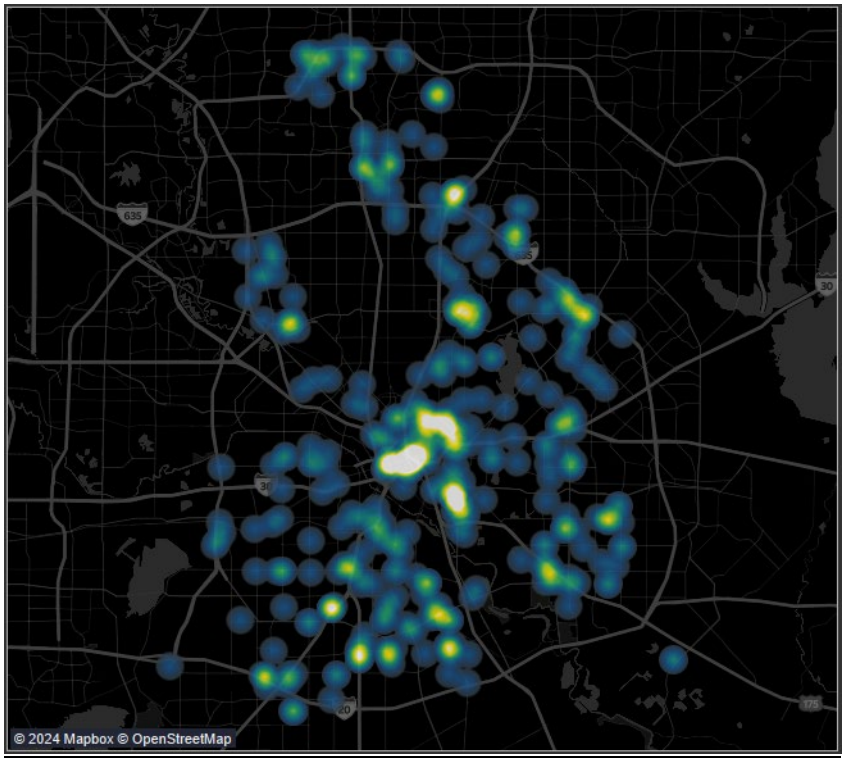
Show of Force Incident Locations – 2023



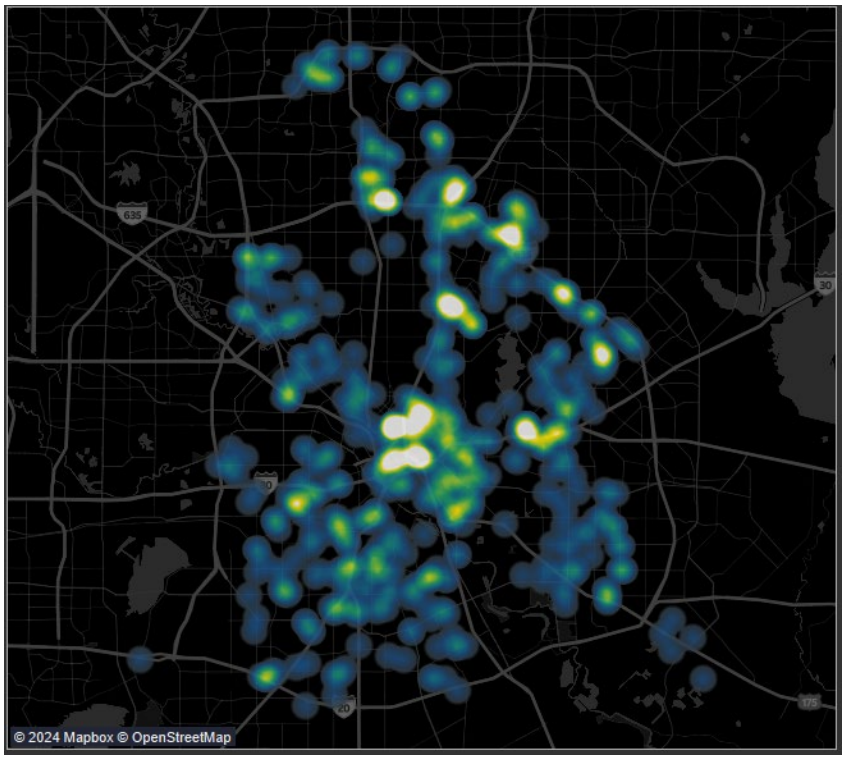
Show of Force Incident Locations – 2021 & 2022



Show of Force Heat Map – 2023



Show of Force Heat Map – 2021 & 2022



Reason for Contact

In 2023 67% of officers who showed force were responding to a dispatched call for service. Twenty-two percent of officers were making an officer-initiated contact and 11% of officers were responding to assist other officers.

The most common initial call types for show of force incidents were violent crimes (32%), property crimes (30%), disturbance/suspicious calls (21%), and traffic offenses (9%). One percent of show of force incidents involved a welfare check and 2% involved a drug crime. In 2023 95 show of force incidents were the result of a call about a firearm and 99 involved a burglary.

Force Frequency

In 2023 there were 437 show of force incidents involving 374 officers who showed force a total of 686 times. There were 14 officers who were involved in six to eleven show of force incidents each, 27 officers were involved in four or five incidents each, 103 officers were involved in two or three incidents each and 230 officers showed force only once. Since show of force incidents are directly correlated with the number of stops and arrests officers make, the officers with the highest number of show of force incidents were probably assigned to patrol and were likely making the most stops and arrests in the Department.

Subjects

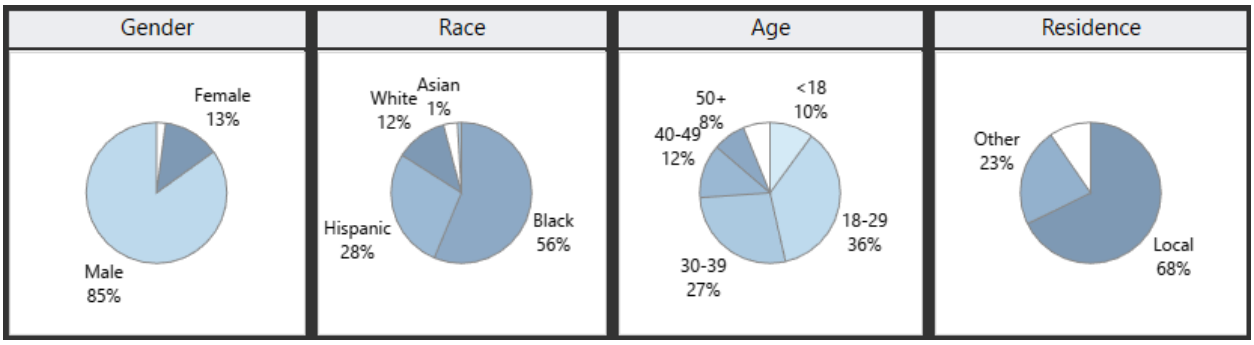
In 2023 there were three demographic groups (gender, race, and age) that made up 58% of all show of force subjects (Black and Hispanic Males between 18 and 39 and Black Males over 40). This is a similar demographic pattern to 2021 & 2022.

Most Common Characteristics of Show of Force Subjects 2023				
Gender	**Race**	**Age**	**Number of Subjects**	**Percentage of Force Incidents**
Male	Black	18-39	140	32%
Male	Hispanic	18-39	75	17%
Male	Black	40+	39	9%
All Other Demographic Groups or Unknown			183	42%

Most Common Characteristics of Show of Force Subjects 2021 & 2022				
Gender	**Race**	**Age**	**Number of Subjects**	**Percentage of Force Incidents**
Male	Black	18-39	245	32%
Male	Hispanic	18-39	152	19%
Male	Black	40+	56	7%
All Other Demographic Groups or Unknown			331	42%

In 2023 a majority of show of force subjects were Male, Black, or a resident of Dallas. Two-thirds of subjects were between the ages of 18 and 39. Eighty-three firearms and 25 knives were recovered after a show of force. Twenty-four percent of show of force subjects were threatening the officer and 39 of those subjects were threatening the officer with a firearm.

Show of Force Subject Characteristics - 2023

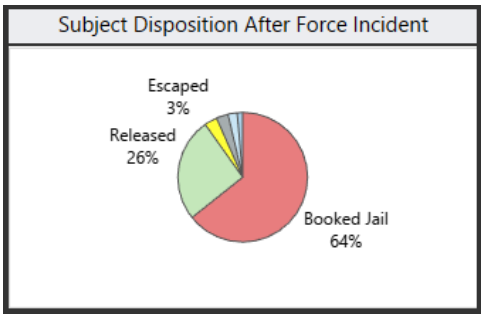


Weapon Recovered	
Firearm	83
Knife	25
Bat/Pole/Impact	4
Toy Gun	2
Tools	2
Rock / Bottle	2
Vehicle	1
Sharp Edge	1

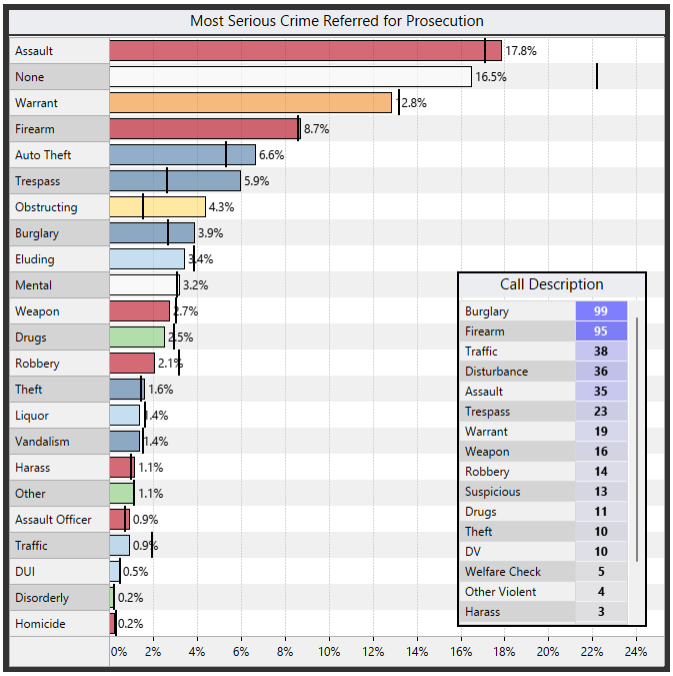
Disposition of Show of Force Incidents

Sixty-four percent of subjects involved in a show of force incidents were booked into jail and 26% were released. Sixteen subjects were taken to a hospital for a medical evaluation or treatment and fourteen subjects escaped.

Disposition of Show of Force Incidents - 2023



Most Serious Crime Charged After a Show of Force Incident - 2023



After a show of force incident 18% of subjects were charged with assault and 17% were not charged with any crime. Warrant arrests made up 13% of show of force incidents.

Use of Force Trends – 2021 to 2023

Currently three years' worth of data (2021, 2022 and 2023) have been entered into the Police Force Analysis System℠. This section examines any differences in the use of force data over the three-year period. Overall, there were few significant differences except for the areas noted below:

- Average Force Justification scores fell from 10.1 in 2022 to 8.9 in 2023. Between 2021 and 2023 the average Force Factor scores remained unchanged at 0.5. and the average number of Force Sequences remained at 4.3.
- The average Speed of force increased from 2021 to 2023. In 2021 and 2022 the percentage of Long Talk situations was 19% of all force incidents before climbing to 27% in 2023. This suggests that officers are taking more time to interact with subjects before using force.
- Between 2021 and 2023 the number of force incidents where only one officer was present rose from 18% to 24%.
- Over the last three years there have not been any significant changes in the demographics (age, race, and gender) of use of force subjects.
- Between 2021 and 2023 the subject injury rate fell from 38% to 31% and the officer injury rate dropped from 9% to 5%.
- Over the last three years the use of canines, projectile weapons, and impact weapons decreased while the use of ECWs and OC increased.
- From 2021 to 2023 the percentage of all use of force incidents in Central increased from 20% to 24% while North Central fell from 8% to 6%.
- Over the last three years use of force incidents were more likely to involve an initial call about a violent crime, weapon offense or property crime.
- Between 2021 and 2023 use of force incidents resulting in a charge for a violent crime fell from 31% to 28% while charges for property crimes rose from 9% to 12%.

Show of Force Trends – 2021 to 2023

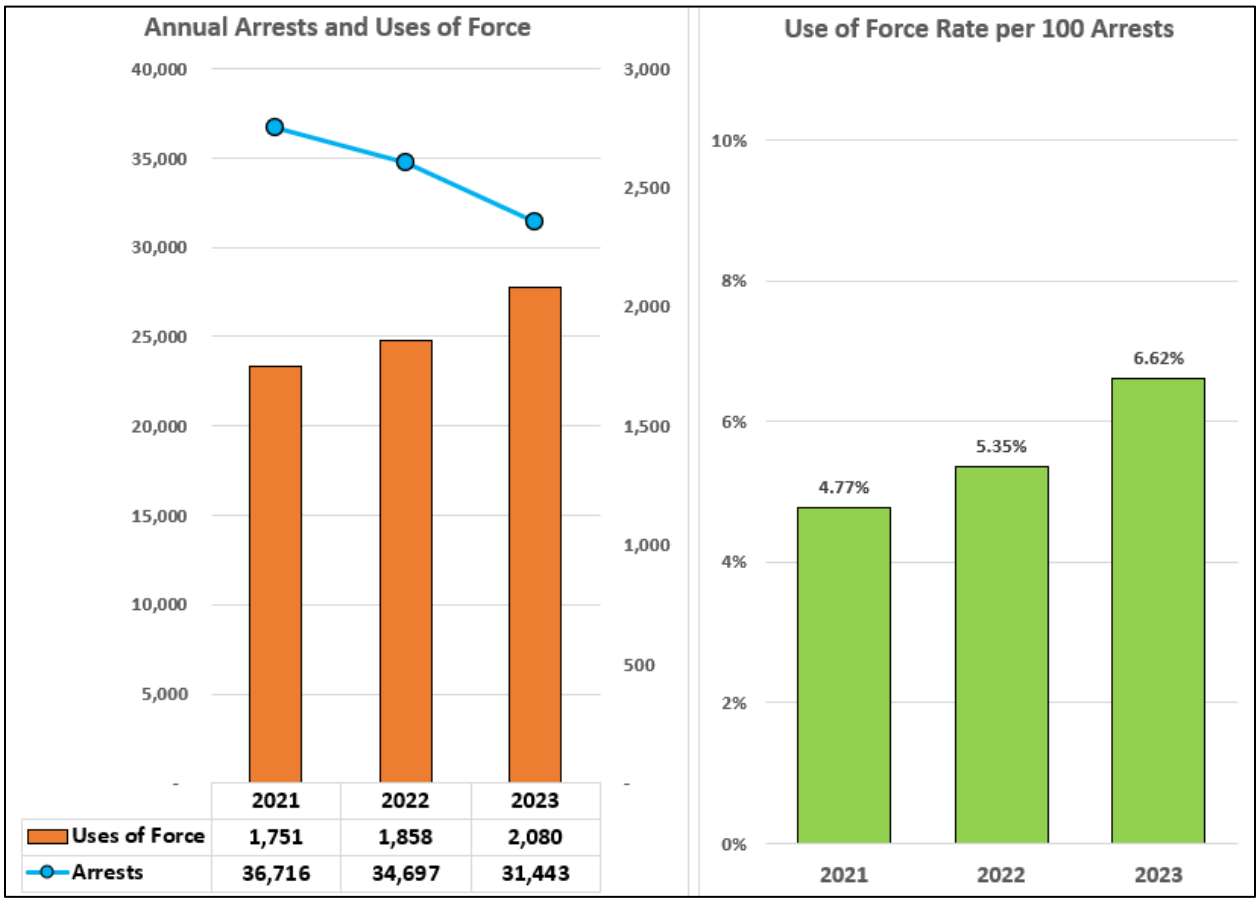
Currently three years' worth of data (2021 and 2023) has been entered into the Police Force Analysis System℠. This section examines any differences in the show of force data over the three-year period. Overall, there were few significant differences except for the areas noted below:

- From 2021 to 2023 the percentage of officers who showed force as the result of an officer-initiated stop fell from 23% to 18%.
- Over the last three years the percentage of subjects by race and gender did not change significantly. Subjects over 50 increased from 5% to 8% and juvenile subjects increased from 8% to 11%.
- Over the last three years the percentage of subjects who were under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased from 14% to 22%.
- Over the last three years 20% of show of force subjects possessed a firearm and 5% possessed a knife.
- For both years the Northeast Division had the highest percentage of show of force incidents and the Northwest Division had the fewest.
- Between 2022 and 2023 the percentage of show of force incidents increased in South Central and Southeast Divisions and decreased in the other Divisions.

Use of Force Frequency Trends

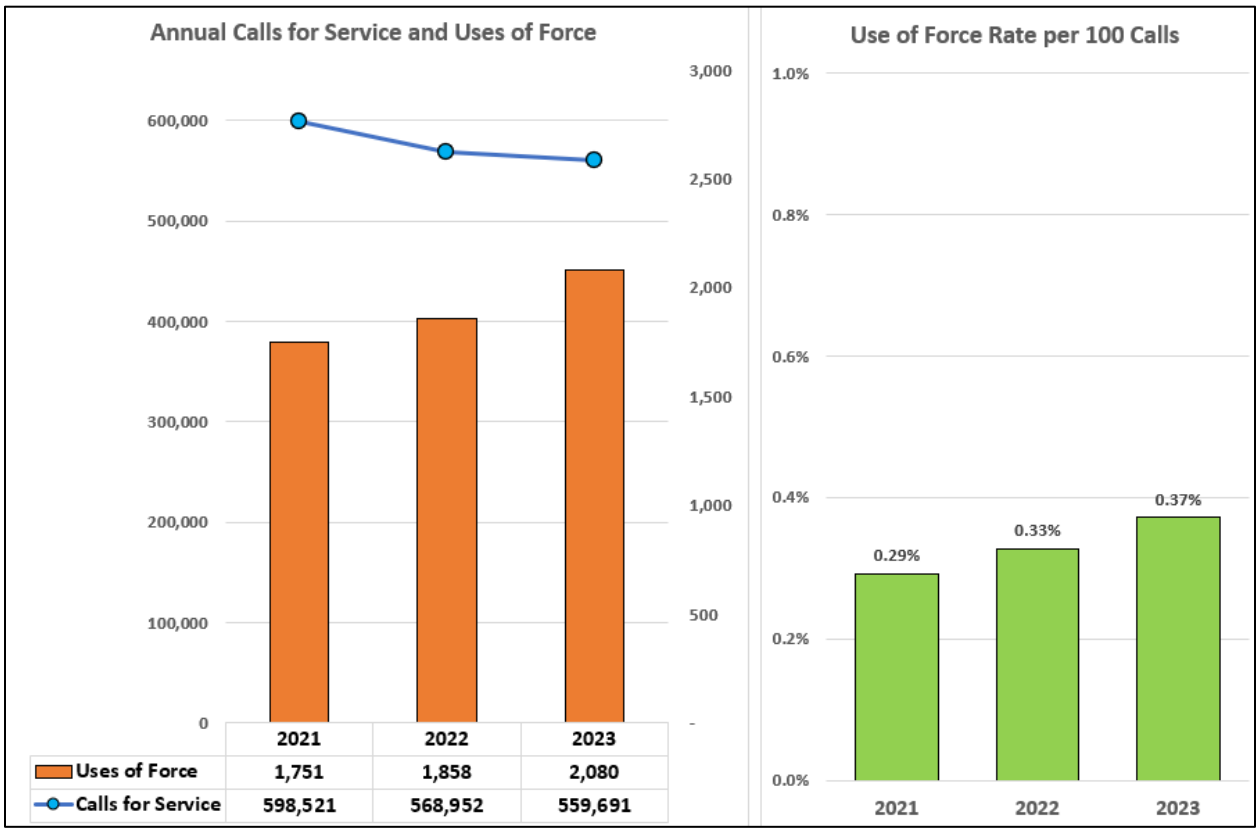
a) Arrests and Uses of Force

From 2021 to 2023 the number of annual arrests made by Dallas PD fell by 14% from 36,716 arrests to 31,443 arrests. During this same time period the number of uses of force rose by 19% from 1,751 in 2021 to 2,080 in 2023. From 2021 to 2023 the use of force rate per 100 arrests rose from 4.8% to 6.6% in 2023. This is slightly higher than the average use of force rate range for the other agencies in the Police Force Analysis Network℠.



b) Calls for Service and Uses of Force

From 2021 to 2023 the number of annual calls for service to Dallas PD fell by 6% from 598,521 calls to 559,691 calls. During this same time period the number of uses of force rose by 19% from 1,751 in 2021 to 2,080 in 2023. From 2021 to 2023 the use of force rate per 100 calls for service rose from 0.29% to 0.37%. This is higher than the average use of force rate range for the other agencies in the Police Force Analysis Network℠.



Interagency Comparative Analysis Using the Police Force Analysis Network℠

As a contributor of data to the Police Force Analysis System℠, Dallas PD also has access to information from other agencies in the system through the Police Force Analysis Network℠ (PFAN). PFAN currently has use of force data from ninety-one law enforcement agencies in eight states involving about 15,000 incidents and 8,000 officers who used force more than 25,000 times. This is the largest database of its kind in the nation. Although the incident reports from each of these agencies uses a different format, all the data extracted and entered into the system has been standardized which allows us to make meaningful interagency comparisons. The Police Force Analysis Network℠ allows agencies to compare their use of force practices with other agencies in the system.

This report is designed to alert the Department to potentially high-risk areas that may need improvement as well as areas where the Department is performing with low levels of risk. A high-risk score does not necessarily mean that there is a problem that needs to be addressed and for that reason this report does not recommend any specific corrective actions. Instead, the annual use of force reports and comparative dashboards will allow the Department to focus more attention on higher risk areas and determine whether any adjustments to policies, procedures or training programs are warranted. Similarly, a low-risk score does not mean that there are no issues that need to be addressed. Departments are encouraged to continue to conduct individual force reviews and use the dashboard systems to supplement and enhance those reviews to identify issues that might not otherwise be uncovered. The system will also help to highlight those areas where the Department is performing well and will help to maintain those performance levels.

Risk Factor Comparisons

PFAN provides a comprehensive comparative risk analysis of relevant factors involved in use of force incidents. The primary risk areas are:

1. Frequency of Force – The more uses of force an agency has the greater the risk of injuries, complaints and lawsuits resulting from these incidents.
2. Graham v. Connor - Force Justification and Force Factor Scores – Force incidents with low Force Justification Scores are at higher risk of being found to be unnecessary while incidents with high Force Factor Scores are at higher risk of being found to be excessive.
3. Force Speed and Duration – The speed of the officer's decision to use force as well as the duration of the force incident are both measured. The faster the force incident occurs the less opportunity there is for de-escalation. The longer a force incident lasts the greater the risk of injury to both officers and subjects.
4. Injury Rates – Higher injury rates pose risks to the health and safety of officers and subjects and are more likely to generate complaints and lawsuits.

This report will examine the average Risk Factor scores for use of force incidents for the last three years and will identify any significant changes in those scores between 2021 and 2023.

The following risk rankings are based upon a comparison with the 100+ agencies currently in the Police Force Analysis Network℠. "Lower Risk" scores are more than one standard deviation below the mean. "Higher Risk" scores are more than one standard deviation above the mean. "Medium Risk" scores are within one standard deviation of the mean.

🔴 Higher Risk 🟡 Medium Risk 🟢 Lower Risk

Risk Level	Risk Type	Metric	Value	Interagency Comparison	Change 2021-2023
🟡	Force Frequency	Uses of force per 1,000 population	1.5	Above Average	Minimal
🔴	Force Frequency	Use of force rate per 100 calls for service	0.37%	**High**	**Increase**
🟡	Force Frequency	Use of force rate per 100 arrests	6.6%	Above Average	**Increase**
🟡	Force Frequency	Percentage of officers in the department using force annually	42%	Average	Minimal
🟡	Force Frequency	Average annual uses of force per officer using force	1.7	Average	Minimal
🟡	Graham v Connor	Percentage of incidents with low Force Justification Scores	19%	Average	Minimal
🟡	Graham v Connor	Percentage of incidents with high Force Factor Scores	7%	Average	Minimal
🟡	Graham v Connor	Percentage of incidents with both low Justification and high Force Factor scores	2.2%	Average	Minimal
🟡	Force Speed / Duration	Percentage of incidents with 5 or 6 Force Sequences	22%	Average	Minimal
🟡	Force Speed / Duration	Percentage of incidents where the Speed of Force was immediate	46%	Average	Minimal
🟡	Injury	Subject injury rate	34%	Average	Decrease
🟡	Injury	Subject severity of injuries	2.1	Average	Minimal
🟡	Injury	Subject medical treatment rate	82%	Above Average	Minimal
🟡	Injury	Officer injury rate per incident	11%	Average	Decrease
🟡	Injury	Officer severity of injuries	2.4	Average	Minimal

Dallas PD was within one standard deviation of the mean for fourteen of the fifteen risk metrics. The Department was one standard deviation above the mean in the following area:

- Use of force rate per 100 calls for service – While this risk score is higher than average, it must be examined along with the use of force rate per 100 arrests which is in the average range. The way that agencies track calls for service can vary greatly and so this risk metric does not carry as much weight as uses of force per 100 arrests.

There was a decrease in the risk scores in the following areas:

- The subject injury rate declined from 38% in 2021 to 31% in 2023.
- The officer injury rate per incident declined from 14% in 2021 to 9% by 2023.

There was an increase in the risk scores in the following areas:

- The use of force rate per 100 calls for service increased from 0.29% in 2021 to 0.37% in 2023.
- The use of force rate per 100 arrests increased from 4.8% in 2021 to 6.6% in 2023.

Glossary

Abbreviation	Name
AR	Absolute Risk
DOJ	United States Department of Justice
DPD	Dallas Police Department
DUI	Driving Under the Influence
ECW	Electronic Control Weapon
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigations
IACP	International Association of Chiefs of Police
IAPro/BlueTeam™	Use of force records management system used by Dallas PD
ITS	Dallas Information and Technology Services
LNR	Lateral Neck Restraint
NACOLE	National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement
NIBRS	National Incident Based Reporting System
OC	Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray)
OR	Odds Ratio
PBC	Population Based Calculation
PERF	Police Executive Research Forum
PFAN	Police Force Analysis Network℠
PFAS	Police Force Analysis System℠
PNAS	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America
RR	Relative Risk or Risk Ratio
URSUS	California's Use of Force Data Collection Program