

MSL



VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD, SHERIFF

To: Sheriff Michael J. Chitwood
Via Chain-of-Command

Date: April 12, 2024

From: Karen French, Accreditation Coordinator
Professional Compliance Unit

File: 116M0004.24

Subject: 2024 Annual Analysis on 2023 Use of Force and Pursuits

2024 Annual Analysis on 2023 Use of Force and Pursuits



In accordance with General Order 001-01 Use of Force Guidelines, General Order 001-03 Use of Less-Lethal Weapons and Devices and General Order 041-02 Motor Vehicle Apprehension, the Professional Compliance Unit shall complete an annual analysis of all pursuits and use of force, to include use of deadly force, less-lethal force, and agency policies and practices.

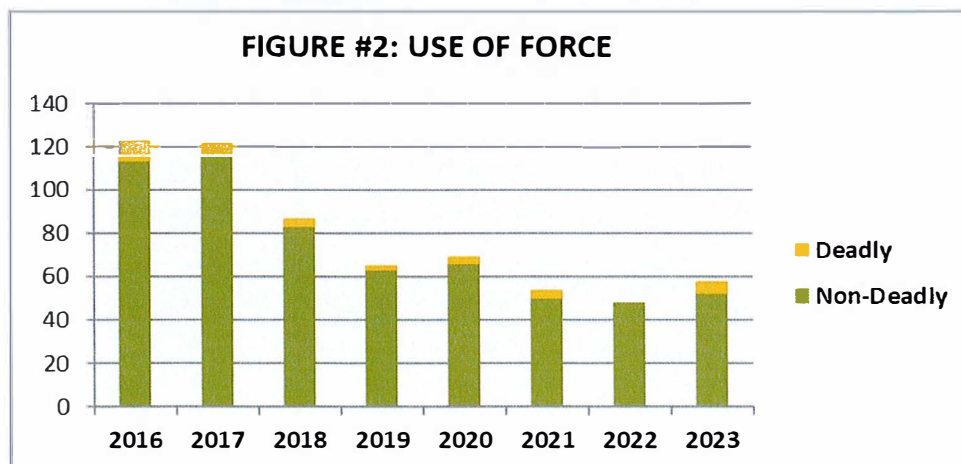
The purpose of the annual analyses is to provide an additional means outside of the administrative review process to identify and address training deficiencies/opportunities, use of force trends among Deputies, and for protection of the Deputy, the Sheriff's Office, and the community.

Figure #1: Eight Year Statistical Review Summary

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Calls for Service	268,812	275,384	260,722	262,693	275,070	271,031	281,617	306,430
Total Arrests (Source: UCR / NIBRS)	12,454	13,079	10,488	9,370	6,459	6,400	6,930	7,603
Total Index Crime Rate (Source: UCR 01/23-05/23)	2,053	1,586	1,452	1,172	1,023	900	850	343*
Deadly Force Incidents	10	6	4	2	3	4	0	6
Deadly Force Persons	6	6	3	2	3	3	0	3
Deadly Force Vicious Animals	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Deadly Force Accidental Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less-Lethal Force Incidents	113	116	83	63	66	50	48	52
Total Use of Force Incidents	123	122	87	65	69	54	48	58
Total Vehicle Pursuits (Source: IAPRO)	3	5	7	6	6	5	6	3

2023 USE OF FORCE

During calendar year 2023, the Volusia Sheriff's Office made 7,603 total arrests (Ref.: 2023 UCR statistics January – May – Index Crime Rate). In June 2023, VSO started the transition from the Uniformed Crime Reporting System (UCR) to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). In effecting these arrests, the number of incidents requiring use of force in response to subject resistance was 58 incidents, or about 0.8% of total arrests and less than 0.02% of all calls for service interactions with the public. The remaining 99.0% of all interactions were made without incident.



TREND ANALYSIS:

The above 8-year trend line indicates a decrease in use of force incidents from 2016 through 2022; in calendar year 2023, there was a 20.8% increase in use of force incidents in response to subject’s resistance. Use of force incidents decreased 47.1% from 2016 – 2019, followed by a slight increase in 2020, and then declining again in 2021 and 2022. This may be attributed to the change in agency philosophy to the Guardian mindset and continuing de-escalation training. In 2023, the 20.8% increase in use of force incidents may be attributed to Deputies responding to an 8.8% increase in calls for service, a 9.7% increase in arrests, deadly force of three (3) vicious aggressive dogs, deadly force of three (3) persons, and the resistance deputies are encountering from subjects.

DEADLY FORCE:

Of the 158 uses of force in 2023, three (3) incidents (1.9%) involved the use of deadly force with a firearm against a person. In accordance with the VSO’s MOU with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), FDLE investigates the deadly force incidents and forwards final reports to the State Attorney’s Office (SAO) for review.

Additionally, three (3) incidents involved the use of deadly force against aggressive charging animals (two Pit Bulls and a German Shepherd).

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF DEPUTIES UTILIZING DEADLY FORCE

The first deputy involved shooting occurred on February 5, 2023, at approximately 1438 hours in District 3 South (New Smyrna Beach), the second on August 25, 2023, at approximately 1338 hours in District 2 (DeLand), and the third on December 20, 2023, at approximately 0500 hours in District 4 (Deltona).

The other deputy involved shootings occurred on April 11, 2023, at approximately 1823 hours in District 3 South (New Smyrna Beach), another occurred on May 17, 2023, at approximately 0917 hours in District 3 South (Oak Hill), and the last occurred on December 2, 2023, at approximately 1235 hours in District 2 (DeLand). These shootings occurred in response to aggressive charging dogs.

Figure 3: 2023 Deputy Use of Deadly Force by Six Hour Time Periods

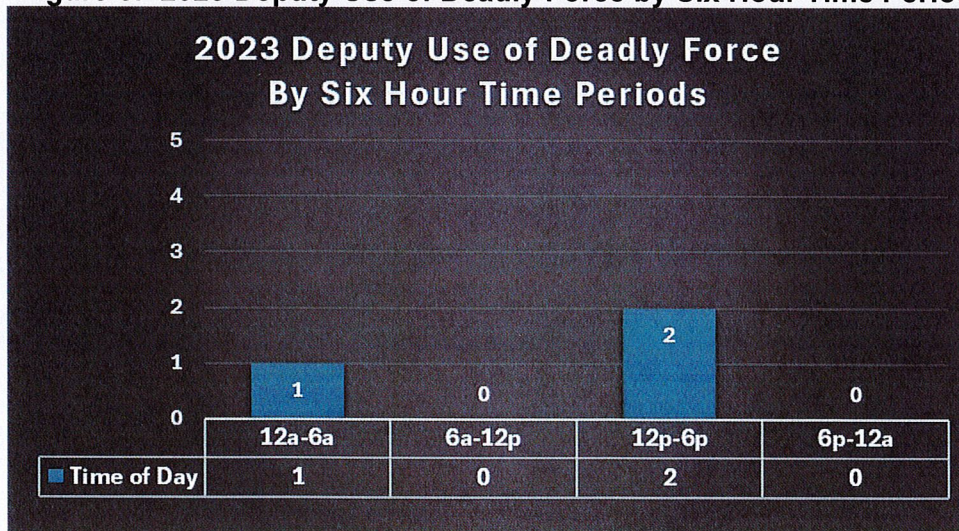
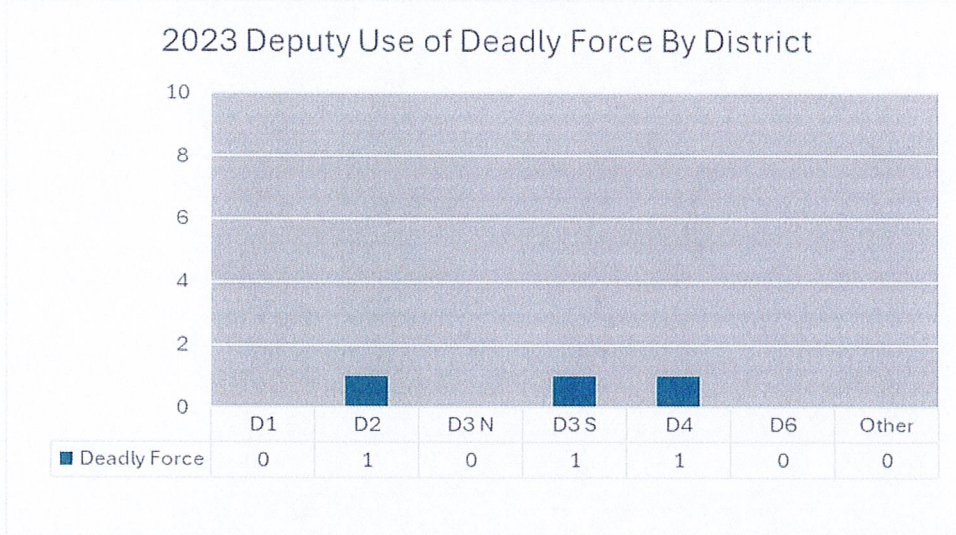


Figure 4: 2023 Deputy Use of Deadly Force by District



RACE, GENDER AND AGE OF SUBJECTS IN DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

The subject in the first deadly force shooting incident is a Caucasian male, who was 43 years old at the time of the incident.

The subject in the second deadly force shooting is an African American male, who was 20 years old at the time of the incident.

The subject in the third deadly force shooting incident is a Caucasian male, who was 56 years of age when the incident occurred.

The remaining three deadly force shootings involved three aggressive charging dogs.

Figure 5: 2023 Race/Ethnicity of Subjects

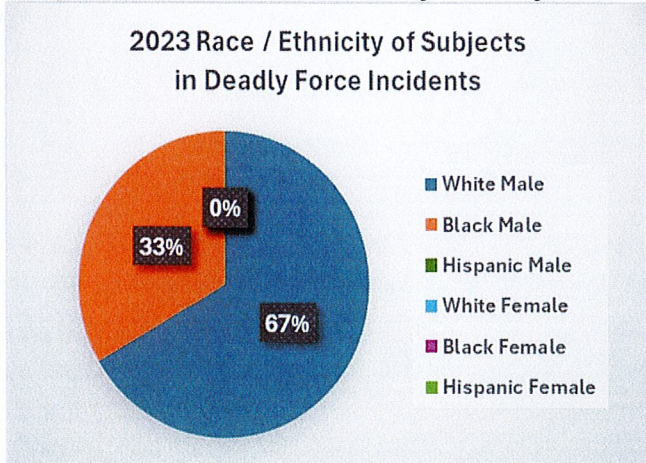
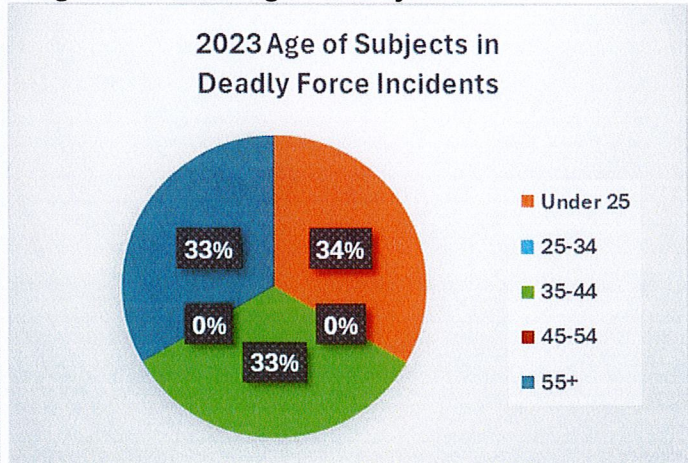


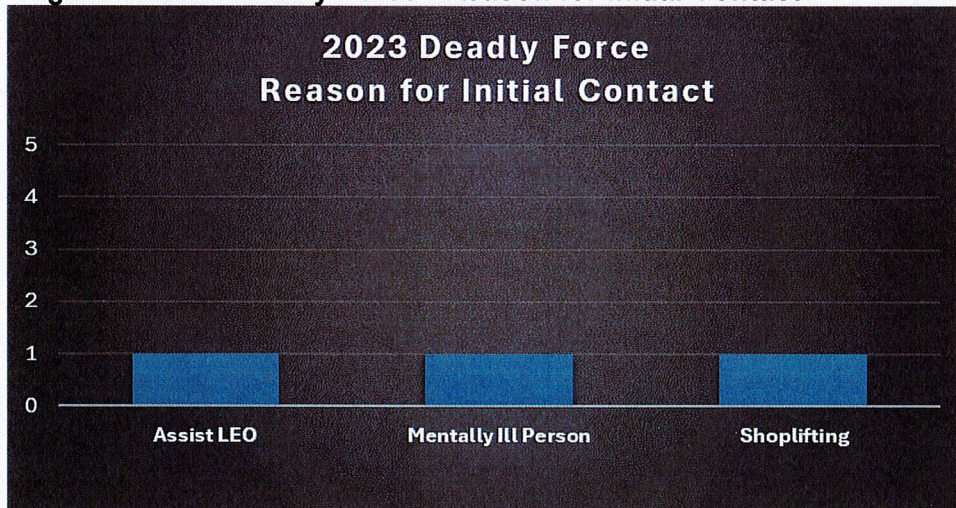
Figure 6: 2023 Age of Subjects



REASON FOR INITIAL DEPUTY CONTACT

The reasons for the initial deputy contact in the three deadly force incidents are: three calls for service (a mentally ill person, assist DeLand Police Department and a shoplifting incident).

Figure 7: 2023 Deadly Force - Reason for Initial Contact



Case Report #23-2321 February 5, 2023

On February 5, 2023, the Volusia Sheriff's Office responded to 3946 Lakeshore Drive, New Smyrna Beach, in reference to a mentally ill person. During the initial call, a subject, identified as Michael Collmar, was acting erratically, and had two knives in his possession. It should be noted this was the second call during the past three weeks to the Lakeshore Drive residence in reference to Michael's erratic behavior.

When deputies arrived on-scene, Michael was not receptive to their attempts to communicate with him or connect him with counseling services. Several attempts were made to develop a rapport with Michael and de-escalate the situation; however, they were met with negative results.

After numerous attempts to de-escalate the situation failed, deputies entered the house through the back door; deputies attempted to use multiple Taser deployments and a less-lethal shotgun to subdue Michael Collmar. Despite these efforts, Michael Collmar headed out the front door, where Deputy Tyler Becker was stationed just outside the residence.

Michael Collar charged at Deputy Becker while holding two knives. Deputy Becker fired his department issues Glock 34, striking Michael Collmar, who fell to the ground. Deputies secured Michael Collmar and provided life-saving aid. Michael Collmar was transported to Halifax Medical Center and was treated for two gunshot wounds.

FDLE completed their investigation and forwarded it to the State Attorney's Office for review. The State Attorney's Office determined no further action was required. VSO Internal Affairs found the actions taken by deputies were within compliance with VSO General Orders. {JUSTIFIED}

Case Report #23-6934 April 11, 2023

On April 11, 2023, at approximately 1803 hours, Deputies responded to 880 SR 415, New Smyrna Beach for a residential search warrant. Deputies cleared the residence except for one room that included two aggressive barking dogs. One of the residents secured the dog with its collar and leash. Upon exiting the bedroom, the large aggressive pit bull escaped its collar. Deputy Shawn Adkins started retreating to avoid the aggressive Pit Bull. The aggressive Pit Bull charged Deputy Adkins and he shot the Pit Bull.

Internal Affairs and Command Staff reviewed the incident and found the actions taken by Deputy Adkins complied with VSO General Orders.

Case Report #23-9444 May 17, 2023

On May 17, 2023, at approximately 0907 hours, Deputy Ethan Bartzler responded to 153 Canal Avenue, Oak Hill for a civil complaint. As Deputy Bartzler approached the residence, a dog was barking aggressively. A brown Pit Bull type dog rounded the corner of the residence, charged, and lunged at the Deputy. Deputy Bartzler feared being injured by the charging Pit Bull and discharged his gun at the aggressive Pit Bull.

Internal Affairs and Command Staff reviewed the incident and found the action taken by Deputy Bartzler was within compliance with VSO General Orders.

Case Report #23-16410 August 25, 2023

On August 25, 2023, Detective William Leven, of the Volusia Sheriff's Office assisted with a traffic stop conducted by Deland Police Department officers at the intersection of South Adelle Avenue and West Euclid Avenue in Deland. The vehicle being stopped was a white Dodge Charger and was suspected of being involved in an attempted homicide within DeLand.

Detective Leven exited his vehicle and began approaching the Dodge Charger. As Detective Leven continued approaching the vehicle from the front, Jayvion Barthel, who was seated in the rear seat on the passenger side of the vehicle, armed himself with a firearm. Barthel removed the firearm from his waistband and began raising it towards law enforcement personnel. Detective Leven and members of the Deland Police Department discharged their department issued firearms. During the incident, Detective Leven utilized his agency issued firearm, a 9mm Glock 43X. Barthel was struck several times and life-saving measures were attempted; however, he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

FDLE completed their investigation and forwarded it to the State Attorney's Office for review. The State Attorney's Office determined no further action was required. VSO Internal Affairs found the actions taken by deputies were within compliance with VSO General Orders. [JUSTIFIED]

Case Report #23-23141 December 2, 2023

On December 2, 2023, at approximately 1235 hours, Deputy Johnson responded to a suspicious person asleep in a vehicle behind a vacant house at 1921 Glenwood Rd, DeLand. As Deputy Johnson approached the vehicle, Mr. Senra was inside the vehicle and the German Shephard was sleeping next to the vehicle. The German Shephard woke up and the Deputy attempted to back away. The dog aggressively charged Deputy Johnson and he shot and killed the dog.

Internal Affairs and Command Staff reviewed the incident and found the actions taken by Deputy Johnson complied with VSO General Orders.

Case Report #23-24401 December 20, 2023

Contact was made with Dempsey Hadley due to a shoplifting incident he was involved in at the Wawa located at 3400 Howland Blvd, Deltona.

The incident location is 3230 Whitehorse Ct, Deltona.

Involved:

Deputy Devin Deluccia, W/M, 29 YOA

Sergeant Jimmie Stone, WM, 45 YOA

Lieutenant William Maxwell, WM, 52 YOA

This incident is currently still under investigation.

LESS-LETHAL FORCE:

Based on the number of subjects and the level of subject's resistance, some incidents required multiple-deputy response and/or transition between more than one type of less-lethal force/weapon. Subsequently, more than one "use" of force per incident may be reported, resulting in a higher number of "uses" when compared to the number of "incidents" responded to. The number of less-lethal incidents in 2023 are based on the incidents reported by supervisors utilizing Blue Team and uploaded in IAPro.

In 2023, deputies responded to 52 different incidents requiring use of less-lethal force in response to subject(s) resistance. These 52 incidents required a combined total of 152 uses of various types of less-lethal force. The table below (figure 8) breaks down the less-lethal force by type and corresponding number of uses:

FIGURE #8: BREAKDOWN OF NON-DEADLY FORCE BY TYPE

TYPE OF USE:	2016 No. of Uses	2017 No. of Uses	2018 No. of Uses	2019 No. of Uses	2020 No. of Uses	2021 No. of Uses	2022 No. of Uses	2023 No. of Uses
Stop Sticks [Pursuit related]	40	28	13	11	*	*	*	*
Freeze +P	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2
ASP	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	0
Taser	44	39	53	22	48	61	59	41
K-9	31	29	23	23	22	15	8	12
Drag-Stabilized Impact	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	0
Misc./Other (hobble, misc.)	4	2	3	9	5	3	5	8
Restraining / Escort / Physical Force	43	35	67	59	75	52	101	89
Restraint Chair (ERC)	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COMBINED USES:	168	138	160	129	152	134	181	152

* Pursuit related Stop Sticks no longer counted with Non-Deadly Force.

LESS-LETHAL FORCE BY TYPE: 2022 - 2023 COMPARISON

FIGURE 9: 2022 NON-DEADLY FORCE
Total Uses - 181

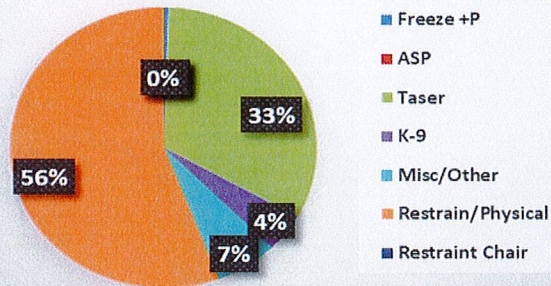
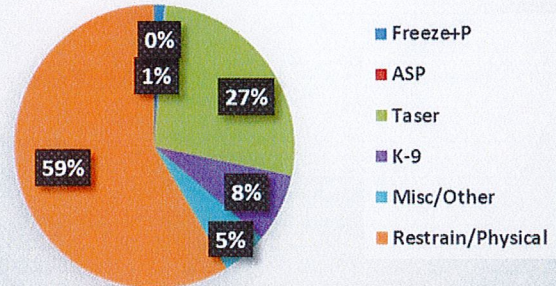


FIGURE 10: 2023 NON-DEADLY FORCE
Total Uses - 152



ANALYSIS BY TYPE OF FORCE:

Top Three Less-Lethal Options Utilized:
 89 uses of Restraining/Physical Force (59%)
 41 uses of Taser (27%)
 12 uses of K-9 (8%)

RESTRAINING / ESCORT / PHYSICAL FORCE: Restraining / escort / physical force represents 59% of all less-lethal force used during 2023 (89 uses). Restraining/physical force as a less-lethal force decreased 11.9% in 2023 when compared with 2022. All uses of restraining/physical force were administratively reviewed through the chain of command and several issues were addressed with roll call training, remedial training, counseling, and/or discipline on control of subjects, placing prisoner in an upright position, command presence, positioning of foot on subject, and defensive tactics. In two (2) of the 40 incidents (2 uses - 2%), subjects were armed (1 - gun and 1 - pipe). In an additional incident, a subject attempted to utilize a Deputy's gun.

TASER: Taser use remains in the top three (3) less-lethal use of force options, with 27% of the total (41 uses). Taser usage as a less-lethal use of force decreased 30.5% in 2023 when compared with 2022; in seven (7) of 17 incidents (14 uses - 34%), subjects were armed (5 - knives and 2 - firearms). An additional subject made furtive movements indicative of possibly reaching for a weapon: reaching into his waistband. Subjects resisted Deputies with active, aggressive, or deadly force resistance in all less-lethal force Taser incidents. All Taser uses were administratively reviewed through the chain of command, and several issues were addressed with roll call training, remedial or refresher training, or counseling on control of subjects, command presence, takedowns, and defensive tactics. Taser continues to be a valuable less-lethal option for Deputies to use with little or no lasting effects or injury to the subject.

K-9: K-9 use remained one of the top three uses for 2023 at 8% of the total uses (12); all uses were administratively reviewed, and an issue on an apprehension was addressed with counseling and training. Of those 12 incidents, three (3) subjects were armed (25%), two (2) subjects with firearms and one (1) subject with a firearm and a knife.

MISC./OTHER: The other uses of less-lethal force in 2023 were: six (6) uses of hobbles to prevent injuries to Deputies (3.9%), two (2) uses of a flashlight as a weapon of convenience (1.3%), and two (2) uses of the Freeze+P (1.3%).

Roll call training, remedial training counseling and/or discipline were administered in circumstances where deputies violated general orders.

INCIDENTS vs. USES:

The following chart (Figure #11) is a 8-year comparison in the numbers of less-lethal incidents to the subsequent uses of force in response to subject resistance. NOTE: A "use-to-incident ratio" is also provided for a proportionate comparison between years:

FIGURE #11: LESS-LETHAL INCIDENTS VS. USES IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

8-YEAR COMPARISON:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Arrests	12,454	13,079	10,488	9,370	6,459	6,400	6,930	7,603
Total Less-Lethal Incidents	113	116	83	63	66	50	48	52
Total Uses of Force (Responses to Resistance)	168	138	160	129	152	134	181	152
Average Uses of Force per Incident (Ratio)	1.5	1.2	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.7	3.8	2.9
Average Uses of Force per Arrest (Ratio)	.013	.011	.015	.014	.023	.021	.026	.020

Analysis of the above chart shows that while the number of less-lethal force incidents show a trending decline of 57.5% from 2016 – 2022, with minor upticks in 2017 and in 2020. In 2023, the number of less-lethal incidents increased 8.3% from 2022. The average uses of force per incident ratio from 2017 through 2022 shows an upward trend in subject’s resistance. This may be attributed to the number of armed subjects, and subjects’ failure to comply with lawful commands given by deputies. The average use of force per arrest ratio shows a trending increase of 100% from 2016- 2022, then a 23.1% decline in 2023.

This consistent application of force regardless of the spikes and fluctuations in incidents over each of the 8 years may be attributed in part to the agency’s commitment to scenario-based training with emphasis on professional and effective command presence, swift control of the situation and subsequent de-escalation on the part of the Deputies.

MULTIPLE-DEPUTY RESPONSE:

Of the 52 incidents responded to by the agency, 23 incidents (44%) required a combination of *multiple-deputy* response and accounted for 109 of the 152 uses (72%) of less-lethal force:

- 2-Deputy response = 14 incidents (27%); 52 uses (34%)
- 3-Deputy response = 2 incidents (4%); 8 uses (5%)
- 4-Deputy response = 5 incidents (10%); 34 uses (22%)
- 6-Deputy response = 2 incidents (4%); 15 uses (10%).

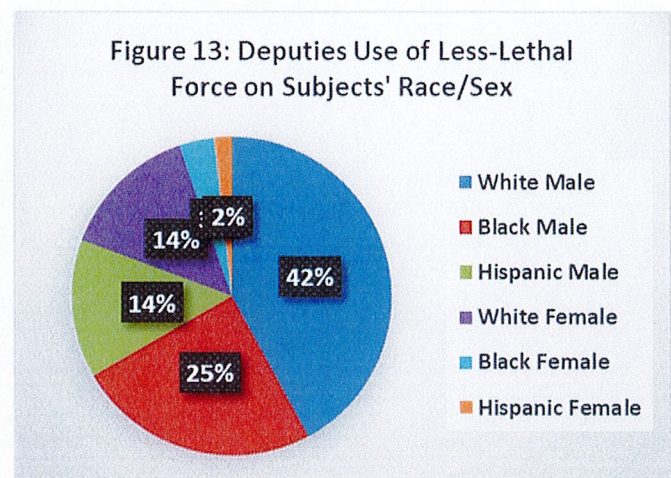
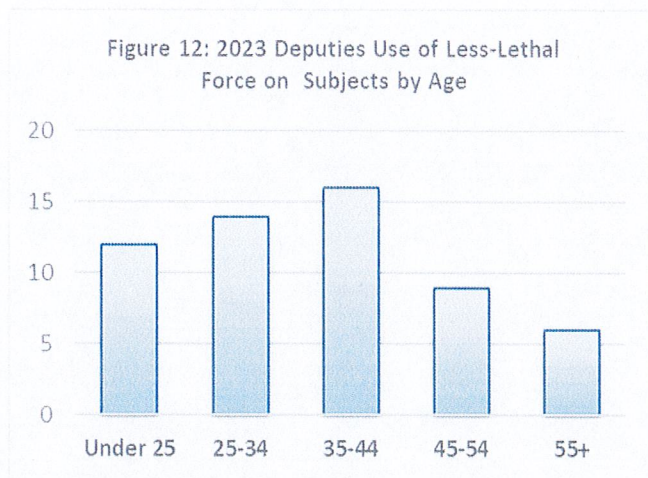
SINGLE-DEPUTY RESPONSE:

The remaining 29 incidents (56%) required single deputy response to resistance and accounted for 43 uses (28%) of less-lethal force.

RACE, GENDER AND AGE OF SUBJECTS IN LESS-LETHAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

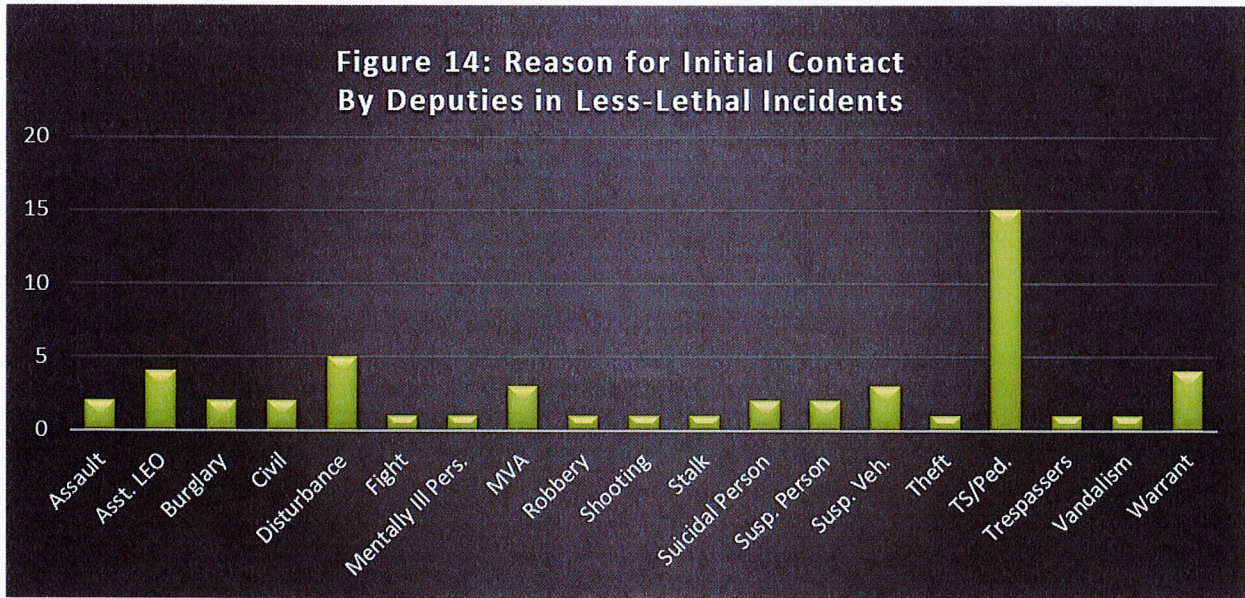
Deputies utilized less-lethal force in response to resistance on 57 subjects. Of the 57 subjects, 46 are male - (81%) and 11 are female - (19%); 24 Caucasian males - (42%), 14 African American males - (25%), eight (8) Hispanic males - (14%), eight (8) Caucasian females - (14%), two (2) African American females - (3%), and one (1) Hispanic female - (2%).

The subjects' ages in less-lethal use of force are: 12 subjects under the age of 25 - (21%), 14 subjects between 25 - 34 years of age - (25%), 16 subjects between the ages of 35-44 (28%), 9 subjects between 45-54 years of age - (16%), and 6 subjects are 55 years of age or older - (10%).



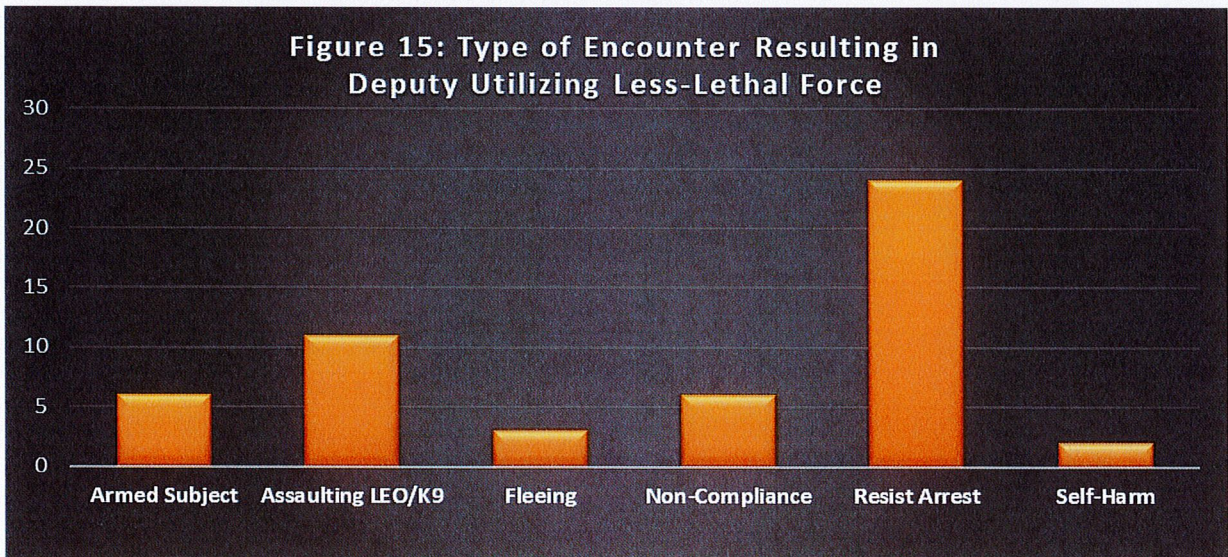
REASON FOR INITIAL CONTACT BY DEPUTY IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE INCIDENTS

Deputies responded to the following calls for service that resulted in Deputies utilizing less-lethal force: two (2) assaults (3.8%), four (4) assisting other agencies (7.7%), one (1) fight (1.9%), two (2) burglaries (3.8%), three (3) motor vehicle accidents (5.8%), 5 disturbances/domestic disturbances (9.6%), one (1) mentally ill person (1.9%), one (1) robbery (1.9%), one (1) shooting (1.9%), one (1) stalking (1.9%), two (2) suicidal persons (3.8%), two (2) suspicious person (3.8%), three (3) suspicious vehicles (5.8%), one (1) theft (1.9%), one (1) trespasser (1.9%), and one (1) vandalism (1.9%). Deputies conducted 15 traffic/pedestrian stops (28.9%), served four (4) warrants (7.7%), and served two (2) civil process (3.8%).



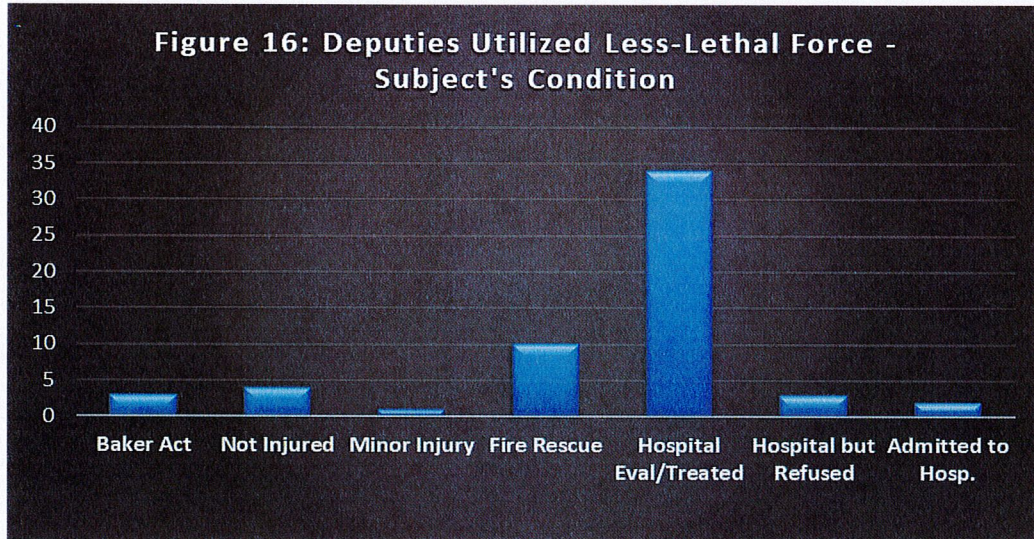
TYPES OF ENCOUNTERS RESULTING IN DEPUTY UTILIZING LESS-LETHAL FORCE

During 2023, the types of encounters resulting in Deputies utilizing less-lethal force were: six (6) armed subjects – (11%), eleven (11) assaulting a LEO/K9 - (21%), three (3) fleeing - (6%), six (6) non-compliance – (11%), 24 resisting arrest – (46%), and two (2) involving self-harm – (4%). Two additional subjects were also attempting self-harm.



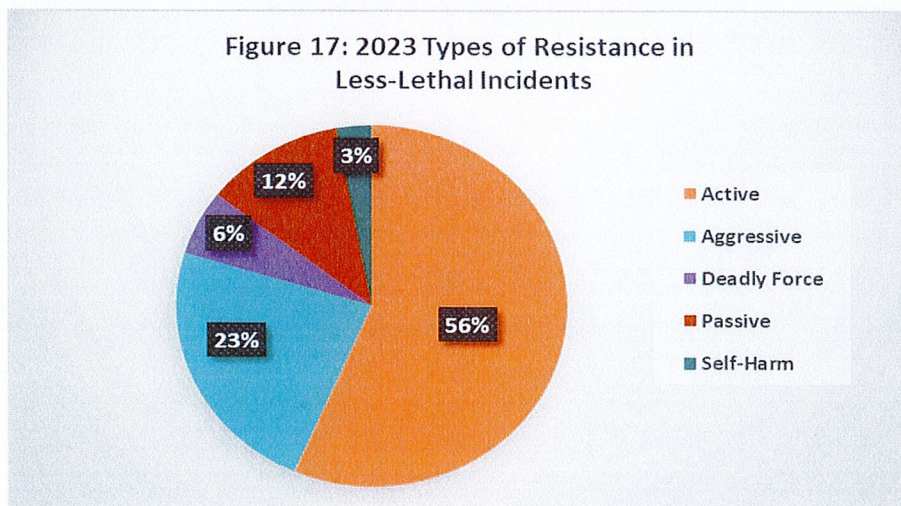
DEPUTY UTILIZED LESS-LETHAL FORCE – RESPONSE TO SUBJECT RESISTANCE

Of the 57 subjects where Deputies responded to resistance with less-lethal force, the following summarizes the subjects' injury/condition: four (4) subjects were not injured (7.0%); one (1) subject had minor injuries not requiring EMS (1.7%); ten (10) subjects were treated/released by EMS or Fire Rescue (17.5%); three (3) subjects refused further treatment at hospital (5.3%); 34 subjects were evaluated and treated at a hospital (59.7%); two (2) subjects were admitted to the hospital (3.5%); and three (3) subjects were admitted to the hospital as a Baker Act (5.3%).



TYPE OF RESISTANCE DEPUTIES ENCOUNTERED IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE INCIDENTS

During the calendar year 2023, Deputies responded to 52 different incidents that required use of less-lethal force in response to subjects' resistance. In 12 of these incidents, Deputies utilized less-lethal force in response to more than one level of resistance or 23% of the 52 incidents. The subjects' resistance in the 12 incidents were active resistance – 10 (40%), aggressive resistance – 10 (40%), passive resistance – 1 (4%), deadly force/life threat to others – 2 (8%), and self-harm – 2 (8%).



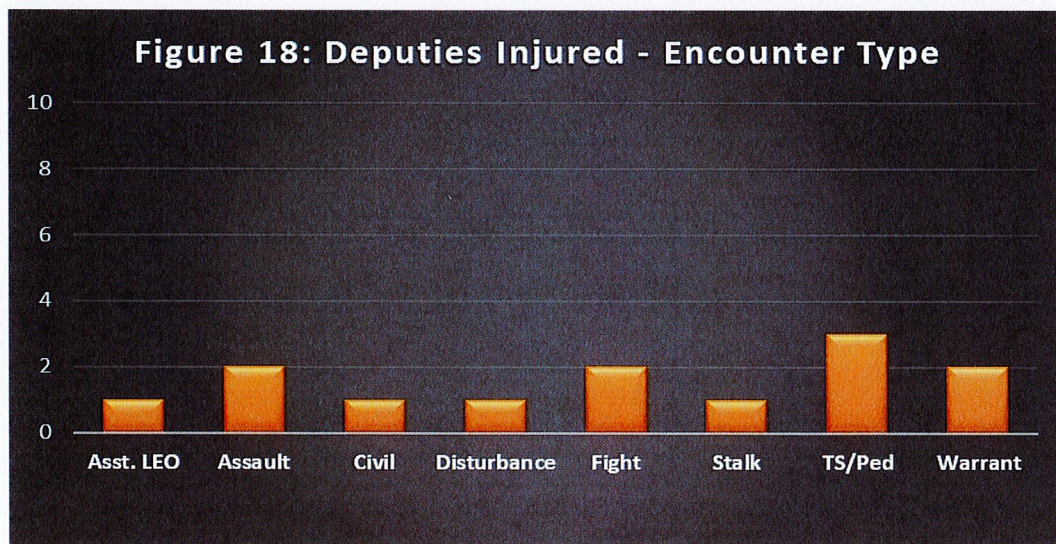
In the 12 incidents where the subjects resisted deputies in more than one type of resistance, the nature of call was: assist LEO/FD – 2 (16.7%), assault – 1 (8.3%), disturbance/domestic disturbance – 2 (16.7%), fight – 1 (8.3%), motor vehicle crash – 1 (8.3%), suicidal person – 1 (8.3%), traffic stop – 1 (8.3%), trespassers – 1 (8.3%), vandalism – 1 (8.3%), and warrant attempt – 1 (8.3%).

DEPUTIES INJURED IN ENCOUNTERS WHERE LESS-LETHAL FORCE UTILIZED

In the 52 incidents where Deputies utilized less-lethal force, 13 Deputies were injured (13.5%). Fire / Rescue treated two (2) Deputies on scene (2.1%); eight (8) Deputies did not require or refused medical services (8.3%); three (3) Deputies required evaluation at the hospital (3.1%); 83 deputies were not injured (86.5%).

Of the 57 subjects where Deputies used less-lethal force, 25 subjects were chemically impaired or suspected of being under the influence of either drugs or alcohol (44%), and in four (4) incidents, subjects were having a mental health crisis (12%).

One (1) Deputy responded to assist a LEO (7.7%), two (2) Deputies responded to an assault (15.4%), one (1) Deputy responded to serve a civil process (7.7%), one (1) Deputy responded to a disturbance (7.7%), two (2) Deputies responded to a fight (15.4%), one (1) Deputy responded to a stalking incident (7.7%), three (3) Deputies responded to a traffic stop/pedestrian stop (23.1%), and two (2) Deputies responded to serve a warrant (15.4%).



RACE, GENDER & AGE OF DEPUTIES INJURED IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE ENCOUNTERS

The breakdown of the Deputies injured is seven (7) Caucasian males (54%), one (1) African American male (8%), two (2) Hispanic males (15%), one other male (8%), and two (2) Caucasian females (15%). The ages of the injured Deputies are: two (2) Deputies are under the age of 25 (15.4%), seven (7) Deputies were between the ages of 25 – 34 (53.8%), two (2) Deputies were between the ages of 35 – 44 (15.4%), and two (2) Deputies were between the ages of 45 – 54 (15.4%).

Figure 19:

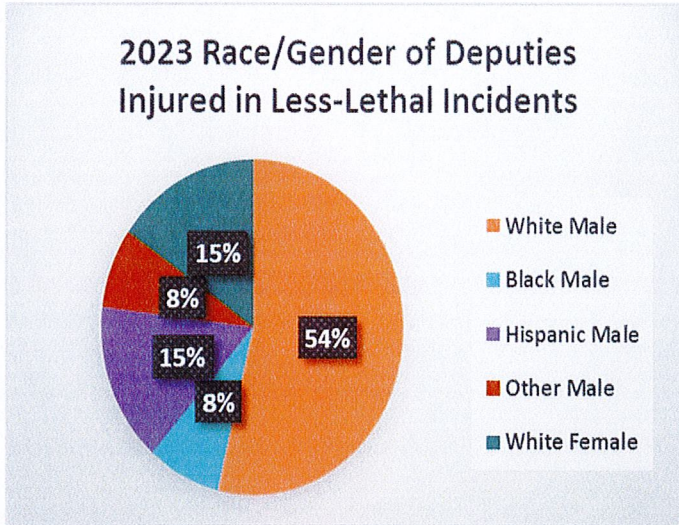
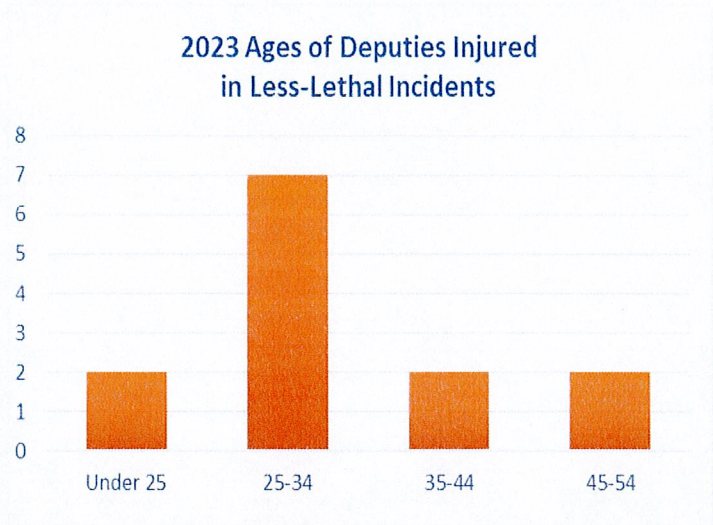


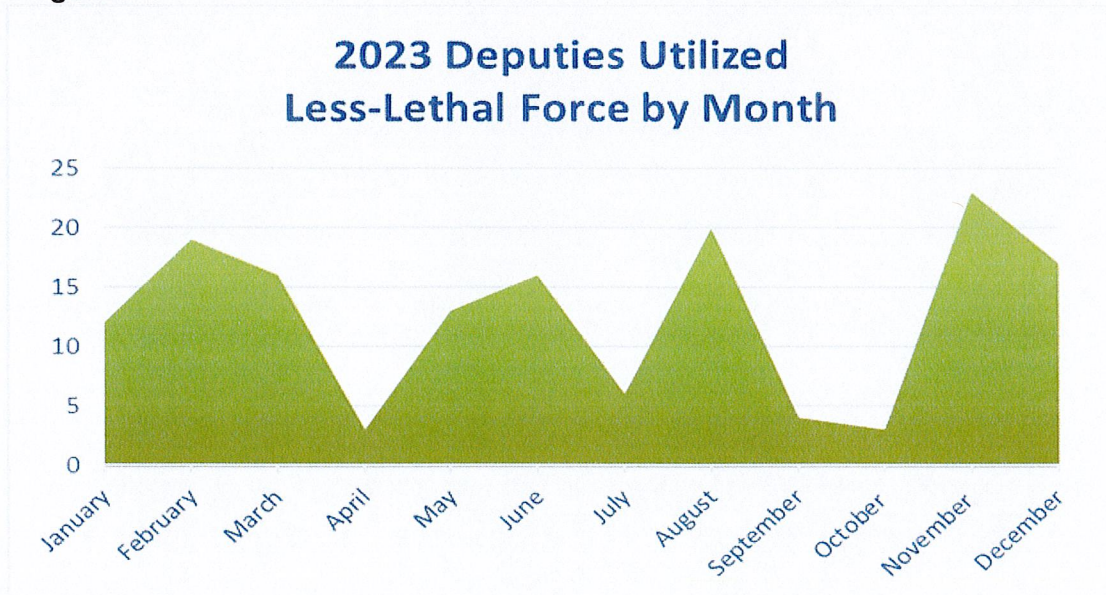
Figure 20:



DATE AND TIME LESS-LETHAL FORCE UTILIZED

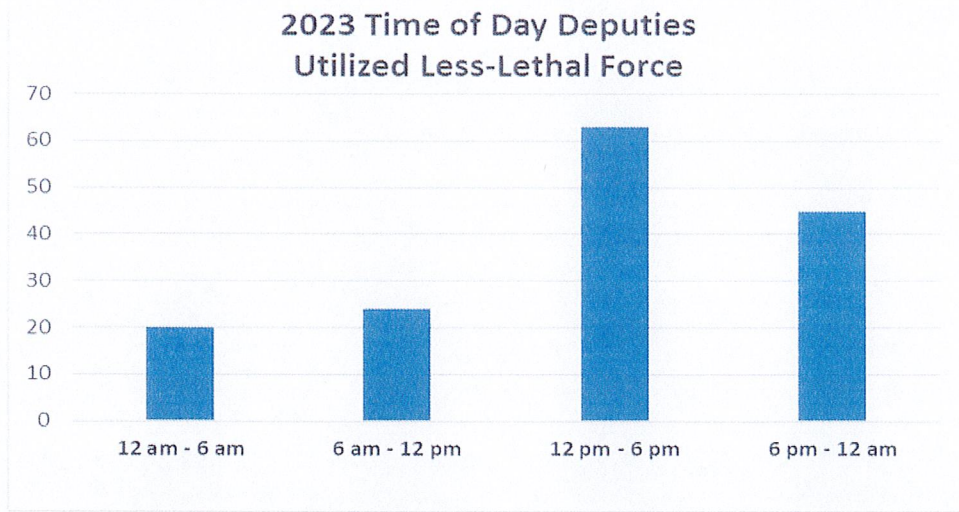
Deputies utilized less-lethal force on subjects: 12 times in January (7.9%), 19 times in February (12.5%), 16 times in March (10.5%), three (3) times in April (2.0%), 13 times in May (8.6%), 16 times in June (10.5%), six (6) times in July (3.9%), 20 times in August (13.2%), four (4) times in September (2.6%), three (3) times in October (2.0%), 23 times in November (15.1%), and 17 times in December (11.2%).

Figure 21:



Of the 152 uses of less-lethal force, 20 uses occurred between 12 am – 6 am (13.2%), 24 uses occurred between 6 am – 12 pm (15.8%), 63 uses occurred between 12 pm – 6 pm (41.4%), and 45 uses occurred between 6 pm -12 am (29.6%).

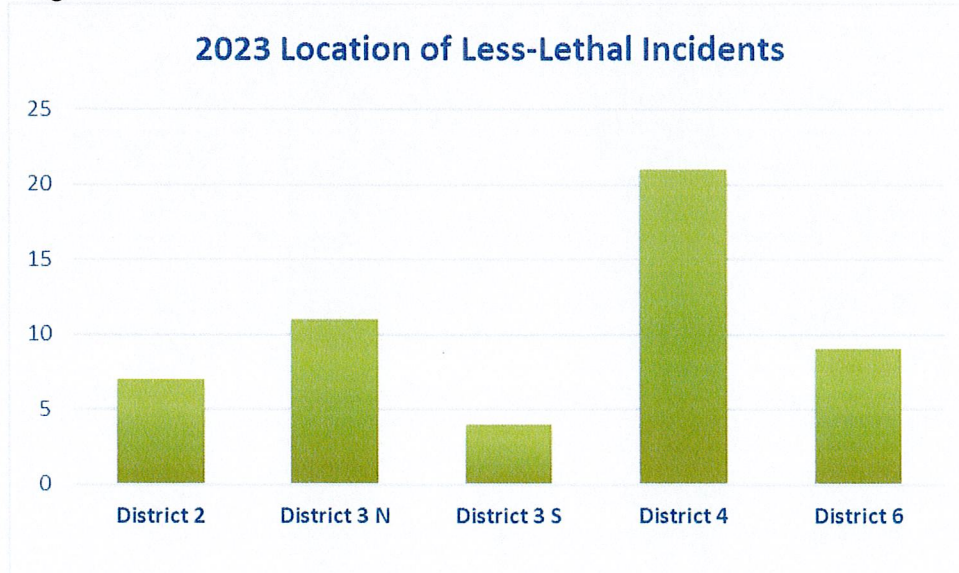
Figure 22:



LOCATION OF LESS-LETHAL INCIDENTS

Of the 52 incidents of less-lethal force, 7 incidents occurred in District 2 (13.5%), 11 incidents in District 3 N (21.1%), 4 incidents in District 3 S (7.7%), 21 incidents in District 4 (40.4%), and 9 incidents in District 6 (17.3%).

Figure 23:



2023 REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE POLICY AND PRACTICES:

During the calendar year 2023, the Volusia Sheriff's Office Training Academy trained 38 new Deputy Recruits who successfully completed the Basic Law Enforcement Training and passed the state exam.

Statistical data of index crime and number of arrests indicate dramatic reduction in both since 2016, however, in 2020 the number of Use of Force incidents and the number of deputies assaulted both increased slightly. In 2022, the use of force incidents decreased 30.4% when compared to 2020 but increased 20.8% in 2023. The number of Deputies assaulted in 2022 also increased 30.2% from 2021. **The number of Deputies assaulted in 2023 also increased.** This may be attributed to the upward trend in subjects' resistance and failure to comply with lawful commands given by Deputies.

Since implementing the new training model beginning in 2017, and with continued emphasis and investment in the Guardian and de-escalation philosophies, the agency has seen a 53% decrease in the use of force incidents from 2016 overall, and a 50% decline in deadly force incidents against a person in 2023 when compared with 2016.

Supervisory and administrative reviews are being conducted and documented in accordance with General Orders, are entered into Blue Team by supervisors, and are forwarded through chain-of-command. As with all incidents involving use of force in response to subjects' resistance, Command Staff conducts final review and policy adherence as presented by Internal Affairs.

The Volusia Sheriff's Office did not make any policy revisions to General Order 001-01 Use of Force Guidelines during calendar year 2023.

Proactive promotion of the agency engaging with the community and the reduction in crime continues to build trust and new partnerships with the community. This investment in the community is vital to engaging all segments of the community and especially crucial when highly emotional incidents/events occur. Social media as a tool continues to raise awareness and open doors for future opportunities.

- PURSUIT ANALYSIS ON FOLLOWING PAGE -

FIGURE #24: PURSUIT MATRIX

Incident	Date / Time	Reason for Pursuit	Method of Termination	Result in Crash	Injuries/Hospital	Avg/Max mph	Total Distance miles/time	Violator Eluded/Arrested	Within Policy
23-13720 VP 23-001	07/19/23 01:54	Asst. BCSO w/armed robbery suspects	PIT maneuver by EYPD; vehicle stop stuck	No	No	1-67.5 / 116 mph 2-55 mph 3-52.5 mph	3 miles / 3 minutes	Yes / Yes	Yes
23-19816 VP 23-002	10/12/23 20:16	Asst. OCSO Armed carjacking suspects	PIT maneuver, damage to defendant's vehicle / patrol vehicle; stop sticks	Yes	No	101.5 mph / 120 mph	20.3 miles / 12 minutes	Yes / Yes	Yes
23-22324 VP 23-003	11/18/23 10:55	TS -- Fleeing vehicle	Suspect stopped vehicle due to flat tires; stop sticks	No	Unknown	69 / 76 mph	5-10 miles / 15 minutes	Yes / No	No

PURSUIT REVIEW:

There were three (3) pursuits during 2023; supervisory and administrative reviews were well-documented providing good detail. Two (2) of the three (3) pursuits were initiated to assist other agencies (67%).

Upon administrative review, all pursuits were justified except for VP 23-003, where several Deputies initiated a pursuit without their supervisor's approval; the supervisor only approved stop sticks. After review by Internal Affairs and Supervisor Inquiries, the Deputies received discipline based on their discipline history (letter of reprimand or counseling), and remedial training on VSO General Order 041-02 Motor Vehicle Apprehensions.

Stop Sticks - During 2023, Deputies deployed stop sticks three (3) times in support of planned tactical measures to terminate pursuits. In three (3) of the three (3) pursuits or 100%, Deputies successfully deployed stop sticks slowing the vehicles down, with two (2) ending because of a PIT maneuver, and the other one (1) because of flat tires.

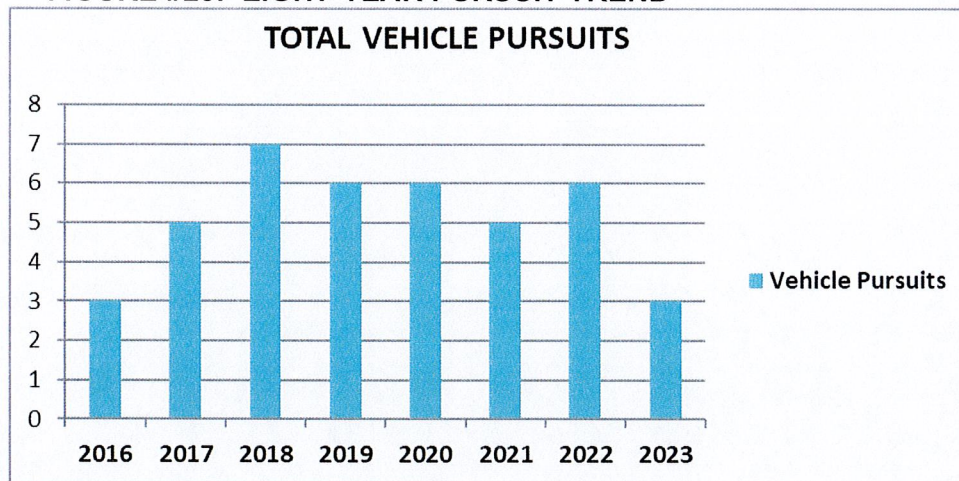
NOTE: Deputies also utilized 29 additional stop sticks in motor vehicle apprehensions/stop stick deployments to **prevent** escalation/engaging in active pursuits.

In several motor vehicle apprehensions, Deputies did not obey traffic laws reference speed and/or driving with emergency equipment activated. The Deputies received discipline based on their discipline history (counseling) and received remedial training on Motor Vehicle Apprehensions.

The below 8-year trend line 2016 - 2023 indicates an average of 5.1 pursuits/year.

Historical review for this period 2016 – 2023 reflects that of the 41 pursuits, 10 (24%) pursuits were not in compliance with established policy.

FIGURE #25: EIGHT-YEAR PURSUIT TREND



REVIEW OF PURSUIT POLICY AND PRACTICES:

Review of agency policy and practices indicates good use of additional resources such as Air One, K-9 and support vehicles. Primary and support vehicles are functioning in their proper roles.

The agency trains all sworn officers in emergency vehicle operations, roadblocks and stop sticks. Only Deputies, who have demonstrated PIT proficiency after receiving competency-based training from PIT certified driving instructors, are authorized to initiate the technique.

Supervisory and administrative reviews are being conducted and documented in accordance with policy and are forwarded through chain-of-command. As with all incidents involving pursuits, Command Staff conducts final review for justification and policy adherence as presented by Internal Affairs.

In addition to review of all pursuits, the agency conducts administrative reviews through chain of command on all motor vehicle apprehensions/followings as a precautionary measure to ensure established procedures are being followed and that law enforcement response does not elevate to “pursuit mode” in violation of policy. This review facilitates the early detection of potential training needs, ensures continued deputy safety, and preserves the intent of policy and integrity of practice. Documented progressive discipline is utilized when needed.

Overall, the combination of strict pursuit guidelines, training, supervisory authorization and review, and professional deputy restraint continue to keep the number of pursuits to minimum numbers. In addition, the supervisory authorization, and the review process itself adds a level of accountability and an evaluation element to each incident, which re-enforces the practice of individual professional restraint. This review process also provides a means to address any policy issues in a timely manner to ensure that practice continues to reflect procedure; no change to policy was required during this review period.

Professional Compliance Unit
April 2024

cc: Chief Deputy Brian Henderson
Division Chief Tim Morgan
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