



VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD, SHERIFF

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

Date: April 12, 2025

From: Karen French, Accreditation Coordinator
Professional Compliance Unit

File: 116M0006.25

Subject: 2025 Annual Analysis on 2024 Use of Force and Pursuits

2025 Annual Analysis on 2024 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.

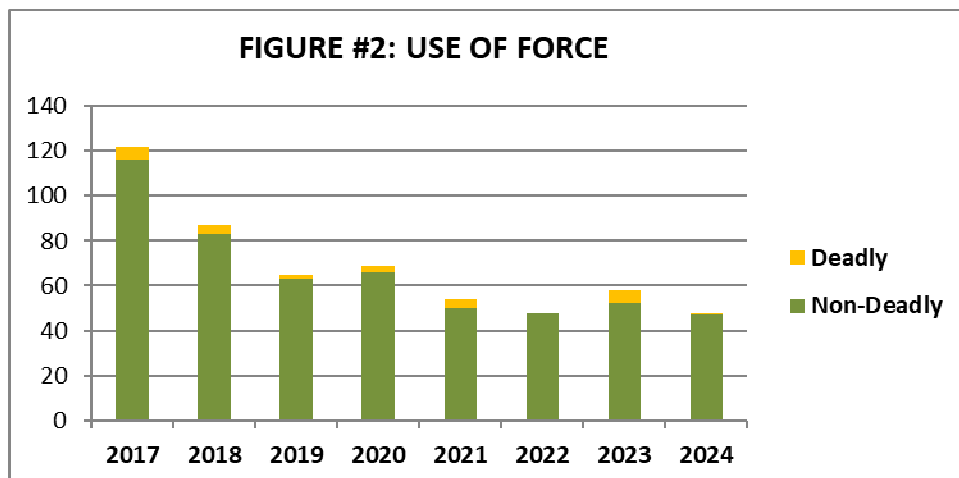
The purpose of the annual analyses is to provide an additional means outside of the administrative review process to identify and address training deficiencies/opportunities, use of force trends among Deputies, and for protection of the Deputy, the Sheriff's Office, and the community.

Figure #1: Eight Year Statistical Review Summary

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Calls for Service	275,384	260,722	262,693	275,070	271,031	281,617	306,430	330,055
Total Arrests (Source: UCR / NIBRS)	13,079	10,488	9,370	6,459	6,400	6,930	7,603	9,945
Total Index Crime Rate	1,586	1,452	1,172	1,023	900	850	343* partial	NR
Deadly Force Incidents	6	4	2	3	4	0	6	1
Deadly Force Persons	6	3	2	3	3	0	3	1
Deadly Force Vicious Animals	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Deadly Force Accidental Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less-Lethal Force Incidents	116	83	63	66	50	48	52	47
Total Use of Force Incidents	122	87	65	69	54	48	58	48
Total Vehicle Pursuits (Source: IAPRO)	5	7	6	6	5	6	3	4

2024 USE OF FORCE

During calendar year 2024, the Volusia Sheriff's Office made 9,945 total arrests (Ref.: 2024 NIBRS statistics from Enterprise RMS/BI Reporting). In June 2023, VSO transitioned 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 47 incidents, or about 0.5% of total arrests and less than 0.01% of all calls for service interactions with the public. The remaining 99.9% of all interactions were made without incident.



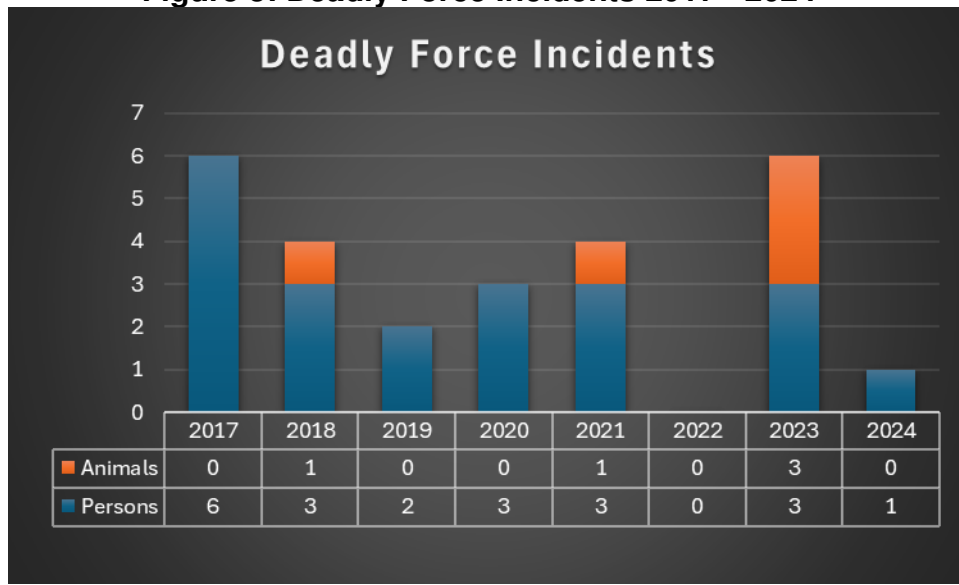
TREND ANALYSIS:

The above 8-year trend line indicates a decrease in use of force incidents from 2017 through 2022; in calendar year 2023, there was a 20.8% increase in use of force incidents, and in 2024 a 17.2% decrease in use of force incidents in response to subjects' resistance. Use of force incidents decreased 46.7% from 2017 – 2019, followed by a slight increase in 2020, and then declined 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 use of force incidents increased 20.8%; this may be attributed to a 9.7% increase in arrests an 8.8% increase in calls for service, and the resistance deputies are encountering from subjects. In 2024 the use of force incidents decreased 17.2% from 2023 and decreased 60.7% from 2017. This may be attributed to the Training Academy's continued defensive tactics training and PERF's ICAT (Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics) training.

DEADLY FORCE:

Of the 151 uses of force in 2024, one (1) incident (0.7%) 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.

Figure 3: Deadly Force Incidents 2017 - 2024



DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF DEPUTIES UTILIZING DEADLY FORCE

The only deputy involved shooting occurred on November 28, 2024, at approximately 0059 hours in District 1 North (Ormond Beach).

Figure 4: 2024 Deputy Use of Deadly Force by Six Hour Time Periods

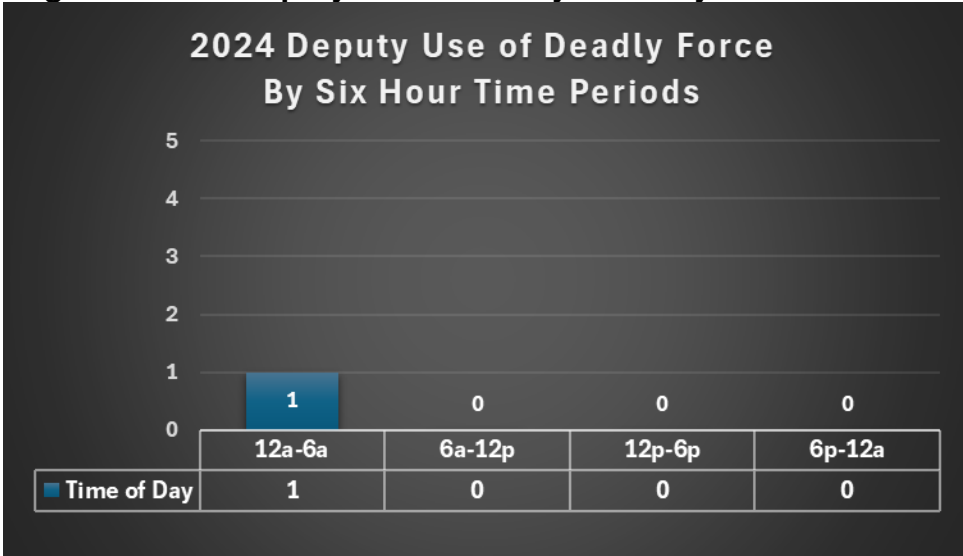
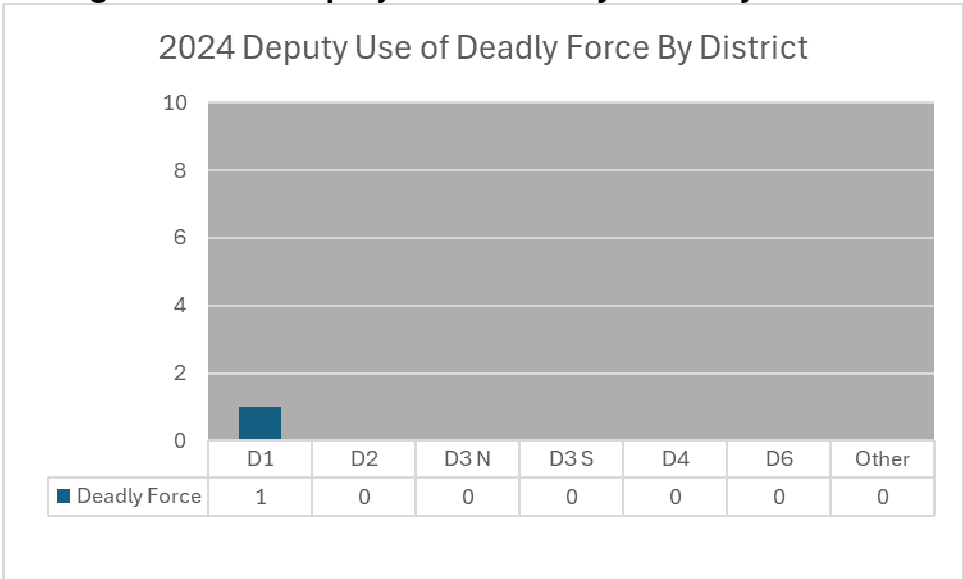


Figure 5: 2024 Deputy Use of Deadly Force by District



RACE, GENDER AND AGE OF SUBJECTS IN DEADLY FORCE INCIDENTS

The subject in the only deadly force shooting incident is a Caucasian male, who was 56 years old at the time of the incident.

Figure 6: 2024 Race/Ethnicity of Subject

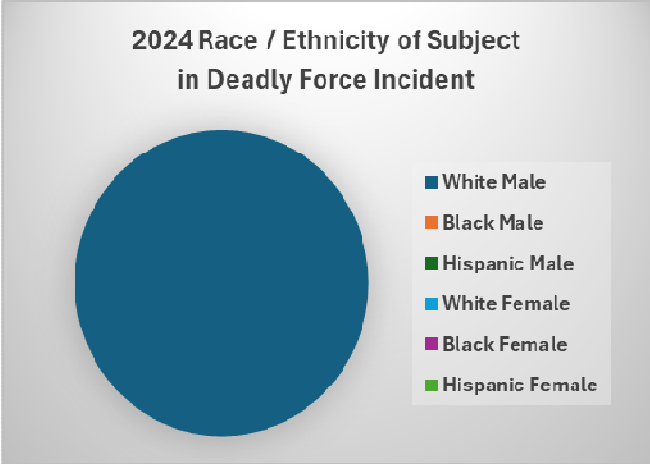
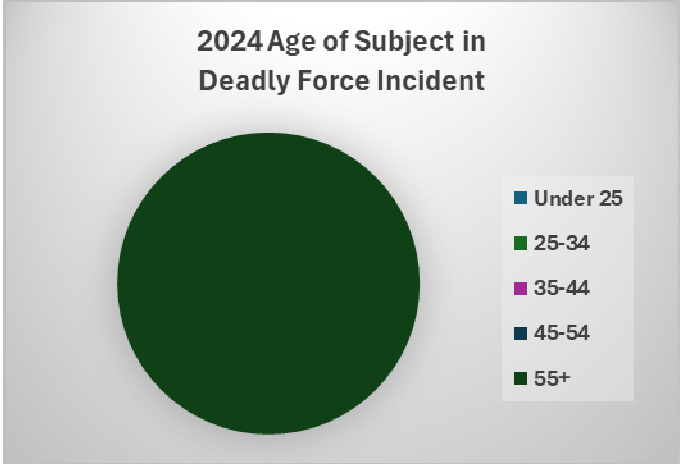


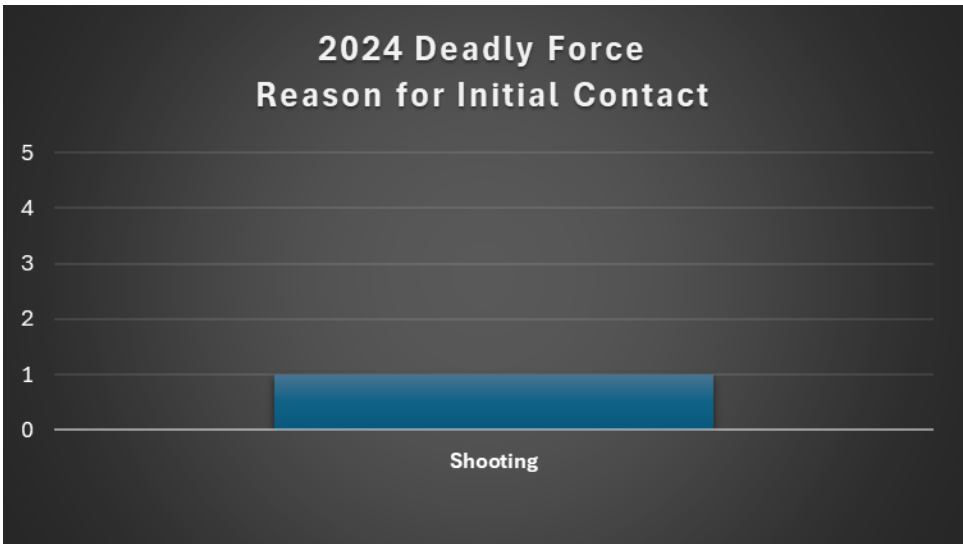
Figure 7: 2024 Age of Subject



REASON FOR INITIAL DEPUTY CONTACT

The reason for the initial deputies' contacts in the one deadly force incident is: a call for service of a person shooting in an apartment complex.

Figure 8: 2024 Deadly Force - Reason for Initial Contact



Case Report #24-25558 November 28, 2024

Deputies were dispatched to an active shooter incident occurring at 5500 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond Beach.

Involved Suspect:

Joseph DiFusco Jr. W/M 56 YOA

Involved Deputies:

Deputy Pierce Acosta H/M 34 YOA

Lieutenant John Cort W/M 38 YOA

The 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 2024 are based on the incidents reported by supervisors utilizing Blue Team and uploaded in IAPro.

In 2024, deputies responded to 47 different incidents requiring use of less-lethal force in response to subject(s) resistance. These 47 incidents required a combined total of 150 uses of various types of less-lethal force. The table below (figure 9) breaks down the less-lethal force by type and corresponding number of uses:

FIGURE #9: BREAKDOWN OF NON-DEADLY FORCE BY TYPE

TYPE OF USE:	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	2024 No. of Uses
Stop Sticks -Pursuit related	28	13	11	*	*	*	*	*
Freeze +P	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
ASP	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	2
Taser	39	53	22	48	61	59	41	55
K-9	29	23	23	22	15	8	12	15
Impact Munition	0	0	0	1	2	7	0	6
Misc./Other (hobble, misc.)	2	3	9	5	3	5	8	5
Restraining / Defensive/ Escort / Physical Force	35	67	59	75	52	101	89	66
Restraint Chair (ERC)	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL COMBINED USES:	138	160	129	152	134	181	152	150

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

LESS-LETHAL FORCE BY TYPE: 2023 - 2024 COMPARISON

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

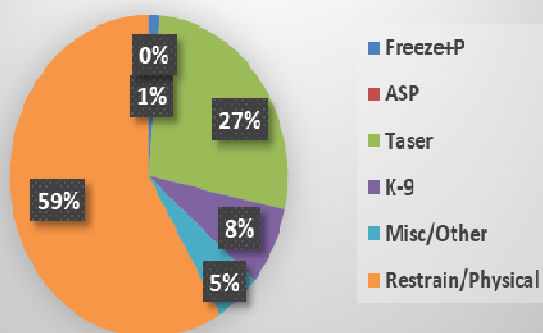
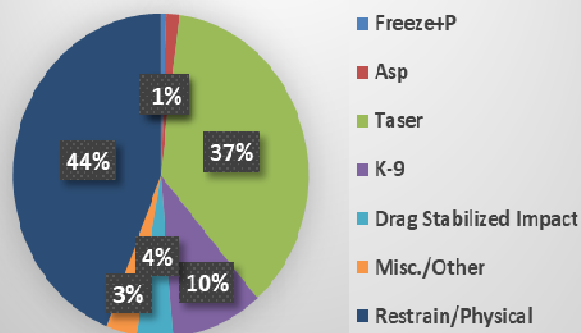


FIGURE 11: 2024 Non-Deadly Force
Total Uses - 150



ANALYSIS BY TYPE OF FORCE:

Top Three Less-Lethal Options Utilized:

66 uses of Restraining/Defensive/Escort/Physical Force (44%)

55 uses of Taser (37%)

15 uses of K-9 (10%)

RESTRAINING/ ESCORT / PHYSICAL FORCE: Restraining/escort/physical force represents 44% of all less-lethal force used during 2024 (66 uses). Restraining/physical force as a less-lethal force decreased 11.9% in 2023 when compared with 2022 and decreased 25.8% in 2024 when compared with 2023. 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, and/or counseling on handcuffing procedures with a resisting subject, recovery position after handcuffing, officer safety, knee placement, entering holding areas with weapons, and proper body search. In one (1) of the 22 incidents (4 uses – 6.1%), a subject was armed with a knife.

TASER: Taser use remains in the top three (3) less-lethal use of force options, with 37% of the total (55 uses). Taser usage as a less-lethal use of force increased 34.1% in 2024 when compared with 2023; in seven (7) of 16 incidents (28 uses – 51%), subjects were armed (three firearms, one BB gun, one hatchet, and one metal rod). One subject with firearms also was armed with a knife. An additional subject attempted to remove an officer's weapon from its holster and another bleeding subject is HIV positive. 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 Taser deployments and warnings, communication skills, handcuffing procedures, 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 2024 at 10% of the total uses (15); all uses were administratively reviewed, and an issue with assisting deputies on an apprehension was addressed with roll call training on officer safety awareness, detainment, and subject fight indicators. Of those 15 incidents, four (4) subjects were armed with firearms (26.7%).

MISC./OTHER: The other uses of less-lethal force in 2024 were: two (2) uses of hobbles to prevent injuries to Deputies (1.3%), six (6) uses of shotgun munitions (4.0%), two (2) uses of an asp (1.3%), one (1) handcuff used as a convenience weapon (0.7%), one (1) use of chemical spray (0.7%), and two (2) uses of a baton (1.3%). In one (1) of six (6) impact munition uses (16.7%), the subject was armed with a firearm.

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 #12) is an 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 #12: LESS-LETHAL INCIDENTS VS. USES IN RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

8-YEAR COMPARISON:	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Arrests	13,079	10,488	9,370	6,459	6,400	6,930	7,603	9,945
Total Less-Lethal Incidents	116	83	63	66	50	48	52	47
Total Uses of Force (Responses to Resistance)	138	160	129	152	134	181	152	150
<i>Average Uses of Force per Incident (Ratio)</i>	1.2	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.7	3.8	2.9	3.2
Average Uses of Force per Arrest (Ratio)	.011	.015	.014	.023	.021	.026	.020	.015

Analysis of the above chart shows that while the number of less-lethal force incidents show a trending decline of 58.6% from 2017 – 2022, with a minor uptick in 2020. In 2023, the number of less-lethal incidents increased 8.3% from 2022 and in 2024 decreased 9.6% from 2023. The average uses of force per incident ratio from 2017 through 2022 shows an upward trend in subject’s resistance, in 2023 a 23.7% decline, and in 2024 a 10.3% increase. 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 136.4% from 2017- 2022, a 23.1% decline in 2023, and in 2024 a 25.0% decrease.

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 47 incidents responded to by the agency, *40 incidents* (85%) required a combination of *multiple-deputy* response and accounted for *127 of the 150 uses* (85%) of less-lethal force:

2-Deputy response = 30 incidents (64%); 75 uses (50%)

3-Deputy response = 7 incidents (15%); 38 uses (25%)

4-Deputy response = 2 incidents (4%); 8 uses (5%)

5-Deputy response = 1 incident (2%); 6 uses (4%).

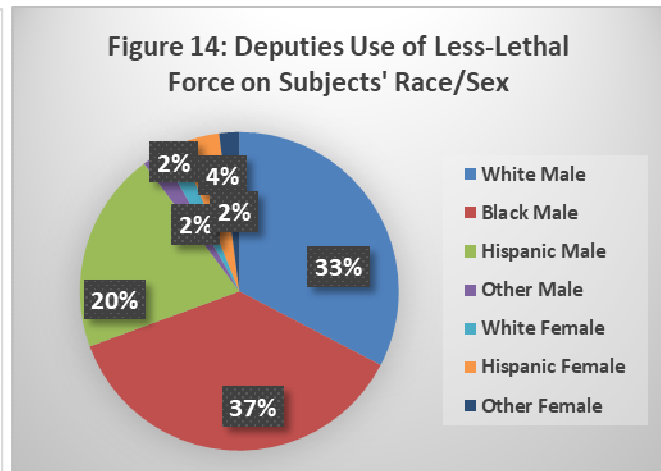
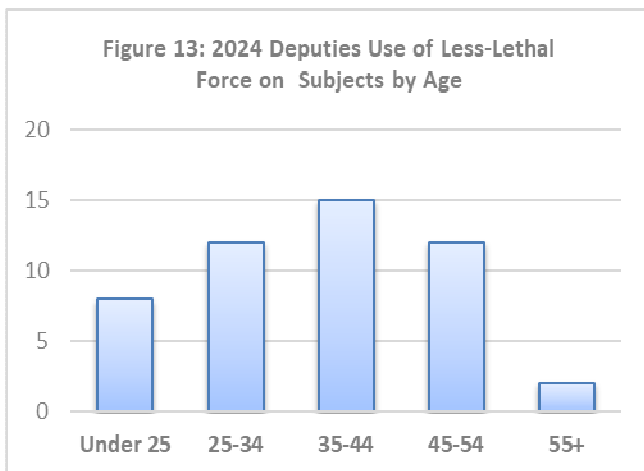
SINGLE-DEPUTY RESPONSE:

The remaining seven (7) incidents (15%) required a single deputy response to resistance and accounted for 23 uses (15%) of less-lethal force.

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

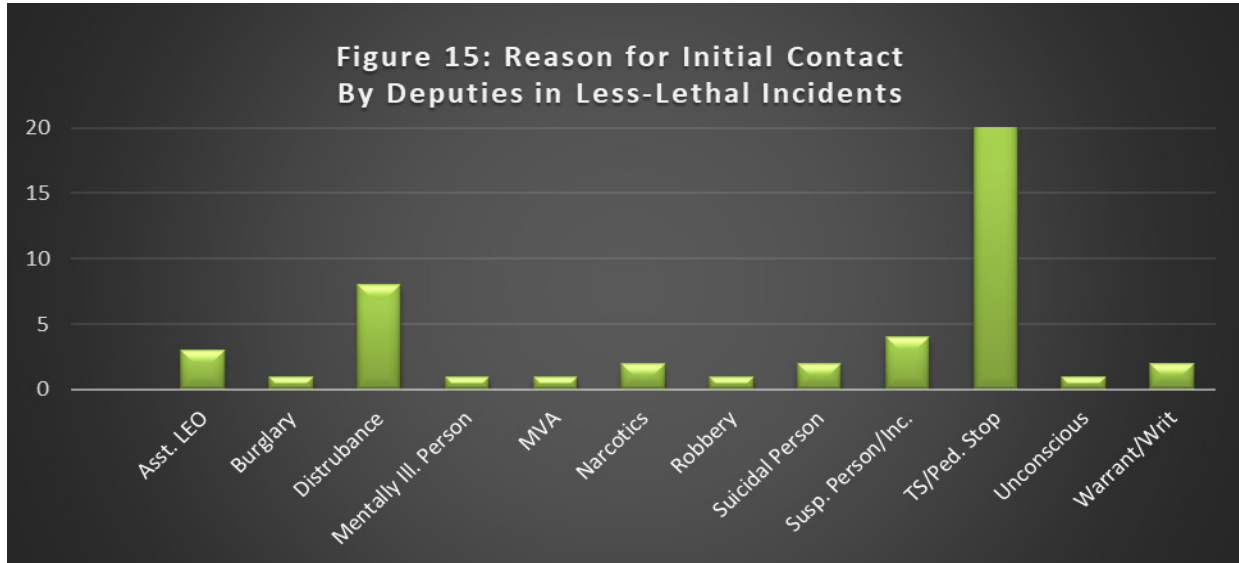
Deputies utilized less-lethal force in response to resistance on 49 subjects. Of the 49 subjects, 45 are male - (92%) and four (4) are female – (8%); 16 Caucasian males – (33%), 18 African American males – (37%), ten (10) Hispanic males – (20%), one (1) Other male (2%), one (1) Caucasian female – (2%), two (2) Hispanic females – (4%), and one (1) Other female (2%). A school administrator was inadvertently hit with the Taser when he attempted to assist the Deputy.

The subjects' ages in less-lethal use of force are: eight (8) subjects under the age of 25 – (16%), 12 subjects between 25 – 34 years of age – (25%), 15 subjects between the ages of 35-44 (31%), 12 subjects between 45-54 years of age – (25%), and two (2) subjects are 55 years of age or older – (4%).



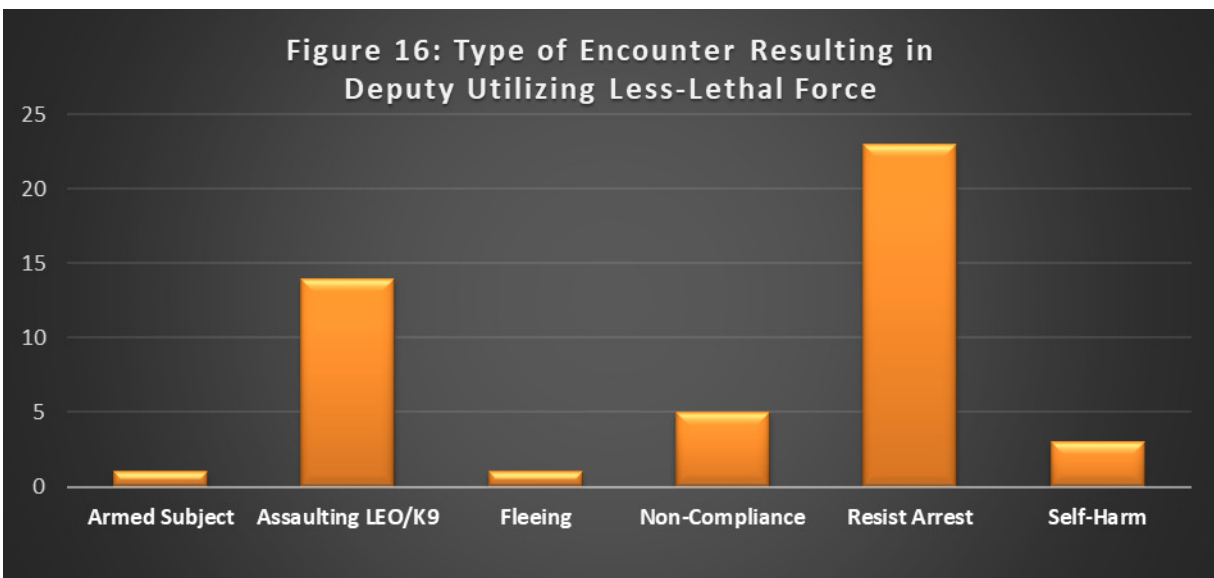
REASON FOR INITIAL CONTACT BY DEPUTY IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE INCIDENTS

Deputies responded to the following calls for service that resulted in Deputies utilizing less-lethal force: three (3) assisting other agencies (6.4%), one (1) burglary (2.1%), one (1) motor vehicle accident (2.1%), eight (8) disturbances/domestic disturbances (17.0%), one (1) mentally ill person (2.1%), two (2) narcotics (4.3%), one (1) attempted robbery (2.1%), two (2) suicidal persons (4.3%), four (4) suspicious persons/suspicious incidents (8.5%), and one (1) unconscious person (2.1%). Deputies conducted 21 traffic/pedestrian stops (44.7%) and served two (2) warrants/writs (4.3%).



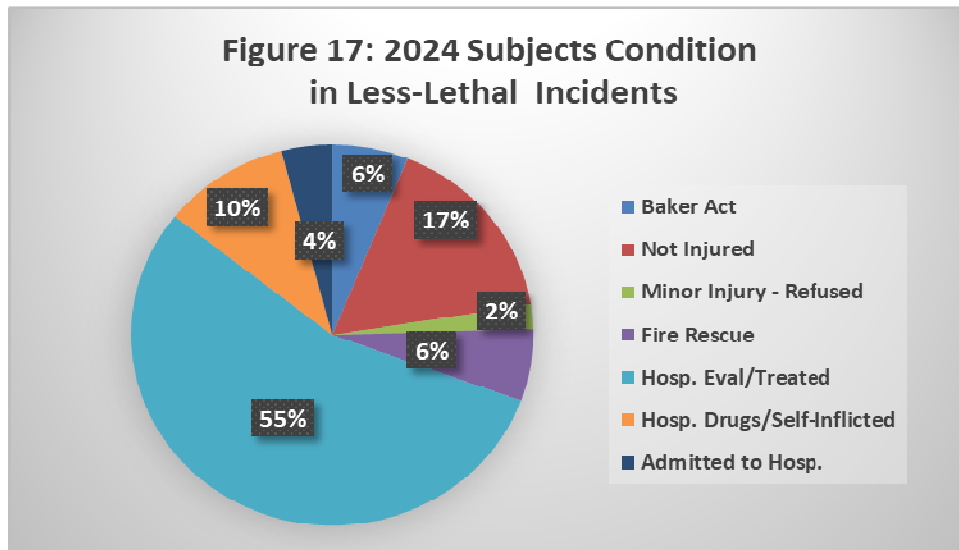
TYPES OF ENCOUNTERS RESULTING IN DEPUTY UTILIZING LESS-LETHAL FORCE

During 2024, the types of encounters resulting in Deputies utilizing less-lethal force were: one (1) armed subject – (2%), fifteen (15) assaulting a LEO/K9 – (31%), one (1) fleeing – (2%), five (5) non-compliance – (10%), 24 resisting arrest – (49%), and three (3) involving self-harm – (6%).



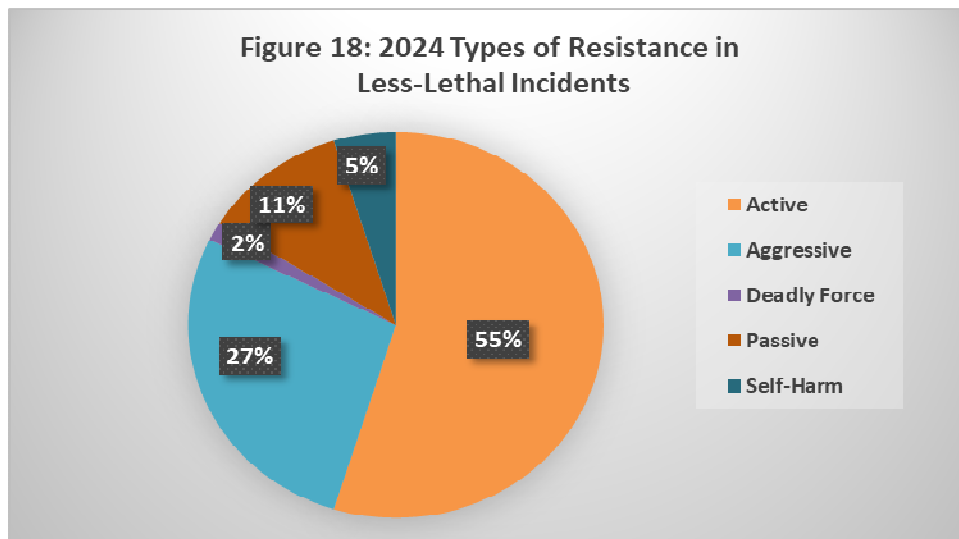
DEPUTY UTILIZED LESS-LETHAL FORCE – RESPONSE TO SUBJECTS’ RESISTANCE

Of the 49 subjects where Deputies responded to resistance with less-lethal force, the following summarizes the subjects’ injury/condition: eight (8) subjects were not injured (17%); one (1) subject had minor injuries refusing EMS (2.0%); three (3) subjects were treated/released by EMS or Fire Rescue (6%); 27 subjects were evaluated and treated at a hospital (55%); five (5) subjects were treated at the hospital due to self-inflicted injuries and/or ingesting narcotics (10%), two (2) subjects were admitted to the hospital (4%); and three (3) subjects were admitted to the hospital as a Baker Act (6%).



TYPE OF RESISTANCE DEPUTIES ENCOUNTERED IN LESS-LETHAL FORCE INCIDENTS

During the calendar year 2024, Deputies responded to 47 different incidents that required use of less-lethal force in response to subjects’ resistance. In 15 of these incidents, Deputies utilized less-lethal force in response to more than one level of resistance or 32% of the 47 incidents. The subjects’ resistance in the 47 incidents were active resistance – 35 (55%), aggressive resistance – 17 (27%), passive resistance – 7 (11%), deadly force/life threat to others – 1 (2%), and self-harm – 3 (5%).



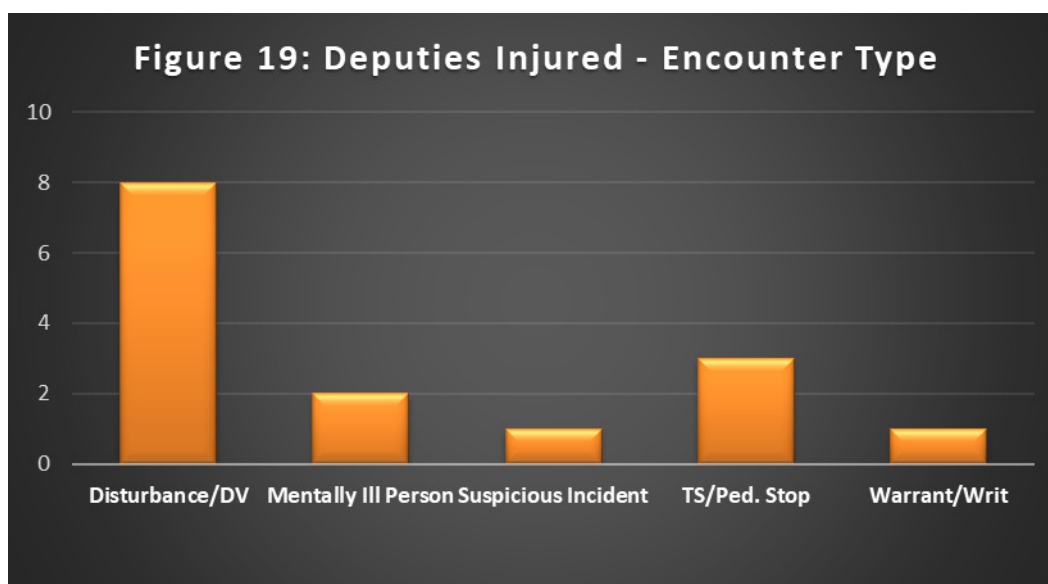
In the 15 incidents where the subjects resisted deputies in more than one type of resistance, the nature of call was: disturbance/domestic disturbance – 6 (40.0%), suspicious incident/person – 3 (20.0%), traffic/ped. stop – 5 (33.3%), and warrant/writ attempt – 1 (6.7%).

DEPUTIES INJURED IN ENCOUNTERS WHERE LESS-LETHAL FORCE UTILIZED

In the 47 incidents where Deputies utilized less-lethal force, 15 Deputies were injured (31.9%). Fire / Rescue treated two (2) Deputies on scene (2.0%); six (6) Deputies did not require or refused medical services (5.9%); seven (7) Deputies required evaluation at the hospital (6.9%); 86 deputies were not injured (85.2%).

Of the 49 subjects where Deputies used less-lethal force, 27 subjects were chemically impaired or suspected of being under the influence of either drugs or alcohol (57.4%), and in three (3) incidents, subjects were having a mental health crisis (6.4%).

Eight (8) Deputies responded to a disturbance/domestic disturbance (53.3%), two (2) Deputies responded to a mentally ill person (13.3%), one (1) Deputy responded to a suspicious incident (6.7%), three (3) Deputies responded to a traffic stop/pedestrian stop (20.0%), and one (1) Deputy responded to serve a warrant/writ (6.7%).



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

The breakdown of the Deputies injured is seven (7) Caucasian males (46.7%), one (1) African American male (6.7%), three (3) Hispanic males (20.0%), one other male (6.7%), and three (3) Caucasian females (20%). The ages of the injured Deputies are: one (1) Deputy is under the age of 25 (6.7%), ten (10) Deputies were between the ages of 25 – 34 (66.7%), one (1) Deputy was between the ages of 35 – 44 (6.7%), and three (3) Deputies were between the ages of 45 – 54 (20.0%).

Figure 20:

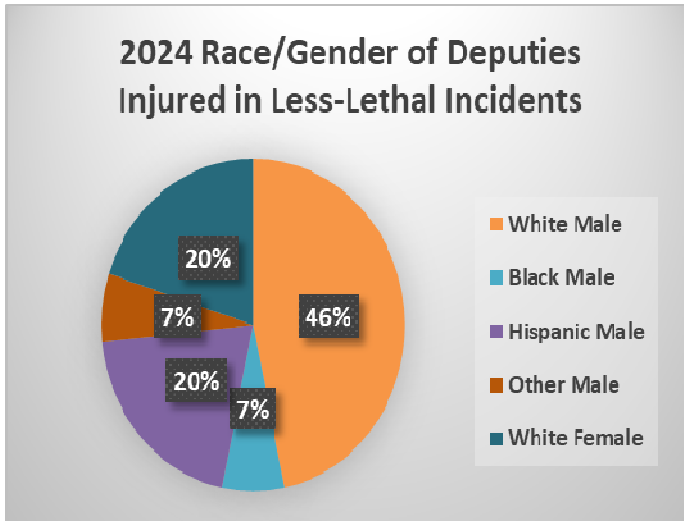
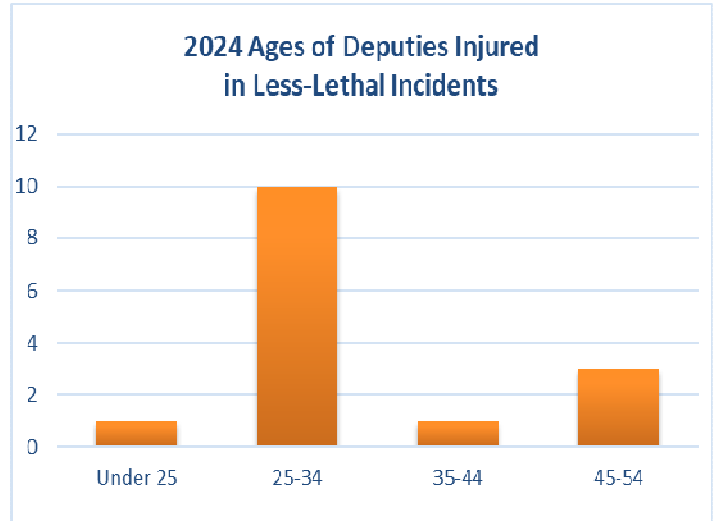


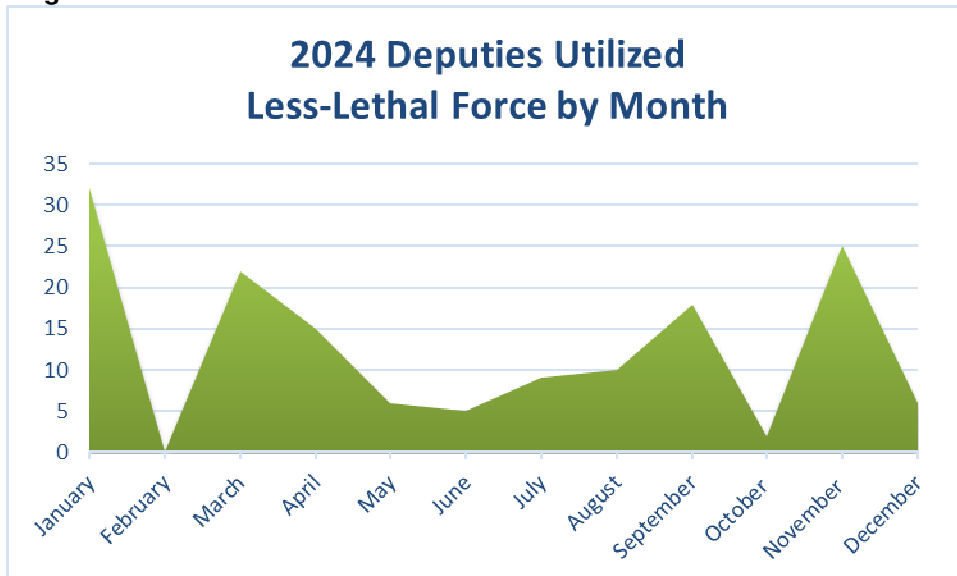
Figure 21:



DATE AND TIME LESS-LETHAL FORCE UTILIZED

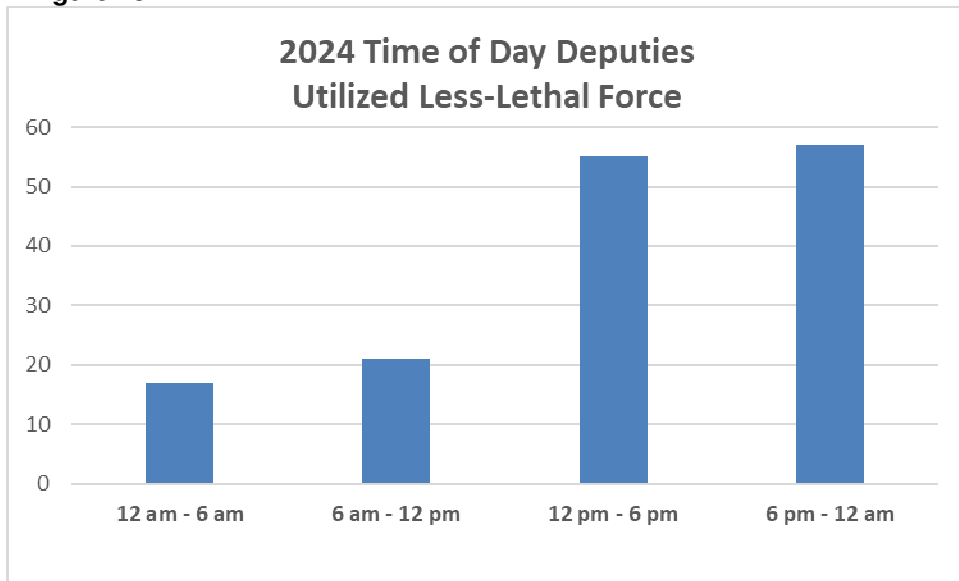
Deputies utilized less-lethal force on subjects: 32 times in January (21.3%), zero times in February (0.0%), 22 times in March (14.7%), fifteen (15) times in April (10.0%), six (6) times in May (4.0%), five (5) times in June (3.3%), nine (9) times in July (6.0%), ten (10) times in August (6.7%), 18 times in September (12.0%), two (2) times in October (1.3%), 25 times in November (16.7%), and six (6) times in December (4.0%).

Figure 22:



Of the 150 uses of less-lethal force, 17 uses occurred between 12 am – 6 am (11.3%), 21 uses occurred between 6 am – 12 pm (14.0%), 55 uses occurred between 12 pm – 6 pm (36.7%), and 57 uses occurred between 6 pm -12 am (38.0%).

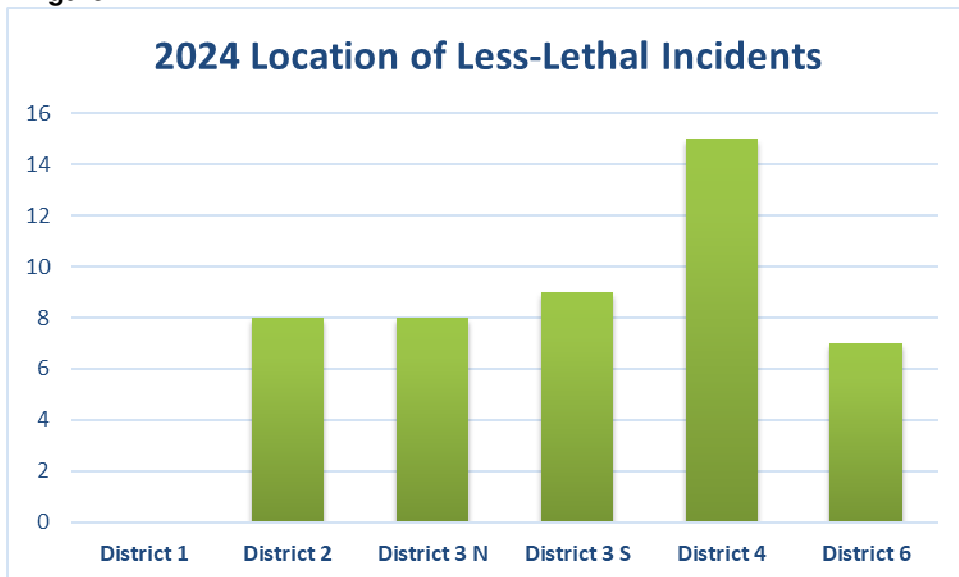
Figure 23:



LOCATION OF LESS-LETHAL INCIDENTS

Of the 47 incidents of less-lethal force, zero (0) incidents occurred in District 1 (0.0%), eight (8) incidents occurred in District 2 (17.0%), eight (8) incidents in District 3 N (17.0%), nine (9) incidents in District 3 S (19.2%), fifteen (15) incidents in District 4 (31.9%), and seven (7) incidents in District 6 (14.9%).

Figure 24:



2024 REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE POLICY AND PRACTICES:

During the calendar year 2024, the Volusia Sheriff's Office Training Academy trained 18 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 from 2017 through 2022; however, in 2023 and 2024 the number of arrests increased.

Please note: In June 2023, the Volusia Sheriff's Office transitioned from UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) to NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System). The UCR index crime rate is not available; with NIBRS, crime reporting has additional crime classifications.

In 2022, the use of force incidents decreased 30.4% when compared to 2020 but increased 20.8% in 2023. In 2024, the use of force incidents decreased 17.2% from 2023. The number of Deputies assaulted in 2022 also increased 30.2% from 2021. The number of Deputies assaulted in 2023 increased 57.4% and decreased 24.7% in 2024. This may be attributed to the upward trend in subjects' resistance and failure to comply with lawful commands given by Deputies.

Since implementing the PERF ICAT training model beginning in 2017, and with continued emphasis and investment in the Guardian and de-escalation philosophies, the agency has seen a 59.5% decrease in the use of force incidents from 2017 overall, and an 83.3% decline in deadly force incidents against a person in 2024 when compared with 2017.

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 the final review and policy adherence as presented by Internal Affairs.

The Volusia Sheriff's Office made a policy revision to General Order 001-01 Use of Force Guidelines on June 10, 2024 "Some examples include chemical agents (e.g., aerosol irritant projector and the pepper ball system), DART-Firing Stun Gun (e.g. TASER), less-lethal impact weapons such as expandable batons (e.g., ASP) and 12-GA. less-lethal impact munitions. Each use of aerosol irritant projector, the pepper ball system, REACT/Bandit, Taser, ASP, or less-lethal munitions shall be documented in an Incident Report and shall require a supervisory Response to Resistance report and Administrative Review through the chain of command."

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.

FIGURE #25: 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
24-2630 VP 24-001	2/5/24 2030 hrs.	Reckless driver; driving in wrong lane	Turned over to another agency (PCSO)	No	No	? / 63 mph; issue with Force Watch	22 miles / 46 minutes	Yes/Yes	Not authorized by supervisor, acceptable due to extreme circum.
24-18707 MVA 24-018	8/25/24 0343 hrs.	DV Battery Suspect	Deputy stopped	No	No	45 / 45 mph	1 mile / 1 minute 32 seconds	Yes/Yes	Not authorized by supervisor
24-25103 VP 25-002	11/20/24 2205 hrs.	TS Flee/Elude	Suspect stopped	No	K-9 bite	31 / 67 mph	0.7 miles / 1 minute	Yes/Yes	Not authorized by supervisor; didn't obey traffic laws
24-26642 VP 25-001	12/14/24 2329 hrs.	TS Flee/Elude	Suspect stopped; vehicle on fire	No	K-9 bite	34 / 61 mph	2.5 miles / 5 minutes 3 seconds	Yes/ Yes	Not authorized by supervisor; didn't obey traffic laws

PURSUIT REVIEW:

There were four (4) pursuits during 2024; supervisory and administrative reviews were well-documented providing good detail. One (1) of the four (4) pursuits was initiated due to the subject's reckless driving and driving the wrong direction in the travel lane (25.0%), one (1) pursuit was due to locating a DV battery suspect (25.0%), and the other two pursuits were initiated due to the subjects attempting to flee and elude law enforcement (50.0%).

Upon administrative review, one pursuit met the requirements for pursuit except several Deputies initiated a pursuit without their supervisor's approval; the supervisor only approved stop sticks. In the second pursuit, the pursuit was not authorized by the supervisor. In the other two pursuits, the Deputy involved in each case did not have their supervisor's approval nor did the Deputy obey traffic laws. After review by Internal Affairs and Supervisor Inquiries, the Deputies received discipline based on their discipline history (counseling or letter of reprimand), and remedial training on VSO General Order 041-02 Motor Vehicle Apprehensions.

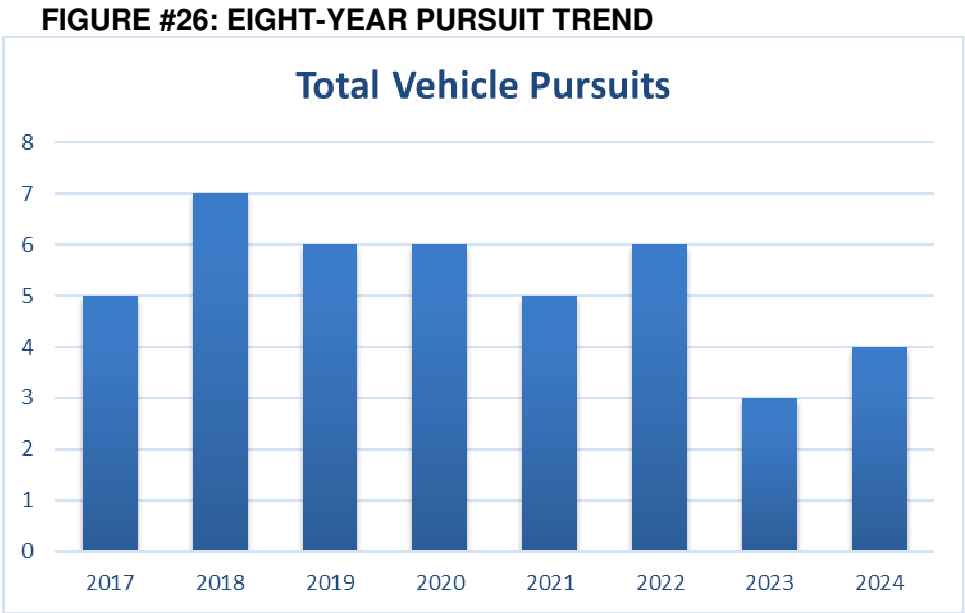
Stop Sticks - During 2024, Deputies deployed stop sticks two (2) times in support of planned tactical measures to terminate pursuits. In two (2) of the four (4) pursuits or 50%, Deputies successfully deployed stop sticks slowing the vehicles down, and the remaining two (2) ending because the suspects stopped their vehicles.

NOTE: Deputies also utilized 38 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 running stop signs or red traffic lights. The Deputies received discipline based on their discipline history (counseling), letter of reprimand and received remedial training on Motor Vehicle Apprehensions.

The below 8-year trend line 2017 - 2024 indicates an average of 5.2 pursuits/year.

Historical review for this period 2017 - 2024 reflects that of the 42 pursuits, 11 (26.2%) pursuits were not in compliance with established policy.



REVIEW OF PURSUIT POLICY AND PRACTICES:

The Volusia Sheriff’s Office general order (GO-041-02) was revised on April 2, 2024. “Roadblocks shall be prohibited. Fleeing vehicles shall not be forcibly stopped, with the exceptions of use of the Stop Stick System, or the PIT.” Stop Stick deployment is explained in detail. The pursuit report and review process are updated to state: “The supervisor conducting the inquiry will complete a motor vehicle apprehension report in BlueTeam. The report shall be forwarded through the chain of command for administrative review utilizing BlueTeam.” The documented analysis provided by the Professional Compliance Unit shall be approved by the Sheriff.

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.

SHOW OF FORCE

The Professional Compliance Unit began collecting data on the Deputies show of force incidents in January 2021. The supervisors submit a show of force form for each deputy that utilizes a show of force; copies of the submitted forms are routed to Internal Affairs and the Professional Compliance Unit.

Less-Lethal Show of Force by Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021-2024 % Change
OC Spray Displayed	0	0	0	0	0%
ASP Baton Displayed	0	0	0	0	0%
ASP Baton Offensive Ready	1	0	0	0	-100%
Total ASP Baton Show of Force	1	0	0	0	-100.0%
Bola-Wrap Displayed	0	0	0	0	0%
Bola-Wrap Laser Activated	0	0	0	0	0%
Total Bola-Wrap Show of Force	0	0	0	0	0%
Taser Displayed	57	35	16	17	-70.2%
Taser Warning Arc	1	4	0	0	-100.0%
Taser Pointed Laser	60	51	42	17	-71.7%
Total Taser Show of Force	118	90	58	34	-71.2%
Impact Munition Shotgun Displayed	11	7	3	2	-81.8%
Impact Munition Shotgun Racked Action	8	3	0	1	-87.5%
Total Impact Munition Shotgun Show of Force	19	10	3	3	-84.2%
Total Less-Lethal Show of Force	138	100	61	37	-73.2%

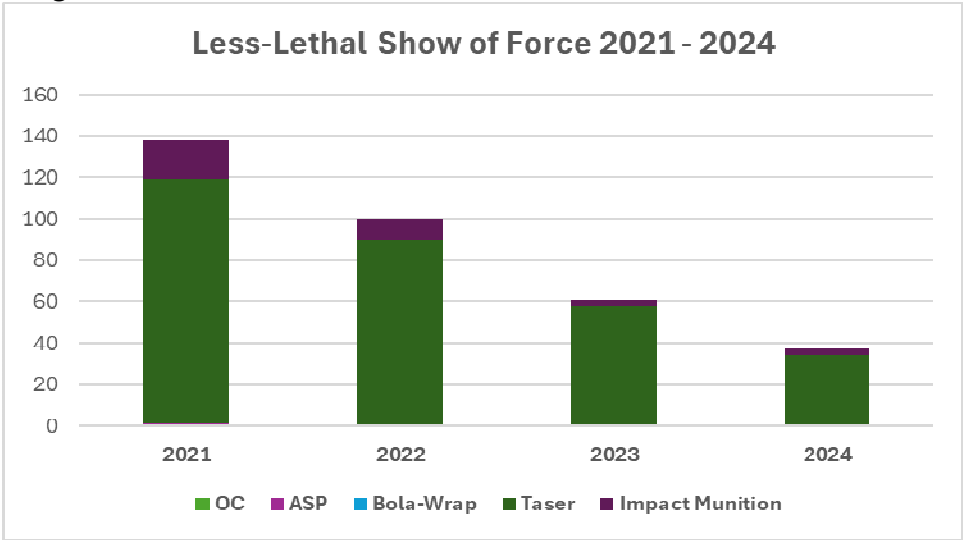
Source: Show of Force forms submitted to the Professional Compliance Unit during calendar years 2021 – 2024.

TREND ANALYSIS OF LESS-LETHAL SHOW OF FORCE USES

The four-year trend for the Less-Lethal Show of Force uses decreased 73.2% in 2024 when compared with the Less-Lethal Show of Force uses in 2021. OC Spray and Bola-Wrap, as a Less-Lethal Show of Force, did not occur during the four (4) years. The ASP Baton Show of Force uses declined 100.0% in 2024 when compared with 2021. Taser Show of Force uses declined 71.2 in 2024 and Impact Munition Shotgun Show of Force uses dropped 84.2% in 2024 when compared with 2021.

The number of Show of Force forms submitted to the Professional Compliance Unit during calendar year 2024 dropped significantly from previous years. Several forms sent through the Show of Force email process in 2023 arrived in the Professional Compliance Unit email in 2024. IT tested the process and could not determine any issue with the SOF email process.

Figure 27: Less-Lethal Show of Force 2021 - 2024



2024 Top Two Less-Lethal Show of Force

34 Taser Show of Force Uses 92%
3 Impact Munition Shotgun Show of Force Uses 8%

Figure 28: 2023 Less-Lethal Show of Force Uses

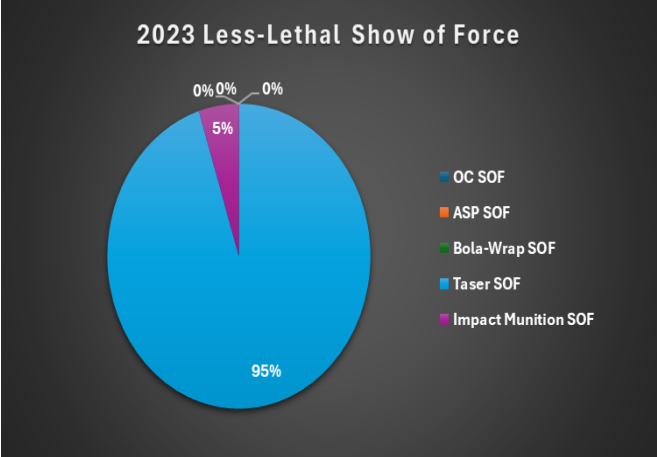
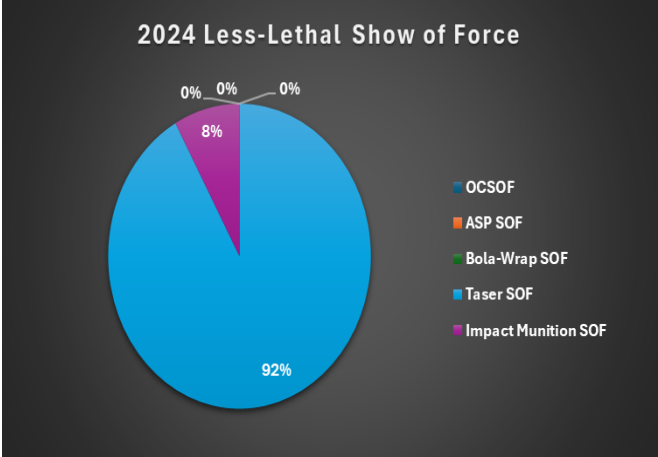


Figure 29: 2024 Less-Lethal Show of Force Uses



Less-Lethal Show of Force Trends

The Taser show of force uses decreased each year since 2021, declining 71.2% in 2024. In 2024, Taser remained the number one choice for less-lethal show of force uses on subjects 34 uses (91.9%) followed by impact munition shotgun less-lethal show of force uses on subjects with three (3) uses (8.1%) in 2024, declining 84.2% from 2021. The total less-lethal show of force uses during calendar year 2024 decreased 73.2% when compared with 2021 and declined 39.3% when compared with 2023. This may be attributed to PERF's ICAT training, a glitch in the show of force submission email process or possibly supervisors not submitting the show of force forms as required.

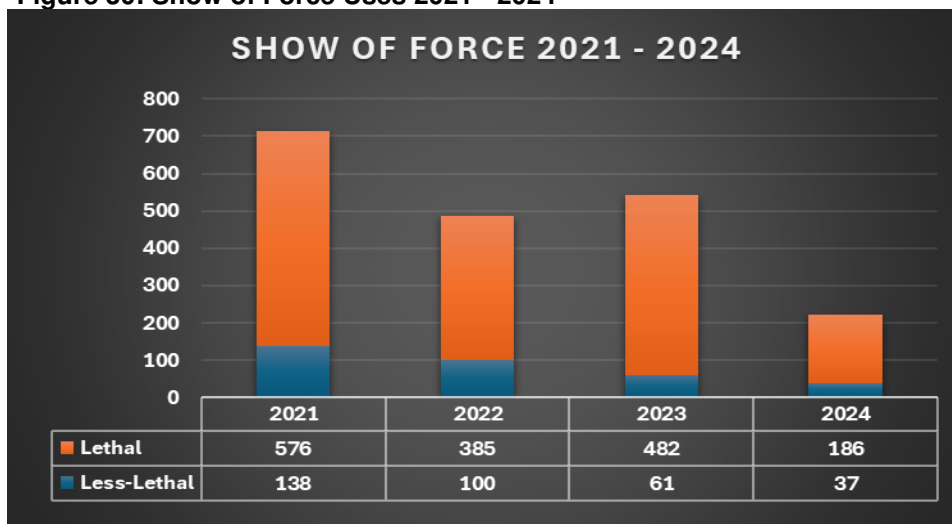
Lethal Show of Force	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021 – 2024 % Change
Handgun Low Ready	87	48	53	23	-73.6%
Handgun High Ready	448	299	398	151	-66.3%
Total Handgun Show of Force	535	347	451	174	-67.5%
Patrol Shotgun Low Ready	1	0	0	0	-100.0%
Patrol Shotgun High Ready	1	0	1	1	0.0%
Total Patrol Shotgun Show of Force	2	0	1	1	-50.0%
Patrol Rifle Low Ready	8	13	11	2	-75.0%
Patrol Rifle High Ready	31	25	22	9	-71.0%
Total Patrol Rifle Show of Force	39	38	33	11	-71.8%
Total Lethal Show of Force	576	385	482	186	-67.7%
Total Show of Force	714	485	546	223	-68.8%

Source: Show of Force forms submitted to the Professional Compliance Unit during calendar years 2021 through 2024.

TREND ANALYSIS OF LETHAL SHOW OF FORCE USES

Lethal show of force uses decreased by 191 uses (33.2%) in 2022, increased by 97 uses (25.2%) in 2023, and decreased by 296 uses (61.1%) in 2024 when compared with 2023. Lethal show of force uses declined 67.7% in 2024 when compared with 2021. This may be attributed to PERF's ICAT training, a glitch in the show of force submission email process or possibly supervisors not submitting the show of force forms as required.

Figure 30: Show of Force Uses 2021 - 2024



TOP THREE LETHAL SHOW OF FORCE TYPES

174 Handgun show of force uses (93.5%)
 11 Patrol Rifle show of force uses (5.9%)
 1 Patrol Shotgun show of force use (0.5%)

HANDGUN SHOW OF FORCE: Handgun show of force uses represents 93.5% of all lethal show of force uses (174 uses) and 74.0% of all show of force uses in 2024 (223 uses). Handgun show of force uses decreased by 188 uses (35.1%) in 2022, increased by 104 uses (30.0%) in 2023, and decreased by 277 uses (61.4%) in 2024.

PATROL RIFLE SHOW OF FORCE: Patrol Rifle show of force uses represents 5.9% of all lethal show of force uses (11) and 4.96% of all show of force uses in 2024. Patrol Rifle show of force uses decreased by one (1) use (2.6%) in 2022, declined by five (5) uses (13.2%) in 2023, and decreased by 22 uses (66.7%) in 2024.

PATROL SHOTGUN SHOW OF FORCE: Patrol Shotgun show of force represents 0.5% of all lethal show of force uses (1 use) and 0.4% of all show of force uses in 2024. Patrol Shotgun show of force uses decreased by two (2) uses (100.0%) in 2022, increased by one (1) use in 2023 (not calculable), and remained at one (1) use in 2024.

Figure 31: Lethal Show of Force Uses 2021 - 2024

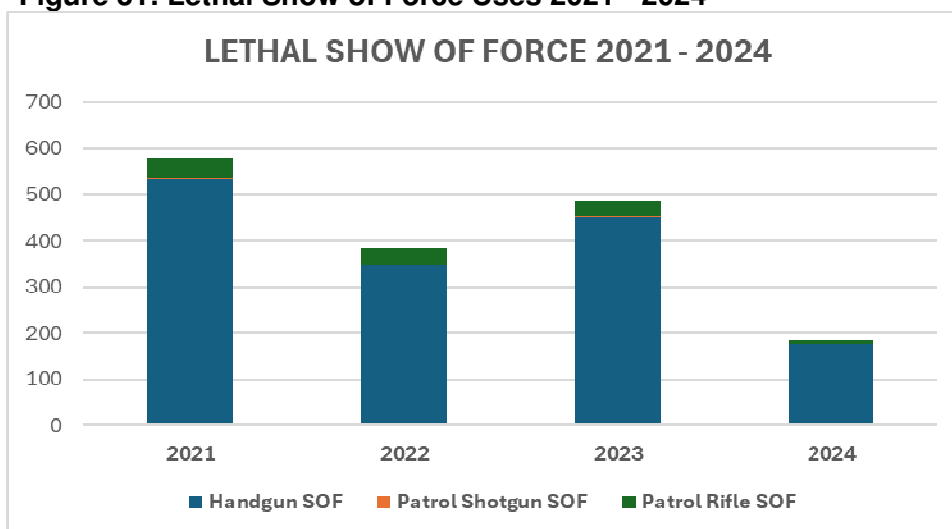


Figure 32: 2023 Lethal Show of Force Types

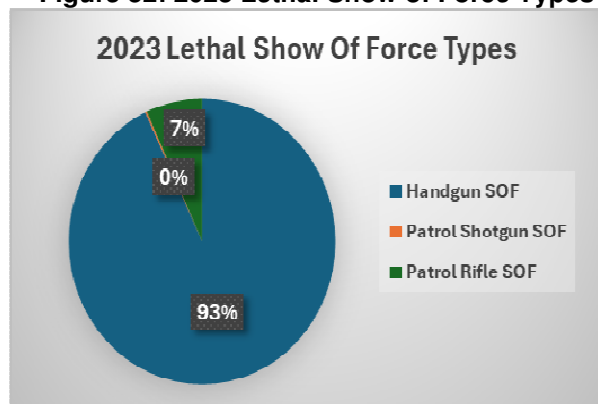
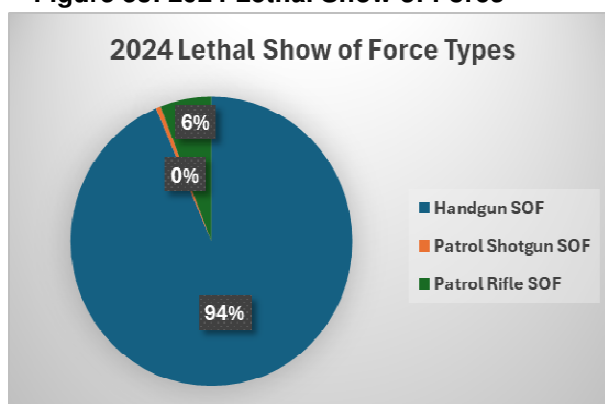


Figure 33: 2024 Lethal Show of Force



TOTAL SHOW OF FORCE TRENDS

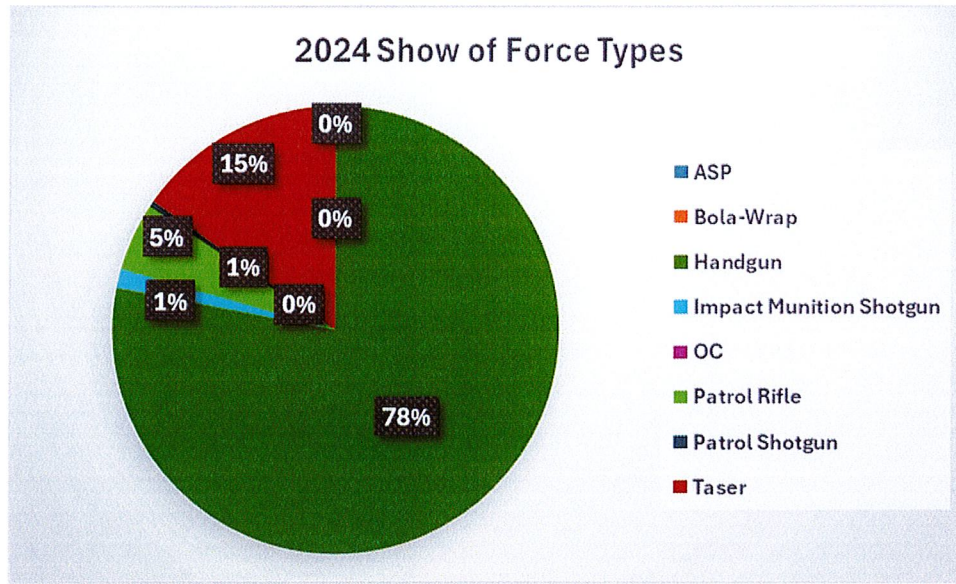
The total show of force in the calendar year 2021 was 714 uses. In 2022, the show of force use decreased by 229 uses (32.1%), increased by 61 uses (12.6%) in 2023, and declined by 323 uses (59.2%) in 2024. This may be attributed to PERF's ICAT training, a glitch in the show of force submission email process or possibly supervisors not submitting the show of force forms as required.

TOP THREE SHOW OF FORCE

Handgun show of force 174 (78.0%)

Taser show of force 34 (15.2%)

Patrol Rifle show of force 11 (4.9%)



During the calendar year 2024, the total show of force utilized includes: Handgun show of force 174 uses (78.0%), Taser show of force 34 uses (15.3%), Patrol Rifle show of force eleven (11) uses (4.9%), Impact Mmunition Shotgun show of force three (3) uses (1.4%), and Patrol Shotgun show of force one (1) use (0.4%). ASP show of force, Bola-Wrap show of force and OC spray show of force remained at zero uses for 2024.

Professional Compliance Unit
April 2025

cc: Chief Deputy Brian Henderson
Division Chief Tim Morgan
Assistant Chief Kyle McDaniel
Captain Kurt Schoeps
Lt. Patrick Leahy