

Annual Use of Force Report 2023

**Albuquerque Police Department
Accountability Bureau**

Prepared by: Data Analytics Division

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Executive Summary

01

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of use of force by the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) for 2023. APD is dedicated to maintaining public safety and serving the community with integrity. As part of its commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability, the department conducts annual analysis of its use of force incidents. APD defines force as “any physical means used to defend the officer or other people, restrain, or otherwise gain physical control of an individual who is resisting” (see SOP 2-53: Use of Force – Definitions.) Whenever physical contact between an officer and a member of the public meets the definition of force (discussed in section 2 of this report), APD investigates whether the force was objectively reasonable, necessary to achieve a lawful objective, proportional to the resistance, and minimal given the totality of the circumstances. APD’s policy and training emphasizes officers using de-escalation tactics whenever feasible and to try to minimize the need for force through effective communication. At times, the use of force by officers is necessary for the safety of officers and members of the public.

Key findings:

- In 2023, APD used force in 517 force incidents. A force case can include multiple people who are involved in a single incident or offense report.
- In these 517 incidents, there were 549 force interactions where a single person had force used on them in response to resistance. A force interaction is limited to one involved person at one point in time. See section 2.1 for a more complete discussion of definitions.
- Compared to 2022, there was a 12% decline in the number of force interactions from 626 to 549.
- Compared to 2021, there was a 27% decline in force interactions from 757 to 549.
- 335 (61%) force interactions were classified as Level 2 force.
- 501 people were involved in force interactions. Nine percent of people were involved in more than one force interaction; 40 people were involved in two incidents and three were involved in three interactions.
- The median age of people involved in force was 33 meaning that half of involved individuals were 33 or under and half were 33 or over.
- APD officers were involved in 14 Officer Involved Shootings, down 22% from 2022.
- 24 out of 517 cases involving the use of force were deemed out of policy. Five percent (30 out of 549) of all force interactions were out of policy.
- On average, force was used 1.35 times in every 1,000 calls for service, down 16.1% from 2022 and 31.1% from 2021.
- Force was used in 4.5 out of 100 custodial arrests, down 28.6% from 2022 and 43.7% from 2021.¹

The department recognizes the importance of maintaining accountability in the exercise of force, safeguarding the rights of the public, and fostering trust with the community. By emphasizing the appropriate use of force, APD aims to promote a culture that prioritizes the principles of fairness, justice, and community well-being. The department has continuously worked towards implementing effective policies and remained committed to revising these policies further. These ongoing revisions demonstrate our dedication to continuous improvement, ensuring that our use of force policies remain up-to-date, effective, and in alignment with our commitment to public safety. This report aims to identify trends and patterns associated with use of force that assists with refining both policy and trainings to promote safer interactions between officers and members of the community.

Through this detailed examination of the use of force incidents during 2023, the department seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of APD’s use of force, enabling stakeholders to gain insights, and foster an environment of transparency and trust.

¹The methodology for calculating the force per custodial arrest rate was modified between the 2022 and 2023 annual report based on supplemental analysis conducted by the Data Analysis Division. For more information on the methodology, see section 4.1.5

Introduction

02

The figures presented in this report reflect accurate statistics related to use of force by APD as of April 2024 when the data were queried from the Department's use of force database. Since these data come from a dynamic database that can change as new information becomes available, previous and future reporting may have slight variations in totals because cases may be re-evaluated if new evidence comes to light.

APD's mission is to build relationships through community policing that will lead to reduced crime and increased safety. Part of achieving the mission requires conducting high-quality investigations into all force incidents. This report relies on data produced during force investigations and reflects the results of the investigations. The highest level of force applied (see definitions below) determines the process the investigation follows. The level of force is determined during an on scene investigation where the force is classified into Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3. Section 1.2 below explains how APD categorizes uses of force into three levels.

As reported in the 2022 Annual Use of Force Report, APD began a pilot project to move investigations of Level 1 uses of force from supervisors in the field to a consolidated Level 1 unit in 2022. The goal of this consolidation was to improve the timeliness of investigations; improve consistency in documentation and investigative quality; and to reduce the administrative burden and time spent on force investigations by field supervisors. After the successful implementation of the pilot program, the program went live across all Area Commands in August 2023. During the pilot program, average Level 1 case completion timelines improved significantly from 28.3 days to 10.9 days. The program also allowed the field supervisors, specifically those in the Field Services Bureau to reduce the average time spent on scene reviewing force from 4-5 hours to 2.5 hours. As a result, the field supervisors were freed to dedicate more time on proactive policing, answering calls for service or responding to field personnel requests.

Level 2 and Level 3 force cases (defined below) are investigated by the Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD). IAFD is staffed by sworn and professional staff investigators who respond to the scene of force incidents and lead an investigation into each use of force. IAFD is also responsible for investigating Level 1 uses of force when the officer who applied force holds the rank of lieutenant or above (see SOP 2-57: Use of Force – Review and Investigation by Department Personnel).

In 2021, APD contracted with the External Force Investigation Team to provide support to IAFD personnel conducting investigations. From 2021 to late 2023, EFIT jointly conducted force investigations with IAFD. Beginning in late 2022, IAFD investigators who completed a certification process developed by EFIT and APD began conducting their own investigations without oversight from EFIT. In late 2023, EFIT ceased providing support on current IAFD investigations and since that time, IAFD has conducted its own investigations.

All force investigations determine whether the use of force was consistent with APD policy based on a preponderance of evidence standard and whether any other policy violations occurred during the incident. If IAFD determines that any policy violations occurred, an Internal Affairs Referral is submitted and the case is investigated for misconduct.

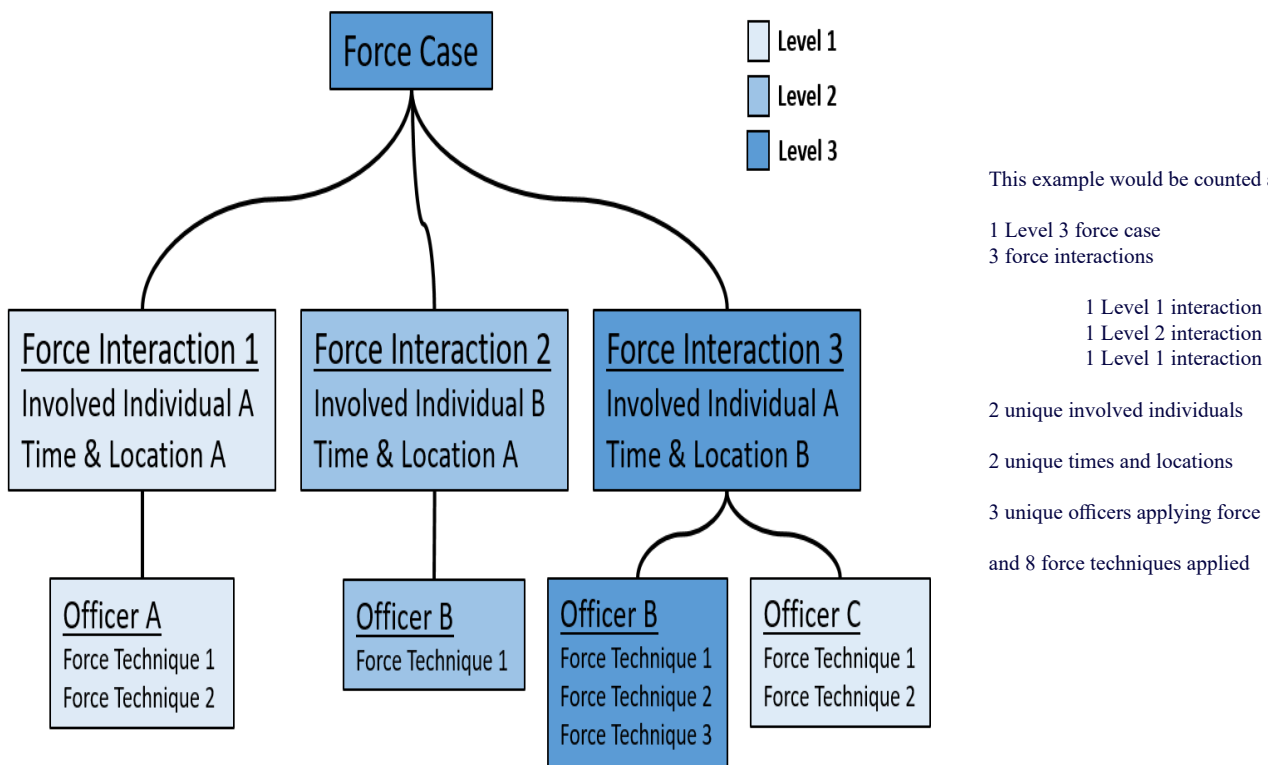
APD is committed to using force to achieve lawful objectives in instances where applying force is objectively reasonable, necessary, minimal, and proportional given the totality of circumstances (see SOP 2-52: Use of Force – General). When force is not consistent with these standards of conduct (SOP 2-52: Use of Force- General), APD takes corrective actions which may include disciplinary measures as severe as suspension and termination.

2.1 Measuring Force Incidence

It is important to define APD's measurement methods for reporting purposes. APD tracks uses of force in its database in several ways including at the Case Level and the File Level. In most instances, there is one file number per case. A case number is assigned to an event and is a unique identifier in APD's records management system covering the entire case and any reports written about the case, including the use of force. A use of force (UOF) case may be a simple interaction involving one officer and one individual with a low-level show of force or a case can be a complex incident involving multiple officers, multiple individuals and multiple types of force and multiple applications of force types. In order to enable accurate data analysis at multiple levels of analysis, the department also tracks uses of force with a file number which corresponds to one involved person and one location where the force took place.

In 2023, APD officers used force in 517 force cases. Within those force cases, there were 549 force interactions. Force interactions are defined as force encounters with a single, distinct involved individual on whom force was used at a specific time and location. A force case may contain more than one force interaction if more than one individual was subject to force and/or the same individual was subject to force in more than one location (e.g. once during arrest and again while the individual is awaiting treatment at the hospital). A force interaction may also have multiple officers each applying multiple force techniques to an involved individual. Police departments across the country account for uses of force differently and use different language to describe the complex sequences of events that amount to a use of force. APD categorizes the severity of force used in 3 levels (see SOP 2-53: Use of Force Definitions-Effective 01/26/2023). Force cases and force interactions are assigned an overall force level based on the highest level of force used by any one officer within the force interaction. The figure below illustrates the structure APD uses to count uses of force and assign an overall level of force to an interaction.

In 2023, SOP 2-52 was updated making a few notable changes to force classification including defining takedowns as a Level 1 use of force if there was no injury and classifying Level 1 force with an individual in handcuffs as Level 1 rather than Level 3 in the previous policy.



Levels of force defined in SOP 2-53

Level 1:

Force that is likely to cause only temporary pain, disorientation, and/or discomfort during its application as a means of gaining compliance; or any show of force.

- Any Level 1 use of force against an individual in handcuffs remains a Level 1 use of force.

Level 2:

Force that causes injury, could reasonably be expected to cause injury, or results in a complaint of injury greater than temporary pain, regardless of whether the use of force was unintentional or unavoidable. A Level 2 use of force includes:

- Discharge of an Electronic Control Weapon (ECW), including where an ECW is fired at an individual but misses.
- Use of a beanbag shotgun or 40 millimeter impact launcher, including when it is fired at an individual but misses; The use of a 40-millimeter impact launcher as a tool to defeat a window of a commercial or residential structure or a window of an occupied vehicle or another type of barrier will not be investigated as a use of force unless it strikes an individual.
- Use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, including when it is sprayed at an individual but misses.
- Use of empty-hand techniques that result in injury or complaint of injury (e.g., strikes, kicks, takedowns or leg sweeps).
- Strikes and attempted strikes with impact weapons; This excludes strikes to the head, neck, throat, chest, or groin with a beanbag shotgun or 40-millimeter impact launcher and strikes to the head, neck, throat, chest, or groin with a baton or improvised impact weapon, which are considered deadly force.
- Deployment of a noise flash diversionary device (NFDD) inside a structure; If an NFDD is deployed outside of a structure or outside an enclosed vehicle and is used as a means to gain the attention of an individual, it will not be considered a use of force.
- Use of a horse rein strike on an individual's extremities.
- Use of the PIT maneuver at 35 mph or below.

Level 3:

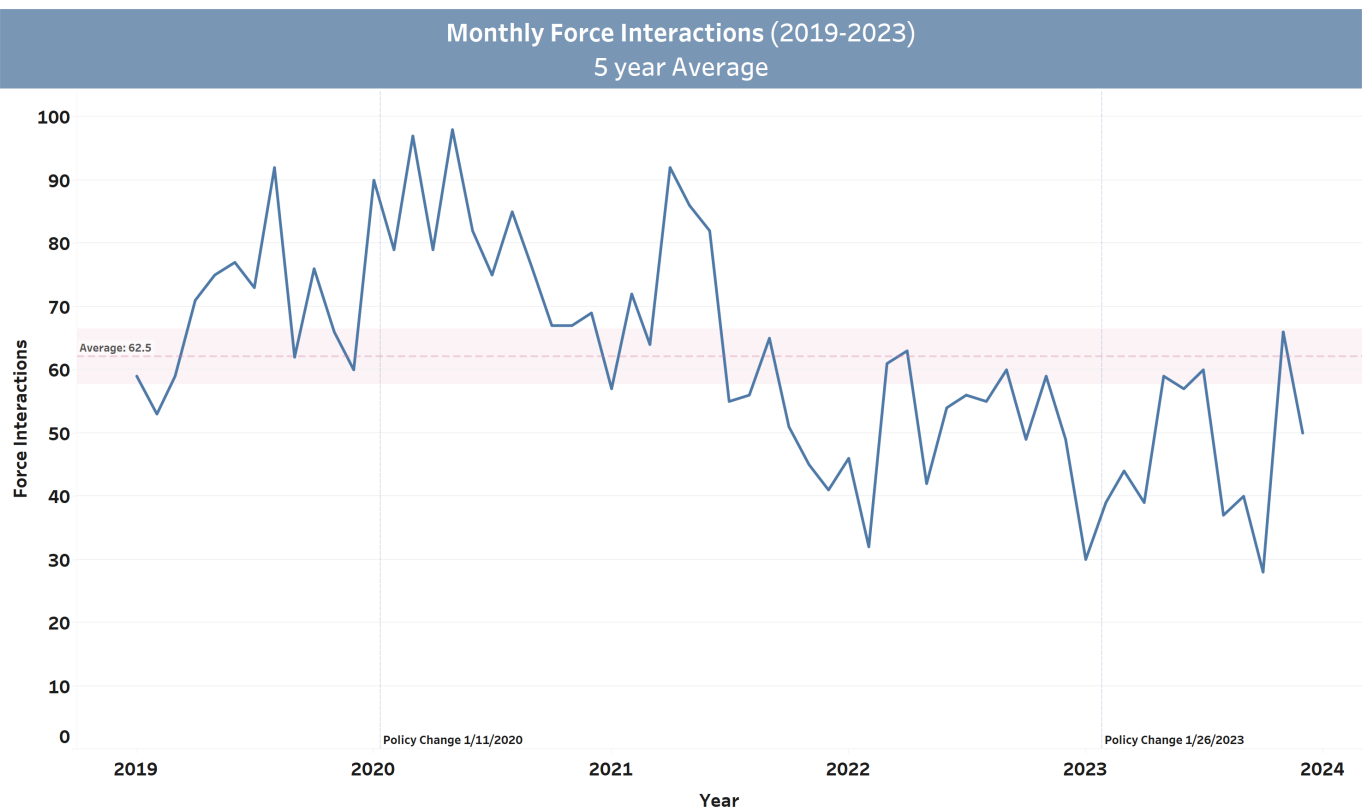
Force that results in, or could reasonably result in, serious physical injury, hospitalization, or death, regardless of whether the use of force was unintentional or unavoidable. Level 3 use of force includes:

- Use of deadly force.
- Critical firearm discharge.
- Force resulting in hospitalization, serious medical episode, loss of consciousness, and/or a seizure.
- Police Service Dog (PSD) directed bite.
- Three (3) or more ECW discharges on an individual during a single interaction, regardless of the mode or duration of the discharge, and regardless of whether the discharge are by the same or different officers.
- An ECW discharge on an individual during a single interaction for longer than 15 seconds, whether continuous or consecutive, regardless of the mode of discharge.
- Four (4) or more strikes with a baton or improvised impact weapon.
- Any Level 2 use of force against a handcuffed individual.
- Use of the PIT maneuver thirty-five (35) mph or below that results in, or could reasonably result in, serious physical injury, hospitalization, or death.
- Use of PIT maneuver above thirty-five (35) mph.

2.2 Force Summary

Table 2.3.1 2023 Summary	
Force Cases	517
Force Interactions	549
Distinct Involved Individuals (Individuals may be involved in more than one force interaction)	501
Distinct Officers Involved in Force	434
Officers Applying Force in Force Interactions (Officers may be involved in more than one force interaction)	1,175
Force Techniques Applied (Any number of force techniques may be applied in one force interaction)	2,269

APD recorded 549 force interactions in 2023. This quantity reflects an annual decreasing trend in force interactions relative to preceding years. This trend can be attributed to APD officers operationalizing enhanced training received during the last few years as well as the emphasis towards implying de-escalation and low-level control tactics techniques rather than using force. Over the same period, the calls for service as well as arrests have increased compared to previous years. Calls for service increased by approximately 4.76% this year in comparison to 2022 and custodial arrests went up significantly with a 22.4% increase compared to 2022. A custodial arrest means that a person is taken into police custody and booked into jail based on a preexisting warrant or probable cause determined by the officer. *See Section 4 of this report for further analysis of trends in force, calls for service, and arrests over time.*



For the 549 force interactions occurring in 2023, 23% were Level 1 uses of force, 61% were Level 2, and 16% were Level 3. Comparing it to 2022's force interactions, 26% were Level 1, 57% were Level 2 and 17% of the 626 interactions were Level 3 uses of force. *See page 5 of this report to get additional information on how different levels of force are classified.* The Level 3 uses of force (n= 87) includes the fourteen officer-involved shootings (OIS) that occurred in the 2023, of which six incidents were fatal. *See Section 3.5 for information about each OIS in 2023.*

Table 2.2.2	Force Interactions		% Total
Force Levels	Level 1	127	23%
	Level 2	335	61%
	Level 3	87	16%
	Total	549	100%

A total of 501 individuals were involved in one or more force interactions in 2023. As shown in Table 2.2.3 below, 40 individuals or 8% were involved in two (2) force interactions and 3 were involved in three (3) force interactions. 91% of the individuals were involved in a single (1) force interaction during the year. The number of individuals involved in force interactions decreased in 2023, as compared to 2022 from 587 to 501 which is consistent with the decline in total force interactions.

Table 2.2.3		
Number of Force Interactions	Number of Distinct Involved Individuals	
	n	%
1	458	91%
2	40	8%
3	3	1%
Total	501	100%

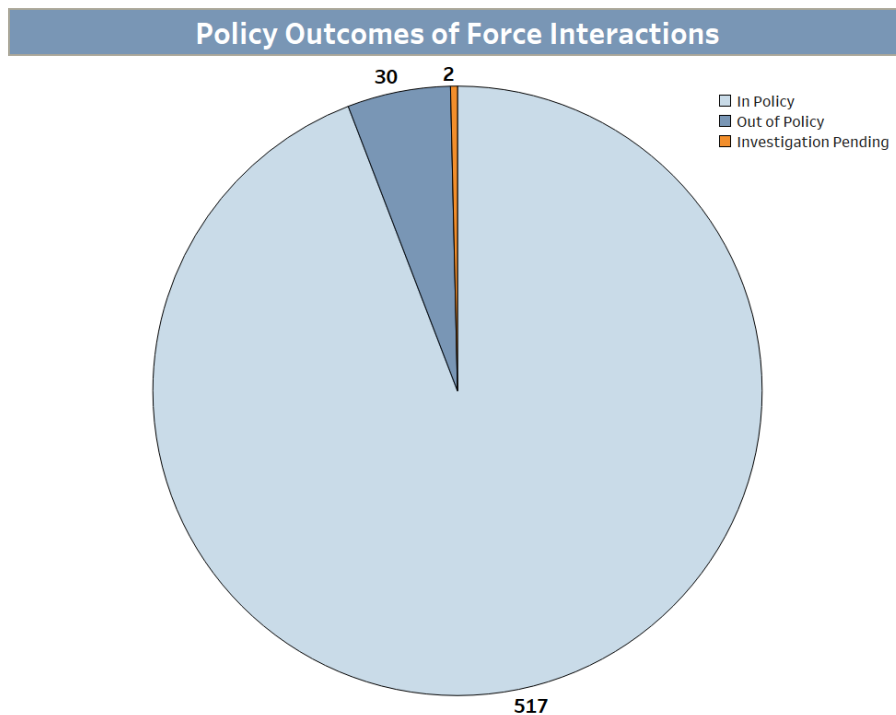
As shown in Table 2.2.1 above, 1,175 officers applied 2,269 force techniques during force interactions in 2023. The 1,175 officers counted as having applied force was comprised of 434 distinct officers since some officers were involved in more than one force interaction during the year. At the end of 2023, the total number of sworn officers in the department was 853. Among the 853 officers, 434 used force at least once and 58% were involved in more than one force interaction. As shown in Table 2.2.4, 92% of the 434 officers who used force were involved in 5 or fewer force interactions in 2023. Most of the officers with nine or more force interactions during the year were assigned to the Special Operations Division. These officers are usually on-call and respond to incidents where the likelihood of applying force is typically higher. Of the 14 officers having nine or more force interactions in the year, 71% were assigned to Special Operations or to Proactive Response Teams. *See Section 3.3.1 for an analysis of the 2,269 force techniques that were applied by officers in 2023.*

Number of Force Interactions	Number of Distinct Officers Involved in Corresponding Number of Force Interactions	
	n	%
1	181	42%
2	81	19%
3	60	14%
4	48	11%
5	25	6%
6	9	2%
7	10	2%
8	6	1%
9	5	1%
10	3	1%
11	2	<1%
12	1	<1%
13	1	<1%
15+	2	<1%
Total	434	100%

2.3 Force Investigations

APD strives to only use force that is objectively reasonable, necessary to achieve lawful objectives, proportional to the resistance from the individual involved, and minimal based on the totality of the circumstances. After investigation, force is deemed in policy when every force technique is used correctly and was deemed to be reasonable, necessary, proportional, and minimal as defined in SOP 2-52: Use of Force - General. If any officer's force techniques used were determined to be out of policy, the entire force case or interaction is considered to be out of policy. As shown in Table 2.3, approximately 5% of force cases and interactions investigated during 2023 were deemed out of policy. In 2022, 4% of the force cases/interactions were out of policy. *See Section 5 of this report for further analysis of force investigations.*

Table 2.3		Force Cases	% Total	Force Interactions	% Total
Outcome	In Policy	491	95%	517	94%
	Out of Policy	24	5%	30	5%
	<i>Investigation Pending</i>	2	<1%	2	<1%
	Total	517	100%	549	100%



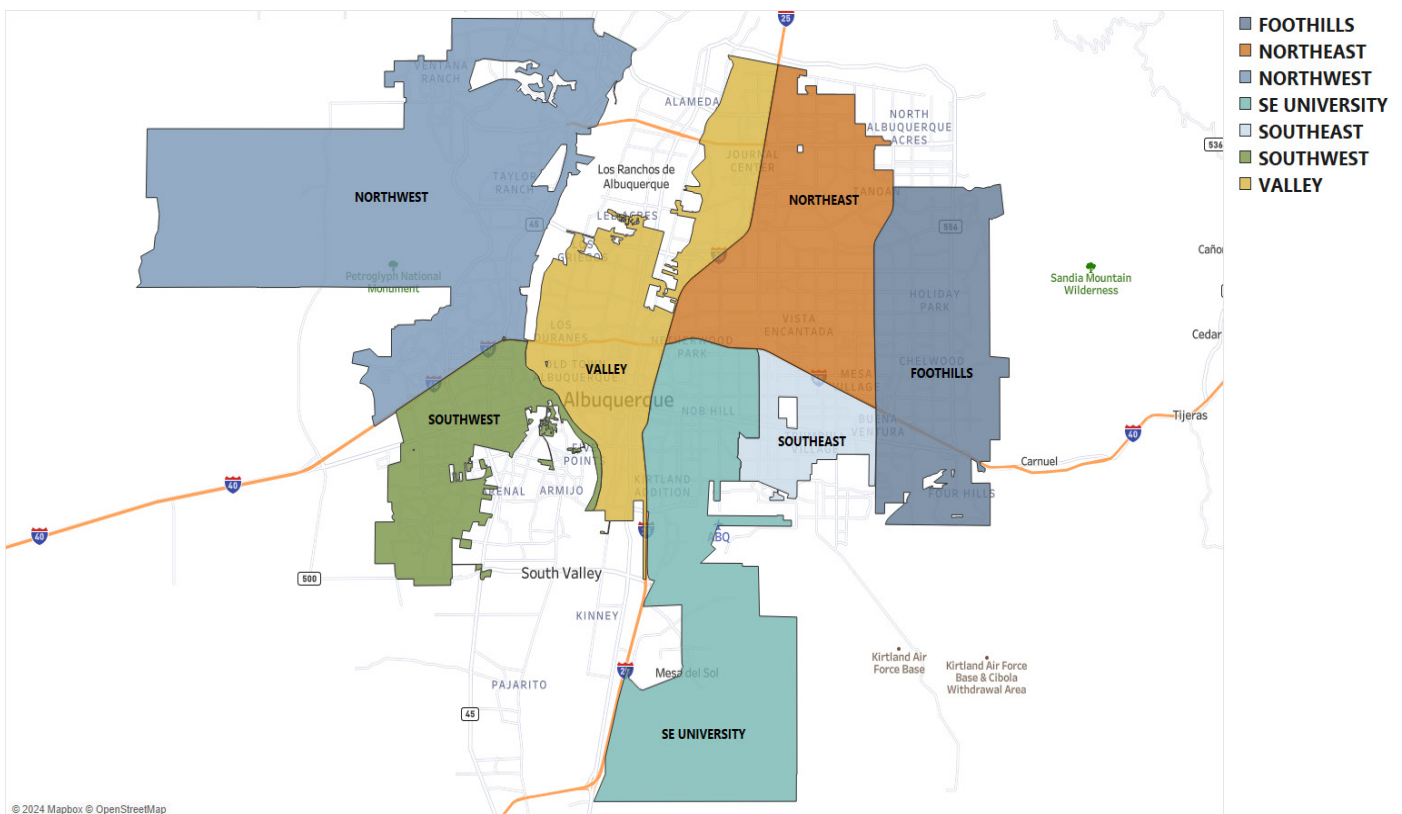
**2 force interactions occurring in 2023 were listed as suspended and active at the time when the data was retrieved from the database on April 15th 2024 and are shown as 'Investigation Pending' in table 2.3 above. One interaction was an unreported use of force that occurred in mid-2023 and was identified through an internal audit by the Performance Metrics Unit. It is currently suspended due to the officer being on military leave. Another investigation of force interaction is active and was a secondary use of force involving the same individual and was identified during the primary force investigation.*

Force in Detail

03

APD's jurisdiction includes the City of Albuquerque which is divided into seven Area Commands- Northwest, Valley, Southeast, Southwest, Northeast, University, and Foothills. In February 2023, APD initiated a pilot program by dividing the existing Southeast Area Command into two by creating University Area Command. The seven Area Commands are depicted in the map visualization below. A Commander and law enforcement officers proportional to the size of the area and number of calls for service manage each Area Command in the jurisdiction. For the purposes of this report, given that this is a pilot re-organization, force cases for Southeast and University Area Commands are combined and presented as the Southeast Area Command.

3.1 Geography of Force

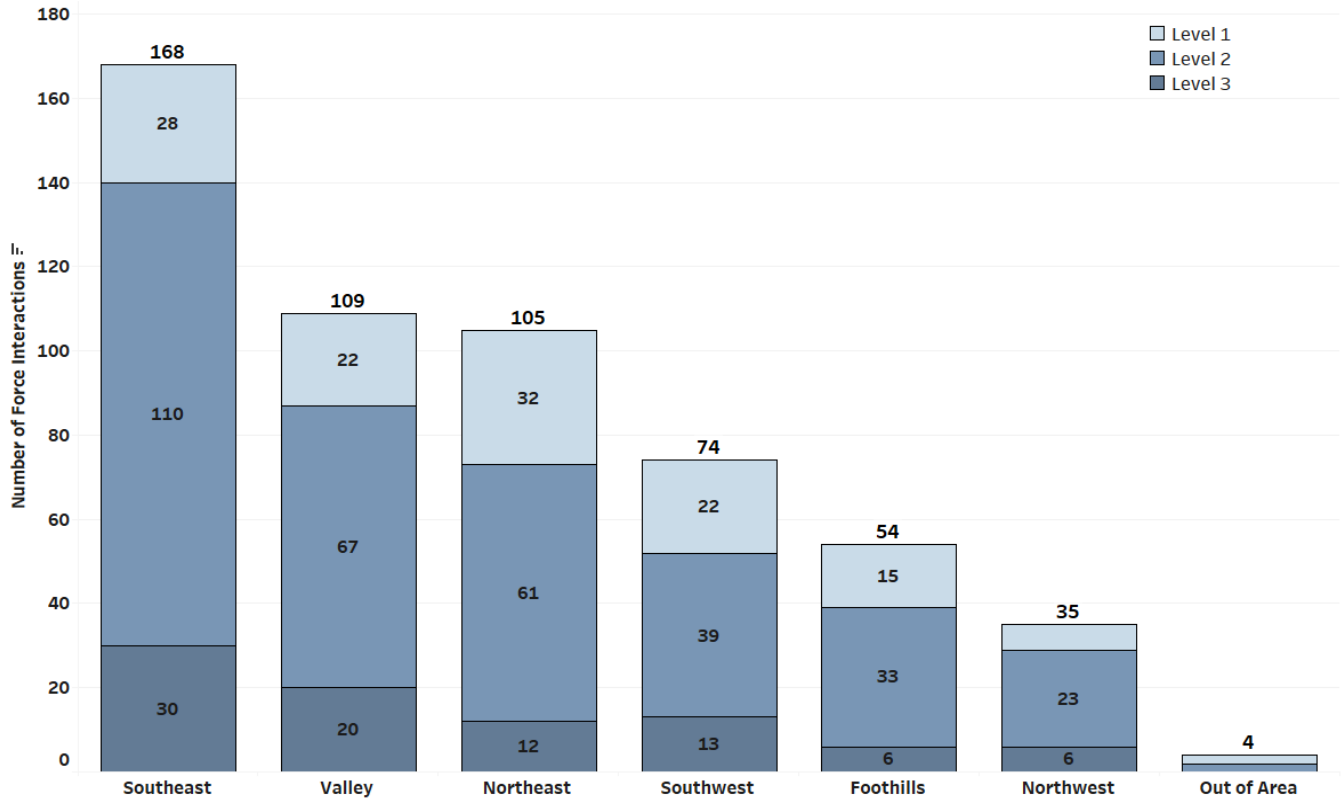


When a use of force occurs, APD records the Area Command where the use of force occurred. The following analysis of force interactions by Area Command reports the geographic location of the force. Specialized units, such as the Tactical Unit, operate in all areas of Albuquerque and each force interaction is assigned to and reported in the Area Command in which it occurred. Generally, the annual number of force cases is proportional to the number of crime incidents and calls for service in an Area Command.

Table 3.1		Area Command															
		Southeast		Valley		Northeast		Southwest		Foothills		Northwest		Out of Area		Total*	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Force Level	Level 1	28	17%	22	20%	32	30%	22	30%	15	28%	6	17%	2	50%	127	23%
	Level 2	110	65%	67	61%	61	58%	39	53%	33	61%	23	66%	2	50%	335	61%
	Level 3	30	18%	20	18%	12	11%	13	18%	6	11%	6	17%	0	0%	87	16%
Total		168	31%	109	20%	105	19%	74	13%	54	10%	35	6%	4	1%	549	100%
n = number of force interactions of each level of force (row) occurring in each Area Command (column) % = percent of column total except bottom row which is percent of row total																	

The Southeast and Valley Area Commands have the most and second most force interactions, respectively. Fifty one percent of the force interactions in 2023 occurred in either the Southeast or Valley Area Commands. West side Area Commands (Southwest and Northwest) account for 19% of the year's total force interactions. As shown in Table 3.1, the Southeast Area Command had the highest number of force interactions for level two and three (31% of total at all levels) however Northeast shows a slightly higher number for Level 1 force interactions. The Northwest Command—similar to 2022—had the fewest total force interactions for the year, 6% of the total compared to any other Area Command. The Northwest and Foothills Area Command also had the lowest percentage of force interactions classified as Level 3 uses of force (6 interactions each, approx. 14% of all level 3 interactions). Four force interactions occurred outside of the six Area Commands.

Force Interactions by Area Command and Force Levels



3.2 Demographics of Involved Individuals

APD policies (SOP 2-56: Use of Force Reporting by Department Personnel, SOP 2-57: Use of Force Review and Investigation by Department Personnel) mandate that all officers, regardless of rank, shall immediately notify their on-duty supervisor following any use of force, prisoner injury, allegation of any use of force, or show of force. The officer(s) must then secure the scene and remain there until a supervisor responds and arrives on scene. The level of force used in the interaction is classified by level of force, and the investigation and data capture processes begin.

The reliability of demographic data may be affected by the perception of officers as well as the cooperation of the involved individual. Demographic categories, when not verified by an involved individual or through available documentation (i.e. a driver's license), are based on the perception of officers and may not fully reflect the identities of involved individuals. Identities that are not visible (e.g. sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression, and mental illness or neurology) may not be apparent to officers which may make the data less reliable.

3.2.1 Race and Ethnicity of Individuals Involved in Force

Race and ethnicity are collected through separate questions and are usually based on officer perception of an individual's race and ethnicity rather than self-identification. To analyze race and ethnicity, APD recodes these variables to more closely align with the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) standards and the US Census Bureau's categorization of race and ethnicity. If a person is identified as Hispanic, they will be coded as Hispanic regardless of race. By recoding race and ethnicity to align with national standards, APD's data is more comparable to other cities who use similar reporting standards and to U.S. Census Bureau population demographics.

Out of the 501 total involved individuals in force interactions in 2023, 274 (55%) were reported as Hispanic; 86 (17%) were White, Non-Hispanic; 45 (9%) people were Black, Non-Hispanic; 39 (8%) people were Native American, Non-Hispanic; 11 (2%) were identified as "other" or a racial group not collected and Non-Hispanic; and 8 (1%) were Mixed Race, Non-Hispanic. 38 (8%) people were recorded as unknown for both race and ethnicity.

Table 3.2.1	Race & Ethnicity of Individuals Involved in Use of Force Interactions		
		n	%
	Hispanic	274	55%
	White, Non-Hispanic	86	17%
	Black, Non-Hispanic	45	9%
	Native American, Non-Hispanic	39	8%
	Unknown Race and Ethnicity	38	8%
	Other Race, Non-Hispanic	11	2%
	Mixed Race, Non-Hispanic	8	1%
	Total	501	100%

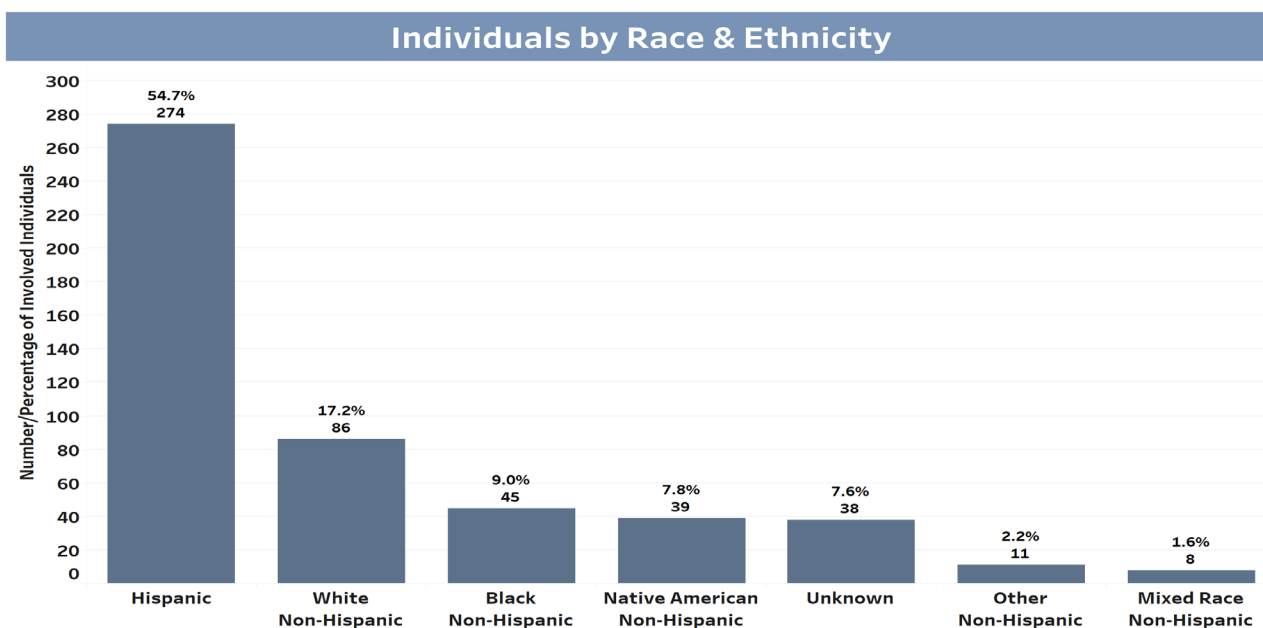


Table 3.2.2	Population of the City of Albuquerque by Race and Ethnicity		
	U.S. Census Category	Population	%
	Total Population	561,006	
	Hispanic	279,243	49.8%
	White Alone	203,518	36.3%
	Black or African American	30,971	5.5%
	American Indian and Alaska Native	44,391	7.9%
	Asian	25,829	4.6%
	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2,401	0.4%
Some Other Race Alone	2,936	0.5%	

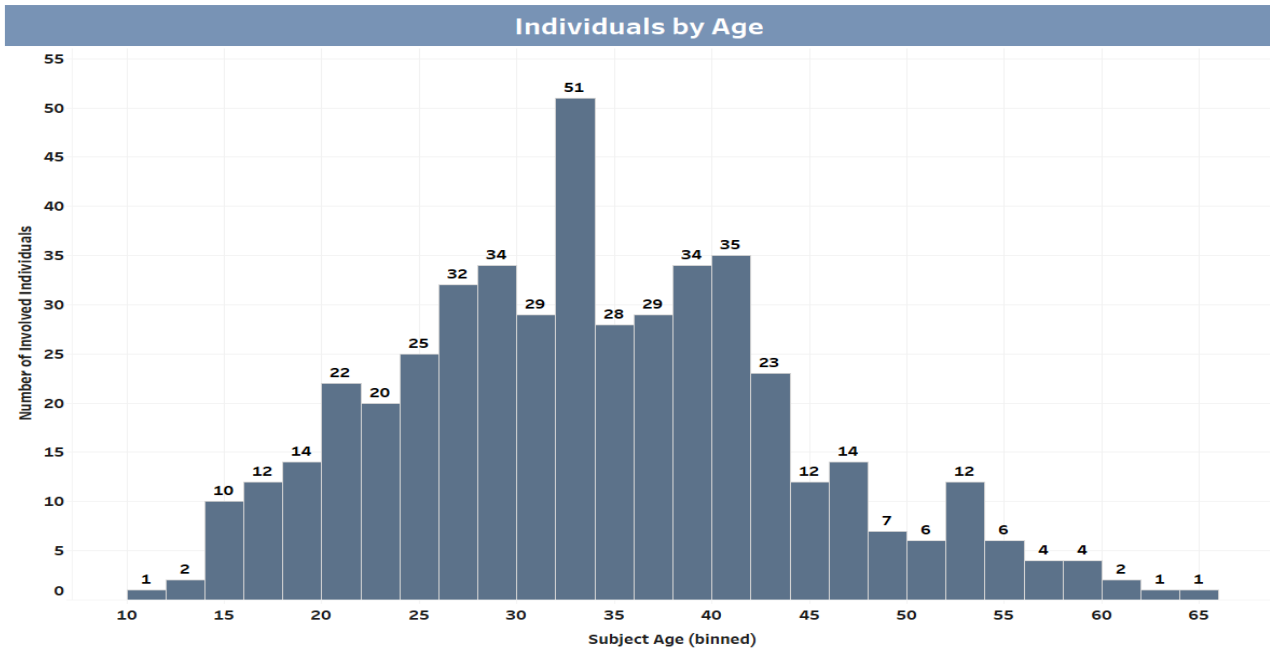
U.S. Census data come from the American Community Survey 2022 1-year estimates (Table DP05). Races other than White and Some Other Race are reported for individuals reporting the category alone or in combination. The US Census Bureau measures self-identification with racial categories while police records usually show the perception of an officer or investigator. For instance, if an individual identifies themselves in the Census as both Black and White, they would not be counted in the Black Alone category even though they would likely be counted in the Black category for police administrative purposes. The population percentages add to 105% reflecting the fact that people may be in multiple categories.

3.2.2 Ages of Individuals Involved in Force

The typical age of individuals—defined as one standard deviation below or above the mean—was between 23 and 44 years old, with an average age of 33.6 years old. The oldest involved individual was 65 years old while the youngest was 10 years old. Thirty eight individuals involved in force had no data related to age listed in the database and were excluded from further analysis about the age distribution of involved persons. Eight individuals involved in two or more interactions had different ages listed at the time of each interaction.

Force with individuals at extreme ages—very young or very old—requires additional context. The 10-year-old child was involved in a domestic dispute with his family; the officers (including an ECIT officer) responding to the call observed the child hitting his mother and running away from the officers. The officers chased the 10-year old and apprehended him using empty hand control to gain compliance. He attacked the officers who sustained minor abrasions and bite marks on the forearm. The 10-year-old was taken to the hospital for mental health examination. The individual was not hurt during the use of force.

Table 3.2.3	
Distinct Involved Individuals – Age	
Mean	33.6
Median	33
Mode	33
Standard Deviation	10.1
Max	65
Min	10



Two 13-years-olds were involved in force interactions during 2023. In one case, officers pursued a vehicle which refused to comply with the traffic stop and eventually located the vehicle at a gas station. Confronting the 13-year-old as he was filling the gas tank, the officer performed an empty hand take down as the suspect tried to get back in the car, which resulted in a scrape on his arm. The 13-year-old was not arrested as the mother was also in the car as a passenger and had instructed him to flee. She was arrested during the encounter. In the other case involving a 13-year-old, the officer was flagged down by the individual armed with a knife. His father was present and took the knife from him. As the officer attempted to handcuff the individual, he actively resisted. The officer applied an empty hand takedown to handcuff the individual, who was then taken to the hospital for evaluation.

Two 14-years-olds were also identified in force interactions during 2023. Officers responded to a shot spotter call, located two juveniles, and tried to make contact. The individuals fired multiple shots at the officers who took cover and established a perimeter. Eventually, both were located and taken into custody. The officers employed shows of force by pointing their firearms at the 14-year-old to convince him to surrender, which he did, without further incident. In the other case involving a 14-year-old, while investigating an accident, officers recognized one of the vehicles as related to a nearby armed robbery. One of the individuals, a 14-year-old, fled the accident but was taken into custody using an empty hand strike and was handcuffed after some resistance. The suspect was transported to the PTC and charged with armed robbery and fleeing/resisting officers.

The 65-year-old individual was reportedly battered by an employee at a store. During the on-scene investigation, the officers learned that the 65 year old was causing a disturbance at the store and the employee hit him in self-defense. The individual went out of the store with a bat and caused over \$1,000 in estimated damages to vehicles in the parking lot. The responding officers approached the individual to detain him, but he fled. Officers pursued him and took him to the ground using empty hand takedown and safely handcuffed him. An ambulance was called on scene due to the injuries that the individual sustained during the altercation with the store employee. The takedown did not cause injuries to the individual. He was safely treated on scene and transported to the hospital.

Among all people involved in force, 25 were minors (under the age of 18) and one was senior citizen (65 years of age), or 4% and <1% of force interactions, respectively. Among the 25 force interactions involving minors (under the age of 18), 8% of those interactions were classified as Level 3 uses of force, 56% were Level 2 uses of force, and 36% were Level 1 uses of force. The one force interaction involving a senior citizen was classified as a Level 2 use of force.

3.2.3 Gender and Sexual Orientation of Individuals Involved in Force

The gender data presented in this section is drawn from reports that identify an individual's gender in one of three ways: an individual's gender as perceived by the officer, gender that was documented on official identification (such as a driver's license), or self-reported by the involved individual after a force interaction. An officer does not inquire, inspect, or presume an individual's sex beyond their apparent gender presentation or through documentation that includes their gender. Of the 501 distinct involved individuals, 403 were identified as Male (80%) and 97 were identified as Female (19%). One individual was recorded as other.

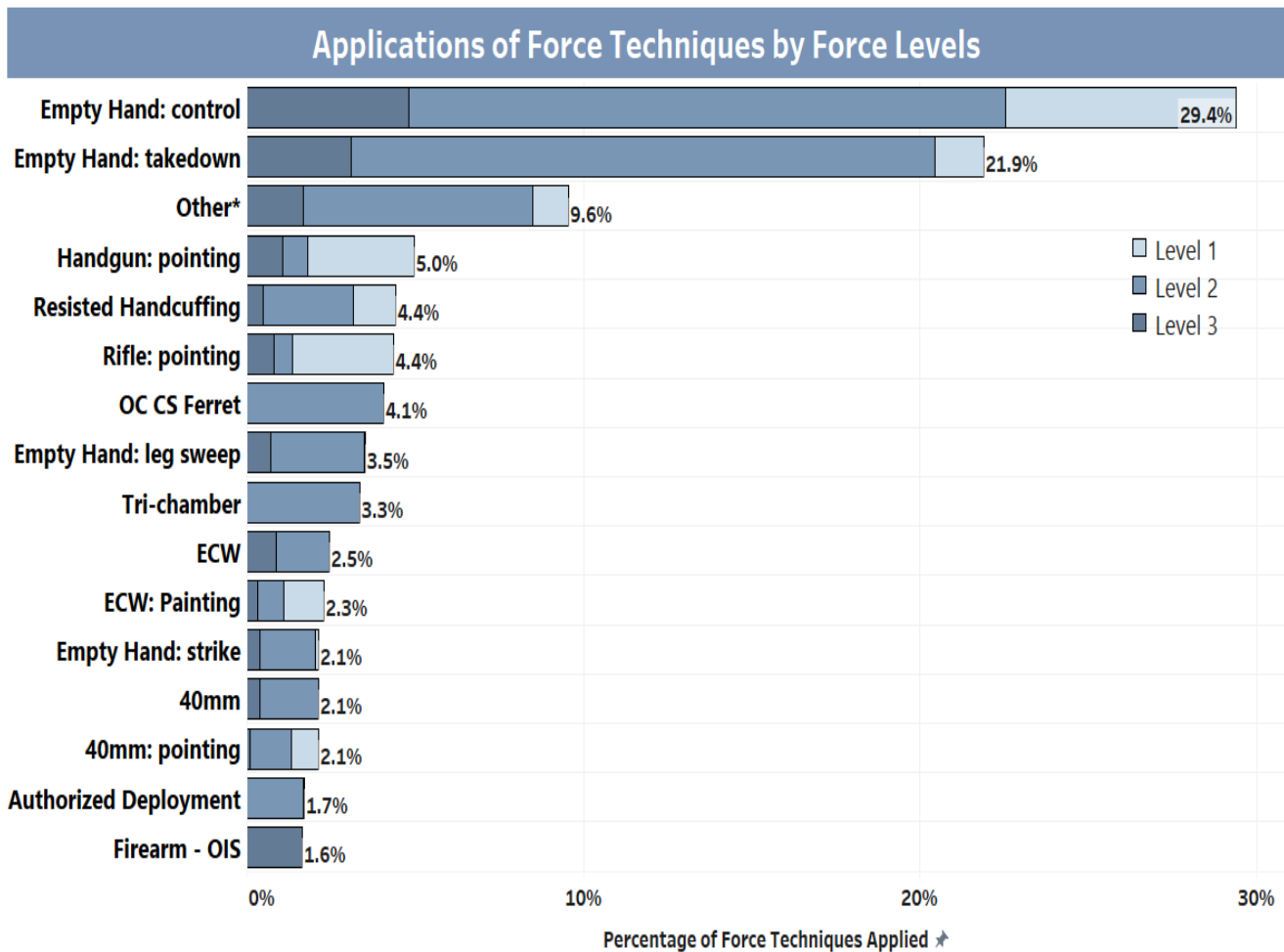
Table 3.2.3		Involved Individuals	% Total
Gender	Female	97	19%
	Male	403	80%
	Other	1	<1%
	Total	501	100%

Sexual orientation is reported per interaction and not per distinct individual involved in force. In several instances where an individual was involved in more than one force interaction, their sexual orientation did not match. Approximately 31% of individuals' sexual orientation is recorded as unknown. All demographic information recorded is commonly based on an officer's perception of an individual and sexual orientation is not a visible characteristic, officers are less likely to know a person's sexual orientation. Individuals were identified as heterosexual in 66% of the force interactions in 2023.

Table 3.2.4		
Involved Individual's Perceived or Self-Reported Sexual Orientation		
Orientation	Force Interactions	% Total
Heterosexual	360	66%
Unknown	170	31%
Prefer not to answer	8	1%
Other	5	1%
Asexual	2	<1%
Homosexual	4	<1%
Total	549	100%

3.3 Applications of Force by Technique

Table 3.3.1 shows all force techniques used in 2023 organized by the type of force and the level of the force interaction. Most force interactions have multiple types of force applied and every time force is applied in an interaction, the application is counted. For instance, if an officer strikes a person two times, that is two applications of “Empty Hand: Strike.” Similarly, if two officers are involved in a takedown of a single individual, that is counted as two applications of “Empty Hand: Takedown.” The most commonly used force is an “Empty Hand: control” which occurs at all force levels. “Empty Hand: Control” comprises any authorized empty-hand technique used to forcibly gain compliance, most typically while handcuffing an individual. The graph, below, shows the most common force techniques and pools lower frequency techniques into an “other” category. All types of force employed, the force level, and frequency during 2023 is provided in Table 3.3.1.



Other* includes: Ordered Force, Pain Compliance, 40mm CS Ferret, ECW: Pointing, OC Vapor, 40mm OC Ferret, K9 Apprehension- Bite, ECW: Miss, Empty Hand: Kick, Beanbag: pointing, Beanbag, 40mm: Miss, OC Spray, NFDD, ECW: Arcing, PIT 35 mph or below, Beanbag: Miss, OC Ferret: Miss, OC Fogger, OC: Pointing.

See table 3.3.1 below for additional details about force applications.

“Empty Hand” force techniques are unarmed applications of force. APD tracks several types of empty hand techniques. These include forcibly restraining an individual; an officer tackling or pinning an individual to the ground (a “takedown”); a strike or blow to an individual with an officer’s hand; or kicks and leg sweeps meant to bring an individual to the ground. Together, these force techniques (Empty Hand: Control, Empty Hand: Takedown, Empty Hand: Strike, Empty Hand: Kick, and Empty Hand: Leg Sweep) make up for more than half of all force applied in 2023 (57%). Empty Hand techniques may occur in all force levels and are commonly combined with other force techniques. Empty Hand: control is the most commonly applied type of force and may be found at all force levels. Empty Hand: control and Empty Hand: Takedown combine for 1,164 out of all 2,269 force techniques applied (51.3%) during 2023, as shown in the table 3.3.1.

Table 3.3.1		Interaction Level of Force Where Technique Was Applied							
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		All Levels	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Force Techniques	Empty Hand: Control	156	23%	402	60%	109	16%	667	29%
	Empty Hand: Takedown	33	7%	394	79%	70	14%	497	22%
	Handgun: Pointing	72	64%	17	15%	24	21%	113	5%
	Resisted Handcuffing	28	28%	61	61%	11	11%	100	4%
	Rifle: Pointing	68	69%	13	13%	18	18%	99	4%
	OC CS Ferret	0	0%	92	100%	0	0%	92	4%
	Empty Hand: Leg Sweep	1	1%	63	79%	16	20%	80	3
	Tri-Chamber	0	0%	76	100%	0	0%	76	3%
	ECW	0	0%	36	64%	20	36%	56	2%
	ECW-Painting	27	52%	18	35%	7	13%	52	2%
	Empty Hand: Strike	2	4%	37	77%	9	19%	48	2%
	40mm: pointing	18	38%	28	58%	2	4%	48	2%
	40mm	0	0%	39	81%	9	19%	48	2%
	Authorized Deployment	1	3%	38	97%	0	0%	39	2
	Firearm-OIS	0	0%	0	0%	37	100%	37	2%
	Ordered Force	1	3%	27	84%	4	13%	32	1%
	Pain Compliance	8	26%	16	52%	7	22%	31	1%
	40mm CS Ferret	0	0%	21	100%	0	0%	21	1%
	ECW: Pointing	9	50%	6	33%	3	17%	18	<1%
	OC Vapor	0	0%	14	100%	0	0%	14	<1%
	40mm OC Ferret	0	0%	13	100%	0	0%	13	<1%
	K9 Apprehension- Bite	0	0%	0	0%	12	100%	12	<1%
	ECW: Miss	0	0%	6	50%	6	50%	12	<1%
	Empty Hand: Kick	0	0%	7	78%	2	22%	9	<1%
	Beanbag: pointing	4	44%	5	56%	0	0%	9	<1%
	Beanbag	0	0%	8	100%	0	0%	8	<1%
	40mm: Miss	0	0%	7	88%	1	12%	8	<1%
	OC Spray	0	0%	6	86%	1	14%	7	<1%
	NFDD	1	20%	4	80%	0	0%	5	<1%
	ECW: Arcing	0	0%	2	50%	2	50%	4	<1%
	PIT 35 mph or below	0	0%	4	100%	0	0%	4	<1%
	Beanbag: Miss	0	0%	3	100%	0	0%	3	<1%
OC Ferret: Miss	0	0%	3	100%	0	0%	3	<1%	
OC Fogger	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2	<1%	
OC: Pointing	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	2	<1%	
Total	430	19%	1,469	65%	370	16%	2,269	100%	
<p>n = number of times a force technique (row) was applied to an involved individual by an officer in force interactions of each level of force (column)</p> <p>% = percent of row total except bottom row which is percent of row total</p> <p>%* = percent of grand total</p> <p>Force levels are listed at the officer level</p> <p>Example 1: An officer applied Empty Hand: control to an individual 402 times in level 2 force interactions. 60 % of all the 667 applications of Empty Hand: control in 2023</p> <p>Example 2: 37 Officers fired their guns at an involved individual in the 14 Officer involved shootings in 2023.</p> <p>Example 3: Officers applied a total of 1,469 force techniques in level 2 force interactions, 65% of all force techniques applied in 2023</p>									

A “show of force” is the act of an officer pointing a firearm, beanbag shotgun, 40-millimeter impact launcher, OC spray, or Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) at an individual. “Painting” (pointing the ECW and activating the targeting laser at an individual) or “arcing” (activating the ECW in a mode that creates an electrical arc across the front of the ECW) are also considered shows of force. A show of force is reported to the appropriate first line supervisor and reviewed as a Level 1 use of force by the Area Command or the Level 1 investigative unit. Beginning August 1, 2023 all Level 1 uses of force were investigated by the Level 1 investigation unit. Shows of force make up around 15% of force techniques applied in 2023. In isolation, any show of force is considered a Level 1 use of force. However, shows of force often occur in conjunction with other types of force so they may appear in all levels of force.

APD uses several varieties of less lethal impact munitions and corresponding launchers, including beanbag rounds (Beanbag: miss, Beanbag) is <1% of force techniques and 40mm (40mm: miss, 40mm) is around 2.5% of force techniques. APD also uses several varieties of chemical munitions (sprays and foggers) that deploy one of two chemical different compounds; oleoresin capsicum (OC), commonly referred to as pepper spray, and chlorobenzylidene malononitrile (CS), commonly referred to as tear gas. The deployment of chemical munitions (OC CS Ferret, 40mm CS Ferret, 40mm OC Ferret, OC Spray, OC Vapor, OC Fogger—including ‘misses’) accounted for approximately 7% of applied force techniques in 2023.

“Ordering Force” and “Authorized Deployment” reflects when supervisors authorize or order subordinate officers to perform shows of force or to apply force and are included as reportable uses of force. Ordering Force and Authorized Deployment accounts for 3% of the total force in 2023 as shown in the table 3.3.1.

The department reports Pursuit Intervention Techniques (PIT) as a force technique. Per SOP 2-12: Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT), all uses of the PIT maneuver at or below 35 MPH are considered a Level 2 use of force. If the use of the PIT maneuver 35 MPH or below results in, or could reasonably be expected to result in serious physical injury, hospitalization, or death then it is considered a Level 3 use of force. All uses of the PIT maneuver above 35 MPH are considered deadly force and are therefore classified as a Level 3 use of force. The table 3.3.1 shows that in 2023, there were four PIT maneuvers at or under 35 MPH that were investigated as a Level 2 force interactions..

Within any given case, there was an average of 1.51 officers applying an average of 1.76 techniques to an involved individual in Level 1 force interactions. Among Level 2 interactions, there was an average of 2.21 officers applying an average of 4.59 force techniques to an involved individual. Finally, within all Level 3 interactions, there was an average of 2.79 officers applying an average of 6.18 force techniques to an involved individual.

These results suggest some correlation between the case force level and the number of officers involved and the number of techniques employed across all involved officers. The average number of techniques applied from Level 1 to Level 3 noticeably increased from 1.76 to 6.18 in 2023 compared to 2022 where it increased from 2.35 in Level 1 interactions to 4.93 in Level 3 force interaction.

Interaction Force Level	Officers Applying Force	Force Techniques Applied
Level 1	1.51	1.76
Level 2	2.21	4.59
Level 3	2.79	6.18

3.4 Use of Force Complaints

The Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA) investigates most complaints reported by community members against APD officers. Over the course of the year, CPOA investigated 319 complaints that alleged misconduct on the part of one or more APD officers. Of these, 3 complaints alleged inappropriate use of force by officers. These 3 complaints involved 8 officers and 8 unique allegations. Among these cases, one has been completed and was determined to be unfounded while two remain under active investigations as of the 15 April data cut-off date.

Two of the complaints were linked to incidents that occurred in the Southeast Area Command and one active investigation did not specify which Area Command. The demographic make-up of the three complainants included two males and one female, with two identifying as ‘heterosexual’ and one listed as ‘other’ sexual orientation. The racial demographics include two Hispanics and one Black non-Hispanic with their ages being 33, 35, and 38.

3.5 Officer Involved Shootings

APD was involved in 14 Officer Involved Shooting incidents in 2023. In these 14 encounters, there were fourteen involved individuals and two bystanders for a total of sixteen individuals. The two bystanders are not included in Table 3.5. All 14 involved individuals were armed or attempting to arm themselves. Four (29%) were discharging a firearm during the incident. Edged weapons were involved in two (14%) of the OIS. There were no firearms discharges directed at or from a moving vehicle during 2023.

A total of six out of 14 (42.9%) incidents were fatal. Twelve of the 14 OIS incidents were within APD policy. One OIS incident that was found out-of-policy was a response to a stabbing call in which two bystanders got caught in the line of fire. The other out-of-policy incident occurred during a response to a shoplifting call where one officer fired a rifle at an individual who was armed with a gun and had the gun pointed to his head. Both out of policy OIS incidents were fatal. Table 3.5, presents an overview of each OIS incident in 2023. APD conducted reviews of all OIS cases in 2023 which are linked here: [Click here for the January to June OIS review](#), [Click here for the July to December OIS review](#). These reviews contain additional information about each OIS.

Table 3.5 2023 - Officer Involved Shootings-Summary							
	Involved Individual’s Demographics			Situational Factors and Outcomes			Investigation
Date	Race and Ethnicity	Gender	Age	Was the Incident Fatal	Was the Individual Armed*	Call Type	IAFD Investigation Status
3/29/23	Hispanic	Male	32	No	Yes-gun	Family Dispute	Completed-In Policy
5/10/23	White Non-Hispanic	Male	33	No	Yes-gun	Shots Fired	Completed-In Policy
5/16/23	Other Non-Hispanic	Male	18	No	Yes-gun	Shooting	Completed-In Policy
5/19/23	White Non-Hispanic	Male	42	Yes	Yes-spear	Suicide	Completed-In Policy
6/16/23	Hispanic	Male	25	No	Yes-gun	Shooting	Completed-In Policy
6/24/23	White Non-Hispanic	Male	41	Yes	Yes-gun, knives	Suspicious Person/ Vehicle	Completed-In Policy
6/29/23	Mixed Race Non- Hispanic	Male	25	Yes	Yes-knife	Stabbing	Completed-Out of Policy
7/20/23	Hispanic	Male	20	Yes	Yes-gun	SWAT	Completed-In Policy
8/17/23	Hispanic	Male	34	No	Yes-gun	Suspicious Person/ Vehicle	Completed-In Policy
11/16/23	Hispanic	Male	35	No	Yes-gun	Stolen Vehicle Found	Completed-In Policy
11/21/23	Hispanic	Male	25	No	Yes-gun	Aggravated Assault/ Battery	Completed-In Policy
11/25/23	Hispanic	Male	36	Yes	Yes-gun	Shooting	Completed-Out of Policy
12/7/23	Hispanic	Male	32	Yes	Yes-gun	Wanted Person	Completed-In Policy
12/30/23	Hispanic	Male	29	No	Yes-gun	ALPR** Hit	Completed-In Policy
*Whether the individual was armed reports the results of the investigation and may be different from the officers’ perception during the incident.							
**ALPR=Automated License Plate Reader							

3.5.1 K-9 Deployments

Police service dogs (PSD, or K-9 units) were deployed a total of 295 times in 2023. Subject to APD policy (SOP 2-23: Use of Canine Unit and SOP 1-64: K-9 Unit), PSDs are deployed for three purposes: building searches, tracking individuals/area searches, and the apprehension of fleeing or resisting individuals. A K-9 Deployment is defined as “Any situation, except an on-leash article search, where a PSD is brought to the scene and is used in an attempt to locate or apprehend a suspect, whether or not a suspect is located or apprehended”. K-9 Apprehension means “Any occasion when a PSD is deployed and plays a clear and well-documented role in apprehending a suspect or individual. In order to play a clear and documented role, a handler must articulate the PSD role, such as being the subject of warnings, following bark commands, performing a search, or the suspect stating that the PSD influenced their decision to submit to arrest”.

	K-9 Deployed	Apprehensions	K-9 Bites	Bite Ratio
January	21	9	0	0%
February	21	12	0	0%
March	15	7	1	14%
April	22	10	1	10%
May	34	13	0	0%
June	22	7	1	14%
July	22	11	1	9%
August	27	5	0	0%
September	27	16	2	13%
October	34	5	1	20%
November	26	7	2	29%
December	24	12	0	0%
Total	295	114	9	Bite Ratio = 8%

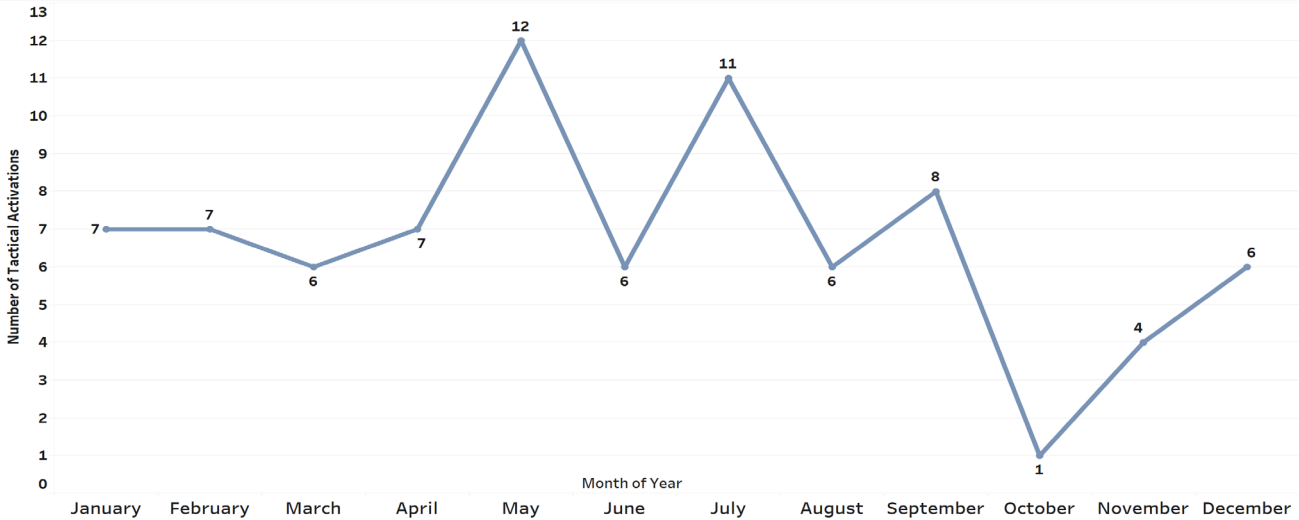
K-9 Units may be used to apprehend individual(s) fleeing or resisting arrest when there is reason to believe that the individual(s) has committed a felony. The decision to use the K-9 for apprehension is based on the threat posed by the individual. When a PSD bites an individual (excluding an accidental bite), it is a reportable use of force. In 2023, individuals were bitten by a PSD during 9 out of the 114 apprehensions (8%). The department’s Bite Ratio is calculated from the number of apprehensions with a bite divided by the total number of apprehensions over a given period of time. The department had a bite ratio of 8% in 2023.

3.5.2 Tactical Activations

A tactical activation refers to the act of putting specialized tactical units on notice of potential deployment. Tactical units focus on tactical solutions to critical incidents that involve a threat to public safety or are otherwise high-risk situations. Critical incidents include but are not limited to crisis negotiation team responses, hostage situations, barricaded and armed individuals, high-risk arrests, execution of search and arrest warrants with exigent or dangerous circumstances, major jail disturbances, civil disturbances, and specialized patrol functions.

There were 81 department tactical activations in 2023. The months with the most activations included May (15%) and July (14%), combining to nearly one-third (29%) of the year’s activations over two months or 16.7% of the year. The lowest number of tactical activations occurred in October with a single tactical activation (1%) across 8.3% of the year. Tactical activations hit their minimum for 2023 during the 4th quarter of the year (11 or 13.6%), and compared to 20 (24.7%) during 1st quarter and 25 (30.9%) each during the 2nd and 3rd quarters. During 2022, 4th quarter reflected the highest number of activations at 29% of all activations for the year. There was an average of 6.75 tactical activations per month during 2023.

Tactical Activations by Month

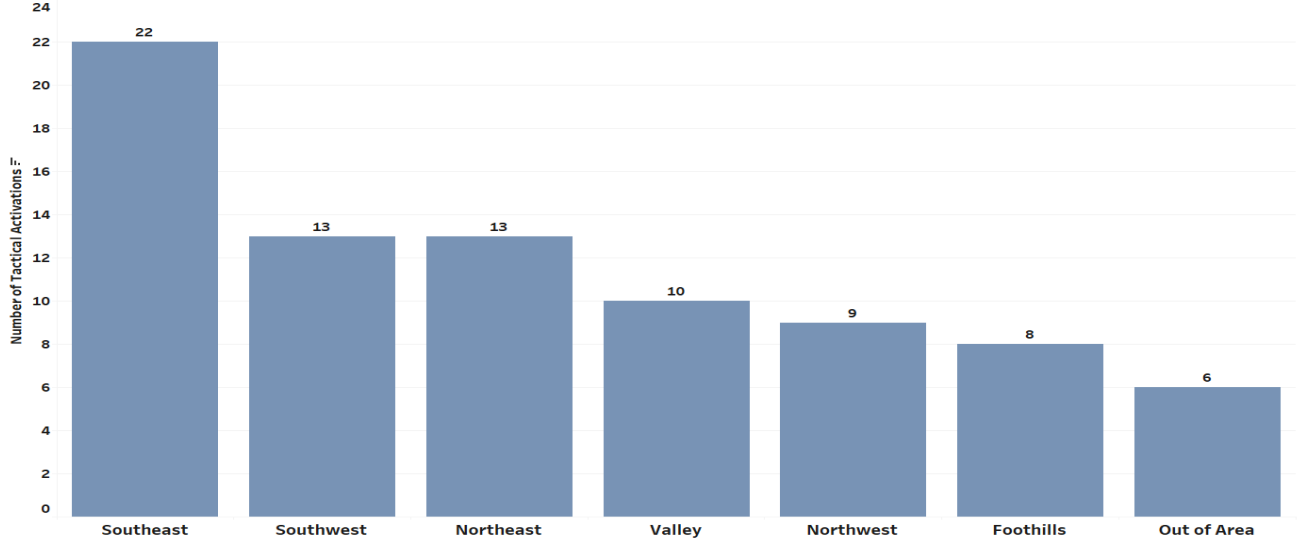


Southeast Area Command, consistent with 2022, saw the highest number of tactical activations in 2023 (22 out of 81 or 27.2% of all activations). Among the 81 tactical activations, 5 were recorded as tactical assists where the department assisted or provided tactical support to other law enforcement agencies. Six tactical activations occurred outside of the city’s jurisdiction.

Table 3.5.2

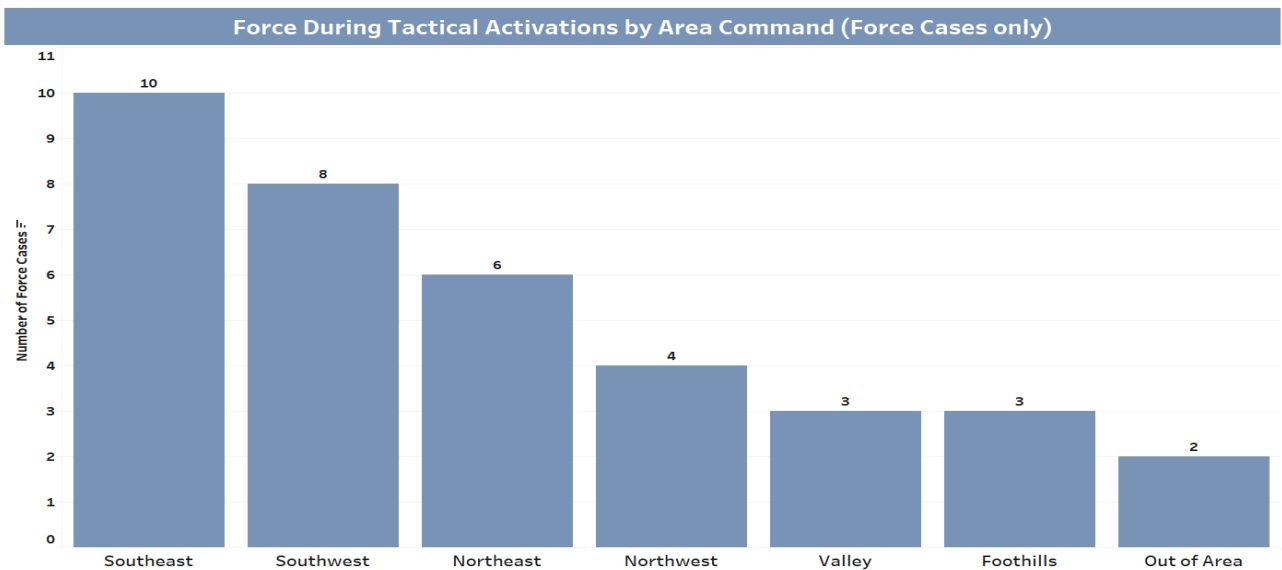
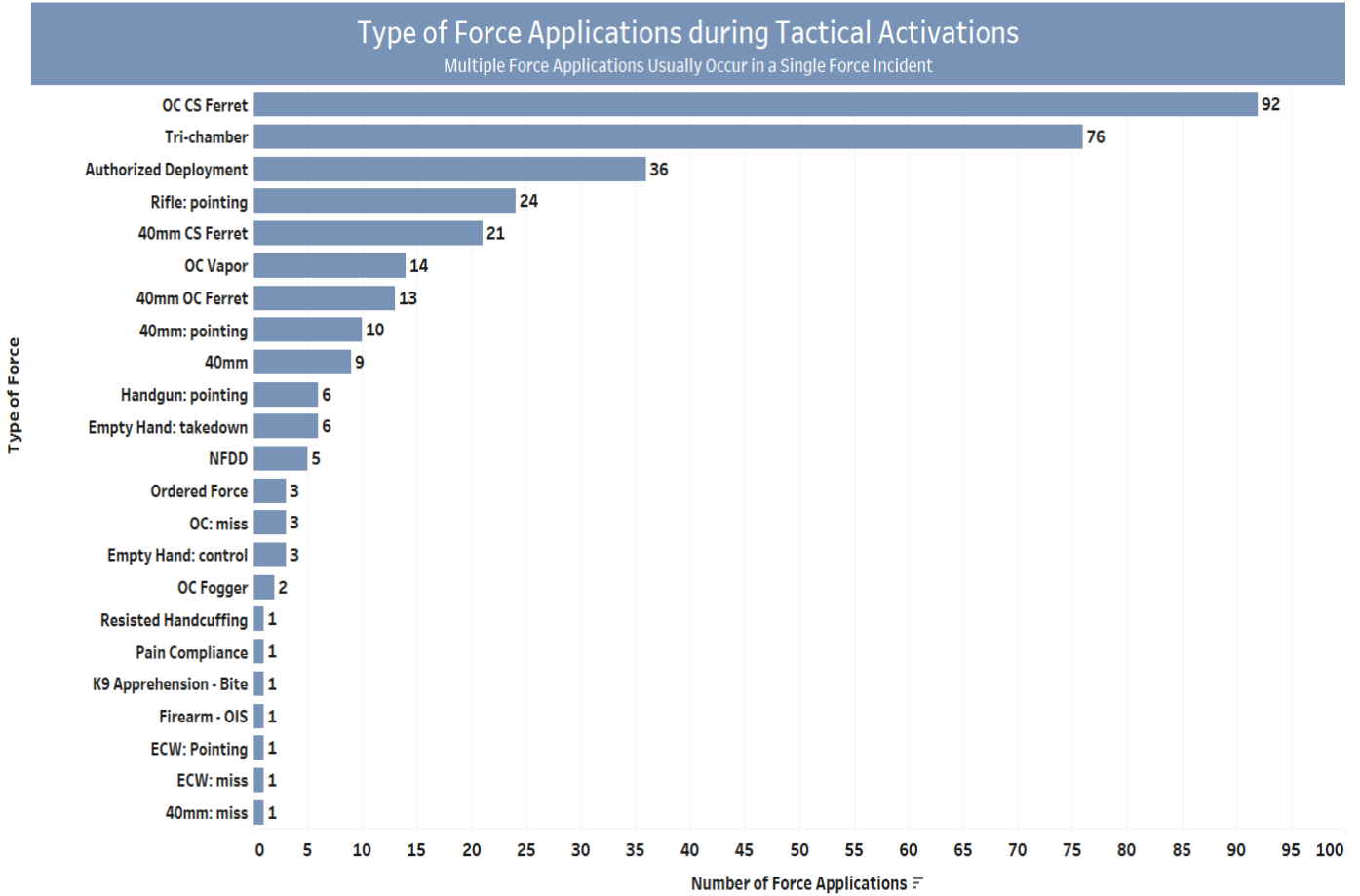
2023- Tactical Activations	
Type of Call-out	Activations
Wanted Person	20
Pre-Planned Warrant Service	18
Domestic Dispute	14
Disturbance	5
Mutual Assist	4
Aggravated Assault/Battery	3
Shooting	3
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3
Shots Fired	2
Auto Theft	2
Vandalism	1
Traffic Stop	1
Suicide	1
DV Escort/Violation	1
Robbery	1
Residential Burglary	1
Residential Armed Robbery	1
Total	81

Tactical Activations by Area Command



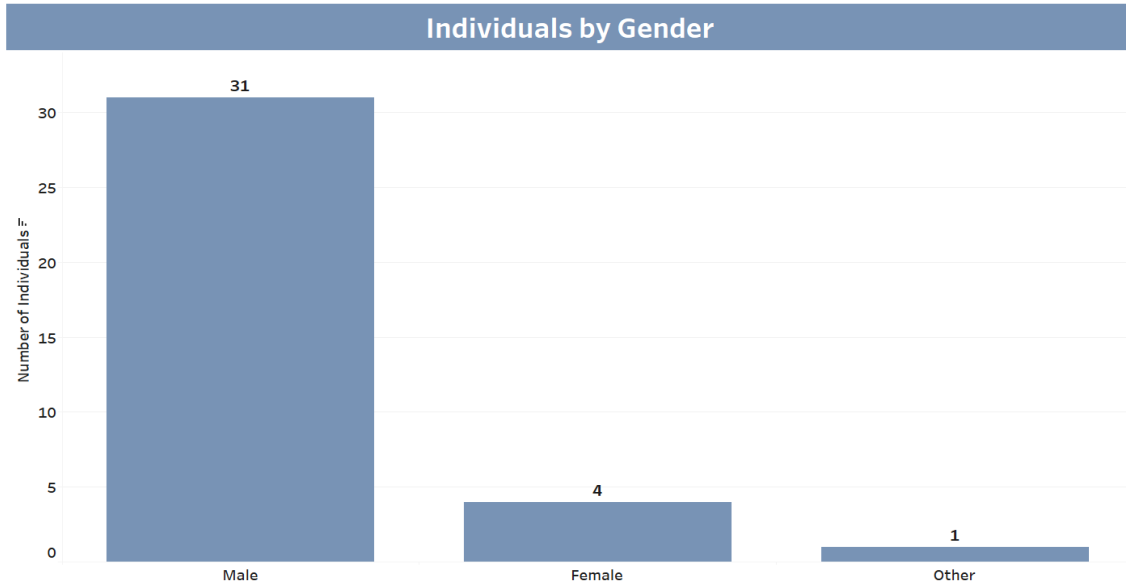
3.5.3 Tactical Activations and Use of Force

Force was used in 36 out of total 81 (44.4%) tactical activations during 2023. The Southeast Area Command had the most uses of force (10 or 27.8% of activations with force) during tactical activations. Two cases involving use of force occurred outside of the city’s jurisdiction. The figure below provides a snapshot of force techniques utilized during tactical activations. Chemical munitions comprise the majority of force applied during tactical activations (66.1% of all force applications).

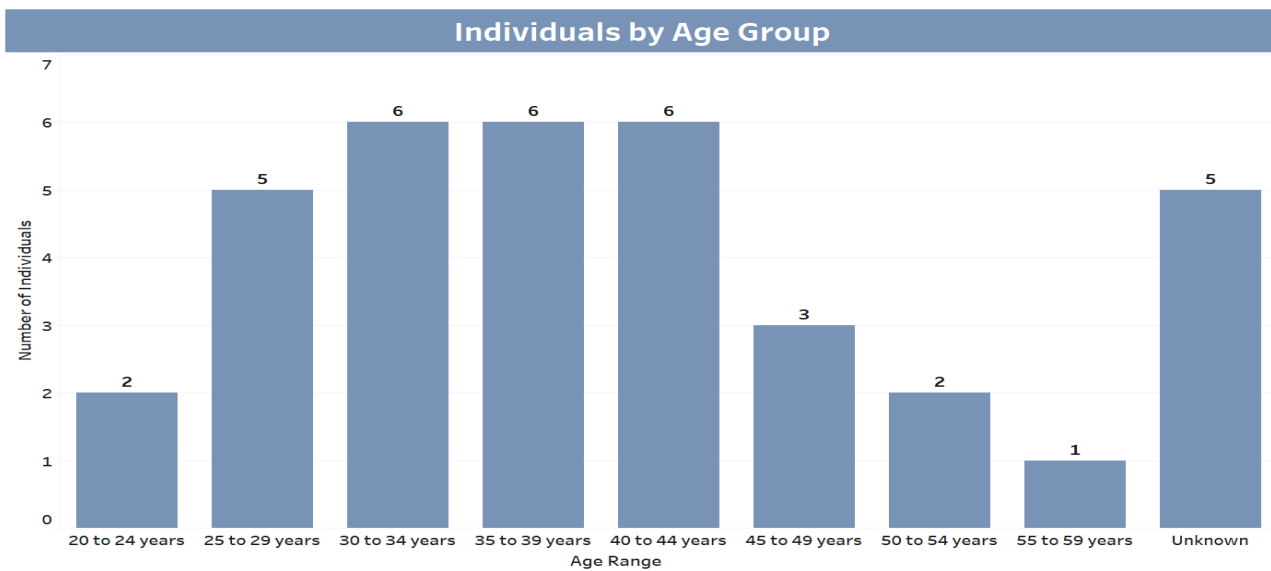


3.5.4 Tactical Activations by Demographics

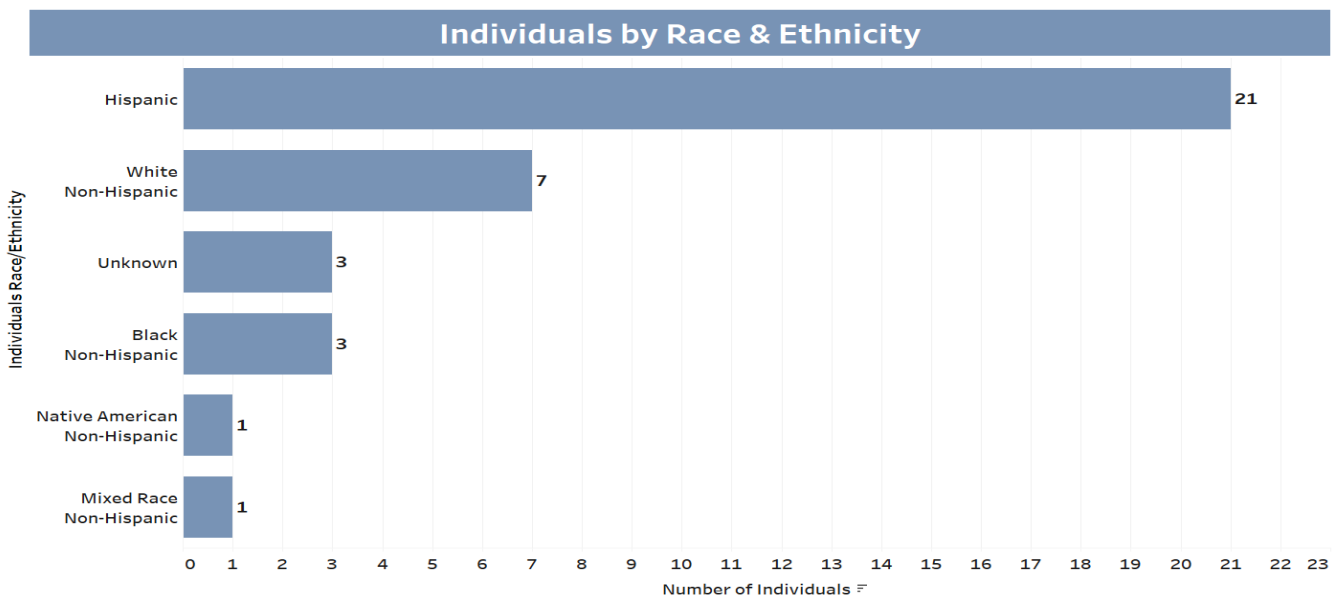
Within the 36 tactical activations that included the use of force, there were 36 individuals involved. Out of the 36 individuals, 31 were male (86%), 4 were female (11%), and 1 reported as “other” (2.8%). A break-down by gender is provided in the figure below.



The most prevalent age range for the 36 people associated with tactical activations involving force was between 30-44 for 18 or 50% of all involved individuals. The next most prevalent ranges were 25-29, 45-49, and 50-54 years with the adjacent ranges at 5 (14%), 3 (8%), and 2 (6%) respectively. The minimum age range was 20-24 years and the highest range was 55-59 years. The age range was unknown for 5 individuals (14%). The age distribution of the involved persons is provided in the figure below.

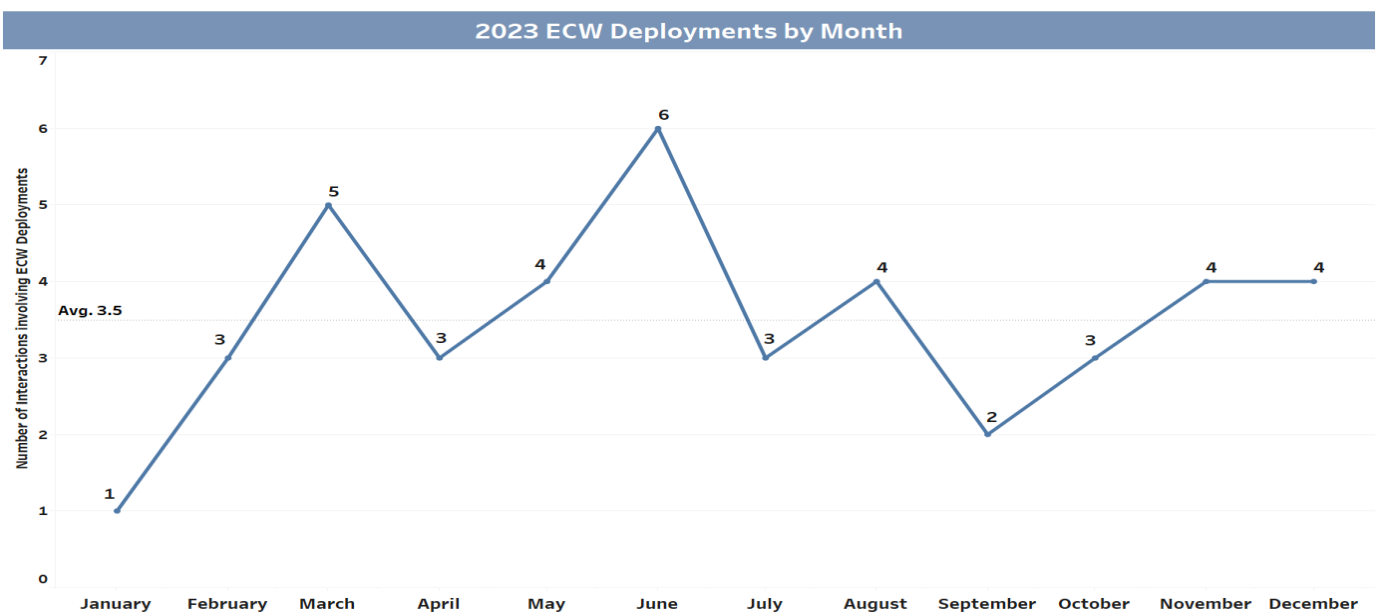


Among the individuals involved in tactical activations for which any use of force occurred, 21 out of 36 were Hispanic (58%), followed by 7 White, Non-Hispanic (19%) and 3 Black, Non-Hispanic (8%). Race and ethnicity were unknown for 3 individuals (8%). The figure below provides the race and ethnicity for the 36 individuals associated with tactical activations involving force.



3.6 Electronic Control Weapon Use and Efficacy

An electronic control weapon (ECW), also referred to by the brand name Taser, is a less lethal weapon designed primarily to direct electrical charges into an individual that causes involuntary muscle contractions and overrides the individual's voluntary motor responses. For an ECW deployment to immobilize an individual, two probes must penetrate the skin in order to complete a circuit. If one probe does not hit the target or the individual is wearing clothing that prevents the probe from penetrating the skin, the ECW is not likely to achieve the desired result. The ECWs used by APD have a targeting assistance feature in the form of a laser sight. An ECW's laser sight may or may not be activated when an ECW is pointed at an individual. In 2023, APD used the Taser 7 model and transitioned in 2024 to the Taser 10 model. At the time of report publication (June 2024) there were 872 Taser 7s in property with none assigned. APD had 1240 Taser 10s with 902 of them assigned.



APD officers deployed ECWs in 42 (7.6%) force interactions in 2023. Within the 42 interactions, an ECW was discharged or applied 68 times. ECW deployments include any instance where the ECW was fired at an individual—including if the ECW missed—and each cycle of the ECW is counted as a deployment.

The highest number of ECW deployments (6) occurred in the month of June 2023. Geographically, the greatest number of ECW deployments occurred in the Southeast Area Command (38%) followed by Valley Area Command at 26%. One force interaction with deployment of ECW occurred at the Northwest Area Command, the least amongst all Area Commands. Six out of 42 ECW (or 14% of all) deployments during 2023 were determined to be out of policy following the use of force investigation. Officers were injured in eleven cases (26%) in which an ECW was deployed.

Table 3.6	Efficacy of ECW in Force Interactions							
	Was Force Effective in the Interaction							
	Yes		No		Limited		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ECW Was Discharged	38	56%	26	38%	4	6%	68	48%
ECW Was Only Pointed at Subject	15	83%	3	17%	0	0%	18	13%
ECW Was Pointed and Subject Was Painted With ECW's Laser Sight	38	76%	14	24%	0	0%	52	36%
ECW Arching	0	0%	4	100%	0	0%	4	3%
Grand Total	91	64%	47	33%	4	3%	142	100%
<p>n = number of times ECW technique was effective, not effective or limited effectiveness (column).</p> <p>% = percent of row total</p> <p>%* = percent of grand total</p>								

In 2023, APD applied force techniques involving an ECW—including shows of force—142 times, amounting to 6% of all force techniques applied. An ECW was discharged at an individual 68 times (48% of ECW use, the ninth most common force technique applied); an ECW was pointed at an individual while utilizing the laser sight 52 times (39% of ECW use); and an ECW was pointed at an individual without activating the laser sight as a force technique 18 times (13% of ECW use).

When an ECW is used, the officer's report must respond to a question to determine if the use of their ECW was effective to take the individual into custody, for which the responses are limited to "yes", "no" or "limited," though officers are expected and encouraged to provide greater detail in their report narratives. In 2023, there were 4 instances (6%) where an ECW was discharged and the effectiveness was characterized as "limited." ECW deployments were reported as effective in 38 instances, or 56% of the time and ineffective in 26 incidents (38%). When an ECW was limited to a show of force, pointing an ECW without painting an individual was effective in 15 uses (83%). Using an ECW to paint an individual with the laser sight, was effective in 38 instances (76%).

3.7 Situational Factors in Force Interactions

In addition to reporting the demographics of an individual involved in force and the types of force techniques that were applied, there are situational factors regarding the force interaction that are collected following a force interaction or during the investigation. This includes information such as whether an involved individual was armed, unhoused, arrested, injured, or hospitalized, as well as their ability to communicate in English and their mental state.

The involved individual in force interactions was unarmed in 359 or 65% of all force interactions in 2023. Individuals were armed in 126 force interactions (23%). Whether or not an individual was unhoused is often based on officer perception and the willingness of an involved individual to self-report. Approximately half (262 or 48%) of individuals involved in force were housed, 90 (16%) were unhoused, and 197 (36%) were reported with an unknown housing status. The pattern is generally consistent within +/- 10% across all three force levels.

Table 3.7		Force Interactions by Level of Force							
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		All Levels	
Situation		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Involved Individual Was Armed	Yes	42	33%	59	18%	25	29%	126	23%
	No	76	60%	228	68%	55	63%	359	65%
	Unknown	9	7%	48	14%	7	8%	64	12%
Involved Individual Was Unhoused	Yes	16	13%	65	19%	9	10%	90	16%
	No	77	61%	146	44%	39	45%	262	48%
	Unknown	34	27%	124	37%	39	45%	197	36%
Involved Individual Was Experiencing a Crisis (reported by officer or force investigator)	Yes	33	26%	61	18%	18	21%	112	20%
	No	45	35%	104	31%	23	26%	172	32%
	Unknown	49	39%	170	51%	46	53%	265	48%
Involved Individual Self-Reported Mental Illness	Yes	22	17%	57	17%	14	16%	93	17%
	No	80	63%	163	49%	44	51%	287	52%
	Unknown	25	20%	115	34%	29	33%	169	31%
Involved Individual Was Arrested	Yes	93	73%	231	69%	61	70%	385	70%
	No	34	27%	104	31%	26	30%	164	30%
Involved Individual Had Limited or No English Language Proficiency	Yes	4	3%	9	3%	3	3%	16	3%
	No	114	90%	298	89%	75	86%	487	89%
	Unknown	9	7%	28	8%	9	10%	46	8%

n = number of force interactions by level of force (column) per the individual's situation (row)
 % = percent of situation (row) total and force level (column) total
 Example: An involved individual was armed in 33% of level 1 force interactions in 2023.

APD defines a behavioral health crisis (crisis) as an incident in which an individual is experiencing intense feelings of personal distress (e.g., anxiety, depression, fear, anger, panic, hopelessness), obvious changes in functioning (e.g., neglect of personal hygiene, unusual behavior), or catastrophic life events (e.g., disruptions in personal relationships, support systems, or living arrangements; loss of autonomy or parental rights; victimization; or natural disasters), which may, but shall not necessarily, result in an upward trajectory or intensity that culminates in thoughts or acts that are possibly dangerous to the individual in crisis and/or others (SOP 2-19: Response to Behavioral Health Issues). APD's force data is based on an officer's or investigator's professional judgement of whether the individual was in crisis. This may not have been known to the officers using force at the time and the crisis may not have contributed directly to the use of force

APD Officers reported 112 or 20% of involved individuals as experiencing a crisis. Among the remaining encounters, 172 (32%) of the individuals were reported as not experiencing a crisis and 265 (48%) of the involved individuals were reported as unknown. As a percentage of total force interactions of each level, involved individuals were most commonly identified as being in crisis in Level 2 force interactions.

There were 93 (17%) individuals involved in force interactions that self-reported mental illness in the course of their interaction with law enforcement officers. An individual may report mental illness at any time during the encounter. There are cases where the involved person reports having a mental illness while being interviewed, which is generally after the use of force occurred. As a result, the officer may not have been aware of the individual's mental state when force occurred. An additional 287 (52%) did not report a mental illness and 169 (31%) were reported as unknown.

Most force interactions (385 or 70%) led to the individual being arrested. Level 1 through Level 3 force interactions appear to be consistently highly correlated with arrests (73%, 69% and 70% respectively).

During 2023, the Force Review Board requested a supplemental analysis based on several months of use of force data to evaluate the relationship between use of force and arrests. Within the sample evaluated at the time, 94.4% of all individuals involved in force were either taken into custody or summonsed, the definition of an arrest. Those not arrested were transported for mental health treatment or were deceased as a result of the force encounter. Following this analysis, the Force Review Board ordered briefings for force investigators on the importance of complete data. The briefing reduced the frequency with which "unknown" information is reported. APD continues monitoring trends in data completeness and accuracy to ensure that force analyses are as accurate as possible.

3.8 Injuries Sustained in Force Interactions

Injuries are reported in force interactions for both individuals involved in force and officers who apply force. Injuries are recorded in distinct categories, for example "abrasions" and "bruises." Injuries sustained by involved individuals may or may not have been caused by force technique applied by a law enforcement officer; APD differentiates between injuries that were caused and injuries that were not caused by law enforcement officers in use of force data. An involved individual and/or an involved officer may experience more than one injury.

In 2023, an involved individual sustained at least one injury from any source in 76% of all force interactions. Injuries from any source were much more common in Level 2 and Level 3 force interactions (84% and 93%, respectively) than in Level 1 force interactions (45%). This disparities between levels of force suggests a relationship between injuries and the escalated nature of the situations that Level 2 and 3 uses of force represent.

Out of 549 force interactions, there were 420 force interactions (77%) in which any injury was sustained by the involved individual. Of the 420 force interactions with an injury, 341 (81%) of those interactions included injuries that were caused by a law enforcement officer. In 79 (19%) of the force interactions in which the individual had sustained an injury at some point during the incident, the injury(ies) were not caused by an officer. In 12 (9%) Level 1 force interactions, an officer caused an injury or the involved individual complained of an injury. Level 2 and 3 force interactions were more likely to include injuries caused by an officer (75% and 91% respectively). The types on injuries are detailed in Table 3.8.1 below.

Among the 385 force interactions in which an arrest was made, 241 or 63% resulted in an injury to the involved individual that was caused by a law enforcement officer. Most arrests (83 out of 93) including Level 1 force interactions did not result in an injury caused by an officer (89%). Arrests in conjunction with Level 2 and 3 force interactions tended to be more injurious to involved individuals, with 177 or 77% and 54 or 89%, respectively.

Table 3.8		Force Interactions by Level of Force							
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		All Levels	
Outcome		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
The Involved Individual Was Injured (From Any Cause)	Yes	57	45%	282	84%	81	93%	420	76%
	No	70	55%	53	16%	6	7%	129	24%
Involved Individual Was Injured by a Law Enforcement Officer or complained of Injury	Yes	12	9%	250	75%	79	91%	341	62%
	No	115	91%	85	25%	8	9%	208	38%
Involved Individual Was Injured by a Law Enforcement Officer During Arrest (Only Individuals Arrested)	Yes	10	11%	177	77%	54	89%	241	63%
	No	83	89%	54	23%	7	11%	144	37%
Involved Individual Was Hospitalized (For Any Reason)	Yes	47	37%	131	39%	48	55%	226	41%
	No	80	63%	204	61%	39	45%	323	59%
An Officer Was Injured	Yes	17	15%	126	39%	27	32%	170	33%
	No	94	85%	195	61%	58	68%	347	67%

n = number of force interactions by level of force (column) where outcome occurred (row)
 % = percent of outcome (row) total and force level (column) total
 Example: An involved individual was injured in 45% of level 1 force interactions in 2023.

There were 226 individuals out of 549 force interactions (41%) who were hospitalized for any reason during or after a force interaction. Level 3 force interactions resulted in the greatest percentage of individuals recorded as being hospitalized (48 or 55%). An involved individual may not necessarily be hospitalized as a result of injuries sustained by a use of force. Individuals may be transported by law enforcement or medical professionals to a psychiatric or behavioral healthcare facility for treatment and intervention after a behavioral health crisis or may be treated for injuries not sustained in the course of an interaction with law enforcement. These instances are also recorded as hospitalizations.

Law enforcement officers sustained injuries in 170 or 33% of force incidents in 2023. Note that the information about any given officer's injury is captured at the case level and not the interaction level which is inconsistent with how the rest of the information is presented in this section. More than one officer may have been injured in a single case. Among the incidents resulting in one or more APD officer receiving hospitalization, there were 14 force cases out of which 17 officers were hospitalized during 2023. Officers were not injured in 94 out of 111 (85%) of Level 1 cases, 195 out of 321 (61%) of Level 2 cases, and 58 out of 85 (68%) of Level 3 force cases.

3.8.1 Types of Injuries Sustained in Force Interactions

Injuries are recorded in distinct categories (i.e. abrasions, bruises, etc.). An involved individual or an officer may sustain multiple injuries during any one force interaction. APD differentiates between injuries caused and not caused by law enforcement officers in a force interaction and counts the number of injuries by category.

Officers caused 447 injuries to 318 distinct individuals involved in force interactions in 2023. The most common injuries caused by a law enforcement officer were “abrasions” (222 or 50%), followed by “complaint of pain/injury” (86 or 19%). Most officer-caused injuries occurred in Level 2 force interactions, which are the most common force interactions. This is likely because, in 2023, Level 2 encounters frequently include takedowns and other hands-on tactics that often lead to abrasions and complaints of pain or injury.

Table 3.8.1 Injuries to Involved Individuals Caused by a Law Enforcement Officer		Interaction Force Level in Which Injury Was Sustained							
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		All Levels	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%*
Injury	Abrasions	1*	1%	176	79%	45	20%	222	50%
	Complaints	9	10%	61	71%	16	19%	86	19%
	Puncture	1**	2%	17	49%	17	49%	35	8%
	Bruises	0	0%	15	71%	6	29%	21	5%
	Lacerations	0	0%	12	63%	7	37%	19	4%
	OC exposure	0	0%	12	86%	2	14%	14	3%
	Other Injury	0	0%	10	77%	3	23%	13	3%
	Gunshot	0	0%	0	0%	12	100%	12	3%
	Welt	0	0%	9	90%	1	10%	10	2%
	Death	0	0%	0	0%	6	100%	6	1%
	Broken bones	0	0%	0	0%	4	100%	4	1%
	Bloody nose	0	0%	1	33%	2	67%	3	1%
	OC CS Exposure	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2	<1%
All Injuries		11	3%	315	70%	121	27%	447	100%
n = number of injuries by type (row) sustained in force interactions of each level of force (column) % = percent of row total %* = percent of column total Example 1: 79% of abrasions caused by an officer occurred in level 2 force interactions. Example 2: 27% of all injuries caused by an officer occurred in level 3 force interactions. * One Level 1 use of force reported a small abrasion from handcuffs. IAFD evaluated the injury and determined that it did not meet the classification standards for a Level 2. ** One individual involved in Level 1 use of force case has puncture listed as an injury. The individual involved had a thorn in their skin following an Empty Hand: Takedown. Investigation determined the thorn did not meet the threshold for Level 2 force.									

Per policy (SOP 2-53: Use of Force Definitions, SOP 2-56: Use of Force Reporting by Department Personnel), Level 1 force interactions cause only temporary pain, disorientation, and/or discomfort during its application as a means of gaining compliance and should not cause injury to an involved individual. Complaints of injuries can occur in Level 1 interactions when individuals feel discomfort or temporary pain primarily when they are being handcuffed. Two interactions reported an injury in a Level 1 use of force (see footnotes in table). Both were evaluated by IAFD and classified as Level 1 due to the specific circumstances of the cases.

Across all three force levels, involved individuals sustained 185 injuries not caused by law enforcement officers in 2023, as seen in table 3.8.1.1 below. Within these 185 individuals, 59 or 32% of the injuries occurred in Level 1 force interactions, 98 (53%) occurred in Level 2 force interactions, and 28 (15%) occurred in level 3 force interactions, which differs inversely from the apparent relationship between level of force and injuries sustained from officer by involved individuals (see Section 3.8).

Table 3.8.1.1 Injuries to Involved Individuals <i>Not Caused</i> by a Law Enforcement Officer		Interaction Force Level in Which Injury Was Sustained							
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		All Levels	
Injury		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%*
	Abrasions	26	35%	39	52%	10	13%	75	41%
	Complaint	9	24%	26	68%	3	8%	38	21%
	Lacerations	11	42%	10	38%	5	19%	26	14%
	Other Injury	4	21%	13	68%	2	11%	19	10%
	Bruises	3	50%	2	33%	1	17%	6	3%
	Broken Bones	2	40%	1	20%	2	40%	5	3%
	Puncture	0	0%	2	50%	2	50%	4	2%
	Gunshot	2	67%	0	0%	1	33%	3	2%
	Welt	1	33%	2	67%	0	0%	3	2%
	**Death	1	50%	1	50%	0	0%	2	1%
	OC Exposure	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1	<1%
	Bloody Nose	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	1	<1%
	Stab Wound	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1	<1%
	Unconscious	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1	<1%
All Injuries	59	32%	98	53%	28	15%	185	100%	
n = number of injuries by type (row) sustained in force interactions of each level of force (column) % = percent of row total %* = percent of column total **Death: One interaction listed as level 1 use of force involved officer responding to call where an individual was lying on a couch with a gun seen in his hands and the officer pointed a firearm. Individual was found deceased in the apartment. The second interaction listing death involved tactical activation where chemical munitions were deployed inside the residence due to non-compliance and individual threatening to kill police or overdose on fentanyl. When officers entered the residence they found the individual lifeless however medical personal found faint pulse and transported the individual to the hospital in critical condition. Example 1: 52% of abrasions not caused by an officer occurred in level 2 force interactions. Example 2: 32% of injuries not caused by an officer occurred in level 1 force interactions.									

3.8.2 Injuries to Law Enforcement Officers

There were 167 law enforcement officers that sustained 244 injuries in force cases in 2023. The most common injuries sustained by law enforcement officers in use of force cases are similar to those experienced by the individuals involved in force interactions. The distribution of officer injuries across force levels is also similar to the distribution of officer-caused injuries sustained by an involved individual. Most injuries (176 or 72%) sustained by officers occurred within Level 2 interactions. Table 3.8.2 reflects the injuries sustained by the law enforcement officers at each force level and in total. Seventeen officers were hospitalized due to injuries sustained across 14 force cases in 2023.

Injuries to Law Enforcement Officers		Case Force Level in Which Injury Was Sustained							
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		All Levels	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%*
Injury	Abrasions	11	7%	119	75%	28	18%	158	65%
	Other Injury	4	10%	30	71%	8	19%	42	17%
	Lacerations	3	21%	10	71%	1	7%	14	6%
	Bite Marks	2	20%	4	40%	4	40%	10	4%
	Bruises	1	10%	8	80%	1	10%	10	4%
	Biohazard Contamination	0	0%	2	40%	3	60%	5	2%
	Welt	0	0%	2	100%	0	0%	2	1%
	Broken Bones	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1	<1%
	OC Exposure	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	1	<1%
	Stab Wound	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1	<1%
All Injuries		23	9%	176	72%	45	18%	244	100%
n = number of injuries by type (row) sustained in force cases of each level of force (column) % = percent of row total %* = percent of column total Example 1: 71% of the lacerations sustained by officers occurred in level 2 force cases. Example 2: 72% of injuries to an officer occurred in level 2 force cases.									

Use of Force, Calls for Service, and Arrests (2019-2023)

04

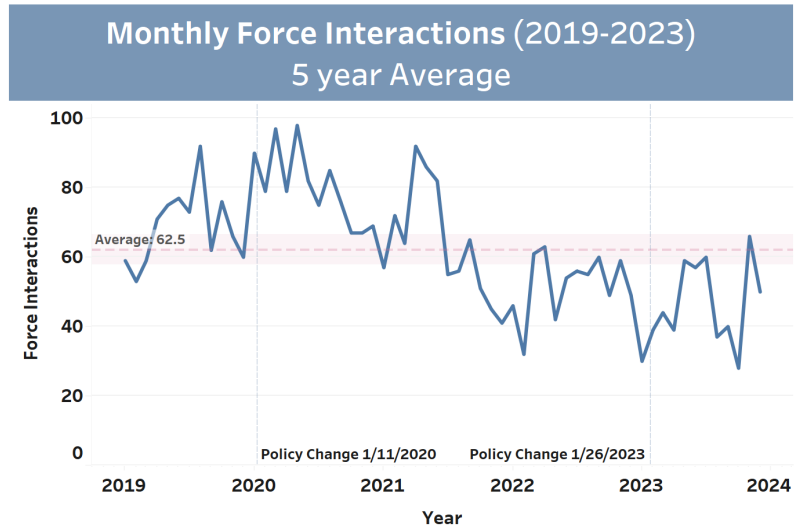
This section provides an analysis of force interactions relative to calls for service and arrest data. Calls for service are divided into proactive (officer initiated actions) and reactive (officer dispatched by ECC). Table 4.1 below provides a synopsis of all calls for service, force interactions and custodial arrest for the five year period beginning 2019 through end of 2023.

Table 4.1		Department Use of Force, Calls For Service, Arrests, and Force Rates Over Time				
		Year				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Calls for Service*		396,901	394,642	385,951	387,710	406,172
Proactive Calls for Service	n	111,603	137,103	141,912	152,059	175,384
	%	28%	35%	37%	39%	43%
Reactive Calls for Service	n	285,298	257,539	244,039	235,651	230,788
	%	72%	65%	63%	61%	57%
Force Interactions		823	954	757	626	549
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service	n	90	135	102	127	144
	%	11%	14%	13%	20%	26%
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Call for Service	n	733	819	655	499	405
	%	89%	86%	87%	80%	74%
Custodial Arrests		14,900	12,351	9,497	9,971	12,202
Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service		2.07	2.42	1.96	1.61	1.35
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Proactive Calls for Service		.80	.98	.72	.83	.82
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Reactive Calls for Service		2.57	3.20	2.71	2.12	1.75
Force Interactions per 100 Custodial Arrests		5.5	7.7	8.0	6.3	4.5
n = number of calls for service/force interactions (row) in given year (column)						
% = percent of total calls for service/force interactions that were proactive or reactive (row) in given year (column)						
*This analysis aims to identify only calls where a use of force could occur. See Appendix 7.1 for details of which calls are included. Due to different methodologies, the calls for service totals in this report will be lower than other figures published for different purposes.						

4.1.1 Use of Force

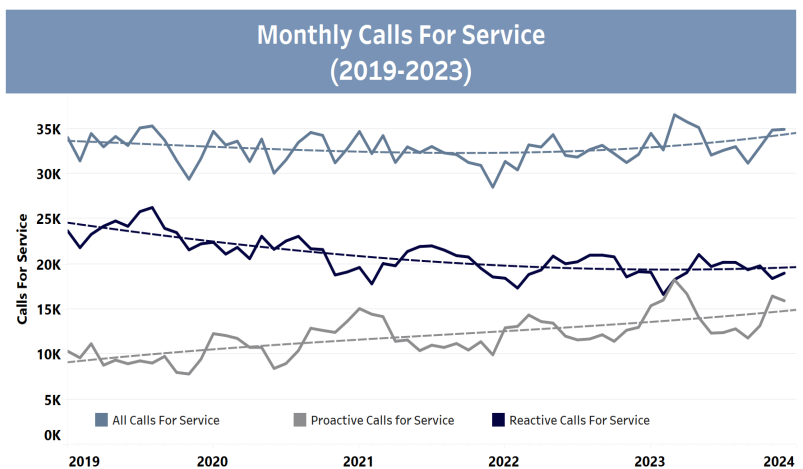
APD recorded a lower annual quantity of force interactions in 2023 than it had in any other year since improved data tracking began in 2016. APD’s annual number of force interactions in 2023 represents a 43% decrease since 2020. In 2020, 964 force interactions were recorded – the highest number between 2019 and 2023.

Across the five-year span running from 2019 to 2023, the monthly average number of force interactions is 62.5 with a range from a minimum of 28 in October 2023 to a maximum of 98 in May of 2020. The number of force interactions were fairly close to the five-year average during 2019 and increased in early 2020 to a level above the average through mid-2021, after which the monthly average number of recorded force interactions declined below the five-year average and then remained relatively stable throughout 2022 and 2023. This change in level is notable considering the seasonality of law enforcement activity throughout any given year (generally higher in warmer weather and lower when colder). Between 2019 and 2020, the number of annual force interactions recorded by the department increased from 823 to 954 but since has decreased to 757 in 2021, 626 in 2022, and 549 in 2023. These levels hold when examining force interactions across the Area Commands (see Appendix, Section 7).



4.1.2 Calls for Service

A call for service is a record of a distinct law enforcement event generated, maintained, and managed through APD’s computer-aided dispatch system (CAD). A call for service is typically generated in one of two ways: reactive to a call from a community member or proactive when an officer initiates a law enforcement action. A reactive call for service is when a call is made to ‘911’ for emergency assistance or to a non-emergency number (242-COPS) and an officer responds to the caller’s concerns (such as responding to a burglary). Proactive calls for service are officer-initiated actions where an officer has reasonable suspicion to intervene (such as a traffic stop).



When calculating the number of calls for service for this report, a call for service was counted when:

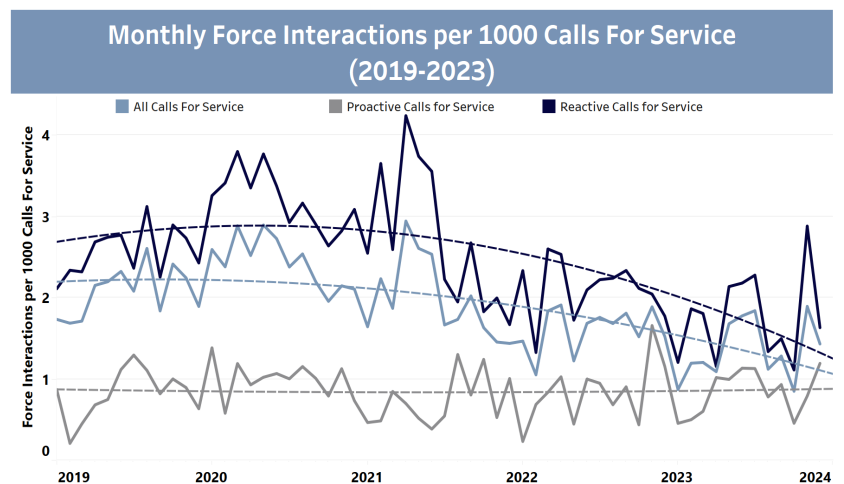
- The call was not cancelled by law enforcement or a law enforcement dispatcher and the call was not reported as a false alarm;
- Law enforcement was dispatched (reactive) or onsite (proactive);
- An officer arrived on scene so that there was likely contact between a law enforcement officer and a member of the public;
- The call was not a BOLO (be on the lookout); and
- The call was for a law enforcement officer, not a Crime Scene Specialist who is a professional staff member who responds to crime scenes.

This methodology was employed in order to identify only calls for service where uses of force could occur. Since this analysis aims to identify only calls where a use of force could occur, total calls for service will be lower than other published figures. If an officer does not arrive on scene, there is no chance that there would be a use of force. Including such calls will bias the results and artificially lower the rate at which force is used during calls for service. The same is true for other excluded types of calls, such as false alarms and call codes used by officers to attend community events, which are excluded from the counts used in this report. (see Appendix 7.1 for additional details regarding methodology for counting calls for service)

In the five-year period beginning in 2019, the number of total calls for service steadily decreased followed by a notable increase in 2023 indicating a reversal of trend seen throughout 2019-2022. The overall pattern was shaped by converging movements in reactive and proactive calls with reactive calls declining from 2019-2023 and proactive calls steadily increasing over the same period. Proactive calls appear to be continuing their steadily increasing trend. These trends generally hold across the six Area Commands. (see Appendix, Section 7.2).

4.1.3 Use of Force per 1,000 Calls for Service

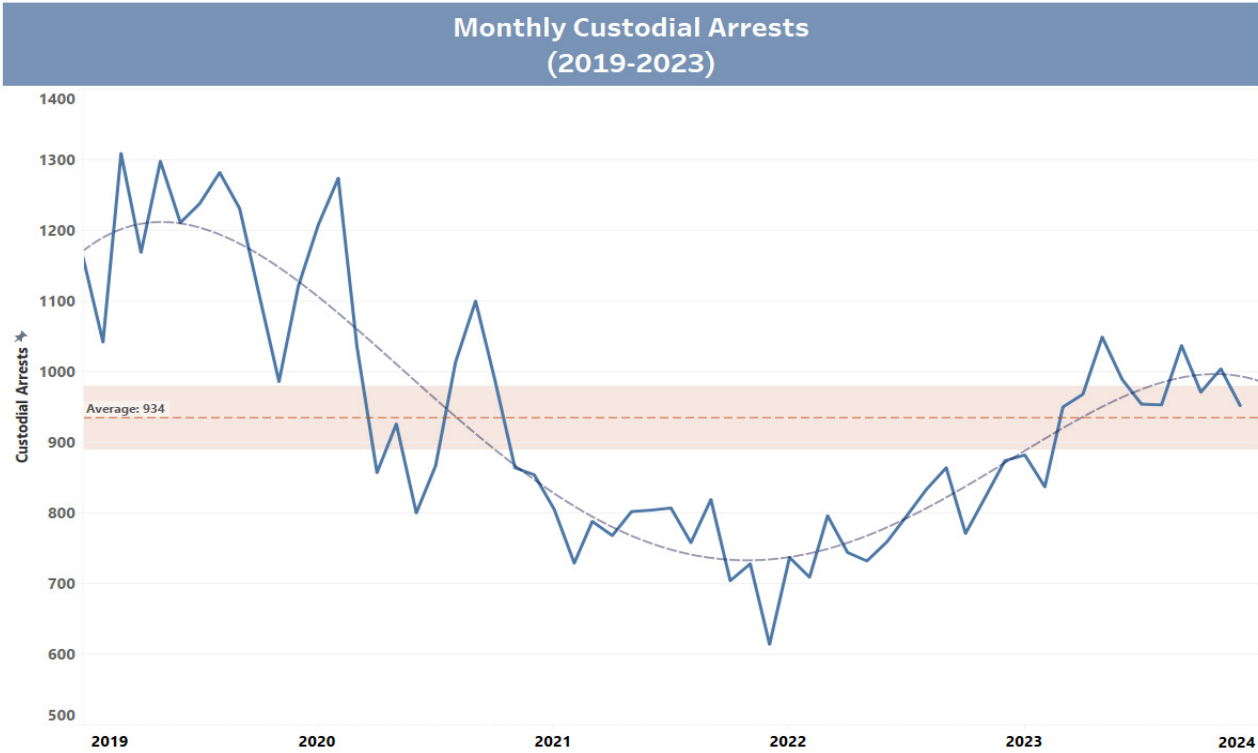
Since the number of force interactions may be a function of the number of calls for service, this is expressed as a rate of force interactions per 1,000 calls for service. A rate of 1 per 1,000 may be interpreted as 0.1%. This calculation controls for fluctuations in the volume of calls for service and the effect those fluctuations may have on the number of force interactions in a given period of time. This calculation was done using the ratio of all calls for service and force interactions, all reactive calls for service and all force interactions that occurred during a reactive call for service; and all proactive calls for service and all force interactions that occurred during a proactive call for service.



Reactive calls for service were more likely to be associated with a force interaction than proactive calls for service. Between 2019 and end of 2020, the rates of force per 1,000 calls for service were steady between 1.6 to 2.8 force interactions per 1,000 calls. During the first quarter of 2021, force interactions, primarily interactions in response to reactive calls, increased significantly and at the same time there was a downward trend in force interactions related to proactive calls. After peaking in early 2021, force rates returned to the rates as seen during 2019 for each type of call and calls for service as a whole. For 2023, the rates of force per 1,000 calls for service went slightly downward in early 2023, mainly reactive calls for service and at the same time interactions seen in response to proactive calls went down. It is worth noting that the total calls for service in 2023 were up 4.75% compared to 2022. During the latter half of 2023, force interactions related to reactive calls had several months above the annual average. (see Appendix, Section 7.2).

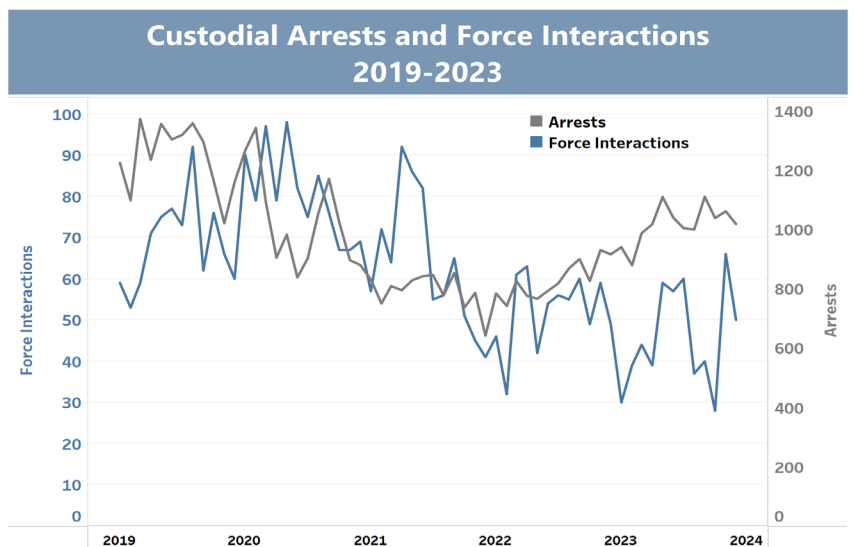
4.1.4 Custodial Arrests

Custodial arrests made by APD decreased from 2019 through 2021 but have increased since the low in 2021. This seems consistent with pre-Covid-19 trend where there were a total of 14,900 custodial arrests in 2019 and 12,351 in 2020. 2021 and 2022 saw comparatively less custodial arrests made by the department with 9,497 and 9,971 arrests, respectively. There were a total of 12,202 custodial arrests in 2023, and increase of approximately 22.4% compared to 2022.



4.1.5 Use of Force and Custodial Arrests

Over the five-year period from 2019-2023, there have been noticeable fluctuations in both custodial arrests and force interactions trend. As seen in the figure below, the data suggests a decline in custodial arrests from 2019 to 2021 with a significant drop in 2020 and 2021. However arrests began to rise again in 2022 and 2023. The number of force interactions were fairly close to the five-year average during 2019 and increased in early 2020 to a level above the average through mid-2021, after which the monthly average number of recorded force interactions declined below the five-year average and then remained relatively stable throughout 2022 and 2023. October 2023 saw the least number of incidents despite a relatively higher number of custodial arrests compared to previous months in other years.



Investigation of Force and Discipline

05

This section analyzes the outcomes of force investigations. It also provides information on completion and review of force investigations during 2023.

5.1 Policy Outcomes of Force Investigations

Of the 549 force interactions, 30 (5%) of force interactions were out of policy meaning that an involved officer applied force in a manner inconsistent with APD policy. Seven were Level 1 force interactions, 13 were Level 2 interactions, and ten were Level 3 interactions.

Table 5.1		Out of Policy Force Interactions	% Total
Force Level	Level 1	7	23%
	Level 2	13	43%
	Level 3	10	34%
Total		30	100%

Forty-seven officers applied an out-of-policy use of force in the 30 out of policy force interactions in 2023. Four officers who applied an out-of-policy use of force in 2023 are no longer employed by the department.

5.2 Out of Policy Force Interactions by Area Command

Table 5.1		Area Command														Total*	
		Southeast		Northeast		Valley		Southwest		Foothills		Northwest		Out of Area			
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Force Level	Level 1	0	0%	3	50%	0	0%	1	20%	2	50%	0	0%	1	100%	7	23%
	Level 2	2	33%	2	33%	4	80%	4	80%	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	13	43%
	Level 3	4	67%	1	17%	1	20%	0	0%	1	25%	3	100%	0	0%	10	33%
Total		6	20%	6	20%	5	17%	5	17%	4	13%	3	10%	1	3%	30	100%
n = number of force interactions of each level of force (row) occurring in each Area Command (column) % = percent of column total except bottom row which is percent of row total																	

Prevalence for out-of-policy events is the greatest in Southeast and Northeast Area Commands at 6 each accounting for about 4.4% of all force interactions in both Area Commands. Across all Area Commands, the 12 out-of-policy interactions represent 40% of all out-of-policy interactions. The Area Commands with the next greatest prevalence for out-of-policy force are the Valley and Southwest Area Commands with five each, which reflects 5.5% of all incidents that occurred in both Area Commands and 33% of all out-of-policy interactions across all Area Commands.

5.2.1 Out of Policy Force Interactions by Individual's Demographic

Within the 30 out-of-policy interactions, a total of 29 individuals were involved. The most prevalent racial and ethnic group were Hispanics reflecting 45% of all individuals identified in out-of-policy force interactions. The table below provides a detailed breakdown for individuals identified in out-of-policy force interactions in 2023.

Table 5.2.1	Race & Ethnicity		
		n	%
	Hispanic	13	45%
	White, Non-Hispanic	6	21%
	Native American, Non-Hispanic	5	17%
	Black, Non-Hispanic	2	7%
	Mixed Race, Non-Hispanic	1	3%
	Other Race, Non-Hispanic	1	3%
	Unknown Race and Ethnicity	1	3%
Total	29	100%	

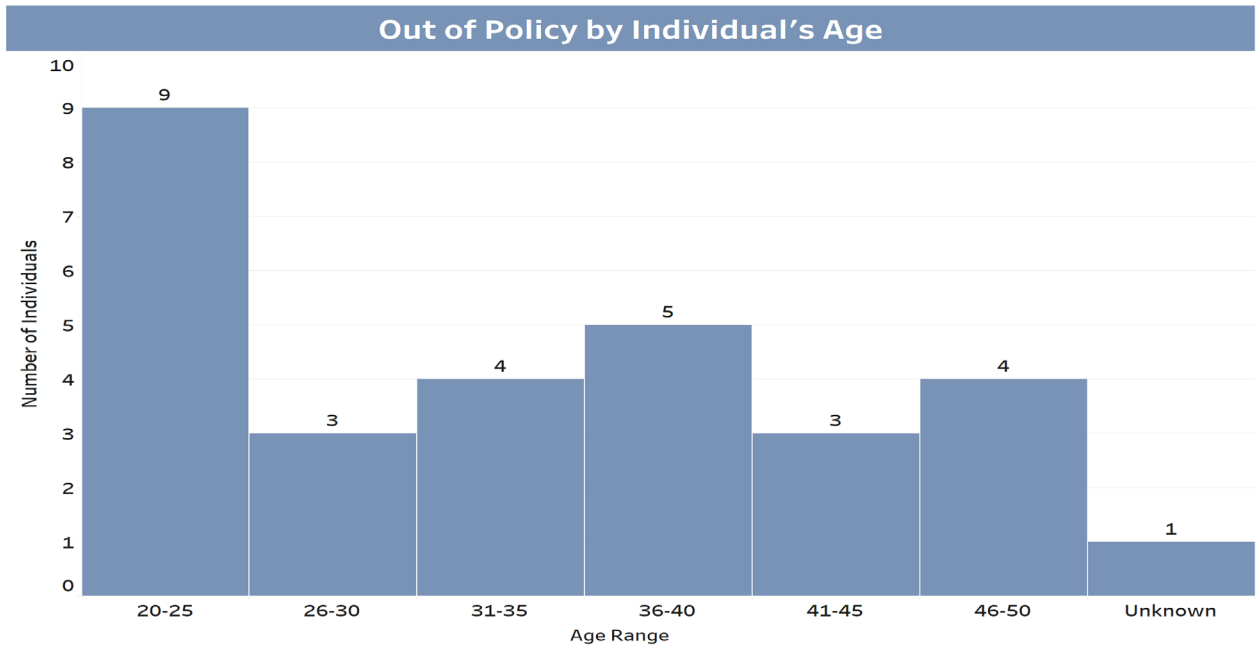
Among the 501 individuals identified in all 549 force interactions, 97 women were involved in force interactions, reflecting 19% of all individuals. However, women comprised a little over 24% of all out-of-policy interactions in 2023 as depicted in the table below.

Table 5.2.2		Involved Individuals	% Total
Gender	Female	7	24.2%
	Male	22	75.8%
	Total	29	100%

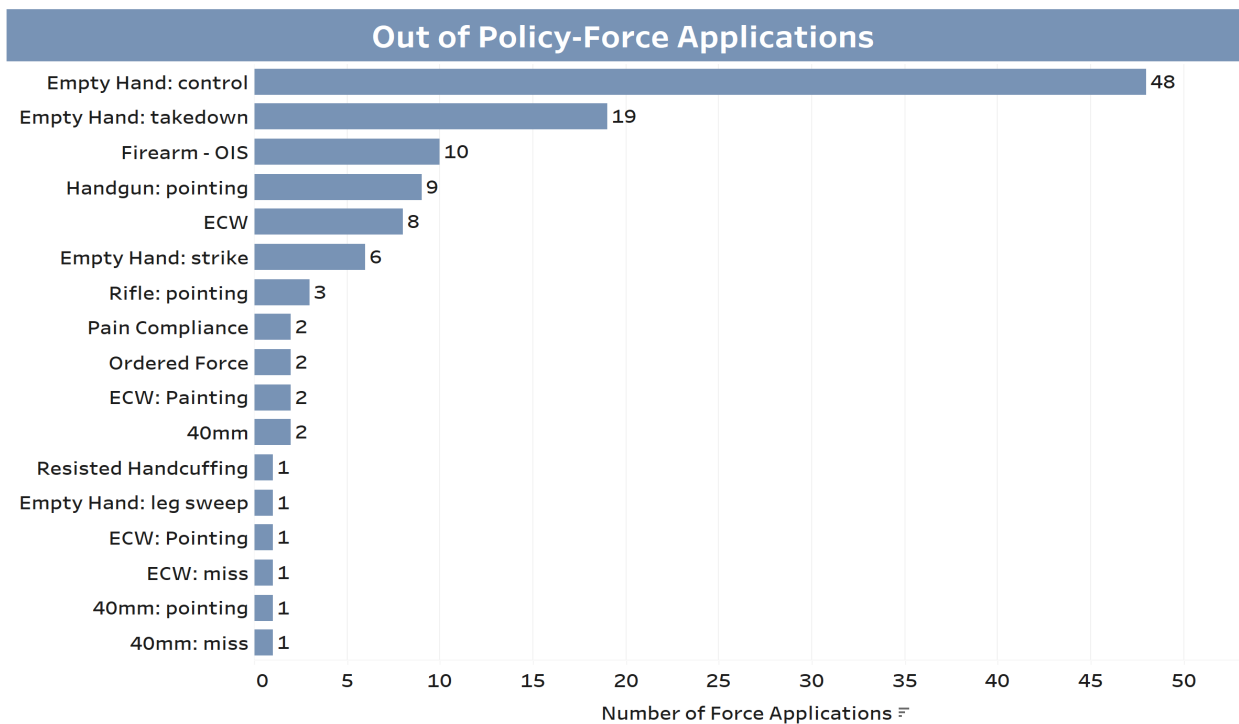
As noted earlier in section 3.2.3, sexual orientation is reported per interaction and not per distinct individual involved in force. Heterosexual individuals comprise 360 or 66% of all use of force interactions followed by Unknown at 170 or 31%. Among out-of-policy use of force interactions, 21 (70%) were heterosexual and 8 (27%) were unknown as reflected in the table below.

Table 5.2.3		
Involved Individual's Perceived or Self-Reported Sexual Orientation-Out of Policy Interactions		
Orientation	Force Interactions	% Total
Heterosexual	21	70%
Unknown	8	27%
Homosexual	1	3%
Total	30	100%

Among the out-of-policy force interactions, the most prevalent age was in the age range of 20-25 at 9 individuals with the next range between 36-40 age group at 5 individuals. Out-of-policy interactions did not appear to affect minors or senior individuals. The details are available in the figure below.



Among all 549 use of force interactions, there were a total of 2,269 applications of force. The most prevalent force type was “Empty Hand: Control” with 667 applications (29%) followed by “Empty Hand: takedown” with 497 or 22% (See table 3.3.1 above). Multiple types of force may be applied in each interaction and an application is counted for each officer’s use of a force type. If any of an officer’s force applications is ruled as out-of-policy, then all applications by that officer in that particular incident are recorded as out-of-policy, which may over-represent APD’s of out-of-policy force applications. A total of 117 out of 2,269 unique applications of force (5%) were deemed out-of-policy as a result of the investigations into each use of force. Consistent with the highest number of total applications (“Empty Hand: Control”), the highest number of out-of-policy application was “Empty Hand: Control” with 48 out of 117 applications (41%). The figure below provides additional information on all the force applications deemed out-of-policy in 2023.



5.3 Investigative Timelines

Completing thorough and timely force investigations is of paramount importance to police accountability. During 2022, APD piloted a Level 1 force review unit to enhance the Level 1 use of force (UOF) review procedure in order to complete these reviews as timely, thoroughly, and effectively as possible. In August of 2023, following the success of the pilot project, the pilot program was expanded across all Area Commands. The project implementation improved Level 1 force review timelines from 28.3 days to 10.9 days on average. The pilot program also released field supervisors to reallocate their time from conducting force investigation and instead supervise their officers. A further benefit from the pilot program also led to improvements in the quality of force investigations by consolidating the review process under a single chain of command.

The Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD) is required to complete investigations of Level 2 and Level 3 uses of force within 90 days of receiving the force case unless an extension is granted for extenuating circumstances. IAFD completed 100% of Level 2 and Level 3 investigations in 90 days or less with an average of 87 days for both Levels in 2023.

Table 5.3		Investigation Timeline	Number of Cases	Percentage
Force Level	Level 2	Within 90 days	341	100%
		Over 90 days	0	0%
	Level 3	Within 90 days	88	100%
		Over 90 days	0	0%

5.4 Force Review Board (FRB) Review of Cases


During 2023, the Force Review Board (FRB) reviewed 182 Level 2, Level 3 and Tactical force cases. The third amendment to the Court-Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA) in April 2023 impacted the provisions of paragraph 78 to change the data captured from August 2023 onwards. Of the 182 cases, the data for 151 cases were in accordance with the Second Amended and Restated CASA (July 2019) and 31 cases were in accordance with Third Amended and Restated CASA (April 2023). The CASA revision changed the number of required cases the FRB reviews. In the 2nd CASA, the FRB reviewed 100% of Level 3 cases and a 10% sample of Level 2 cases. Under the 3rd CASA, the FRB reviews all uses of lethal force, all in-custody deaths, and samples of Level 2 and Level 3 force. APD developed procedures to operationalize changes to the CASA in SOP 2-58: Force Review Board.

Of the 182 cases reviewed by the Force Review Board, 82 (45%) incidents occurred in 2023, 71 (39%) incidents occurred in 2022, 5 (3%) incidents occurred in 2021, 22 (12%) incidents occurred in 2020, 1 (<1%) incident occurred in 2019 and 1 (<1%) incident occurred in 2017. All cases reviewed that occurred prior to late 2022 were part of the force investigation backlog. Prior to the Third Amended and Restated CASA, the FRB determined whether the force investigation met a preponderance of evidence standard using a majority vote. All incidents where the FRB determined whether a preponderance of evidence standard was met were found to be supported by the preponderance of evidence. Given that the FRB reviewed all Level 3 uses of force and a random sample of Level 2 uses of force at the time, there are indications that the IAFD force investigations conducted in 2023 have appropriately applied a preponderance of evidence standard when evaluating force cases.

The majority of the cases reviewed by the FRB (163 out of 182 or 90%) did not lead to additional policy, training, or equipment referrals not already identified during the initial investigation. There were 7 cases (4%) that raised training concerns; 3 cases (2%) that raised policy concerns; 3 cases (2%) that raised equipment concerns; and 1 case (<1%) each that raised tactics concerns; supervision concerns; both tactics and training concerns; both equipment and training concerns; policy, tactics and training concerns; and 1 raised equipment, policy, tactics and training concerns. The FRB also issued 16 referrals in 2023.

Conclusion

06



This annual use of force report shows that APD used force less in 2023 than in preceding years. APD has a strong process for investigating force and holding officers accountable when force is out of policy. The 14 officer involved shootings in 2023 are still a concern for APD, however there is a 22% decline compared to 2022 and the department is working to ensure policy and training encourage alternatives to deadly force whenever feasible. The department continued the semi-annual and annual analysis of officer involved shootings in 2023 in order to dive deep into the situations leading to such outcomes and how these critical incidents can be avoided in future with better policy, training, and tactics.

APD has made significant strides in reducing the use of force during custodial arrests. This demonstrates APD's commitment to using force only in instances where it is minimal, necessary, and reasonable. With the publication of the annual use of force report in 2022, the department achieved operational compliance for paragraph 79 in the IMR 18, which was released nearing the end of 2023. This was a significant milestone, as it marked the first time the department reached compliance with the requirement to report annual data on the use of force.

There were several notable changes related to use of force in 2023. First, the External Force Investigation Team (EFIT) concluded their support of IAFD investigations after demonstrating their ability to independently investigate force cases. Second, a centralized Level 1 force investigation review unit across all Area Commands following the success of pilot program implemented in 2022. The success of this dedicated unit streamlined investigations, ensuring timeliness, enhanced documentation consistency and alleviated the administrative burden on field supervisors. Finally, APD made revisions to use of force standard operating procedures that improved the clarity of guidelines for officers, streamlined investigations, and allowed for a more focused review of force cases. All revisions were approved by the Independent Monitor and Department of Justice.

There were positive trends in APD's use of force in 2023 but APD remains focused on ensuring that force is only used when necessary to achieve a lawful objective. APD provides officers with de-escalation and crisis intervention training so that officers have the skills to talk with people and avoid the need for force. Looking ahead, APD will build upon these successes to ensure the safety and well-being of the community it serves while upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

Appendix

07

7.1 Calls for Service Methodology

The following table shows the fields that are filtered to produce the count of calls for service used in this report. The aim of this method is to identify calls for service where there was the potential for use of force and to exclude calls for service where there is no contact between a law enforcement officer and a member of the public. Since the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system does not track this directly, APD analysts filtered calls to align with the goal of identifying calls for service where force was possible.

Field	Filter	Description	Rationale
Call on Scene Date Time	Exclude Null	The date and time an officer arrived on scene	Someone needs to arrive for a UOF probability to exist
Call Disposition	Exclude 88	False Alarm	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude CAN	Cancel the Call	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude GOA	Gone on Arrival	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude BOLO	Be On the Lookout	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude TEST	Testing Purposes	Not a Dispatched Call
Final Call Type	Exclude 75-1	Community Activity	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude 75-2	Training Student	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude 75-3	Training Instructor	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude 27-U	Use of Force (Disp. 24, 25, 26)	Not a dispatched Call
	Exclude 64S	CSS Call for Shot Spotter	Support Services
	Exclude 16	Prisoner in Custody/Pickup	Not a dispatched Call
	Exclude 60	Field Briefing	Little to no probability of UOF
	Exclude 29	Wanted Check or Broadcast	Support Services
	Exclude 64	Crime Scene Investigation	Support Services
	Exclude 62-1	Chief's Overtime	Not a dispatched Call
Call Priority	Exclude 5B	Priority assigned to BOLOs	BOLOs
Final Call Type Description	Exclude BOLO	Be on the Lookout	Not a Dispatched call - Announcement
Original Call Type	Exclude CSAV	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSBH	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSD	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSPH	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSSP	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSSUIC	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSUI	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSWC	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSWELD	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude CSWELF	ACS call	Call type is responded to by ACS
	Exclude NULL	N/a	Majority of Null Call types correspond to BOLO
Agency	Exclude AVI	Aviation	Reporting on APD Agency Calls
Area Command	Exclude TRU	Telephone Reporting Unit	Not responded to by Officers
	Exclude CS	Crime Scene Investigation	Support Services
	Exclude REC	Records	Not responded to by Officers

Field	Filter	Description	Rationale
Original Call Type (Proactive)	Include 10	Periodic Watch	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 24S	Direct Traffic	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 25	Contact	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 31S	Suspicious Person or Vehicle	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 39S	Disturbance	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 54	Traffic Stop	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 74	Tactical Plan	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 75-4	Non-Enforce Contact	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 7S	Onsite Auto Theft	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include 90	VIP Enforcement	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Include SS	Subject Stop	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
Original Call Type (Reactive)	Include T	Traffic stop	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 10	Periodic Watch	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 24S	Direct Traffic	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 25	Contact	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 31S	Suspicious Person or Vehicle	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 39S	Disturbance	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 54	Traffic Stop	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 74	Tactical Plan	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 75-4	Non-Enforce Contact	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 7S	Onsite Auto Theft	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude 90	VIP Enforcement	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
	Exclude SS	Subject Stop	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated
Exclude T	Traffic stop	Not Dispatched - Self Initiated	

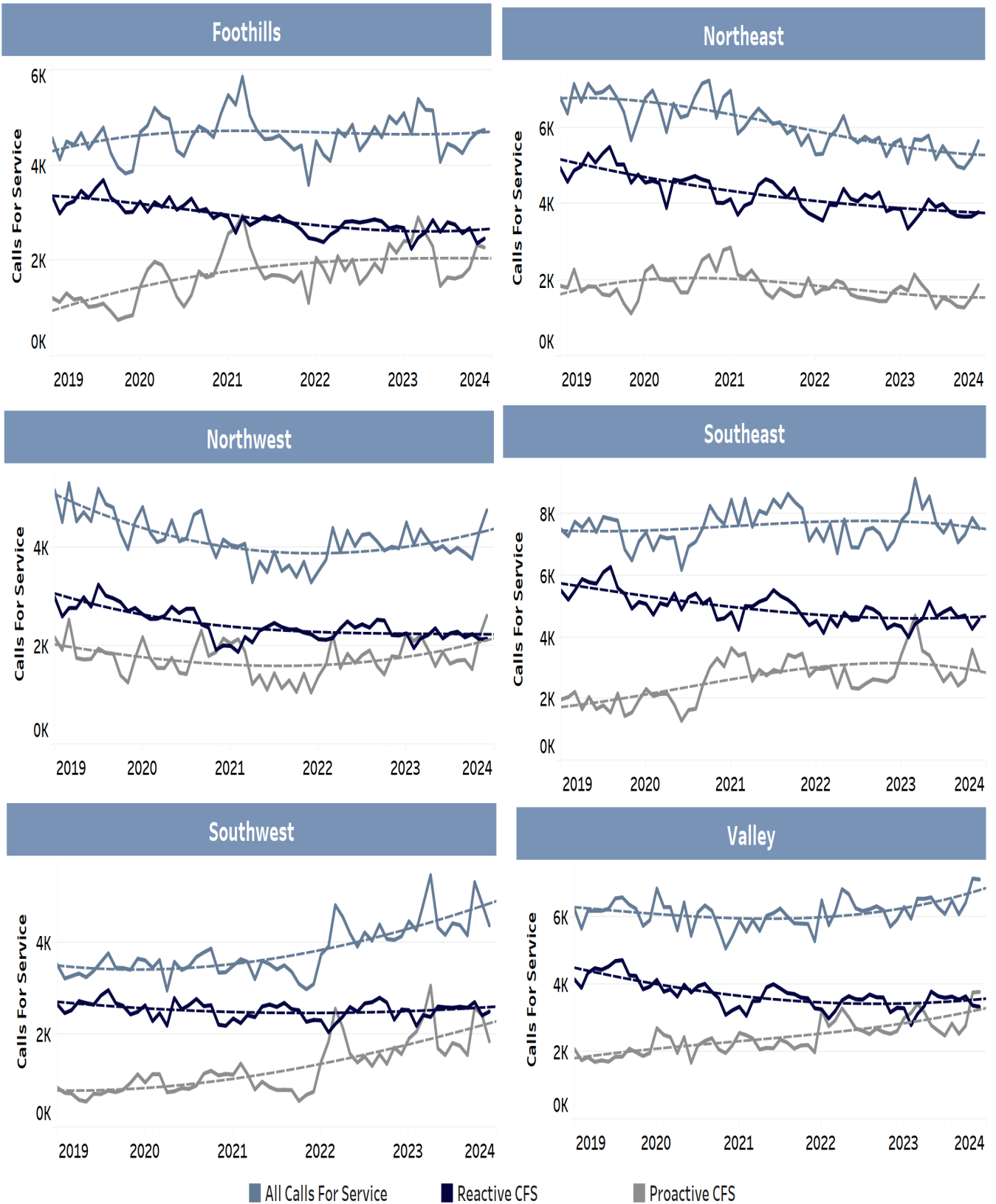
7.2 Force Rates, Calls for Service by Area Commands

Force, Calls for Service, and Force Rates Over Time by Area Command					
	Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Foothills Area Command					
Calls for Service	51,925	57,028	56,911	55,143	56,580
Proactive Calls for Service	12,609	19,555	23,489	22,781	25,468
Reactive Calls for Service	39,316	37,473	33,422	32,362	31,112
Force Interactions	144	127	112	77	54
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service	11	11	6	9	8
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Call for Service	133	116	106	68	46
Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.4	0.9
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Proactive Calls for Service	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Reactive Calls for Service	3.4	3.1	3.2	2.1	1.5
Northeast Area Command					
Calls for Service	80,356	79,923	73,538	68,137	64,782
Proactive Calls for Service	20,223	26,294	23,216	19,878	19,512
Reactive Calls for Service	60,133	53,629	50,322	48,259	45,270
Force Interactions	137	169	143	128	105
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service	11	23	25	34	28
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Call for Service	126	146	118	94	77
Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.6
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Proactive Calls for Service	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.7	1.4
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Reactive Calls for Service	2.1	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.7

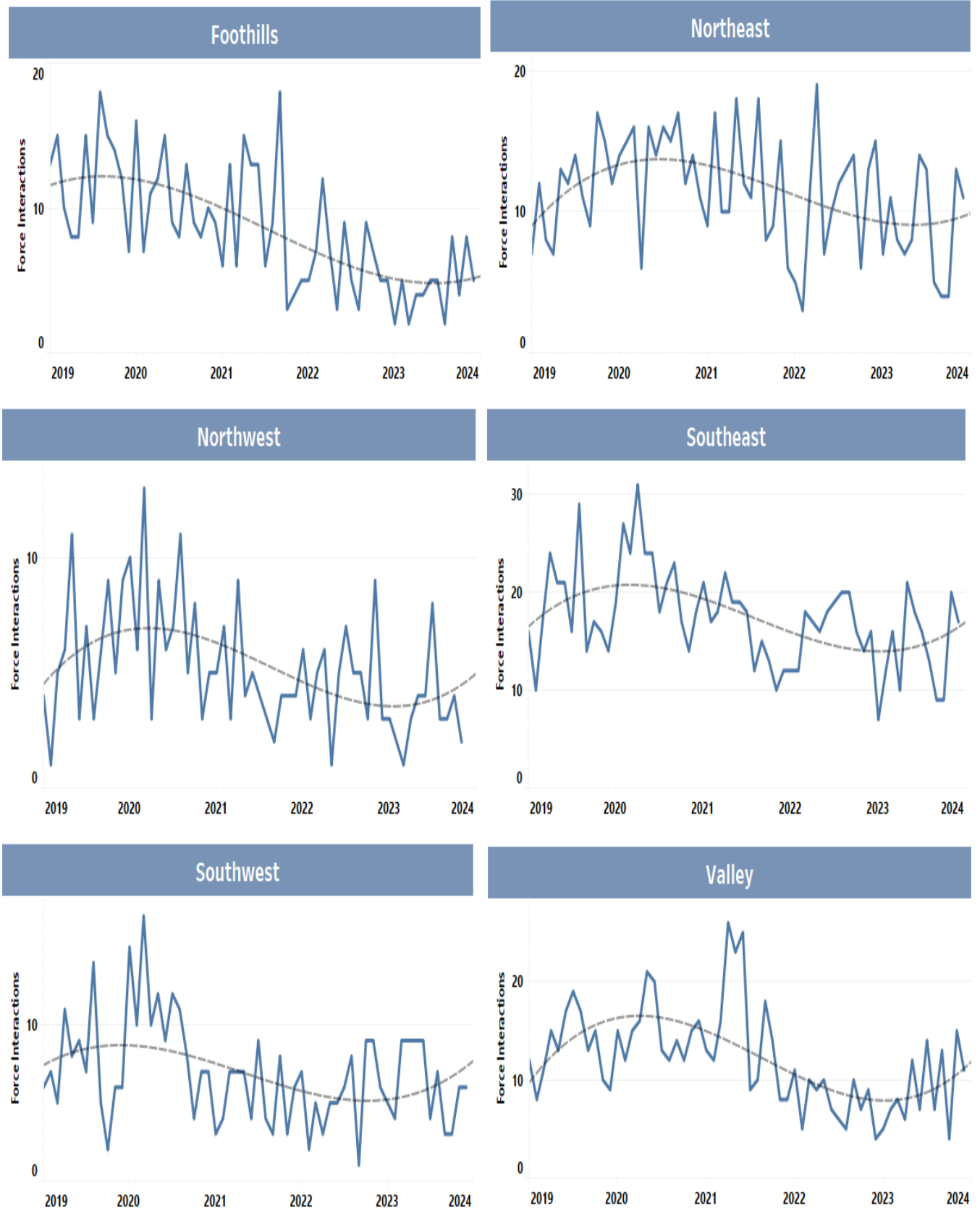
Force, Calls for Service, and Force Rates Over Time by Area Command					
	Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Northwest Area Command					
Calls for Service	56,450	51,817	44,135	48,551	49,714
Proactive Calls for Service	21,919	21,739	17,265	20,598	23,373
Reactive Calls for Service	34,531	30,078	26,870	27,953	26,341
Force Interactions	69	86	50	58	35
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service	4	13	3	15	8
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Call for Service	65	73	47	43	27
Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service	1.2	1.7	1.1	1.2	0.7
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Proactive Calls for Service	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.3
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Reactive Calls for Service	1.9	2.4	1.7	1.5	1.0
Southeast Area Command					
Calls for Service	89,516	87,739	97,525	87,246	94,573
Proactive Calls for Service	22,235	27,097	37,731	32,199	39,274
Reactive Calls for Service	67,281	60,642	59,794	55,047	55,299
Force Interactions	215	263	199	198	168
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service	35	47	40	41	56
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Call for Service	180	216	159	157	112
Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service	2.4	3.0	2.0	2.3	1.8
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Proactive Calls for Service	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.3	1.4
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Reactive Calls for Service	2.7	3.6	2.7	2.9	2.0

Force, Calls for Service, and Force Rates Over Time by Area Command					
	Year				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Southwest Area Command					
Calls for Service	41,285	42,173	40,552	50,042	54,959
Proactive Calls for Service	9,447	12,088	10,845	20,147	24,765
Reactive Calls for Service	31,838	30,085	29,707	29,895	30,194
Force Interactions	86	123	66	66	74
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service	9	18	6	6	12
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Call for Service	77	105	60	60	62
Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service	2.1	2.9	1.6	1.3	1.3
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Proactive Calls for Service	1.0	1.5	0.6	0.3	0.5
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Reactive Calls for Service	2.4	3.5	2.1	2.0	2.1
Valley Area Command					
Calls for Service	73,860	71,547	69,892	74,505	77,309
Proactive Calls for Service	22,434	26,824	26,816	33,439	36,260
Reactive Calls for Service	51,426	44,723	43,076	41,066	41,049
Force Interactions	159	184	186	93	109
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service	20	23	21	19	32
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Call for Service	139	161	165	74	77
Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service	2.1	2.6	2.7	1.2	1.4
Force Interactions Corresponding to Proactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Proactive Calls for Service	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.9
Force Interactions Corresponding to Reactive Calls for Service per 1,000 Reactive Calls for Service	2.7	3.6	3.8	1.8	1.9
**8,255 calls for service for the year 2023 are missing from the total calls by Area Command suggesting those calls were either listed for out of area or were not part of the six mentioned Area Commands.					

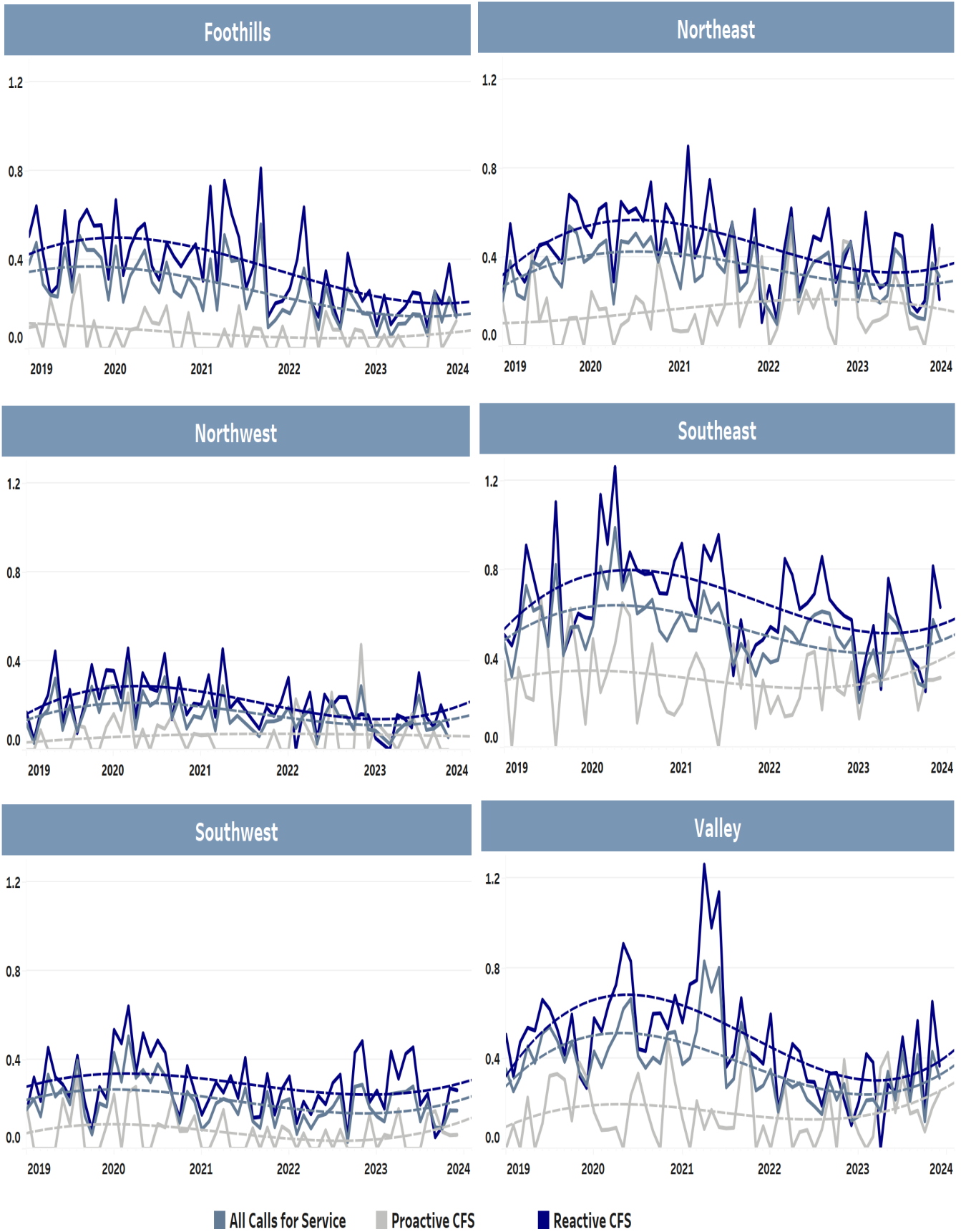
7.3 Monthly Calls for Service and Force Interactions by Area Commands



7.4 Monthly Force Interactions by Area Commands



7.5 Monthly Force Interactions per 1,000 Calls for Service by Area Commands



Glossary of Terms

08

40 mm – less-lethal launcher used for less lethal ammunition by trained department personnel

Accidental firearm discharge – unintended discharge, on-duty or not, of any firearm equipment by APD sworn personnel outside of a training environment or legal recreational activity

Active resistance - resistance exhibited by a suspect that is between passive resistance and aggressive resistance (e.g., attempts to leave the scene, flee, hide from detection, or pull away from the officer's grasp).

Animal shooting – the intentional discharge of a firearm at any animal by APD personnel during the scope of the officer's duties

Apprehension - the arrest, capture, or taking into custody of a person

Area Command – police service areas of APD located throughout Albuquerque that are led through the chain of command by an area commander. There are six Area Commands: Foothills, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest and Valley

Arrest – the taking of one person into custody by another. To constitute arrest there must be an actual restraint of the person. The restraint may be imposed by force or may result from the submission of the person arrested to the custody of the one arresting the person. An arrest is a restraint of greater scope or duration than an investigatory stop or detention. An arrest is lawful when supported by probable cause

Beanbag – small fabric pillow which is filled with lead pellets and fired from a dedicated less lethal 12-gauge shotgun

Bite ratio – calculation of the number of bite apprehensions divided by the total number of apprehensions for a given time period. For the purpose of this calculation, PSD bites will not include accidental or directed bites

CASA – court-approved settlement agreement designed to ensure police integrity, protect officer safety and prevent the use of excessive force

Critical firearm discharge – discharges of a lethal firearm by an officer, including accidental discharges and discharges where no person is struck. Range and training firings, destruction of animals, and off-duty hunting discharges where no person is struck are not critical firearm discharges

ECW - cycle – the period during which electrical impulses are emitted from the ECW following activation. In most models, a standard cycle is 5 seconds for each activation. The duration of a cycle may be shortened by turning the ECW off but may be extended in certain models by continuing to hold the trigger

Demographic category – race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender expression or gender identity, sexual orientation, and limited English proficiency, if known

Display of weapon – drawing and exhibiting a weapon, to include firearm and ECW, as part of a warning tactic, typically accompanied by appropriate verbalization

ECW – electronic control weapon; a weapon, including those manufactured by Taser international, designed primarily to discharge electrical charges into an individual that will cause involuntary muscle contractions and override the individual's voluntary motor responses

ECW arcing – activating an ECW without discharging the probes, sometimes done as a warning to an individual

ECW painting – the act of upholstering and pointing an ECW at an individual and activating the ECW's laser dot to show that the weapon is aimed at the individual

ECW drive-stun mode – pressing and holding the ECW against the individual as it is cycled. This can be done in two configurations:

Drive-stun only – this technique involves pressing the ECW against the individual while it is energized without probe deployment, causing pain but minimal or no neuro-muscular incapacitation. This technique is solely a pain compliance technique and is prohibited.

Follow-up drive-stun – this technique is used as a follow-up to a probe deployment. It can increase the effectiveness of the ECW by increasing the spread between the connections in the event of a close-quarter probe deployment, completing the circuit in the event of a clothing disconnect or when only one probe has made a connection with the individual.

ECW standoff mode – discharging the ECW with a cartridge on the device, which propels the probes towards the individual and, upon effective contact, is intended to cause neuromuscular incapacitation

Empty hand technique – strikes, grabs, kicks, takedowns, distraction techniques and proper arrest techniques to control an actively resistant individual

English proficiency – ability to use the English language to make and communicate meaning verbally and in writing

Firearm – a pistol, revolver, shotgun, carbine, or machine gun, as well as any instrument capable of discharging a bullet or shot

Firearm discharge – when the trigger is pulled on a firearm and releases a projectile

Force – any physical means used to defend the officer or others, restrain, overcome resistance, or otherwise gain physical control of an individual

FRB – Force Review Board

Gender – the attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that a given culture associates with a person’s sex. Behaviors that are viewed as incompatible with these cultural associations may be considered gender non-conformity. For purposes of entering information in a database, an individual’s gender is determined based on an officer’s perception and observations, which may or may not be verified with information displayed on the individual’s government, NGO or company identification card or through self-identification. In this context, individuals may be categorized as either male, female, or transgender

Gender expression – the way in which a person expresses their gender identity, typically through their appearance, dress, and behavior

Involved individual – the person upon whom force was used or shown

Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD) - the division of the department responsible for timely, fairly, impartially, and thoroughly investigating internal complaints of policy violations by department personnel and uses of force.

Involved officer - An officer who used force or a show of force; or a supervisor who used force, ordered force, authorized force, or participated in a use of force

Less lethal force – force technique not intended or expected to cause death or serious injury and which is commonly understood to have less potential for causing death or serious injury than conventional, more lethal police tactics. Use of less lethal force can nonetheless result in death or serious injury

OC – oleoresin capsicum; an inflammatory agent meant to assist officers in the control of actively resistant individuals. Commonly known as “pepper spray.”

OC fogger – non-lethal pepper spray fog that evaporates instead of leaving a residue behind. It is optimized for riot control in confined areas.

OC spray – a temporarily disabling aerosol composed partly of capsicum oleoresin and causes irritation and blinding of the eyes and inflammation of the nose, throat, and skin

OC vapor – non-flammable vapor designed to primarily affect a person’s respiratory system. Ideal for cell extractions or barricade situations where the use of pyrotechnic, powder or liquid devices is not practical or desired

Officer – personnel who are certified law enforcement officers through the New Mexico Department of Public Safety

On-Body Recording Device (OBRD) – a recording device issued by the department that is affixed to the body

Out of area – any area outside the normal APD response area

Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) – a precision maneuver, which involves intentional, vehicle-to vehicle contact and consists of a pursuing officer applying lateral pressure with the front corner or their vehicle to the rear quarter panel of the fleeing suspect’s vehicle, resulting in a predictable spin

PSD – police service dog (also known as K9/canine)

Probe deployment – pulling the trigger to release the probes from the cartridge to make contact with the individual and achieve neuromuscular incapacitation

Race/ethnicity – race and ethnicity are two distinct fields collected during the investigation. An individual’s race/ethnicity is determined based on an officer’s initial perception and observations, which may or may not be verified with information displayed on the individual’s government, NGO, or company identification card or through self-identification. The categories collected for ethnicity are: Hispanic, non-Hispanic, and unknown. The categories collected for race are: White, Black, Asian, Native American, mixed race, other, prefer not to answer, and Unknown. APD recodes these variables to align more closely with the race and ethnicity categorization of the US Census Bureau. If an individual is identified as Hispanic, they will be classified as Hispanic regardless of their race in this report. The categories used in this report are: Hispanic; White, non-Hispanic; Black, non-Hispanic; Native American, non-Hispanic; other, non-Hispanic; mixed race, non-Hispanic; Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic; and Unknown.

Serious physical injury – physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes death or serious and protracted disfigurement; or impairment of the function of any bodily organ or limb

Show of force – pointing a firearm, beanbag shotgun, 40 millimeter impact launcher, OC spray, or ECW at an individual, or using an ECW to “paint” an individual with the laser sight or utilizing a warning arc

SOP – standard operating procedure

SWAT – special weapons and tactics team considered to be a specialized tactical unit within the department

Tactical activation – to put specialized tactical units whose focus is on tactical solutions to critical incidents that involve a threat to public safety or high risk situations on notice of potential deployment (referred to as SWAT deployment in the CASA)

Takedowns – solo – the act of a single officer bringing an individual to the ground by utilizing a hands on approach in order to gain control of the individual

Takedowns – team – the act of more than one officer bringing an individual to the ground by utilizing a hands on approach in order to gain control of the individual

Taser – a brand of an electronic control weapon used by APD officers

Use of force – physical effort to compel compliance by an unwilling individual above un-resisted handcuffing