

Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Date: 12 February 2025

To: Steven Stewart, Police Chief *SSA #156*

Through: Steven Tenney, Captain *ST #142*

Through: Michael Kopcha, Captain *[Signature]*

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

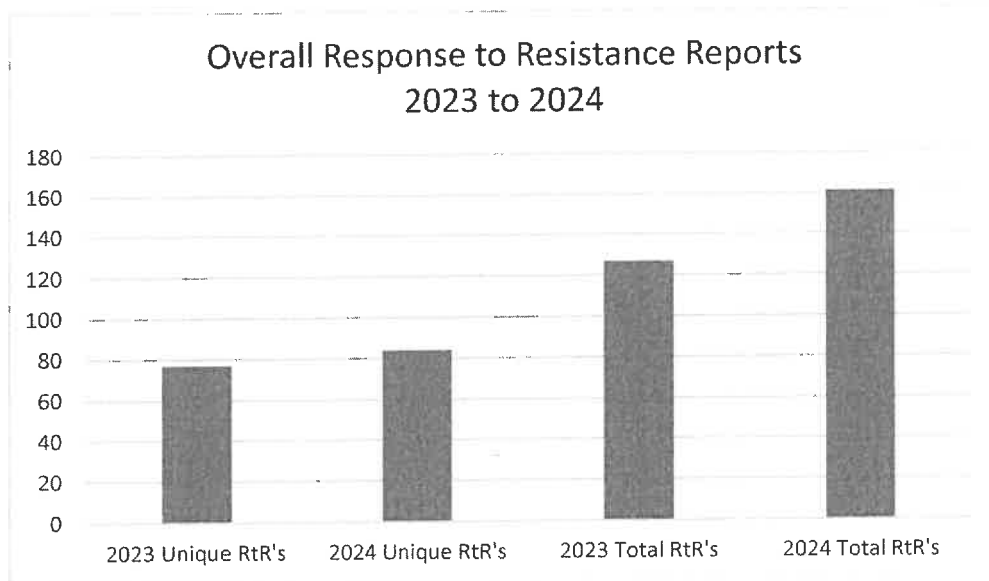
Subject: 2024 Response to Resistance Analysis

During January of 2025, I conducted an analysis of all 2024 Response to Resistance (RtR) reports filed by Keene Police Officers for completeness, developing trends and effectiveness of weapons, techniques and training.

In calendar year 2024 the Keene Police Department made 1074 arrests, including Involuntary Emergency Admissions and releases on Court Summonses. Suspect initial behavior or resistance towards KPD officers lawful commands led to some level of force response in 84 unique incidents (57 Arrest Reports (AR's), 27 Offense Reports (OF's)) or 7.8% of total suspect detentions. From these 84 unique incidents, 161 Response to Resistance reports were filed, the result of multiple officers often being present and applying force in response to suspect resistance. Arrest Reports produced 108 RtR filings, while OF's produced the remaining 53 RtR's. In calendar year 2023, suspect behavior led to some level of Officer force response in 6% of detention situations.

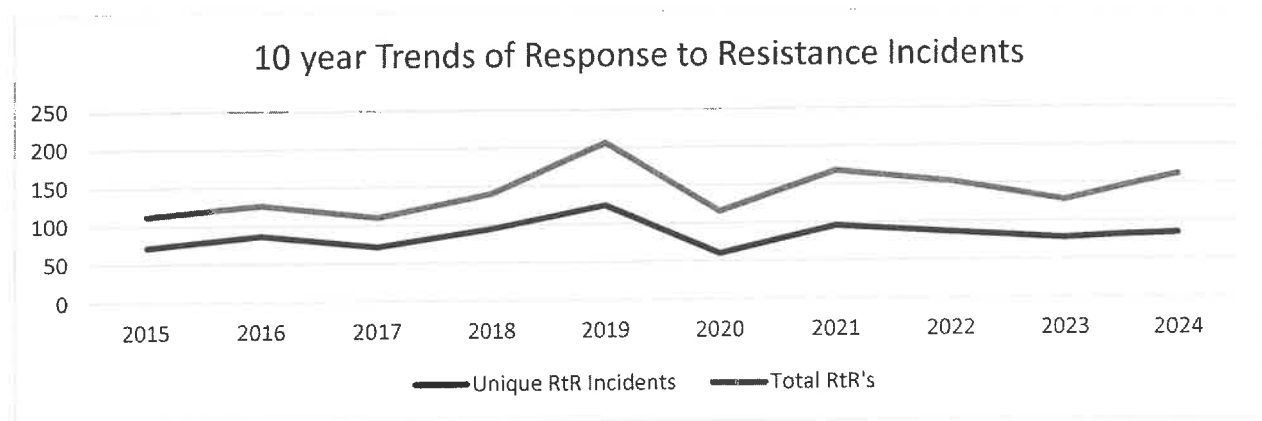
The nature of the AR-related RtR's varied widely, from subduing aggressive shoplifters, combative trespassers, foot- and motor vehicle pursuits, domestic violence incidents, uncooperative inebriates and a handful of drug transportation cases. The OF-related RtR's involved IEA's or suicidal subjects who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

The 84 unique incident total for 2024 was a 9% increase from 2023, which had 77 unique incidents. The 161 total RtR's filed in 2024 was also more (26.7% more) than 2023, which had 127 RtR's filed. This relationship is illustrated below.

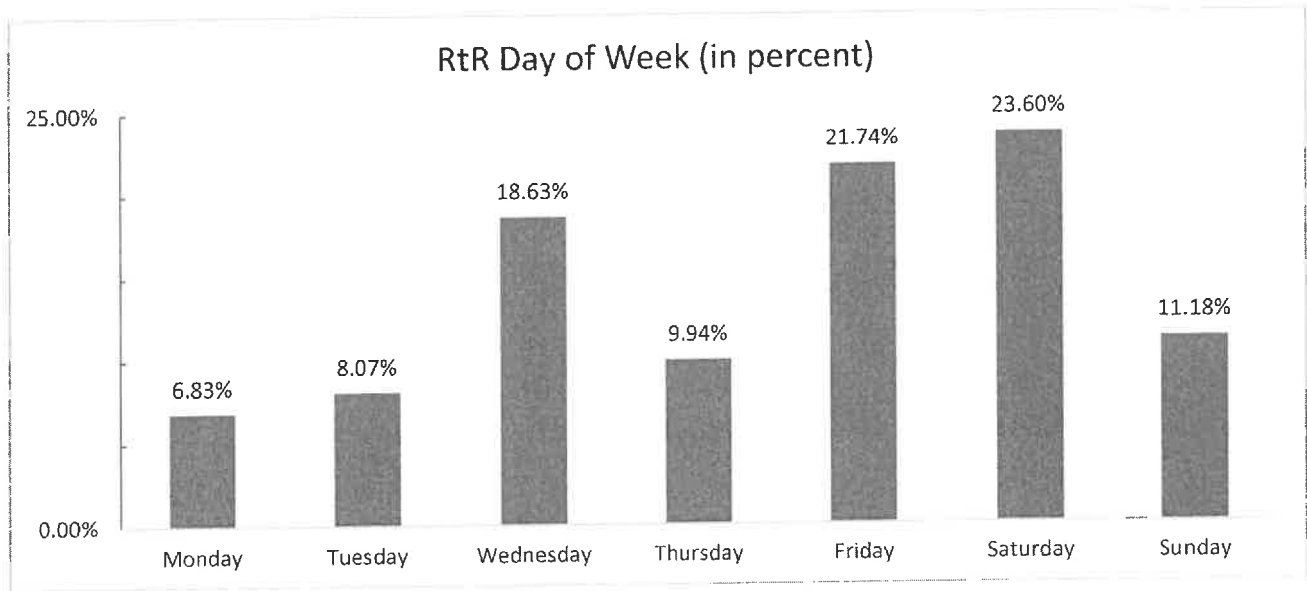
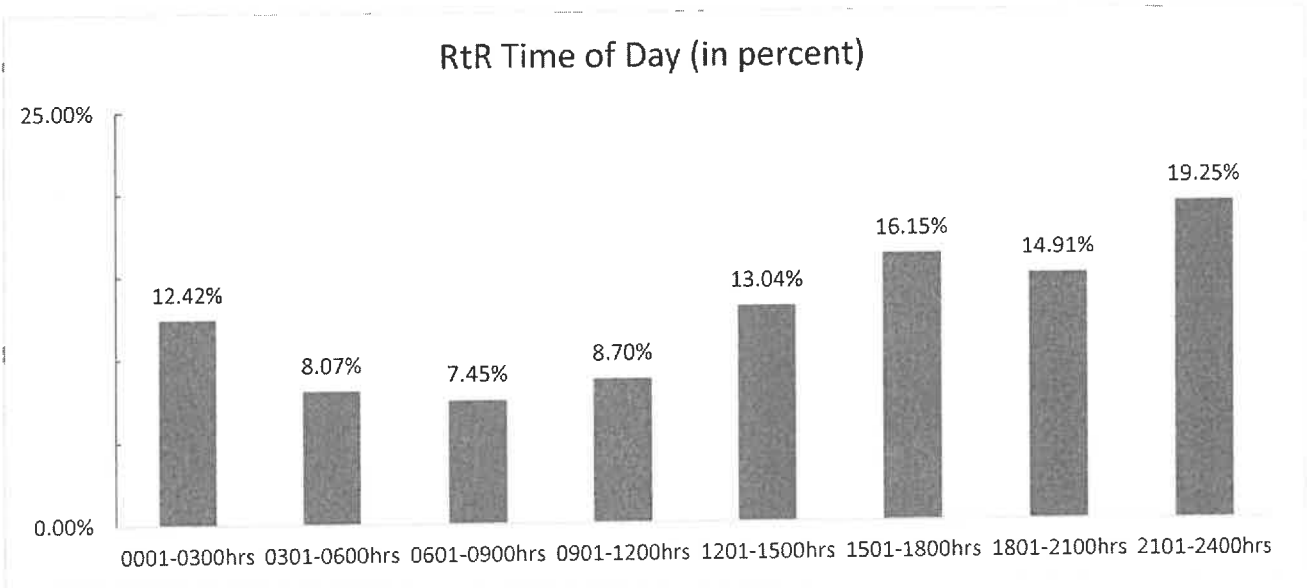


Call volume increased 2.3% from 2023 (29892 calls) to 2024 (30591 calls). A large number of individual incidents had multiple officers responding to a suspect's resistance. Two or three officers using force to overcome resistance was most common, though there were a few cases where up to five officers utilized force. Additional agency training in de-escalation techniques often results in officers slowing incidents down, allowing additional officers and other resources to arrive. This also often allowed officers on the scene to resolve the issue at a much lower level of force, such as simply forcing a suspect's hands back for handcuffing, or pulling them into a cruiser, rather than having to resort to strikes or other techniques.

An examination of the past ten years of RtR data is illustrated below. Factors affecting these trends vary widely, from staffing levels and relative tenure and experience of officers, to changes in societal acceptance of resistance to lawful police actions, to current equipment, training trends and organizational self-accountability.

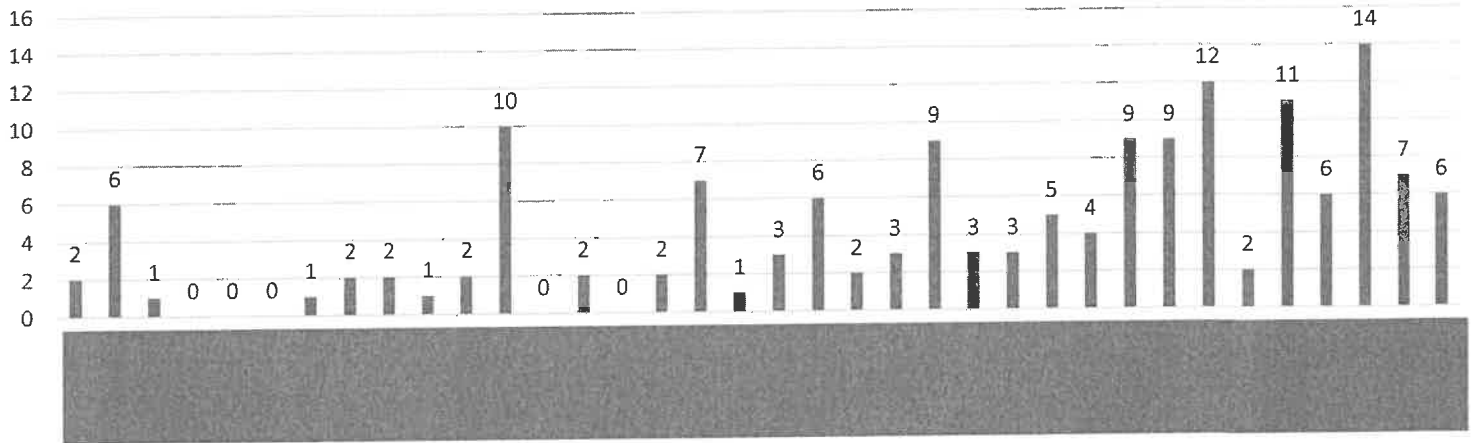


A day / time analysis of the 84 unique RtR incidents showed the following breakdown by time of day and then by day of week. The hours between 0300hrs and 0900hrs saw the fewest RtR's, which includes typical sleep times and low activity levels. Saturday accounted for the most RtR incidents, Monday the fewest.

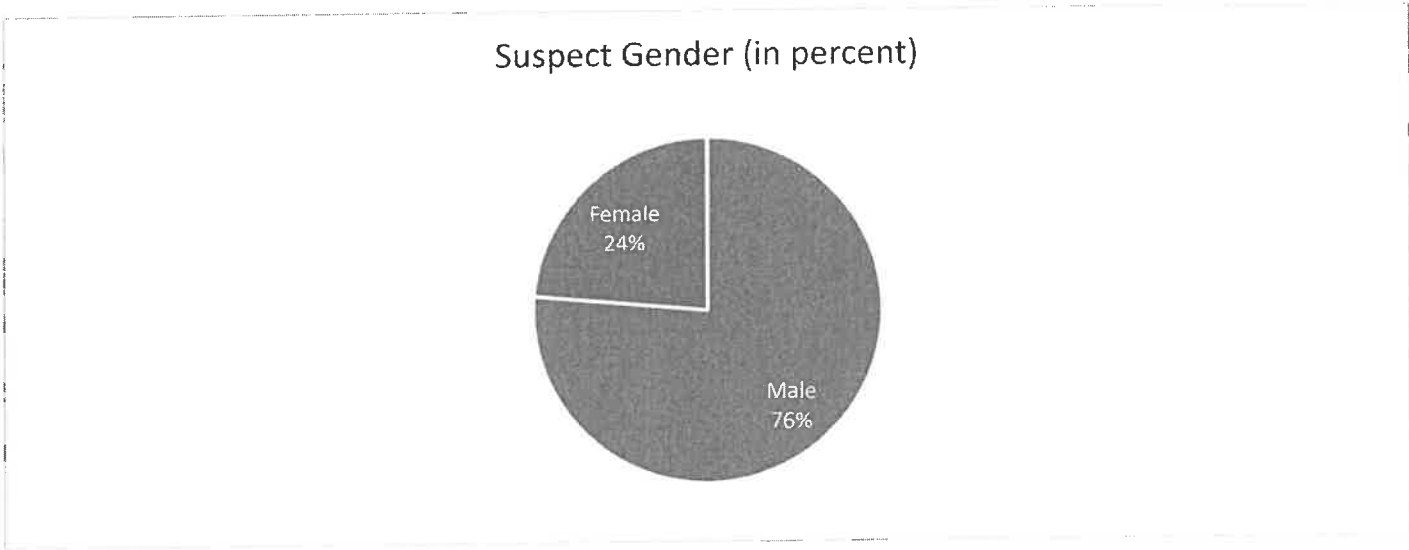
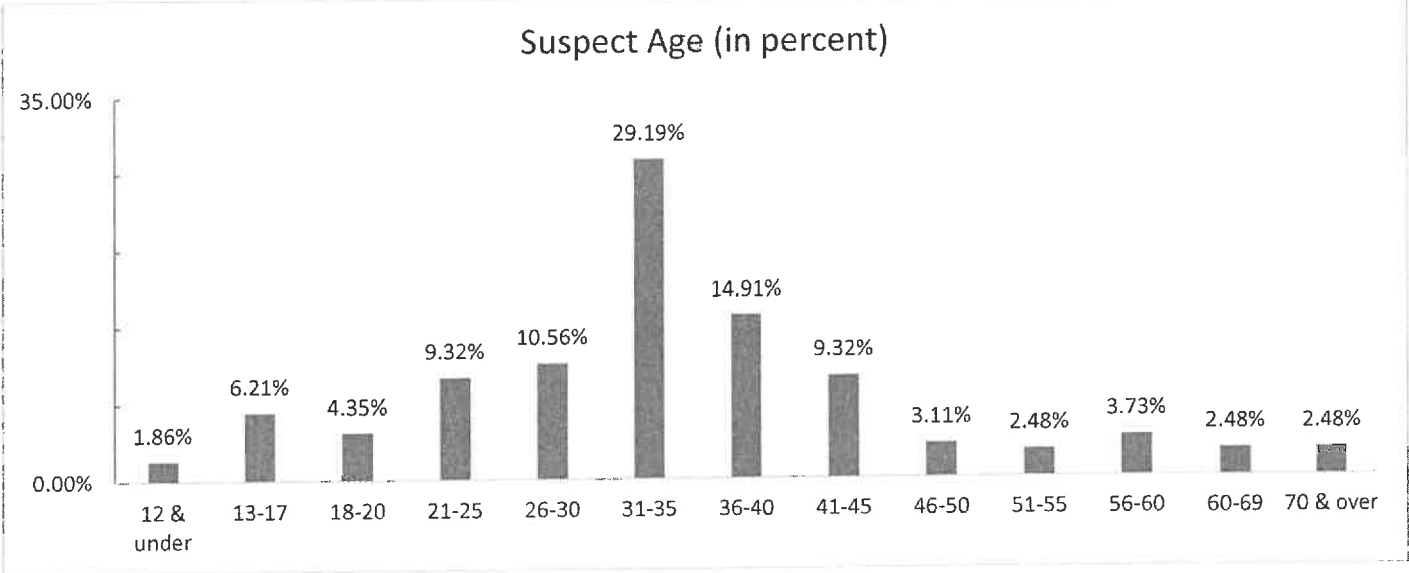


Analysis of the numbers of RtR reports filed by individual officers generally showed the predictable (and historic) trend that dayshift officers report fewer uses of force than evening or night shift officers. All uses of force were reviewed for compliance with NH statutes and Department policy, and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

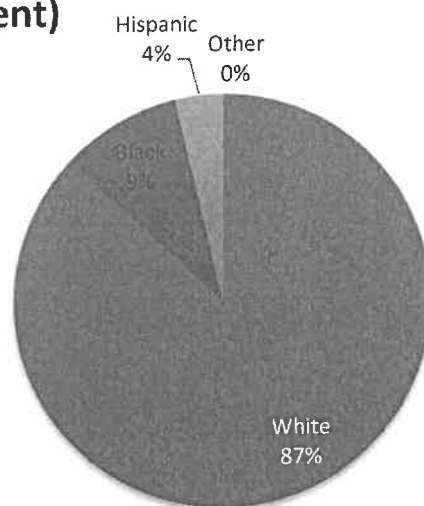
Force applied in response to subject resistance, by Officer



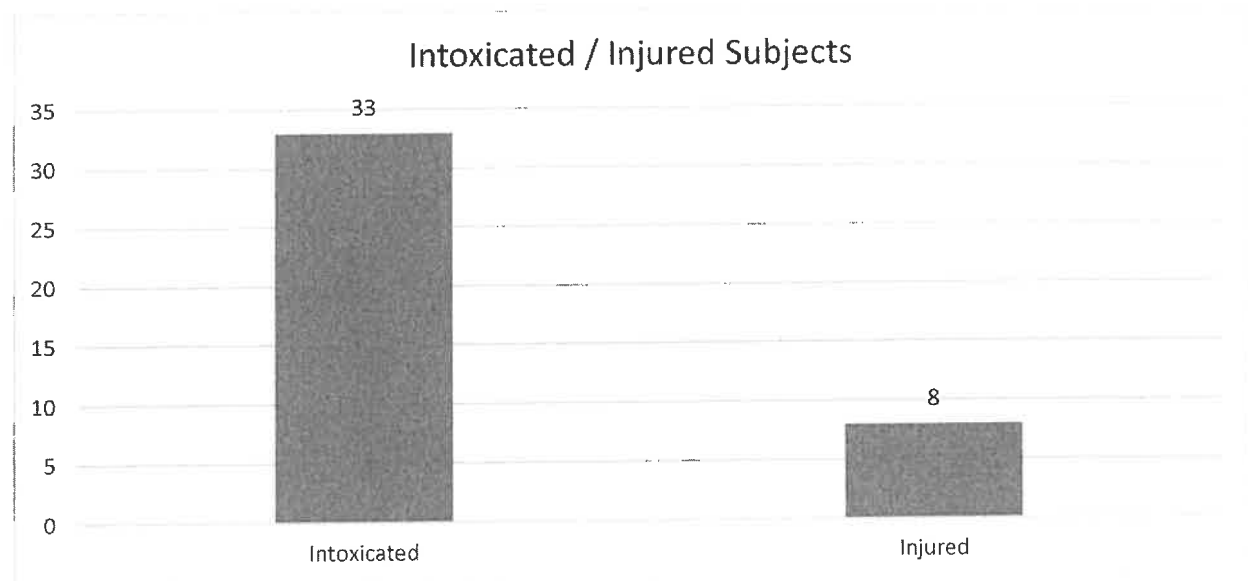
Analysis of the suspects involved showed the bulk of RtR's applied on white males between twenty-one and forty-five years of age.



Suspect Race (in percent)

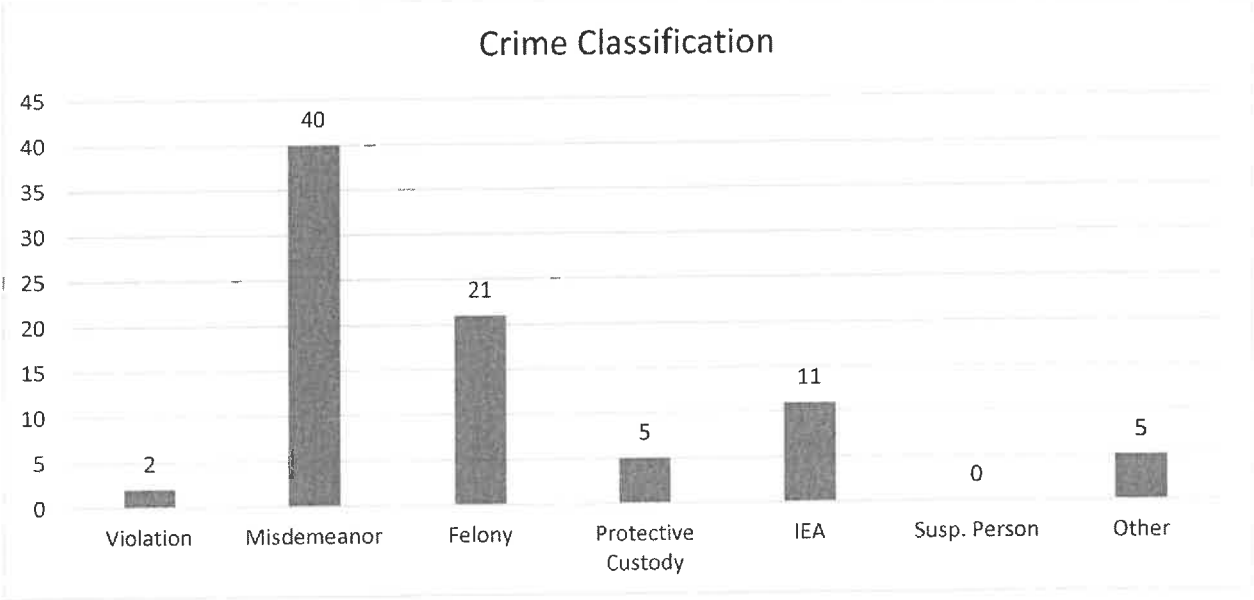


Of the 84 unique incidents, suspects were intoxicated in 33 of them and injured in 8 instances. Of the subject injuries, all were minor. A few subjects suffered minor injuries prior to Police contact, or acted out and hurt themselves when Police arrived, while a few were injured fleeing from the Police on foot or in a vehicle. Some subjects were pepper-sprayed.



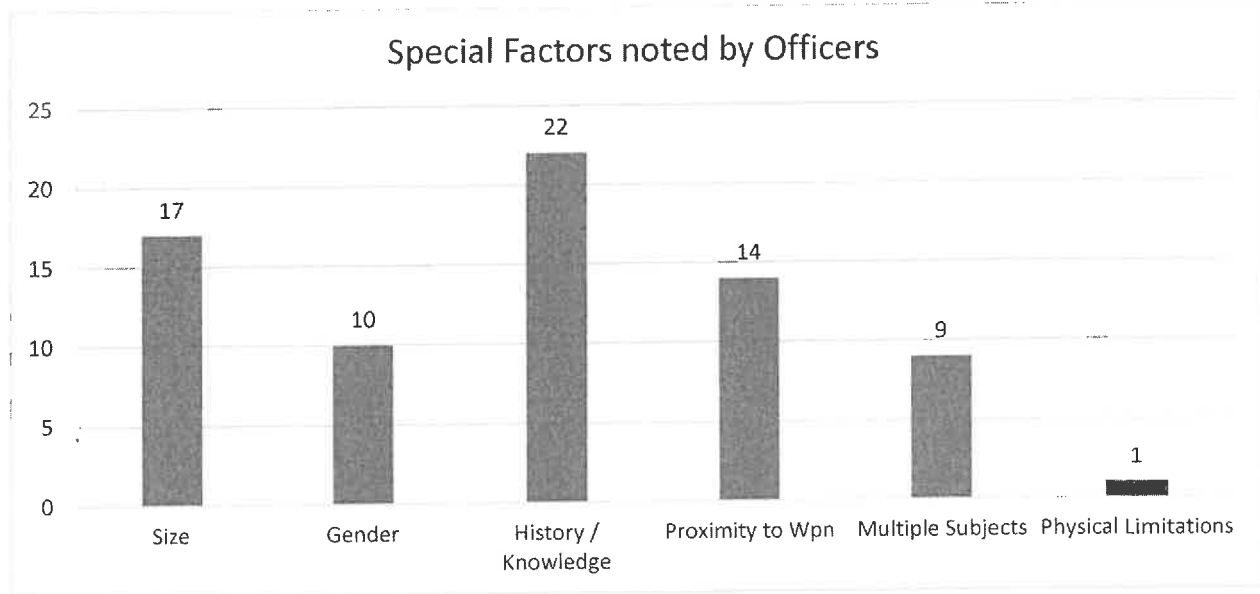
This translates to a 39% intoxication rate and a 9.5% injury rate for subjects whose actions resulted in force applied by the Police. Comparable data for 2023 showed a 32% intoxication rate and a 7.8% injury rate.

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



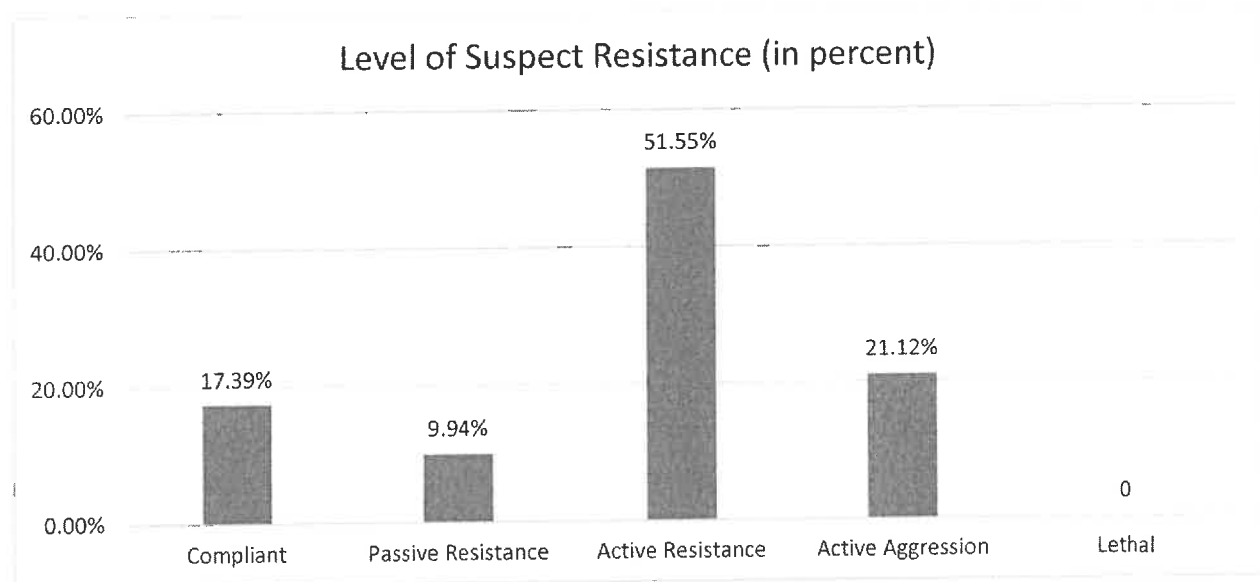
A comparison of 2024 RtR by Crime Classification to the same categories from 2023 showed violations for 2024 at two, 2023 also at two. Misdemeanors for 2024 were at 40 of the total, 2023 were at 68. Felonies for 2024 accounted for twenty-one of the total, in 2023 there were nineteen. Protective Custodies for 2024 were five of the total, while 2023 PC's were at seven.

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



Note the high number for "Prior History / Knowledge," which suggest prior encounters with the same suspects, or in many cases, dispatchers effectively conveying information.

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



Officers used "Hand Techniques" most often (139 during the year), which is logical as it is the most readily available force option. The most commonly used techniques within that category included "arm bars," "wrist locks," and "other" techniques such as tackling or just pushing, pulling or holding a suspect down.

Next common was "Firearms or Special Weapons" with 38 uses, with all being "displayed only." Within this category there were several instances of felony vehicle stops of drug transporting cars, criminal threatenings with guns or knives, vehicle pursuits and other incidents where officers aimed firearms or less-lethal special weapons at suspects and successfully gained their compliance. Issued weapons, such as the Glock pistol, patrol rifle and the 40mm Less Lethal Launcher were utilized.

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

The expandable baton was used twice, once displayed only, and once to pry a suspects arm out from under them.

The Tactical Team was used five times for high risk warrant services.

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

Pursuant to this RtR Analysis, coordination is ongoing with the force instructor staff to ensure that future RtR training remains pertinent and effective, as well as the continual review of equipment, techniques, practices and policy, to support the officers in the field in keeping with the Department mission. We continue to conduct De-Escalation training in excess of the formal requirements. At present, current training is meeting this agency's needs, and the training calendar covers all force options, concentrating on mastery of basic skills.