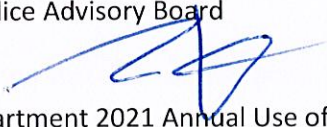


To: Ohio Community-Police Advisory Board
Fr: Chief Todd A. Kitzler 
Su: Rossford Police Department 2021 Annual Use of Force Analysis
Dt: April 6, 2022

The following is a use of force analysis, which is required on an annual basis by the Ohio Community-Police Advisory Board. This report takes an in-depth look into the 20 use of force incidents that occurred in 2021, with a focus on the action(s) of subjects and the use of force response by the officer(s). This report also details other factors that may have contributed to the incidents, as well as incident types, subject demographics, conclusions, and recommendations.

The Rossford Police Department use of force policy provides guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every member of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner. Policy defines force as, the application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person. It is not a use of force when a person allows him/herself to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained.

Every use of force, as defined above, requires that the officer using the force, timely complete a use of force report. This report is reviewed by the officer's supervisor and the Chief of Police. The purpose for this review is to determine if the force used was objectively reasonable, and that no policy violations occurred.

The reasonableness of force is judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.

Our use of force policy also contains a duty to intercede section, that requires any officer present that observes another officer using force, that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. The officer must also report these observations to a supervisor.

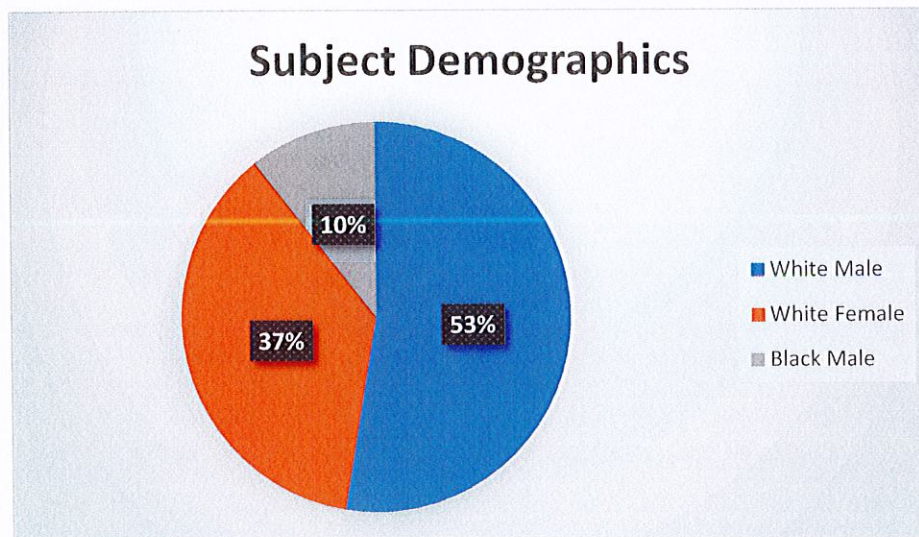
2021 Use of Force Analysis - Types of Incidents



The Rossford Police Department answered 8698 calls for service in 2021, with 211 incidents that were cleared by arrest. Only 9.5 % of those incidents cleared by arrest involved a use of force by an officer.

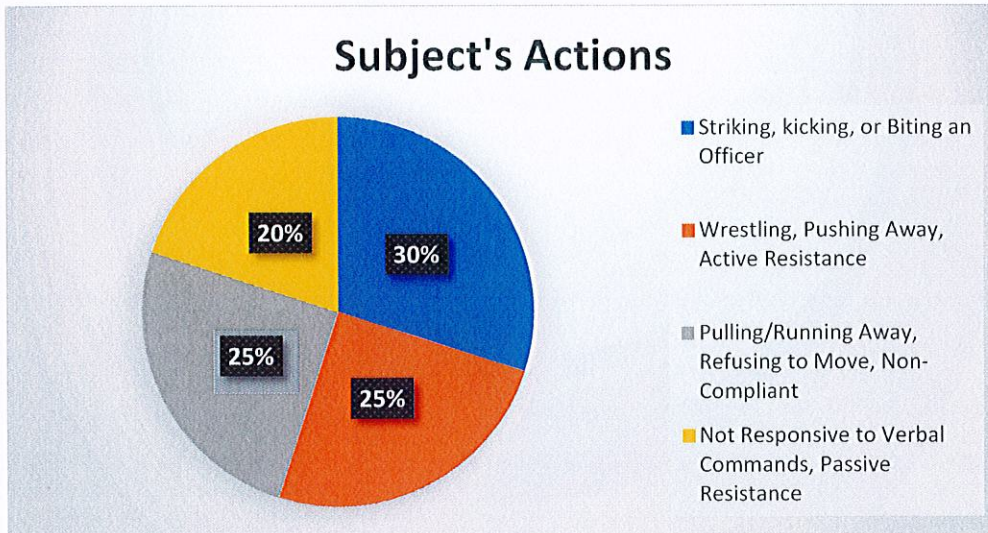
Incidents involving involuntary commitments to mental health facilities account for 25% of our use of force. The Ohio Revised Code gives officers the authority to take a person into custody if he or she has reason to believe that the person is mentally ill or presents a substantial risk of imminent physical harm to him/herself or others.

2021 Use of Force Analysis - Race Demographics (Subjects)



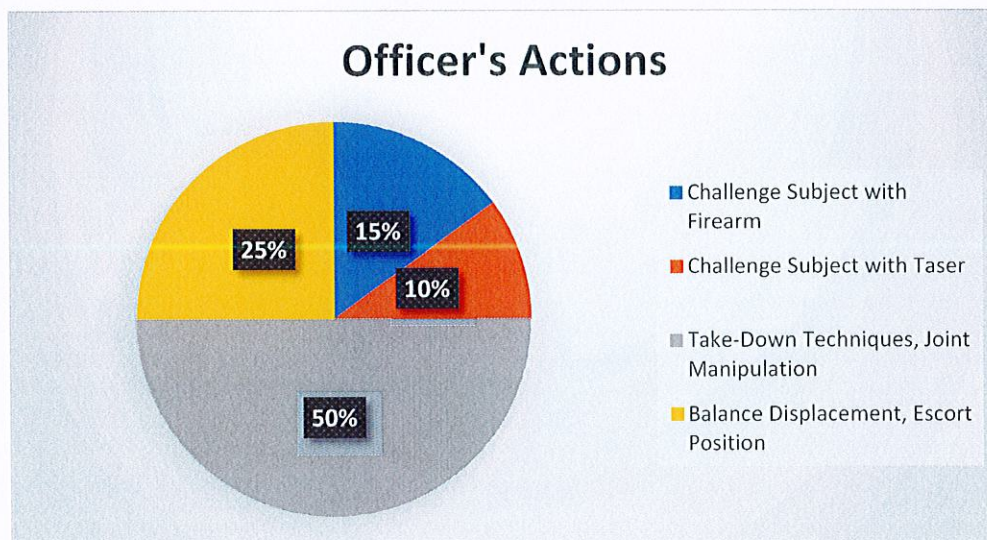
No other race, other than listed in the chart above, was listed in a 2021 use of force report. 2020 U.S. Census data on race for the City of Rossford, Ohio lists White at 94.2% and Black or African American at 1.1% (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/rossfordcityohio>).

2021 Use of Force Analysis – Subject’s Actions



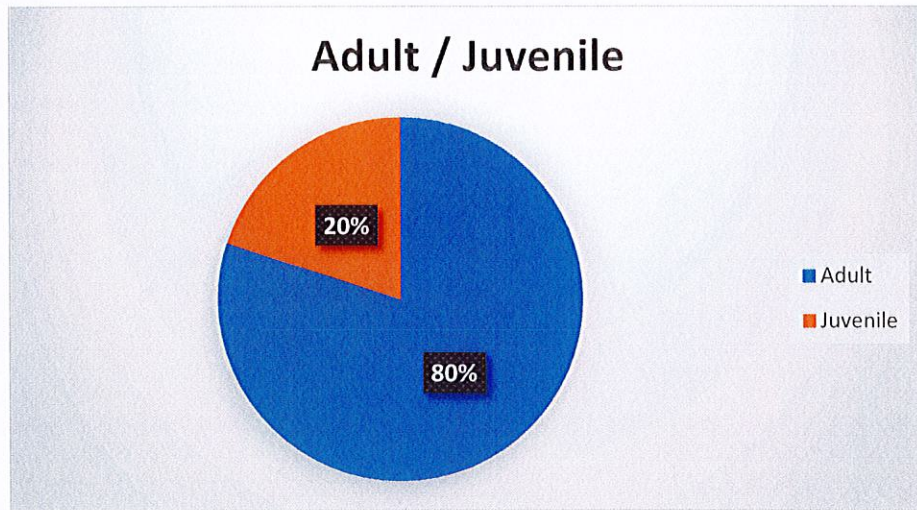
This chart represents what actions subjects took to resist an officer in 2021. In response to these actions, the officers of the Rossford Police Department shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event, to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

2021 Use of Force Analysis – Officer’s Actions



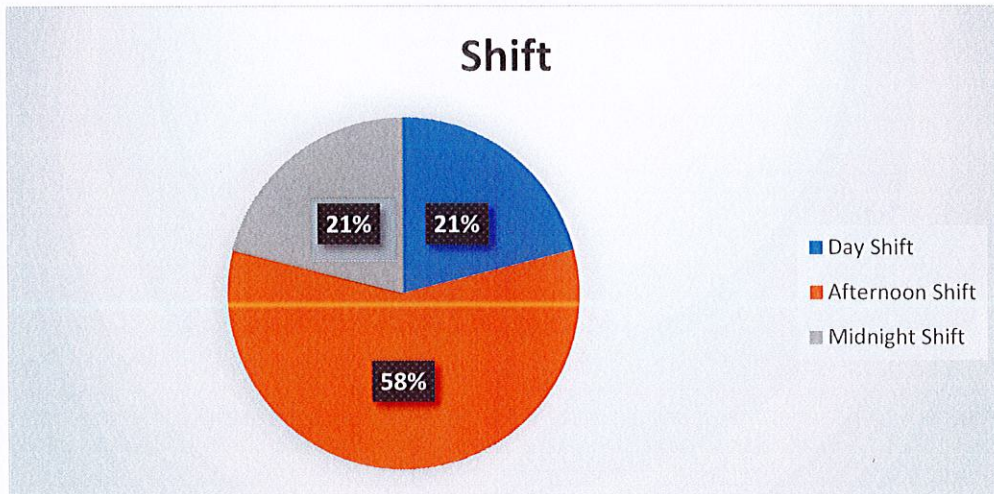
The chart above lists what actions officers took to overcome the subject's resistance. 75% of the 2021 use of force incidents involved low-level use of force techniques, such as escort positions, joint manipulations, or take-downs. Officers displayed a Taser or firearm in the remaining 25% of the incidents.

2021 Use of Force Analysis – Adult / Juvenile Subjects



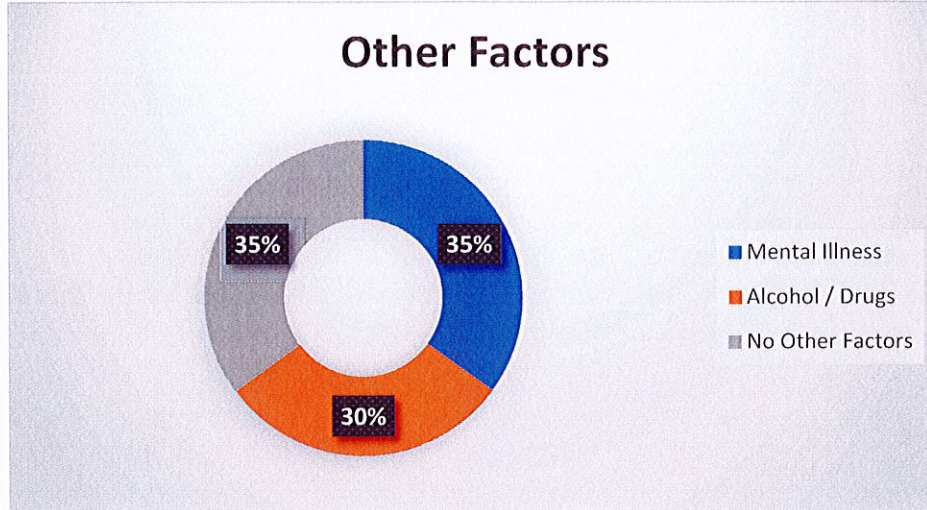
In 2021, 80% of our use of force incidents involved an adult, and 20% involved a juvenile subject. All of the incidents involving juveniles were either unruly or disorderly conduct calls for service.

2021 Use of Force Analysis – Use of Force by Shift



A staff analysis conducted in 2021 revealed the afternoon shift handled approximately 44% of citizen-generated calls for service, while the day and midnight shifts answered 36% and 20% respectively. The use of force by shift data represented above is in line with those numbers.

2021 Use of Force Analysis - Other Factors



Mental illness and/or a subject's use of alcohol or drugs is a factor that officers must take into consideration when deciding what level of force is reasonably necessary to make an arrest. 65% of our use of force incidents in 2021 involved the subject being either mentally ill or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Injuries to Officers

No officers were injured in use of force incidents in 2021.

Injuries to Subjects

3 subjects were injured in 2021 during use of force incidents. All were listed as minor injuries that did not require medical attention.

2021 Complaints for Unreasonable Uses of Force

No complaints of unreasonable use of force were received in 2021. The department utilizes a personnel complaints procedure that accepts and addresses all complaints of misconduct in accordance with policy, applicable federal, state and local law, municipal and county rules, and the requirements of any collective bargaining agreements.

Conclusions

After analyzing all of the use of force data from 2021, it is apparent that RPD officers are following the use of force policy, and that accurate and timely reporting of these incidents is being conducted. The low number of injuries to both officers and subjects is a testament to how the department reacts to

actively or passively resistant subjects. It is also evident that a large majority of our use of force incidents stem from subjects being either mentally ill or under the influence.

Recommendations

Training in the form of daily training bulletins (DTBs) and in-service sessions should continue with a focus on de-escalation in 2022. The department is hosting training on real world de-escalation and duty to intercede in April of 2022. Any officers that have not been trained in crisis intervention (CIT), should be scheduled to attend a locally sponsored event by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Officers that are CIT trained, should attempt to attend an advanced CIT course in 2022.

The use of force reporting form will be updated in 2022 to include many items needed to easier complete this use of force analysis in the future.

Supervisors and Chief of Police will continue to review each use of force report and any body-worn camera video of the incident, to ensure that policy and procedure are being followed.