

2015 Response to Resistance Dataset
Austin Police Department



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Austin Police Department:
Research and Planning Unit

Background

This document summarizes the key data points related to response to resistance reporting. Department policy (General Order 200) states that:

it is the policy of this department that officers use only that amount of objectively reasonable force which appears necessary under the circumstances to successfully accomplish the legitimate law enforcement purpose in accordance with this policy.

and response to resistance (use of force) is defined by the same policy as:

Any physical contact with a subject by an officer using the body or any object, device, or weapon, not including unresisted escorting or handcuffing a subject...Any complaint by a subject that an officer caused pain or injury shall be treated as a response to resistance force incident, except complaints of minor discomfort from unresisted handcuffing.

When officers encounter these situations, policy requires the primary reporting officer to write the initial incident report, other officers involved in the incident to write supplements, and the supervisor to review the report.

Three force levels are used for reporting, investigation, and review purposes:

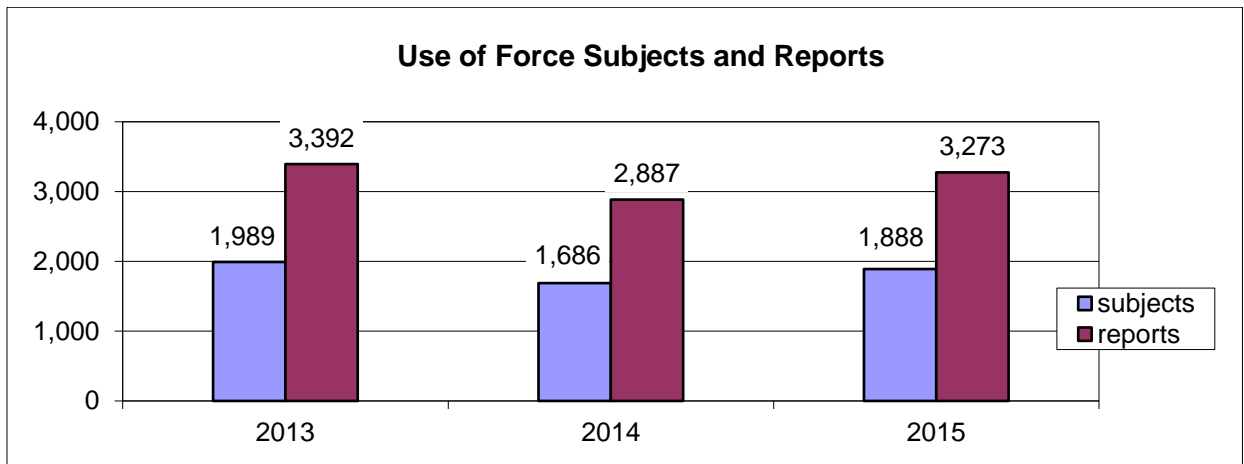
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• force resulting in death or substantial risk of death• intentional firearm discharge at a person, vehicle or structure• unintentional firearm discharge resulting in another person's injury or death• force resulting in serious bodily injury requiring admittance to the hospital• use of impact weapon that strikes subject's head
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• strike to the head with any weaponless technique• use of impact weapon that strikes subject (other than head)• deployment of a police canine resulting in a bite or injury• use of Taser that causes incapacitation
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use of chemical agent (e.g., pepper spray)• use of Taser that does not cause incapacitation• use of impact weapon that does not strike subject• use of baton for non-striking purposes• force resulting in injury or complaint of pain beyond the temporary discomfort of un-resisted handcuffing• use of weaponless technique

In addition, the department's Force Review Board reviews all Level 1 and Level 2 incidents to assess the quality and timeliness of the reporting, investigation, and chain-of-command review. The board may also identify improvements in policy, tactics, and training.

During 2015, department policy was revised to require commanders to identify training issues associated with the highest level of force and to request department-wide training when indicated.

Number of Use of Force Reports and Subjects

During 2015, there were 3,273 response to resistance reports (unique use of force events) and 1,888 subjects (those who received force).

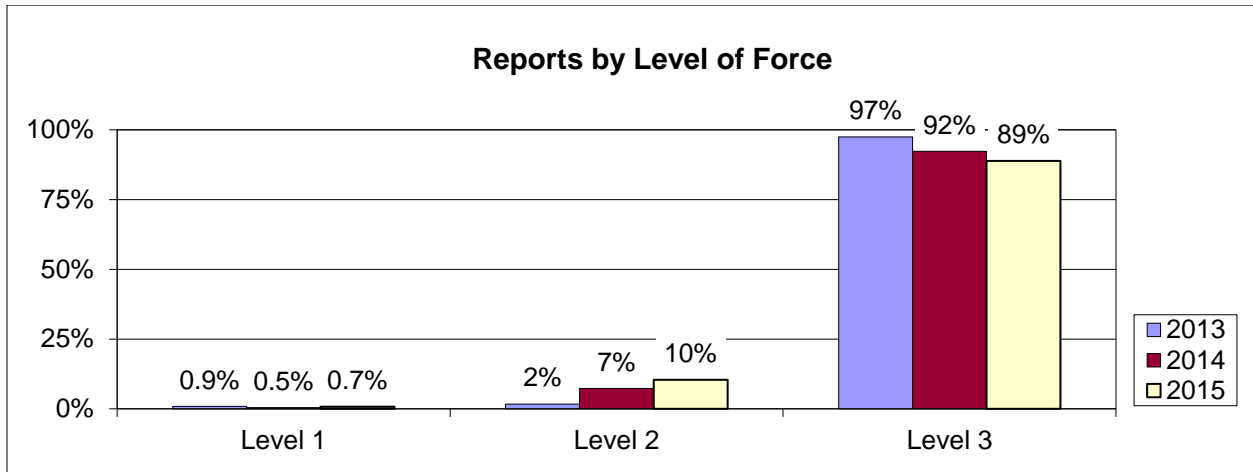


To provide context, we also track the total number of police contacts (567,145 in 2015) and total arrests (44,037 in 2015). Of the total police contacts, .3% involved resistance/force. And of total arrests, 4.3% involved resistance/force.

	2013	2014	2015
use of force reports	3,392	2,887	3,273
subjects who had force used	1,989	1,686	1,888
total contacts	616,095	591,163	567,145
total arrests	53,291	48,649	44,037
subjects receiving force as % of total contacts	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
subjects receiving force as % of total arrests	3.7%	3.5%	4.3%

Reports by Level of Force Used

During 2015, as in prior years, use of force reports were concentrated in Level 3, the least severe level.



Use of Force Subjects and Race/Ethnicity

Most use of force incidents occur when an officer attempts to make an arrest. In 2015, there were 1,888 subjects involved in a use of force incident, which is 4.3% of the 44,037 subjects arrested citywide. The table below shows the distribution of force and arrests by race/ethnicity.

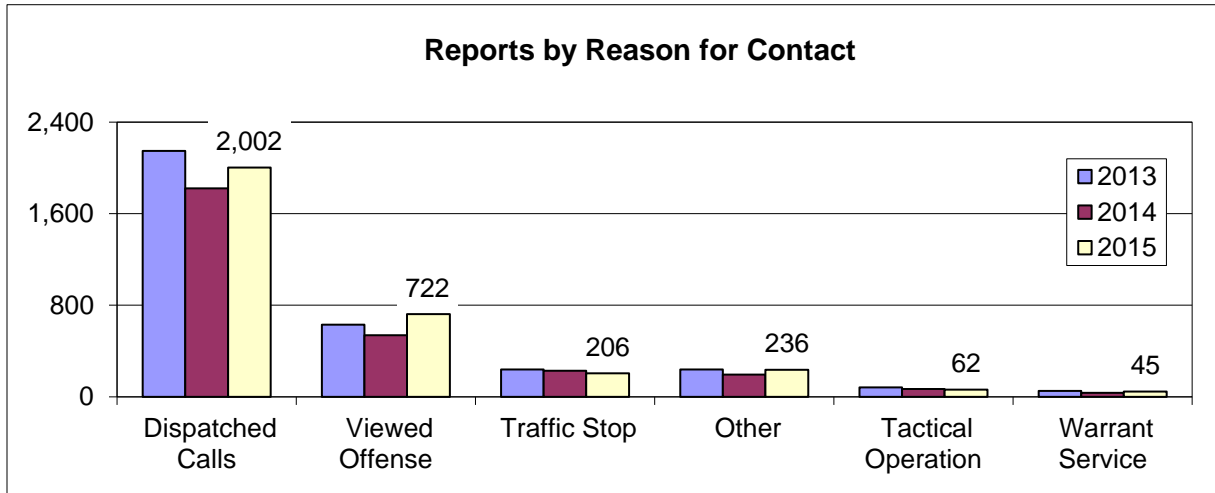
	White			Black			Hispanic		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2015	17,856	624	3.5%	10,814	511	4.7%	14,519	611	4.2%
2014	19,531	571	2.9%	11,832	466	3.9%	16,385	586	3.6%
2013	21,669	723	3.3%	13,172	533	4.0%	17,613	633	3.6%

	Other*			Total		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2015	848	142	16.7%	44,037	1,888	4.3%
2014	901	63	7.0%	48,649	1,686	3.5%
2013	837	100	11.9%	53,291	1,989	3.7%

* Other includes Asian, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Middle Eastern, and unknown

Reports by Reason for Contact

In 2015 – as in prior years – most response to resistance reports (61%) resulted from dispatched calls for service. The other significant category of response to resistance reports resulted from viewed offenses – contacts made when the officer observed and responded to an offense in progress. In 2015 these represented 22% of reports (see chart and table below).



Reports by Reason for Contact	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	% of 2014 Reports	2015	% of 2015 Reports
Dispatched Calls	2,148	63%	1,821	63%	2,002	61%
Viewed Offense	632	19%	537	19%	722	22%
Traffic Stop	239	7%	229	8%	206	6%
Other	238	7%	194	7%	236	7%
Tactical Operation	84	2%	70	2%	62	2%
Warrant Service	51	2%	36	1%	45	1%
Total	3,392	100%	2,887	100%	3,273	100%

Reports by Type of Force Used

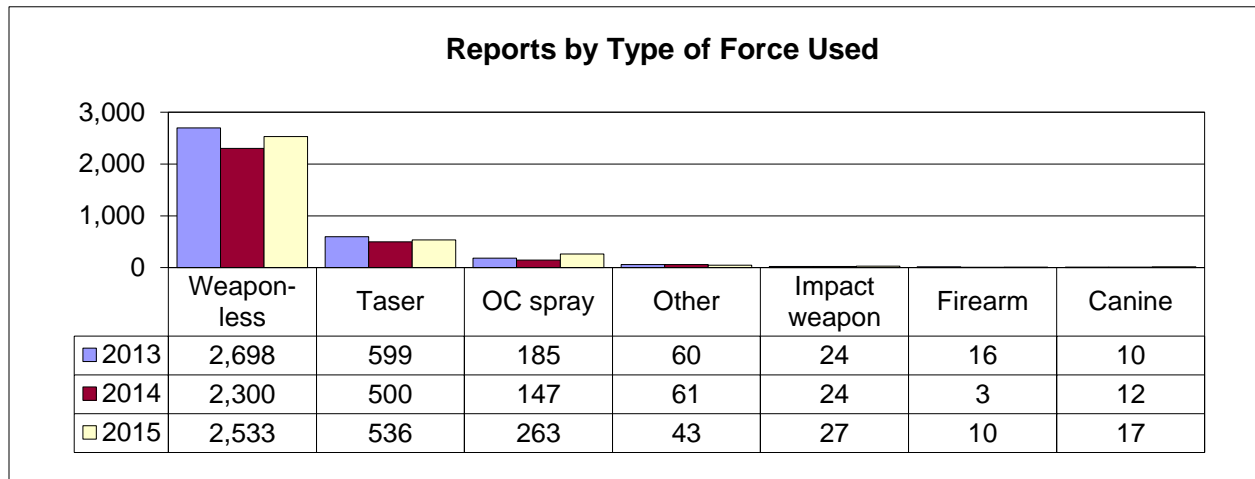
During a response to resistance incident, an officer may need to use more than one type of force. Further, more than one officer may use force to control the situation. As a result, one incident may result in more than one use of force report and each report may include more than one type of force. Thus, the types of force used can be more than the total use of force reports filed.

These are the different types of use of force, ordered from the lowest to the highest level of force.

- Weaponless: includes soft-hand control (e.g., joint locks, pressure points, and escort hold) and hard-hand control (e.g., hand and leg strike)
- Taser: less-lethal device using electronic muscular disruption technology that briefly causes loss of voluntary muscle control; includes drive stun and prongs

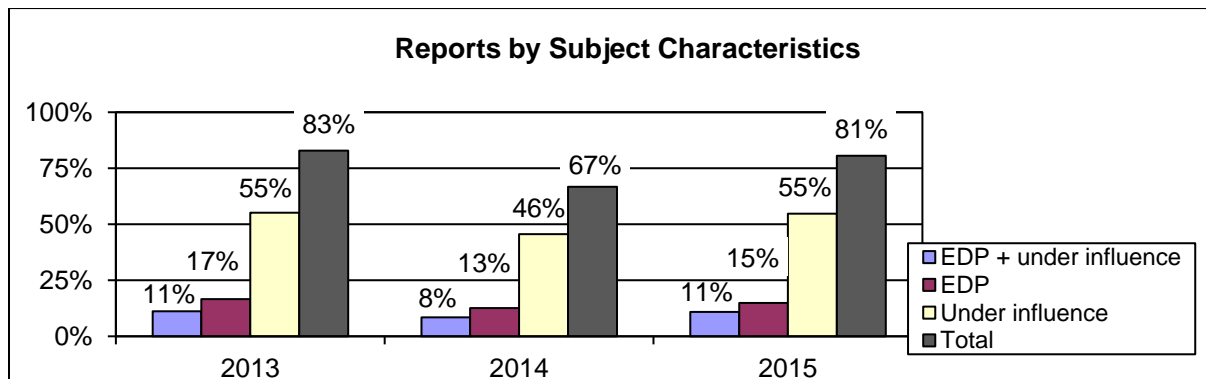
- OC spray: chemical agent known as "pepper spray"
- Other: action that isn't categorized in any specific use of force category
- Impact weapon: a weapon or object that is used to strike, such as a baton
- Firearm: both intentional and unintentional firearm discharge toward an individual
- Canine: use of a police dog in an arrest situation where dog bite occurs

The following chart shows the number of times each type of force was used. In 2015, as in prior years, the most frequent force type was "weaponless." Weaponless techniques, as shown in the previous list, are considered the lowest level of force used in response to subject resistance.



Reports by Subject Characteristics

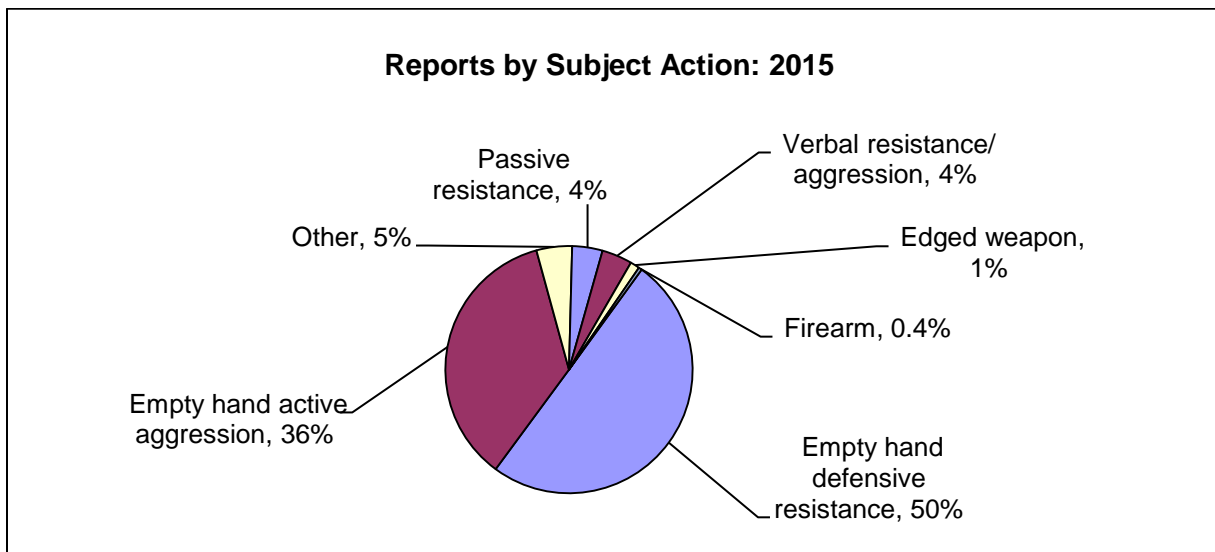
In 55% of the 2015 use of force reports, officers noted that the subject was suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the incident occurred. An additional 15% were suspected as being emotionally disturbed (EDP) and another 11% were suspected of being emotionally disturbed *and* under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



Reports by Subject Action

During 2015, empty-hand resistance and empty-hand aggression were the most frequent subject actions resulting in a use of force by an officer. For subjects who displayed more than one type of resistance, only the most serious subject resistance is included in the following chart and table. Below, subject actions are defined and listed from least to most serious.

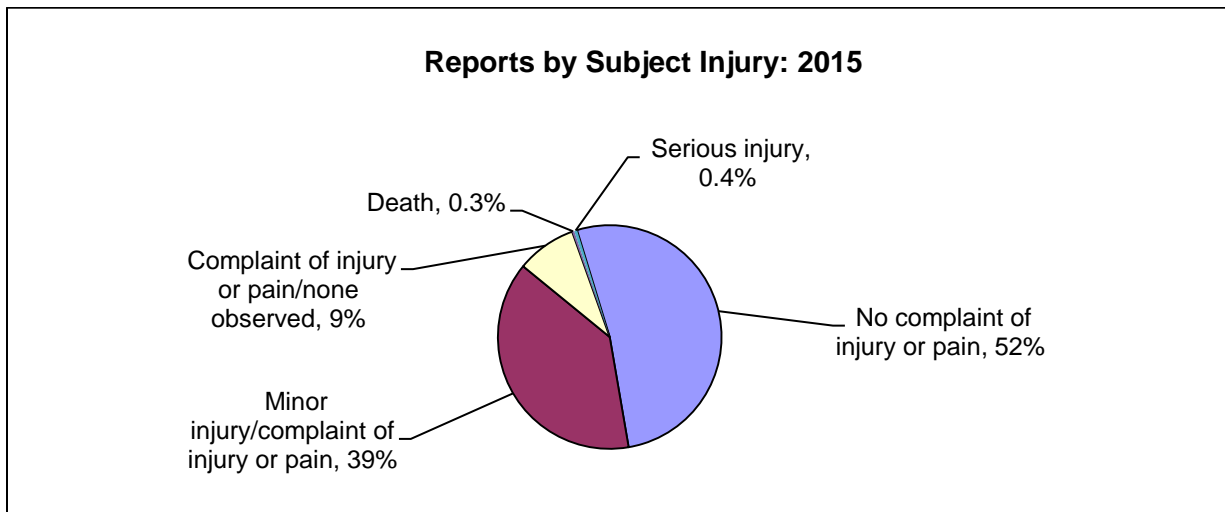
- Passive resistance: physical resistance less than defensive/aggressive resisting (e.g., going limp)
- Other: any other resistance by the subject to hinder arrest or control; included in this category are incidents where the subject would not comply with the arrest, and a weaponless technique such as soft-hand control or a take-down was necessary to make the arrest
- Verbal resistance/aggression: verbal statements resisting police control, indicating refusal to cooperate, and threats which constitute actions requiring force
- Empty-hand defensive resistance: physical resistance by the subject such as pulling and pushing away to prevent the police officer's control
- Empty-hand active aggression: physical assaults by the subject on the police such as kicks, punches, slaps, grabs, and head butts
- Edged weapon: use or attempted use of a knife or similar weapon
- Firearm: use or attempted use of a firearm



Reports by Subject Action	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	% of 2014 Reports	2015	% of 2015 Reports
Empty hand defensive resistance	833	42%	797	47%	946	50%
Empty hand active aggression	692	35%	530	31%	673	36%
Other	177	9%	132	8%	88	5%
Passive resistance	155	8%	103	6%	75	4%
Verbal resistance/ aggression	96	5%	80	5%	75	4%
Edged weapon	27	1%	36	2%	23	1%
Firearm	9	0.5%	8	0.5%	8	0.4%
Total	1,989	100%	1,686	100%	1,888	100%

Reports by Subject Injury

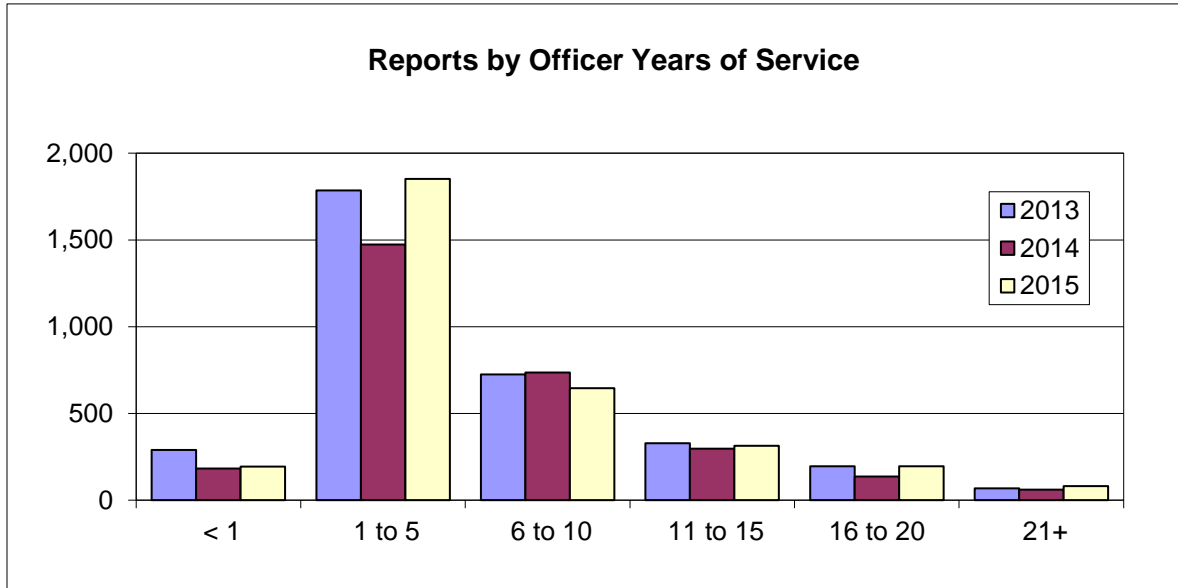
In 2015, as in previous years, the most frequent category of subject injury was “no complaint of injury or pain” (52% of subjects).



Reports by Subject Injury	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	% of 2014 Reports	2015	% of 2015 Reports
No complaint of injury or pain	1,071	54%	843	50%	982	52%
Minor injury/complaint of injury or pain	726	37%	701	42%	729	39%
Complaint of injury or pain/none observed	182	9%	132	8%	163	9%
Death	4	0.2%	1	0.1%	6	0.3%
Serious injury	6	0.3%	9	0.5%	8	0.4%
Total	1,989	100%	1,686	100%	1,888	100%

Reports by Officer Years of Experience

In 2015, as in prior years, officers with 1-5 years of service submitted the majority (56%) of response to resistance reports. Officers with 6-10 years of service submitted the next highest number of reports (20%).



Reports by Officer Years of Service	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	% of 2014 Reports	2015	% of 2015 Reports
< 1	289	9%	182	6%	193	6%
1 to 5	1,786	53%	1,474	51%	1,851	56%
6 to 10	725	21%	736	25%	646	20%
11 to 15	328	10%	297	10%	313	10%
16 to 20	196	6%	137	5%	195	6%
21+	68	2%	61	2%	81	2%
Total	3,392	100%	2,887	100%	3,279	100%

As context, most response to resistance reports are submitted by patrol officers (89% in 2015) and the majority of the department's patrol officer population falls in the 1-5 years of service category (43%), followed next by the 6-10 years of service category (22%).