



2015 Six Month Update January 1—June 30

The Office of the Police Monitor is pleased to present the Six Month Update for 2015. This update covers the first six months of the 2015 calendar year and includes data and statistics relating to the number and types of complaints, geographic area of the incidents, as well as a breakdown by the race/ethnicity of complainants.

In the first half of 2015, 573 people contacted the OPM with the intent of filing a complaint. This is more people than contacted the OPM in the first half of 2014. As of this writing, however, it looks like calendar year 2015 will see fewer External Formal complaints than were received in 2014. If so, this will continue the downward trend that has occurred over the past five years. Conversely, the number of Supervisor Referral complaints is currently on track to exceed that of last year.

Functions of the Police Monitor’s Office

- ▣ Assess citizens’ complaints
- ▣ Monitor Internal Affairs’ investigations
- ▣ Monitor APD policies and practices
- ▣ Publish Reports on Activities of the Office
- ▣ Conduct community outreach programs and educational forums

The OPM was created and developed to promote mutual respect between the Austin Police Department (APD) and the community it serves.

Through the OPM’s outreach efforts, we will educate the community and law enforcement to promote the highest degree of mutual respect between police officers and the public. By engaging in honest dialogue over issues and incidents that impact the community and law enforcement, the Office of the Police Monitor will enhance public confidence, trust, and support in the fairness and integrity of the Austin Police Department.

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Special points of interest:

- *External Formal complaints are down slightly but Supervisor Referrals are up over this time last year*
- *Code of Conduct issues are again the most frequently reported allegations*
- *External Formal complaints are up for Blacks/African Americans and down for Caucasians*

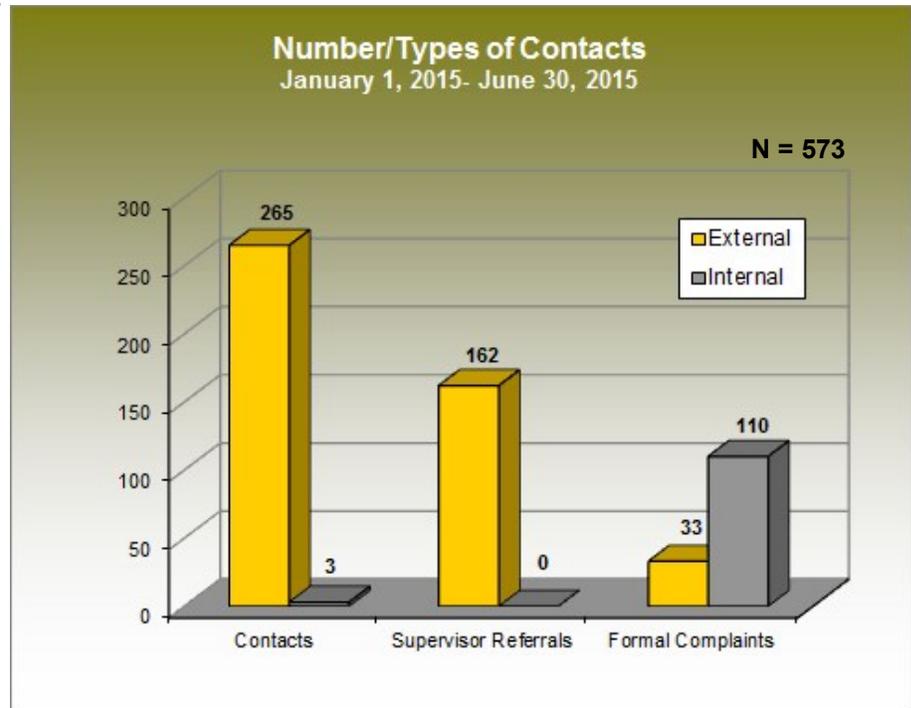
Number/Types of Contacts—External & Internal

During the first half of 2015, the OPM was contacted by 573 people wishing to make some sort of complaint against a member of the APD. In this graph, there are three categories of complaint types. The first is “contacts.” This category includes persons that reached out to the OPM with the intention of filing a complaint but, for whatever reason, did not do so or it was discovered that the complaint involved an agency other than the APD.

Supervisor Referrals are a complaint type reserved for less severe policy violations or to clarify the APD’s rules and regulations. Formal complaints are typically reserved for cases alleging a more severe policy violation.

If, as in the past five years, the OPM takes in fewer complaints in the second half of the year, the number of External Formal complaints will be down from 2014. In 2014, the year ended with 67 External Formal complaints. At the current pace, 2015 will end with the fewest External Formal complaints in the past five years.

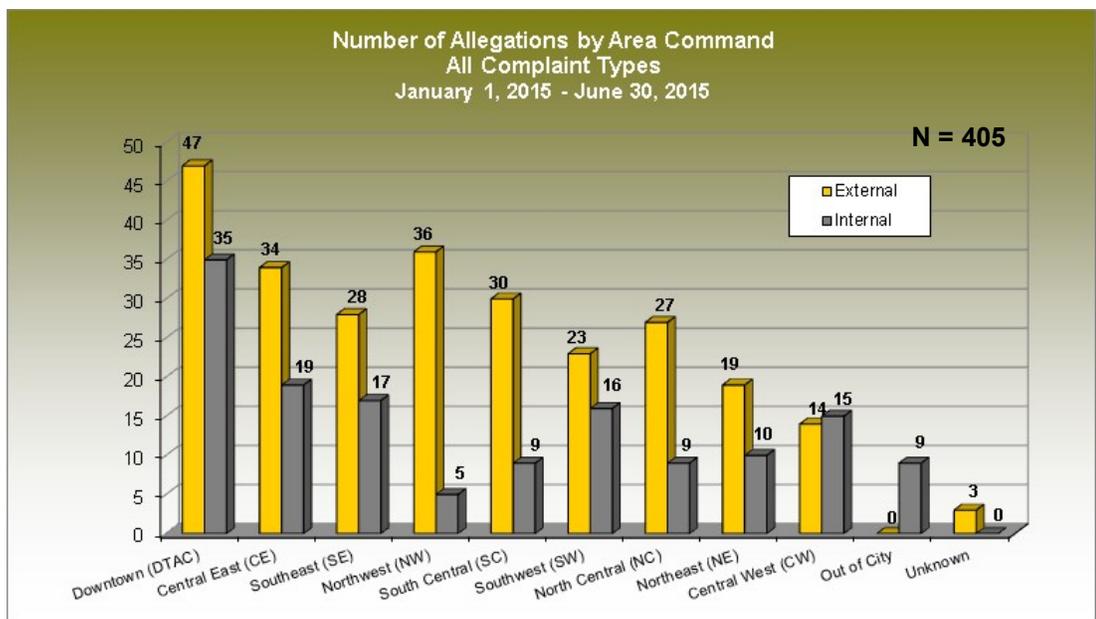
It is anticipated that the number in Internal Formal complaints will be on par or slightly fewer than in 2014, as well.



Conversely, there will likely be more Supervisor Referrals for the full 2015 calendar year than there were in 2014. There are 162 Supervisor Referrals so far in 2015 versus last year at this time when there were 130.

Number of Allegations by Area Command—External & Internal

In the first six months of 2015, there were 405 allegations listed against the APD. This number includes all Formal complaints as well as all allegations associated with Supervisor Referrals. The interesting thing here is that there were more allegations levied in External complaints than Internal complaints. While not the norm, the OPM has found no error—there are simply more allegations levied in External than Internal cases so far this year. The total number of allegations levied is up from last year at this time when there were 343.



The Downtown area command had the greatest number of allegations asserted during the first half of 2015 with 82. Central East had the second highest number of allegations with 53.

Number/Types of Allegations—External Complaints

With the switch in 2011 from the old General Orders to the new policies entitled “Lexipol,” the language used in the OPM’s reports has changed to reflect that found in Lexipol. The number listed in front of the allegation name is the policy number of the violation. The numbers found in the body of the graph are the quantity of allegations filed. For example, there were 21 General Conduct & Responsibilities allegations filed (Policy #900) during the first half of 2015.

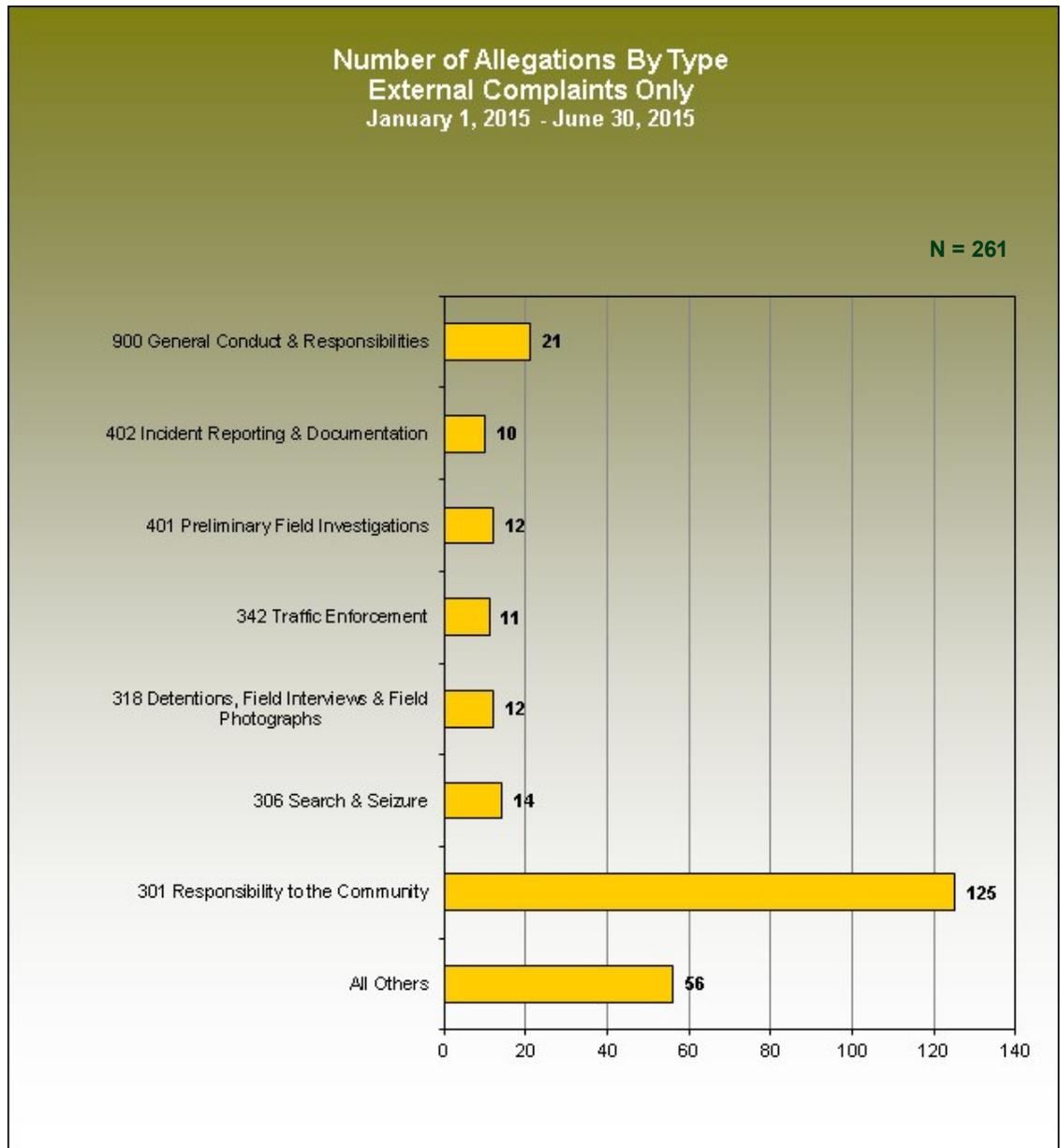
Responsibility to the Community, i.e., Code of Conduct-related issues, again stand alone as the single most-reported allegation in the first half of 2015 with 125. This is double last year at this time.

“Responsibility to the Community” allegations include, but are not limited to, impartial attitude, courtesy, duty to identify as a police officer, and neutrality in civil actions.

It is likely the majority of Policy 900 General Conduct and Responsibilities are also Code of Conduct-related but more detailed allegation information was not available.

There were also double the number of Search & Seizure allegations over last year at this time when there were five (5).

There were no bias-based profiling allegations filed in the first half of 2015.



Note:

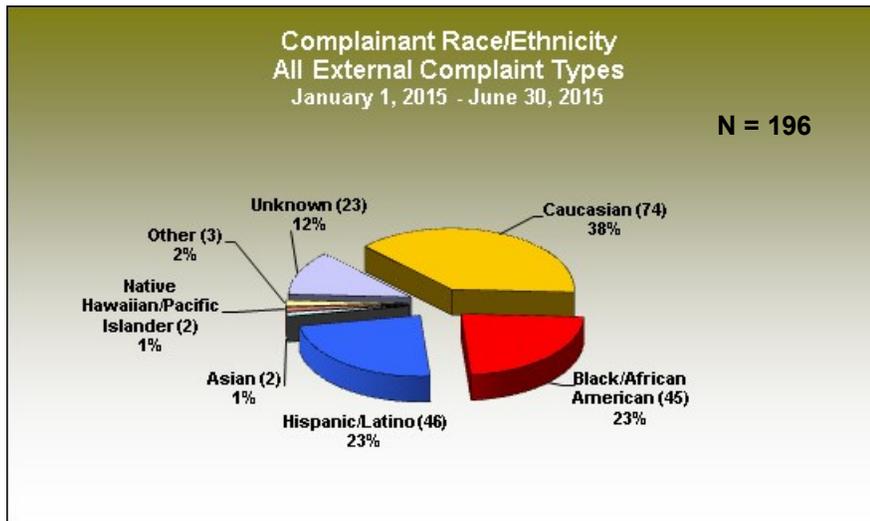
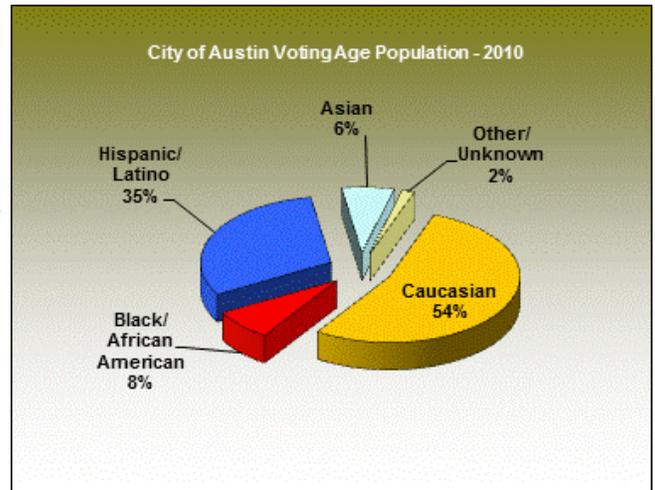
1. The graph on this page includes external complaint allegations only, specifically, External Formal complaints and Supervisor Referrals.

Complainant Demographic Information

The members of the public that classify themselves as Caucasian filed more complaints overall (74) than any other group in the first half of 2015 (1H2015). The filing rate of every racial/ethnic group was lower than their representation within the voting age population of the City except for the Black/African American community. Overall, Blacks/African Americans filed at a rate that is 15% greater than their representation within the voting age population of the City.

When looking at Supervisor Referrals and External Formal complaints combined, the percentage of complaints from the three largest racial/ethnic groups is on par, or slightly above, what it was last year at this time. Caucasians account for 38% of all External complaints versus 35% in 1H2014.

Blacks/African Americans account for 23% in 1H2015 versus 22% in 1H2014. Hispanics/Latinos account for 23% in 1H2015 versus 22% in 1H2014.

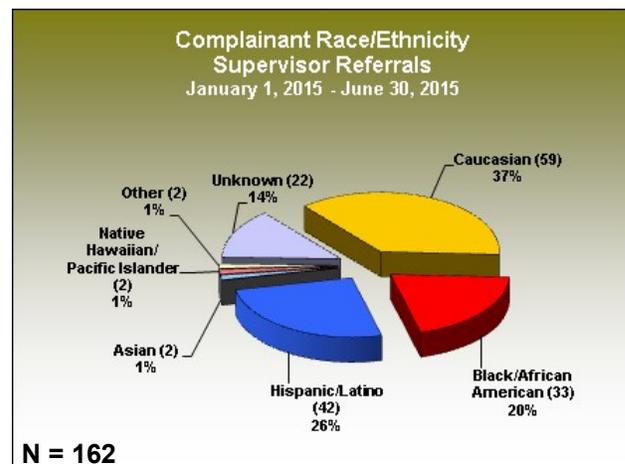
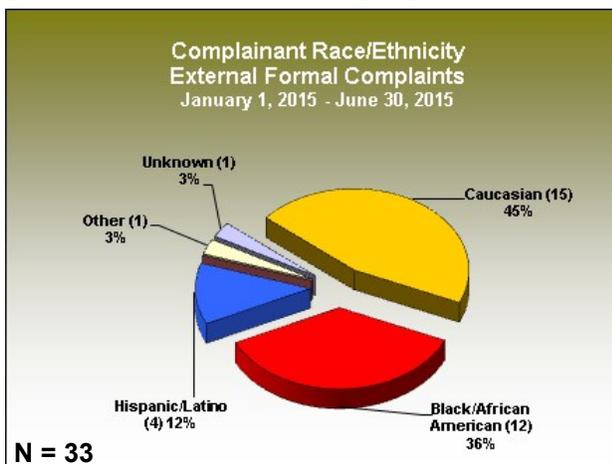


With External Formal complaints slightly down from last year at this time, the External Formal percentages based on racial/ethnic group are down a bit as well for Caucasians. They are up 4% for Blacks/African Americans. While there are very few External Formal complaints lodged by Hispanics/Latinos, the number is double what it was last year at this time with four (4).

Blacks/African Americans filed External Formal complaints at a rate 4% greater than last year and Caucasians filed at rate 3% less.

Despite the slightly higher number of Supervisor Referrals filed in the first half of

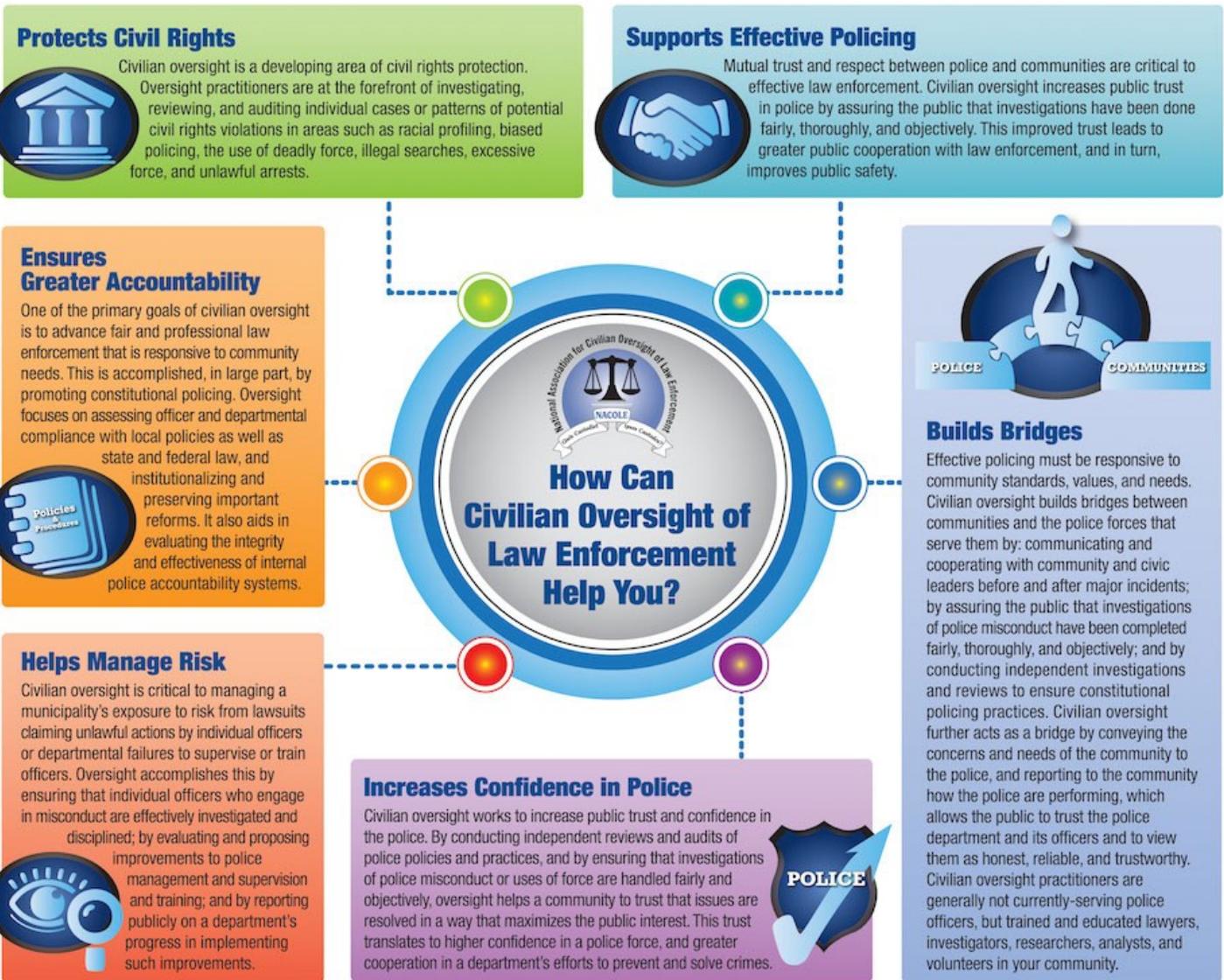
2015, the percentage of these types of complaints by racial/ethnic group remained flat with Caucasians being the exception and filing at a rate 4% greater than last year at this time. This percentage increase was offset by a drop in those complainants whose racial/ethnic group was unknown last year.



Civilian Oversight Infographic

This informational graphic first appeared on the NACOLE website. NACOLE is the **National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement**. It is a non-profit organization that brings together individuals or agencies working to establish or improve oversight of police officers in the United States. The Austin Office of the Police Monitor is a member of this organization.

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The Police Monitor's Office is the main location for accepting complaints filed by members of the public against police officers. To file a complaint with the Office of the Police Monitor, the public can contact our office by telephone, facsimile, mail, email, or in person. The Police Monitor or a member of the Police's Monitor's office will conduct an initial interview with the complainant and will explain the oversight and investigative processes. The Internal Affairs Division of the Austin Police Department or the subject officer's chain of command will conduct an investigation. The Office of the Police Monitor will participate in the APD investigation. The Office of Police Monitor will make policy recommendations to APD. Upon conclusion of the investigation, the complainant will be notified in writing of the outcome.