

2014 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:

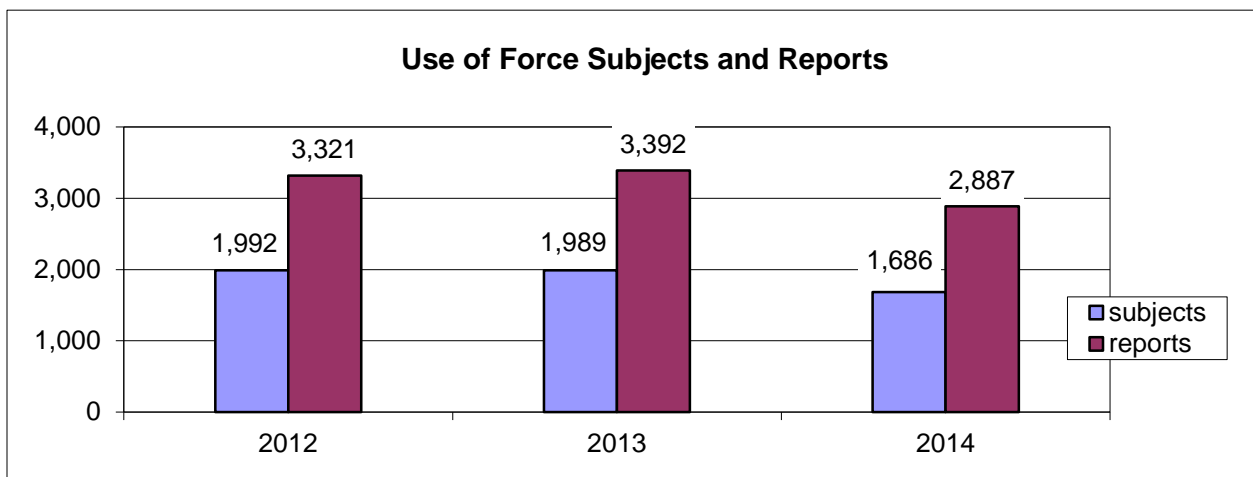
Any physical contact with a subject by an officer using the body or any object, device, or weapon, not including unresisted escorting or handcuffing a subject...Any complaint by a subject that an officer caused pain or injury shall be treated as a response to resistance force incident, except complaints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

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.

Number of Use of Force Reports and Subjects

During 2014, there were 2,887 response to resistance reports (unique use of force events) and 1,686 subjects (those who received force).



To provide context, we also track the total number of police contacts (490,377 in 2014) and total arrests (48,649 in 2014). Of the total police contacts, .3% involved resistance/force. And of total arrests, 3.5% involved resistance/force.

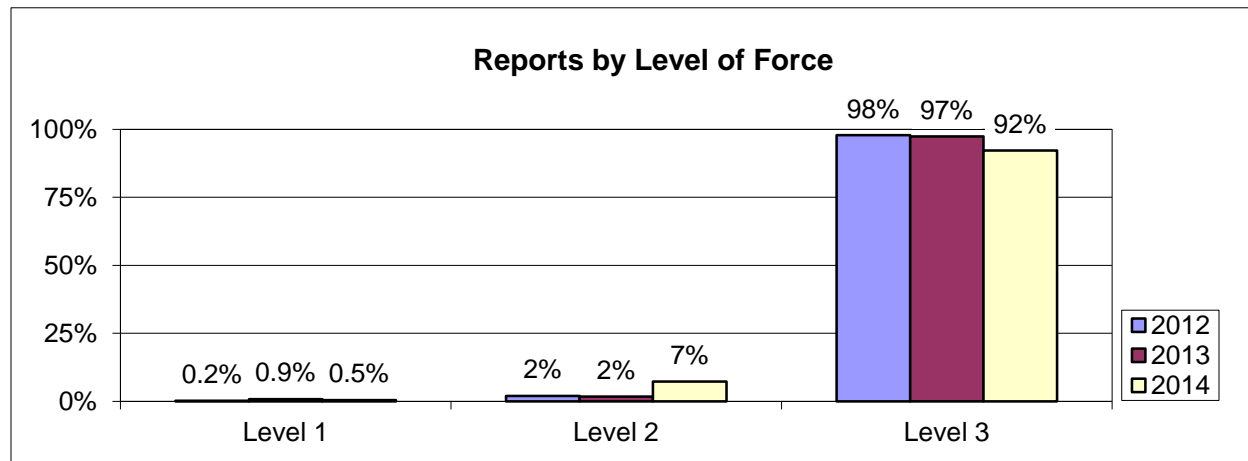
	2012	2013	2014
use of force reports	3,321	3,392	2,887
subjects who had force used	1,992	1,989	1,686
total contacts	581,472	496,932	490,377
total arrests	55,988	53,291	48,649
subjects receiving force as % of total contacts	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
subjects receiving force as % of total arrests	3.6%	3.7%	3.5%

Reports by Level of Force Used

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

Use of force reports in 2014, as in prior years, were concentrated in Level 3, the least severe level. Also notable: as a proportion of total reports, Level 2 reports increased from 2% in 2013 to 7% in 2014. This resulted from a 2014 policy change that upgraded certain Taser uses (those that cause incapacitation) from Level 3 to Level 2 to more accurately classify this force type. Total Taser uses fell from 599 in 2013 to 500 in 2014 (see pg. 5 chart: Reports by Type of Force Used).



Use of Force Subjects and Race/Ethnicity

Most use of force incidents occur when an officer attempts to make an arrest. In 2014, there were 1,686 subjects involved in a use of force incident, which is 3.5% of the 48,649 subjects arrested citywide. The table below shows the distribution of force and arrests by race/ethnicity.

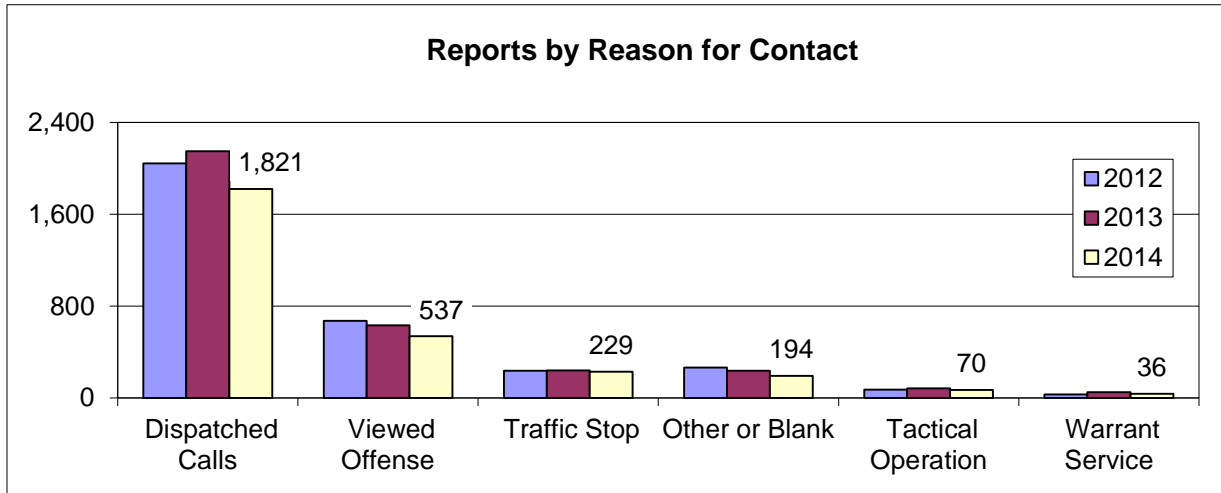
	White			Black			Hispanic		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2014	19,531	571	2.9%	11,832	466	3.9%	16,385	586	3.6%
2013	21,669	723	3.3%	13,172	533	4.0%	17,613	633	3.6%
2012	23,105	731	3.2%	13,467	539	4.0%	18,560	650	3.5%

	Other*			Total		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2014	901	63	7.0%	48,649	1,686	3.5%
2013	837	100	11.9%	53,291	1,989	3.7%
2012	856	72	8.4%	55,988	1,992	3.6%

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

Reports by Reason for Contact

In 2014 – as in prior years – most response to resistance reports (63%) resulted from dispatched calls for service. The other large category of response to resistance reports resulted from viewed offenses – contacts made when the officer observed and responded to an offense in progress. In 2014 these represented 19% of reports (see chart and table below).



Reports by Reason for Contact	2012	% of 2012 Reports	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	% of 2014 Reports
Dispatched Calls	2,043	62%	2,148	63%	1,821	63%
Viewed Offense	671	20%	632	19%	537	19%
Traffic Stop	237	7%	239	7%	229	8%
Other or Blank	265	8%	238	7%	194	7%
Tactical Operation	74	2%	84	2%	70	2%
Warrant Service	31	1%	51	2%	36	1%
Total	3,321	100%	3,392	100%	2,887	100%

Reports by Type of Force Used

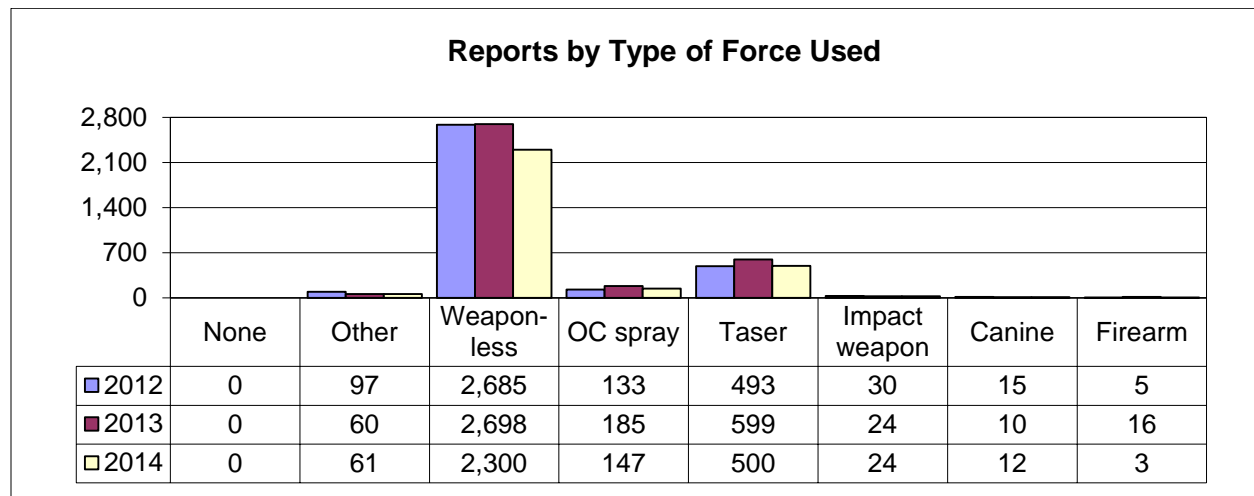
During a response to resistance incident, an officer may need to use more than one type of force. Further, more than one officer may use force to control the situation. As a result, one incident may result in more than one use of force report and each report may include more than one type of force. Thus,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

- None: subject complained of pain but no force was used during the incident
- Other: action that isn't categorized in any specific use of force category
- Weaponless: includes soft-hand control (e.g., joint locks, pressure points, and escort hold) and hard-hand control (e.g., hand and leg strike)

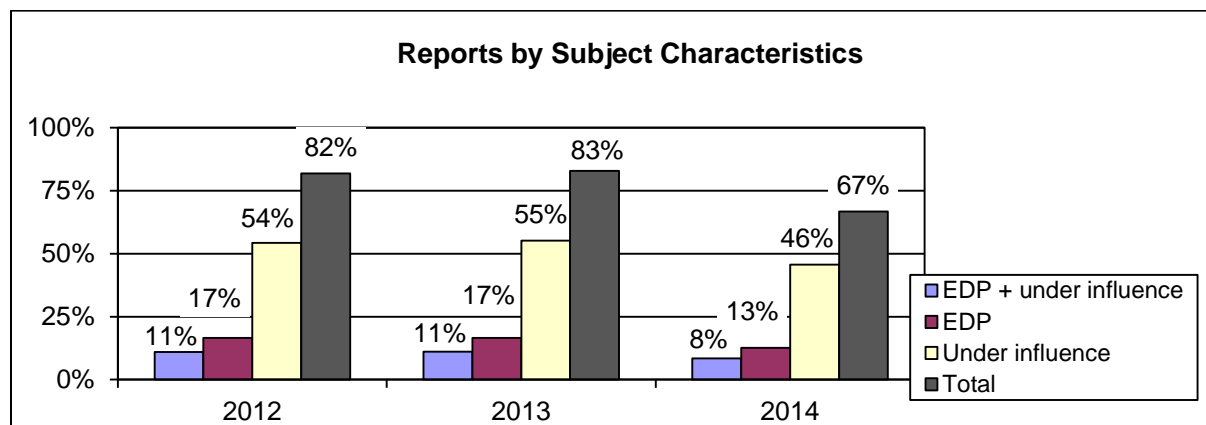
- OC spray: chemical agent known as "pepper spray"
- Taser: less-lethal device using electronic muscular disruption technology that briefly causes loss of voluntary muscle control; includes drive stun and prongs
- Impact weapon: a weapon or object that is used to strike, such as a baton
- Canine: use of a police dog in an arrest situation where dog bite occurs
- Firearm: both intentional and unintentional firearm discharge toward an individual

The following chart shows the number of times each type of force was used. In 2014, 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

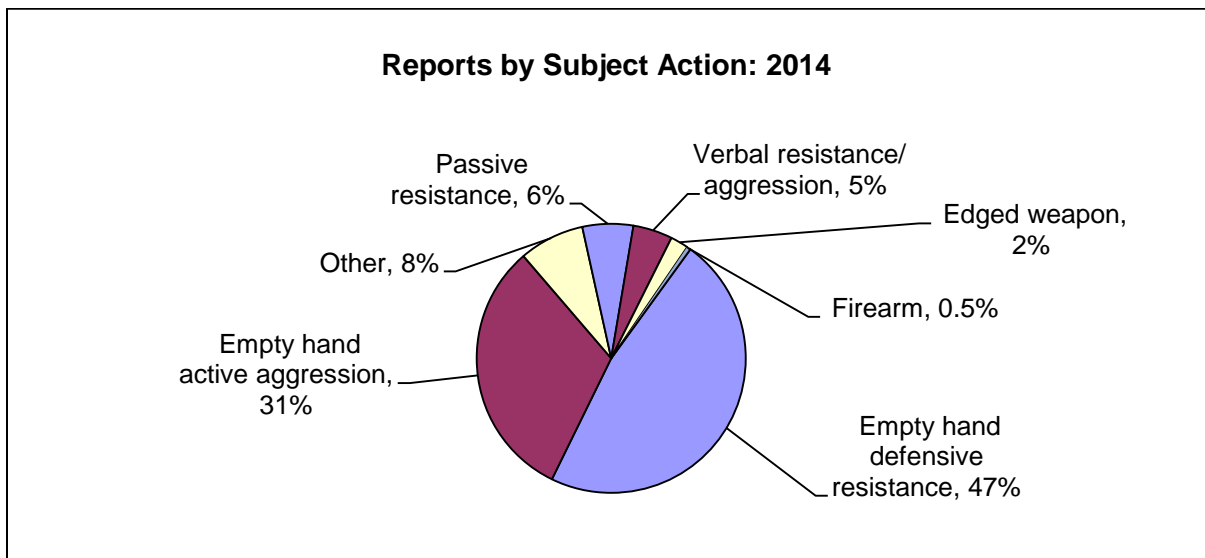
In 46% of the 2014 use of force reports, officers noted that the subject was suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the incident occurred. An additional 13% were suspected as being emotionally disturbed (EDP) and another 8% were suspected of being emotionally disturbed *and* under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



Reports by Subject Action

During 2014, 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.

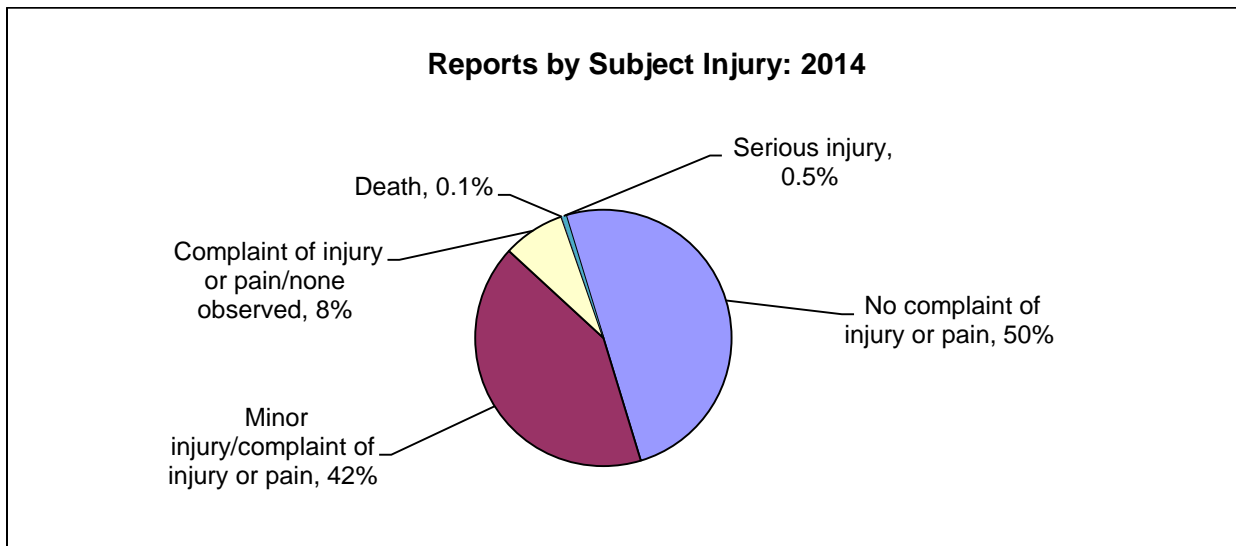
- Passive resistance: physical resistance less than defensive/aggressive resisting (e.g., going limp)
- Other: any other resistance by the subject to hinder arrest or control; included in this category are incidents where the subject would not comply with the arrest, and a weaponless technique such as 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	2012	% of 2012 Reports	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	% of 2014 Reports
Empty hand defensive resistance	788	40%	833	42%	797	47%
Empty hand active aggression	636	32%	692	35%	530	31%
Other	221	11%	177	9%	132	8%
Passive resistance	175	9%	155	8%	103	6%
Verbal resistance/ aggression	136	7%	96	5%	80	5%
Edged weapon	33	2%	27	1%	36	2%
Firearm	3	0.2%	9	0.5%	8	0.5%
Total	1,992	100%	1,989	100%	1,686	100%

Reports by Subject Injury

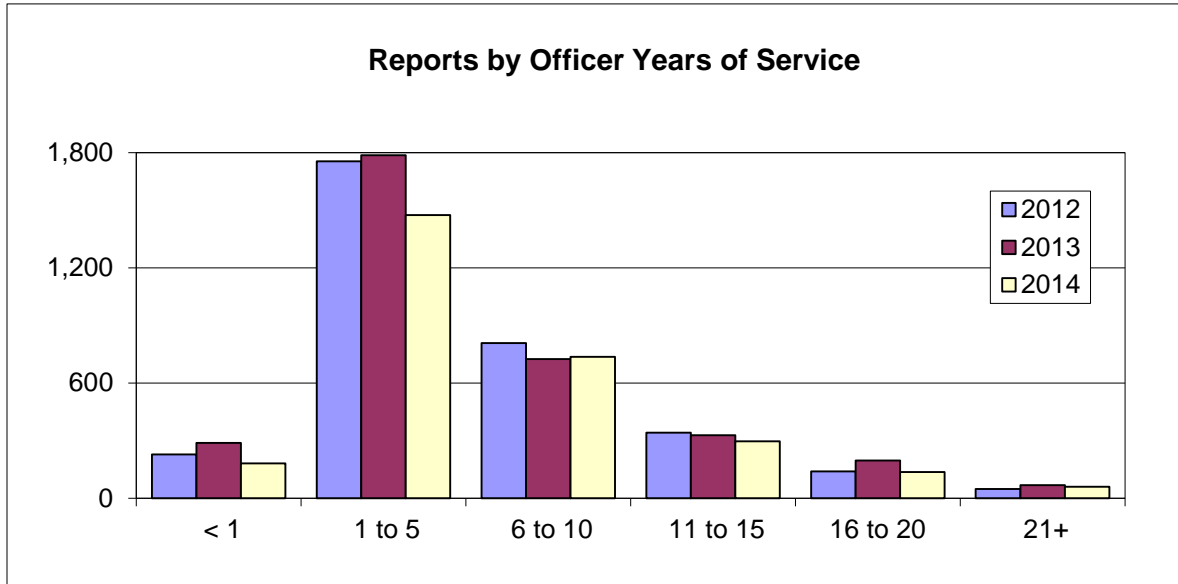
In 2014, as in previous years, the most frequent category of subject injury was “no complaint of injury or pain” (50% of subjects).



Reports by Subject Injury	2012	% of 2012 Reports	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	% of 2014 Reports
No complaint of injury or pain	1,152	58%	1,071	54%	843	50%
Minor injury/complaint of injury or pain	670	34%	726	37%	701	42%
Complaint of injury or pain/none observed	161	8%	182	9%	132	8%
Death	2	0.1%	4	0.2%	1	0.1%
Serious injury	3	0.2%	6	0.3%	9	0.5%
Unknown	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	1,992	100%	1,989	100%	1,686	100%

Reports by Officer Years of Experience

In 2014, as in prior years, officers with 1-5 years of service submitted the majority (51%) of response to resistance reports. Officers with 6-10 years of service submitted the next highest number of reports (25%).



Reports by Officer Years of Service	2012	% of 2012 Reports	2013	% of 2013 Reports	2014	2014 Reports
< 1	229	7%	289	9%	182	6%
1 to 5	1,754	53%	1,786	53%	1,474	51%
6 to 10	808	24%	725	21%	736	25%
11 to 15	342	10%	328	10%	297	10%
16 to 20	140	4%	196	6%	137	5%
21+	48	1%	68	2%	61	2%
Total	3,321	100%	3,392	100%	2,887	100%

As context, most response to resistance reports are submitted by patrol officers (84% in 2014) and the department's patrol officer population is similarly concentrated in the 1-5 years of service category (43%), followed by the 6-10 years of service category (22%).