

ANALYSIS OF 2024 USE OF FORCE



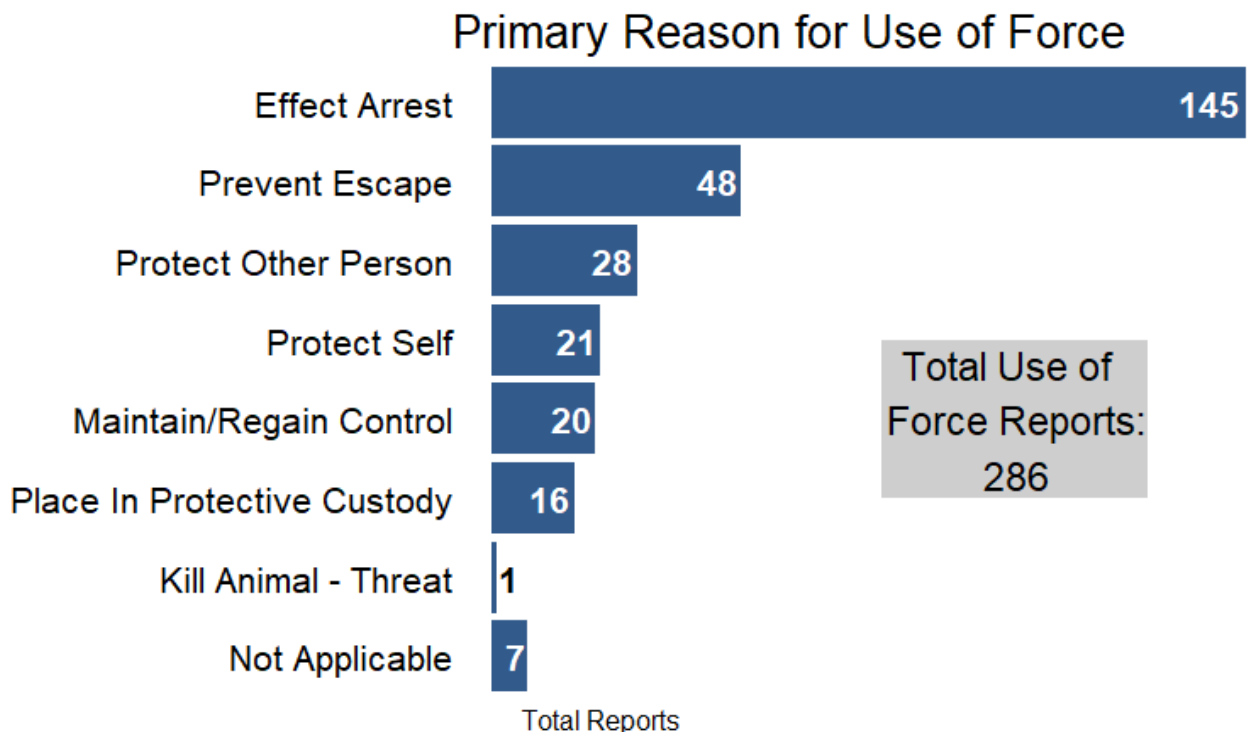
The Missouri State Highway Patrol is an equal opportunity employer.

Overview

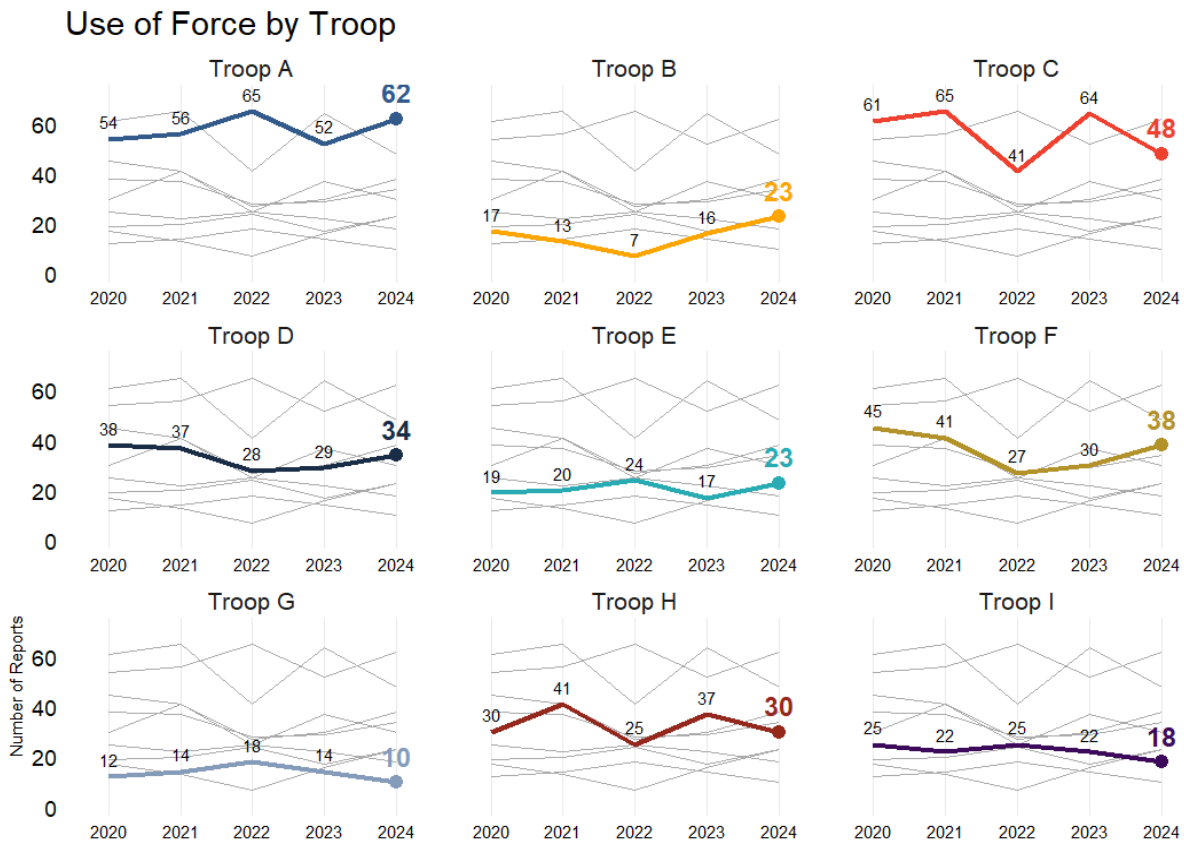
Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) use of force reporting occurs within the Automated Field Reporting (AFR) system, which ultimately culminates with the data represented herein. The Research and Development Division (RDD) analyzed information contained within use of force reports for calendar year 2024 and submits findings of that analysis in accordance with XVI-C of General Order 01-04, Use of Force. In 2024, MSHP members responded to 340,567 calls for service, conducted 312,976 enforcement contacts, and completed 316 use of force reports. Of the 653,543 total contacts with the public MSHP members were involved in 221 use of force incidents, excluding tire deflation deployments. Thus, use of force reports constitutes 0.03% of MSHP interactions with the public. The percentages shown on some of the following charts may not always total 100% due to statistical rounding. Multiple members may be involved in a single use of force incident leading to more reports than incidents. Trend comparisons are generally noted for the years 2020 through 2024.

Use of Force - Non-Gaming Officers

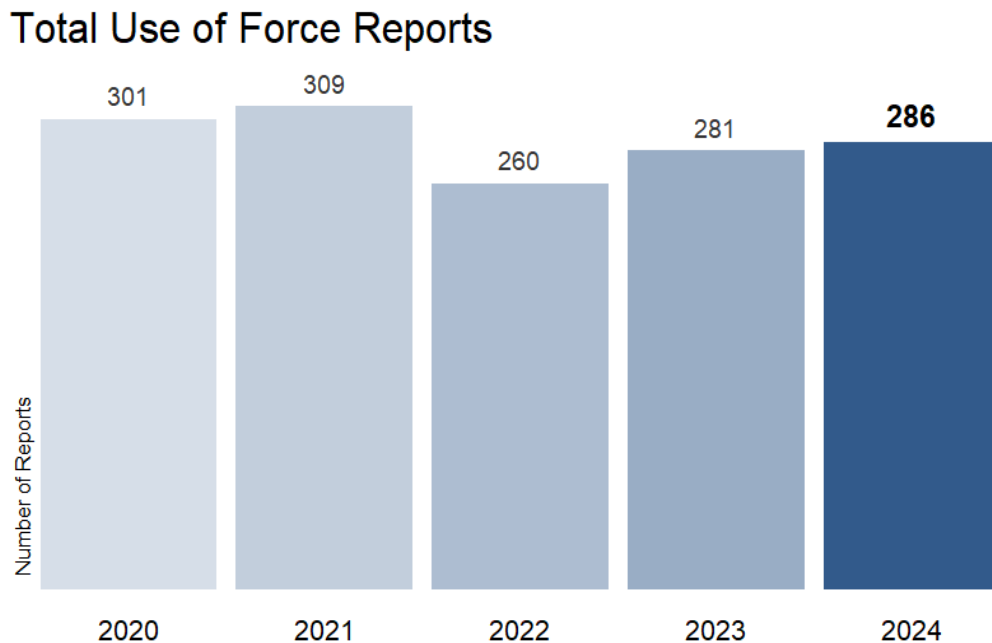
MSHP members not assigned to the Gaming Division submitted a total of 286 use of force reports in 2024, which reflects an 1.8% increase in use of force report submissions from the previous year. Of the 286 reports submitted, there were 243 use of force incidents, indicating multiple officers used force during the same incident. The 2024 numbers do not reflect occurrences involving humane killing of an animal or the anticipated use of force through the display of Electronic Control Weapons (ECWs) to gain compliance. The primary reasons for the use of force are listed below. Additionally, members deployed 122 tire deflation devices in 2024.



The following chart depicts use of force reports per location (troops) for calendar years 2020 through 2024. The totals include tire deflation device deployments and vehicular use of force occurrences. Each troop has a graph with a color highlighted line for that troop and multiple gray lines to represent the other eight troops' totals for comparison.

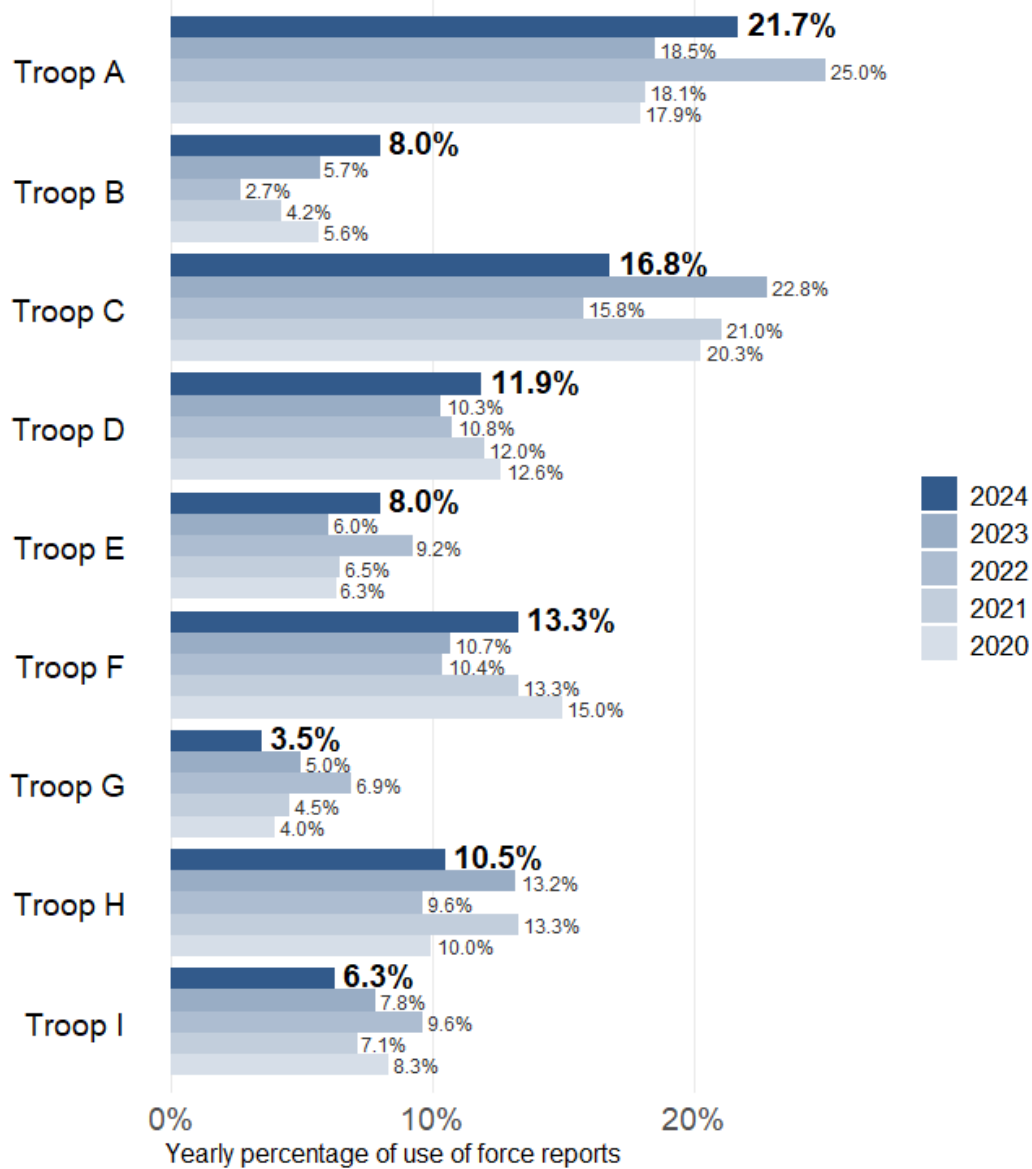


The following chart provides a representation of yearly statewide use of force occurrences.



The accompanying chart illustrates the percentage of use of force reports within each troop for the period 2020 through 2024.

Use of Force Reports Percentage by Troop

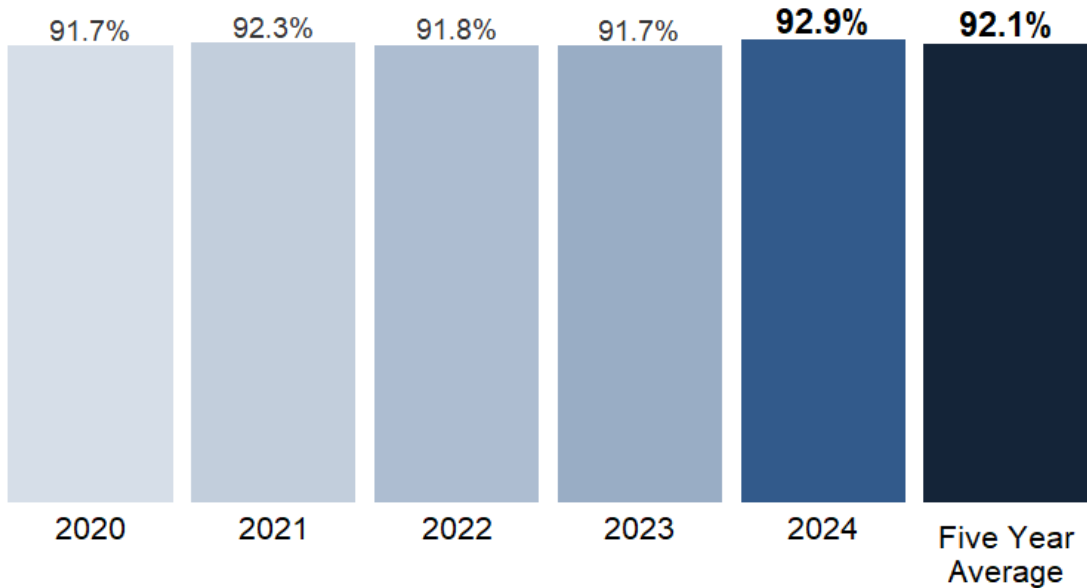


Use of Force - Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the force employed by Patrol officers to arrest suspects averaged 92.1% over the past five years. The chart below illustrates the percentage of individuals successfully taken into custody following incidents where force was used to apprehend resisting suspects. The effectiveness of force methods employed by officers in 2024 was 92.9%.

Individuals Taken Into Custody - Use of Force

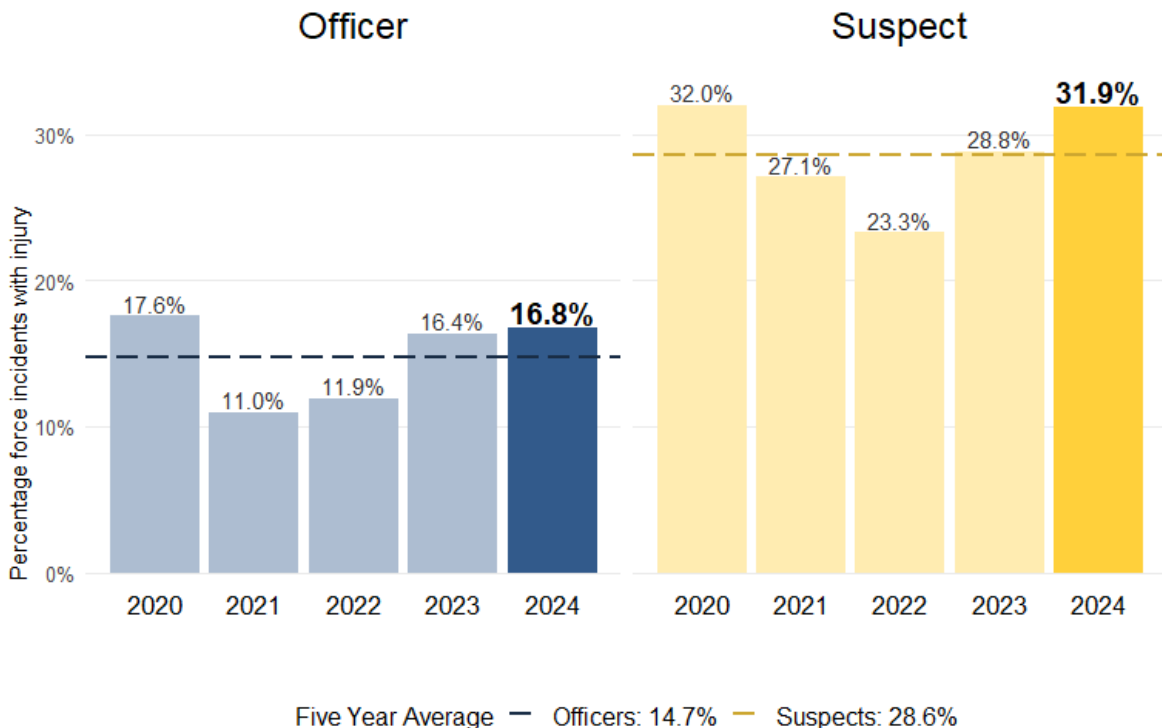
Percentage of force incidents where suspects were taken into custody each year



Use of Force – Patrol Officer and Suspect Injury Rates

About 16.8% of Patrol officers using force were injured during use of force incidents in 2024. No Patrol officer was killed in 2024 because of force used by an assailant. The suspect injury rate in 2024 was 31.9% with a five-year average of 28.6% injury rate. In 2024, two suspects were killed during use of force incidents, one in Troop B and one in Troop C.

Officer and Suspect Injury - Use of Force Incidents



Other Factors

Body Armor

General Order 41-02 mandates the wearing of ballistic vests by uniformed officers assigned to enforcement activities. In 2024, 20 officers reported that wearing a ballistic vest did aid in the prevention or reduction of injury during use of force incidents.

Member Characteristics

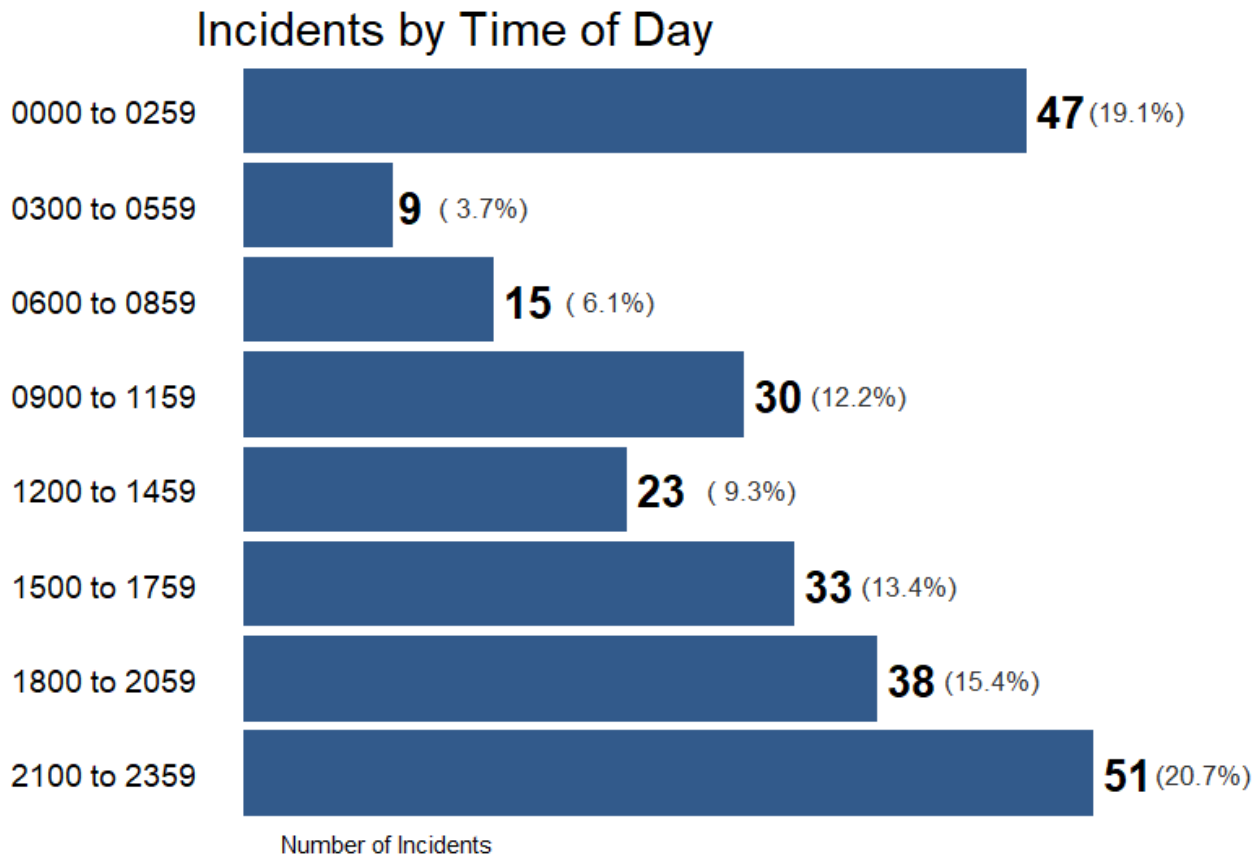
The average age of officers involved in use of force incidents during 2024 was 33.8 years old, while the average years of service was 8.2 years. These numbers have remained consistent over the past five years.

Incidents by Time of Day, Day of Week, Month

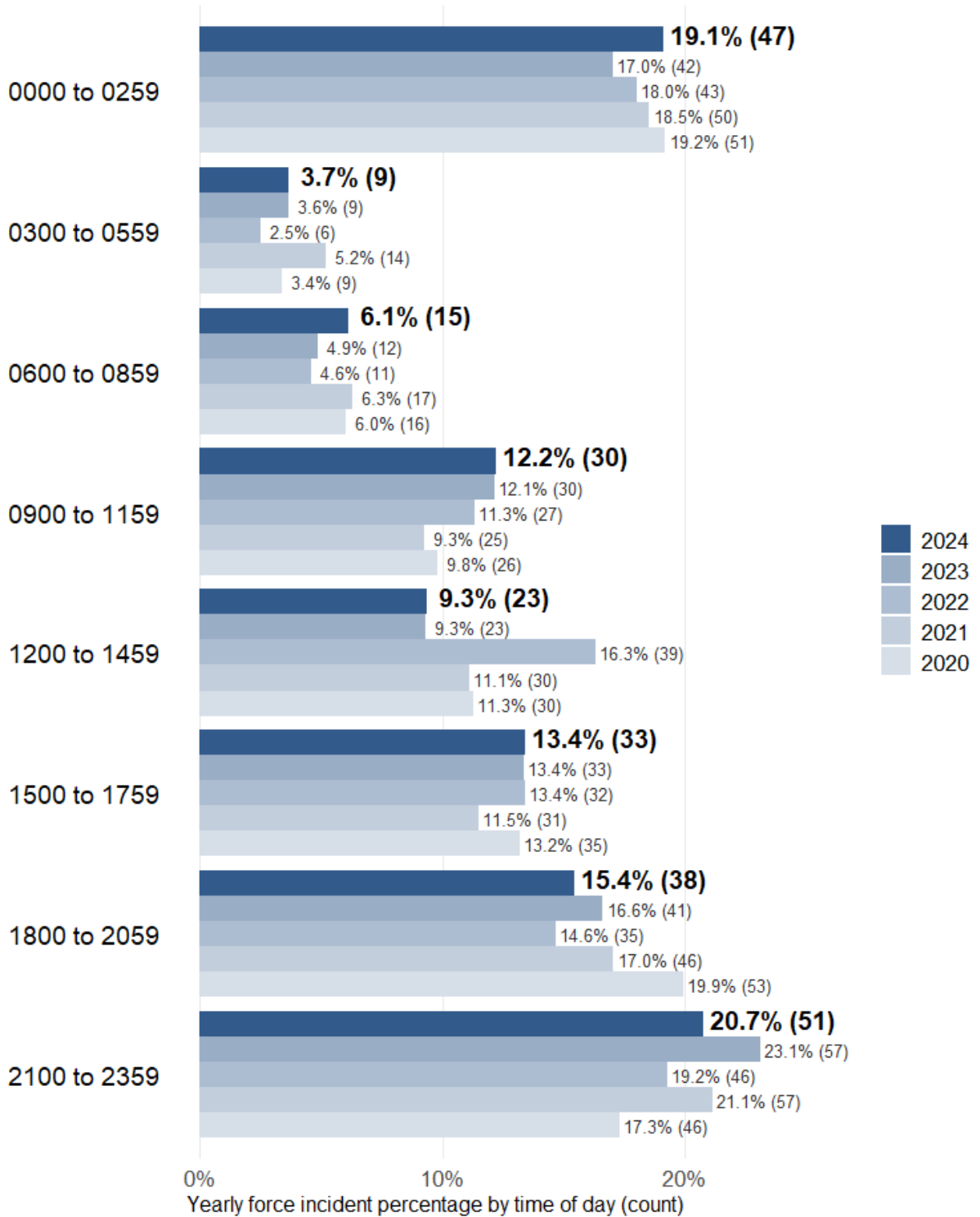
The following sections analyze use of force incidents by time of day, day of week, and month of the year. In three 2024 incidents, MSHP members indicated different times on their reports. Thus, the total number of incidents in the following charts may be greater than the 243 unique incidents that occurred in 2024.

Incidents by Time of Day

During 2024, use of force incidents were most likely to occur during the time-period 2100 to 2359 hours. The least amount of force incidents occurred during the time-period 0300 to 0559 hours.

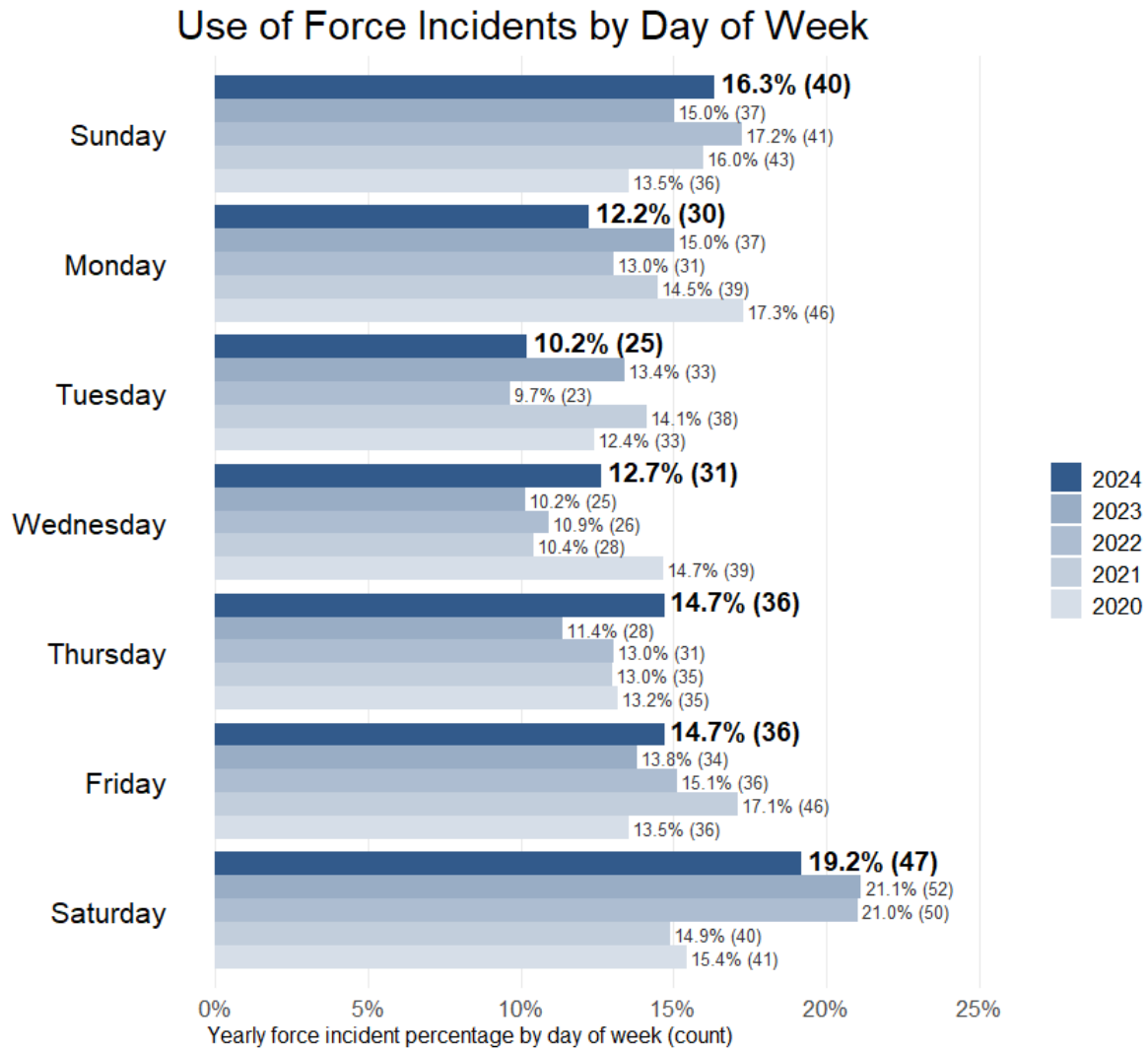


Use of Force Incidents by Time of Day



Incidents by Day of Week

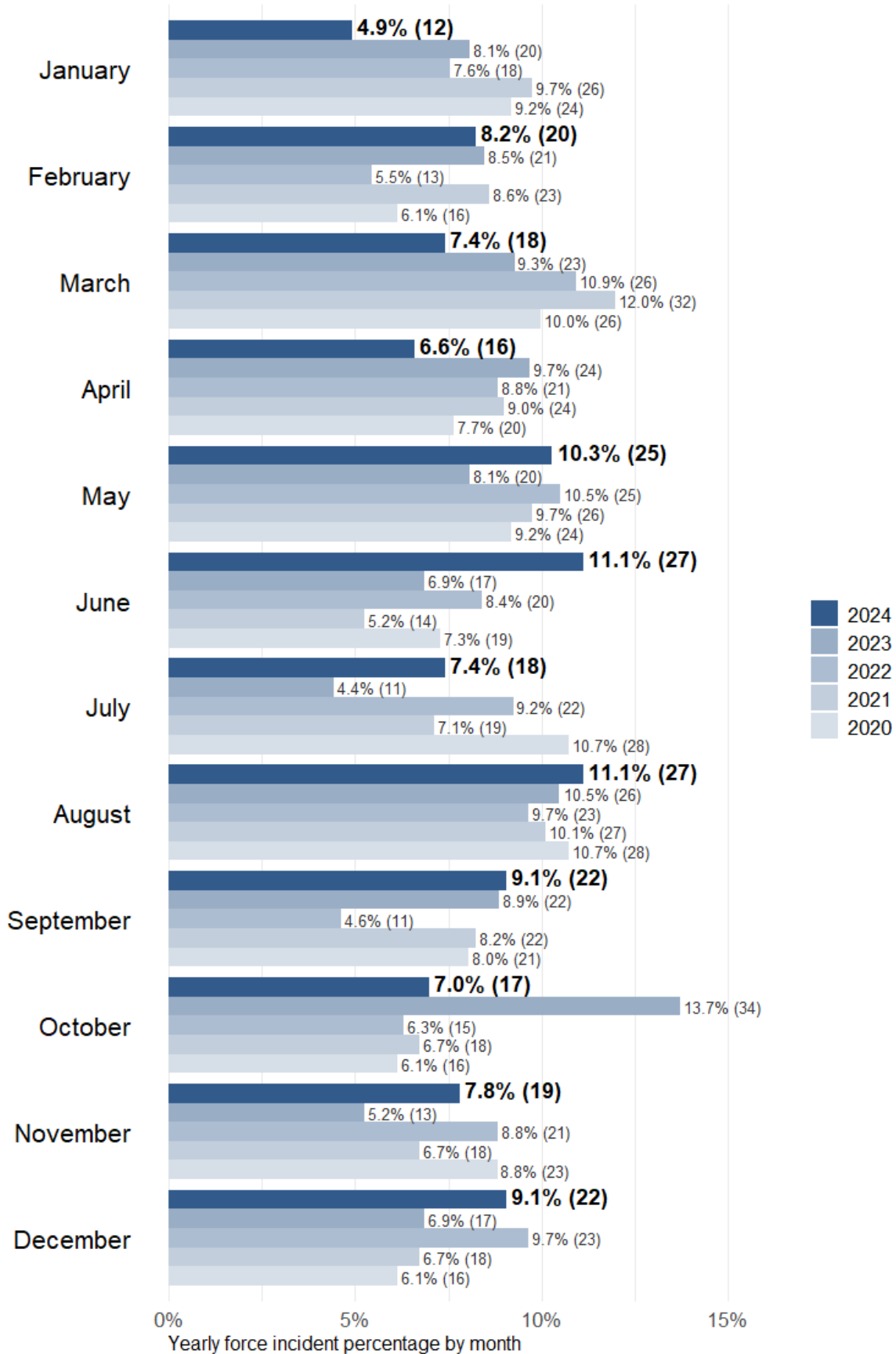
Analysis of 2024 use of force incidents, which occurred throughout the week revealed most incidents took place on Saturdays. The least amount of force incidents occurred on Tuesdays.



Incidents by Month

Analysis of 2024 use of force incidents reported by month did not reveal a seasonal trend. As the table below shows, June and August had the highest number of incidents (27). January (12) and April (16) with the fewest incidents.

Use of Force Incidents by Month

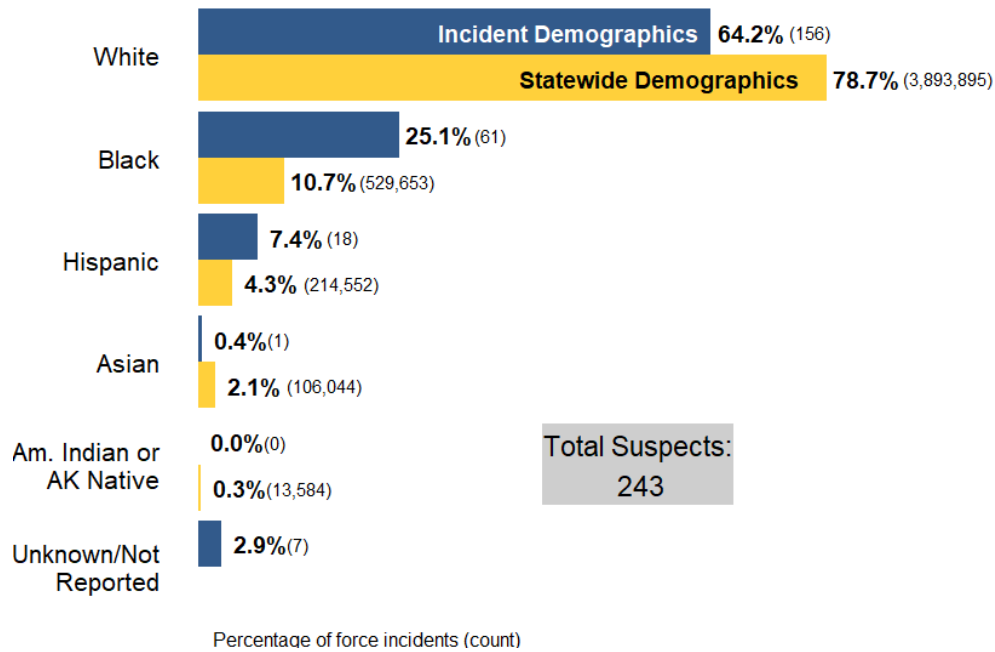


Activities and Trends

Demographics

MSHP use of force suspects for this reporting period were analyzed to determine demographic trends. The graph on the next page illustrates the combined annual demographic comparisons by race for applicable agency use of force incidents reported during 2024. The statewide demographics were taken from the 2023 ACS, population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

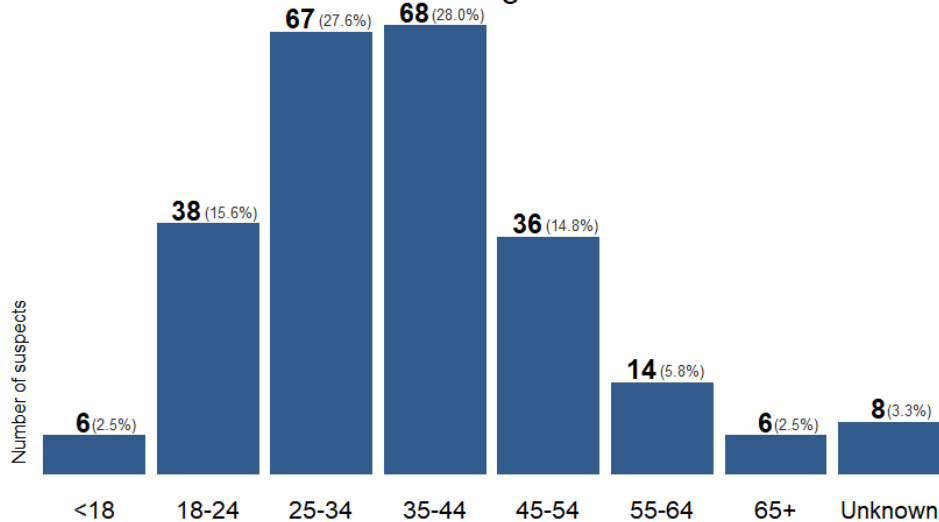
Use of Force Incidents 2024 - Demographics



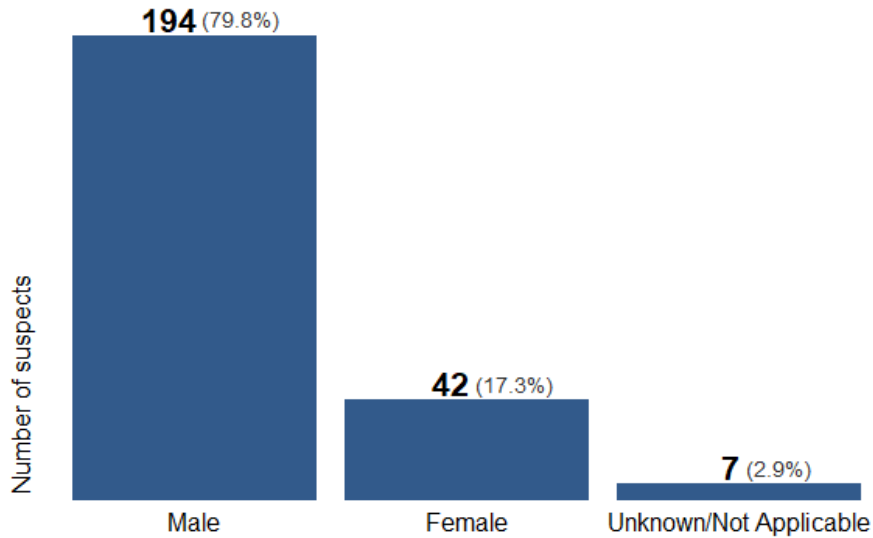
Age and Gender

In 2024 there were eight unknown ages and seven unknown/not applicable genders, this is largely because MSHP considers tire deflation device deployments as a use of force and not every deployment is successful or results in an arrest.

Use of Force Incidents 2024 - Age



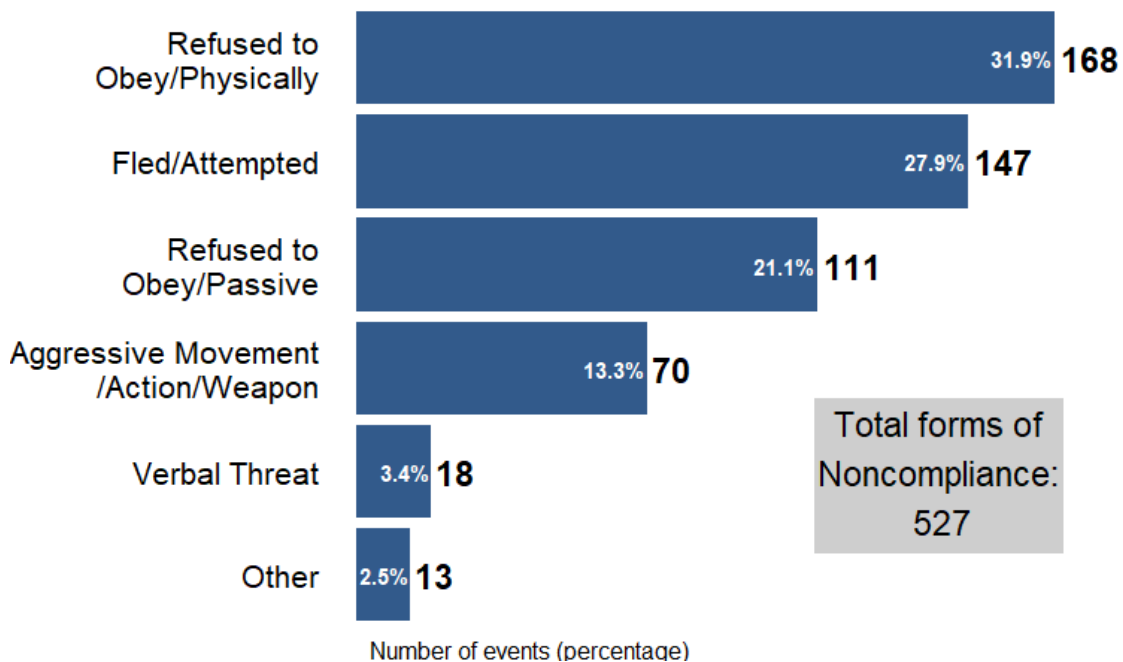
Use of Force Incidents 2024 - Gender



Suspect Noncompliance

The 286 use of force reports by road officers included 527 collective forms of resistance by suspects. It is important to note officers can indicate multiple forms of resistance for each suspect involved in a use of force incident.

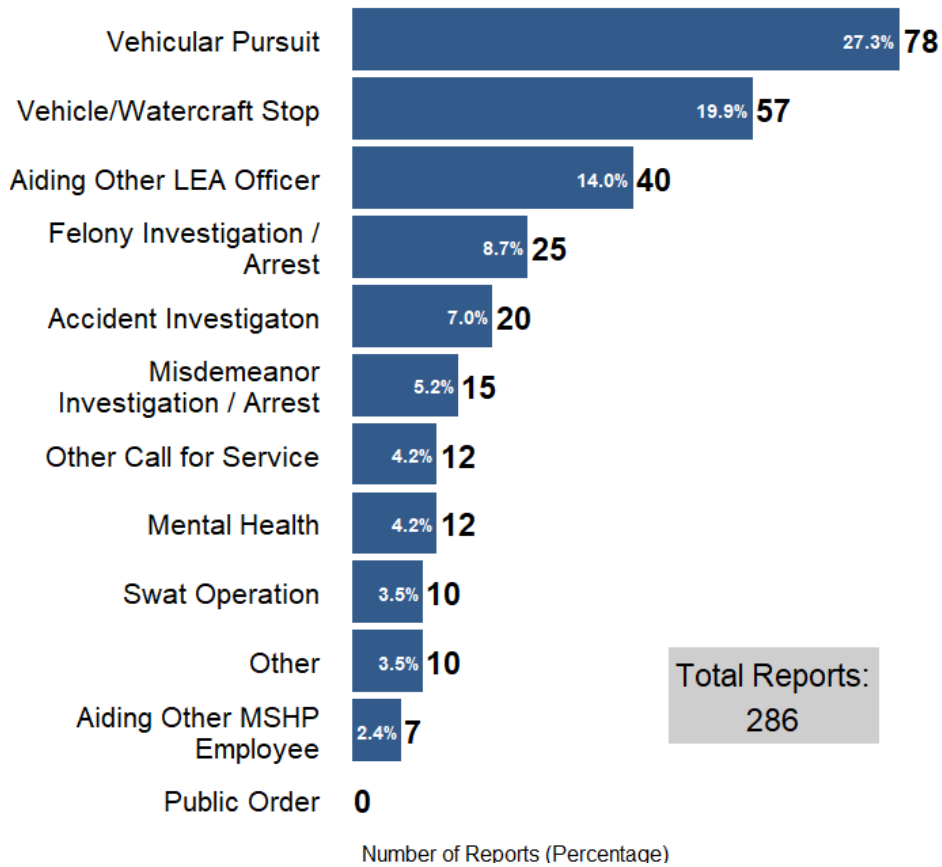
Suspect Forms of Noncompliance



Reasons for Initial Contact

During 2024, vehicular pursuits were a leading reason for initial contact, when a use of force incident occurred (27.3%), coupled with vehicle/watercraft stop (19.9%).

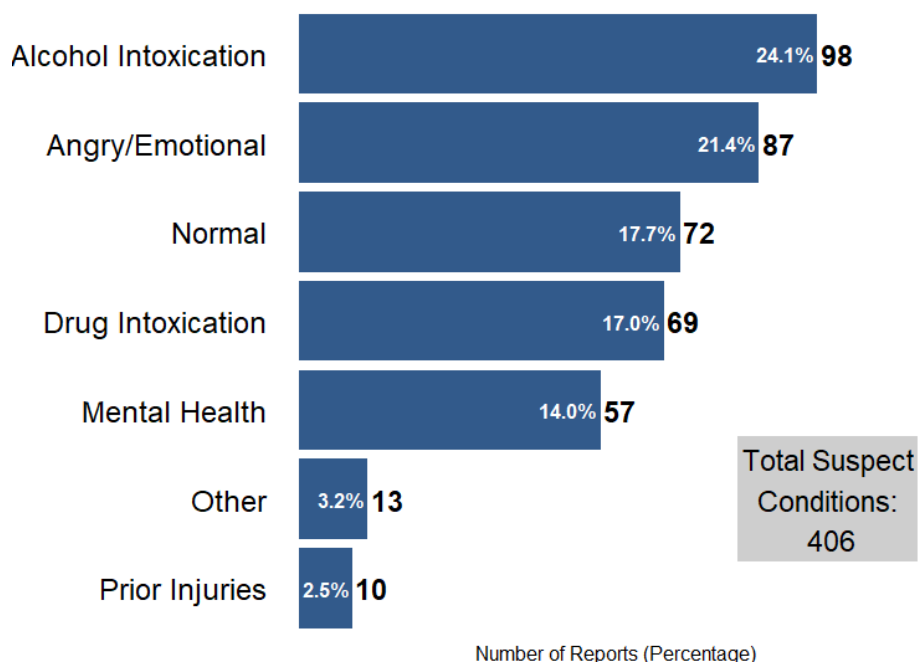
Reason for Initial Contact



Suspect Characteristics and Conditions

For 2024, the average reported height and weight of suspects was 69.5 inches and 178.6 pounds. Force was used against two juveniles in 2024 (reflecting 0.7% of all use of force incidents). The 286 use of force reports by road officers included 406 collective conditions exhibited by suspects. It is important to note that suspects may exhibit multiple conditions. Multiple suspects were encountered in 12.1% of all force encounters occurring in 2024.

Suspect Condition



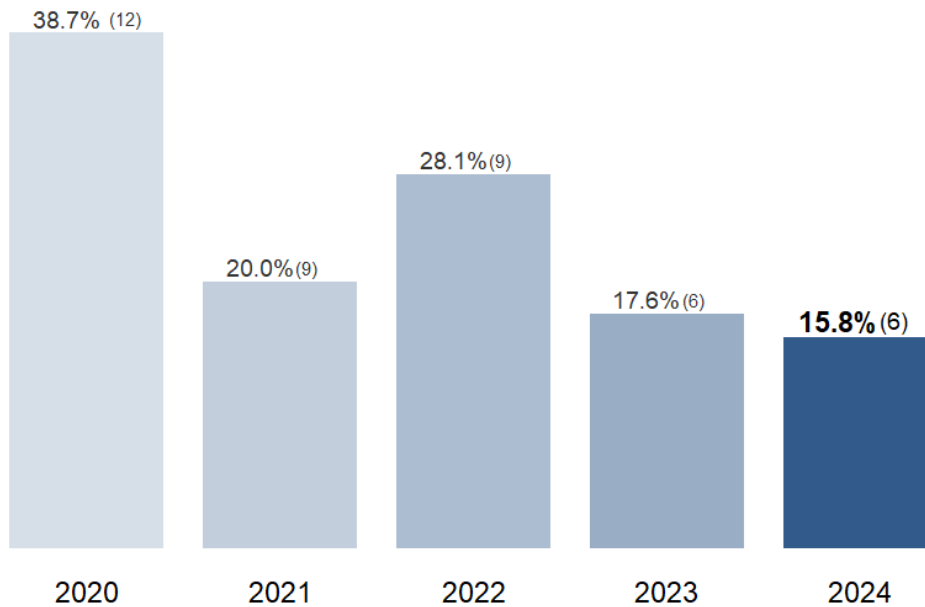
Suspect Weapon Usage

Consistent with previous years, most officers were confronted by unarmed suspects. Suspects applied one or multiple types of force against officers in 72 incidents during 2024. Suspects used their hands and feet 26.1% of the time and their knees/elbows/body 3.9% of the time.

During 2024, there were five (1.6%) incidents where a motor vehicle was used as a weapon by suspects. In addition, in 2024, 6 of the 38 suspects (15.8%) who possessed edged weapons or firearms used them as a weapon. The chart below illustrates deadly weapon use for the past five years.

Use of Force Incidents with Deadly Weapon Encounters

Percentage of deadly weapon encounters during use of force incidents for the year (count)



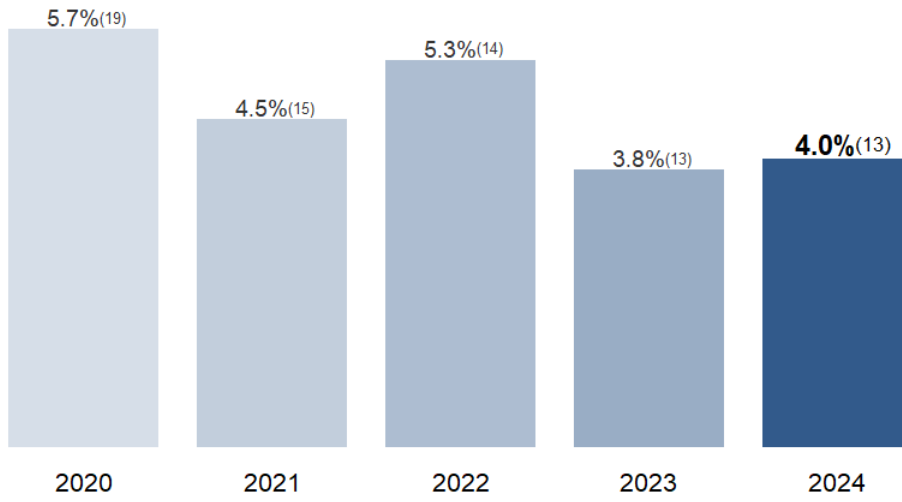
Method of Force Used by MSHP Officers

The most common force application used by officers during 2024 was bodily force, primarily through the process of grasping, wrestling, or pushing a suspect with their hands, feet, knee, elbow, and/or body; accounting for 52.6% of the use of force methods reported. Members also used a control hold in 21.3% of the use of force methods reported, and pain-compliance holds in 4.6% of 2024 use of force methods. It is important to note officers can select more than one use of force method when reporting occurrences.

Use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) aerosol during 2024 accounted for 4% of use of force methods. The vascular neck restraint was used in 7% of all use of force methods during 2024. Finally, the ASP baton was not used as a force method in 2024.

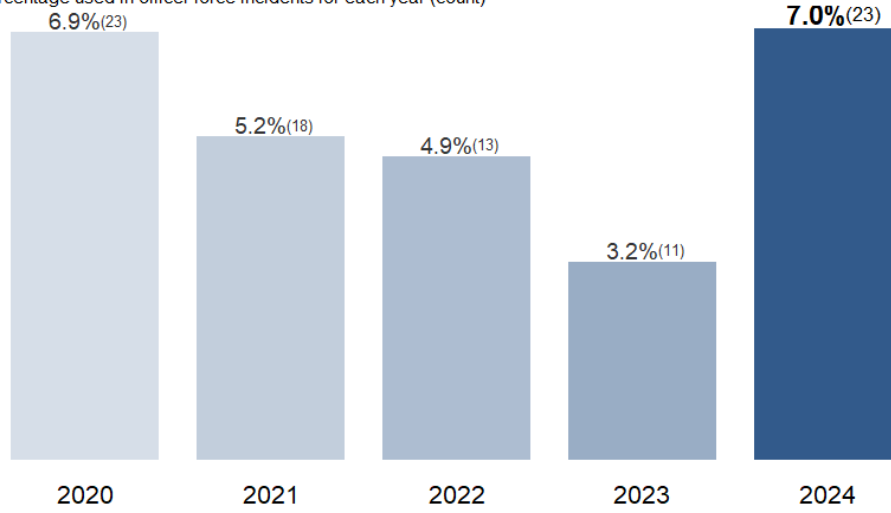
OC Aerosol Use

Percentage used in officer force incidents for each year (count)



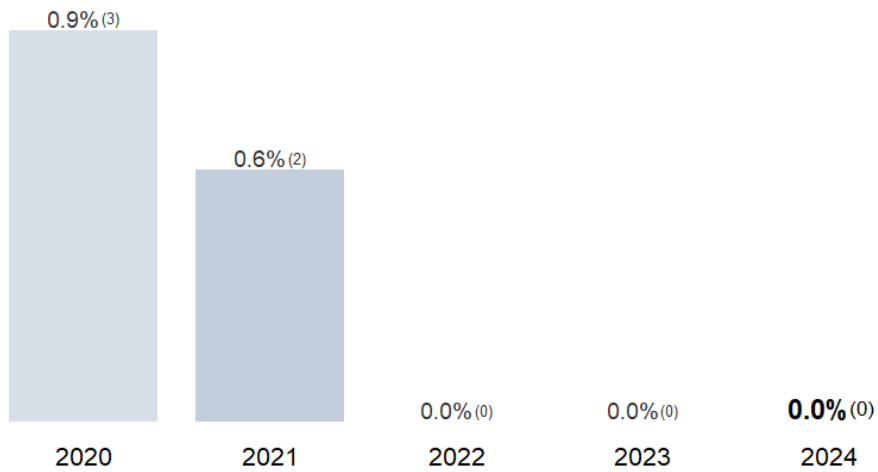
Vascular Neck Restraint

Percentage used in officer force incidents for each year (count)



ASP Baton

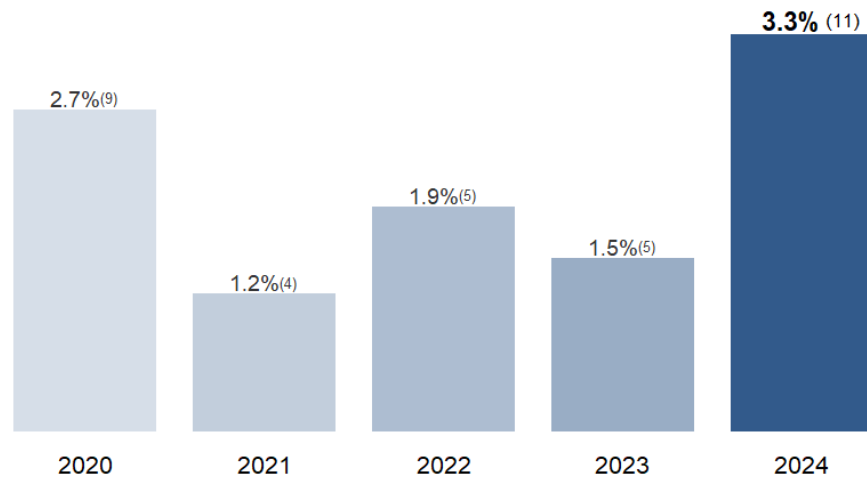
Percentage used in officer force incidents for each year (count)



Officers used their firearms against suspects 11 times during 2024. The graph below depicts firearm discharges as a percentage of methods of force used against offenders by MSHP officers.

Firearm Use

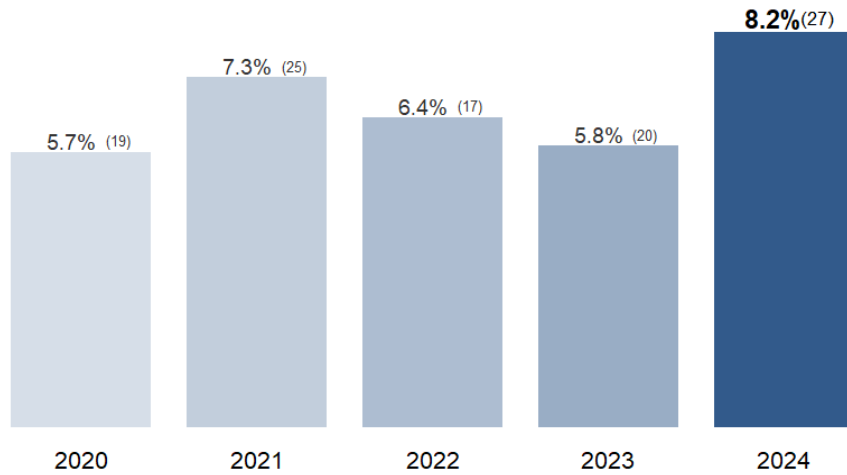
Percentage used in officer force incidents for each year (count)



In 2024 officers used their Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) 27 times representing 8.2% of all use of force methods applied. The use of ECWs was effective 33.3% of the time in subduing the suspect.

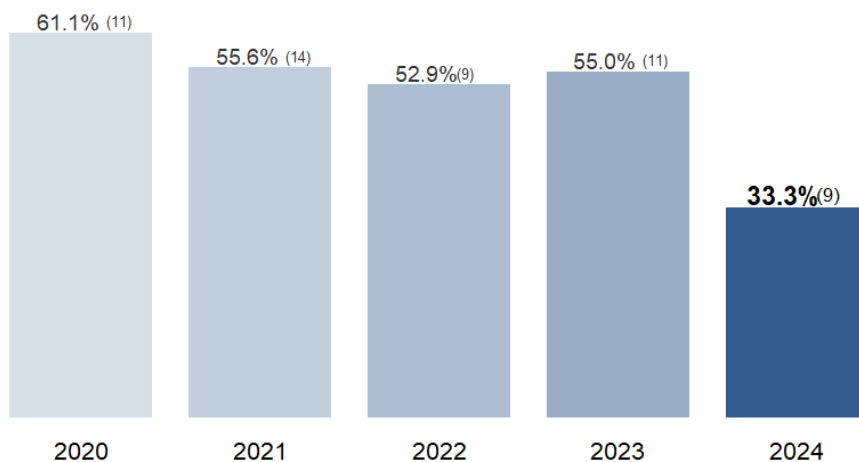
Electronic Control Weapon Use

Percentage used in officer force incidents for each year (count)



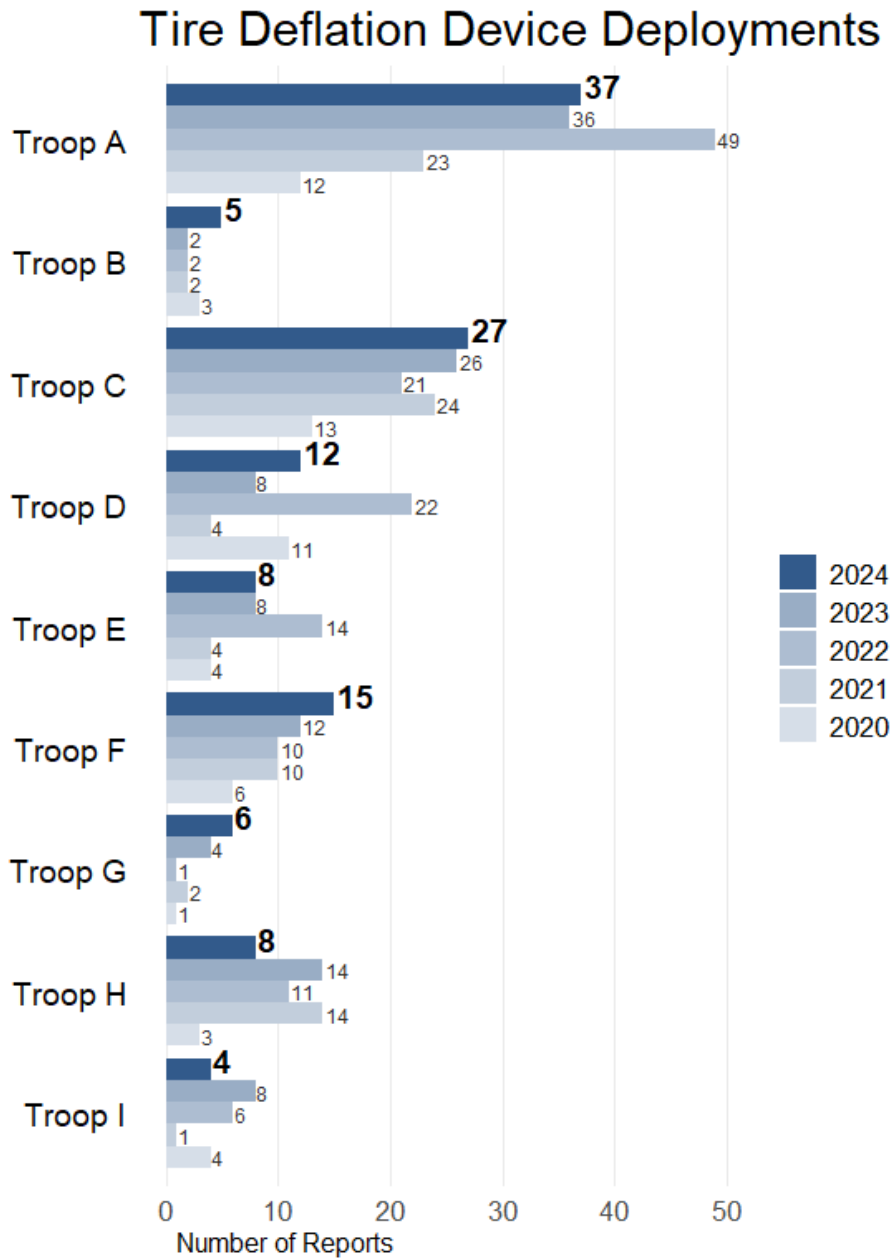
Electronic Control Weapon Effectiveness

Percentage of effective ECW deployments



The use of force by vehicle category is utilized when a suspect vehicle is intentionally rammed or is forced to collide with a Patrol vehicle. There were 12 incidents of vehicle force reported in 2024, a 200% increase from 2023 and a 433% increase over the previous 4 years' average (2.25/year).

Tire deflation deployments captured in Patrol reports included deployments during Patrol pursuits and those occurring when assisting other agencies conducting pursuits. The following table illustrates the number of tire deflation device deployments occurring during use of force incidents within each troop for the past five years. The accompanying chart and bar graphs below illustrate statewide tire deflation device deployments for the same period. Please refer to the Analysis of 2024 Pursuits publication for information regarding tire deflation device deployments occurring during pursuits.

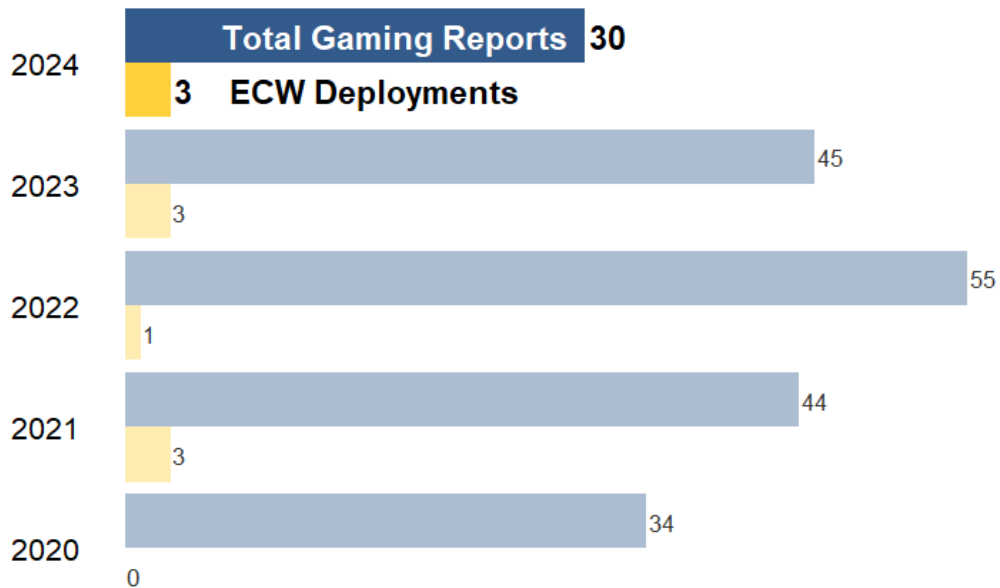


*Beginning in 2022 ALL Tire Deflation Deployments were recorded as Use of Force deployments regardless of the report type.

Use of Force - Gaming Division

During 2024 members assigned to the Gaming Division completed 30 use of force reports for 26 unique incidents, a 33.3% decrease from the previous year. In 2024, three ECW deployments occurred in gaming venues. Below are other common methods of force used by gaming officers in 2024.

Gaming Use of Force



Gaming Types of Force Used

