

2013 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.

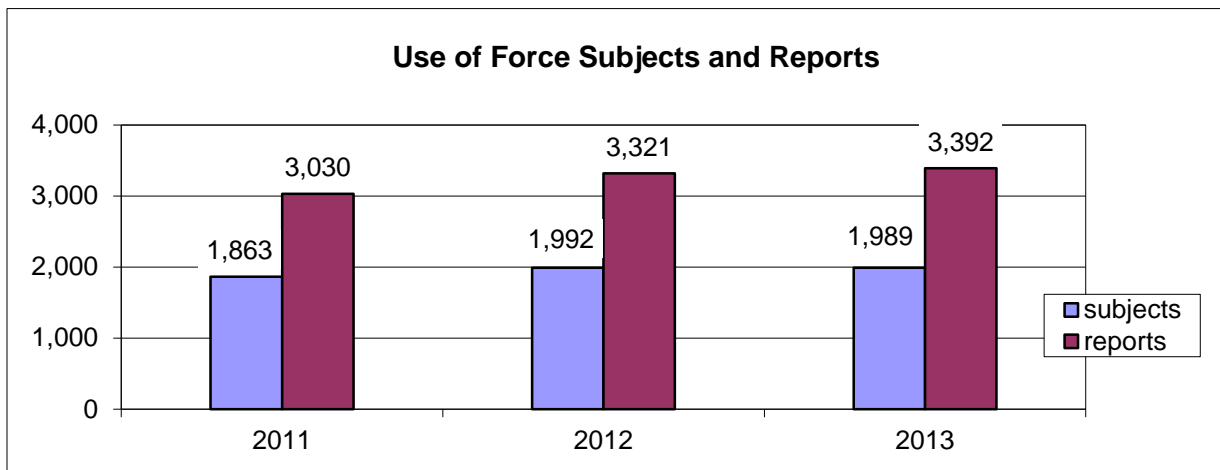
and response to resistance (use of force) is defined by the same policy as:

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.

Number of Use of Force Reports and Subjects

During 2013, there were 3,392 response to resistance reports (unique use of force events) and 1,989 subjects (those who received force).



To provide context, we also track the total number of police contacts (496,932 in 2013) and total arrests (53,291 in 2013). Of the total police contacts, .4% involved resistance/force. And of total arrests, 3.7% involved resistance/force.

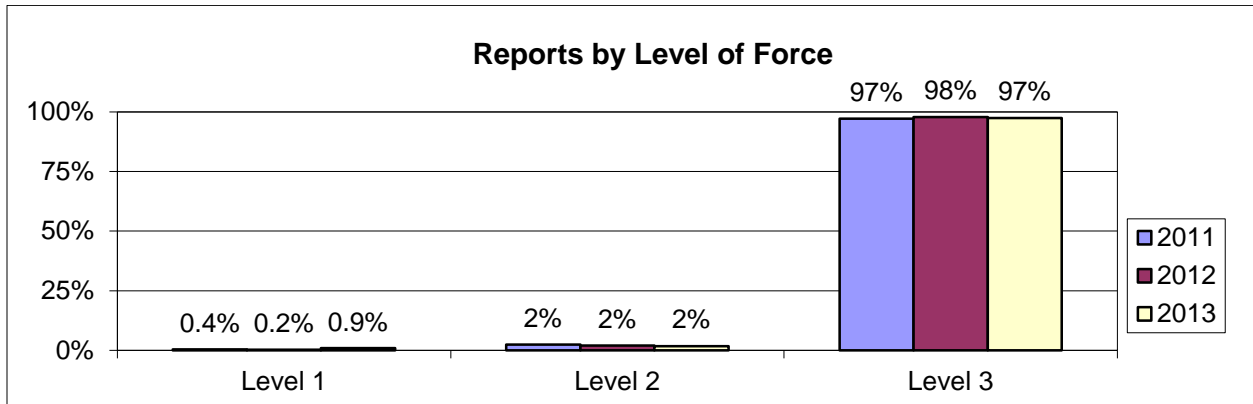
	2011	2012	2013
use of force reports	3,030	3,321	3,392
subjects who had force used	1,863	1,992	1,989
total contacts	611,841	581,472	496,932
total arrests	58,538	55,988	53,291
subjects receiving force as % of total contacts	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
subjects receiving force as % of total arrests	3.2%	3.6%	3.7%

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 • 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

During 2013, 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 2013, there were 1,989 subjects involved in a use of force incident, which is 3.7% of the 53,291 subjects arrested citywide. The table below shows the distribution of force and arrests by race/ethnicity.

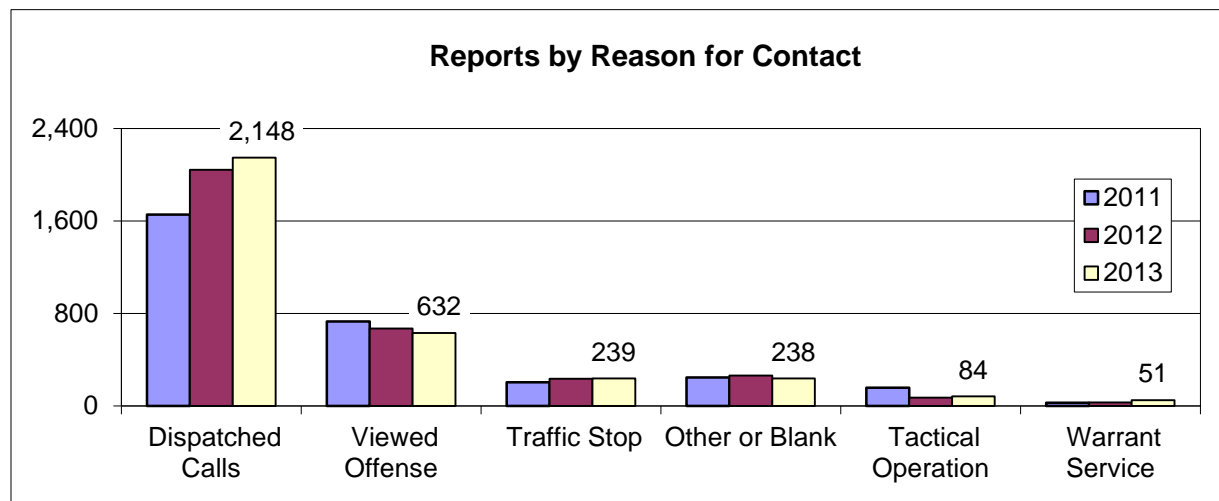
	White			Black			Hispanic		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2013	21,669	723	3.3%	13,172	533	4.0%	17,613	633	3.6%
2012	23,105	731	3.2%	13,467	539	4.0%	18,560	650	3.5%
2011	23,727	617	2.6%	14,519	529	3.6%	19,512	698	3.6%

	Other*			Total		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2013	837	100	11.9%	53,291	1,989	3.7%
2012	856	72	8.4%	55,988	1,992	3.6%
2011	780	19	2.4%	58,538	1,863	3.2%

* Other includes Asian, Native American, Middle Eastern, and subjects where the race was not known.

Reports by Reason for Contact

In 2013 – 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 2013 these represented 19% of reports (see chart and table below).



Reports by Reason for Contact	2011	% of 2011 Reports	2012	% of 2012 Reports	2013	% of 2013 Reports
Dispatched Calls	1,655	55%	2,043	62%	2,148	63%
Viewed Offense	732	24%	671	20%	632	19%
Traffic Stop	206	7%	237	7%	239	7%
Other or Blank	248	8%	265	8%	238	7%
Tactical Operation	160	5%	74	2%	84	2%
Warrant Service	29	1%	31	1%	51	2%
Total	3,030	100%	3,321	100%	3,392	100%

Reports by Type of Force Used

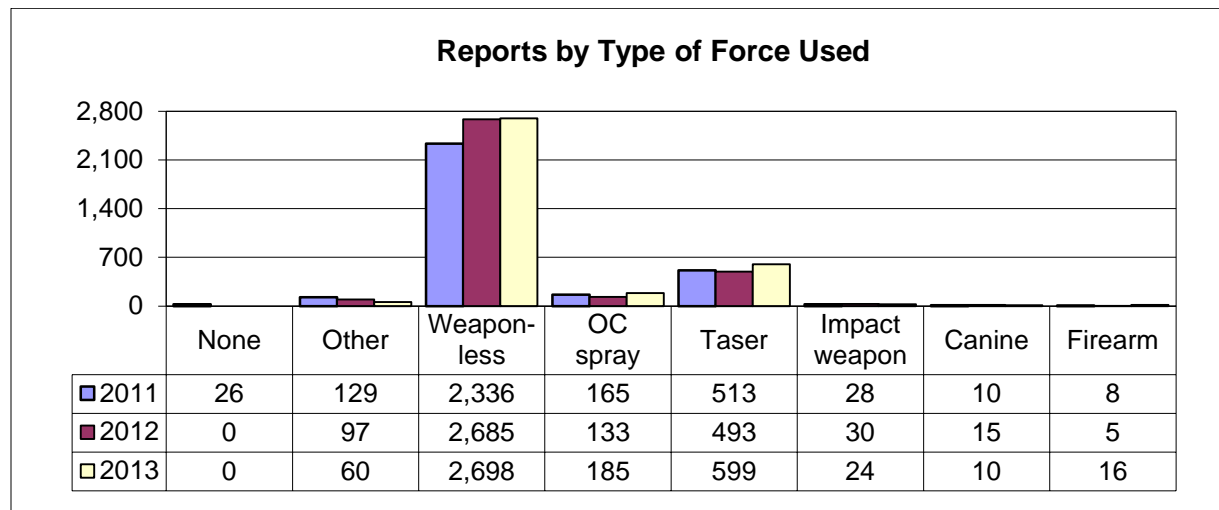
During a response to resistance incident, an officer may need to use more than one type of force. Further, more than one officer may use force to control the situation. As a result, one incident may result in more than one use of force report and each report may include more than one type of force. Thus,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

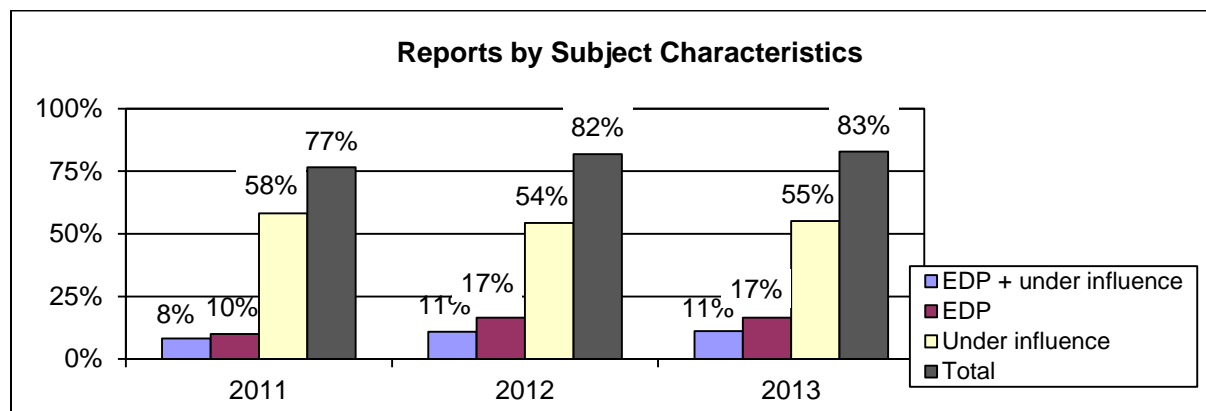
- OC spray: chemical agent known as "pepper spray"
- Taser: less-lethal device using electronic muscular disruption technology that briefly causes loss of voluntary muscle control; includes drive stun and prongs
- Impact weapon: a weapon or object that is used to strike, such as a baton
- Canine: use 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 2013, 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

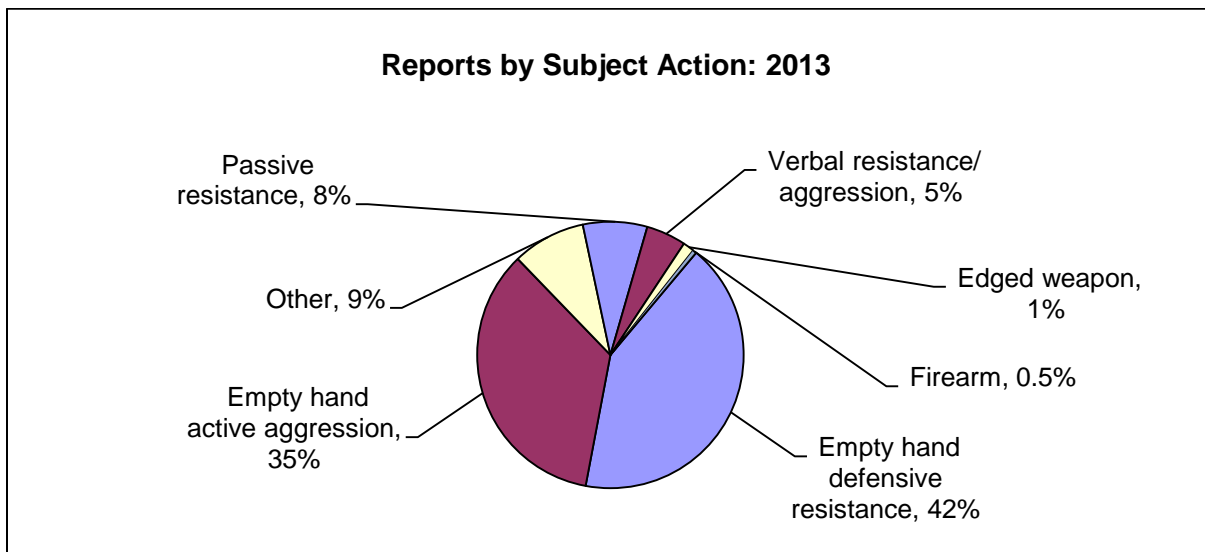
In 55% of the 2013 use of force reports, officers noted that the subject was suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the incident occurred. An additional 17% were suspected as being emotionally disturbed (EDP) and another 11% were suspected of being emotionally disturbed *and* under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



Reports by Subject Action

During 2013, 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.

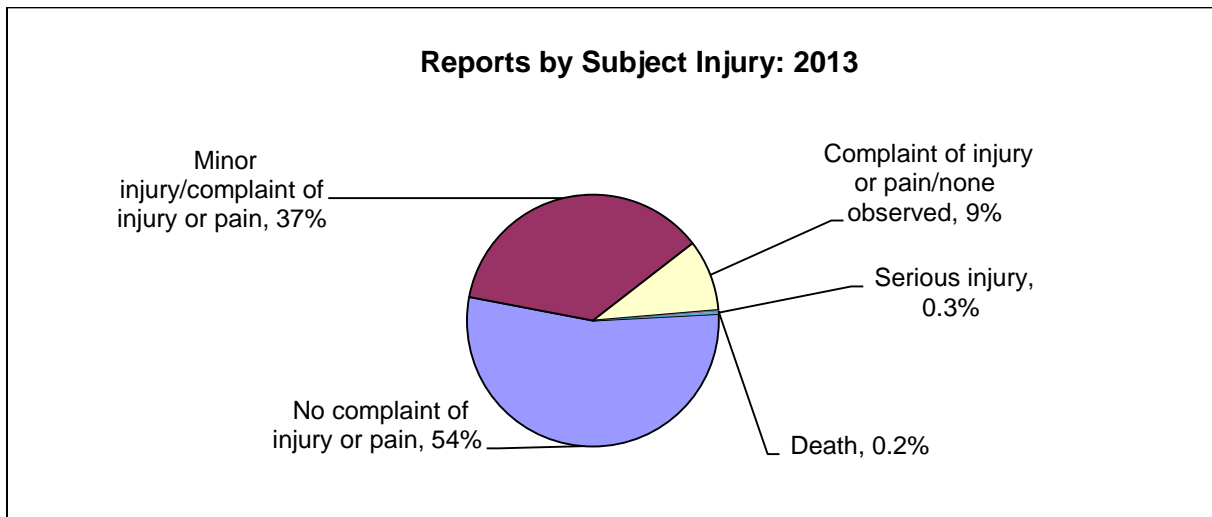
- Passive resistance: physical resistance less than defensive/aggressive resisting (e.g., going limp).
- Other: any other resistance by the subject to hinder arrest or control. Included in this category are incidents where the subject would not comply with the arrest, and a weaponless technique such 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	2011	2011 Reports	2012	2012 Reports	2013	2013 Reports
Empty hand defensive resistance	721	39%	788	40%	833	42%
Empty hand active aggression	660	35%	636	32%	692	35%
Other	191	10%	221	11%	177	9%
Passive resistance	155	8%	175	9%	155	8%
Verbal resistance/ aggression	88	5%	136	7%	96	5%
Edged weapon	37	2%	33	2%	27	1%
Firearm	11	0.6%	3	0.2%	9	0.5%
Total	1,863	100%	1,992	100%	1,989	100%

Reports by Subject Injury

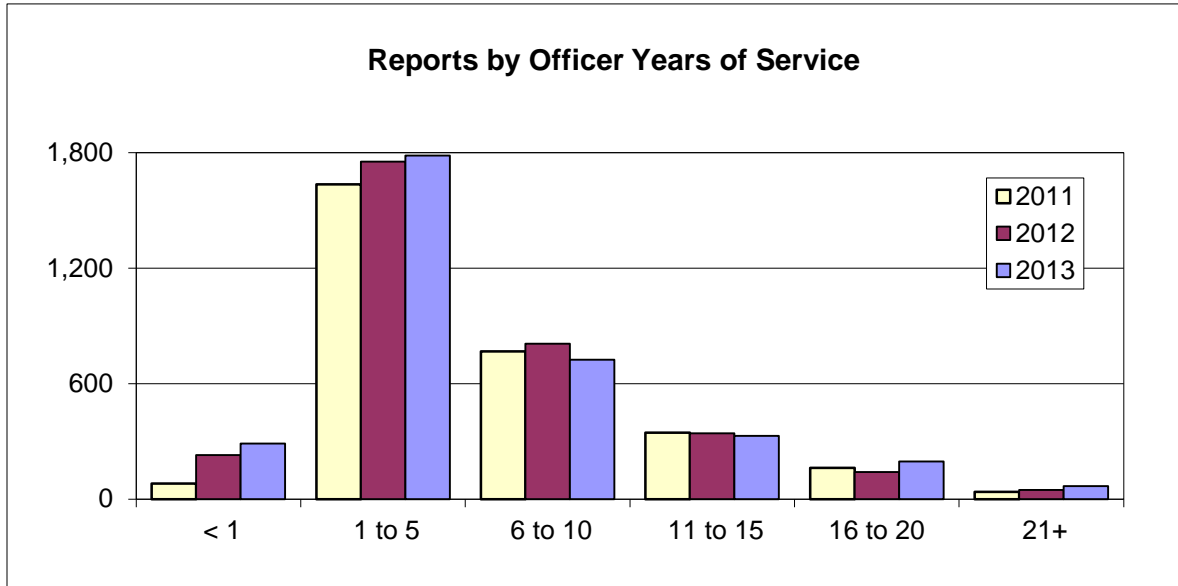
In 2013, as in previous years, the most frequent category of subject injury was “no complaint of injury or pain” (54% of subjects).



Reports by Subject Injury	2011	2011 Reports	2012	2012 Reports	2013	2013 Reports
No complaint of injury or pain	1,024	55%	1,152	58%	1,071	54%
Minor injury/complaint of injury or pain	689	37%	670	34%	726	37%
Complaint of injury or pain/none observed	140	8%	161	8%	182	9%
Death	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	4	0.2%
Serious injury	3	0.2%	3	0.2%	6	0.3%
Unknown	5	0.3%	4	0.2%	0	0.0%
Total	1,863	100%	1,992	100%	1,989	100%

Reports by Officer Years of Experience

In 2013, as in prior years, officers with 1-5 years of service submitted the majority (53%) of response to resistance reports. Officers with 6-10 years of service submitted the next highest number of reports (21%).



Reports by Officer Years of Service	2011	% of 2011 Reports	2012	% of 2012 Reports	2013	% of 2013 Reports
< 1	80	3%	229	7%	289	9%
1 to 5	1,636	54%	1,754	53%	1,786	53%
6 to 10	767	25%	808	24%	725	21%
11 to 15	346	11%	342	10%	328	10%
16 to 20	163	5%	140	4%	196	6%
21+	38	1%	48	1%	68	2%
Total	3,030	100%	3,321	100%	3,392	100%

As context, most response to resistance reports are submitted by patrol officers (84% in 2013) and the department's patrol officer population is similarly concentrated in the 1-5 years of service category (36%), followed by the 6-10 years of service category (25%).