

Statistical Analysis Center

Use-of-Force in Oklahoma, 2023

September XX, 2025

Introduction

In January 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched the Use-of-Force data collection as a component of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program used by law enforcement agencies. According to the FBI, the goal for use-of-force reporting is to provide “an aggregate view of the incidents reported and the circumstances, subjects, and officers involved.” ([FBI Use-of-Force](#))

It should be noted that the use-of-force data collection gathers data that is readily available within the first days of an investigation. The Use-of-Force program does not collect data regarding the outcome of the use-of-force incidents, and it does not assess if officers involved in the incidents acted lawfully.

The Use-of-Force program only collects information on incidents where a law enforcement officer(s) discharges his/her firearm in the direction of a person; where serious bodily injury of a person occurs due to the use-of-force; and where the use-of-force results in the death of a person.

Methodology

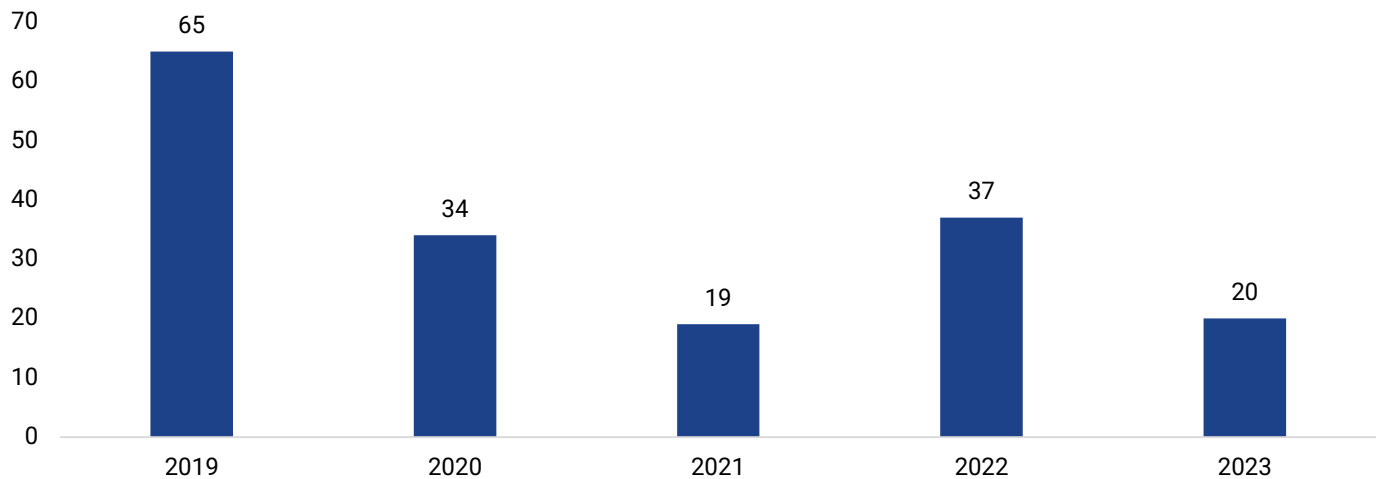
In January 2019, when the FBI began data collection nationally, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation’s (OSBI) Field Services Unit began collecting use-of-force incidents in Oklahoma. To collect data, the Field Services Unit contacts all local law enforcement agencies (more than 400 reporting agencies) and provides instructions and related forms for reporting use-of-force data. In addition, if Field Services Unit personnel become aware of media reports or calls for service involving the use-of-force, the field representative will send the use-of-force form to the agency with a reminder to submit data.

Most Oklahoma law enforcement agencies submit their data to the Field Services Unit at the OSBI and the data is then entered into the FBI’s use-of-force program. Oklahoma City Police Department is the only agency in the state that submits data directly into the FBI’s use-of-force system. Lastly, use-of-force data is collected on a calendar year basis.

Incident Summary

In 2023, there were 20 incidents reported that met the use-of-force[^] guidelines, a decrease of 45.9% from 2022 (Figure 1). There were 15 unique reporting agencies in 2023. Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported the most incidents (4), Oklahoma City Police Department reported 3 incidents, and the remaining 13 agencies reported one incident each. Of the 20 use-of-force[^] incidents, 12 incidents resulted in a subject's death, 5 incidents resulted in a subject suffering a serious injury, and the remaining 3 incidents resulted in a law enforcement officer(s) discharging his/her firearm at or in the direction of an individual.

Figure 1. Use-of-Force[^] Incidents per Year, 2019-2023



December was the most reported month, accounting for 25.0% of all use-of-force[^] incidents in 2023. No use-of-force[^] incidents were reported in August and October (Figure 2). Figure 3 displays the time of day for the use-of-force[^] incidents. The most common times reported were 0200–0259, 1500–1559, and 2000–2059. Over half (55.0%) of use-of-force[^] incidents occurred between 2000–0259, and 25.0% of use-of-force[^] incidents occurred between 1200–1559. The majority of use-of-force[^] incidents occurred at either a Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk (35.0%), Residence/Home (25.0%), or Parking/Drop Lot/Garage (10.0%). The remaining incidents occurred at a Bar/Nightclub, Commercial/Office Building, Field/Woods, Gambling Facility/Casino/Race Track, Government/Public Building, or an Industrial Site (Figure 4).

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Figure 2. Month of Use-of-Force[^] Incidents, 2023

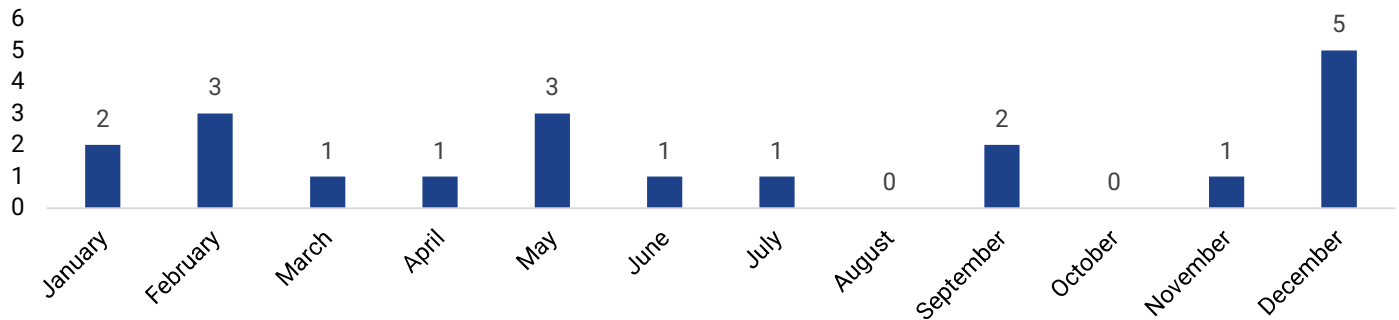


Figure 3. Time of Day of Use-of-Force[^] Incidents, 2023

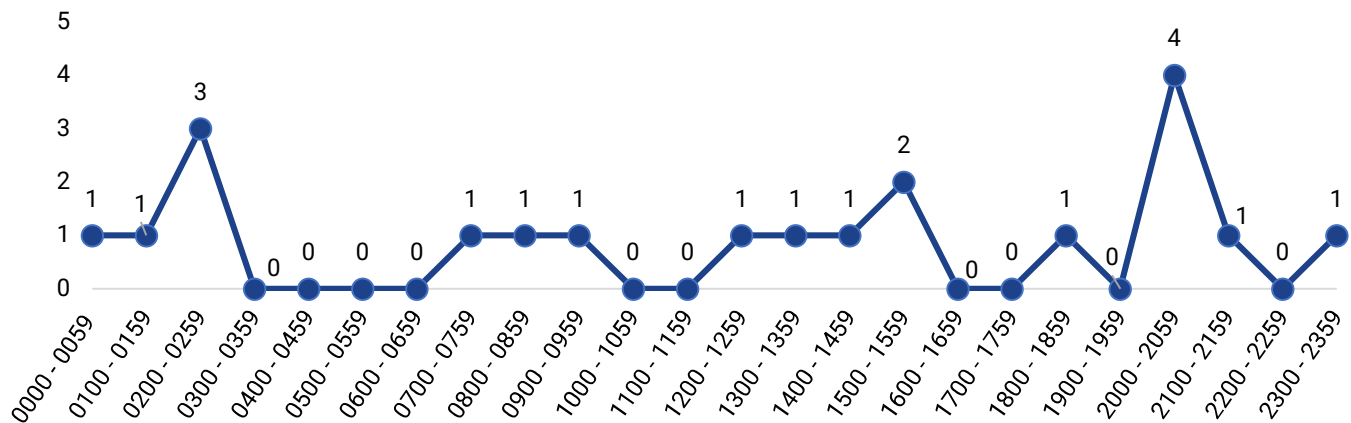
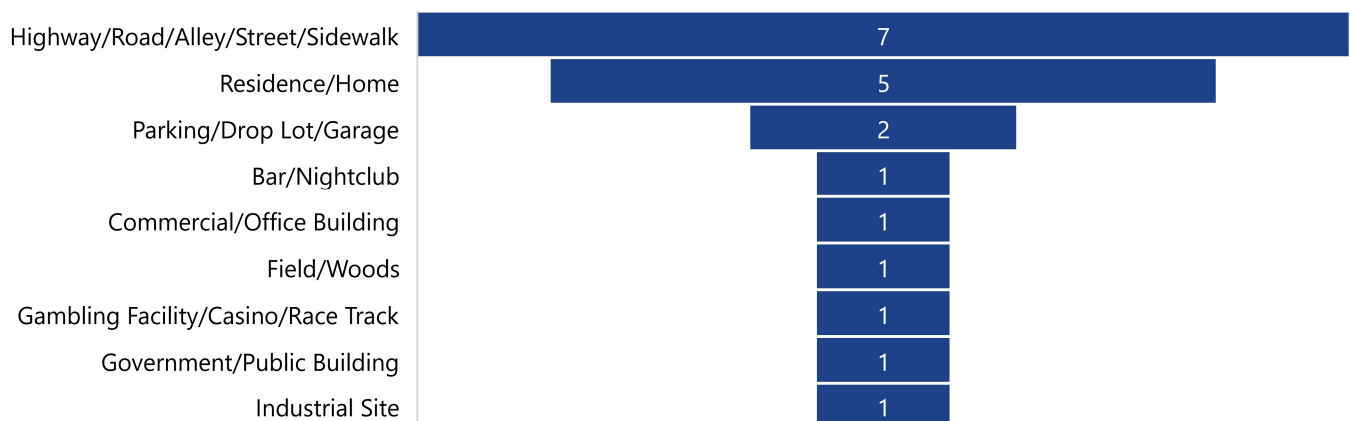


Figure 4. Location Type of Use-of-Force[^] Incidents, 2023



[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The use-of-force[^] program collects the reason for initial contact between the officers and subjects. Figure 5 shows the most reported reason was Criminal Suspicious Activity, followed by Medical, Traffic Stop, and Warrant. The remaining encounters were the result of Routine Patrol, Other, and Pending Further Investigation. Of the 20 incidents, officers approached the subjects in 15 incidents, did not approach the subject in 4 incidents, and one incident was Pending Further Investigation. Of the 20 incidents, officers were ambushed in two incidents. In both incidents, officers initially approached the subject. In the remaining 18 incidents, officers were not ambushed in 16 incidents, and two incidents were Pending Further Investigation. There was a senior officer present in 9 use-of-force[^] incidents.

Per the FBI's reporting guidelines, if an agency reports an initial contact of Criminal Suspicious Activity, then the agency may report up to three alleged offenses committed by the subject that led to the initial contact. Of the 20 use-of-force[^] incidents, 10 incidents did not have an offense listed since the initial contact was not due to Criminal Suspicious Activity. The most common offenses reported were Aggravated Assault and Weapon Law Violations (Figure 6). Other offenses reported include Robbery, Simple Assault, All Other Offenses, Kidnapping/Abduction, Theft From Motor Vehicle, and Unknown.

Figure 5. Reason for Initial Contact, 2023

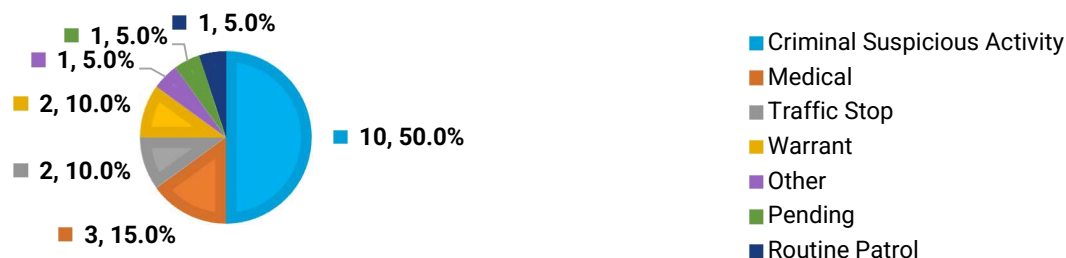
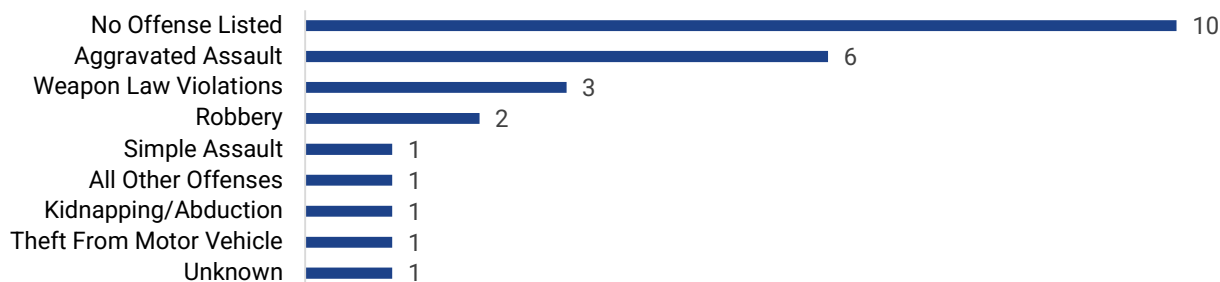


Figure 6. Number of Alleged Offenses, 2023



[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Subject Information

The use-of-force[^] program collects information on the subjects involved in a use-of-force[^] incident, including demographic information. In 2023, there were 21 unique individuals reported as a subject in the use-of-force[^] incidents. Two-thirds (66.7%) of subjects reported were between 20 and 39 years old, while 19.0% of subjects were reported as 50 to 59 years old (Table 1). It should be noted that race and ethnicity are reported in the same data field. As a result, there were 22 race/ethnicities reported for the 21 subjects. The most common race/ethnicity reported was White, followed by Black, Hispanic, and American Indian (Figure 7). For one of the subjects, both Black and Hispanic were reported for race/ethnicity, and the remaining 20 subjects only had a single race/ethnicity reported. Of the 21 subjects of use-of-force[^] incidents, 20 were Male, and one was Female (Figure 8).

Table 1. Age Range of Subjects, 2023

Age Range	No. of Subjects	% of Total
Under 18	1	4.8
18 - 19	1	4.8
20 - 29	7	33.3
30 - 39	7	33.3
40 - 49	1	4.8
50 - 59	4	19.0
Total	21	100.0

Figure 7. Race/Ethnicity of Subjects, 2023

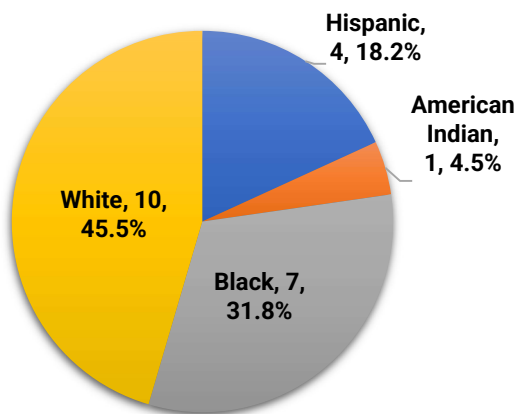
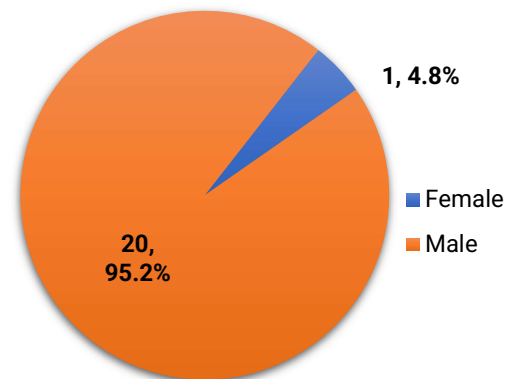


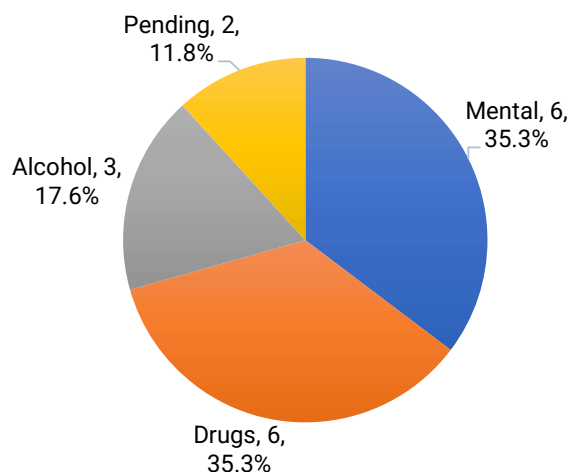
Figure 8. Sex of Subjects, 2023



[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

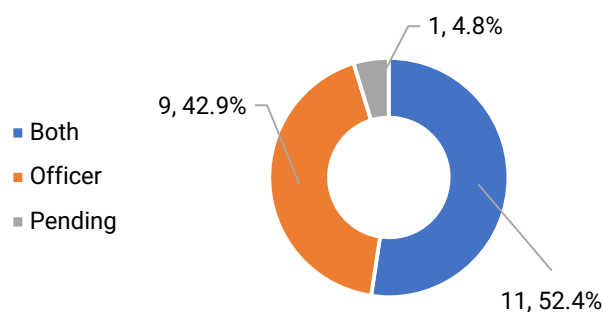
The use-of-force[^] program collects information on whether subjects exhibited any apparent or known physical or mental impairment. In 2023, 10 subjects were reportedly impaired, two were reportedly not impaired, seven were pending further investigation, and it was unknown whether two subjects were impaired. If a subject is impaired, law enforcement agencies may report one or more types of impairment per subject. Of the 10 impaired subjects, 17 types of impairment were reported. Of the 17 types, 35.3% were Mental, 35.3% were Drugs, 17.6% were Alcohol, and 11.8% were Pending Further Investigation (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Impairment Type for Subjects, 2023



Additionally, the use-of-force[^] program collects whether the subject was threatening officers and/or others just prior to the use-of-force[^] incident. Of the 21 subjects, 9 subjects threatened only officers, and 11 subjects threatened both officers and others (Figure 10). It was Pending Further Investigation who the remaining subject threatened.

Figure 10. Subject Threatening, 2023



The use-of-force[^] program collects whether the subject resisted officers and the type of resistance used. In 2023, all 21 subjects resisted officers. For the 21 subjects, 55 types of resistance were reported, and agencies may report more than one type of resistance per subject. As shown in Table 2, the most common types of resistance reported were: Display Weapon at an Officer or Another, Escape/Flee from Custody, Non-Compliance with Verbal Commands, and Use a Firearm Against an Officer or Another.

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Table 2. Types of Resistance Used, 2023

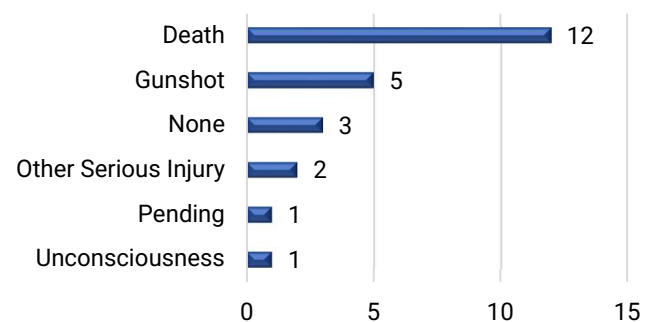
Type of Resistance	No. of Resistances	% of Total
Display Weapon at an Officer or Another	13	23.6
Escape/Flee from Custody	11	20
Non-Compliance with Verbal Commands	10	18.2
Use a Firearm Against an Officer or Another	8	14.5
Use Other Weapon at an Officer or Another	3	5.5
Resisted Handcuffs/Arrest	3	5.5
Directed Motor Vehicle at an Officer or Another	2	3.6
Use Physical Weapons	2	3.6
Barricaded Self	1	1.8
Made Verbal Threats	1	1.8
Pending Further Investigation	1	1.8
Total	55	100.0

Additionally, the type of force used by officers on subjects in use-of-force[^] incidents was collected, and like the type of resistance, an agency may report multiple types of force used. As a result, 25 types of force were reportedly used by officers in 2023. As shown in Table 3, the most common type of force used was Firearm (84.0%). Other types of force reported were Physical (8.0%), Electronic (4.0%), and Other (4.0%).

In the use-of-force[^] data collection, agencies may report the type of injury the subject received during the use-of-force[^] incident. If applicable, an agency can report more than one injury per subject. Of the 21 subjects in 2023, there were 24 types of injury reported (Figure 11). The most common injuries reported were Death and Gunshot. Other common injury types reported were None, Other Serious Injury, and Unconsciousness. For one subject, the injury was Pending Further Investigation.

Table 3. Type of Force Applied, 2023

Type of Force Applied	Count	% of Total
Firearm	21	84.0
Physical	2	8.0
Electronic	1	4.0
Other	1	4.0
Total	25	100.0

Figure 11. Subject Injuries, 2023

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Officer Information

The use-of-force[^] program collects information on officer demographics and other data elements. In 2023, 28 officers were involved in a use-of-force[^] incident. All 28 officers were reportedly Male. Sixty percent of officers were between the ages of 20 and 39 years old (Figure 12). Of the 28 officers, over two-thirds (67.9%) were White, followed by Black (14.3%), and American Indian/Alaskan Native (10.7%) (Figure 13).

Figure 12. Age Ranges of Officers, 2023

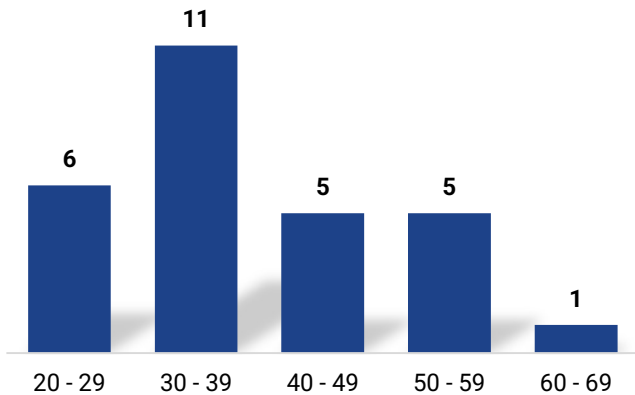
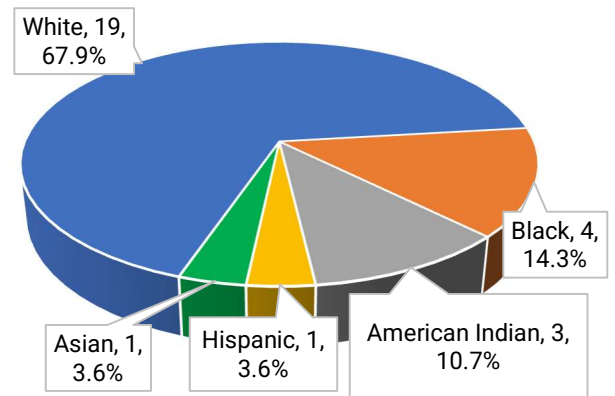
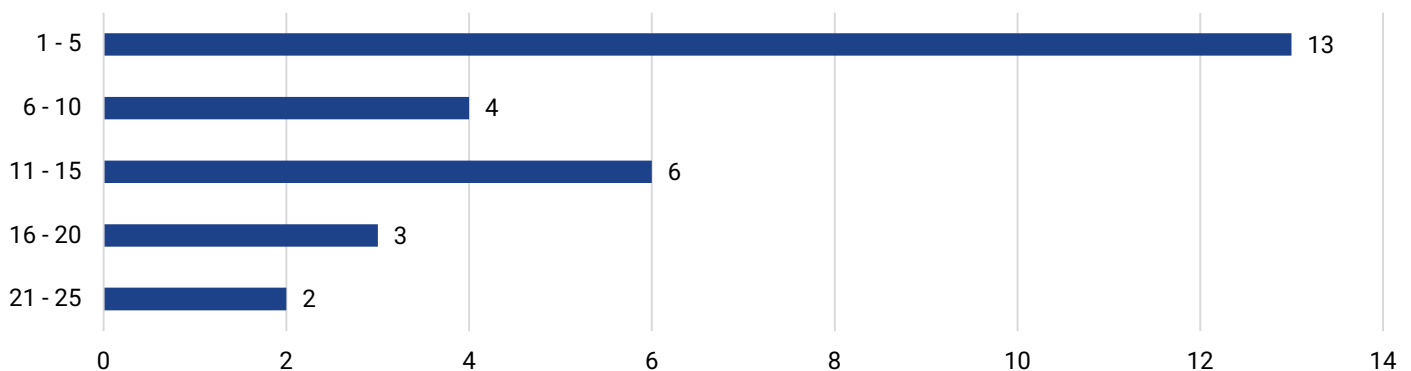


Figure 13. Race/Ethnicity of Officers, 2023



Additionally, the years of service for each officer involved in a use-of-force[^] incident was reported. As displayed in Figure 14, there were 13 officers with 1 to 5 years of service. The same number of officers (13) had between 6 to 20 years of service, and the remaining two officers had between 21 and 25 years of service.

Figure 14. Years of Service of Officers, 2023



[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

In addition to the years of service, the use-of-force[^] program collects whether officer(s) were Full or Part Time, if officer(s) were identifiable, if officer(s) were on duty, and if officer(s) discharged their firearm during the incident:

- All officers were reportedly Full Time.
- 26 of 28 officers were identifiable as officers, and the remaining two officers were not identifiable.
- 27 of 28 officers were on-duty when the use-of-force[^] incident occurred.
- Of the 28 officers involved, 25 officers discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person, and one officer did not discharge a firearm at or in the direction of a person. Two officers were Pending Further Investigation if they discharged at or in the direction of a person.

The use-of-force[^] data collection collects whether officers were injured in the use-of-force[^] incident. In 2023, two officers were Pending Further Investigation whether they had any injuries. The remaining officers were reportedly uninjured.

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

Glossary of Terms

Incident Information – Contains information on the use-of-force incident reports, excluding the subject and officer details.

Subject Information – Contains information on the subjects of use-of-force incident reports.

Total Number of Officers – Number of Officers using force during the incidents. Includes all officers who were present at any time during the contact between officer(s) and the subject, and who directly engaged at least with a use-of-force.

Total Number of Subjects – The total number of subjects that died or received serious bodily injury as a result of a law enforcement use-of-force, or, in the absence of death or serious bodily injury, received the discharge of a firearm at or in their direction.

Officer Approach – Value describes if the officer involved in the incident approached the subject.

Ambushed – Value described if the incident was an ambush situation. An ambush is a situation where an officer is assaulted, unexpectedly, as the result of premeditated design by the subject, or where an unsuspecting officer was targeted or lured into danger as the result of conscious consideration and palling by the subject.

Offense – Identifies the alleged criminal offenses committed by the subject(s) that led to the initial contact with the police. This field is collected only when the "Initial Contact" column indicates "unlawful or suspicious activity."

Initial Contact – Description of the reason for initial contact between officer and the subject.

Armed – Value indicates if the subject was in possession of a weapon, regardless of whether the subject used the weapon in a threatening or assaultive way against either law enforcement officers or other persons.

Resisted – Value indicates if the subject exhibited an effort to resist the actions of the law enforcement officer (s). Types of resisting can be: Escape/Flee, Resisted (Handcuffs/Arrest), Barricade, Firearm, Other Weapon, Physical (Hand/Fist/Feet), Display Weapon, Vehicle, Bodily Fluids, Throwing, Verbal Threats, Noncompliance, Pending, and Unknown.

Impaired – Value indicates if the subject exhibited an apparent or known impairment in mental or physical condition. Types of impairment include: Mental, Alcohol, Drugs, Pending, and Unknown.

Threatened – Value indicates who the subject threatened just prior to the use-of-force. Values can include: Officer, Another Party, Both the Officer and Others, Pending, and Unknown.

Force Applied – Indicates the type of force used by law enforcement. Values can include: Firearm, Electronic, Explosive, Chemical, Baton, Projectile, Blunt Object, Physical (Hands, Fists, Feet), Canine, Other, Pending, and Unknown.

Injury – Indicates if the subject was injured during the use-of-force incidents. Injuries can include: Gunshot, Unconsciousness, Other Serious Injury, Death, None, Pending, and Unknown.

Officer Identifiable – Indicates if the officer was readily identifiable by clothing or insignia at the time of the incident.

Shots Fired – Indicates if the officer discharges a firearm at or in the direction of a person during the incident.

Officer Injured – Indicates if the officer was injured during the incident. Injuries can include: Minor Injury, Gunshot, Unconsciousness, Serious Injury, Death, Pending, and Unknown.

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) is recognized by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) for the State of Oklahoma. The SAC collects, analyzes, and disseminates justice information. This report was written by Christopher Cordova, Statistical Research Specialist.

For more information, please contact:

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

6600 North Harvey,

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73116

okcrimestats@osbi.ok.gov

405-848-6724

[Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center | Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation](#)

[^]Use-of-Force reports included are limited to those incidents which involved the death of the subject; serious bodily injury of the subject; or law enforcement shooting at/in the direction of a subject.