



RESISTANCE RESPONSE YEAR END SUMMARY

Rehoboth Beach Police Department

Report Date: December 16th, 2025

Resistance Response Reporting

2024 Report Year

In order to provide guidance for reporting, review, and analysis of resistance response incidents, the Rehoboth Beach Police Department categorizes these incidents as Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 resistance responses. These three levels of resistance response are defined as follows.

Level 1 resistance response is defined as:

- Any incident where an officer believes their verbal communication abilities allowed them to negotiate with a non-compliant subject to de-escalate the situation without having to deploy force.
- Any incident during which an officer employs (displays, gives warnings, etc.) any weapon to overcome resistance by gaining compliance of a subject, ending the situation in a safe and prudent manner without deployment or actual/alleged injury to the subject. This includes the cycling of a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) or taser as a form of warning.
- Any incident in which a canine was utilized to overcome resistance by a subject, ending the situation in a safe and prudent manner without deployment or actual/alleged injury to the subject.
- Use of empty hand tactics to overcome resistance by a subject, ending the situation in a safe and prudent manner without actual/alleged injury to the subject. Empty hand tactics are defined as the officer's use of soft techniques such as grabs, holds, and/or joint locks to restrain an individual.
- Use of forcible takedowns to overcome resistance by a subject, ending the situation in a safe and prudent manner without actual/alleged injury to the subject.

Level 2 resistance response is defined as:

- Any physical contact, including the application of handcuffs, resulting in an injury or complaint of injury to a subject.
- Any use of hard techniques such as punches and kicks to restrain an individual.
- Any deployment of OC aerosol spray.
- Any deployment (probe or drive stun mode) of a CEW.
- Any strike, other than any intentional strike to the head, neck, sternum, spine, or kidney area, with an impact weapon.
- Any incident in which a canine was utilized to overcome resistance by a subject resulting in actual/alleged injury.



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Level 3 resistance response is defined as:

- Any deadly force response or any incident involving the death of a person while in police custody.
- Any firearm discharge by an officer, including unintentional discharges.
- The discharge of a firearm toward a dangerous animal, as described above in section 6 of this order. This does not include the dispatching of a wild animal that is sick, injured, and/or a threat to public safety.
- Any intentional striking of a subject with a vehicle.
- Any vehicle pursuit resulting in the death of a person or which causes serious physical injury with the substantial risk of impending death.
- Any intentional strike to the head, neck, sternum, spine, or kidney areas with an impact weapon. This does not include strikes with body parts; hands, feet, elbows, knees, etc.
- Any force response causing serious physical injury with the substantial risk of impending death.
- Any incident involving significant misconduct by an officer in the use of force.

Reporting Overview

2024 Report Year

In 2024, the Rehoboth Beach Police Department handled 2756 complaints.

In the course of handling 12 of those complaints, which is less than 1%, officers encountered resistance from individuals they contacted. Only 2 of these 12 complaints involved a Level 2 resistance response and no incidents involving a Level 3, deadly force, resistance response.

Of the 12 complaints involving resistance response, 9 involved officers responding with multiple types of force applications (a.k.a force responses) resulting in a total of 29 force responses in 2024. It is important to note that 7 of the 29 force responses, or 25%, were verbal de-escalation.



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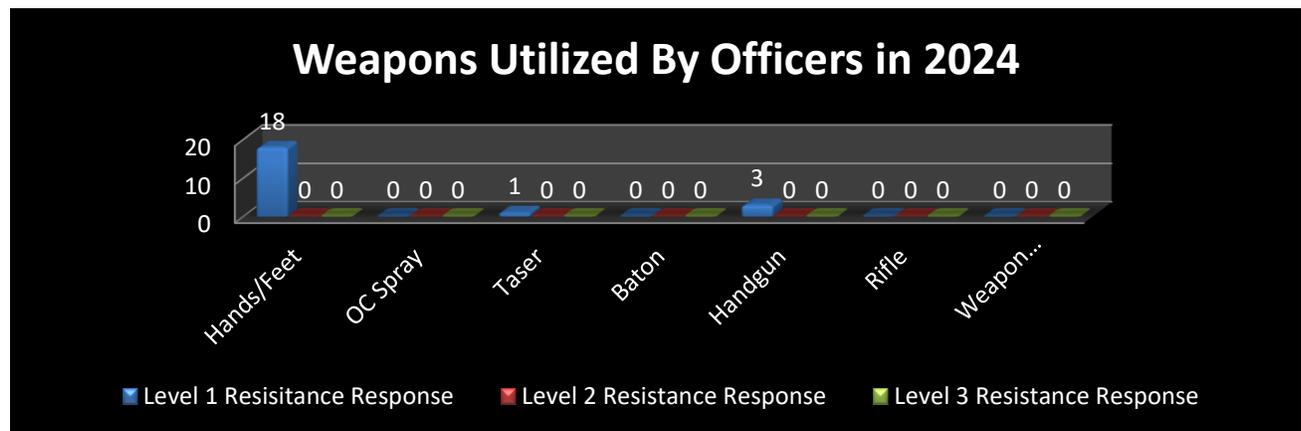
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Weapons Involved

2024 Report Year

The Rehoboth Beach Police Department issues all full-time COPT certified police officers the following weapons; OC Spray, Taser, Expandable Baton, Handgun, and Rifle. Seasonal police officers are only certified to carry OC Spray and an Expandable Baton.

During 2 resistance response incidents the suspects were considered armed with a weapon. The weapons with which the suspects were armed were a handgun and in one case the operator of a vehicle utilized the vehicle as a weapon steering in the direction of officers. In both cases the officers displayed issues weapons to deescalate the incident without injury.





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Injuries Associated with Resistance Response

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In 2024, no officers were injured while responding to resistance; however, two suspects sustained minor injuries in the forms of scrapes and/or cuts.

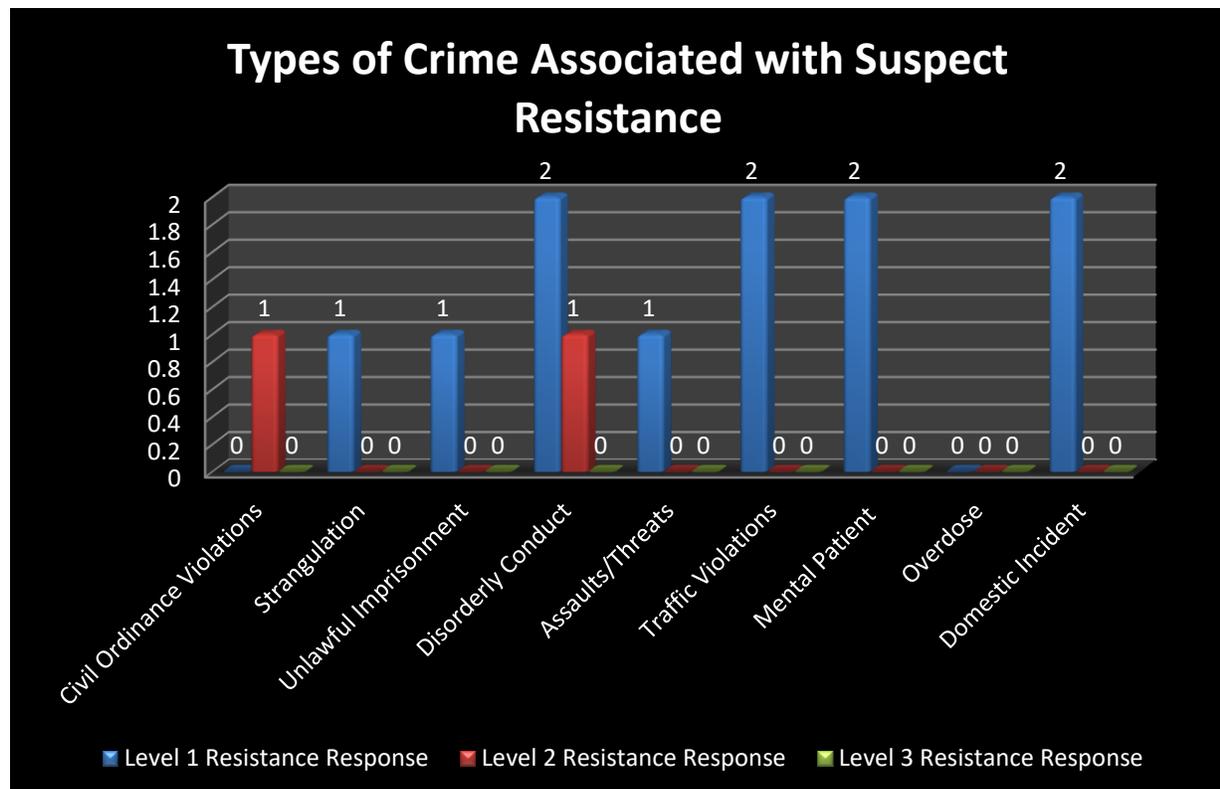
Associated Crimes & Actions

2024 Report Year

As depicted below, the types of criminal activity associated with resisting individuals in 2024 were disorderly conduct, assaults/threats, strangulation, unlawful imprisonment, civil ordinance violations and traffic violations. Two of the incidents occurred while responding to mental patient/overdose complaints.

Additionally, illustrated below are the types of behaviors or actions of the suspects just prior to resistance.

Both charts illustrate the level of resistance response required to control the incident.

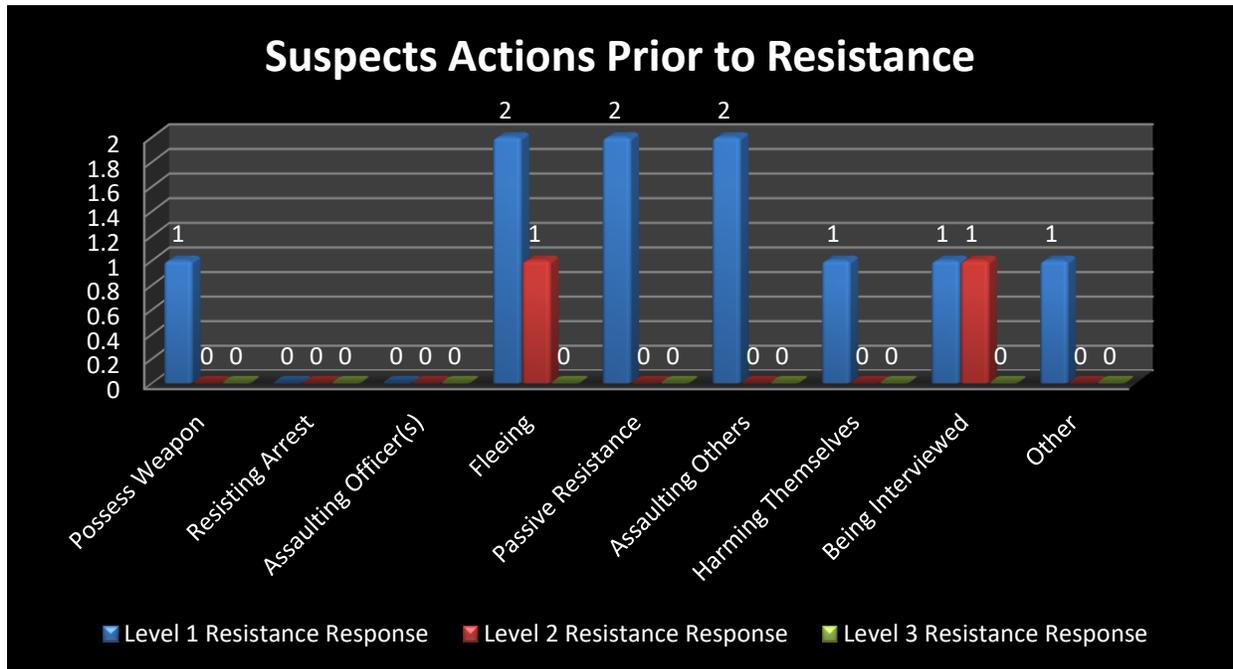




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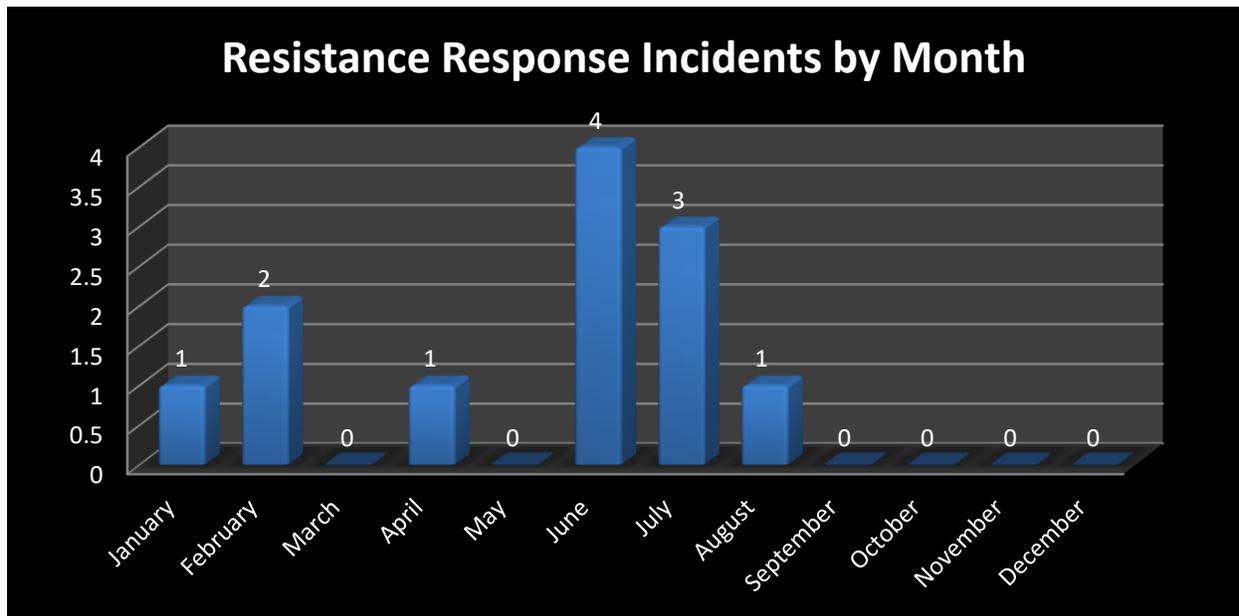
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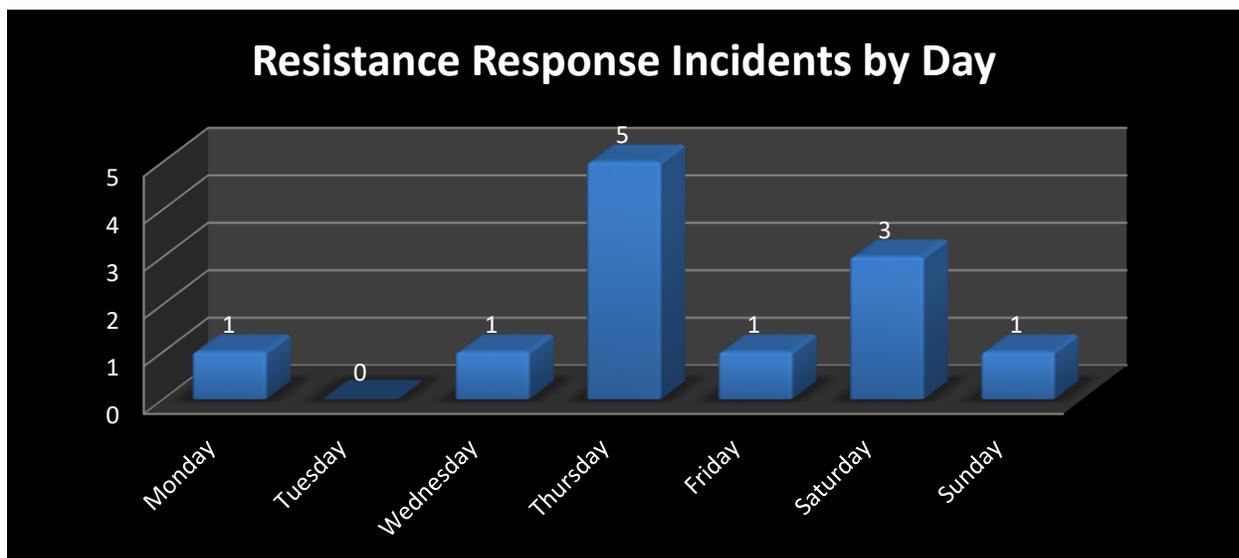
Resistance Response Logistical Data

2024 Report Year

The following chart illustrates resistance response occurrence in correlation to the months of the year, days of the week, the patrol shift during which they occurred, and the assignments of the officers involved.



* This chart shows that resistance response incidents increase in frequency as complaint volume increases during the summer season, which is expected due to population increase. This trend carries into the shoulder months of April, May, September, and October as well.



* This chart shows that resistance response incidents increase around weekend days, which is expected due to population increase.

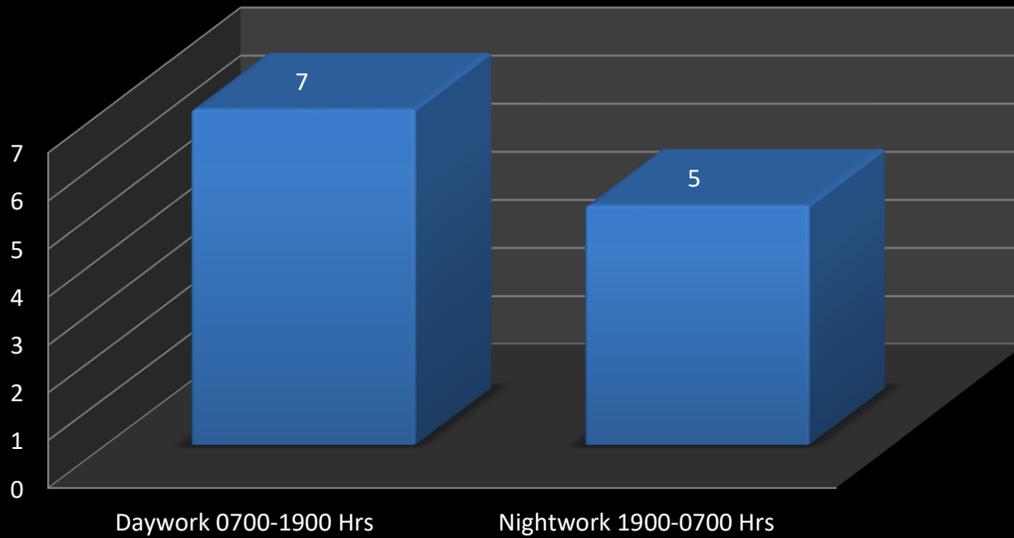


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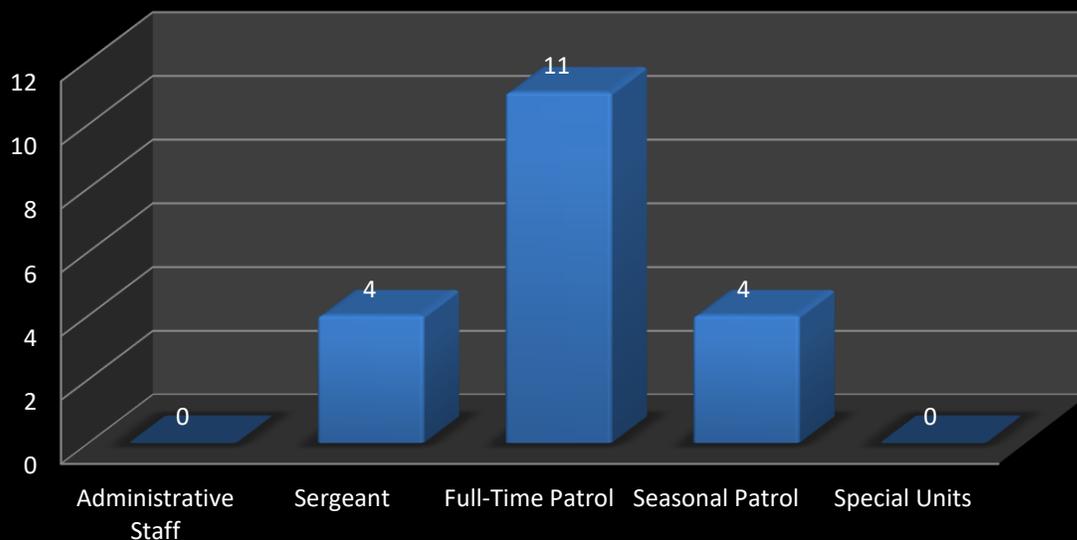
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Resistance Response Incidents by Shift



Resistance Response Incident by Officer Assignment



* This chart illustrates that full-time patrol officers report the most resistance response incidents which is to be expected as they respond to the most calls for service on an annual basis.

** It is important to note that the total number of officers involved is greater than the total number of resistance response incidents as quite often more than one officer is involved in a single resistance response incident.



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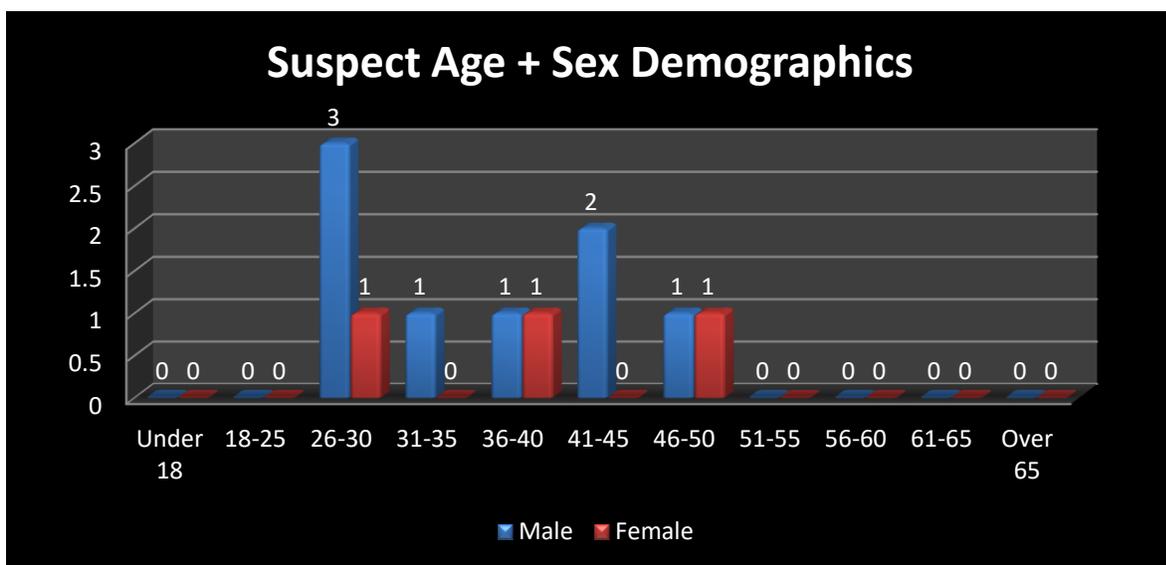
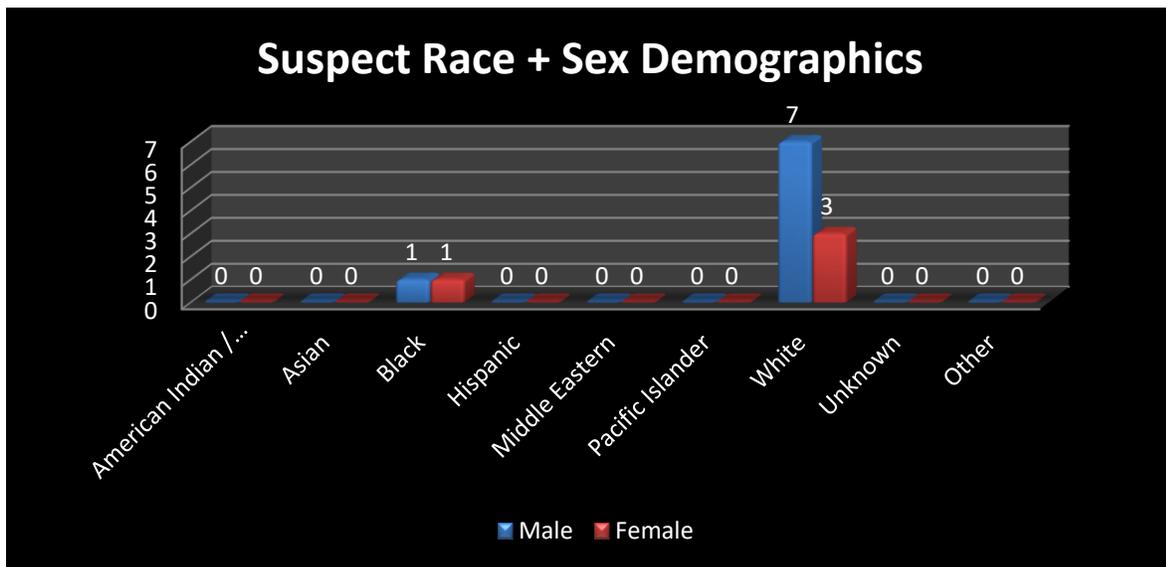
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Sex, Age, and Race Demographics

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While officers do not get to choose the demographics of the suspects involved in the complaints to which they respond or those who commit crimes in their presence, the following demographic statistics are presented in the interest of furthering transparency.





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Impact on Policies, Practices, Equipment, and Training

2024 Report Year

As a result of individual analysis of use of force incidents and the findings in this report, no changes were made to policies, practices, equipment, or training.