



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT

USE OF FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 USE OF FORCE REPORT

BACKGROUND | PURPOSE & DEFINITION

The Salem Police Department is accredited through the Northwest Accreditation Alliance, maintaining an accreditation status since 2007. Law enforcement accreditation is an assessment by an independent body that helps ensure an agency follows proven practices in the career field, evidence-based operational procedures, and training recommendations consistent with state standards. Accreditation provides a method of measuring the performance and accountability of police agencies while improving their service and transparency to the community.

An officer's use of force is guided by department policies and directives, as well as state and federal laws. The standards for the use of force are based on the totality of circumstances from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, the moment force was used.

Often, these events occur in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving. Decisions or actions taken by a member of the department will be based on the recognition that we value the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of every person.

Officers should also apply the tenets of [procedural justice](#) as part of their decision-making process when reasonable and appropriate in the given situation. Officers receive training in a critical decision-making model, in which officers learn to collect information; assess the situation, threats, and risks; consider police powers and agency policy; identify options and determine the best course of action; and then act, review, and reassess the situation. The process is the foundation for officer decision-making.

This annual report provides the Chief of Police and the Command Staff an opportunity to review the cumulative actions of the department's sworn personnel regarding the overall use of force. The annual use of force analysis is conducted to review trends in police use of force by Salem Police Department officers and assist the Chief of Police and Command Staff in identifying necessary changes to directives, procedures, training, and supervisory or administrative practices regarding the use of force.

A *use of force* for purposes of the Salem Police Department policy, directives, procedures, and application, is defined as:

- Use of a firearm (pointing a firearm for compliance, up to discharge)
- Use of a Taser (pointing a Taser for compliance, conducting a spark demonstration, applying a drive stun, or a probe deployment)
- Use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray
- Use of a collapsible baton
- Use of control holds
- Any active physical countermeasures or strikes
- A canine bite

- Any physical force or other equipment applied on a subject to control the subject's actions or overcome resistance to arrest.

For the purpose of this report, the use of force does not include mere officer presence, verbal commands, passive contact, or routine unresisted handcuffing techniques.

Any incidents of force involving police vehicles, such as the use of pursuit intervention techniques (PIT), are not included in this analysis but can be found in the Department's [Annual Vehicular Pursuit Report](#).

Department Policy 4.01 Law Enforcement Operations outlines the use of force in Section XV and details various aspects of employing force during an officer's duties. Additionally, the following department directives provide supporting direction and guidance on various aspects of the use of force:

- *Directive 5.03 Use of Weapons*
- *Directive 5.05 OC Spray and Impact Weapons*
- *Directive 5.06 Use of a Taser*
- *Directive 4.14 Police Incidents Involving Death or Life-threatening Injuries*
- *Directive 8.40 Supervisory Review Report*
- *Forms Control No. 267 Use of Force Report*

THE CITY OF SALEM | COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The city of Salem, the capital of the State of Oregon, has 179,605 residents with a sworn officer ratio of 1.1 officers per 1,000 residents. The Salem Police Department provides public safety services in two counties, as the 49.5 square miles of the city encompasses Marion County on the east side of the Willamette River and Polk County to the west.

Population facts are as of 2022, according to Portland State University's Population Research Center.

The following demographics for the Salem community are shown as reported by the US Census.

CITY DEMOGRAPHICS	
RACE	2023
White	65.2%
Black/African American	1.5%
Asian	3.3%
Native American or Alaska Native	1.2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1.6%
Two or more races	12.2%
ETHNICITY	
Hispanic	22.8%

According to the American Community Survey, the federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics (or Latinx) may be of any race; thus, demographic reporting is separated into a category of ethnicity and is included within the listed race categories. The statistical analysis in this report follows the same format.

2023 IN BRIEF | YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISONS

When force is applied, each officer involved in the use of force completes a report. Each use of force incident is documented in a report within the department's records management system.

In 2023, officers completed 666 use of force reports. The number reflects a decrease of 9.1% when compared to the three-year average. Overall, in 2023 the department responded to 110,349 calls for service, resulting in 6,509 arrests. Correspondingly, incidents of force represented 0.006% of all police calls for service and 10.2% of all arrests in 2023. Thus, force was applied by officers approximately six times out of every 1000 calls for service and 10.2% of the time when officers were effecting an arrest.

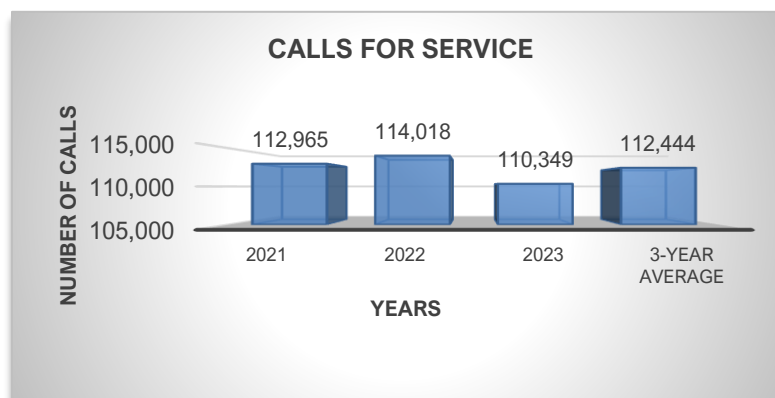
The 2023 force-to-arrest ratio is lower than each of the two prior years. The data in Table 1 indicates force was applied by officers in approximately 10.2% of the 6,509 arrests in 2023. In 2023, the use of force by officers reached its lowest point in the past three years, while arrests were higher than in each of the previous three years.

TABLE 1

USE OF FORCE OVERVIEW 2021 - 2023					
	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Use of force incidents by year	835	697	666	733	-9.1%
Case numbers assigned	28,650	28,732	28,269	28,550	-1.0%
Arrests	6,444	6,352	6,509	6,435	1.1%
Calls for service	112,965	114,018	110,349	112,444	-1.9%

When a community member calls the dispatch center, a call for service is generated. A sequence number is assigned to track each call.

GRAPH 1



Salem Police officers create an incident report on any event that contains information related to a crime, information about a potential criminal suspect, bias information, or an incident involving the force applied by an officer.

GRAPH 2



Salem Police Officers write a report each time a person is arrested. The report documents the arrest, any use of force, and the elements of any crimes associated with the incident.

GRAPH 3

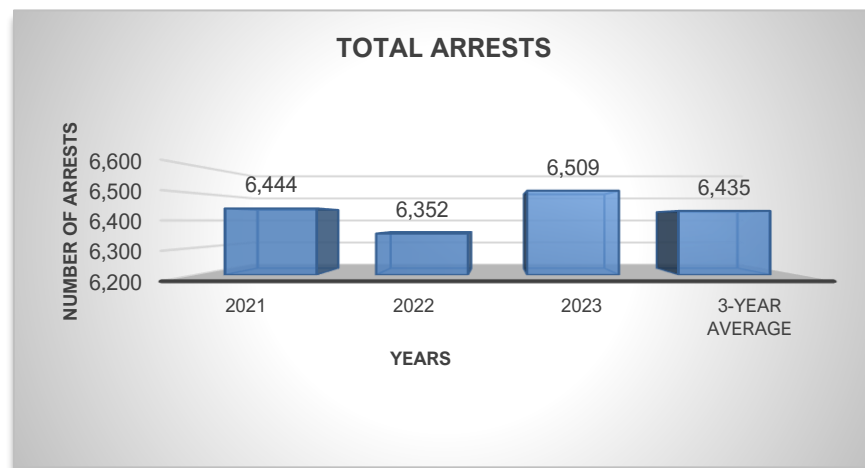


TABLE 2

USE OF FORCE COMPLAINTS BY YEAR					
	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS	835	697	666	733	-9.1%
Formal community complaints	2	1	0	1.0	-100.0%
Formal internal complaints	3	0	0	1.0	-100.0%
FINDINGS					
Unfounded	0	0	0	0.0	NC
No findings	0	0	0	0.0	NC
Exonerated	4	1	0	1.7	-100.0%
Sustained	1	0	0	0.3	-100.0%

The complaint process is guided by *Directive 2.01 Complaint Reception and Investigative Procedures*. There were no formal use of force complaints received by the Professional Standards Unit in 2023.

TABLE 3

MULTIPLE USES OF FORCE IN AN INCIDENT					
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
1	608	555	523	562.0	-6.9%
2	71	49	49	56.3	-13.0%
3	18	6	8	10.7	-25.0%
4	2	4	4	3.3	20.0%
8	1	0	0	0.3	-100.0%
Unknown	15	10	5	10.0	-50.0%

The Salem Police Department tracks the number of times during a single incident that force was applied to multiple individuals. For example, if force was applied to three subjects in one incident, the incident would require officers to complete three use of force reports, one for every subject force to whom force was applied.

The *Unknown* category involves the use of force against subjects who have not been identified, i.e., the force was used to effect an arrest, but the subject escaped before an arrest.

When compared with the three-year average, the number of incidents where force was applied to multiple subjects during a single incident decreased in 2023.

INCIDENT REVIEW | UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

The department conducts reviews of all use of force incidents. Use of force reports completed by officers are reviewed by supervisors before final approval. Additionally, a supervisor after-action review, which is a more detailed force assessment, is required to be completed in the following circumstances: if three or more Taser cycles are used during a force incident, if a police canine incident results in a bite, or if any known or alleged injury to a subject in custody occurs from a use of force. Full details of all incidents where a supervisor after-action review is required are listed within *Directive 8.40 Supervisory Review Report*.

Lists of all force reports are distributed by the Records Section to the Applied Tactics Review Board. Proper application of the use of force or documentation of the force used is addressed by department supervisors in a variety of ways, including informal training and counseling, structured remedial training, and/or referral to the Professional Standards Unit for a complete investigation.

The Professional Standards and Training Lieutenant chairs the Applied Tactics Review Board. *Department Directive 5.05 OC Spray & Impact Weapons* (Section V) describes the duties of the board members, which include reviewing incidents and making recommendations regarding training, tactics, equipment, and department mandates concerning force. In addition to the supervisor who approves the written force report, each use of force incident is reviewed by members of the Applied Tactics Review Board, at a minimum. Training and report writing deficiencies are identified by board members and routed to the Professional Standards and Training Lieutenant. If an incident requires further analysis, a full board review is conducted.

Following Senate Bill 111 protocols, force incidents related to the intentional use of deadly physical force or an in-custody death involving department members will result in three investigations: a criminal investigation by an outside law enforcement agency; a civil investigation by the City of Salem Legal Department; and an administrative investigation by the Professional Standards and Training Section. In addition, the department reports all qualifying incidents in this category to the Oregon Attorney General's Office. The criteria for this level of investigation and review are based on the intent to use deadly force, not the success or failure of the intended force.

In 2023, Salem Police officers were subjects of four officer-involved shootings that were investigated by the Oregon State Police and their partner investigators. Of the four officer-involved shootings, two resulted in the death of the involved subject.

A Critical Incident Review Board is convened to conduct a critical incident review after the grand jury process concludes in any incident where there is an intentional use of deadly force or an in-custody death. The Applied Tactics Review Board analyzes each incident as part of the critical incident review process. The Critical Incident Review Board submits its findings to the City legal department and the Chief of Police to ensure legal and executive-level review of the incident. *Directive 4.14 Police Incidents Involving Death or Life-threatening Injuries* outlines the review process, which includes a review of the performance effectiveness of the department and its personnel, the use of resources, and recommendations for changes in policy, procedure, and/or training.

Per department directive, in 2023 there were administrative critical incident reviews conducted on four officer-involved shootings.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS | BY CATEGORY

INCIDENTS BY GENDER

TABLE 4

SUBJECT GENDER					
	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Male	634	563	522	573.0	-8.9%
Female	192	134	142	156.0	-9.0%
Not indicated or other	9	0	2	3.7	-45.5%

The gender of the subject is tracked when force is applied by officers. Table 4 shows the identified gender of those subjects who were involved in a use of force incident.

The data indicates that males are consistently more likely to be involved in force incidents.

INCIDENTS BY AGE

TABLE 5

SUBJECT AGE					
	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Younger than 16	15	31	27	24.3	11.0%
16 – 17	26	23	27	25.3	6.7%
18 – 24	149	125	99	124.3	-20.4%
25 – 44	509	424	398	443.7	-10.3%
45 - 64	115	82	115	104.0	10.6%
65 or older	9	4	3	5.3	-43.8%
Unknown	12	8	0	6.7	-100.0%
TOTAL	835	697	666	733.7	-8.8%

As illustrated in Table 5, when compared with the three-year average there were decreases in the amount of force used in most age groups, except for an identified increase in force applied to those who are younger than 17 years of age and those between 45 and 64 years old.

Since 2021, data consistently indicates that subjects between the ages of 25 and 44 years of age are more likely to be involved in force incidents.

RACE OF THE SUBJECT

Subjects are counted by race as recognized by the categories defined in the Law Enforcement Data System statewide police information network and the US Census Bureau.

TABLE 6

SUBJECT RACE & ETHNICITY							
RACE	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM 3-YEAR AVERAGE	2023 % FORCE INCIDENTS	2023 SALEM DEMOGRAPHICS
White	724	615	580	639.7	-9.3%	86.7%	72.2%
Black/African American	62	45	53	53.3	0.6%	7.9%	1.5%
Asian	15	4	3	7.3	-59.1%	0.4%	3.3%
Native American or Alaska Native	8	12	4	8.0	-50.0%	0.6%	1.2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9	9	18	12	50.0%	2.7%	1.6%
† Two or more races	0	0	0	0.0	NC	0.0%	12.2%
Other or unknown	17	12	8	12.3	-35.1%	1.2%	8.0%
ETHNICITY							
Hispanic	185	191	195	190.3	2.5%	29.1%	22.8%
Middle Eastern	0	1	0	0.3	-100.0%	0.0%	—

The categories of Hispanic and Middle Eastern are considered ethnicities and not races by the US Census Bureau, the numbers are included in the *White* category for racial comparison.

An in-depth review was conducted for all use of force incidents in the category of *Black/African American* and *Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander*. An in-depth review was conducted earlier in 2023 regarding force for those identified as *Hispanic*.

† As indicated above, the category of *Two or more races* was not documented as a race for those involved in force incidents, although that category represents more than 12% of the population. This data outlier significantly skews the results of the relationship between the amount of use of force incidents and any specific racial/ethnic segment of the population.

The data indicates that instead of appropriately classifying individuals into *Two or more races*, they have been instead misclassified into single-race categories, e.g., *Black/African American* and *White*. A misclassification overinflates the number of incidents attributed to these groups, making it appear that they experience higher rates of use of force than they actually do. The lack of data for *Two or more races* of individuals likely leads to an overestimation of use of force rates for *Black/African American* and *White* individuals and distorts the overall analysis.

BEHAVIOR OF SUBJECT

Table 7 on the following page illustrates the subject behavior or demeanor as reported by the officer. Subjects may often display more than one behavior.

TABLE 7

SUBJECT BEHAVIOR					
BEHAVIOR	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Agitated	466	367	363	398.7	-8.9%
Alcohol	138	120	115	124.3	-7.5%
Calm	192	187	178	185.7	-4.1%
Combative	213	164	154	177.0	-13.0%
Drug	170	118	114	134.0	-14.9%
Emotionally disturbed	261	195	180	212.0	-15.1%
Hiding or secretive	85	86	71	80.7	-12.0%
Suicidal	36	29	24	29.7	-19.1%
Visibly upset	388	272	286	315.3	-9.3%
TOTAL	1,949	1,538	1,485	1,657.3	-10.4%

In 2023, there was a total of 1,485 reported subject behaviors. The primary behavior noted was *Agitated*, with 363 subjects reported as displaying this demeanor. The highest number of people with some type of impairment was in the category of *Alcohol* use, with 115 reported subjects. There were also 114 subjects with reported *Drug* use.

In 2023, force was applied to 180 subjects where there was evidence the subject was an emotionally disturbed person. This is a decrease of greater than 15% when compared with the three-year average. The Salem Police Department has partnered with mental health professionals who respond to many of these types of calls with officers and provide resources to assist in de-escalating those suffering from mental health crises. In addition, Salem Police officers consistently receive de-escalation and crisis intervention training.

In 2023, there was a reduction in all behavior categories, when compared with the 3-year average.

ACTIONS OF SUBJECT

TABLE 8

SUBJECT ACTIONS					
ACTION	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Refuse to follow orders	543	439	432	471.3	-8.3%
Resisted arrest	298	220	231	249.7	-7.5%
Verbally aggressive	297	225	229	250.3	-8.5%
High-risk contact	286	275	227	262.7	-13.6%
Attempt to flee/escape	253	233	225	237.0	-5.1%
Aggressive stance	156	128	113	132.3	-14.6%
Reported to be armed	168	153	112	144.3	-22.4%
Passive resistance	172	118	110	133.3	-17.5%
No resistance	140	97	105	114.0	-7.9%
Assaulted an officer	54	51	29	44.7	-35.1%

Table 8 categorizes the various actions displayed by subjects that led up to the use of force, or the subject's actions during the use of force. More than one action may be attributed per subject, so the total of all actions will not equal the total number of reports. Additionally, the *Assaulted an Officer* category only lists the number of incidents where officers were assaulted, although more than one officer may have been assaulted during the same incident.

The columns titled *No Resistance* or *Passive Resistance* refer to incidents involving the arrest of a potentially armed individual or a high-risk vehicle stop in which police firearms or other weapons are pointed at individuals who may subsequently offer no resistance and comply with an officer's verbal commands. Even though no physical force was used, the forewarning of the use of force in these situations, i.e., the pointing of the firearm requires the completion of a Use of Force Report.

SUBJECT WEAPONS

Table 9 categorizes the type of weapon, if any, which officers were confronted with, or the weapon located on the subject at the time force was applied

TABLE 9

SUBJECT ACTIONS					
WEAPON	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Arms or elbows	95	68	43	68.7	-37.4%
Bite	13	15	9	12.3	-27.0%
Chemical weapon	5	1	1	2.3	-57.1%
Edged-weapon	50	57	35	47.3	-26.1%
Feet or knees	124	83	67	91.3	-26.6%
Firearm	63	62	46	57.0	-19.3%
Hands or fists	306	229	175	236.7	-26.1%
Head butt	17	6	7	10.0	-30.0%
Impact weapon	27	12	10	16.3	-38.8%
Other	86	44	51	60.3	-15.5%

More than one weapon may be chosen for each subject. As such, the total number of weapons may not equal the number of reports.

In 2023, there was a decrease in all categories of subject weapons when compared with the 3-year average.

USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

Officers are trained to select a force option for each situation while taking into consideration the totality of circumstances. Each use of force incident is unique, having its own dynamics, and thus, officers may use more than one technique in gaining compliance or custody of a subject. Officers are also trained to apply other force options if the previous techniques were ineffective or if the circumstances change. Table 10 shows a range of physical control methods used by officers.

TABLE 10

FORCE OPTIONS								
ACTION	2021	2021 EFFECTIVE	2022	2022 EFFECTIVE	2023	2023 EFFECTIVE	3-YEAR AVERAGE USE	% CHANGE FROM AVERAGE USE
Physical strength	396	382	325	302	354	346	358.3	-1.2%
Firearm used*	393	360	363	340	299	268	351.7	-15.0%
Handgun*	287	260	258	241	226	202	257.0	-12.1%
Taser	213	144	183	132	202	150	199.3	1.3%
Take down	192	182	171	162	135	133	166.0	-18.7%
Sankajo	193	168	120	101	87	76	133.3	-34.7%
Rifle	93	84	97	92	69	63	86.3	-20.1%
Front wrist lock	95	88	62	56	60	52	72.3	-17.0%
Arm/shoulder lock	56	43	37	34	41	39	44.7	-8.3%
Active countermeasure	39	23	41	29	25	18	35.0	-28.6%
Hair hold	28	22	17	13	25	23	23.3	7.2%
Pressure points	46	31	35	25	17	13	32.7	-48.0%
40MM munition	12	9	6	5	8	8	8.7	-7.7%
Impact weapon	9	8	5	2	6	4	6.7	-10.0%
Finger lock	6	2	5	2	4	2	6.3	-20.0%
Canine bite	9	9	6	6	5	5	6.7	-25.0%
Shotgun*	13	13	8	7	4	3	8.3	-52.0%
Firearm discharged	3	3	5	5	4	4	4.0	0.0%
Impact asp	3	1	2	1	2	2	2.3	-14.3%
OC spray	5	2	1	0	2	2	2.7	-25.0%
OC stream	3	1	1	0	2	2	2.0	0.0%
Impact firearm	2	2	1	0	2	1	1.7	20.0%
Impact other	5	5	2	1	1	1	2.7	-62.5%
Carotid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	NC
Pepper ball	6	4	0	0	1	1	2.3	-57.1%
Impact flashlight	1	1	0	0	1	0	0.7	50.0%
Bean bag	9	2	6	3	0	0	5.0	-100.0%
OC foam	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.7	-100.0%
OC fog	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.7	-100.0%
BolaWrap	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.3	-100.0%
Impact radio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	NC
OC fog burst	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	NC
Other physical control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	NC

The actions marked with an asterisk (*) in Table 10 indicate the weapon was documented as pointed or displayed and not discharged.

In Table 10, multiple forms of physical control are listed. Some of the options listed are uses of force due to pointing a weapon, such as a Taser, shotgun, or rifle, to gain compliance. It is important to note a firearm displayed is different than a firearm used. Please refer to the *Firearm Discharged* category for an accurate representation of instances where a firearm was used. In 2023, a firearm was discharged four times by officers during force incidents.

Physical control is documented by each officer using said force. However, a supervisor, and the Applied Tactics Review Board, will review each use of force applied to a subject.

TASERS AS A FORCE OPTION

The Taser is a Conducted Energy Weapon that is designed to assist officers in avoiding physical combat or to overcome resistance to lawful commands given by an officer. Taser use is intended to reduce the subject's ability to physically resist arrest. With this tool, an officer can gain temporary control over a subject so the subject can be restrained, reducing the chances of a subject seriously harming the officer, bystanders, or themselves.

Salem police officers supplied with Taser devices are issued Axon LLC brand Taser X26P, Taser X2, or Taser 7 models. Axon LLC describes the devices as having the ability to deliver electrical pulses through insulated conductive wires via probes when a nitrogen-compressed cartridge is triggered. The Tasers have four modes ranging from physical application to visual or auditory display functions. Those modes include:

LASER ONLY

The thumb safety is moved from the *off* position to the *on* position, activating the laser sight, which is then directed to the subject.

SPARK DEMO

The cartridge is removed from the end of the Taser and the Taser is then triggered. An electrical spark arcs across the front contacts producing a visual and audible display. Note: Cartridge removal before a spark demo is not required with the Taser X2 and Taser 7 models.

DRIVE STUN

The Taser (with or without a cartridge affixed) is placed against a subject and cycled. A drive stun can also be conducted as a follow-up to a probe deployment or at close range with a probe deployment.

PROBE DEPLOYMENT

The Taser is cycled with the cartridge in place deploying both probes up to 25 feet. The probes are connected to the Taser device by an insulated wire.

To carry a Taser device, all Salem police officers must complete a six-hour course on Taser devices and then complete annual re-certification, and a knowledge test. Additionally, Salem Police officers complete scenario-based training and Taser-involved de-escalation scenarios on an annual basis.

TASER USE

In 2023, Salem Police Officers used Tasers 202 times, with laser-only deployments compromising 142 of those deployments. There was a decrease in both probe deployments and drive stuns when compared with the 3-year average.

TABLE 11

TASER USE					
	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Taser use	213	183	202	199.3	1.3%
Laser only	117	105	142	121.3	17.0%
Probe deployment	56	53	35	48.0	-27.1%
Drive stun	29	19	14	20.7	-32.3%
Spark demo	11	6	11	9.3	17.9%

CANINES AS A FORCE OPTION

The Canine Unit is comprised of four patrol canine teams and two tracking hound teams. Patrol canine teams are also considered a force option and utilized as another tool available to officers to gain a subject's compliance. Should the canine team's deployment result in the canine biting the subject, the incident is then considered a use of force.

TABLE 12

CANINE USE					
	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Deployments	276	362	389	342.3	13.6%
Bite	9	8	5	7.3	-31.5%

Of the 389 deployments in 2023, five resulted in the canine biting the subject.

SUBJECT INJURIES

Table 13 displays the number of subject injuries in 2023. There were 11 fewer subject injuries in 2023 than the previous year, which is a 6.7% decrease when compared with the three-year average. Puncture injuries include all perforation wounds, including those resulting from a Taser probe. The bite injuries indicated in Table 13 on the following page are those resulting from a canine deployment.

Bruises and abrasions were the highest reported injury with 76 being reported in 2023.

TABLE 13

SUBJECT INJURY					
TYPE	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
No injury	669	571	560	600.0	-6.7%
Bruise or abrasion	94	83	76	84.3	-9.9%
Puncture	29	33	17	26.3	-35.4%
Laceration	21	16	14	17.0	-17.6%
^a Bite	9	8	5	7.3	-31.5%
Gunshot	3	3	4	3.3	20.0%
Sprain or strain	6	6	2	4.7	-57.1%
Deceased	2	3	2	2.3	-14.3%
Internal injury	2	3	0	1.7	-100.0%
Broken bone	2	1	0	1.0	-100.0%

More than one type of injury may be attributed to a subject. Thus, the number of injuries will not add up to the number of subjects. As illustrated in Table 13, the involved subject was uninjured in the majority of force incidents in 2023.

✕ Bites to a subject come from the use of a canine.

OFFICER INJURIES

Table 14 indicates that overall officer injuries in 2023 decreased when compared with the 3-year average. Multiple injuries may be recorded for each injured person during an incident.

TABLE 14

OFFICER INJURY					
TYPE	2021	2022	2023	3-YEAR AVERAGE	% CHANGE FROM THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE
No injury	741	635	626	667.3	-6.2%
Bruise or abrasion	58	59	35	50.7	-30.9%
Sprain or strain	22	23	10	18.3	-45.5%
Laceration	7	4	7	6.0	16.7%
Internal injury	0	1	2	1.0	100.0%
Bite	2	5	1	2.7	-62.5%
Gunshot	06	1	0	0.3	-100.0%
Broken bone	2	0	0	0.7	-100.0%
Puncture	0	0	0	0.0	NC
Deceased	0	0	0	0.0	NC

Table 14 denotes officer injuries by type, with bruises and abrasions comprising most of the injuries received. As with subject injuries shown in Table 13, puncture wounds may be the result of a weapon piercing the skin. Bite wounds to an officer, however, may be the result of a subject biting the officer.

METHODOLOGY | DATA & ANALYSIS PROCESS

The data in this document was compiled from the use of force reports officers are required to complete any time an officer uses force. A report is completed for each subject on whom force is applied. Should more than one officer use force on a subject, each officer is required to write a narrative report regarding their actions and observations.

Use of force reports are completed in the department's computerized records management system. The information is downloaded by a department analyst and the department's Professional Standards and Training Lieutenant. The exception to this process is data regarding the use of force applied by canine teams. Each canine handler is required to complete a use of force report each time a force situation occurs. However, data specific to the officer and their canine partner is also obtained from the canine handler's logs, which are entered into a separate record-keeping system. The two sets of information complete the data array for this report.

The entirety of the data set is analyzed by category to better illustrate the actions of both the subject and the officer involved in the force incident. The incident is then assessed for compliance with department directives and procedures.



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2023 USE OF FORCE ANNUAL REPORT

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