

Columbia Heights Police Department



Use of Force Summary Report



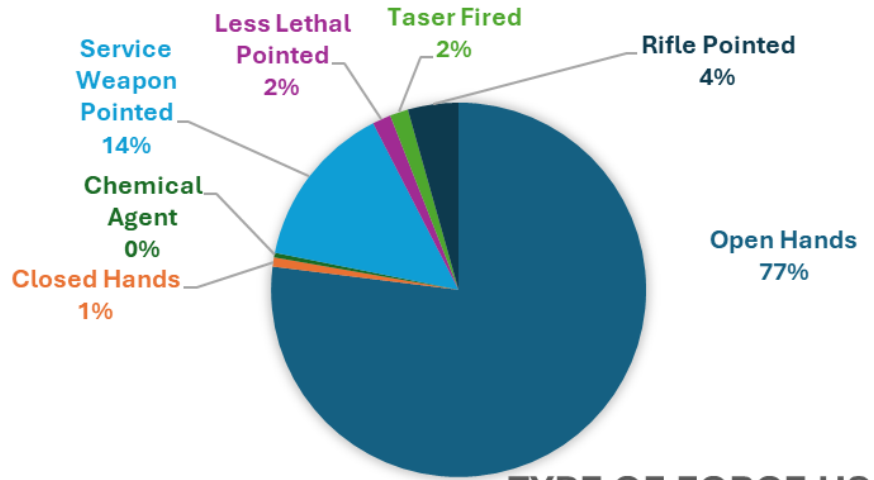


Columbia Heights officers continue to hold the highest regard for the dignity and liberty of all persons, and place minimal reliance on the use of force. The police department respects the value of every human life, and the application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in the most extreme circumstances. The Columbia Heights Police Department goes beyond the state and federal reporting requirements to monitor our use of force incidents and ensure compliance with state and federal law and department policy. I would like to share the following information for 2023.

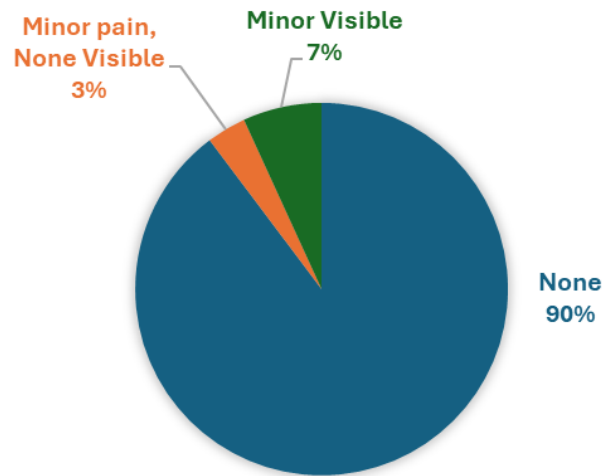
- The CHPD responded to 27,385 calls for service (Anoka County Communications)
- A minimal amount of force was used in 0.39% of these calls, with a total of 107 incidents for the year.
- Open hand techniques was the most common type of force used.
- 90% of the subjects involved, where force was used, reported no injury. Of those that reported injuries, minor pain or abrasions was the most common.

We continue to have a supervisor review every reported use of force to ensure legal and policy requirements are met. At the same time, we look for new tools and techniques we can use to minimize the times we are required to use force. In 2022 the police department added a co-responder program with full time mental health professionals to continue to help reduce the need to use force.

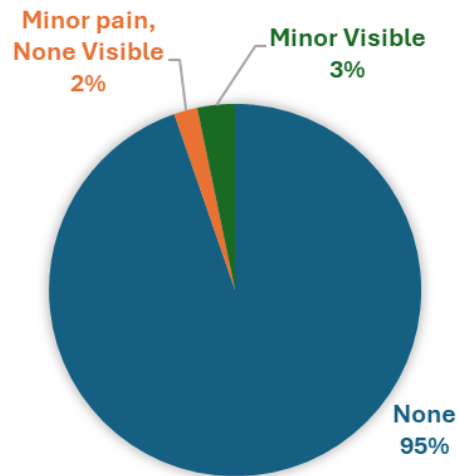
~ Chief Lenny Austin



TYPE OF FORCE USED

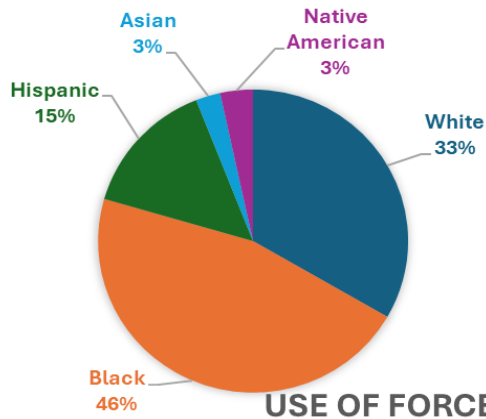


SUBJECT INJURY REPORTED

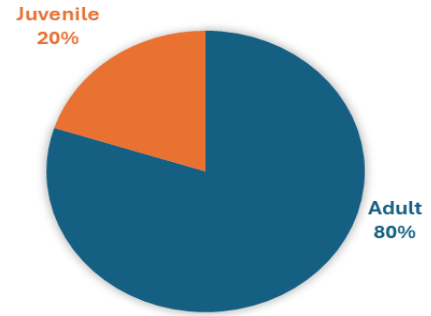


OFFICER INJURIES

In 2023, we responded to 27,385 calls for service (up 2,476 from 2022) and used force 107 times (up 22 from 2022).

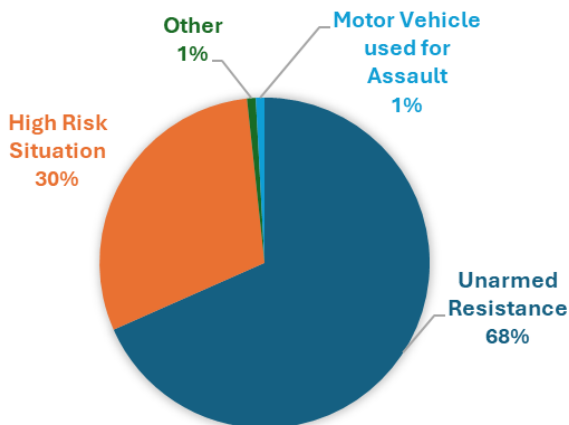
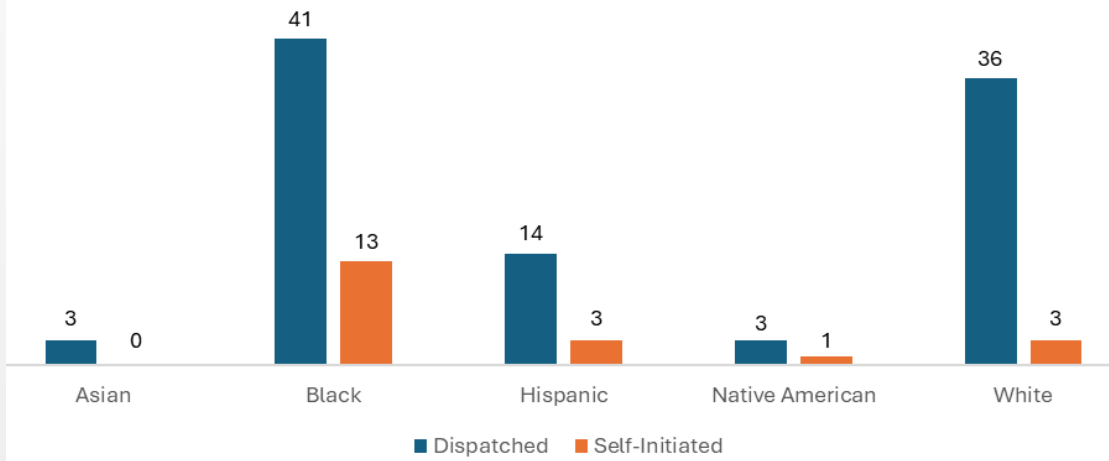


USE OF FORCE BY RACE

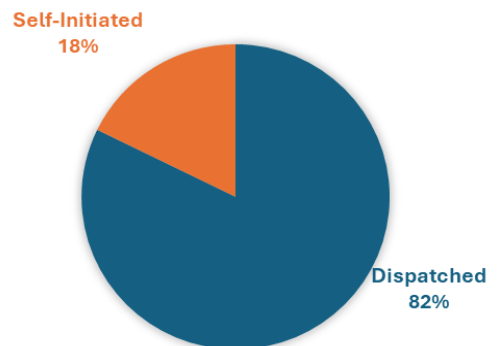


USE OF FORCE BY AGE

Use of Force by Race and Call Type



TYPE OF RESISTANCE/THREAT



HOW THE INCIDENT WAS INITIATED

Starting in July of 2018, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension began to formally collect use of force data from MN Law Enforcement Agencies for inclusion in the FBI National Use-of-Force Data Collection. Agencies are asked to report incidents which include:

- Use of Force resulting in death or serious bodily injury of a subject
- The discharge of a firearm at or in the direction of a subject.

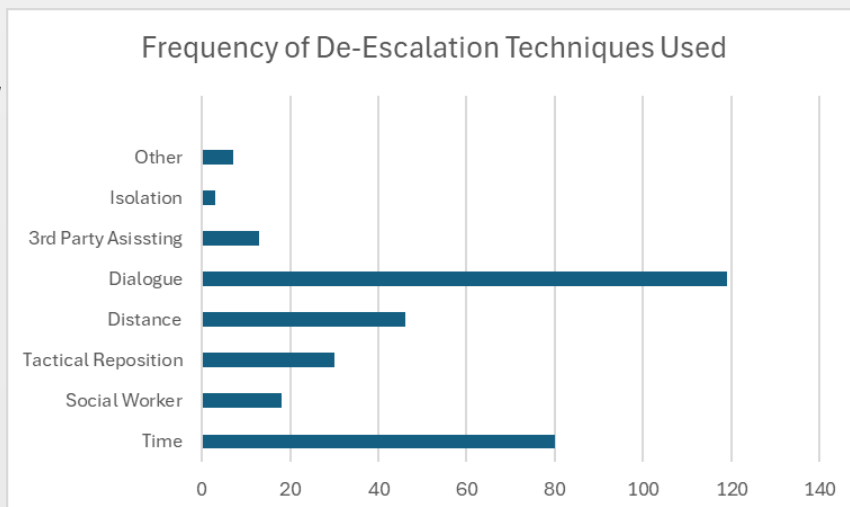
The Columbia Heights Police Department did not have any incidents meeting these criteria for 2023. This report outlines our internal tracking, which is significantly more detailed than required by state or federal reporting. Open hand techniques (escorts holds joint locks, etc.) continue to be the most common use of force employed by the police department.

De-Escalation

In 2023, the police department started tracking the effectiveness of our de-escalation techniques by looking at situations where officers would have been legally authorized to use force but were able to avoid all levels of force by utilizing de-escalation techniques. Internal reporting for 2023 showed that officers experienced **145** incidents where it would have been lawful for them to use force but were able to end the situation with no force being used. De-escalation techniques were used in 92.5% (134) of those situations where officers avoided using force.

This data emphasizes the importance the Columbia Heights Police Department places on our training and philosophies when it comes to using force. Every officer is put through 40 hours of crisis intervention training (de-escalation) and we incorporate that training into scenarios (bi-annually) through our defensive tactics training. We are proud of the culture that has been created within the department concerning the emphasis of de-escalation and avoiding force whenever the situation allows for it.

In 2023, the police tracked the number of times de-escalation was employed during use of force incidents. The chart to the right shows the frequency and types used with dialogue being the most utilized technique.



Columbia Heights Police Department

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