



Internal Affairs

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023









# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** Message from the Commander
- 2** City and Department Statistics
- 3** Mission Statement
- 3** About Internal Affairs
- 4** Complaint Process
- 6** Investigation Process
- 8** Excessive Force Investigations
- 13** Deadly Force Investigations

The data presented in this report is accurate at the time of this report.

# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

The Tulsa Police Department is committed to the community we serve and there is no better way to embody that ideal than to hold ourselves to the highest standards of professionalism. Whether it is through hiring high-quality candidates, extensive training and continuing education, or holding ourselves accountable, these actions should continue to support the mission of the Tulsa Police Department.

The administrative investigative process aids in holding our department accountable. Whether it is through investigating alleged misconduct, officer involved shootings, or performing audits, we provide another level of transparency and accountability.

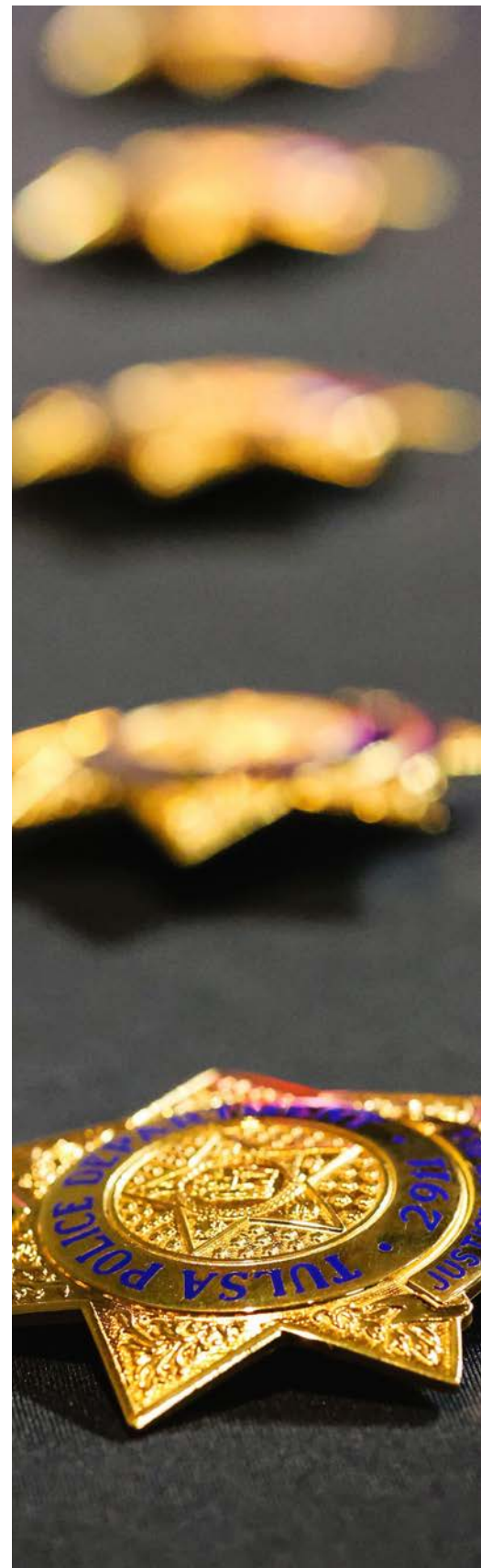
## Looking Ahead

The Internal Affairs Unit is committed to providing quality service to the citizens of Tulsa by providing fair and impartial investigations. This office is committed to providing information and ensuring integrity to increase public trust, officer confidence, and department consistency.

Sincerely,

**William White**

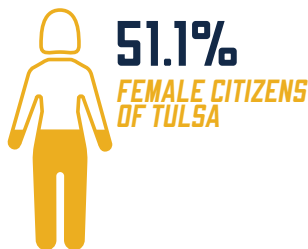
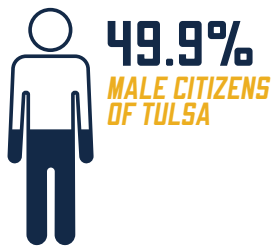
*Captain, Internal Affairs*



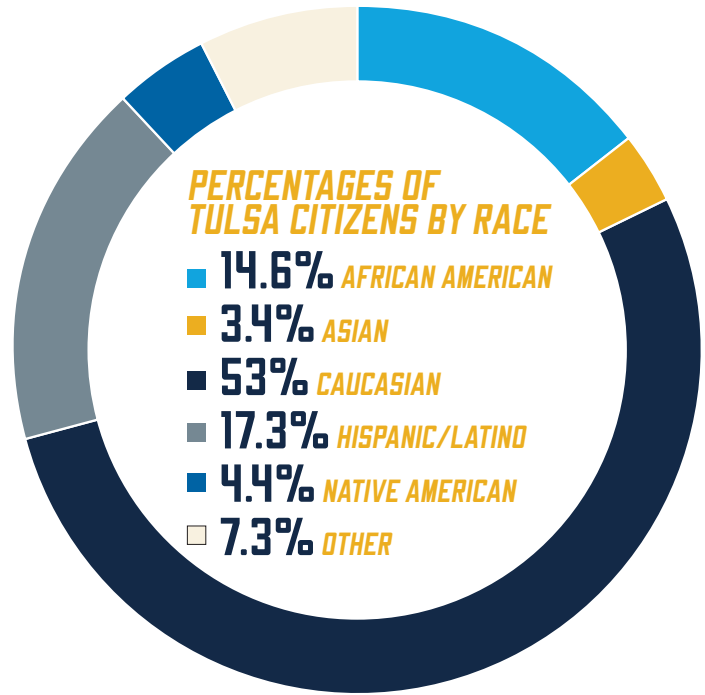
# CITY AND DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

## City of Tulsa Statistics

**411,867** NUMBER OF CITIZENS IN THE CITY OF TULSA  
**186.8** MILES WITHIN THE CITY OF TULSA JURISDICTION



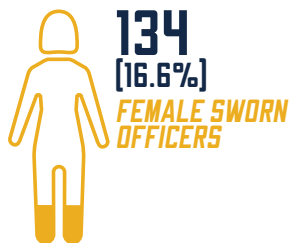
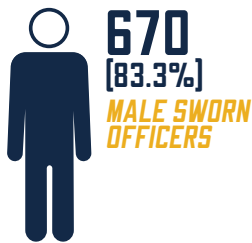
\*City data from U.S. Census.



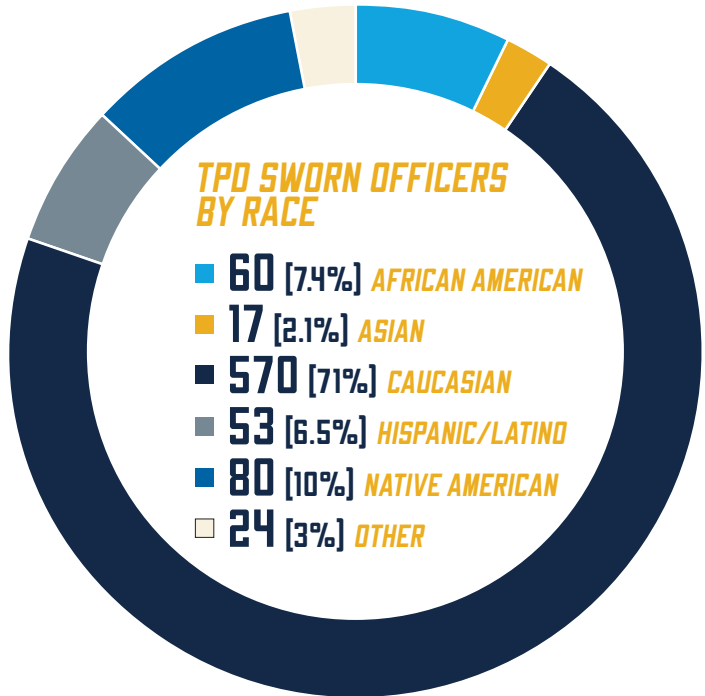
## TPD Statistics

**804** TPD SWORN OFFICERS  
**224** TPD NON-SWORN PERSONNEL

**1,028** TOTAL TPD EMPLOYEES



\*Department data as of 12/31/2023



# MISSION STATEMENT

The Tulsa Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit will uphold the public trust by performing unbiased, thorough investigations of alleged employee misconduct while seeking the truth, safeguarding the rights of employees and citizens, and ensuring that all persons involved are treated with respect.

## ABOUT INTERNAL AFFAIRS

With a goal of upholding public trust in the Tulsa Police Department and ensuring continued confidence in our organization, the Internal Affairs Unit performs many key functions including:

- Investigates allegations of misconduct and violations of policies and procedures of involved police personnel, as directed by the Chief of Police.
- Responds to and administratively investigates Officer-involved shooting incidents.
- Assists City Legal with police-related Tort claims.
- Facilitates the random drug testing program.
- Process subpoenas for court overtime.
- Performs audits and inspections and provides needed proofs required to maintain the Tulsa Police Department's national accreditation status with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).
- It is also the unit's responsibility to help safeguard employee rights during investigations.

IA's primary function of handling citizen complaints is accomplished by performing thorough, unbiased investigations, which are forwarded upon completion to the employee's chain of command for review and recommendations.

Although Internal Affairs personnel remain available for clarification during the review process, it is up to the employee's chain of command, and ultimately the Chief of Police, to determine final adjudication of the alleged misconduct.

The Internal Affairs Unit consists of five Lieutenants, one Sergeant and the IA Commander, who reports directly to the Chief of Police.

The Tulsa Police Department believes the best way to provide high-caliber police service to the citizens of Tulsa is by requiring a high standard of its employees. In addition to the bachelor's degree college education requirement, a 6-month intensive training curriculum and 16-week police apprenticeship is required by all sworn personnel. IA investigators further their skills by completing additional investigative training. Currently, IA Investigators attend a Disciplinary and Internal Investigative Training Course taught by Americans for Effective Law Enforcement or by the Southern Police Institute.

Internal Affairs also tracks and reports a variety of other incidents such as Uses of Force, Property Damage, Collisions (Officer-involved), Pursuits, Records Requests, and secondary employment.



# COMPLAINT PROCESS

Complaints may be initiated externally by citizens, other agencies, or internally by any police employee. Depending on personal preference, complaints can be initiated by any following manner:

- Visiting or contacting any patrol division during operating hours
- Completing the online form at [www.tulsapolice.org/internalaffairs](http://www.tulsapolice.org/internalaffairs)
- Emailing documentation to [TPDInternalAffairs@cityoftulsa.org](mailto:TPDInternalAffairs@cityoftulsa.org)
- Contacting Internal Affairs main line **918-596-9379**
- Faxing a request to Internal Affairs at **918-596-9217**
- Contacting the anonymous tip line at **918-596-1355**
- Contacting any Tulsa Police employee, by requesting to speak with a supervisor
- Contacting the city's Ethics Hotline at **877-888-0002**, or online at [www.tnwinc.com/webreport](http://www.tnwinc.com/webreport)
- Contacting the Mayor's Action Center at **918-596-2100**
- Contacting the Dispatch Non-Emergency line at **918-596-9222**
- Sending correspondence directly to:  
**Tulsa Police Department**  
C/O Internal Affairs  
600 Civic Center Ste. 305  
Tulsa, Ok 74103

Once received, complaints are reviewed to determine appropriate assignment. Depending on the nature of the allegation, a complaint may be assigned to an employee's supervisor or an Internal Affairs investigator. At the conclusion of the investigation, the findings are reviewed by the employee's chain of command to determine a recommendation. Finally, the Chief of Police reviews all allegations, findings, and recommendations, and makes a final determination on the disposition and, if applicable, resulting discipline. Unless filed anonymously, the citizen is then notified by the Chief's Office of the outcome of the investigation.



## Complaint Classifications

Internal Investigations are classified with one of the following dispositions:

**Unfounded** - The allegation has no merit; evidence exists to either disprove or discredit the allegation.

**Exonerated** - The incident did occur, and the officer acted within established policies, procedures, and/or operating guidelines.

**Not Sustained** - Insufficient evidence exists to either prove or disprove the allegation.

**Sustained** - The incident did occur, and the officer was found to be in violation.

**Withdrawn** - The officer's actions were explainable and the citizen chose of his/her own accord to withdraw the complaint.

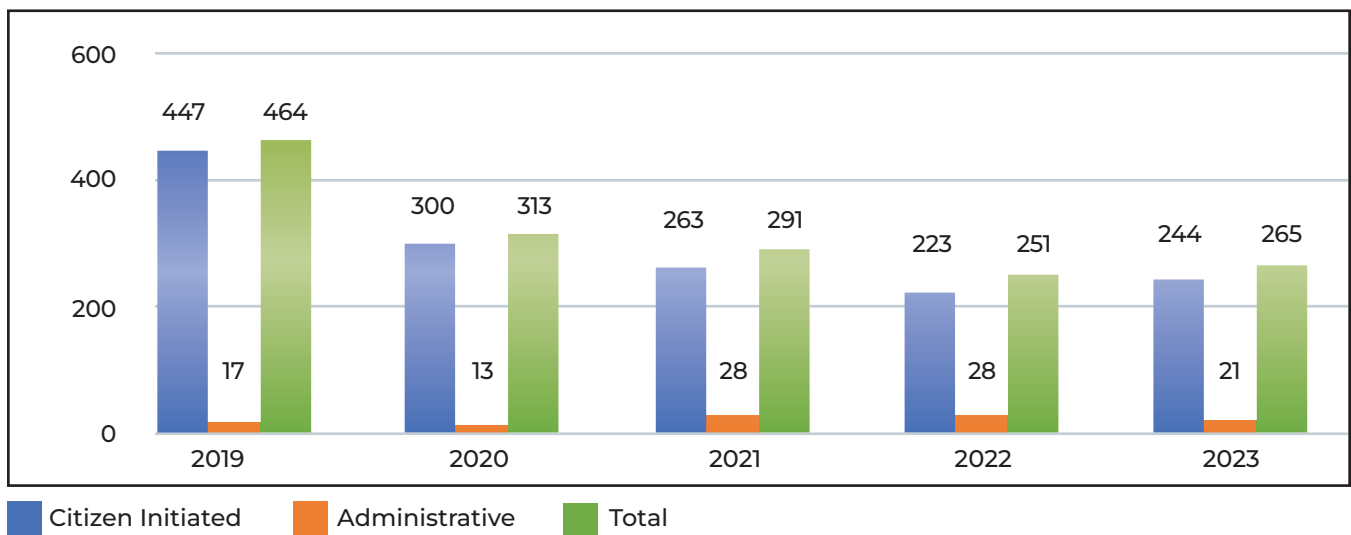
**Closed** - No allegations against known personnel exists and/or no reasonable means of identifying the subject(s) of the allegation exists.

Citizens often make allegations based on their own perceptions of police procedures or of state/federal laws and city ordinance violations. Since it is in everyone's best interest to educate all involved parties, the Citizen's Complaint Resolution Process (CCRP) was created. This process entails a formal meeting with the complainant, the involved officer, and the officer's supervisor to discuss the incident in question. Since these types of complaints do not rise to the level of a policy violation or a conduct issue, they result in a disposition of "Resolved."

## Preliminary Investigations

All complaints receive a preliminary investigation to determine facts, allegations, establish involved parties and identify potential policy violations not listed in the initial complaint.

The totals below do not include cases that were converted from a preliminary to a formal investigation.





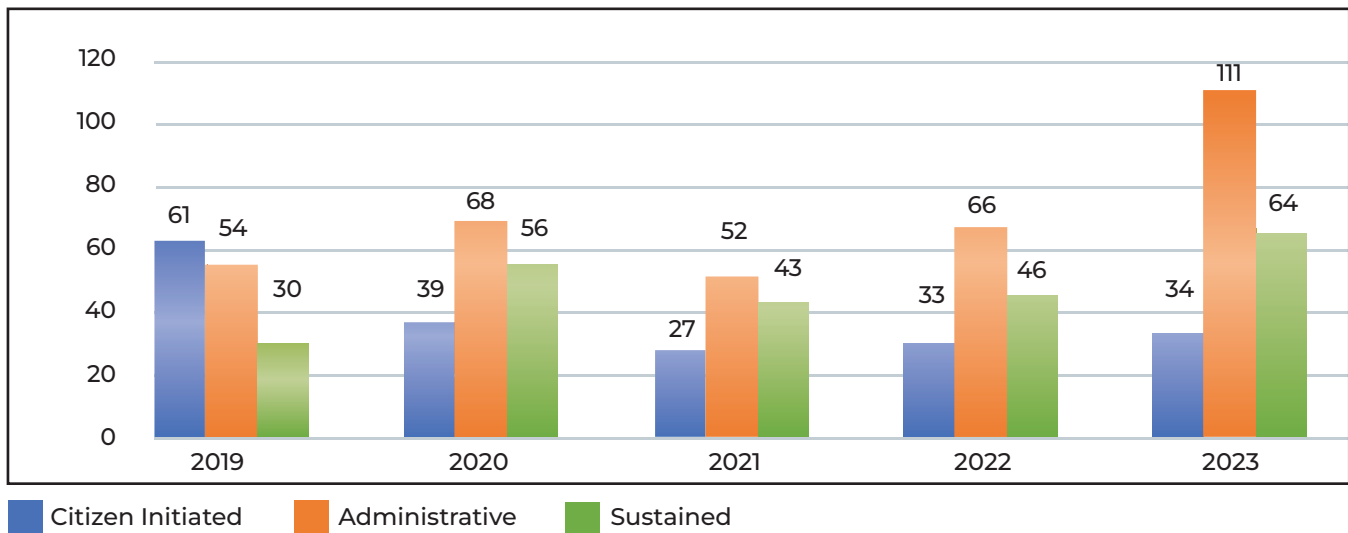
# INVESTIGATION PROCESS

Once received, complaints are reviewed to determine an appropriate assignment. Depending on the nature of the allegation, a complaint may be assigned to an employee's supervisor or an Internal Affairs investigator. At the conclusion of the investigation, the findings are reviewed by the employee's chain of command to determine a recommendation. Finally, the Chief of Police reviews all allegations, findings, and recommendations, and makes a final determination on the disposition and, if applicable, resulting discipline. Unless filed anonymously, the citizen is then notified by the Chief's Office of the outcome of the investigation.

The Graph below displays the total number of complaints investigated categorized by Citizen and Administrative as well as the number of sustained dispositions.

## Administrative and Citizen Investigations

\*51 Pending Investigations from 2023



\*Data as of February 2024 in relation to pending cases

## Investigation Dispositions

Breakdown of the dispositions of the investigations.

Closed	5	Withdrawn	2
Resolved	6	Exonerated	7
Sustained	64	Pending	51
Not Sustained	4	Resigned/Retired	4
Unfounded	6		

**145**  
TOTAL INVESTIGATION  
DISPOSITIONS

## Criminal Versus Administrative

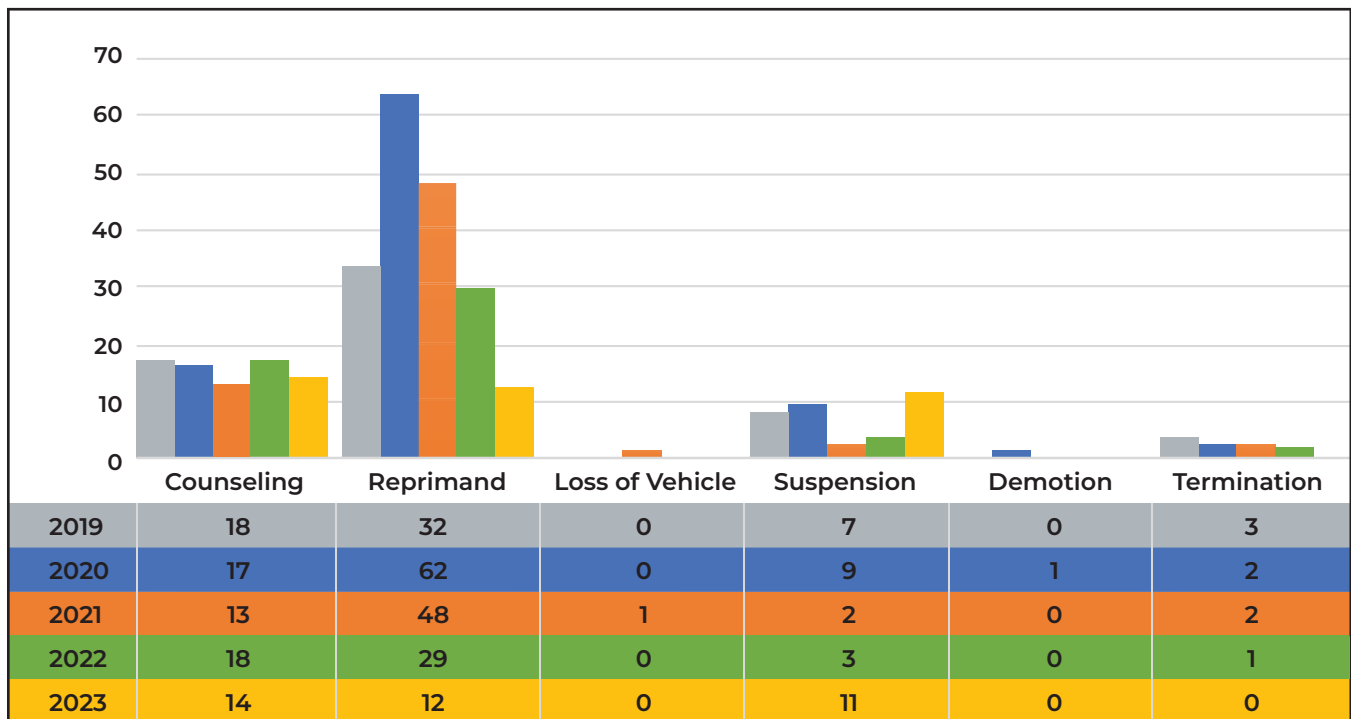
Allegations against police personnel can involve issues of misconduct, policy violations, or violations of laws and ordinances. If the allegation involves evidence of the latter, a criminal investigation is conducted first. An officer’s required participation in an administrative interview does not impede on Civil Rights.

Alleged Civil Rights violations are an example of a criminal allegation. Although Oklahoma State law does not require both criminal and administrative reviews for allegations of Civil Rights violations, administrative issues can arise from criminal proceedings, and the Tulsa Police Department reserves the right to work an additional administrative investigation at the conclusion of a criminal investigation.

## Disciplinary Actions

The Tulsa Police Department holds its employees accountable to an extensive list of Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures, and Departmental Orders, as well as the City of Tulsa Policies and Procedures. To administer reprimands fairly, the Department practices a philosophy of progressive discipline, meaning that reprimands can increase in severity with repeat infractions.

The disciplinary actions table is a 5-year comparison of disciplinary actions resulting from investigations.





## Citizen Complaints by Calls for Service and Arrests

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Citizen Complaints	59	39	23	33	34
Calls for Service	288,764	269,114	275,923	267,402	272,261
Rate of Calls	2.0 per 10,000	1.44 per 10,000	.83 per 10,000	1.23 per 10,000	1.24 per 10,000
Total Arrests	15,798	12,034	11,445	12,553	18,266
Rate of Arrests	3.7 per 1,000	3.24 per 1,000	2.01 per 1,000	2.63 per 1,000	1.86 per 1,000

### 2023 at a Glance

**272,261** CALLS FOR TPD SERVICES

**18,266** ARRESTS

**371** USE OF FORCE

**189** INJURIES



# EXCESSIVE FORCE INVESTIGATIONS

Internal Affairs investigated 5 excessive force cases involving 8 officers. The following table represents the departmental disposition of these cases.

## Excessive Force Case Disposition

Exonerated	1	Not Sustained	0	Sustained	2	Pending	1	Unfounded	1	Closed	0
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## Use of Force Policy

Officers encourage voluntary compliance using low-level force techniques such as verbal commands and command presence. However, circumstances and subject responses can compel officers to use physical force.

The Tulsa Police Department creates additional, internal directives to detail the circumstances under which an officer may use force on another person. Reasonable force occurs when officers perceive that force is necessary to discharge their duties, or to defend themselves or someone else from imminent danger.

When officers are required to use physical force to overcome resistance, they are required to complete a report detailing the incident. The officer's chain of command then reviews the incident and forwards it to the Use of Force Review Board if appropriate. The Use of Force Review Board determines adherence to policy and identifies potential training issues or areas of improvement in the officer's response, after which a final review is performed by the Chief of Police. A finding of Out of Policy may result in an administrative investigation and discipline or additional training to improve performance or decision making.





## Use of Force Continuum

Deadly Force		
All Deadly Force Applications	Likely to produce great bodily injury or death.	Calculated to Incapacitate (STOP)
Advanced Force		
Police Canine Bite, Launched Chemical Agents, 37/40mm Launcher, 12-Gauge Flexible Baton, Personal Impact Strikes to Head, Conducted Electrical Weapon, Impact Weapons, Flash TDirect Impact Pepper Ball	Low expectation of great bodily injury or death, some possibility of injury, involves some pain compliance techniques.	Calculated to Control and/or Overcome
Intermediate Force		
Personal Impact Strikes, Physical Control Holds, Area Saturation Pepper Ball, Vehicle Containment, Chemical Agents, OC Spray	Less possibility of injury than Advanced Force, involves some pain compliance techniques.	Calculated to Control and/or Overcome
Low Force		
Firm Grip or Gesture, Verbal Command, Uniform Presence	Little to no expectation of injury, low visual impact.	Calculated to Gain Compliant Behavior



# De-Escalation

Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used. An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with his or her training whenever possible and appropriate before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force. Officers or employees shall not use tactics solely to justify the escalation of force when such escalation of force would not otherwise be appropriate (e.g., it would not be appropriate for personnel to step in the path of a moving vehicle solely to justify the use of great or deadly force as self-defense).

In 2023, Tulsa Police Officer made 18,266 arrests. Officers effectively made 17,076 arrests or 93% without utilizing any degree of force.

**819** PHYSICAL CONTROL HOLD NO INJURY

**371\*** USE OF FORCE

**1,190**

TOTAL REPORTS OF ARRESTS REQUIRING USE OF FORCE

**18,266**

TOTAL ARRESTS MADE

\*Of the 371 reported non-lethal uses of force, 346 were found to be in-policy, 4 out of policy and 21 pending (as of February, 2024)

## Use of Force by Type Utilized

Officers applied use of force options with the following frequency from most to least:

Physical Control Holds	Physical Control holds (no injury)	ECD (Taser)	Take Down
1,245	819	126	119
Pepper ball	Impact Strike	K9	OC/Chemical Munitions
89	79	47	35
Vehicle Containment	Baton 12 Gauge Flex	Pain Compliance	Impact Weapon
11	10	5	2



The Tulsa Police Department has implemented an additional way to capture low-level force used while detaining suspects. This is coded as a physical control hold with no injury. This was previously not captured in any use of force report. Thus reporting on use of force will show a significant increase for the 2023 year. However, the 819 instances of a physical control hold with no injury is the driving factor behind that increase. The number of use of force reports that would have been reported before enacting this change was 371, which is up slightly from 2022's 345 use of forces.

The 2,064 total is the number of times each officer attempted to utilize a physical control hold to effect an arrest. In an effort to provide transparency, if an officer has to place the detainee's hands behind their back with any amount of force at all, that was considered a physical control hold. Multiple officers may use this tactic per arrest.



## Use of Force Reports by Call Type

■ **23 [6.1%] EACH**

- Warrant Service
- Wanted Subject
- Traffic Stop
- Disturbance

■ **18 [4.8%] EACH**

- Auto Theft

■ **17 [4.5%] EACH**

- Pedestrian Check

■ **14 [3.8%] EACH**

- Trespassing
- Burglary in Progress
- Larceny

■ **13 [3.5%] EACH**

- Assault & Battery
- Assault/AWDW
- Disturbance with a Weapon

□ **10 [2.7%] EACH**

- 911 Dispatch
- Burglary

■ **9 [2.4%] EACH**

- Traffic DUI
- Disturbance/Intoxicated
- Fight in Progress

■ **8 [2.2%] EACH**

- Assault
- Burglary from Vehicle
- Pursuit

■ **7 [1.9%] EACH**

- Other

■ **6 [1.6%] EACH**

- Assault/Domestic
- Robbery

■ **5 [1.3%] EACH**

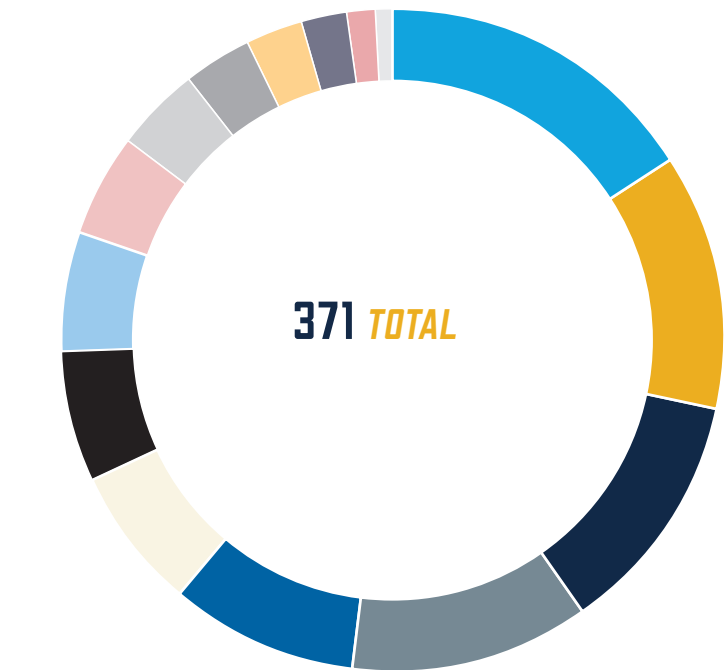
- Mentally Ill Call
- Assault/Battery
- Armed Robbery

■ **4 [1.1%] EACH**

- Assist TCSO
- PDW

■ **3 [.81%] EACH**

- Burglary Investigation
- Protective Order
- Assault ABPO
- Investigation
- Shots Fired
- Trouble Unknown



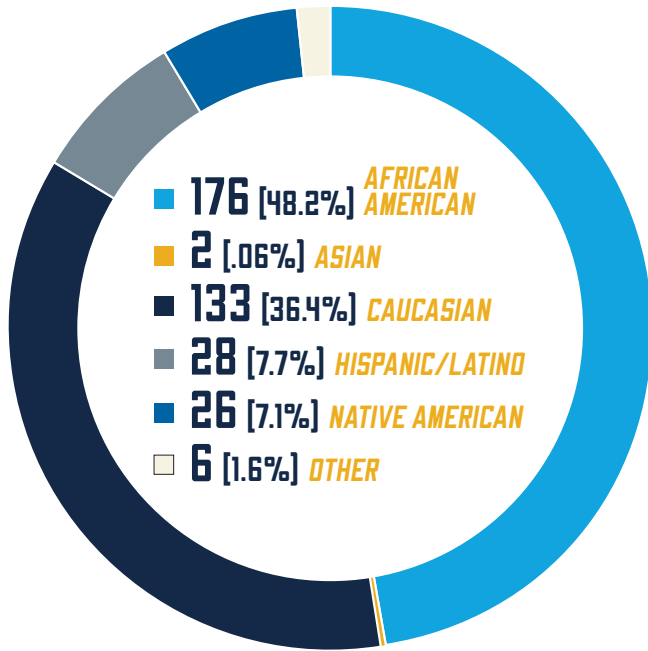
■ **2 [.54%] EACH**

- Assault/Aggravated
- Assist Citizen
- EOD
- Indecent Exposure
- Robbery Investigation
- Routine Patrol
- Suicidal Subject
- Suspect In Custody
- Suspicious Subject
- Traffic Hit and Run

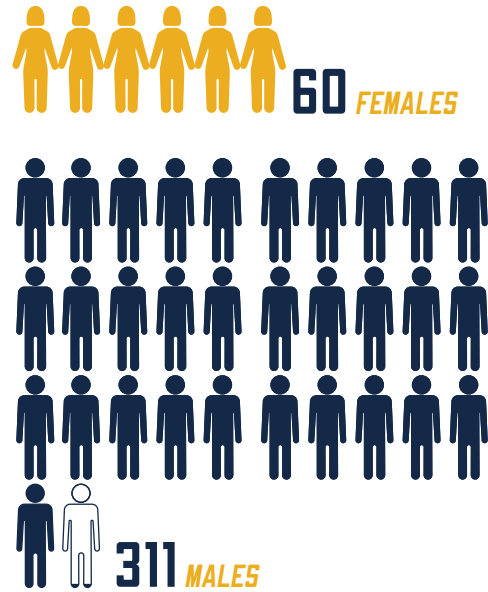
□ **1 [.27%] EACH**

- Alarm
- Assist EMSA
- Assist TFD
- Check Well Being
- Fraud
- Off Duty Action
- Public Intoxication
- SWIK
- Traffic APC
- Traffic Reckless
- Transport Subject
- Undercover Capacity

## Use of Force by Race

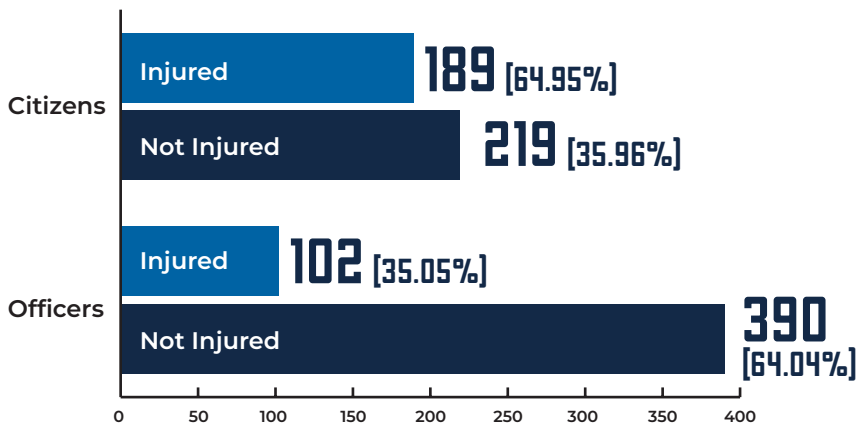


## Use of Force by Gender



Figures on the chart represents ten persons arrested by force.

## Use of Force Reported Injuries



Use of Force Reported Injuries table includes the total number of reported injuries. Some uses of force incurred more than one injury.

## Weapons Discharge Excluding Deadly Force





# DEADLY FORCE INVESTIGATIONS

In part policy 101A Use of Force states, deadly force may be used if the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious physical harm, either to the officer or others, to defend an officer or others from the threat of immediate physical harm from a dangerous animal, or to destroy a seriously injured animal when other dispositions are impractical and when approved by a supervisor.

An officer may use deadly force when making an arrest or preventing an escape from custody following an arrest. The officer must reasonably believe that such force is necessary to prevent the arrest from being defeated by resistance or escape, there is probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a crime involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm, and the escape of the subject poses an imminent threat to the officer or others. Deadly force may also be used if the person to be arrested is attempting to escape by use of a deadly weapon (21 O.S. 732). When feasible, a verbal warning will be given to the offender prior to the use of deadly force.

The use of deadly force is not authorized when its use would constitute a greater threat to innocent human lives than the actions of the suspect. Officers or employees must always be aware of the probable and possible result of their use of force. Officers or employees are never justified in using deadly force in a reckless manner disregarding the safety of themselves, other officers, or innocent bystanders. Officers or employees must identify and acquire the specific threat before using deadly force.

## Deadly Force Review

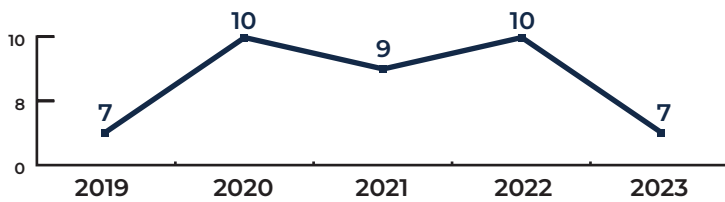
The Detective Division will conduct a criminal investigation into any use of deadly force. The District Attorney having jurisdiction in the county where the deadly force occurred or in the case of tribal citizens the US Attorney's Office, will review the criminal investigation and officers' actions for potential criminal liability.

The Deadly Force Review Board will review all uses of deadly force referred to it by the Chief of Police. The Board reviews the administrative and criminal investigations, as well as testimony from officers and witnesses, when necessary.

# Deadly Force Statistics

The Tulsa Police Department was involved in 7 deadly force incidents in 2023. Please reference the tables below for additional information.

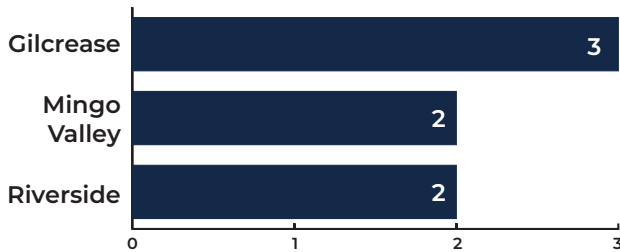
**Deadly Force Comparison by Year**



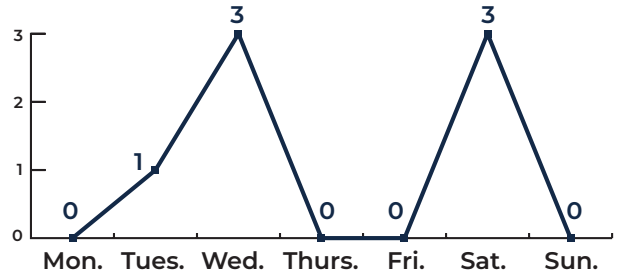
**Deadly Force by Injuries**



**Deadly Force by Division**



**Deadly Force by Days of the Week**



**Deadly Force by subject's Gender**

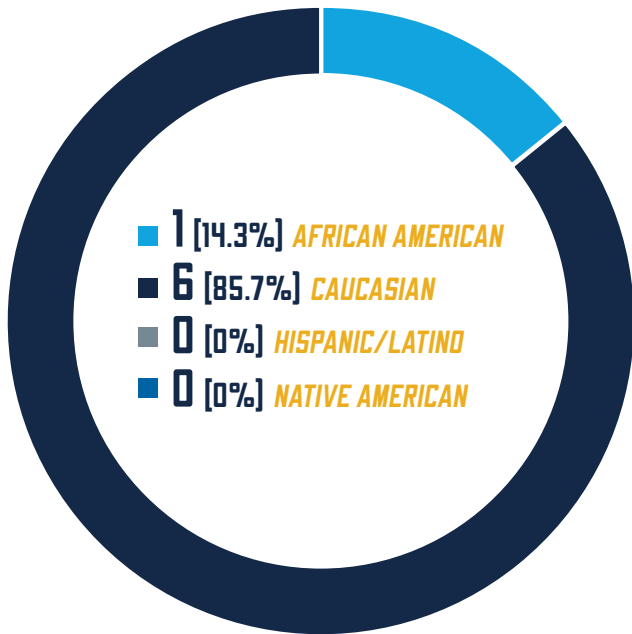


**Deadly Force by Time of Day**





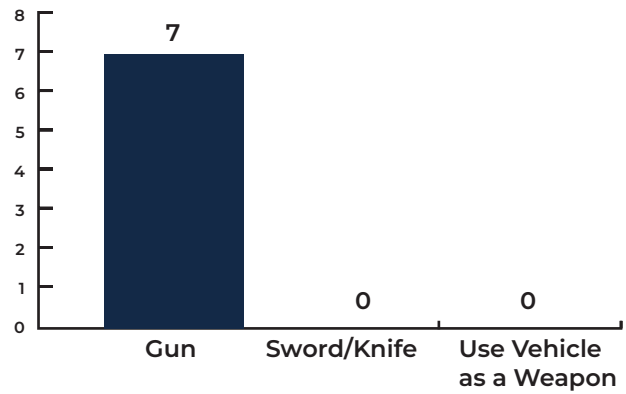
### Deadly Force by Race



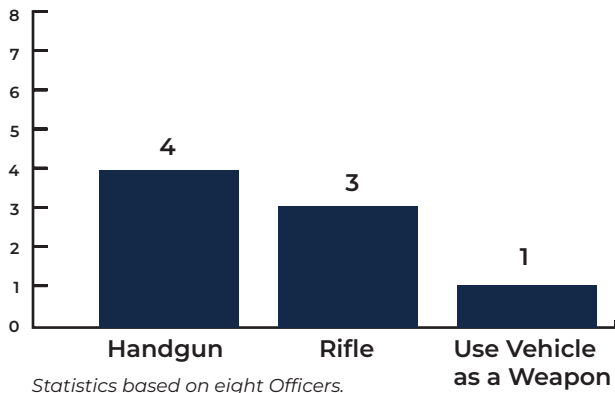
### Deadly Force In/Out of Policy

IN	OUT	PENDING	TOTAL
3	0	4	7

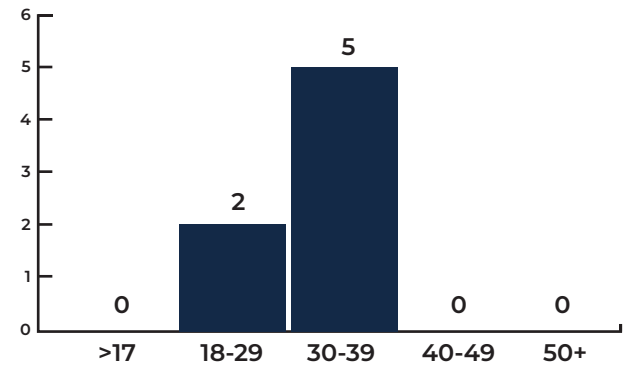
### Deadly Force by Armed Subject



### Deadly Force by Officer's Weapons



### Deadly Force by Subjects Age





## **TULSA POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

600 Civic Center, Suite 305  
Tulsa, OK  
TulsaPolice.org

**CAPTAIN WILLIAM WHITE**  
Commander

**LIEUTENANT CLAY ASBILL**  
Administration

**SERGEANT TROY SAPPINGTON**  
Investigator

**LIEUTENANT BRANDON SMITH**  
Investigator

**LIEUTENANT AARON TALLMAN**  
Investigator

**LIEUTENANT AUGUST TERBROCK**  
Investigator

**LIEUTENANT HEATHER WEAKLEY**  
Investigator