

Lewisville Police Department



Annual Response to Resistance Report 2022

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Executive Summary

This analysis was conducted to review the Lewisville Police Department's Response to Resistance incidents for the calendar year of 2022. The Lewisville Police Department takes its obligation to provide the most effective and efficient police service while ensuring employee and community safety. Law Enforcement is a particularly dangerous occupation and while many of our activities are fraught with risks, employees must take every opportunity to de-escalate and use the minimum response to overcome a subject's resistance against lawful enforcement duties. This analysis is conducted annually in compliance with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 4.10 and to identify how employee response to resistance can be improved along with any training needs that may be present.

This analysis consists of four parts. First an analysis of all the incidents involving our employees, both sworn and detention staff. Secondly, an analysis of the different types of response to resistance. Third, an analysis of the community demographics in relation to response to resistance. Last, an analysis of the types of calls that resulted in a response to resistance. This annual analysis that is completed as part of the Recognition Program is not intended to determine if an employee acted inappropriately, but instead to identify department trends that may aid in suggesting changes to policy, training, equipment, or manner of supervision.

Response to Resistance Data

In 2022, The Lewisville Police Department documented the Response to Resistance (RTR) in 46 incidents. During those 46 incidents, there were a total of 60 officer engagements involving 39 of the Department's police or detention officers. Based on the 2021 report, this year's total number of incidents decreased by 13.2%.

While the 2021 report noted three policy violations related to RTR incidents, our Department documented ten in 2022. Of these ten policy violations, four of them were related to a policy that was adopted in July of 2021 requiring officers to draw and deploy their Taser with their support hand. During the initial training, Officers noted that it was a bit awkward to deploy the Taser with their support hand after years of doing so with their dominant hand. This policy was revised in August of 2022, and now allows officers to either draw and deploy the Taser with their support hand, or draw the Taser with the support hand and transition to their dominant hand before deployment. Additionally, in October of 2022, Chief Deaver enacted a policy that prohibits officers from deploying their Taser on a subject who is running away from them. two of the 10 policy violations were related to this policy change. The bar graph (below) shows a comparison of 2022 incidents with the two previous years.

Incidents of Response to Resistance Per Year

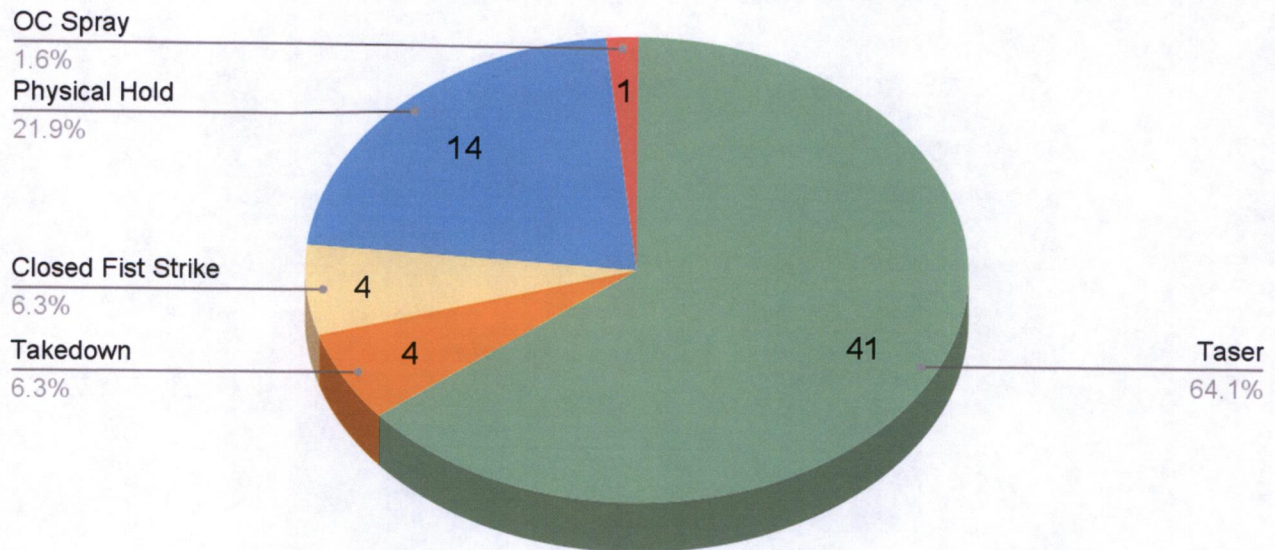


Regarding frequency, one sergeant had five separate RTR incidents, with four policy violations noted. Two violations occurred when that sergeant deployed his Taser with his dominant hand. The sergeant was issued corrective counseling for one of the violations and no action was taken on the other. It was noted that when these violations occurred the policy had not yet changed to allow officers to deploy the Taser with their dominant hand. The two other violations stemmed from that same sergeant leaving his body-worn camera (BWC) on the charger (the battery was low) and responding to two separate incidents in which an RTR occurred. Both of these violations resulted in corrective counseling. Two officers each had four separate RTR incidents. One officer had one policy violation noted that occurred when he deployed his Taser with his dominant hand, and he received corrective counseling for this violation. It was again noted that at the time of the violation, the policy had not changed to allow dominant hand taser deployment. The other officer had no policy violations noted.

Breakdown of Types of Response

All RTR incidents were reviewed by the Safety Review Committee (SRC) and a type of response was identified for each RTR. The most common response was Taser deployment, which accounted for 64.1% of the total. The second most common type of response fell into the category of physical holds which accounted for 21.9% of the total. The pie chart below illustrates the actual number of occurrences and percentages for each type of response in 2022.

Types of Response

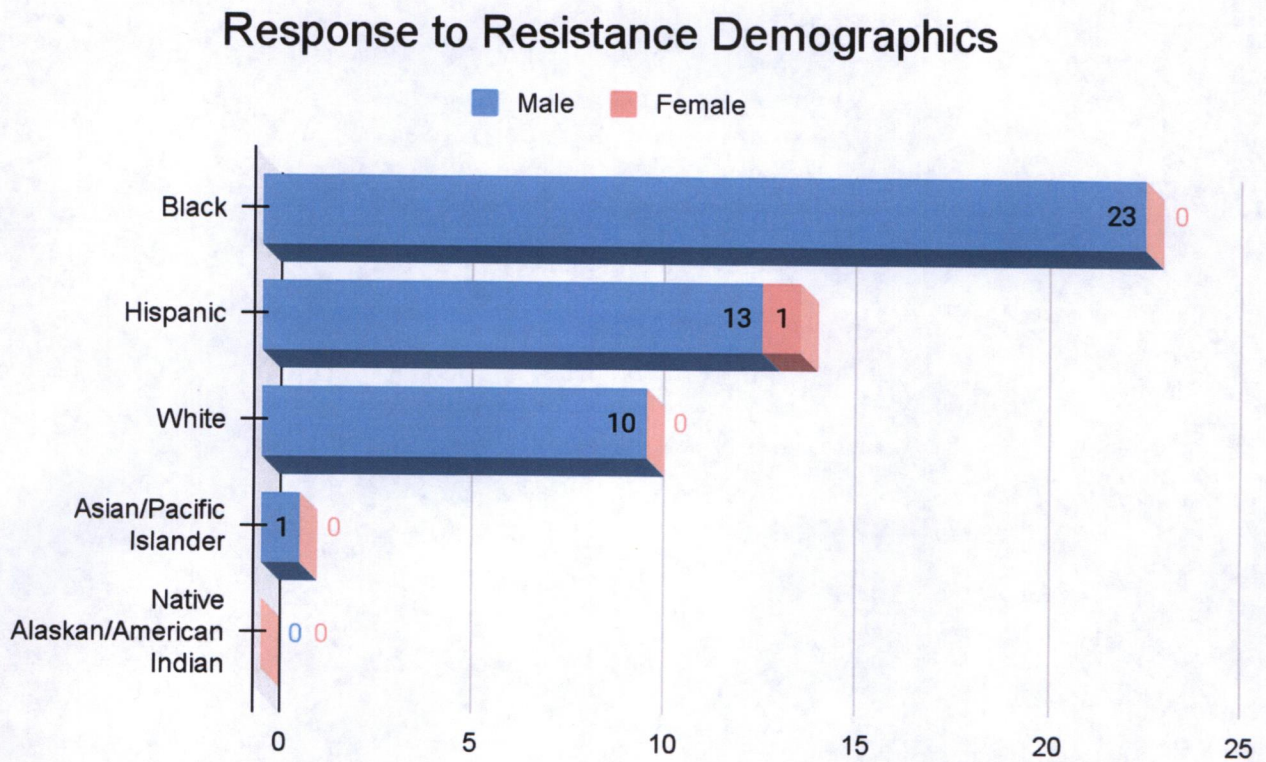


Of the ten RTR policy violations in 2022, seven involved the deployment of a Taser. As previously stated, there have been a couple policy changes related to the way officers deploy their Tasers. There were no violations of the Taser policy before July of 2021. These policy adjustments account for four of the six violations.

Injuries were reported in 18 of the 60 officer engagements (30%). Based on the 2021 report, that number has increased 17%. Of these 18 injuries, only 10 required a visit to the hospital to be examined.

Response To Resistance Demographics

The chart (below) provides a breakdown of the demographics of the subjects involved in response to resistance incidents in 2022. Overall, most RTR incidents involved black males (48.9%). White males were involved during 21.3% of the incidents. Related to the sex of the person, females accounted for only 0.2% of total incidents.

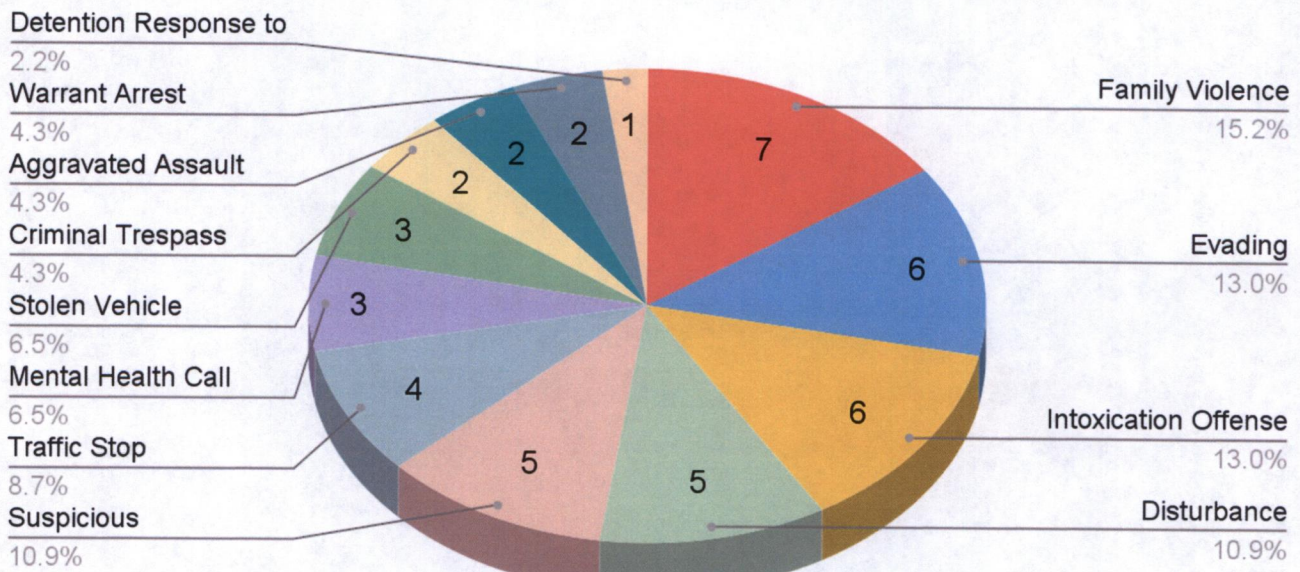


Reasons for Response to Resistance

The chart (below) shows the various types of calls for service that led to the incidents of response to resistance. This will help the Department better recognize the most dangerous call types. Some RTRs will fit into multiple categories but these classifications are based on the call types as early as possible in each call for service. Disturbances accounted for the majority of calls, followed by traffic stops. By the very nature of disturbances, it is not surprising that this call type tops the list.

In 2021, the Department deployed the Community Caretaking Team (CoCare). These officers focus on mental health related calls for service. We are hoping that their proactive work will drive down the number of RTR incidents related to mental health. The pie chart below illustrates both the actual occurrence and percentages for each call type that resulted in a response to resistance in 2022.

Calls Resulting in Response to Resistance

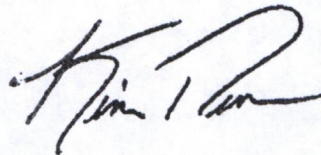


Findings & Recommendations

The Lewisville Police Department's policy on "Response to Resistance" appears to be adequately guiding personnel on this topic. In 2013, all sworn personnel were issued a Taser. This tool has proven to reduce the necessity of physical struggles between officers and subjects as well as the impact weapons otherwise needed to bring out control.

Overall in 2022, the only outlying issue presented in the "Response to Resistance" information was continued adjustment to the new Taser policies. In the short term, this issue may remain a problem but we are hopeful that the frequency of these violations will decrease as officers become more accustomed to the policies. The Department will continue to focus on this issue during annual Taser training.

Otherwise, the officers at the Lewisville Police Department are overwhelmingly operating within the response to resistance policy guidelines.



Kevin Deaver, Chief of Police