



Police Force Analysis SystemSM

Fourth Summary Report

Renton Police Department

Use of Force Data from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2024

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Police Strategies LLC

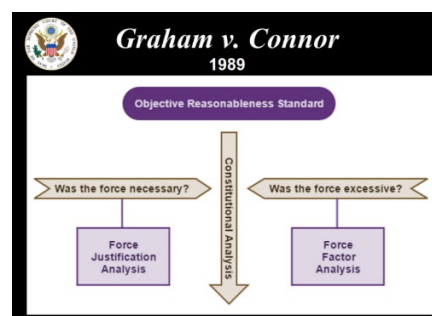
Police Strategies LLC is a Washington State based company that was formed in February 2015. The company was built by law enforcement professionals, attorneys, and academics with the primary goal of helping police departments use their own incident reports to make data-driven decisions and develop evidence-based best practices. The company's three partners are all former employees of the Seattle Police Department and were directly involved with the Department of Justice's pattern or practice investigation of the department in 2011 as well as the federal consent decree that followed. They wanted to take the lessons learned from that experience and provide other police departments with the tools they need to monitor their use of force incidents, identify high risk behavior, and evaluate the outcomes of any reforms that are implemented. The company has a partnership with the Center for the Study of Crime and Justice at Seattle University to assist in the analysis of the data.

Bob Scales is a former King County deputy prosecutor and Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington. He worked for 14 years for the City of Seattle as a public safety policy advisor for three Mayors. Kathryn Olson served as an EEOC attorney and the Director of the Office of Professional Accountability for the Seattle Police Department. She is a past president of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Chief Mike Sanford has over 30 years of law enforcement experience serving as Assistant Chief for the Seattle Police Department and Chief of Police for the cities of Wapato and Algona Washington. Mike was a patrol tactics trainer for the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Police Force Analysis SystemSM

In the summer of 2015, Police Strategies LLC launched the Police Force Analysis SystemSM (PFAS). PFAS combines peer-reviewed research with state-of-the-art analytical tools to produce a powerful data visualization system that can be used by law enforcement, policy makers, academics, and the public.¹ The core of PFAS builds upon the research work of Professor Geoff Alpert and his Force Factor method. Force Factor analysis formed the basis of Professor Alpert's 2004 book "Understanding Police Use of Force – Officers, Subjects and Reciprocity"² and has been the subject of several scholarly articles.³

PFAS is a relational database that contains 150 fields of information extracted from law enforcement agencies' existing incident reports and officer narratives. The data is analyzed using legal algorithms that were developed from the evaluation criteria outlined in the United States Supreme Court case of *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). The Court adopted an objective reasonableness standard which evaluates each case based upon the information that the officer was aware of at the time the force was used and then comparing the officer's actions to what a reasonable officer would have done when faced with the same situation. PFAS uses Force Justification Analysis to determine the risk that a use of force incident would be found to be unnecessary and Force Factor Analysis to evaluate the risk that the force would be found to be excessive.

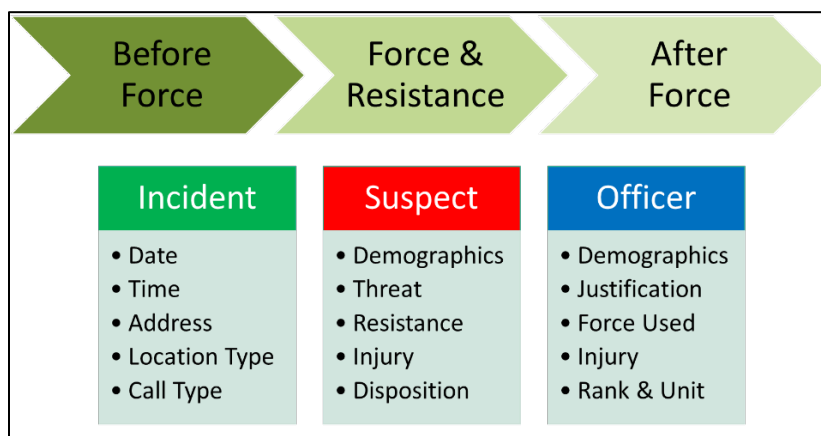


¹ [Capitola Police creates online database to track use of force stats, Santa Cruz Sentinel, August 2014.](#)

² [Understanding Police Use of Force – Officers, Subjects, and Reciprocity, Cambridge Studies in Criminology, 2004.](#)

³ See, e.g., [Reliability of the Force Factor Method in Police Use-of-Force Research, Police Quarterly, December 2015.](#)

PFAS examines relevant temporal data from immediately before, during and after an application of force.



PFAS uses powerful data visualization software to display the information on dynamic dashboards. These dashboards can be used by police management to identify trends and patterns in use of force practices and detect high risk behavior of individual officers. The system can also be used to spot officers who consistently use force appropriately and effectively. Since the system can find both high risk and low risk incidents, PFAS can be used both as an Early Intervention System to correct problematic behavior as well as a training tool that highlights existing best practices.

PFAS contains several years of historical data for each agency and is designed to be updated on a regular basis. This allows the department to immediately identify trends and patterns as well as measure the impacts and outcomes of any changes that are made to policies, training, equipment, or practices. For example, if a department provides crisis intervention and de-escalation training to its officers, the system will be able to evaluate whether that training has had any impact on officer behavior.

PFAS currently has use of force data from more than 100 law enforcement agencies in eight states involving about 25,000 incidents and 10,000 officers who used force more than 30,000 times. PFAS is the largest database of its kind in the nation. Although the incident reports from each of these agencies use a different format, all the data extracted and entered into the system has been standardized which allows us to make interagency comparisons. The Police Force Analysis

NetworkSM allows agencies to compare their use of force practices with other agencies in the system.

The Police Force Analysis SystemSM provides comprehensive information about police use of coercive authority and permits the study of the intersection of individual and contextual factors that explain situational, temporal, and spatial variation in the distribution of police coercive authority. PFAS supports meaningful community engagement about police coercion by providing comprehensive and relevant data to address and inform community concern regarding police-citizen interactions.

Data Collection from the Renton Police Department

Police Strategies LLC began working with the Renton Police Department in April 2022. Our first task was to code the Department's use of force reports and enter the data into the Police Force Analysis SystemSM. Renton PD personnel provided copies of the reports through a secure online file sharing system. Use of force incident reports from 2019 to 2021 were analyzed. This process was repeated in 2023, 2024, and 2025 with incident reports from 2022, 2023, and 2024. This is our fourth summary report for Renton PD.

Renton PD provided incident reports and officer narrative statements for each incident where force was used. Data was extracted from the incident reports and officer narrative statements and entered into a relational database. Interactive dashboards were then built for use by Renton PD. The Police Force Analysis SystemSM contains data on all use of force incidents where an officer used a weapon or any physical force.

Summary of Renton PD's Police Force Analysis SystemSM

The Renton Police Department's Police Force Analysis SystemSM (PFAS) contains six years of use of force data from 2019 to 2024. The database includes detailed information on 612 subjects who had force used against them and the 143 officers who used force during the 6-year period. In 2024 there were 117 use of force incidents involving 70 officers who used force a total of 236 times. This report will examine the 6-year trends in uses of force and will compare 2024 data with prior years.

Date, Time, and Location of Use of Force Incidents

Over the last six years Renton PD has had an average of eight use of force incidents each month. The highest month was January 2019 with 18 incidents and the lowest months had only 3 incidents (Sep 2020, Oct 2020, Aug 2021, and Jan 2022).

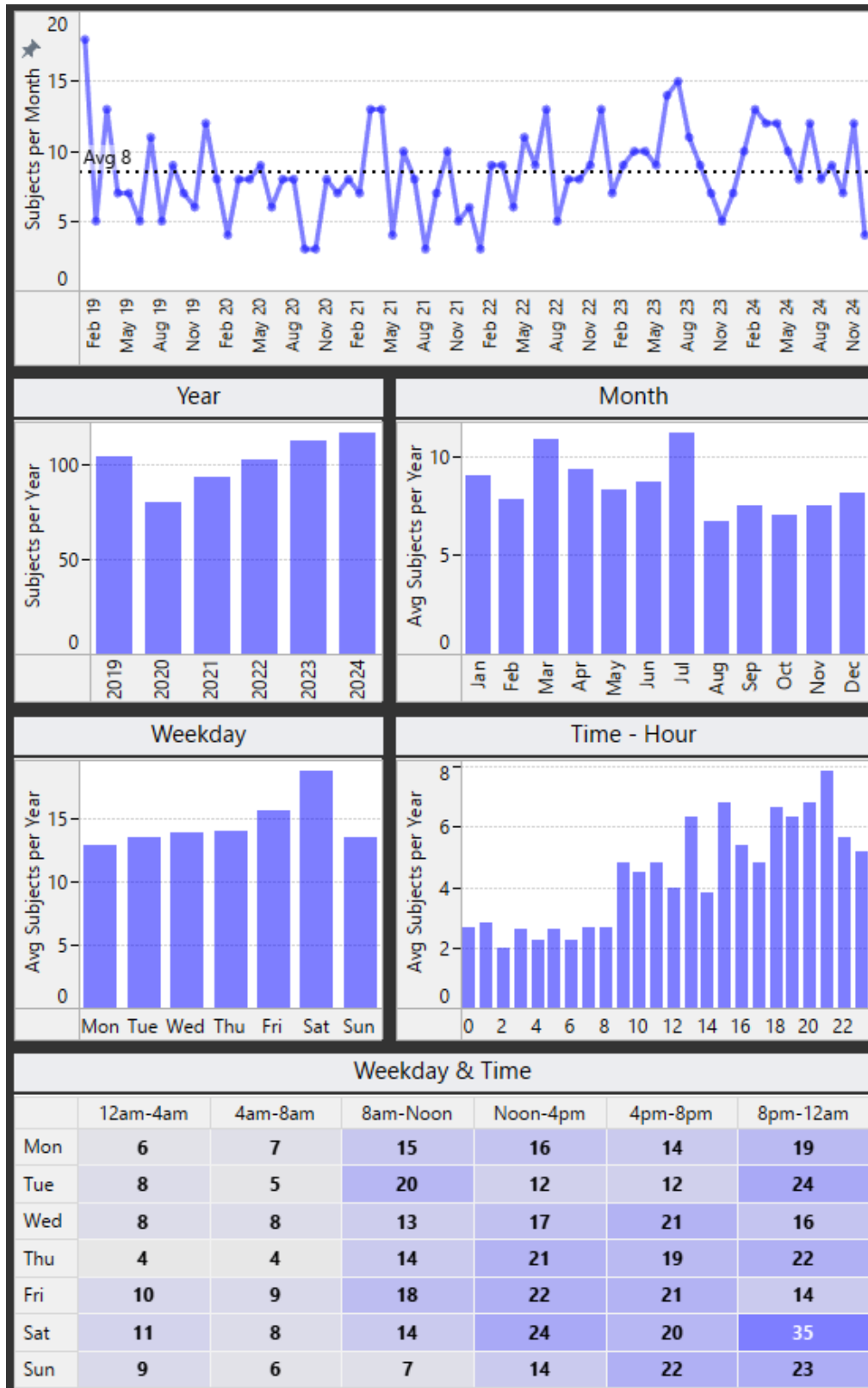
In 2024 the month with the most force incidents was February (13 incidents) and the month with the fewest incidents was December with 4 incidents. During the week, Wednesdays had the most incidents (19), and Thursdays had the fewest incidents (13). The peak hour for force incidents was between 9pm and 10pm (11 incidents). The time block with the most force incidents was Tuesday between 8pm and midnight (7 incidents).

The day with the most force incidents was Tuesday May 28, 2024 (3 incidents). The longest period of time without any use of force incidents was between August 9, 2024 and August 24, 2024

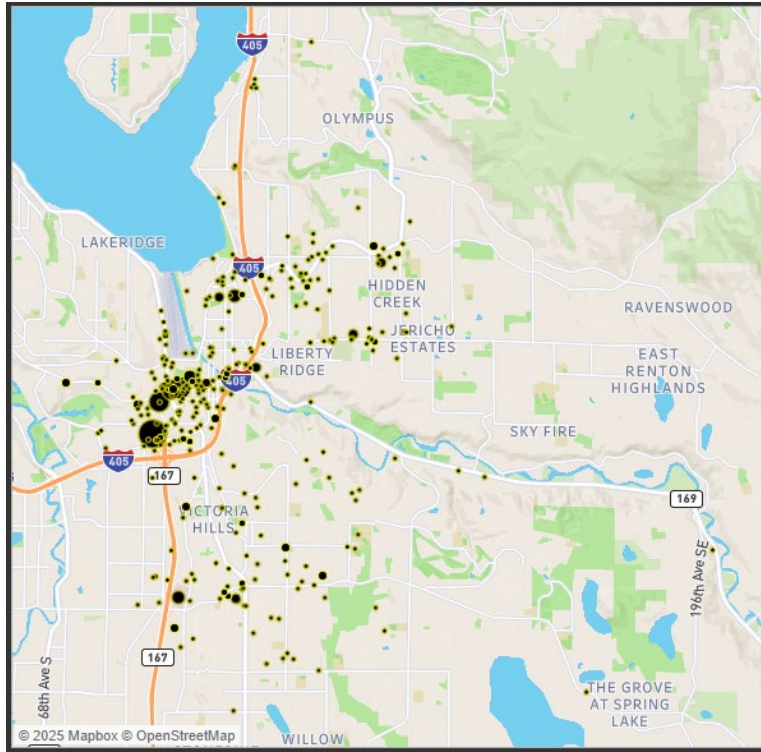
In 2024, 65% of all force incidents occurred on the street, 15% occurred at a business, and 17% occurred at a residence. The remaining incidents occurred at a park, school, or medical facility.

Between 2019 and 2020 the annual number of force incidents fell by 24% from 105 incidents to 80 incidents and then rose steadily by 46% to 117 incidents by 2024.

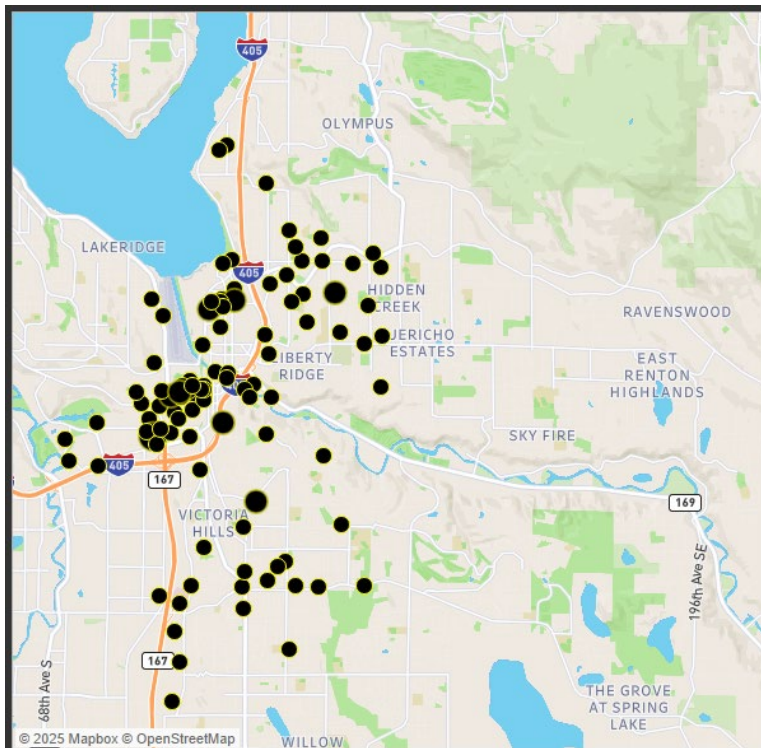
Renton PD – Use of Force Incidents – 2019 to 2024



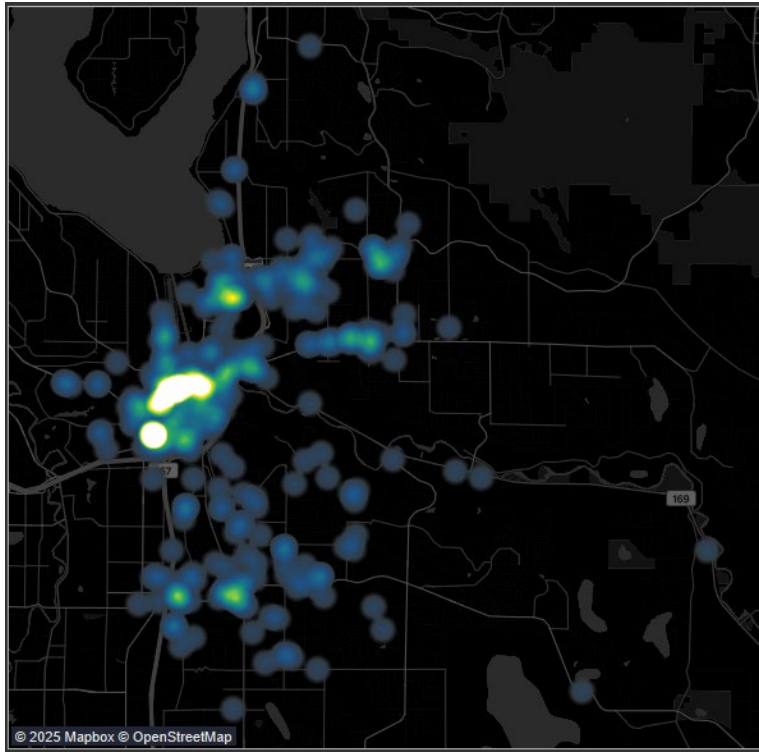
Use of Force Incident Locations – 2019 to 2023



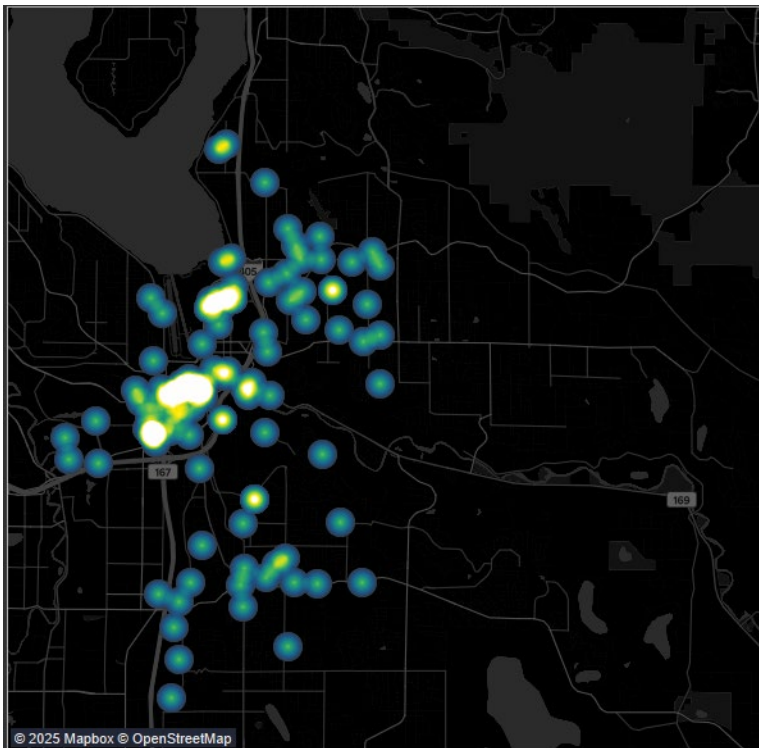
Use of Force Incident Locations – 2024



Use of Force Heat Map – 2019 to 2023



Use of Force Heat Map – 2024



Reason for Contact

In 2024 77% of officers who used force were responding to a dispatched call for service. Eleven percent of officers were making an officer-initiated contact and 12% of officers were responding to assist other officers.

Compared to prior years, more use of force incidents involved a property crime in 2024 (40% vs. 35%) and fewer incidents involved a general disturbance (7% vs. 15%).

In 2024 the most common call types that resulted in uses of force were assault (23 incidents), burglary (19 incidents), and theft (13 incidents).

Force Frequency

In 2024 there were 117 use of force incidents involving 70 officers who used force 236 times. There were 4 officers who used force between eight and nine times each, 22 officers who used force between four and seven times each, 29 officers who used force two or three times each and 15 officers who used force once. In 2024 the top 10% of officers (7 officers) made up 23% of the 236 officer uses of force. These officers were probably assigned to patrol and were likely making the most arrests in the Department.

Force Justification

The Force Justification Score is based upon the four Graham Factors: (1) seriousness of the crime being investigated; (2) the level of threat to the officer or others; (3) the level of resistance; and (4) whether the subject fled from the officer. Low Justification Scores are indicative of incidents where subjects were not committing serious crimes, did not pose a significant threat to the officer or others, did not present a high level of resistance, and did not flee.

In 2024, 11% of the Department's use of force incidents had low Force Justification scores (<6). The average Force Justification score was 9.8 on a scale of 0 to 20. Eight incidents received the highest justification score of 20. These incidents involved an assault on the officer before the officer made the decision to use force.

In 2024 there were 13 low Force Justification incidents involving 21 officers. One officer was involved in three low Force Justification incidents and three officers were involved in two incidents each.

The average Force Justification Score was lower for Male subjects (9.5) than Female subjects (11.3). By race White subjects had the highest average Force Justification score (10.0) and Asian subjects had the lowest average Force Justification score (7.9). By age juvenile subjects had the highest average Force Justification score (12.3) and subjects between 30 and 39 had the lowest score (8.8).

Force Factor

The Force Factor Score is based upon the proportionality of force to resistance and scores range from -6 to +6. A negative score means that the subject's resistance level was higher than the officers' force level. A medium Force Factor Score is between 0 and +2. This is the range where most officers can gain control of a subject by using force that is at least proportional to the level of resistance or slightly above. A Force Factor of +3 or above is considered a high score. This does not mean that the force was excessive, but these incidents do present a higher risk to the department.

In 2024 3% of force incidents had a high Force Factor score (+3 or above). Five officers were involved in the four high Force Factor incidents, and no officers were involved in two incidents with a high Force Factor.

Average Force Factor scores were lower for Female subjects (0.0) than Male subjects (0.4). By race, average Force Factor scores were lowest for Native American subjects (-1.0) and highest for White subjects (0.6). Juvenile subjects (0.1) had the lowest Force Factor scores and subjects over 50 had the highest scores (1.2).

In 2024 the most common Force Factor Score was +1 (51%) followed by 0 (23%) and +2 (12%). There were two incidents with a +3 Force Factor score and two incidents with a +4 Force Factor score. Since 86% of all force incidents are between 0 and +2, this indicates that most officers in the Department behave very consistently when faced with a given level of resistance and they tend to use the minimal amount of force necessary to gain compliance.

When higher levels of force are used against lower levels of resistance, the subjects are controlled much faster with lower injury rates for officers but higher injury rates for subjects.

	Force Factor Scores – 2019 to 2024		
	Low (-1 to -4)	Medium (0 to +2)	High (+3 to +4)
Subject brought under control within 1 or 2 Force Sequences	10%	7%	22%
Subject Injury Rate	36%	42%	67%
Officer Injury Rate	24%	15%	0%

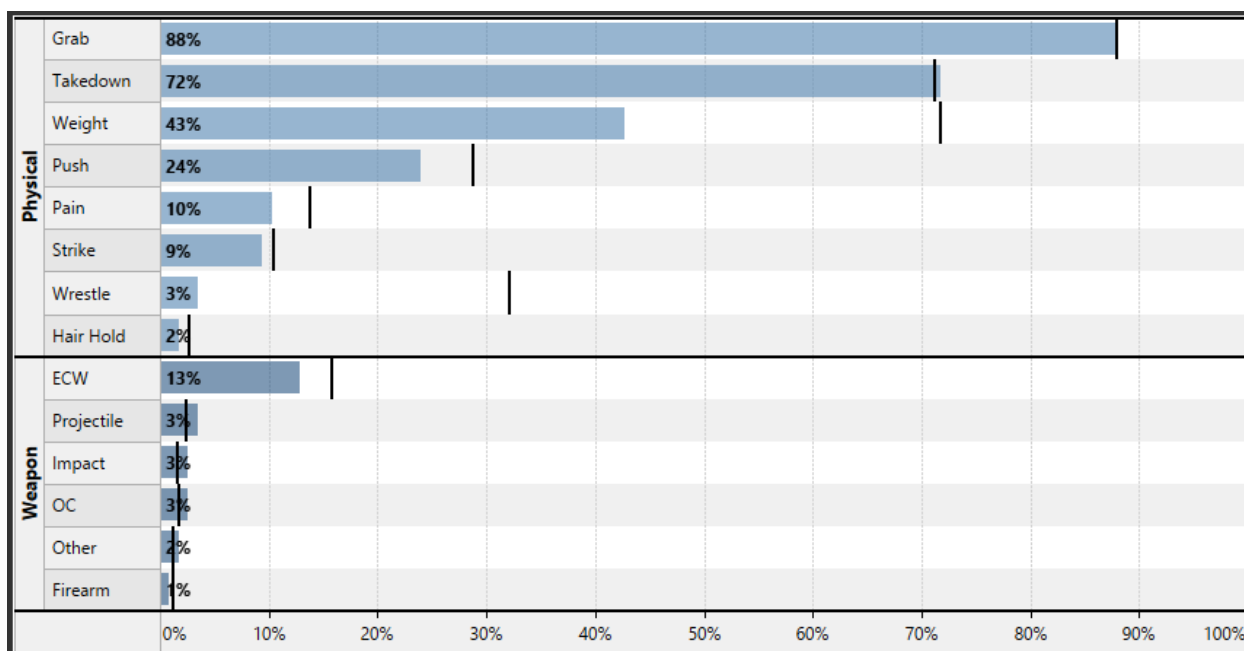
Force Tactics

Of the 117 use of force incidents that occurred in 2024, 82% involved physical force only, 10% involved only the use of weapons by officers and 8% involved both physical force and the use of a weapon.

Grabbing/pulling (88%), takedowns (72%), and using weight to hold a subject down (43%) were the most common physical tactics used while ECWs (13%) were the most frequently used weapons.

Officers were less likely to use weight to hold a subject down and wrestle with subjects in 2024 than in prior years.

Force Tactics Used - 2024

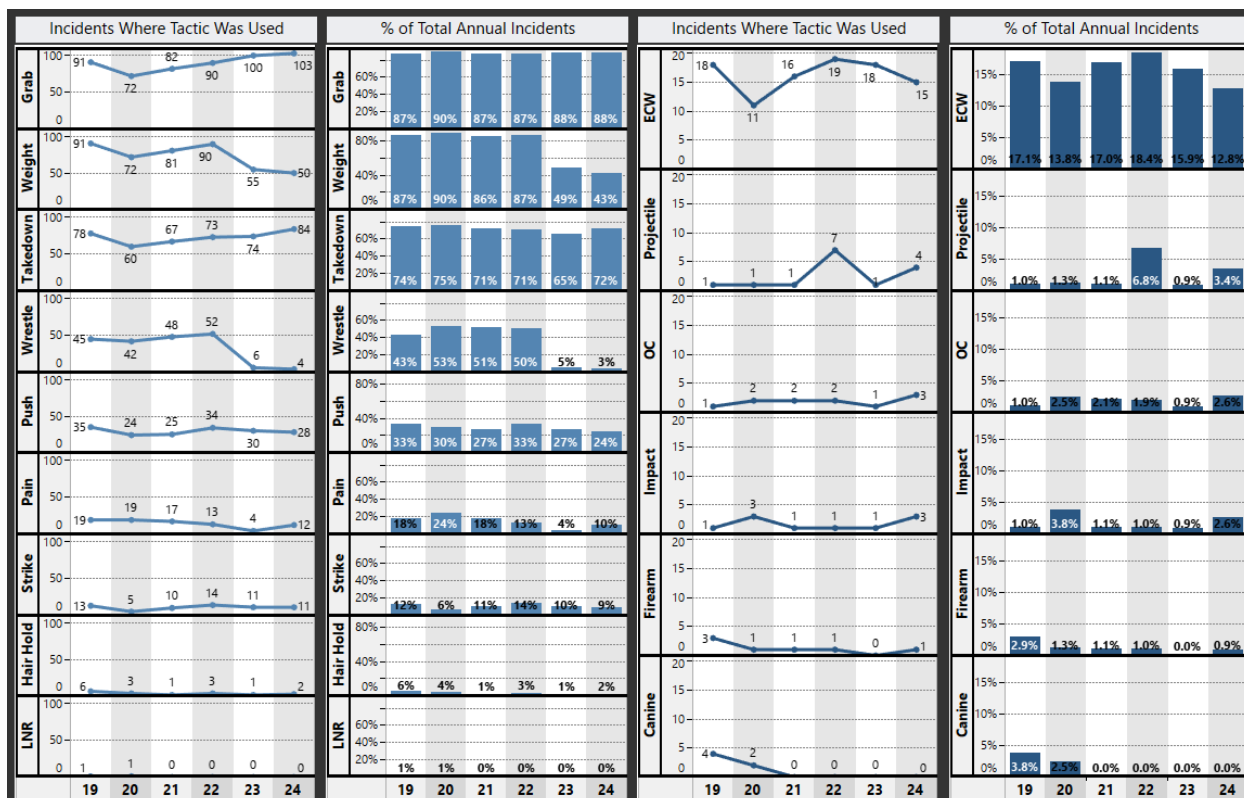


Over the last six years officers have used 3,186 individual physical force tactics and weapons during 612 incidents.

Between 2019 and 2022 the percentages of force incidents involving most physical tactics remained stable, but in 2023 and 2024 the use of weight and wrestling dropped significantly.

Between 2022 and 2024 the use of ECWs fell from 18.4% of force incidents to 12.8%. The use of projectile weapons, OC and impact weapon was higher in 2024 than in 2023.

Annual Number of Force Tactics Used



Subjects

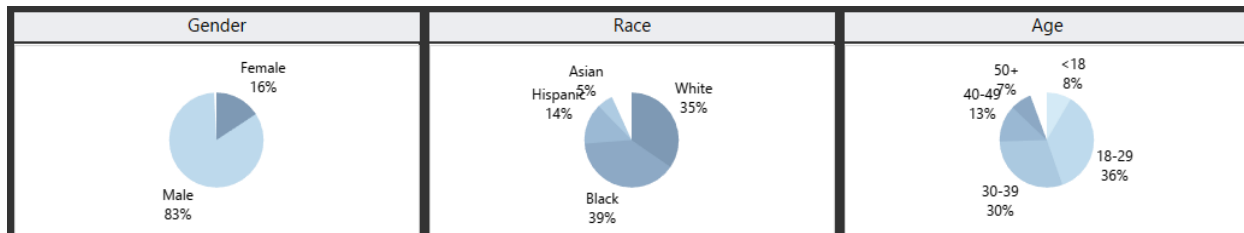
From 2019 to 2023 there were three demographic groups (gender, race, and age) that made up 52% of all use of force subjects – Black, White and Hispanic Males between 18 and 39. In 2024 the percentage of subjects in these demographic groups was similar, but White Males between 18 and 39 dropped from 24% to 20% and Hispanic Males increased from 9% to 13%.

Most Common Characteristics of Use of Force Subjects 2019 – 2023				
Gender	Race	Age	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Force Incidents
Male	Black	18-39	120	24%
Male	White	18-39	92	19%
Male	Hispanic	18-39	45	9%
All Other Demographic Groups or Unknown			238	48%

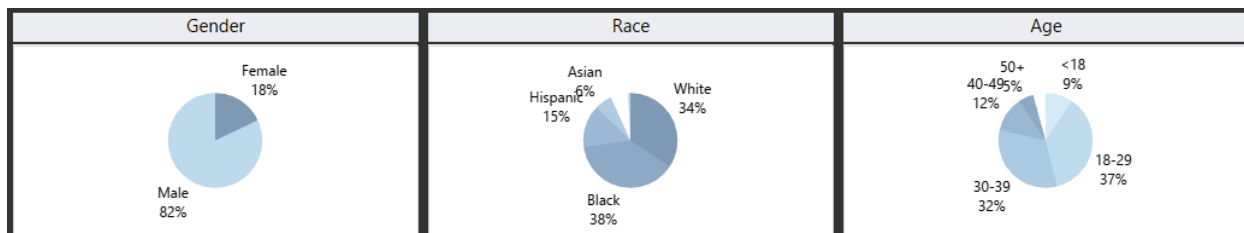
Most Common Characteristics of Use of Force Subjects 2024				
Gender	Race	Age	Number of Subjects	Percentage of Force Incidents
Male	Black	18-39	23	20%
Male	White	18-39	22	19%
Male	Hispanic	18-39	15	13%
All Other Demographic Groups or Unknown			57	48%

There was no significant difference in the demographics of use of force subjects in 2024 compared to prior years.

Use of Force Subject Characteristics - 2019 to 2023

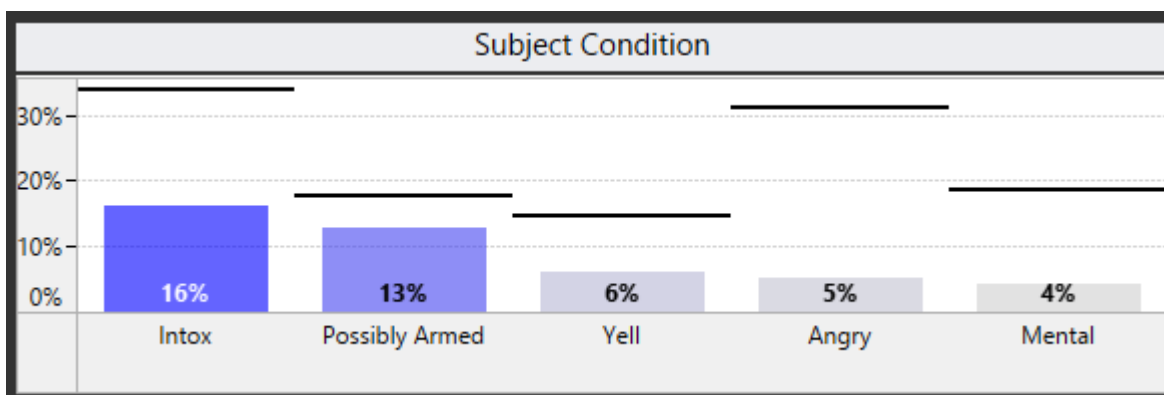


Use of Force Subject Characteristics - 2024



Compared to prior years, use of force subjects in 2024 were less likely to be under the influence, armed, yell, have mental health issues or be suicidal.

Subject Condition – 2024



Injuries

In 2024 there were 21 officers who were injured during a force incident. One of those officers was injured three times and one officer was injured twice. Nine percent of force applications by officers resulted in an injury to the officer who used force. Four officers complained of pain only. Nine officer injuries involved a bruise or a scrape and seven injuries involved a minor cut. One officer received a broken bone or tooth. Nearly all of the injuries were to the officers' arms or legs and three officers were injured in the head. Forty-eight percent of injured officers received medical treatment from EMTs or at a medical facility.

In 2024 49 subjects who had force used against them were injured (42% of all incidents). Of the subjects who were injured, most of the injuries were minor: complaint of pain (16%), ECW probe (14%), bruise/scrape (29%) or minor cut (37%). One subject had chemical irritation, and one subject had a gunshot wound.

Ninety-two percent of subjects who were injured or complained of injury received medical treatment. EMTs treated 76% of injured subjects and 16% were treated at a hospital. Fifty-one percent of injuries were to the subjects' head and 28% were to the torso.

Use of Force Trends

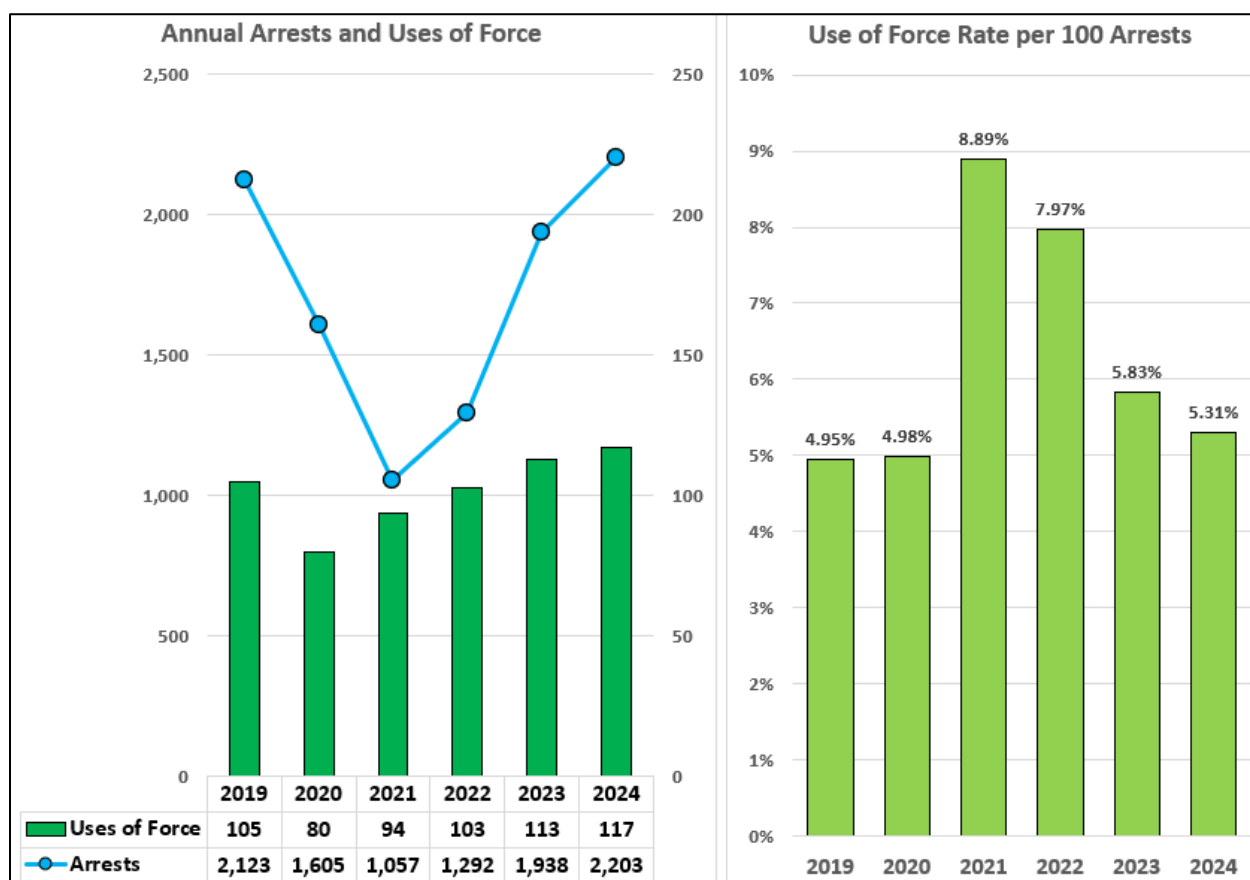
Over the last six years the following force trends were observed:

- The average Force Justification scores remained stable between 2019 and 2022 at about 10.4 before dropping to 8.9 in 2023 and then climbing to 9.8 in 2024.
- The average Force Factor scores have remained near the six-year average of 0.5.
- The average number of Force Sequences remained high from 2019 to 2022 (5.4) before dropping to 4.0 in 2023 and 4.3 in 2024. This indicates that officers were using force more effectively in 2023 and 2024 resulting in gaining control of subjects quicker.
- The percentage of incidents where officers spend a long time speaking with subjects before using force increased from 10% in 2019 to 41% in both 2023 and 2024. This is an indication of greater use of de-escalation techniques.
- The average number of officers using force during each incident rose from 2.1 in 2023 to 3.0 in 2024 which was the highest number in the last six years.
- Weapon use during force incidents fell from 28% in 2019 to 17% in 2023 and 18% in 2024.
- Between 2022 and 2024 the percentage of subjects with mental health issues fell from 39% to 4% while the percentage of suicidal subjects dropped from 7% to 0%.
- Injury rates for both officers and subjects were lower from 2022 to 2024 than in prior years.
- Over the last six years there were an average of 102 incidents per year, 26 incidents per quarter and 8 incidents per month. The most use of force incidents in a single day was 8 and eight days had this number.
- Between 2023 and 2024 the percentage of total use of force incidents in zip code 98057 fell from 59% to 47% while incidents in zip codes 98055 and 98056 increased.

Use of Force Frequency Trends

a) Arrests and Uses of Force

From 2019 to 2021 the annual number of arrests made by Renton PD fell by 50% from 2,123 arrests to 1,057 arrests. Since 2021 annual arrests have risen by 108% to 2,203 by 2024. Since 2021, the number of use of force incidents has been rising steadily from 90 to 117 by 2024 an increase of 30%. Since the number of arrests has increased at a faster rate than the number of uses of force, the use of force rate has fallen from 8.9% in 2021 to 5.3% in 2024. Between 2019 and 2024 the use of force rate per one hundred arrests has varied between 5% and 9%. The use of force rate has now returned to pre-pandemic levels.



b) Calls for Service and Uses of Force

From 2019 to 2020 the number of annual calls for service to Renton PD fell by 13% from 80,055 calls to 70,938 calls. From 2020 to 2023 calls for service increased by 6.5% to 75,618 in 2023 before falling to 71,160 in 2024. From 2020 to 2024 use of force incidents increased by 46% from 80 to 117 incidents. From 2020 to 2024 the use of force rate per one hundred calls for service increased by 46% from 0.11% to 0.16%.

