

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 USE OF FORCE

ANALYSIS AND REVIEW



It is the mission of the Bloomfield Township Police Department “to preserve the peace and to protect our community with fairness, integrity, pride, and respect”.

Overview

The response to resistance by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Bloomfield Township police officers are involved in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties. The police officers of Bloomfield Township must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

As a recognized Michigan Law Enforcement Accredited Commissioned agency, this document will serve as the 2023 Use of Force Analysis and Review. The International Association of Chiefs of Police defines force as “that amount of effort required by police to compel compliance from an unwilling subject”. This compliance is in conjunction with a lawful order from a law enforcement officer.

Bloomfield Township Police Department follows the guidelines set forth by the United States Supreme Court rulings in *Graham v. Conner* and *Tennessee v. Gardner*. The Department’s Use of Force training goes beyond addressing force options, level of resistance, and case law. Use of Force training emphasizes gaining compliance through understanding of psychological factors, using effective communication skills, and other techniques designed to de-escalate situations when possible, and minimize the amount of force used.

Training in the department’s use of force policy is required for all members of the department which helps to ensure that every officer, regardless of rank, is prepared and remains proficient in fulfilling their responsibility and solemn duty to protect all members of the public.

Use of Force Policies and Duty to Intervene

The Department divides Use of Force into two separate policies. In conjunction with these policies, the duty to intervene is included in this report.

Policy 4.01F is titled Deadly Force and states, *“The Bloomfield Township Police Department recognizes and respects the value of each human life. Therefore, it is the policy of this Department that police officers shall use only that force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the officer or another.”*

Policy 4.02F is titled Use of Less Lethal Force and states, *“It is the policy of the Bloomfield Township Police Department to utilize the amount of force that is reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and others. The Use of Force must be objectively reasonable in affecting a lawful arrest and/or in the lawful performance of duty. Police Officers are obligated to protect the rights and ensure the health and well-being of the public, including those accused of committing crimes, and /or those persons taken into protective custody.”*

Policy 4.06 is titled Duty to Intervene and states, *“It is the policy of the Bloomfield Township Police Department that officers have an affirmative duty to intervene on behalf of a citizen whose constitutional rights are being violated in the presence of other officers. Bloomfield Township police officers shall intervene when they observe or hear conduct by a fellow member of this agency or any other law enforcement agency.”*

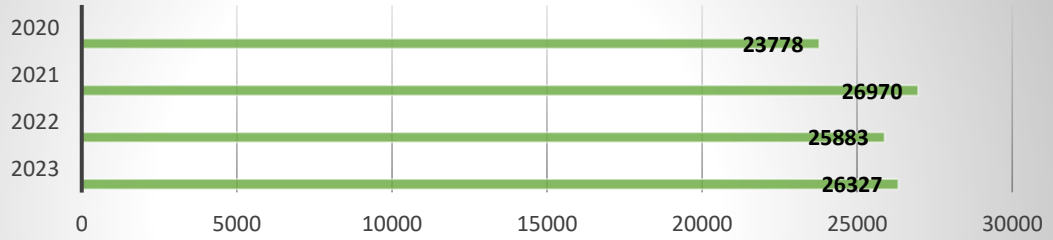
Calls for Service vs Force Incidents

The Department responded to 26,327 calls for service (CFS) in 2023 which generated 140 felony arrests and 658 misdemeanor arrests. This is a 1.69% increase of CFS compared to 2022. Included in the total CFS are 6,556 traffic stops. Out of those 26,327 CFS there were 20 incidents where force was used. Force was within Department policy in nineteen (19) incidents with one (1) being out of policy and discipline was administered. Furthermore, out of 26,327 CFS 798 resulted in arrests.

Figure A shows a four (4) year comparison between calls for service and the Use of Force.

Figure A.

Calls for Service vs Use of Force Incidents



	2023	2022	2021	2020
■				
■ Average	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.0126
■ Use of Force Incidents	20	12	13	3
■ Total Police Contacts	26327	25883	26970	23778

■ Average ■ Use of Force Incidents ■ Total Police Contacts

Use of Force Demographics

Use of Force demographics are presented in Figure B. (Gender) and Figure C. (Race). The average age of the person who had force used against them was 38.2 years old.

Figure B.

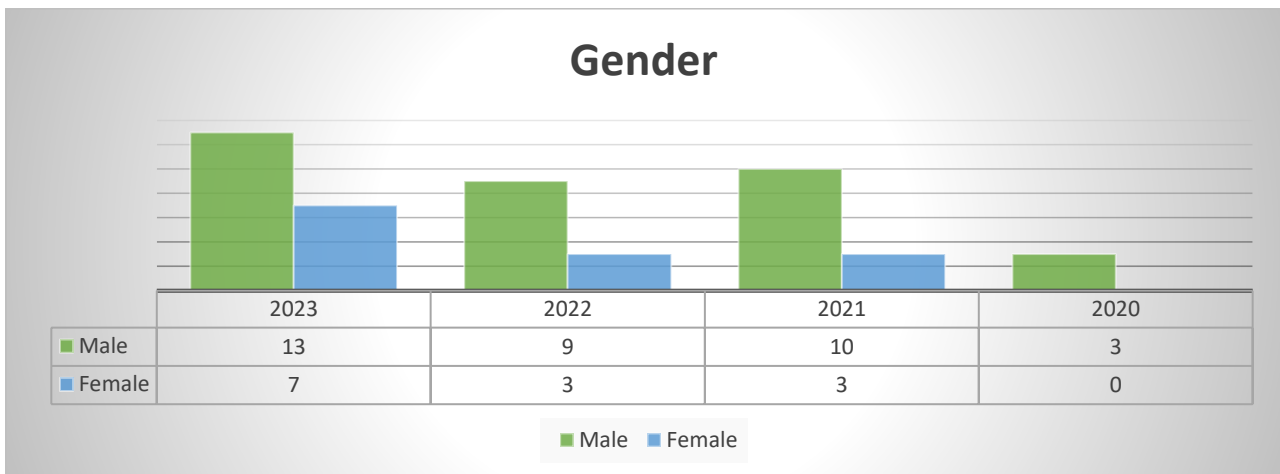
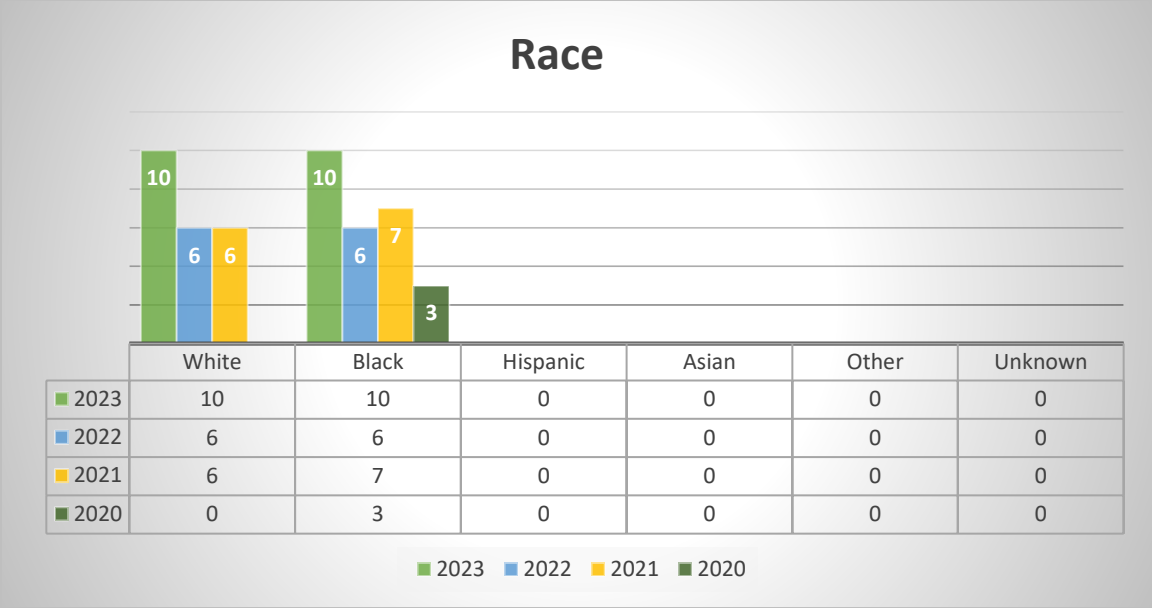


Figure C.



Use of Force Incident Breakdown

Eleven (11) Use of Force incidents occurred during day shift (0700-1900) and nine (9) occurred during the night shift (1900-0700). Use of Force incident types are shown in Figure D. There were nine (9) incidents where officers had to point their weapons at individuals in order to gain compliance. These CFS include felony stops, possible armed subjects, and fleeing from the police. There were no Taser deployments for 2024.

Figure D.

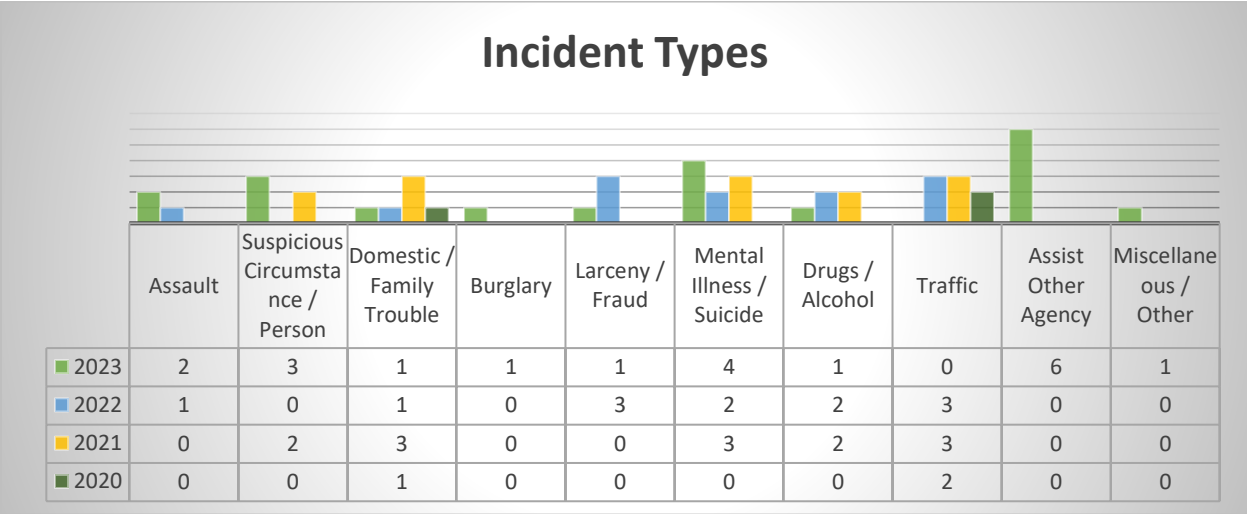
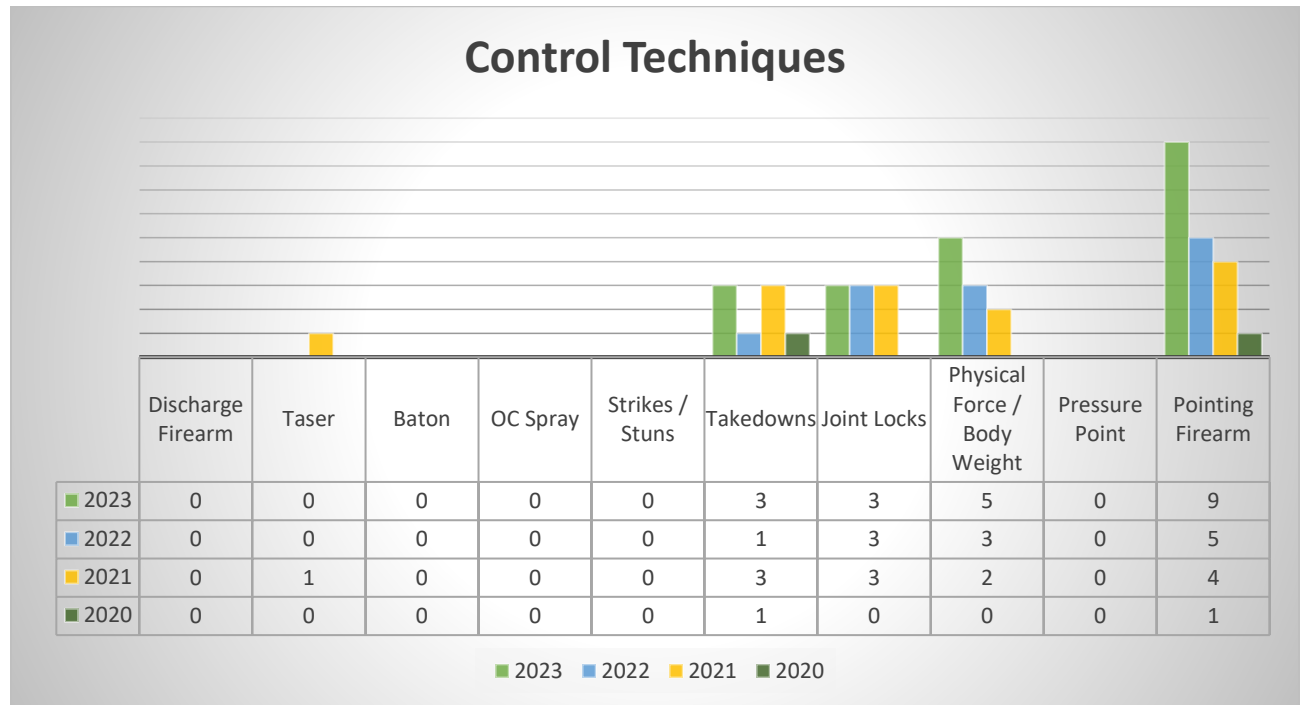


Figure E. illustrates additional compliance techniques used by officers during incidents where force was used.

Figure E.



There were no deadly force incidents to report. One (1) subject sustained minor injuries (cuts or scrapes) during the force encounter. This injury was treated at the scene with no further medical follow-up. There was one (1) incident where an officer sustained a bone fracture. Additional medical care was needed for treatment.

Training Trends and Suggestions

Officers continued to train defensive tactics once a month. This procedure will continually be monitored to ensure this is the best practice. During defensive tactics training, officers reviewed the De-Escalation Policy, Less Lethal Force Policy, and Lethal Force Policy.

Firearms training consists of quarterly qualifications which incorporate accuracy, target recognition, and weapon selection. This year the Department conducted Mass Causality

Incident training that took place at the Bloomfield Hills High School. This event was a multi-jurisdictional training that tested the agencies response to a violent critical incident.

New Active Shooter Response (ASR) formations were also trained on the Township campus. This training gave officers the opportunity to explore building facilities in which they may not have been familiar with prior to this training.

Looking to 2024, the Department will continue to develop critical thinking skills by focusing on emotional intelligence and leadership at all levels.

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