

# 2015 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM POLICE USE OF FORCE REPORT

By: UT System Police  
Academy Staff

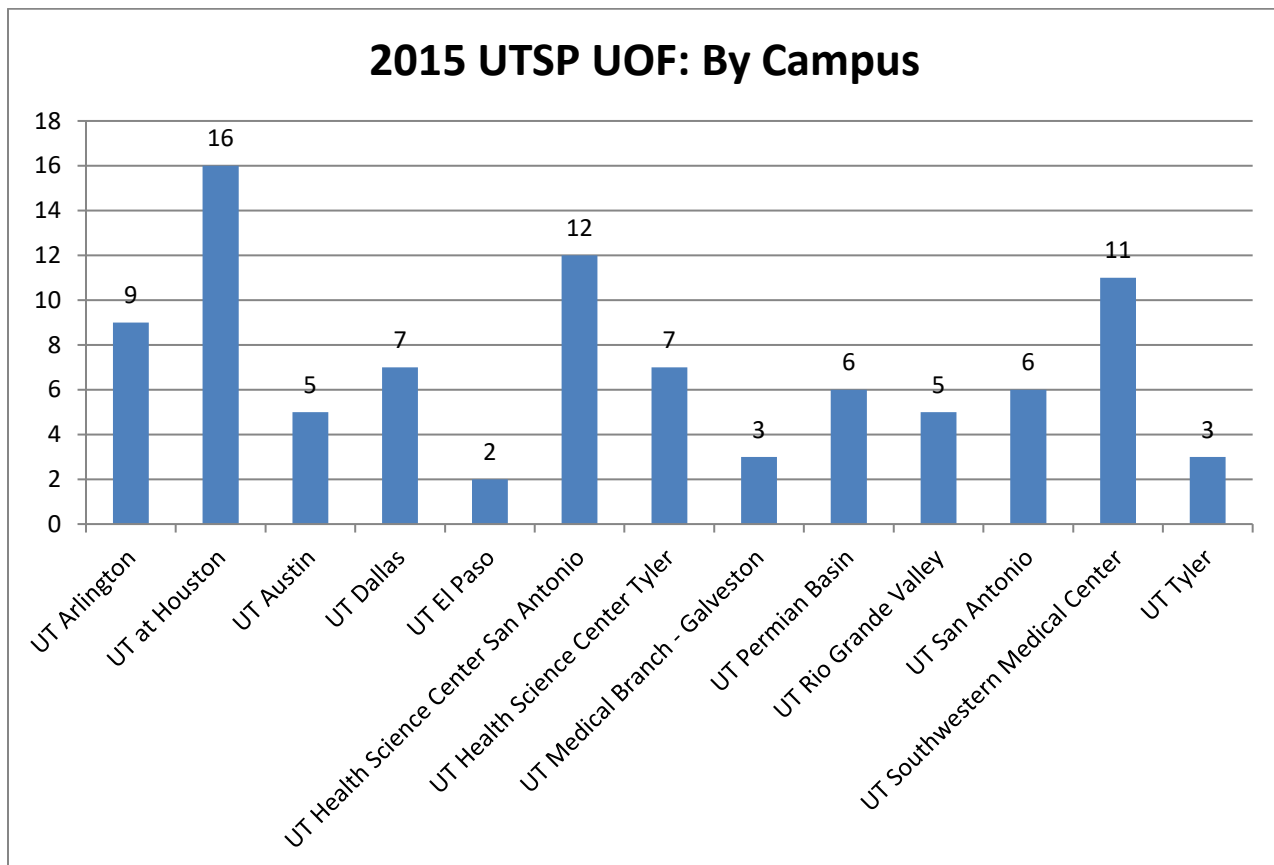


## Summary

During the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, UT System Police Officers encountered 92 situations that required the use of force above the level of command presence, verbal commands and low level handcuffing techniques. This represents a 14% decrease from the 2014 Use of Force Reports.

The 92 situations involved the use of force against 101 individuals, a 16% decrease from the 2014 report. An average of 2.02 officers were involved in use of force against an average of 1.11 subjects. The largest number of officers involved in one event was 6, and the largest number of subjects involved was 3. The average age of officers involved in use of force events was 37.9 (versus 38.5 for 2014). The youngest officer was 21 years of age and the oldest was 59 years old. The average age of the subjects was 26.46 (versus 29.43 in 2013) with 65 years old as the oldest. Three juveniles (one 13 YOA, one 14 YOA and one 15 YOA) were subjects of use of force. 22% of use of force situations involved an Emergency Detention of the subject(s) (20 total in 2015) which is a 66% increase over 2014 (with 12 incidents) and a 566% increase from 2013 (with 3 incidents).

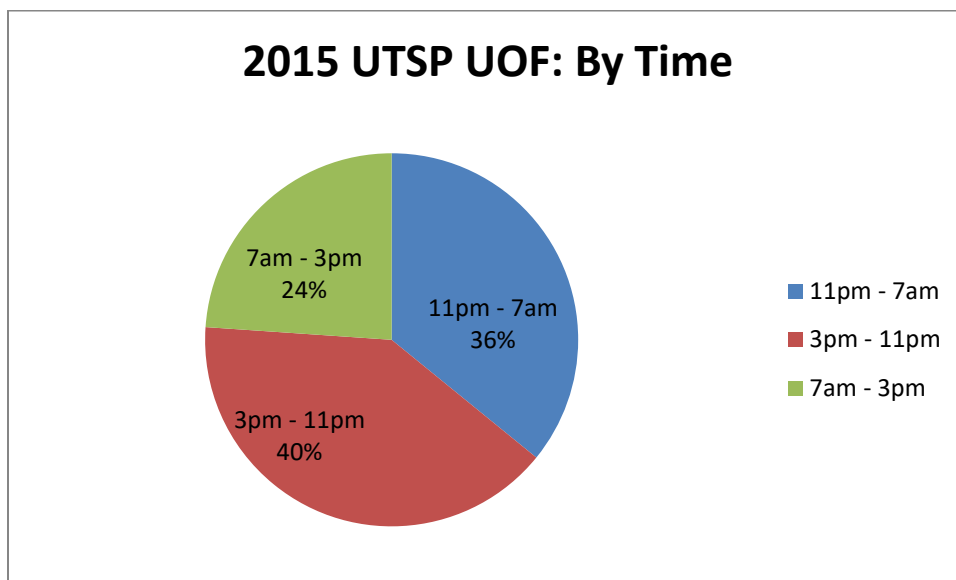
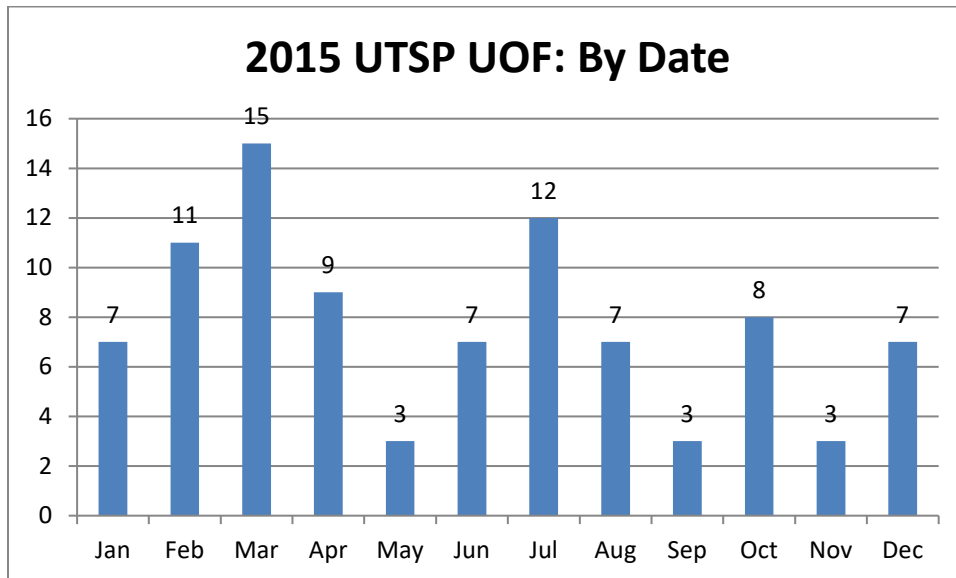
Demographically by campus, 17% of all use of force reports occurred at UT Houston with 16 incidents. UT Health Science Center at San Antonio had 13% of all use of force incidents in the UT System Police with a total of 12. UT Southwestern Medical Center, UT Arlington and UT Dallas & UT Health Northeast had 11, 9 and 7 respectively.



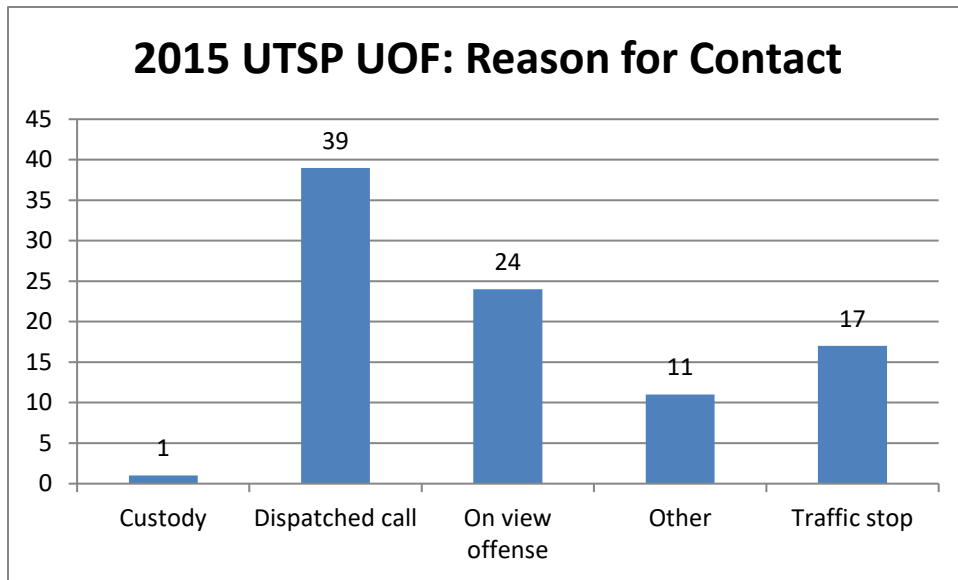
## Date & Time

Use of force by UTSP officers in 2015 was more likely to occur in March (total of 15) than in any other month compared to May (total of 14) in 2014. February and July were the next most likely months for the occurrence of use of force with 11 each. April and June had occurrences of 9 and 8 respectively for use of force.

The majority of use of force occurred between the hours of 3pm to 11pm at 40%, similar to 2014 at 41%. The 11pm to 7am shift saw 36% of the use of force (compared to 38% in 2014) followed by 24% for the hours between 7am to 3pm (compared to 21% in 2014).



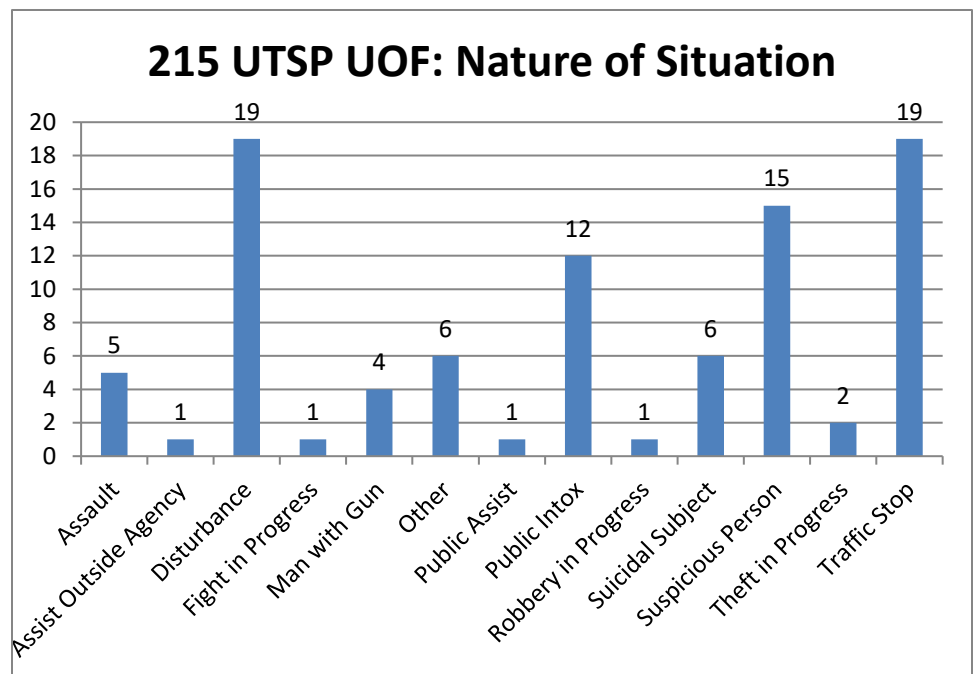
**Incident Conditions**



The nature of the situation that brought the officer and the suspects together varied. In 42% of the reports, the incident was classified as a “Dispatched Call” in which the officer was assigned a call via the radio or telephone (39 total, a decrease of 22% from 2014’s total of 50). 26% of officer/subject contacts occurred when the officer directly saw the event unfold, which is classified as “On-view Offense/Incident” (24

total in 2015, compared to 31 in 2014). Events classified as “Traffic Stop” accounted for 19% or 17 incidents of all use of force (a percentage increase of 41% versus 2014). “Other” (various different events) and “Custody” (in which the officer was attempting to take the subject into custody) events made up 12% and 1% of reported use of force respectively.

When classifying the nature of the situation in which use of force occurred, there were several factors involved. “Disturbance”, “Traffic Stop” and “Suspicious Person” accounted for 21%, 21% and 16% respectively concerning the nature of the situation (19, 19 and 15). 13% of incidents (12 total in 2015) officers dealt with an intoxicated individual. 7% of use of force events were classified as “Other” to include direct assistance of medical personnel in an effort

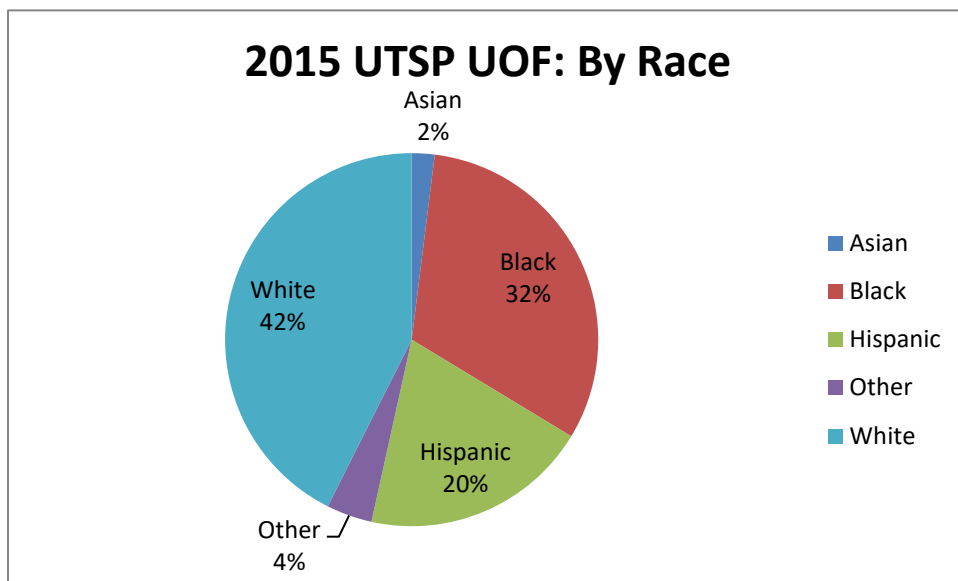
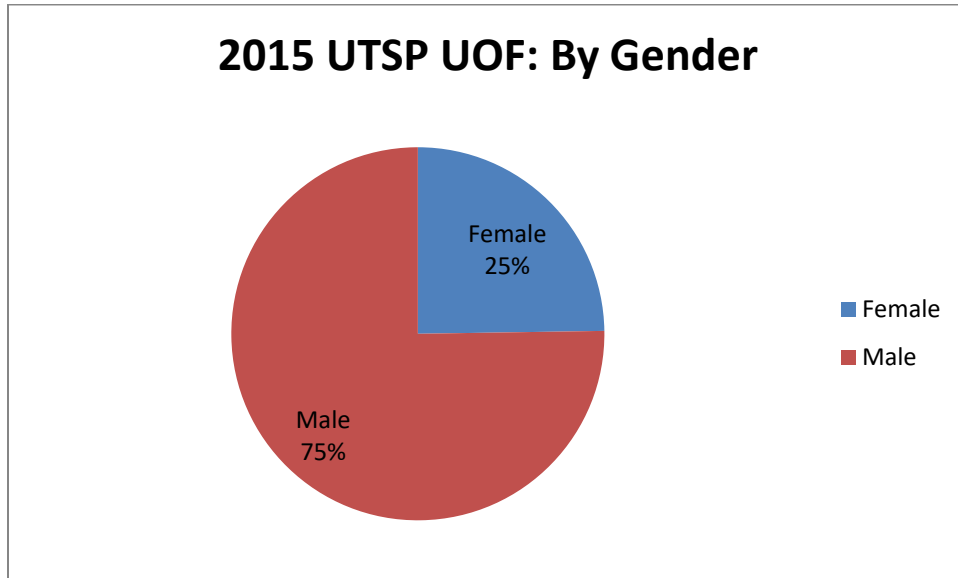


to restrain an out of control patient (all of which occurred at the medical campuses). 7% of situations officers were faced with a suicidal subject (no percentage change from 2014). There were no dog attacks in 2015, versus 2 dog attacks on officers in 2014.

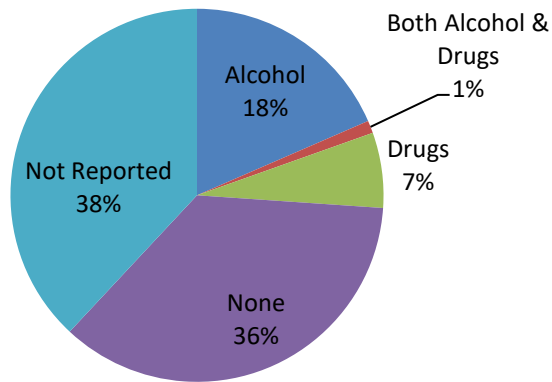
It should be noted that 12% of all use of force incidents occurred when in such situations as fight in progress, person with a gun call (total of 4 of these in 2015), robbery in progress and theft in progress.

### Subject Demographics

In 2015, 75% of all subjects involved in use of force situations by UTSP officers were male which is a 12% decrease from 2014. Female subjects accounted for 25% of events which is an increase of 39% over last year. When classifying subjects by ethnicity, 42% of subjects were white, 32% were black, 20% were Hispanic and 2% were Asian. "Other" was listed at 4% on the DP-54 report.



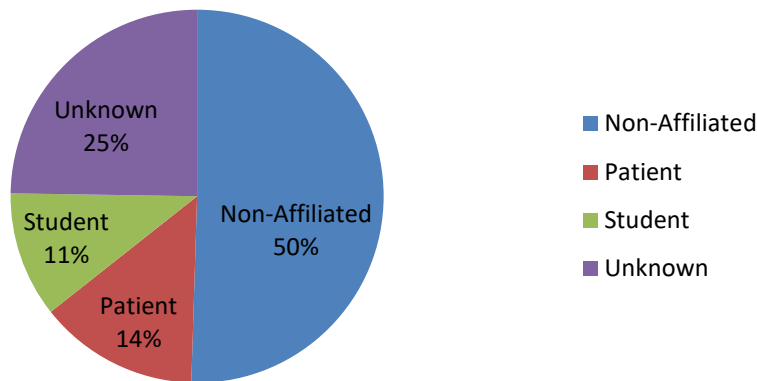
## 2015 UTSP UOF: By Intoxication



During use of force events, 18% of the subjects were under the influence of alcohol when they encountered UTSP officers in 2015. Another 7% were under the influence of drugs/controlled substances and 1% were under the influence of both drugs and alcohol; meaning that nearly 26% of the force incidents involved subjects that were under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both. This is

similar to 26% of incidents in 2014 where subjects were under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both. In 36% of force incidents, the subject(s) were not under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This information was gleaned from reading the narratives of the offense report as the DP #54 does not have data collection points to indicate if subject intoxication was a factor. This is evident in that 38% of the reports the use of drugs/alcohol was not indicated or documented.

## 2015 UTSP UOF: By Affiliation



When analyzing affiliation of subjects in use of force situations, 50% (were classified as “Non-Affiliated” with the institution, an increase of 11% over last year. 14% of subjects were patients, all of which were at the medical campuses. Only 11% were classified as students. 25% of the reports did not indicate the affiliation of the subject on the report and were labeled as “Unknown”. It should be

noted that two different DP-54 report forms were observed while collecting data for this report. One form used was the current form, which is undated but listed on the UT Office of the Director of Police website as “Revised 5/16/13”. This form has university affiliation as a data collection point. The other DP-54 form encountered is marked with a revision date of 9/2012 and does not include university affiliation as a data collection point.

## Subject Actions

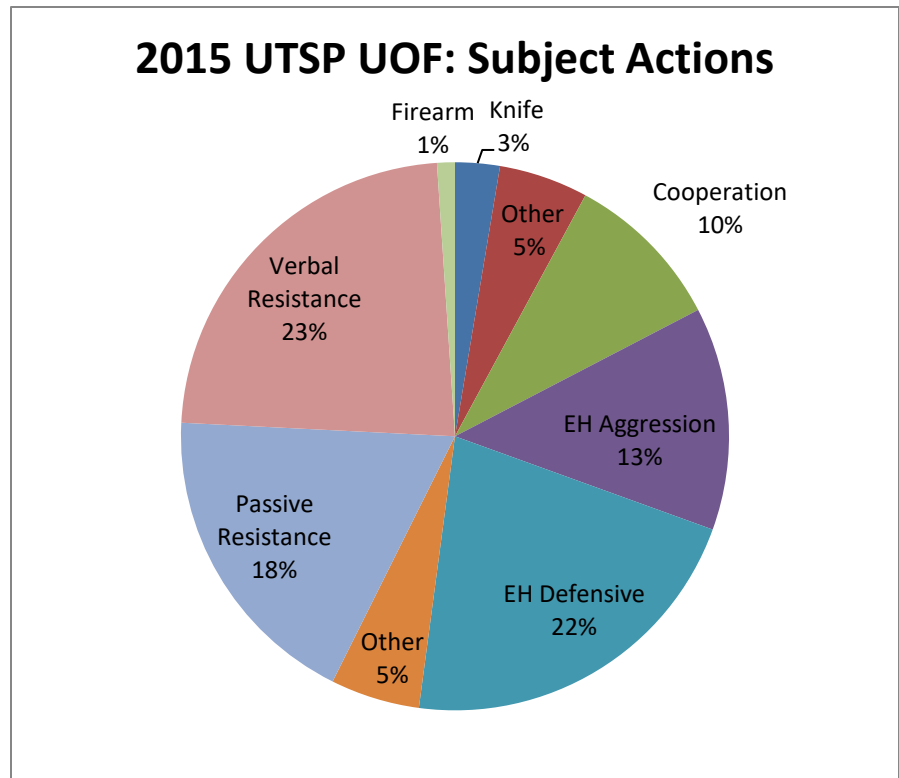
A total of 190 separate actions exhibited by the 101 subjects were documented in 2015. This is a 6% decrease in the number of actions and a 5% decrease in the number of suspects from 2014. Most of the actions took place in combinations where the subject exhibited two or more actions together.

Approximately 23% of the time, subjects exhibited verbal resistance towards the officer(s). Actions taken by the subject classified as Empty Hand Defensive Resistance accounted for 22% of events.

Examples of these actions include pulling or pushing away. This is a decrease of 16% over 2014 events. In 18% of the incidents, Passive

Resistance was used by the subject towards the officer(s).

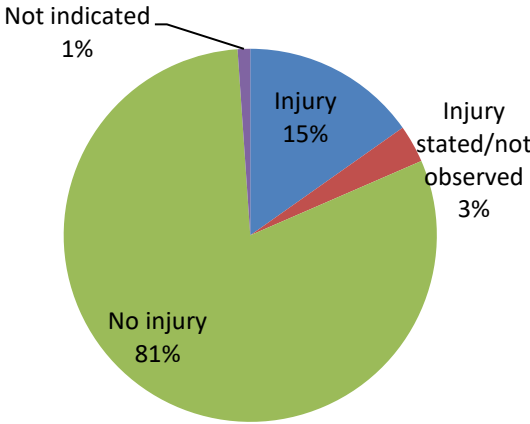
Examples of passive actions include dropping to the ground or using body weight to counter the officer's actions. Empty Hand Active Aggression was displayed 13% of the time by subjects which is equivalent to 15% in 2014. Examples of these actions include hitting, kicking and biting. In 3% of situations, the subjects displayed a knife and another 1% displayed a gun towards the officer(s). No subjects attempted to disarm a UTSP officer in 2015 compared to 1 in 2014.



## Subject Injuries

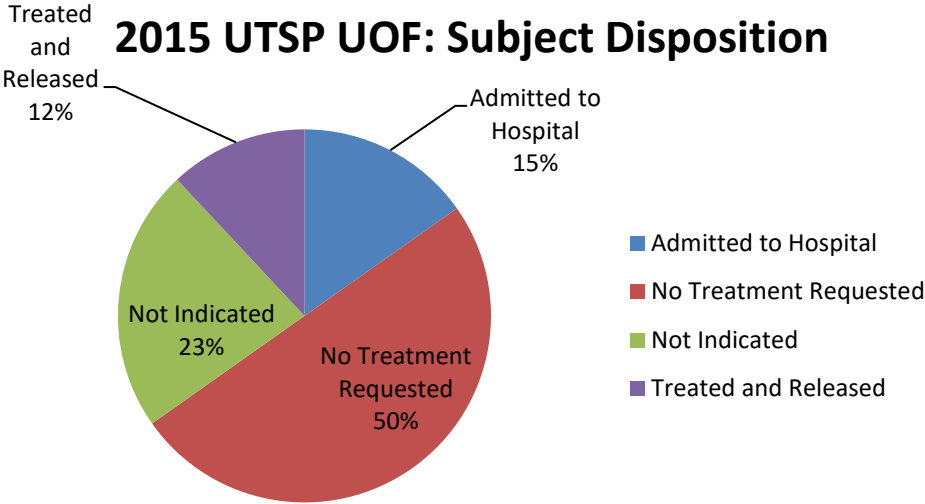
In 3% (3) of the use of force reports, an injury was complained by the subject(s); however, no injury was observed. This is a decrease of 95% from 2014. One report form (1%) did not indicate on the form if the subject had been injured. Only 14 injuries were reported on the forms which represents 15% of all events, which is a 18% decrease of injuries from 2014.

### 2015 UTSP UOF: Subject Injuries



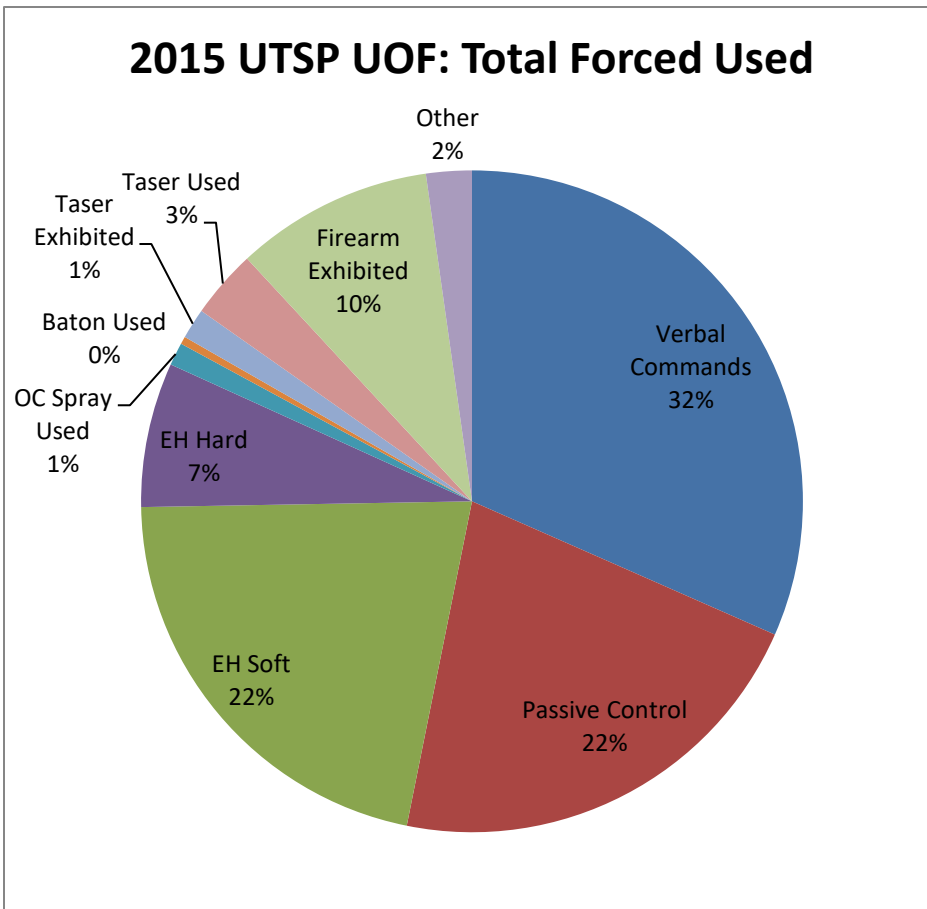
There was no treatment required for subject(s) in 50% of use of force events (versus 46% in 2014). 15% of subjects required hospitalization, either due to injuries or as an involuntary mental health commitment. 12% of subjects (11) were treated and released at the scene, the same percentage for 2014. It should be noted that in 23% of the use of force reports submitted (21) the disposition of the subject was not indicated in the report as required, which is a 32% decrease over 2014.

### 2015 UTSP UOF: Subject Disposition





## Officer Responses



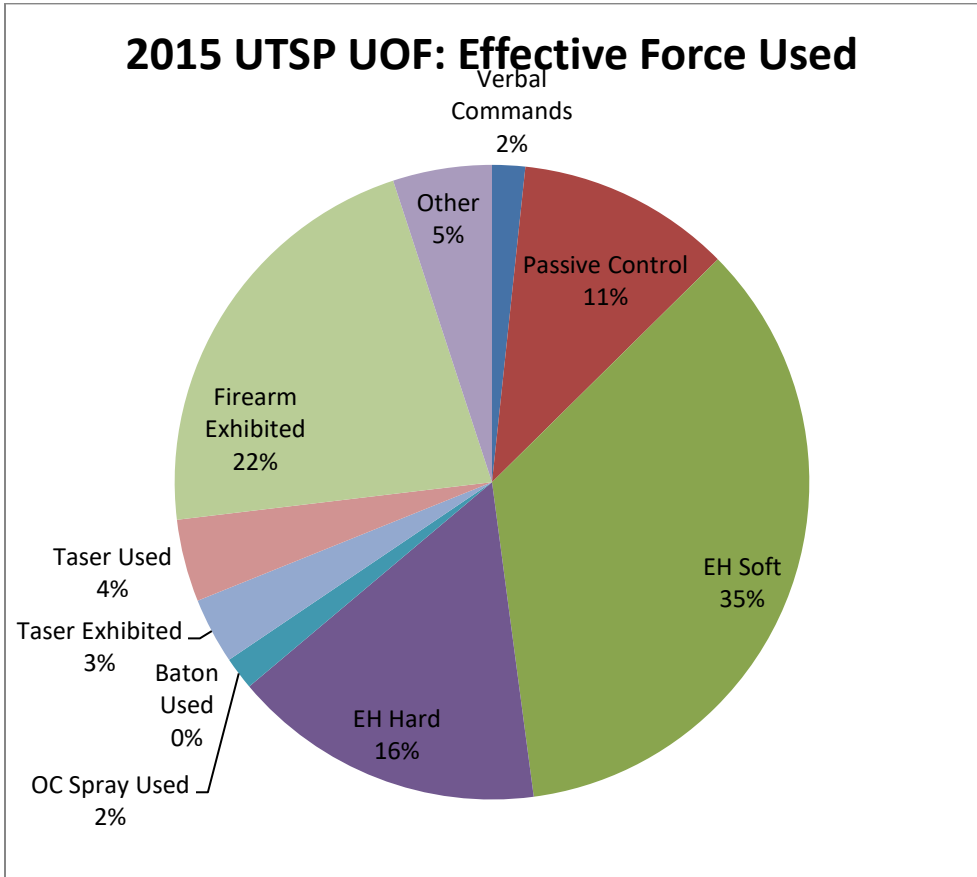
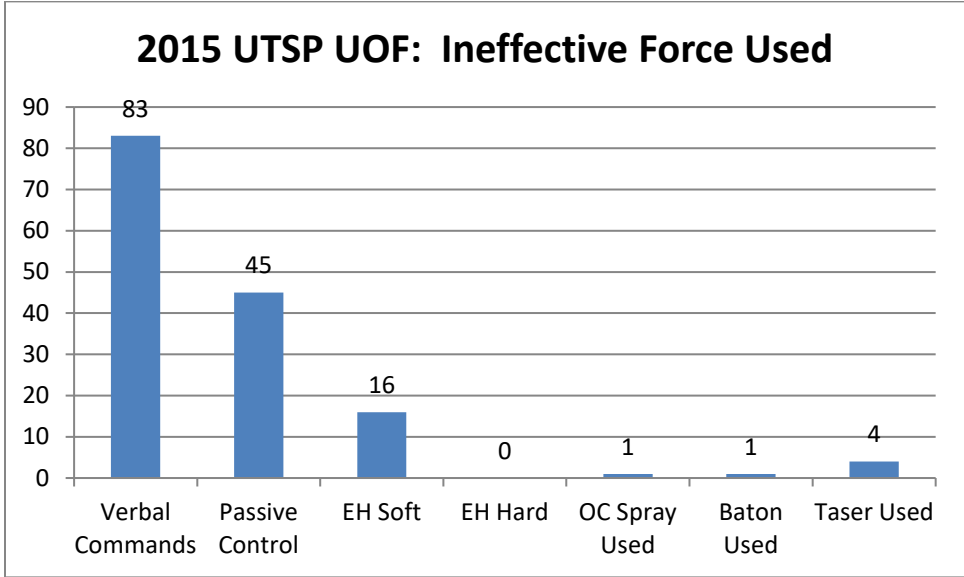
A total of 269 separate actions exhibited by the 186 involved officers were documented in 2015. That is a decrease of 4% of actions and officers involved versus 2014. Most of the actions took place in combinations where the officer utilized two or more actions together. "Other" category represents six different use of force actions that officers took to take control of a subject such as: use of a traffic bollard to keep an intoxicated individual upright, holding down the shoulders of a sitting intoxicated individual in a chair, the use of a gurney to restrain a combative individual, etc.

**Ineffective Responses:** 150 of the force option responses

selected by officers proved ineffective in gaining compliance from the subject(s), which is a 15% increase over 2014. Ineffective Verbal Commands accounted for 55% of these. Examples of this include officers ordering the subject to comply, to put their hands behind their back, to stop resisting, etc. Passive Guidance techniques (grabbing or guiding) were ineffective in 30% of reports. Empty Hand Soft techniques such as arm bars, pressure points and takedowns were ineffective in 10% of events. Empty Hand Hard techniques such as punches and kicks to restrain an individual were ineffective in less than 1% of events. There was one ineffective deployment of an impact weapon. An Electronic Control Device (Taser) was actually deployed in 9 use of force incidents; however, 4 of these uses were not effective on the subject.

**Effective Responses:** UTSP officers took 119 separate actions that resulted in effective force responses. An Empty Hand Soft technique was the most common use of force and was effective in 35% of events. These techniques include arm bars, pressure points and takedowns. Empty Hand Hard techniques such as punches and kicks to restrain an individual were effective in 16% of events. 22% of the time an exhibition of a firearm by the officer(s) proved effective in gaining compliance from the subject(s). These mainly occurred during high risk events such as a "felony traffic stop" type incident. Actual use of OC Spray was effective in 2 use of force incidents (2%). There were 4 events where the display of an Electronic Control Device (Taser) by officers proved effective in gaining compliance from the subject(s). There were 5 actual deployments (3% of all use of force

events) of an Electronic Control Device (Taser) by officers that proved effective in gaining compliance from the subject(s). There were zero effective deployments of an impact weapon. In 2% of reports, Verbal Commands such as ordering the subject to comply, to put their hands behind their back, to stop resisting, etc. were effective.

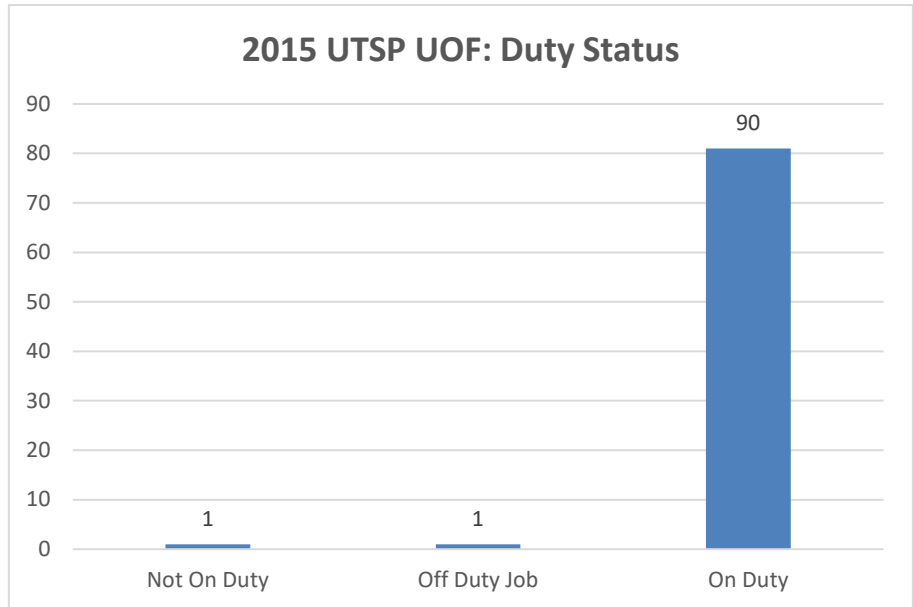


### Officer Involvement; Duty Status

In 92% of the reports, UTSP Officers were involved in the use of force events. In three incidents (one at UT El Paso and two at UT Health Northeast in Tyler), a UTSP Public Safety Officers (security guards) assisted UTSP Police Officers in using force towards the subject(s) in order to gain compliance. There were 7 incidents (8%) in which force was used by a UTSP officer while directly assisting an outside law enforcement agency.

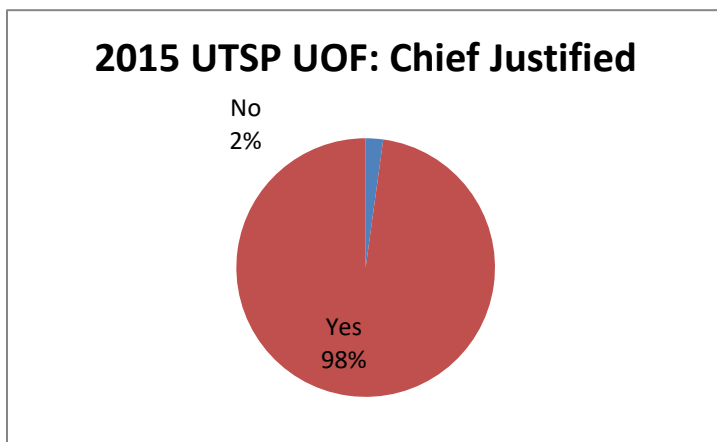
UTSP officers were on duty during the use of force event 98% of the time, versus 93% in 2014. One

report was for an officer who observed a possible burglary in progress in his neighborhood as he was off-duty mowing his lawn. In one event the use of force resulted from an officer engaged in off-duty employment, versus 4 events or 4% in 2014. No events occurred while an officer was engaged in an overtime event on campus.



### Officer Injuries

In 2015, 10 officers were injured as a result of the use of force events, versus 13 in 2014. That represents 11% of all use of force situations. No officers were hospitalized due to their injuries as recorded in the narrative portion of the DP-54.



### Found Justified by Chief

In 98% of the use of force cases, UTSP Chiefs/Command Staff found that the use of force by the officer(s) was justified. In two cases (2%) a Chief//Command Staff did not find the use of force justified based upon the circumstances of the event and UTSP policy on the use of force, which is no change from 2014. In one incident, an officer at

a health institution held down an intoxicated patient so that medical staff could perform a blood draw. In the other incident, an officer at an academic institution inappropriately displayed his firearm towards a non-violent (but frequently encountered) offender. In both cases, the individual officer were assigned additional training in use of force concepts, UTSP Use of Force policy #601 training and scenario training.

## Conclusion

The following conclusions can be made:

- The DP #54 form needs to be revised to capture two additional data sets: One for affiliation and one for the subject(s) use of drugs, alcohol or both.
- An additional improvement to the form would be the inclusion of data sets to indicate if an injured officer was hospitalized or treated and released at the scene.
- The UTSP Academy and Training Division will continue to assess the use of force training provided to officers against the real world experience reflected in this report. Training will be adjusted and modified accordingly. This report will be distributed in full to all institution Chiefs of Police and their command staffs as well as all institution Police Department training officers.