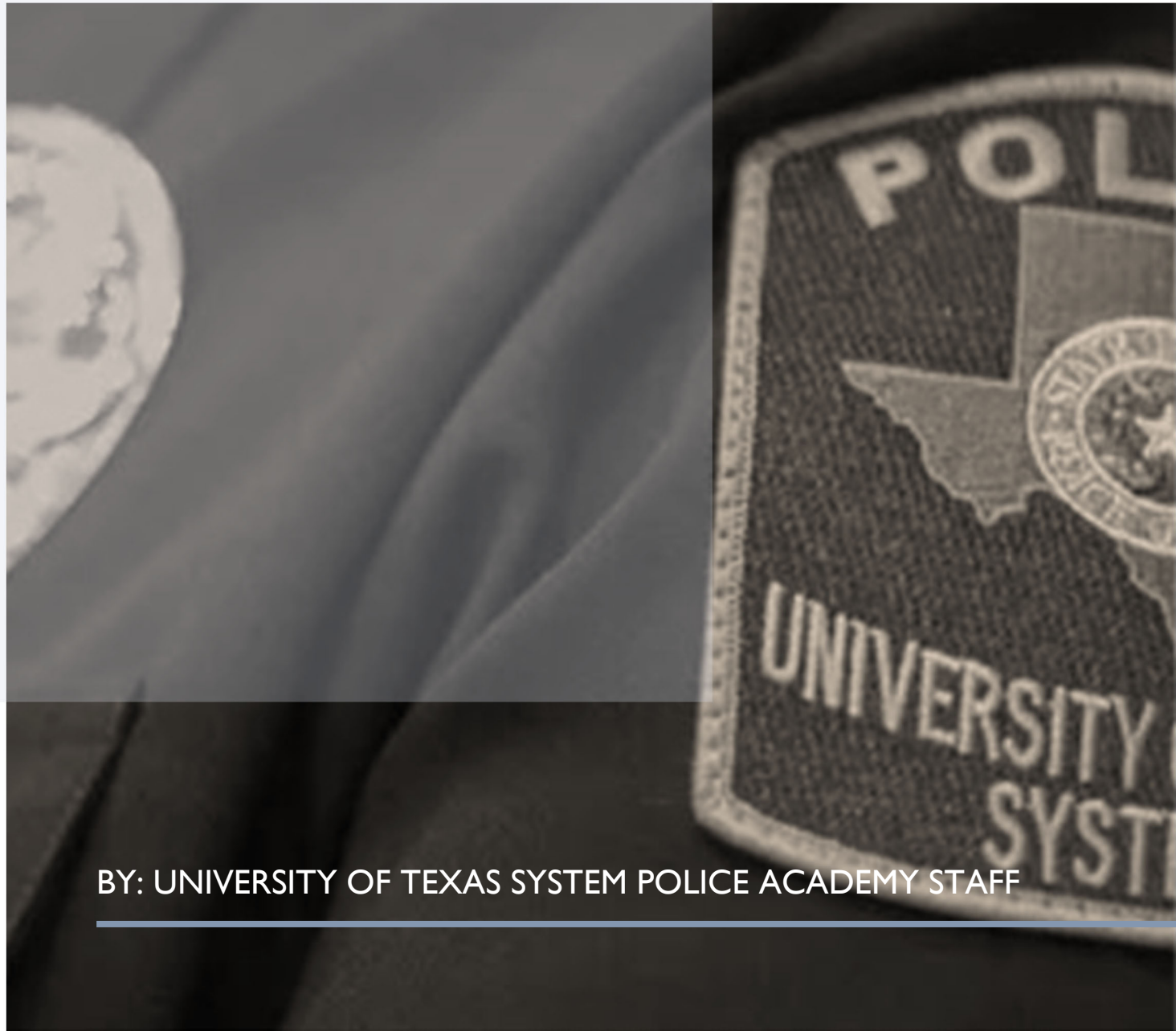


# UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM POLICE 2022 USE OF FORCE REPORT



A SUMMARY REPORT OF USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022



BY: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM POLICE ACADEMY STAFF

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## Summary

During the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, UT System Police Officers encountered 134 situations that required the use of force above the level of command presence, verbal commands and low-level handcuffing techniques. This represents a 2% increase from the 2021 Use of Force Reports.

The 134 situations involved the uses of force against 173 individual subjects. An average of 1.82 officers were involved in uses of force against an average of 1.29 subjects (total of 244 officers). The largest number of officers involved in one event was seven, and the largest number of subjects involved was eleven. The average age of officers involved in uses of force events was 36.82 years old (versus 36.71 for 2021). The youngest officer was 22 years of age and the oldest was 64 years old. The average age of the subjects was 30.06 years old (versus 34.05 in 2021) with 85 years old as the oldest (in this incident, officers were responding to a disturbance in an emergency room at a medical institution). Eleven juveniles (two 16-year-old, three 15-year-old, three 14-year-old, one 12-year-old, one 11-year-old and one 8 year-old) were subjects of uses of force (three in disturbances in emergency rooms at medical institutions, one in an assist of an outside law enforcement agency with a runaway, six in high risk stops and one as a suspect in a burglary). Twenty-two percent of uses of force situations involved an Emergency Detention (when persons pose a danger to themselves or others, a brief emergency detention allows for a mental health assessment) of the subject(s) which is a 15% decrease from the 2021 report.

	2022	2021	2020
<b>Use of Force – Total Incidents</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>115</b>
Use of Force – Total Officer Actions	323	347	285
<i>Taser Use or Exhibition</i>	25	15	13
<i>Pepper Spray Use of Exhibition</i>	2	2	0
<i>Baton Use or Exhibition</i>	0	0	0
<i>Empty Hand Tactics</i>	124	164	115
<i>Exhibit Firearm</i>	50	43	51
<i>Discharge of Firearm*</i>	0	0	1**
<i>Verbal Commands+</i>	117	121	103
<i>Other</i>	5	2	2

\* Includes humanitarian euthanasia of wounded/injured/suffering animals.

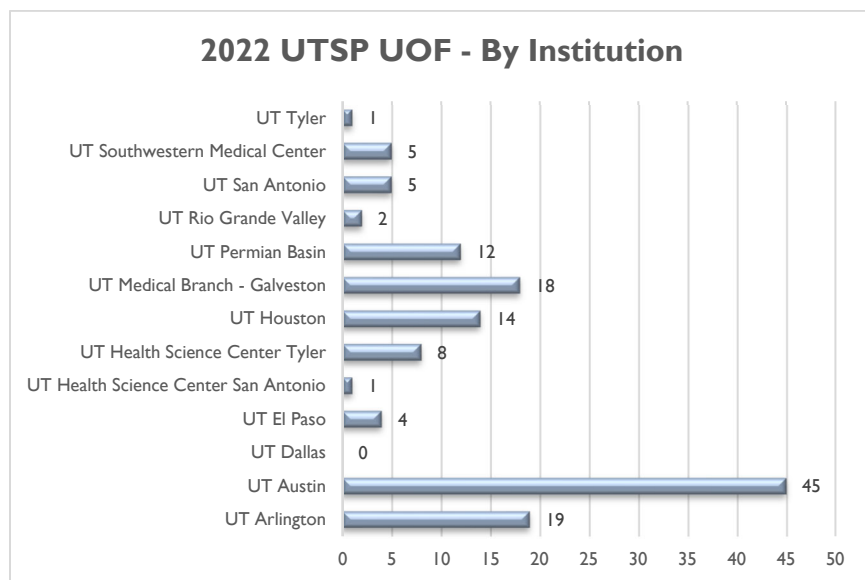
\*\* This event occurred when an off duty officer interrupted a burglary of his vehicle at his residence during hours of darkness and the officer discharged his weapon after identifying himself as a police officer and one of the multiple suspects involved turned toward the officer with an object in his hand that the officer believed was a handgun—The officer fired in defense of his life given the threat he perceived—The suspect(s) fled, apparently uninjured and remain unidentified—Both the Houston PD and the Office of Director of Police responded and conducted the criminal and administrative investigations, respectively.

+ Although Verbal Commands are not considered a Use of Force, they are included here in the report as a dynamic of the use of force incident.

## INCIDENT INFORMATION

### Institution

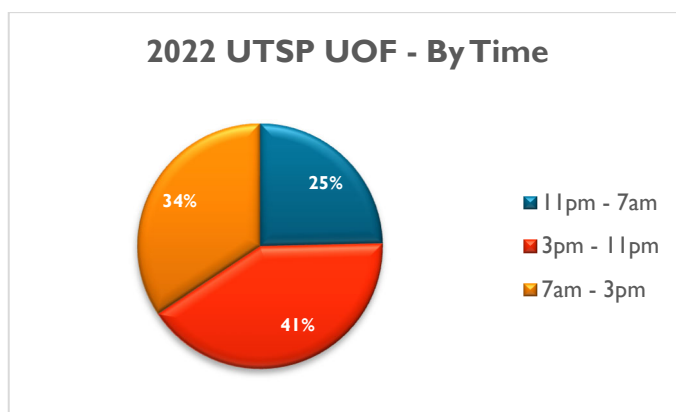
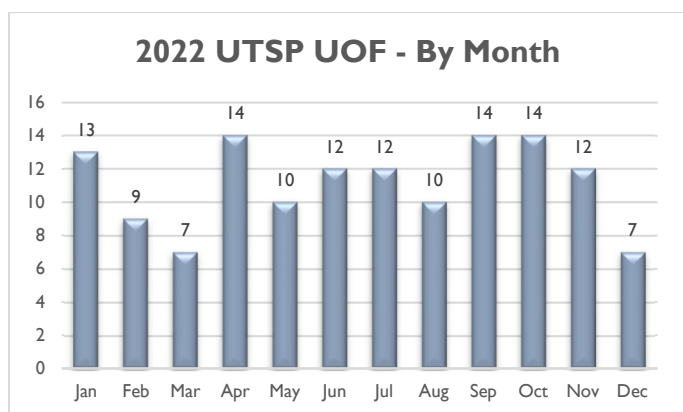
Demographically by campus, 34% of all uses of force occurred at UT Austin with 45 incidents. UT Arlington had 19 use of force incidents (14%) and UT Medical Branch-Galveston had 18 incidents (13%). UT Houston had fourteen use of force incidents while UT Permian Basin had twelve use of force incidents (UTPB officers regularly provide mutual aid support to Odessa PD proximate to campus and the majority of the UTPB PD uses of force involve non-affiliated arrestees). UT Health Science Center Tyler had eight use of force events while UT San Antonio and UT Southwestern had five events each. Of the 134 uses of force reports, 18% occurred at medical facilities where officers used low level control measures (hands-on passive-type guidance) to assist medical staff with a combative patient in an emergency room setting. UT Dallas did not report any use of force in 2022.



## Date & Time

The majority of uses of force by University of Texas System Police (UTSP) officers in 2022 occurred in April, September and October with 14 incidents compared to October and December (total of 15 each) in 2021. January had 13 incidents. June, July and November had the next most occurrences of uses of force with 12 each. The months of May and August had 10 each of occurrences of uses of force.

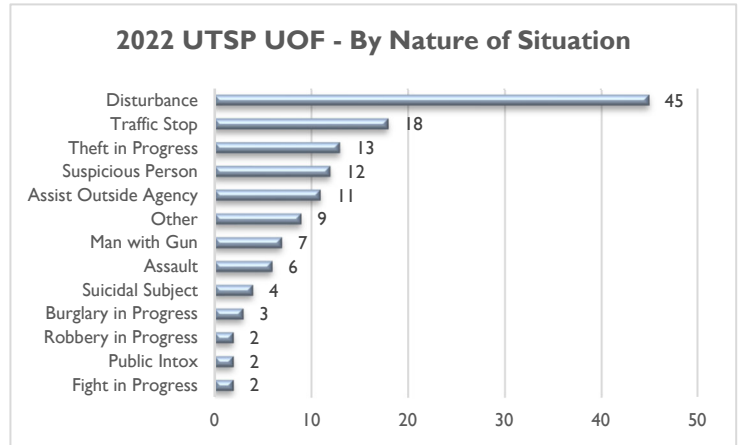
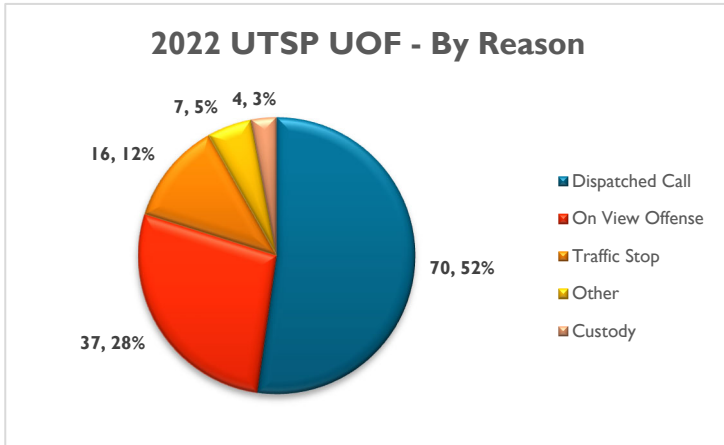
The majority of uses of force occurred between the hours of 3pm and 11pm at 41% (up from 38% in 2021). The 11pm to 7am shift saw 25% of the uses of force followed by 34% for the hours between 7am to 3pm.



## Incident Conditions

The reason for the officer and the subject’s contact varied. In 52% of the reports, the incident was classified as a “Dispatched Call” in which the officer was assigned a call via the radio or telephone (compared to 58% in 2021). Twenty-eight percent of officer/subject contacts occurred when the officer directly saw the event unfold, which is classified as “On-view Offense/Incident” which is similar to 26% in 2021. Events classified as “Traffic Stop” accounted for 12% of all uses of force (the same as in 2021).

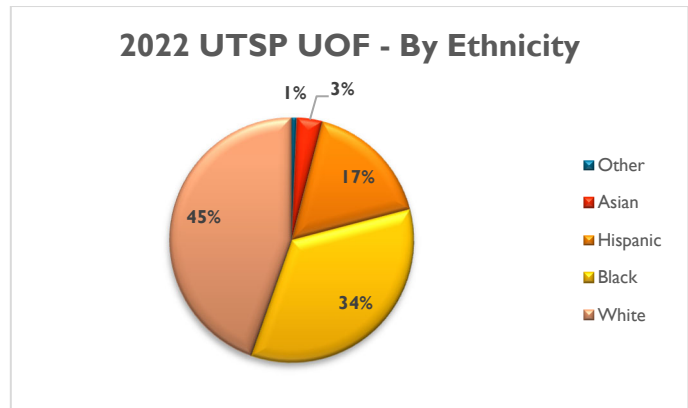
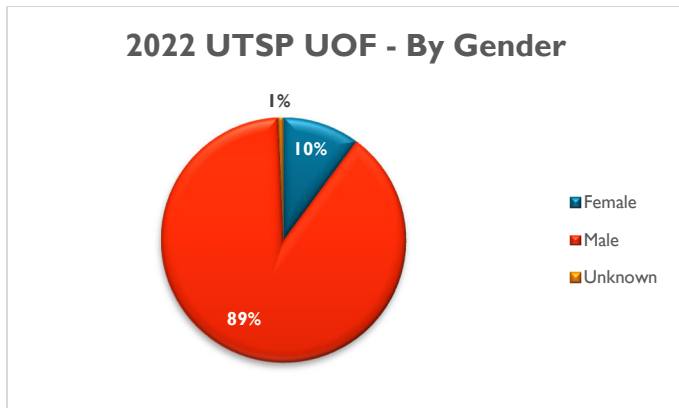
When classifying the nature of the situation in which uses of force occurred, there were several factors involved. “Disturbance” accounted for 34% concerning the nature of the situation (45 total) while “Traffic Stop” accounted for 13% (18 total) of incidents. “Theft In Progress” situations accounted for 10% (13 total) of incidents. Other incident conditions where officers used force included suspicious persons, suicidal subjects, fight in progress and assist outside agency. These four categories combined accounted for approximately 22% of all uses of force in 2021.



## SUBJECT INFORMATION

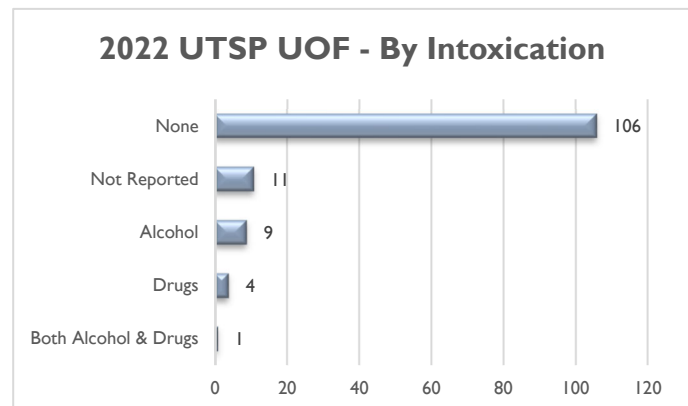
### Subject Demographics

In 2022, 89% of all subjects involved in uses of force situations by UTSP officers were male, compared to 79% in 2021. Female subjects accounted for 10% of events. When classifying subjects by ethnicity, 45% of subjects were white, 34% were black, 17% were Hispanic and 3% were Asian.



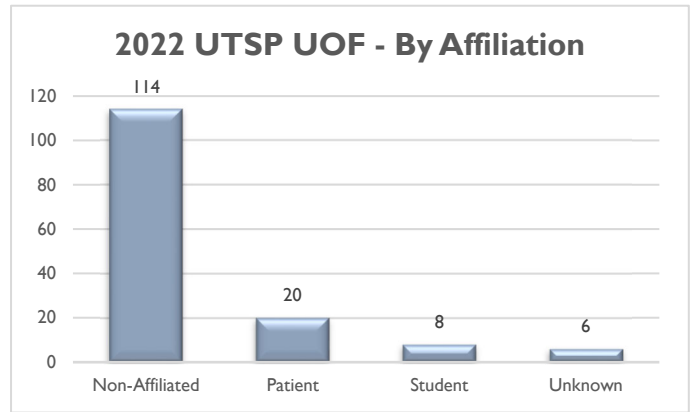
### Subject Intoxication

During use of force events, 7% of the subjects were under the influence of alcohol when they encountered UTSP officers in 2022, which is lower than the 12% in 2021. Another 3% were under the influence of drugs/controlled substances. This means that 10% of the force incidents involved subjects who were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In 79% of force incidents, the subject(s) were not under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



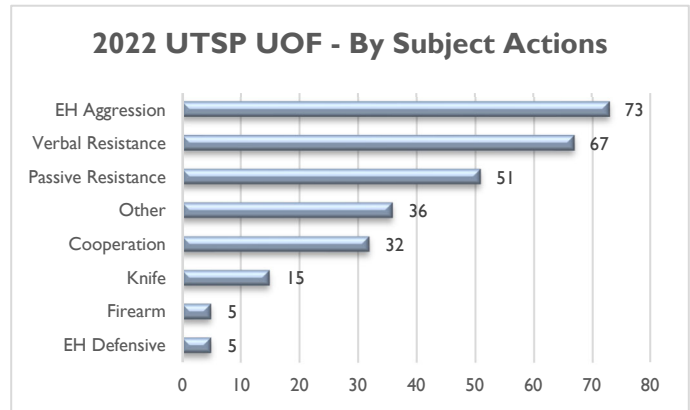
## Subject Affiliation

When analyzing affiliation of subjects in use of force situations, 65% were classified as “Non-Affiliated” with the institution, compared to 78% from last year. Thirty-five percent of subjects were patients who were assaultive, combative or threatening physical violence to emergency room staff that occurred at the medical campuses. Three percent were classified as students, compared to 5% in 2020. Three percent of the reports did not indicate the affiliation of the subject on the report and were labeled as “Unknown”.



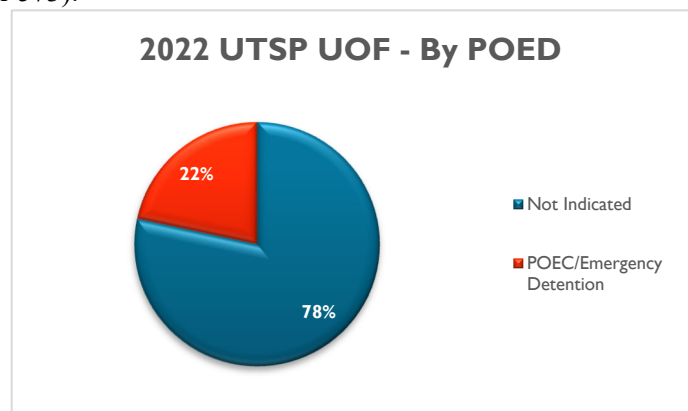
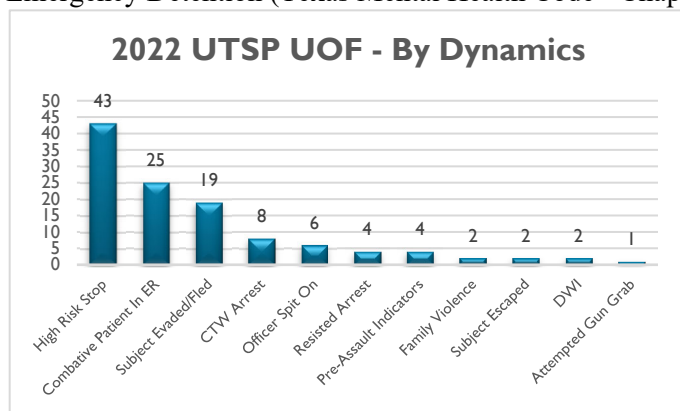
## Subject Actions/Behaviors

A total of 284 separate actions or behaviors exhibited by the 173 subjects were documented in 2022. This is a 10% decrease in the number of subject actions from 2021. Most of the actions took place in combinations where the subject exhibited two or more actions/behaviors together. Forty-two percent of the time, subjects exhibited resistance to the officer(s) either through verbal resistance, passive resistance or both. Examples of passive resistance include dropping to the ground or using body weight to counter the officer’s actions. In 25% of the incidents, empty hand aggression was used by the subjects towards the officer(s), which is a 26% increase from 2021 (41 total). Examples of these include striking or kicking the officer(s). Fifteen subjects were armed with a knife at the time of the encounter with the UTSP officer in 2022, compared with five in 2021. In 2% of the incidents, empty hand resistance was used by the subject towards the officer(s). Examples of these actions include pulling away or pushing away from the officer(s). Other subject actions included evading/running away (19 total or 7% of all incidents), spitting on the officer (6) or attempting to disarm a UTSP officer (1). Five subjects were either armed with a firearm or were reported to have been armed with a firearm, a 37% decrease over last year (8 total in 2021).



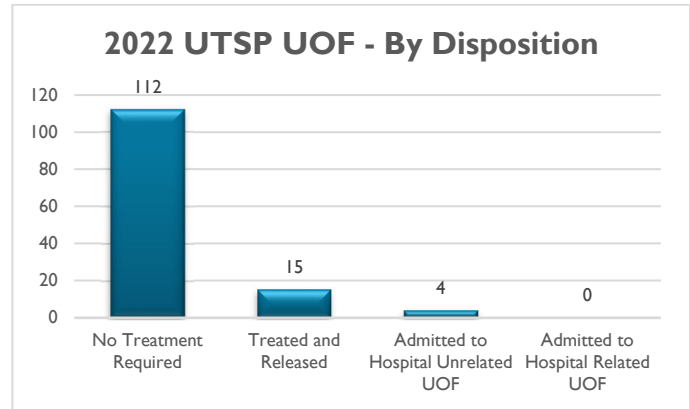
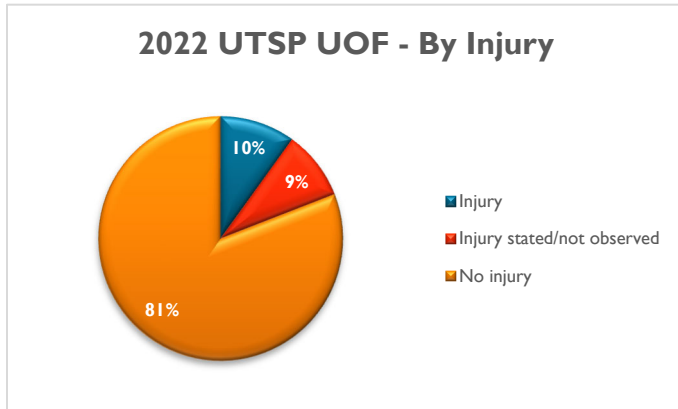
## Other Dynamics

There were forty-three high risk/felony stops conducted by UTSP officer(s) (or were assisting an outside agency with a high-risk/felony stop) where a firearm was displayed by the officer(s) due to the potential danger of the incident, which represented 32% of all use of force incidents. In 19 of the incidents (14%) the subject evaded arrest/fled from the officers. There were two family violence situations where force was used against the officer(s). In twenty-two percent of all use of force incidents (29 total), the subject was involuntarily committed to a mental health facility under a Peace Officer Emergency Detention (Texas Mental Health Code - Chapter 573).



## Subject Injuries

In 2022, there were 13 actual injuries sustained by the subject during the use of force event (10% of all events). In 9% (12 total) of the use of force reports, an injury was complained of by the subject(s); however, no injury was observed by the officers involved. There were no injuries for subject(s) in 81% of use of force events (98 total). Four subjects were admitted to the hospital unrelated to the use of force event. An example of this included a subject who complained of chest pains and began to hyperventilate. Fifteen subjects (11%) were treated and released at the scene by emergency medical personnel.



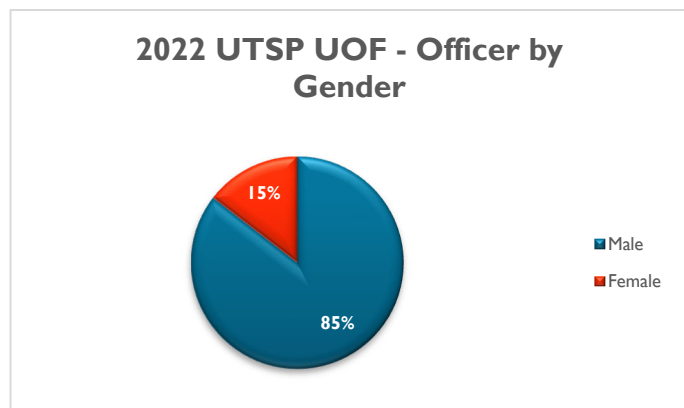
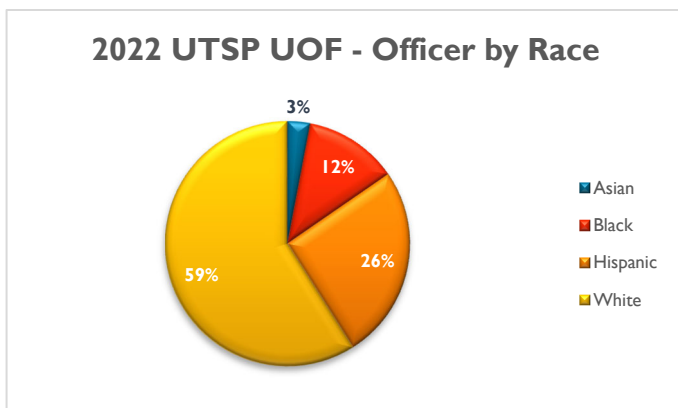
## OFFICER INFORMATION

### Officer Demographics

Of the 244 officers involved in uses of force in 2022, 85% of them were male and 15% were female, which is the same percentages as 2021. Fifty-nine percent of officers involved in uses of force were white, followed by 26% of officers were Hispanic, 12% were black and 3% were Asian. By comparison in 2021, 55% were white, 30% were Hispanic, 12% were black and 2% were Asian.

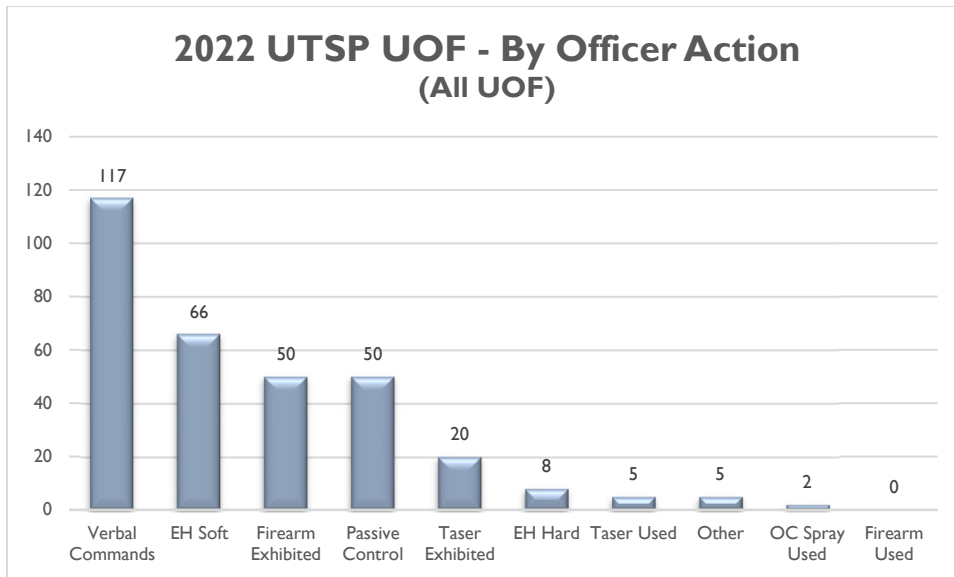
For context, as of March 1, 2023, the gender and ethnicity of UTSP officers were as follows:

- Males – 80.71%
- 103 Females – 19.29 %
- White – 47.75%, Black – 14.79%, Hispanic – 34.27%, Asian – 1.69%, American Indian – 0.19%, Multicultural – 1.31%
- 47.75% White, 52.25% Minority



### Officer Actions/Responses



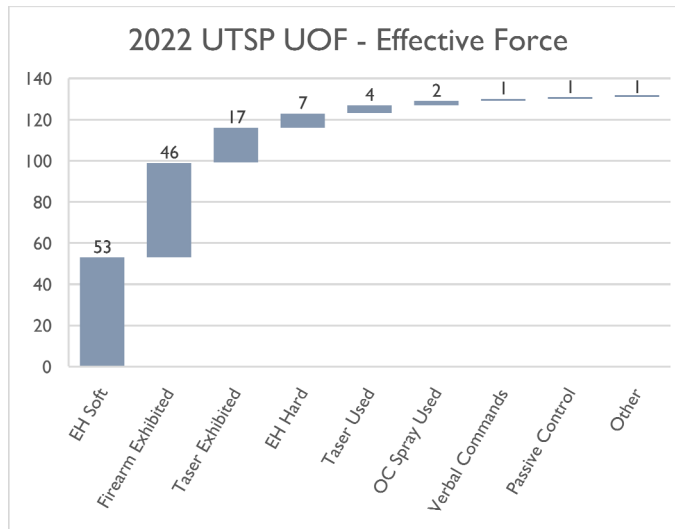
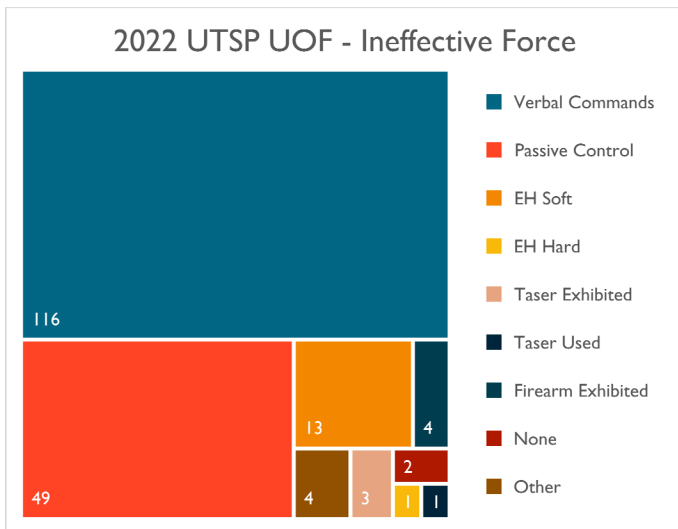


**All Responses:** A total of 323 separate actions/responses exhibited by the 244 involved officers were documented in 2022. These actions took place in combinations where the officer(s) utilized two or more actions together.

**Ineffective Responses:** One hundred and ninety-three of the force option responses selected by officers proved ineffective in gaining compliance from the subject(s). Verbal Commands by the officer were ineffective in 60% of the incidents, which is similar to the 56% in 2021. Examples of this include officers ordering the subject to comply, to put their hands behind their back, to stop resisting, etc. Passive techniques (use of bare hands to guide or hold) were ineffective in nearly 25% of reports. Empty hand techniques (such as arm bars, pressure points & takedowns or striking techniques such as brachial stun or other strikes to key motor points) were ineffective in 7% of events. There were two incidents where a use of force was not effective and the subject escaped apprehension by the officers.

Force Used	All Force Used	Minus Effective Force	Total Ineffective Force
Verbal Commands	117	1	116
Passive Control	50	1	49
EH Soft	66	53	13
EH Hard	8	7	1
OC Spray Exhibited	0	0	0
OC Spray Used	2	2	0
Baton Exhibited	0	0	0
Baton Used	0	0	0
Taser Exhibited	20	17	3
Taser Used	5	4	1
Firearm Exhibited	50	46	4
Firearm Used	0	0	0
None		2	2
Other	5	1	4
<b>Total All Force</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>193</b>

**Effective Responses:** UTSP officers took 134 separate actions that resulted in effective force responses within the Use of Force Report situations. An Empty Hand technique was the most common use of force and was effective in 40% of events. These techniques include arm bars, pressure points and takedowns or striking techniques such as the brachial stun or other strikes to key motor points to restrain an individual. Thirty-four percent 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 potentially dangerous events such as a high-risk traffic stop. There were two deployments of OC Spray in 2022. There were 21 events where the display of an Electronic Control Device (Taser) or the actual use of a Taser by officers proved effective in gaining compliance from the subject(s) which accounted for 16% of effective use of force actions. Four of the five actual uses of a Taser by officers proved effective.



## Officer Involvement; Duty Status

In 95% of the reports, UTSP Officers were on-duty at the time of the use of force events. There were two UOF incidents in 2022 where a UTSP officer was working secondary employment. There were three incidents where an officer was working an on-campus overtime assignment. In two incidents, the officers were not on duty at the time (both incidents the UTSP officer assisted an outside agency officer with a resisting subject).

## Officer Injuries

In 2022, 17 officers (13%) were injured because of the use of force events. The range of officer injuries included abrasions, lacerations and scrapes to hands, elbows, and knees. Officers were also spit on and exposed to body fluids of the subjects. No officers were hospitalized due to their injuries as recorded in the narrative portion of the DP-54.

## CONCLUSION

The following conclusions can be made:

- UTSP Chiefs/Command Staff found that the uses of force by the officer(s) was necessary and reasonable in all 134 incidents.
- The UTSP Academy in collaboration with the institution department training officers 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 staff as well as all institution Police Department training officers.