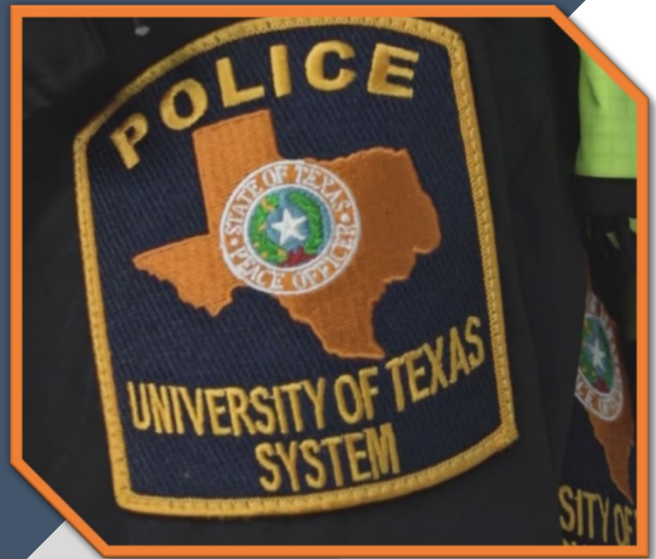


2021



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM POLICE USE OF FORCE REPORT

By: University of Texas System Police
Academy Staff

A summary report of use of force incidents for
calendar year 2021.

Summary

During the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, UT System Police Officers encountered 131 situations that required the use of force above the level of command presence, verbal commands and low-level handcuffing techniques. This represents a 14% increase from the 2020 Use of Force Reports.

The 131 situations involved the uses of force against 145 individual subjects. An average of 2.01 officers were involved in uses of force against an average of 1.11 subjects (total of 263 officers and 145 subjects). The largest number of officers involved in one event was eight, and the largest number of subjects involved was four. The average age of officers involved in uses of force events was 36.71 years old (versus 35.83 for 2020). The youngest officer was 22 years of age and the oldest was 64 years old. The average age of the subjects was 34.05 years old (versus 32.75 in 2020) with 71 years old as the oldest (In this incident, officers were responding to a disturbance in an emergency room at a medical institution). Three juveniles (one 13-year-old, one 12-year-old and one 10-year-old) were subjects of uses of force (two in disturbances in emergency rooms at medical institutions and one as a suspect in a robbery). Six 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 100% increase from the 2020 report.

<i>Note: format has changed for this chart from previous years</i>	2021	2020	2019
Use of Force – Total Incidents	131	115	124
Use of Force – Total Officer Actions	347	285	342
<i>Taser Use or Exhibition</i>	15	13	24
<i>Pepper Spray Use of Exhibition</i>	2	0	3
<i>Baton Use or Exhibition</i>	0	0	0
<i>Empty Hand Tactics</i>	164	115	157
<i>Exhibit Firearm</i>	43	51	34
<i>Discharge of Firearm*</i>	0	1**	1
<i>Verbal Commands</i>	121	103	121
<i>Other</i>	2	2	2

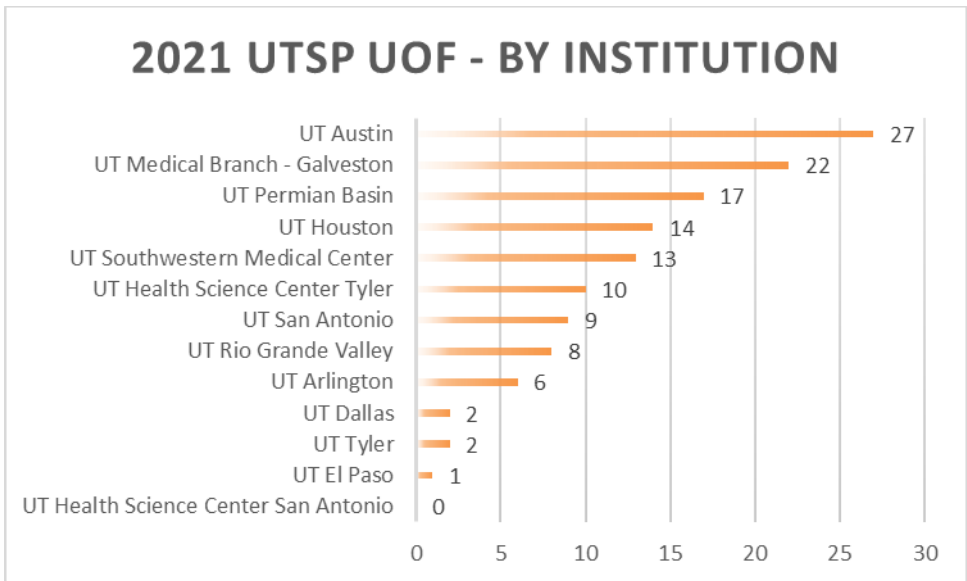
* Includes humanitarian euthanasia of wounded/injured/suffering animals.

** 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.

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Institution

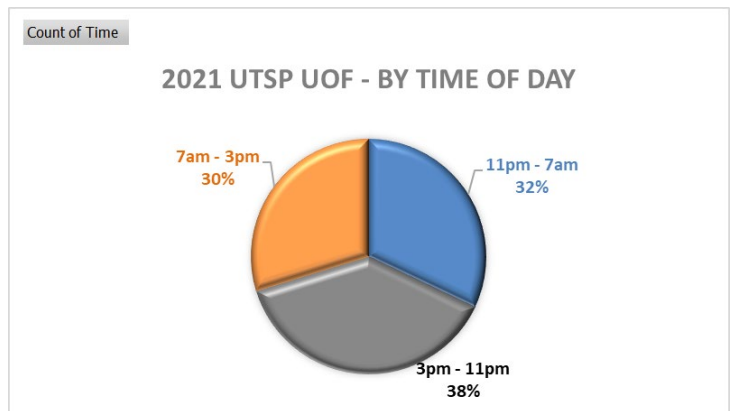
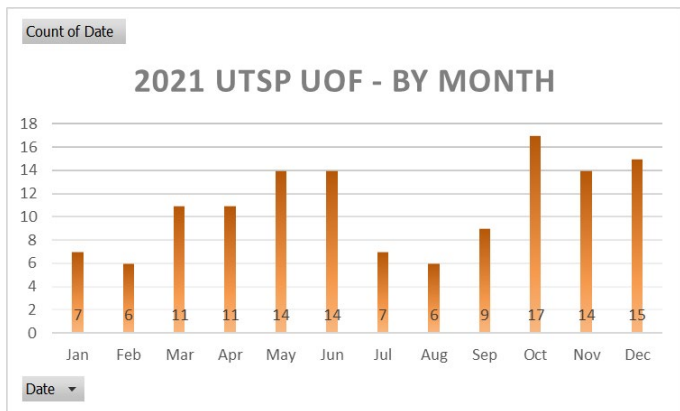
Demographically by campus, 21% of all uses of force occurred at UT Austin with 27 incidents. UT Medical Branch-Galveston had 22 use of force incidents and UT Permian Basin had seventeen use of force incidents (UTPB officers regularly provide mutual aid support to Odessa PD proximate to campus and the majority of the UTPB PD uses of force involve non-affiliated arrestees). UT Houston had fourteen incidents and UT Southwestern had thirteen incidents. UT Health Science Center Tyler had ten use of force events while UT San Antonio had nine events. Of the 131 uses of force reports, 34% 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 Health San Antonio did not report any use of force in 2021.



Date & Time

The majority of uses of force by University of Texas System Police (UTSP) officers in 2021 occurred in October and December with 17 and 15 incidents compared to March and May (total of 13 each) in 2020. May, June, and November had the next most occurrences of uses of force with 14 each. The months of March and April had 11 each of occurrences of uses of force.

The majority of uses of force occurred between the hours of 3pm and 11pm at 38% (down from 44% in 2020). The 11pm to 7am shift saw 32% of the uses of force followed by 30% for the hours between 7am to 3pm.



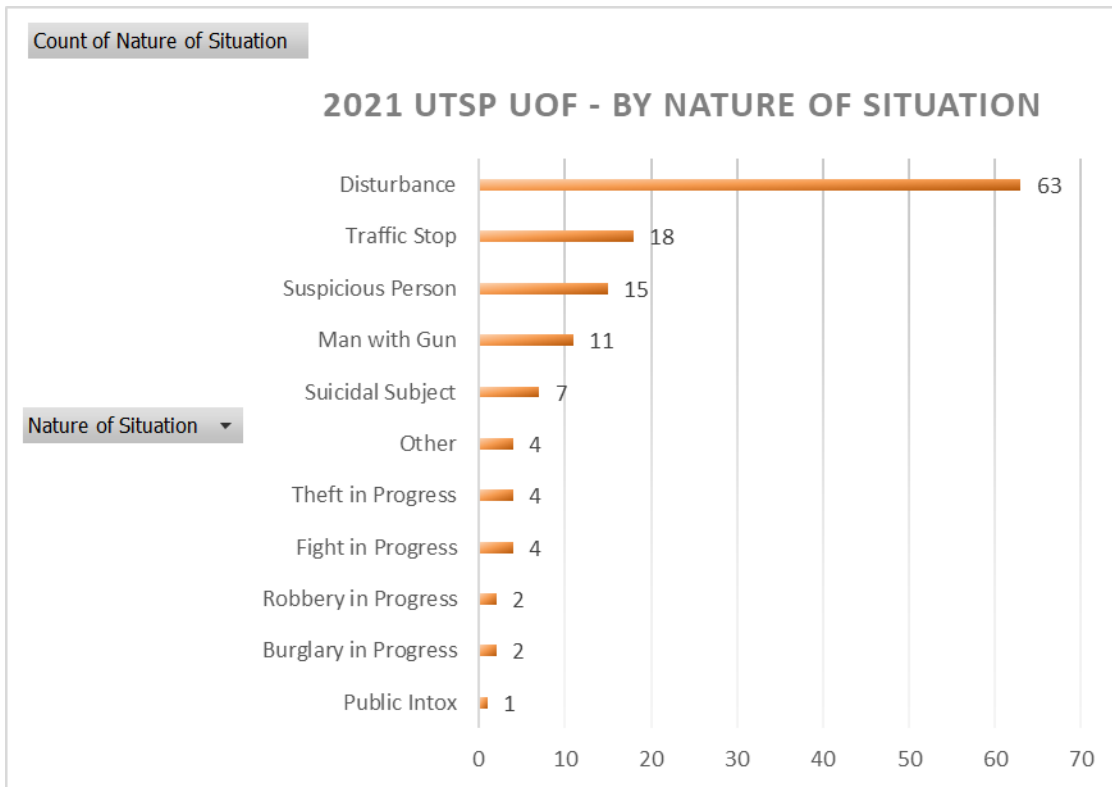
Incident Conditions



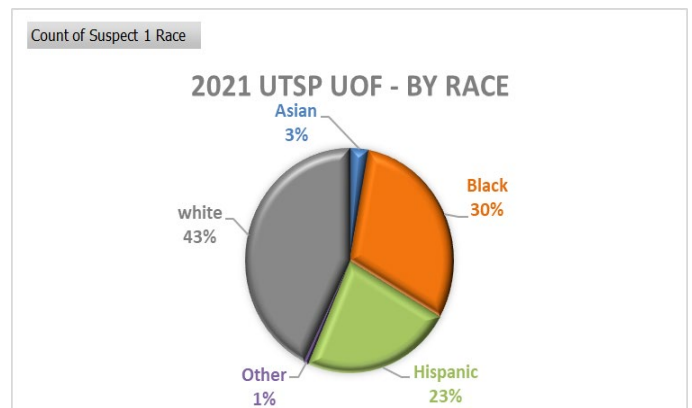
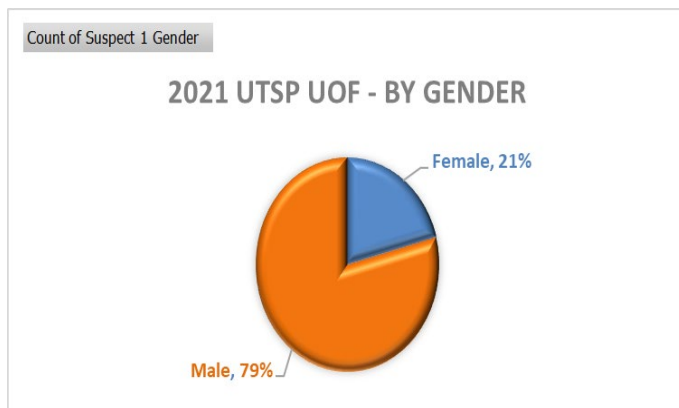
The reason for the officer and the subject’s contact varied. In 58% of the reports, the incident was classified as a “Dispatched Call” in which the officer was assigned a call via the radio or telephone (compared to 41% in 2020). Twenty-six percent of officer/subject contacts occurred when the officer directly saw the event unfold, which is classified as “On-view Offense/Incident” which is a decrease of 19% compared to 2020. Events classified as “Traffic Stop”

accounted for 12% of all uses of force (compared to a percentage of 22% in 2020).

When classifying the nature of the situation in which uses of force occurred, there were several factors involved. “Disturbance” accounted for 48% concerning the nature of the situation (63 total) while “Traffic Stop” accounted for 13% (18 total) of incidents. “Man with Gun” situations accounted for 8% (11 total) of incidents. Other incident conditions where officers used force included suspicious persons, suicidal subjects, fight in progress and theft in progress. These four categories combined accounted for approximately 23% of all uses of force in 2020.



SUBJECT INFORMATION

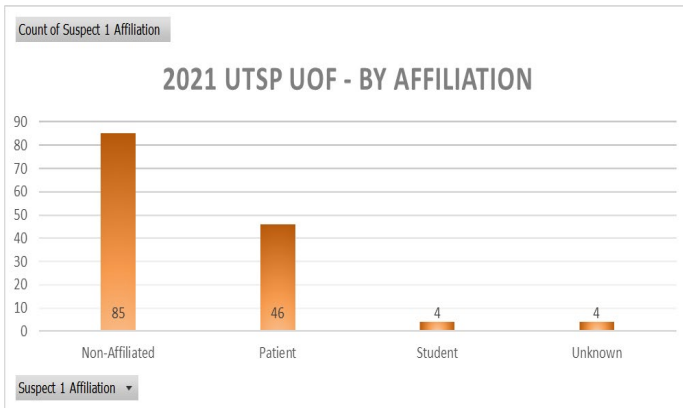
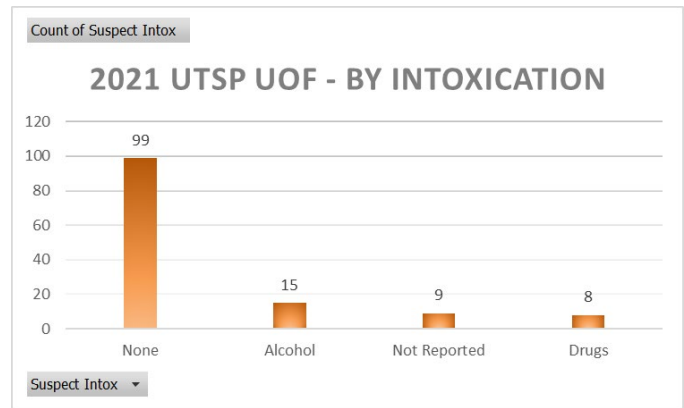


Subject Demographics

In 2021, 79% of all subjects involved in uses of force situations by UTSP officers were male, compared to 76% in 2020. Female subjects accounted for 21% of events. When classifying subjects by ethnicity, 43% of subjects were white, 23% were Hispanic, 30% were black and 3% were Asian.

Subject Intoxication

During use of force events, 12% of the subjects were under the influence of alcohol when they encountered UTSP officers in 2021, which is similar to the 10% in 2020. Another 6% were under the influence of drugs/controlled substances. This means that 18% of the force incidents involved subjects who were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In 75% of force incidents, the subject(s) were not under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In 7% of the reports the use of drugs/alcohol was not indicated or documented.



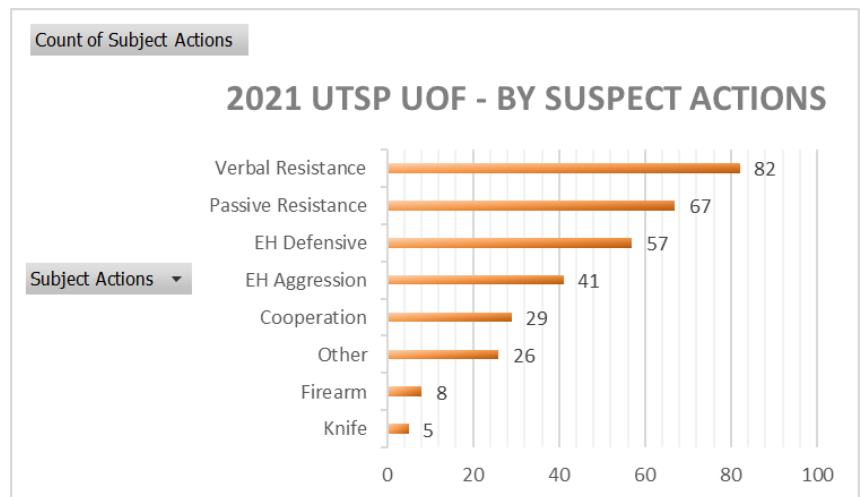
Subject Affiliation

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

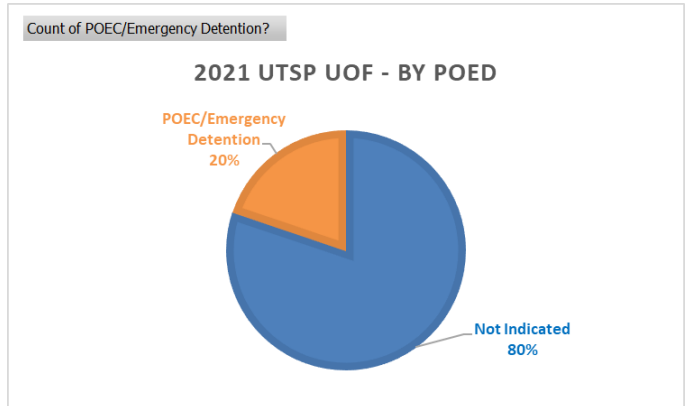
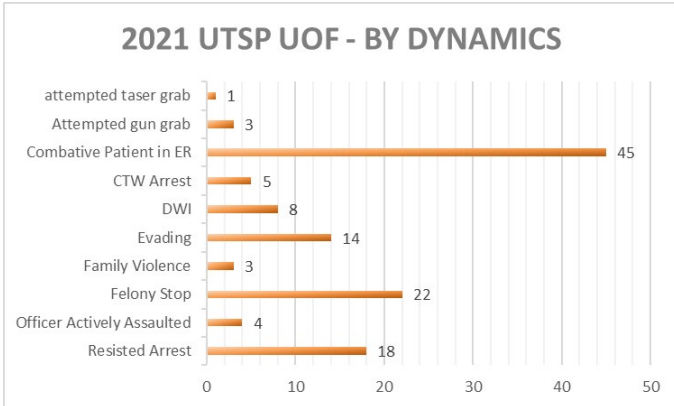
A total of 315 separate actions or behaviors exhibited by the 145 subjects were documented in 2021. This is a 37% increase in the number of subject actions from 2020. Most of the actions took place in combinations where the subject exhibited two or more actions/behaviors together. Forty-seven percent 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 18% 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). In 13% of the incidents, empty hand aggression was used by the subjects towards the officer(s). Examples of these include striking or kicking the officer(s). Other subject actions included evading/running away (14 total or 11% of all incidents), biting/attempting to bite the officer (1) or attempting to disarm a UTSP officer (3 attempted gun grabs and 1 attempted Taser grab). Eight subjects were either armed with a firearm or were reported to have been armed with a firearm, a 33% increase over last year (6 total in 2020). Five subjects were armed with a knife at the time of the encounter with the UTSP officer. Other weapons used against the officer(s) in 2021 included a long wooden pole and throwing rocks at the officer(s).



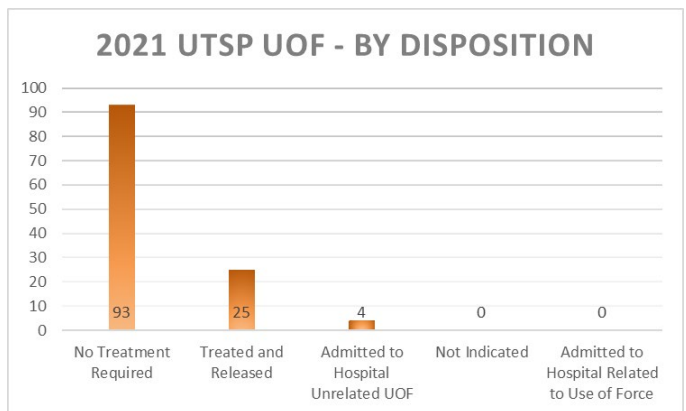
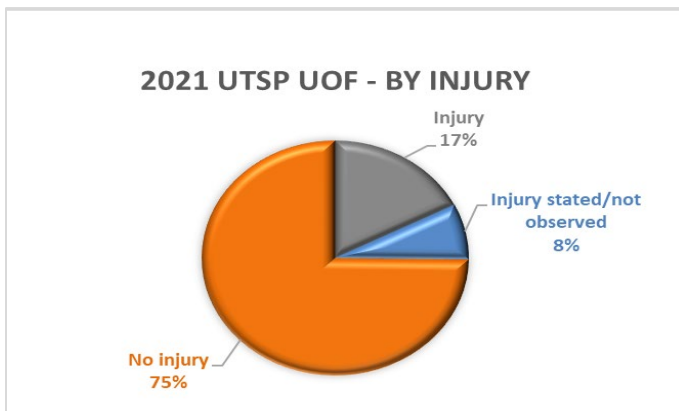
Other Dynamics

There were twenty-two 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 17% of all use of force incidents. In 18 of the incidents (14%) the subject resisted arrest. There were three family violence situations where force was used against the officer(s). In twenty percent of all use of force incidents (26 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 2021, there were 23 actual injuries sustained by the subject during the use of force event (17% of all events). In 8% (10 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 75% of use of force events (98 total). Four subjects were admitted to the hospital unrelated to the use of force event. Examples of these hospital admissions included a subject who complained of chest pains, and a subject who self-harmed himself by hitting his head on the patrol car cage. Twenty-five subjects (19%) were treated and released at the scene by emergency medical personnel.



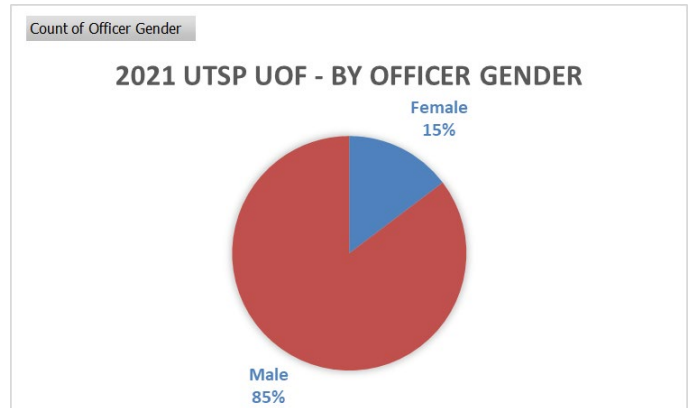
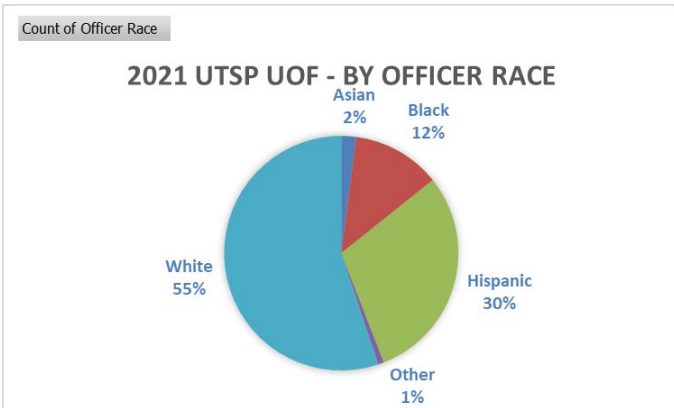
OFFICER INFORMATION

Officer Demographics

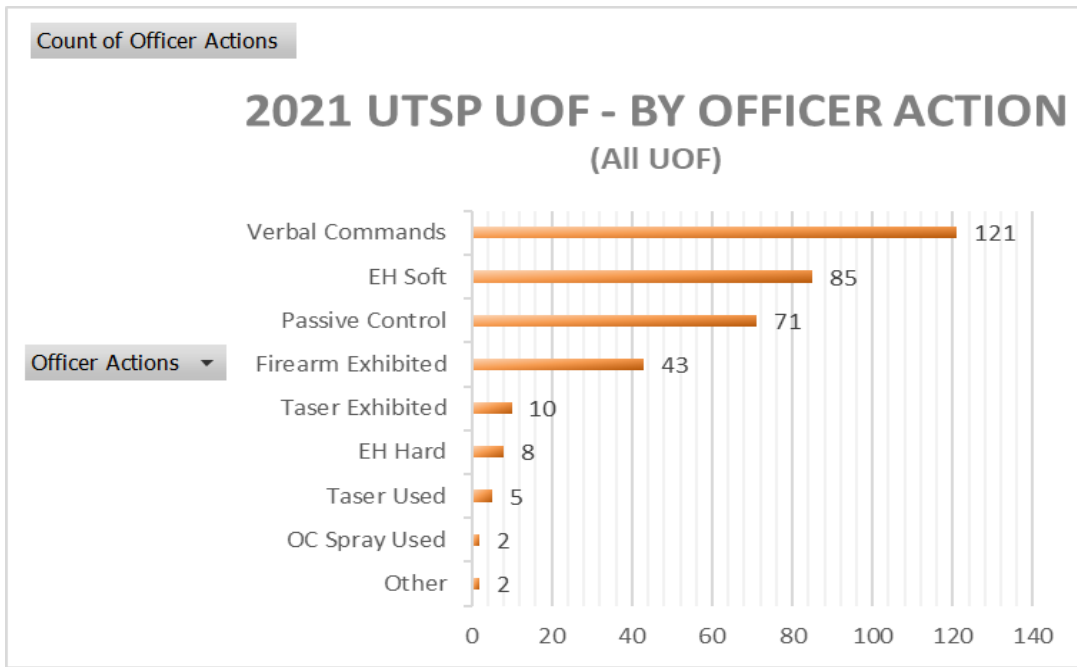
Of the 245 officers involved in uses of force in 2021, 85% of them were male and 15% were female, which is the same percentages as 2020. Fifty-five percent of officers involved in uses of force were white, followed by 30% of officers were Hispanic, 12% were black and 2% were Asian. By comparison in 2020, 53% were white, 33% were Hispanic, 9% were black and 4% were Asian.

For context, as of March 1, 2021, the gender and ethnicity of UTSP officers were as follows:

- 82.47% males and 17.53% female
- White—51.29%, Black—13.47%, Hispanic—32.47%, Asian—1.29%, American Indian--.19%, Multicultural—1.29%
- 51.29% white and 48.71% minority



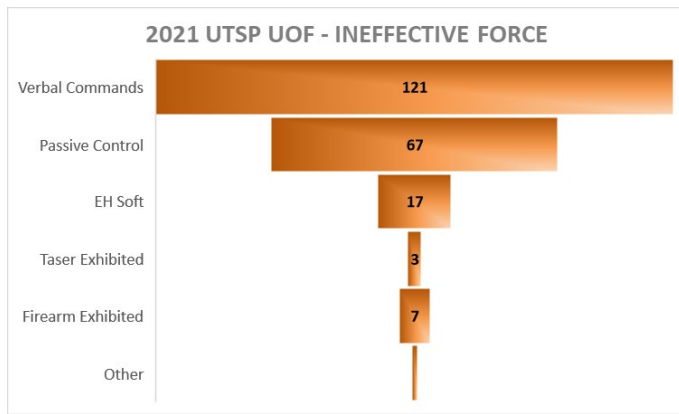
Officer Actions/Responses



All Responses: A total of 347 separate actions/responses exhibited by the 245 involved officers were documented in 2021. These actions took place in combinations where the officer(s) utilized two or more actions together.

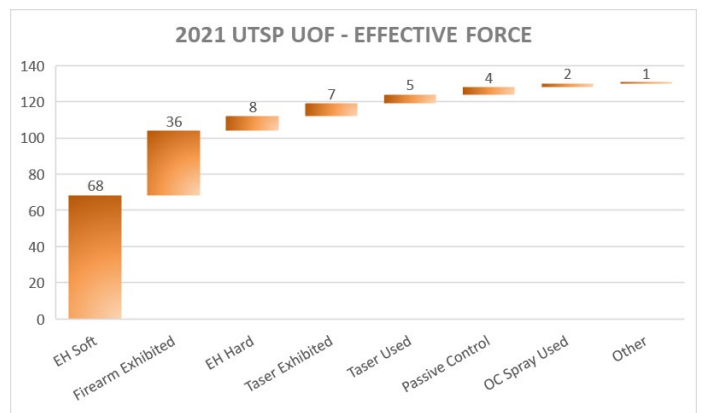
Force Used	All Force Used	Minus Effective Force	Total Ineffective Force
Verbal Commands	121	0	121
Passive Control	71	4	67
EH Soft	85	68	17
EH Hard	8	8	0
OC Spray Exhibited	0	0	0
OC Spray Used	2	2	0
Baton Exhibited	0	0	0
Baton Used	0	0	0
Taser Exhibited	10	7	3
Taser Used	5	5	0
Firearm Exhibited	43	36	7
Firearm Used	0	0	0
Other	2	1	1
Total All Force	347	131	216

Ineffective Responses: Two hundred and sixteen 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 56% of the incidents, which is similar to the 57% in 2020.



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 31% 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 8% of events.

Effective Responses: UTSP officers took 131 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 61% 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. Twenty-seven 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 2021. There were 12 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 9% of effective use of force actions. All actual use of a Taser by officers proved effective.



Officer Involvement; Duty Status

In 97% of the reports, UTSP Officers were on-duty at the time of the use of force events. There were three UOF incidents in 2021 where a UTSP officer was working secondary employment. There was one incident where an officer was working an overtime assignment.

Officer Injuries

In 2021, 23 officers (18%) were injured because of the use of force events. The range of officer injuries included abrasions, lacerations and bruising to hands, torso, elbows and knees. 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 131 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 staffs as well as all institution Police Department training officers.