



# Barre City Police Department

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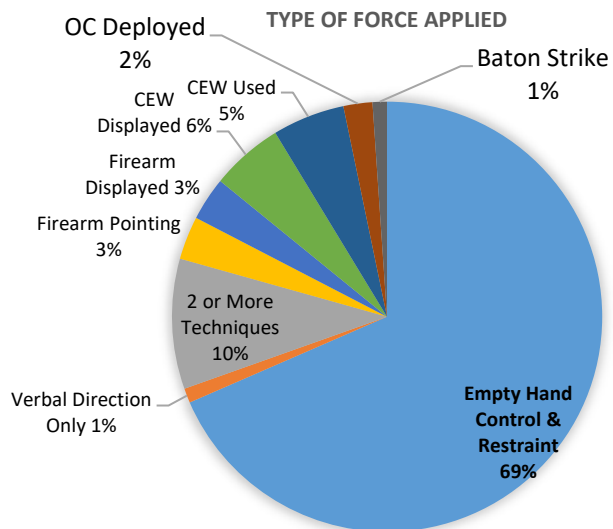
January 2, 2024

**To:** File  
**From:** Chief Braedon S. Vail *Braedon S. Vail*  
**Subject:** 2023 Use of Force Analysis

For purposes of documenting use of force, force is defined as physical coercion employed by a law enforcement officer to compel a person’s compliance with the officer’s instructions. This includes all law enforcement actions beyond compliant handcuffing, to include displays/pointing of a firearm, baton, or conducted electrical weapon. During 2023 there were fifty-two (52) reported incidents where agency personnel used force in the performance of their duties. This is a 17% decrease from sixty-three (63) incidents in 2022. Ages of subjects involved in a use of force incident ranged from 11 years of age to 51 years of age. Approximately 12% or six (6) of the incidents involved juveniles under the age of 18. The average age of the individual involved in a use of force incident was 31 years old. Approximately 29% or thirteen (14) of the incidents involved subjects in the 21 to 30-year-old range; approximately 29% or fifteen (15) incidents involved subjects in the 31 to 40-year-old range; approximately 18% or nine (9) of the incidents involved subjects in the 41 to 50-year-old range; approximately 2% or one (1) of the incidents involved subjects over the age of 50. Thirty-three (33) of the incidents involved a white male. Nine (9) incidents involved a white female. Six (6) incidents involved a black male. One (1) incident involved an American Indian/Alaskan Native male.

## Analysis of Actions Taken

During calendar year 2023, all the incidents involving the use of force by an officer were during the course of making a lawful physical arrest of a resisting suspect for the commission of a crime, arrest on a warrant, an arrestable traffic offense, or dealing with individuals in crisis where no arrest resulted. In each incident officers employed one or more of the following defensive techniques: empty hand control and restraint techniques, firearm display or pointing, baton strike to



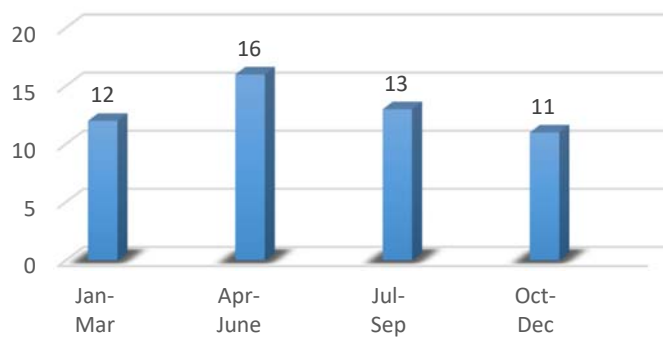
a muscle, oleoresin capsicum use, CEW displayed or warned, CEW used, or a combination of two or more techniques. All three (3) incidents involving the pointing of a firearm resolved with no physical or other means of force being used.

Ten (10) subjects sustained minor injuries such as bruising, general soreness or small abrasions as a result of force applied by officers. Ten (10) officers applying force sustained minor injuries during separate uses of force incidents.

### **Distribution of Incidents**

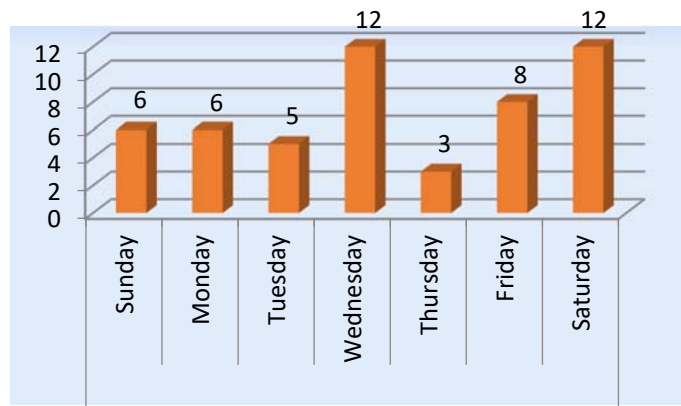
Analysis of the distribution of incidents for 2023 revealed the majority of incidents where force was applied occurred in the first three quarters. April through June had the highest rate where sixteen (16) incidents required the application of force, half of which occurred in June alone (the highest occurrence during any particular month). Excepting the month of February, incidents decreased during the colder months, with force being used between three (3) and four (4) times during January, February, and five (5) in December.

**Use of Force by Time of Year**



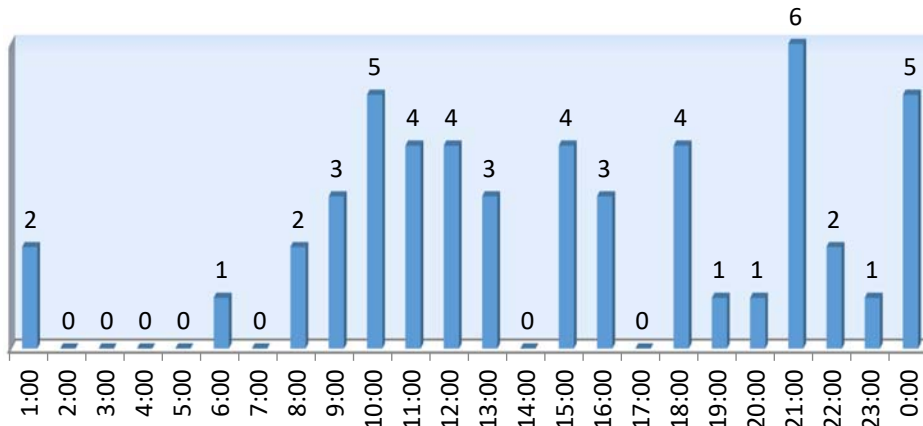
A daily pattern of force incidents revealed that the majority occurred on either a Wednesday or a Saturday with twelve (12) incidents, respectively. The occurrence of force being used on a Wednesday was consistent with that of 2022. The days of lowest rate were Tuesday and Thursday having five (5) and three (3) incidents, respectively, that required the application of force. Both Sunday and Monday each saw six (6) incidents, while Friday saw eight (8) incidents.

**Use of Force by Day of Week**



The distribution of use of force incidents by time of day showed an increase during the morning period with fifteen (15) incidents occurring between 0600-1100 hours, up from ten (10) during the same time period in 2022. There were twenty-one (21) incidents occurring between 1800 hours and 0000 hours, also a change from 2022 where thirty (30) incidents occurred during the same timeframe. The hours of 1000, 2100, and 0000 saw the highest rate, having between 5 and 6 incidents, the most incidents during any given hour.

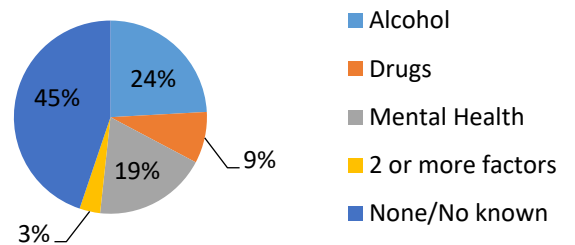
### Use of Force by Time of Day



### Factors Contributing to Suspect Behavior

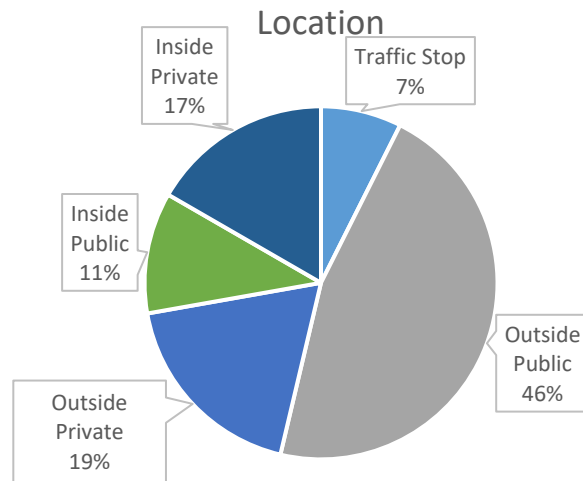
An assessment of the subject’s actions, demeanor, and physical/emotional condition immediately prior to each use of force reveals one significant commonality; there is a strong correlation in that 50% of the subjects restrained by officers using elevated levels of physical force possessed either a mental health issue or impairment, or were under the influence of alcoholic beverages, illicit drugs, or influenced by a combination of two or more of these factors at the time of arrest. The prevalence of mental health impairment accounts for 19% of all incidents, while alcohol impairment accounts for 24%. This is a change over 2022 with the prevalence of mental health impairment increasing and alcohol influence decreasing. Force incidents with the presence of alcohol and resulting in arrest represent only one (1) of the arrests for driving impaired or under the influence of alcohol made by officers this past year.

### Suspect Factors During Use of Force



## Location Type

During 2023 the majority of incidents, twenty-five (25) or 46% occurred in an outside, public setting. Ten (10) or 17% occurred in an inside private/residential setting, with 19% occurring in an outside residential setting. This is a significant decrease over 2022 where 67% had occurred in a residential setting. Four (4) or 7% occurred during an arrest-related traffic stop. It should be noted that the department conducted approximately 1,800 traffic stops during 2023. There were twenty-nine (29) incidents occurring in a commercial setting.



## Summary

In 2023, empty hand control and restraint techniques accounted for most (69%) of the force applied, consistent with the norm. The baton was utilized in only one incident. Oleoresin capsicum was utilized in two (2) incidents. A CEW was used five (5) times in four incidents and displayed only during another five (5) separate incidents. A firearm was displayed during three (3) incidents and actively pointed at a subject during another three (3) separate incidents.

There was one external complaint of excessive force being used by a Barre City officer in the calendar year 2023. The resulting internal investigation conducted by an outside agency exonerated the officer of any wrongdoing. There were no other internal or external complaints of excessive force. Analysis of factors contributing to suspect behavior revealed encounters with persons with none or no known factors at the time of the encounter were the predominant occurring factor, followed by individuals experiencing mental health crises or impairments. Two separate individuals were involved in more than one incident where force was applied during the calendar year of 2023.