



ANNUAL EXECUTIVE REPORT 2023

Rock Hill Police Department

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VISION STATEMENT

To be a highly respected leader in law enforcement, dedicated to providing quality police services while holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of excellence and integrity.

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect, serve and cultivate community relationships to ensure safety and security for all.

DEPARTMENT VALUES

The Rock Hill Police Department is built on a philosophy that includes the following values:

INTEGRITY

We will treat all citizens and visitors with courtesy and respect and will deliver all services in a fair and honest manner that preserves the values of our country and our community.

COURAGE

We will act with valor when placed in harm's way and display virtue in the decisions we make.

PROFESSIONALISM

We will perform our duties ethically and knowledgeably and will represent the values of the Department and the City of Rock Hill through appearance and demeanor in a positive manner.

TEAMWORK

We will work together to promote respect and encourage innovation through both collaboration and independent initiative to cultivate trust, cooperation, and the fostering of partnerships within the Department and our community.

SAFETY

We will always use our best judgement to work as safely as possible to comply with established laws and will never intentionally endanger the public we serve.

**Rock Hill Police Department
Biased Policing
Administrative Review
2023**

Introduction

The Rock Hill Police Department is committed to providing unbiased law enforcement services and ensuring the constitutional protections of the citizens we serve. The Department recognizes the legitimacy of criminal profiling. However, the selection of persons for police contact based solely on common traits of a group is unacceptable, illegal, and will not be tolerated.

Definitions

Biased Policing: The selection of persons for police contact based SOLELY on a common trait of a group. Such traits may include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, and cultural group.

Reasonable Suspicion: Knowledge sufficient to cause a reasonable person with police training and experience to conclude, given the totality of the circumstances, that criminal activity may have occurred, is occurring, or is being planned.

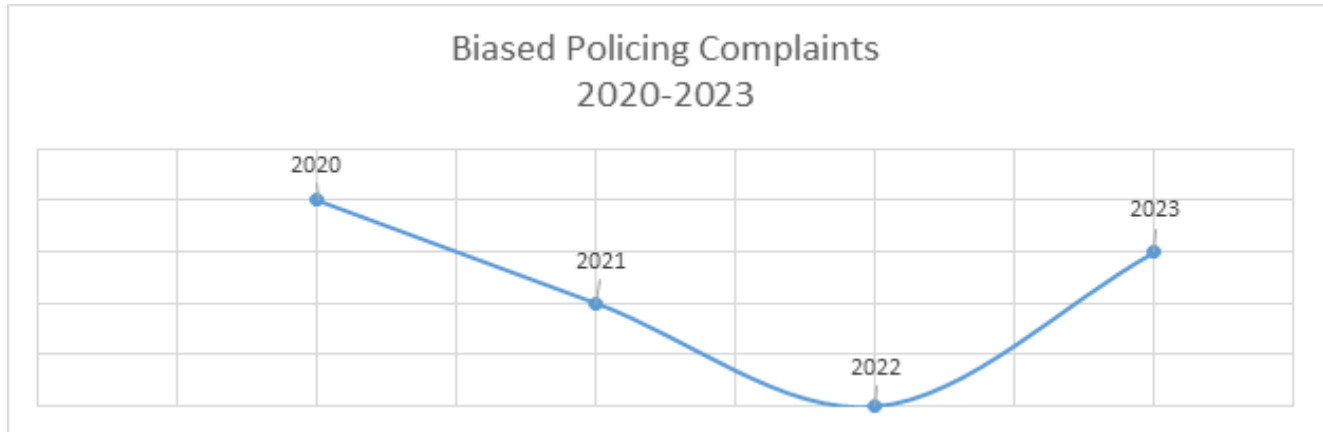
Probable Cause: A reasonable belief by a trained law enforcement professional that a person has committed, is committing, or is planning to commit a crime or that a place or specific physical evidence is connected with a crime; it is more than a suspicion, but less than any standard required for a criminal conviction.

Process and Procedure

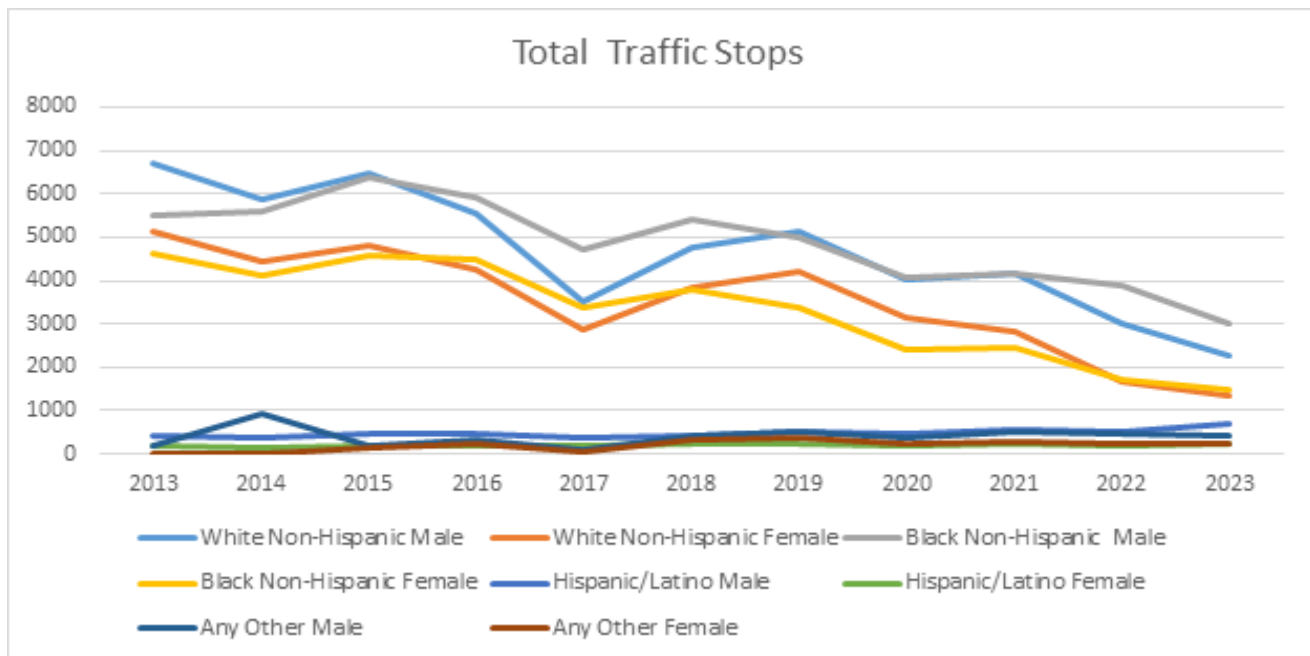
All investigative traffic contacts, field contacts, searches and seizures (to include asset seizure and forfeitures) have reasonable suspicion supported by specific articulable facts that any person contacted regarding his/her identification, activities, or location has been, is, or is about to commit a violation of law or currently presented a threat to his/her safety or the safety of others. Complaints of biased policing are treated with the utmost urgency by Internal Affairs and are tracked through the IA Pro Early Personnel Warning system (until October 2023) and Axon Standards. Department members who believe that a violation of the biased policing policy has occurred are required to immediately notify a supervisor. Failure to report any observed or suspected violation may result in disciplinary action. Supervisors regularly monitor and examine the activities of their subordinates to ensure compliance with the policy. South Carolina State Law requires that all traffic contacts be documented on the Public Contact/Warning Form, and the demographic data from the Public Contact/Warning forms are forwarded to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. A monthly and Year-to-Date compilation of data from the Public Contact/Warning Forms is forwarded to Command Staff for review. Any abnormalities are recognized, discussed, and remedial action and/or training are provided when appropriate.

Analysis

There was a total of three (3) complaints of Bias Based Policing during the 2023 calendar year. All three of those complaints were investigated by Internal Affairs and were deemed Unfounded. There has been a total of eleven (11) complaints filed with the Rock Hill Police Department in the last two decades. The number of bias policing complaints have increased over the last four years. The increase corresponds to the total number of overall citizen complaints within the jurisdiction.

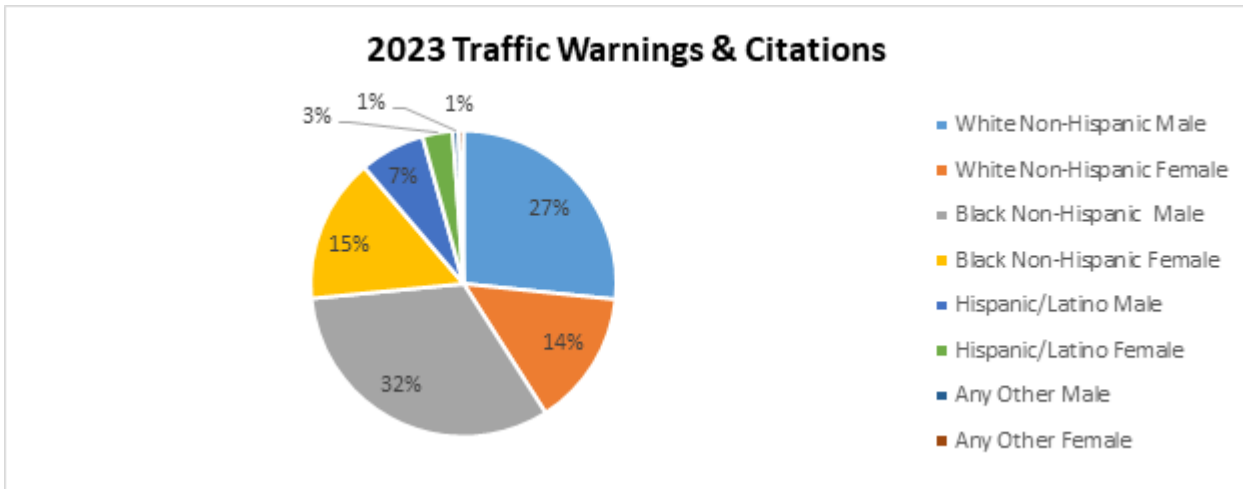


The total number of Traffic Warnings and Citations decreased in 2023. A total of 9,737 Traffic Stops were conducted in 2023, compared to 11,676 in 2022 resulting in a 16.6% overall decrease. Traffic Warnings and Citations have continued to decline over the last several years.

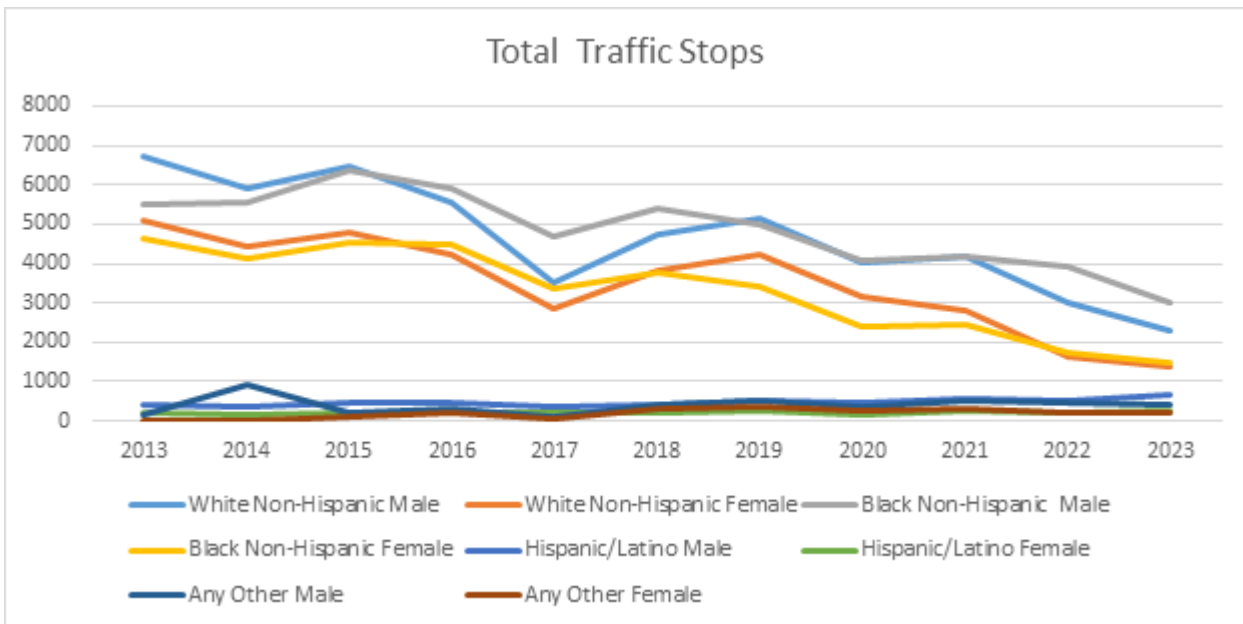


Black non-Hispanic males were stopped more often than other races and genders during the 2023 calendar year. Black non-Hispanic males were stopped 4,522 times during Traffic Contacts in 2023 which was 32% of all traffic stops during the period of January 1, 2023, to

December 31, 2023. Comparatively, a total of 3,650 white non-Hispanic males, or 27% of all traffic stops, were conducted during the same period. The instances of traffic contacts among black males decreased when compared to last year, and the number of traffic contacts by black males has continued to slowly decrease over the last ten (10) years.



The percentage of traffic contact with white non-Hispanic females decreased slightly in 2023 compared to 2022. Contact with black non-Hispanic females remained unchanged for the same period. 14% of white females and 15% of black females were involved in all traffic stops during the 2023 calendar year. In addition, the total number of females involved in traffic stops has consistently decreased over the last 10 years.

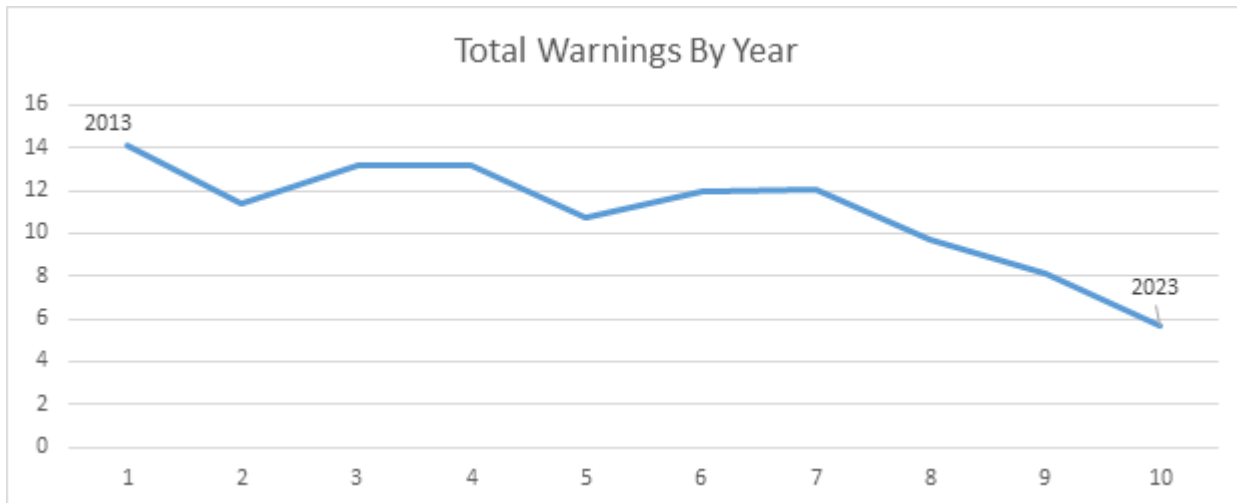


The total number of Traffic Contacts for persons in Other ethnic races (Hispanic, Asian, etc.) is much lower compared to those of white and black non-Hispanic individuals. Traffic Warnings and Citations classified within the Other category equaled 12% of all Traffic contacts combined during the period of January 2023 to December 2023. The overall number of Hispanic and Other Race traffic contacts has slowly increased over the last four (4) years. There have not been any dramatic changes in the number of Other race traffic contacts since 2014. The increase is attributed to population increases of this population within the jurisdiction.

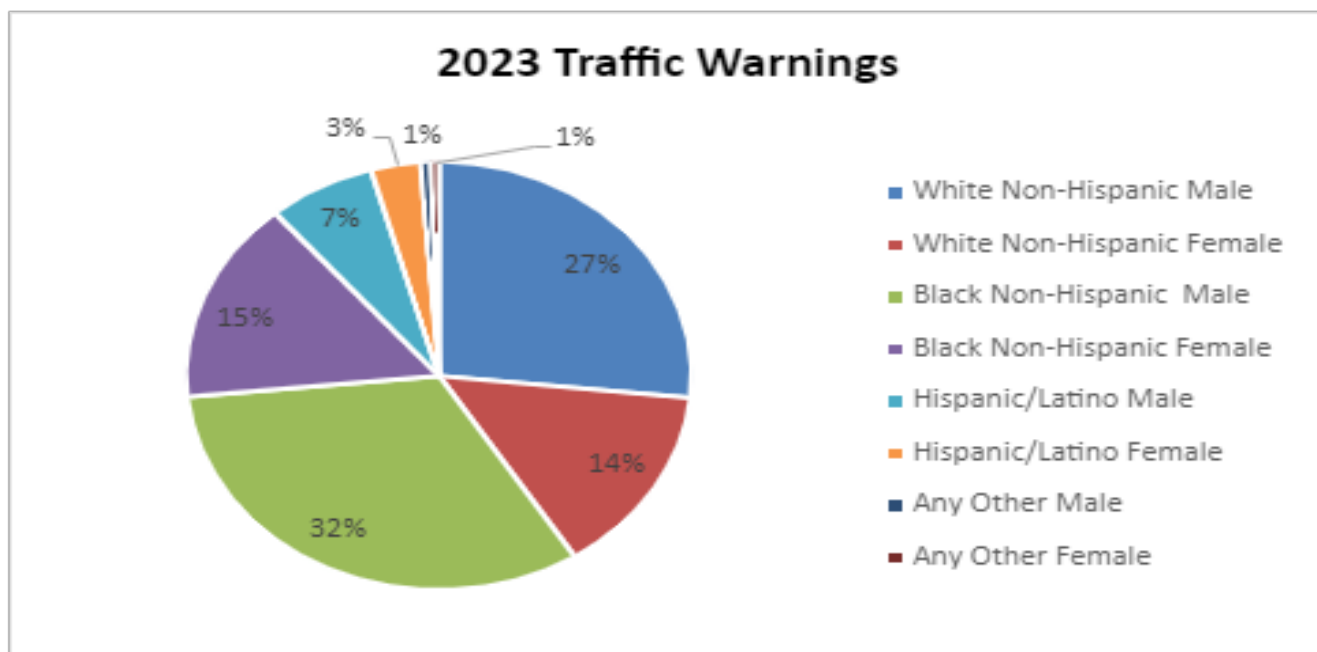
Overall, the total number of Traffic Contacts conducted during the 2023 calendar year appears to indicate that 46% of all traffic contacts involve black non-Hispanic males and females compared to 37% white non-Hispanic males and females. No new trends were apparent and overall traffic contact continues to decrease.

Traffic Warnings

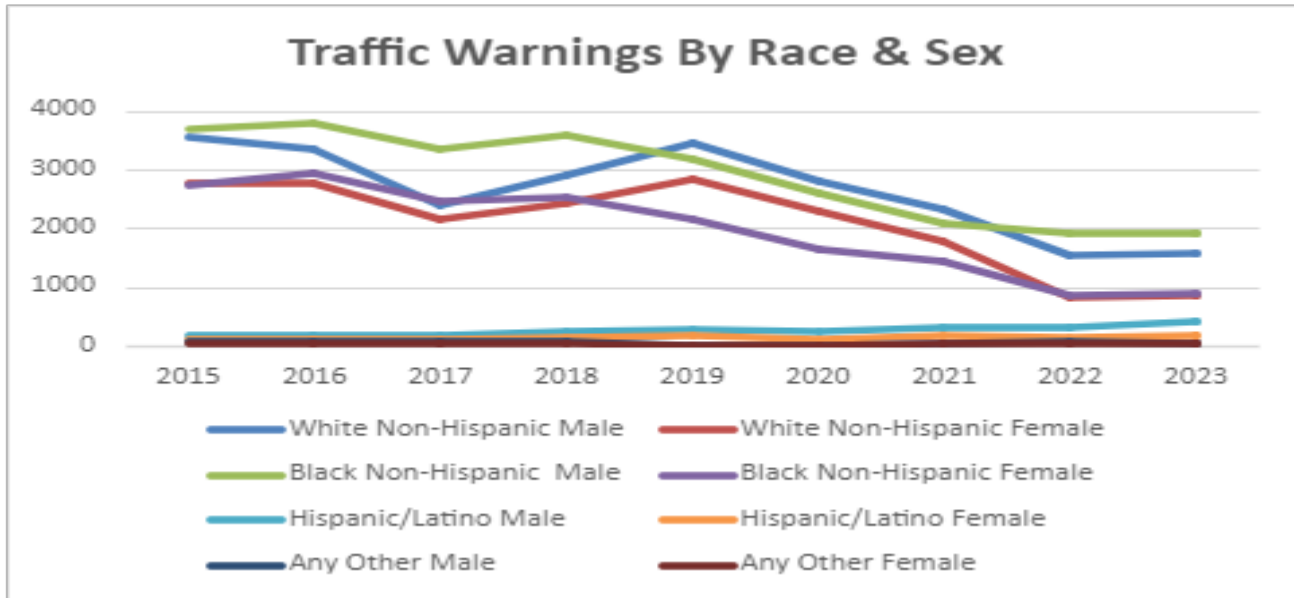
A total of 5,880 Traffic Warnings were issued in the 2023 calendar year, compared to 5,714 in 2022 for a 3% decrease overall. The total number of Traffic Warnings has steadily decreased in all categories over the last four (4) years.



Black non-Hispanic males represent the highest percentage of traffic warnings issued over the period of January to December 2023. 32% of all traffic warnings were issued to Black non-Hispanic males, compared to 27% for white non-Hispanic males. This percentage correlates with overall traffic stops and current arrest data. The percentage of traffic warnings issued to black males decreased in 2023.



White non-Hispanic females were issued 14% and black non-Hispanic females were issued 15% of all Traffic Warnings issued in 2023. Traffic warnings issued to females has stayed consistent over the last several years. The total number of Traffic Warnings for females of other races has slowly increased over the last four (4) years, which can most likely be associated to the growing population in the area.

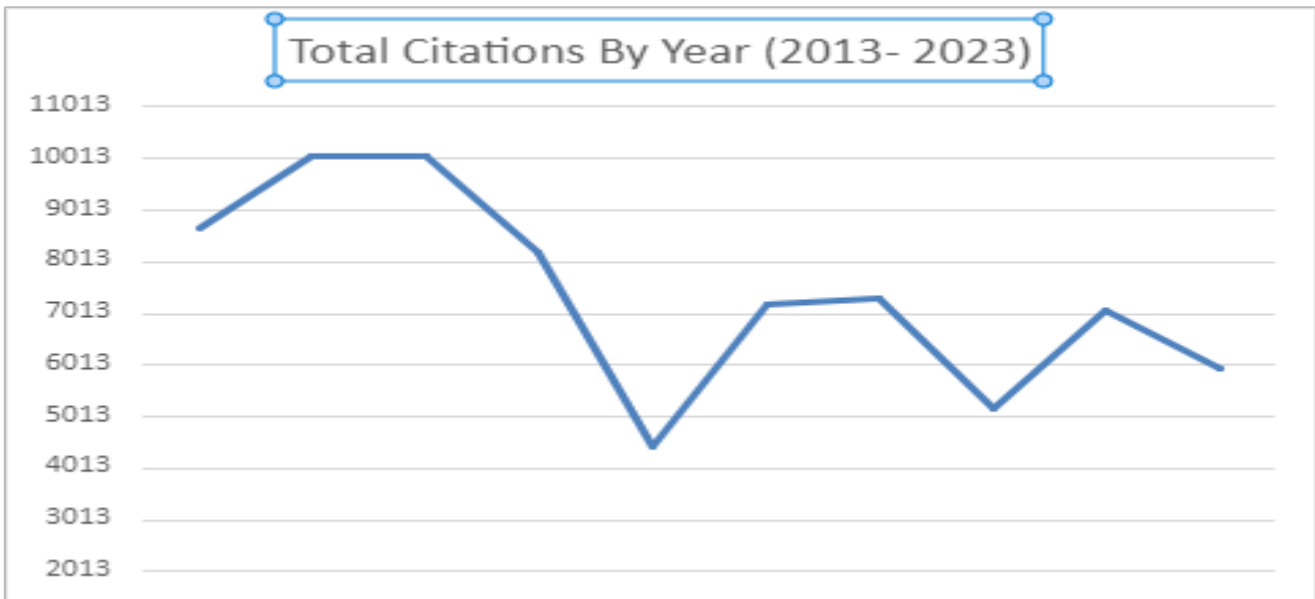


Traffic Warnings issued to Hispanic/Latino males and females continues to slowly increase. Traffic Warnings that were classified within the other category equal 11% of all Traffic Warnings issued during the 2023 calendar year. The total number of Traffic Warnings issued for persons in Other ethnic races (Hispanic, Asian, etc.) has remained extremely low compared to white and black non-Hispanic individuals. A total of 661 Traffic Warnings were issued by RHPD officers in 2023, compared to 545 in 2022. Although the total number of warnings issued to individuals of Other Races has increased in the last twelve months, there have been no concerning trends over the last four (4) years that indicate that there is an abnormal increase in traffic warnings for individuals of other races.

Overall, 41% of all Traffic Warnings issued in 2023 were to White non-Hispanic individuals compared to 47 % of all Traffic Warnings issued to Black non-Hispanic individuals over the same period. Traffic warnings issued to white non-Hispanic individuals (males and females) and black non-Hispanic females increased while black non-Hispanic males decreased when compared to the previous year. Hispanic/Latino and Other Races within Rock Hill continued to increase compared to the previous year. This is most likely due to the increase in these populations in our area. The total number of overall Traffic Warnings issued over the last four years has decreased.

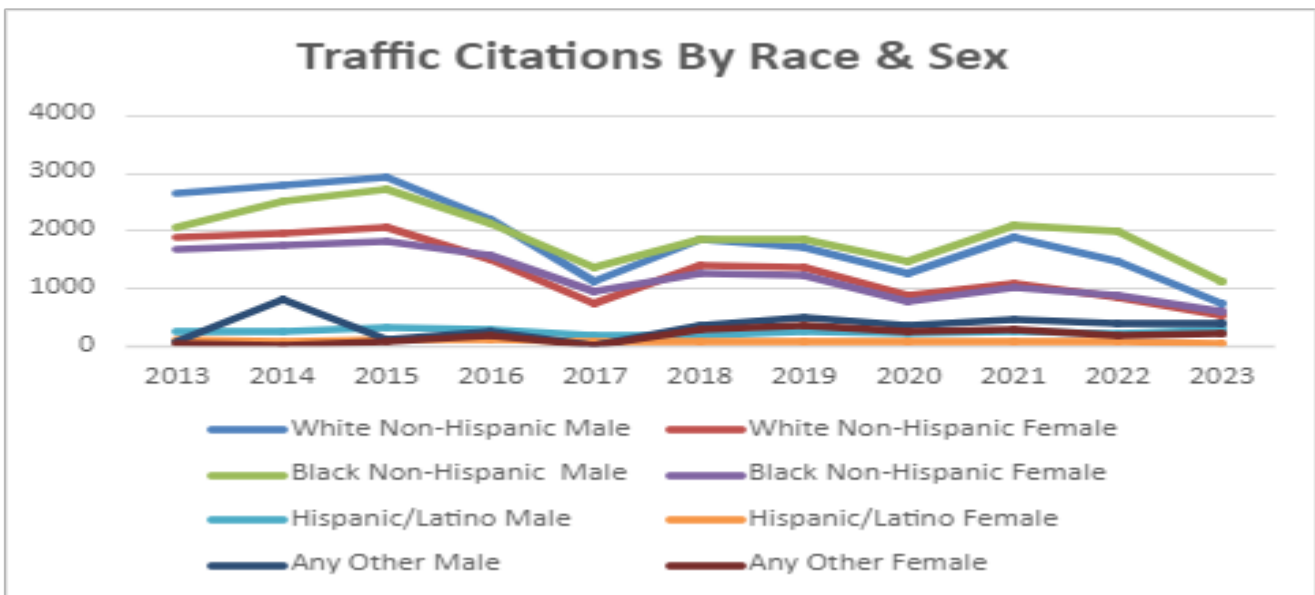
Traffic Citations

A total of 3,857 Traffic Citations were issued in calendar year 2023, compared to 5,692 in 2022 for a 35% decrease overall. The total number of traffic citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department has decreased over the last four (4) years.



The total number of traffic citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department decreased during the 2023 calendar year. White non-Hispanic males were issued a total of 722 Traffic Citations in 2023 for a 50% decrease. White non-Hispanic females were issued a total of 518 Citations in 2023 which is a 37% decrease. Black non-Hispanic males received 1,120 Citations in 2023 for a 44% decrease. Black non-Hispanic females received 593 traffic citations in 2023 compared to 873 Citations in 2022 for a 32% decrease.

Traffic citations increased slightly for Hispanic/Latino males and Other (Asian, etc.) females in 2023. Conversely, Hispanic/Latino females and other males (Asian, etc.) decreased over the same period. More warnings were issued to the Hispanic/Latino and Other races than Traffic citations.

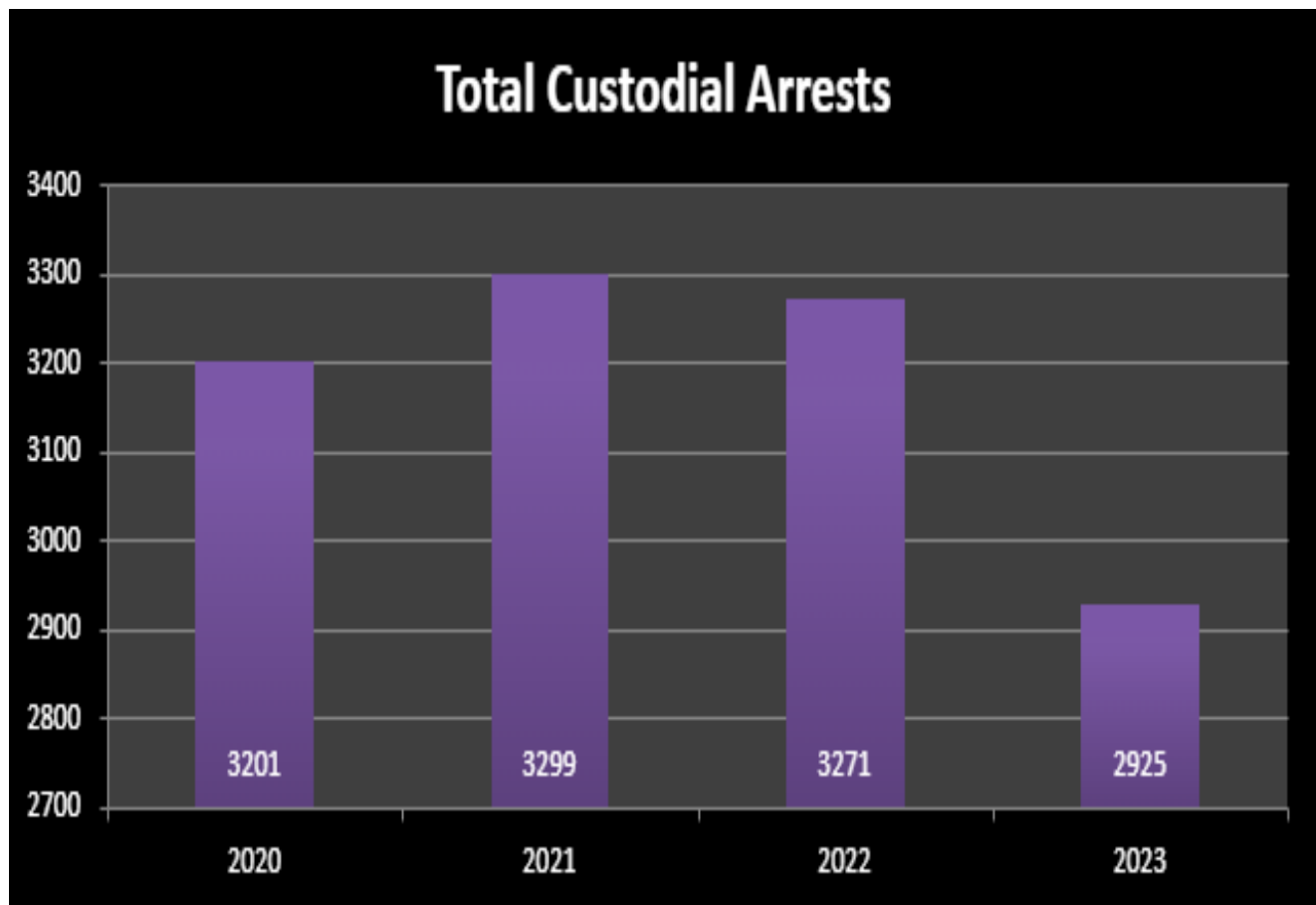


A total of 33% of all citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department in 2023 were issued to White non-Hispanic males and females. A total of 44% were issued to Black non-Hispanics during the same period. Totals for traffic citations decreased for all races and genders, except

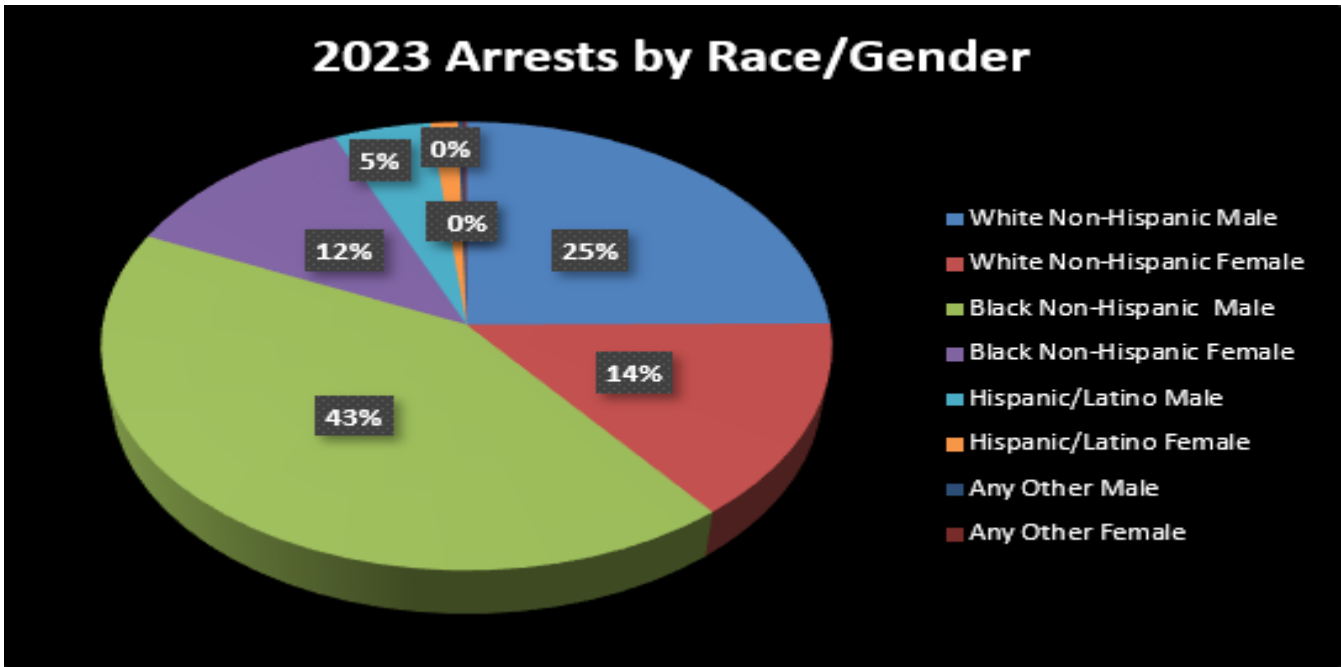
for Hispanic/Latino males, and Other Race females. This increase is most likely attributed to an increase in this population over the last several years. There does not appear to be a significant upward trend in the number of Traffic Citations issued to any group of individuals at this time. Traffic contacts for black non-Hispanic males and both men and women in Other Races will be closely monitors in upcoming years to ensure that traffic contacts are made uniformly.

Arrests

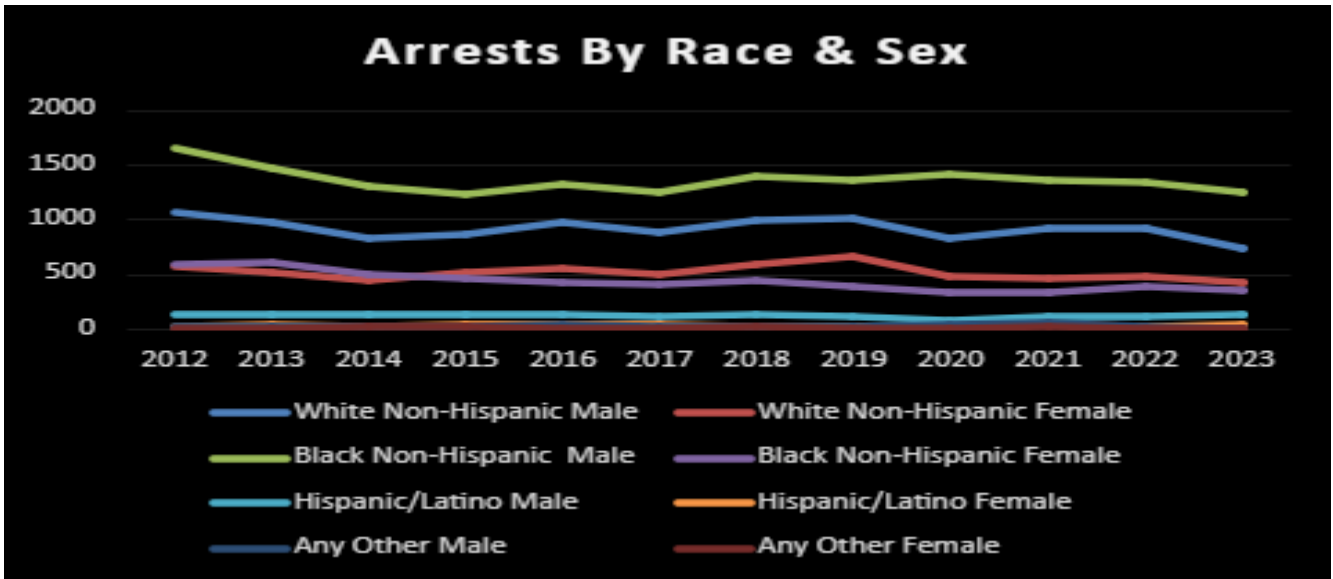
The total number of Arrests in 2023 decreased compared to 2022. A total of 2,925 arrests were made in 2023, compared to 3,271 in 2022, which is a 10.6% decrease overall.



A total of 729 white non-Hispanic males were arrested in 2023, for a 20% decrease. A total of 419 white non-Hispanic females were arrested in 2023, which is an 11% decrease. A total of 1,244 black non-Hispanic males were arrested in 2023, for a 6% decrease. A total of 344 black non-Hispanic females were arrested in 2023, for a 13% decrease. Arrests for both sexes (white and black) decreased, while arrests for Hispanic/Latino males and females increased in 2023.



The total number of arrests for persons in other ethnic races (Hispanic, Asian, etc.) is very low compared to white and black non-Hispanic individuals. A total of 189 arrests of Hispanic and Other Race individuals (male and female) were made by RHPD officers in 2023, for a 16% overall increase. Arrests that were classified within the Other category equaled only 6.5% of all arrests made during the 2023 calendar year.



The total number of arrests appears to be relatively consistent over the last ten (10) years. Rock Hill Police Department arrests have decreased 22% over the last ten (10) years. Black non-Hispanic male arrests have had an 25% reduction since 2012.

Calls for service and vehicular traffic has returned to normal following the pandemic. There have been no large increases in arrests that would indicate an issue with Biased Policing. RHPD officers have worked hard to make and maintain positive relationships within the community and the members they serve.

Rock Hill Police Department Citizen Complaints, Internal Affairs Annual Analysis & Administrative Review 2023

The Rock Hill Police Department provides exceptional service to both citizens and Department personnel through a problem-solving approach which emphasizes a commitment to excellence through community and teamwork. Rock Hill Police Department personnel undergo a strenuous selection process, are held to the highest of standards, and are provided with the best training available. The goal of our strenuous selection and training process is to give personnel the very best preparation to make sound, appropriate, and respectable decisions. The Department is sincerely interested in rewarding above average performance and taking corrective action in instances where an employee fails to meet our standards. Unfortunately, there will be times when citizens, fellow employees or supervisors perceive an employee's behavior as inappropriate, unethical, or illegal. When this occurs, a system of well-established procedures for investigating and adjudicating complaints is strictly followed. The Rock Hill Police Department will provide a full and fair opportunity to file complaints against Department members and will impartially accept, evaluate, and investigate all complaints involving the acts or failures to act of Department members.

Law enforcement effectiveness depends upon community respect, confidence in the police department, and the ability of its personnel to perform his or her duties in a manner consistent with the integrity and trustworthiness expected of them by the public and that of the Code of Conduct. Behavior which detracts from this is detrimental to public interest and the City of Rock Hill.

The Internal Affairs Unit of the Professional Standards Division is responsible for the effective and efficient handling of all personnel-related issues, citizen complaints, and administrative investigations.

Complaints of less serious allegations can be addressed and/or investigated by a supervisor at the time they are received from the complainant. The Internal Affairs Supervisor may also assign a supervisor to investigate a complaint of less serious allegations. Upon completion of the investigation, the investigating supervisor forwards the complaint to the Division Commander who reviews and then forwards all original documentation of the investigation to the Internal Affairs Supervisor.

The Internal Affairs Supervisor conducts investigations of complaints that are serious in nature. However, the Chief of Police may, at his discretion, direct another Department member or request the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to conduct the investigation. Internal Affairs investigations and criminal investigations are conducted separately.

Citizen Complaints

All complaints against Department members are documented and investigated using a Citizens Complaint Form and an accompanying Blue Team Report. Complaints may be made in person, on-line, by telephone, by FAX, by email, or by mail. Anonymous complaints, complaints from citizens who wish their names to be held in confidence, and complaints from third parties are also accepted. If the complaint is delivered in person, an employee documents the date and

time the complaint was received on the Citizens Complaint Form and provides a Citizen's Compliments and Complaints brochure as a receipt. Any complaint received is forwarded to the applicable unit or team supervisor, or Internal Affairs, depending upon the nature of the complaint.

Less serious complaints that do not warrant an Internal Affairs investigation are classified as Supervisory Complaints and are directed to the appropriate Unit Supervisor for Supervisory Investigation. The investigating supervisor is required to provide the complainant information on the status of the investigation within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint and continues to keep the complainant informed of the status by periodic telephone conversations or other personal contact until the investigation is completed. The Citizen's Complaint Form and any necessary corrective actions are documented in a Blue Team report and forwarded through the chain of command to the Internal Affairs Supervisor for final review.

The Internal Affairs Supervisor reviews the results of the investigation, re-contacts the Division Commander if further investigation is necessary, and forwards the results of the investigation to the Chief of Police when the investigation is complete. The Professional Standards Supervisor coordinates Supervisory Investigations through the chain of command. After final review and disposition by the Chief of Police, the complainant is provided with a letter signed by the Chief of Police that summarizes the findings of the investigation. Supervisory Investigations are completed within thirty (30) business days unless the circumstances warrant an extension of time.

Any complaints that cannot be resolved by a Unit Supervisor are documented on the Citizen's Complaint Form and a Citizen Complaint Blue Team Report is created. Any attempts to resolve the complaint by the Supervisor are noted in the Blue Team Summary and it is then forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander. Upon review, the complaint is then forwarded to Internal Affairs for investigation.

The Internal Affairs Supervisor ensures that the complainant is sent an acknowledgment letter indicating the receipt of the complaint, along with a copy of the Citizen's Compliments and Complaints brochure.

Following an investigation by the Internal Affairs Unit, using the same guidelines as above, the Chief of Police completes a complaint disposition letter to the Complainant stating the final determination of the complaint. A copy of the documentation is returned to the employee and the employee's supervisor through the chain of command.

Internal Affairs Investigations

Allegations of misconduct that could result in dismissal, suspension, demotion, or criminal charges are investigated by Internal Affairs. Allegations may include but are not limited to corruption; excessive or improper use of force; breach of civil rights; criminal misconduct; or sexual harassment. Upon receipt of a complaint or notification of misconduct, the Internal Affairs Supervisor advises the Chief and promptly creates a Blue Team Report.

Prior to an Internal Affairs investigative interview that is part of a criminal investigation by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Department member under investigation is administered *Miranda* rights by a SLED agent, which are complied with during the investigation. The member under investigation also receives written notification of the

complaint to include a copy of the original complaint or a summary adequately listing the relevant facts and the member's rights and responsibilities during the investigation.

In addition, the Department members are advised that they are required to answer all questions truthfully when directly related to the performance of his/her official duties. Refusal to comply with an order to answer such questions is a violation of Department rules, which may subject the member to further discipline, up to and including dismissal. Any required self-incriminatory admissions made during an interview may be used only in administrative proceedings, as provided under *Garrity* rights, and are not used against the officer in criminal proceedings.

Department members are not entitled to have an attorney, supervisor, or other personal representative present during any Internal Affairs related interview when only disciplinary actions are anticipated. However, personnel are entitled to an attorney in cases of alleged criminal misconduct.

Department members are also required to submit to medical testing (including breath, blood, and urine), polygraph, line-up participation, financial disclosure, and/or psychological examinations as part of an administrative investigation pursuant to Department Policy and Procedures and the City of Rock Hill Personnel Resolutions. Photographs are also sometimes taken and used in conducting Internal Affairs Investigations.

Contact is maintained with both the Complainant and the Department member under investigation. The complainant is informed of the status of the investigation within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint and continues to receive periodic status updates via telephone or other personal contact until the investigation is completed. Department members who are under an Internal Investigation may contact the investigator about the status of the investigation.

All Internal Affairs Investigations are completed within ninety (90) days unless there are extenuating circumstances. Extensions may be granted by the Chief of Police. Following the completion of the investigation, the Chief of Police, or his designee, will notify the complainant of the findings of the investigation. The results are also documented in the associated Blue Team Report.

Disciplinary Action

Any disciplinary action resulting from an Internal or Supervisory Investigation is made in accordance with Department and City policies and is commensurate with the circumstances of the incident and the employee's service record.

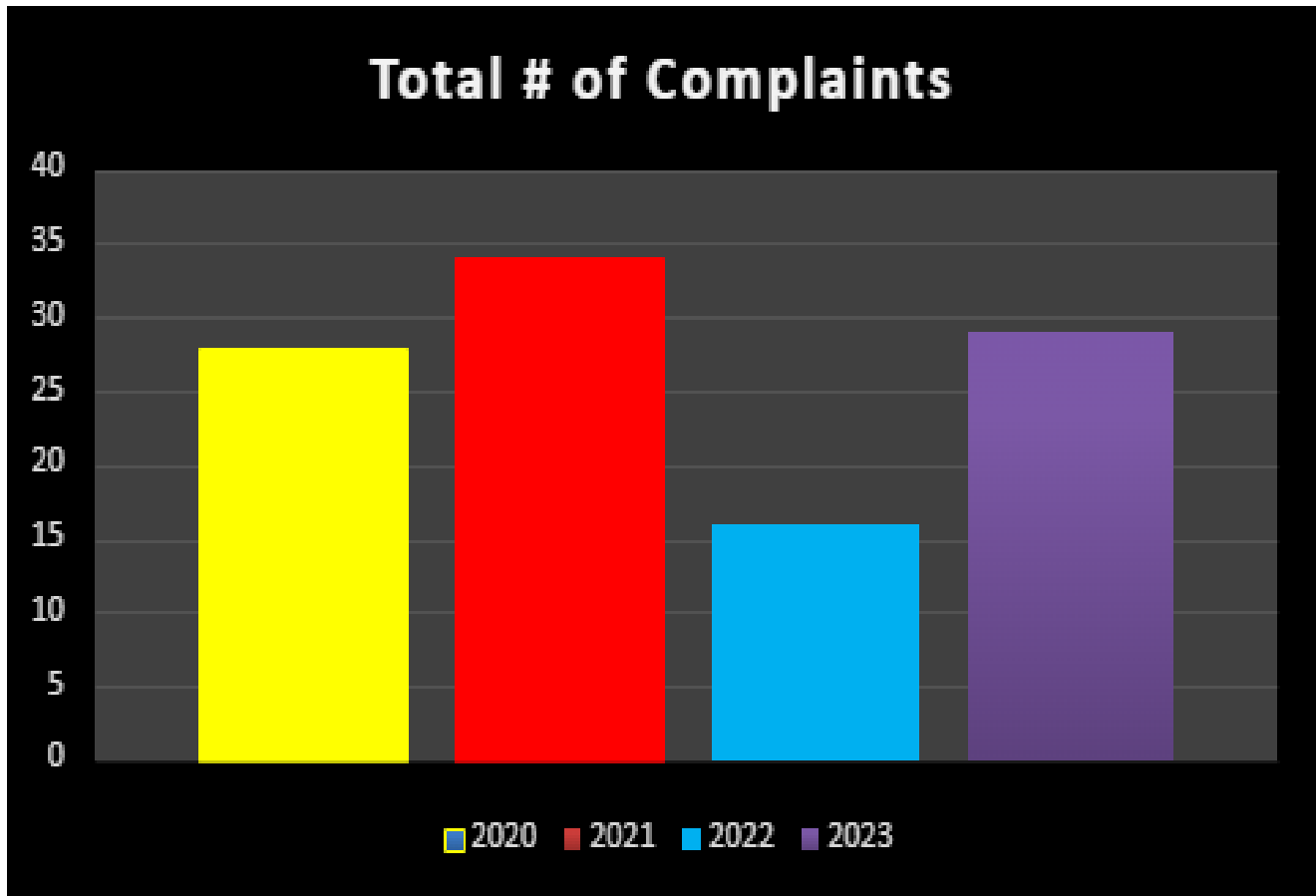
The Department member may be required to participate in a counseling program in lieu of other disciplinary action when it is determined to be in the best interest of the Department, the employee, and the public. Failure to participate fully as required may result in the imposition of the original disciplinary action.

Any hearings that are a result of an Internal Affairs Investigation are conducted in accordance with Department and City policies. Disciplinary action appeals are conducted in accordance with Department and City policy.

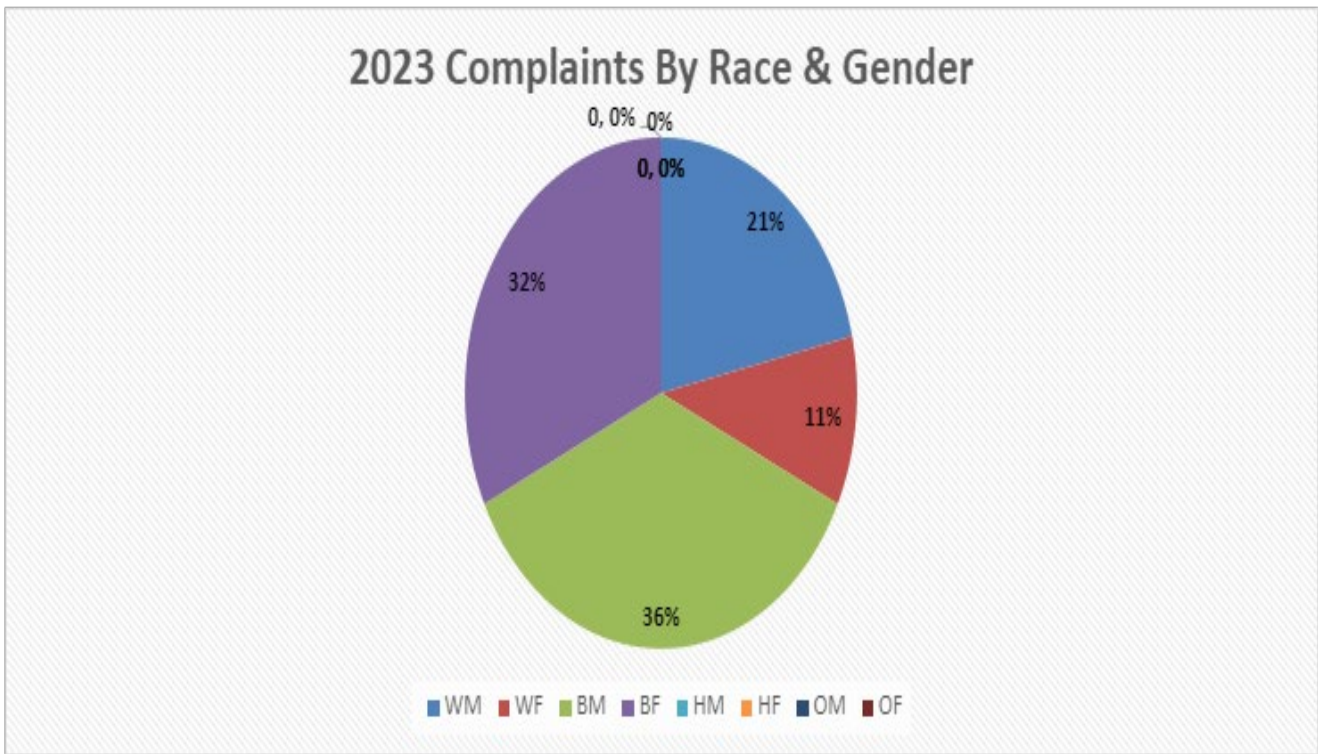
Citizen Complaint and Internal Affairs Investigation Analysis

Citizen Complaints

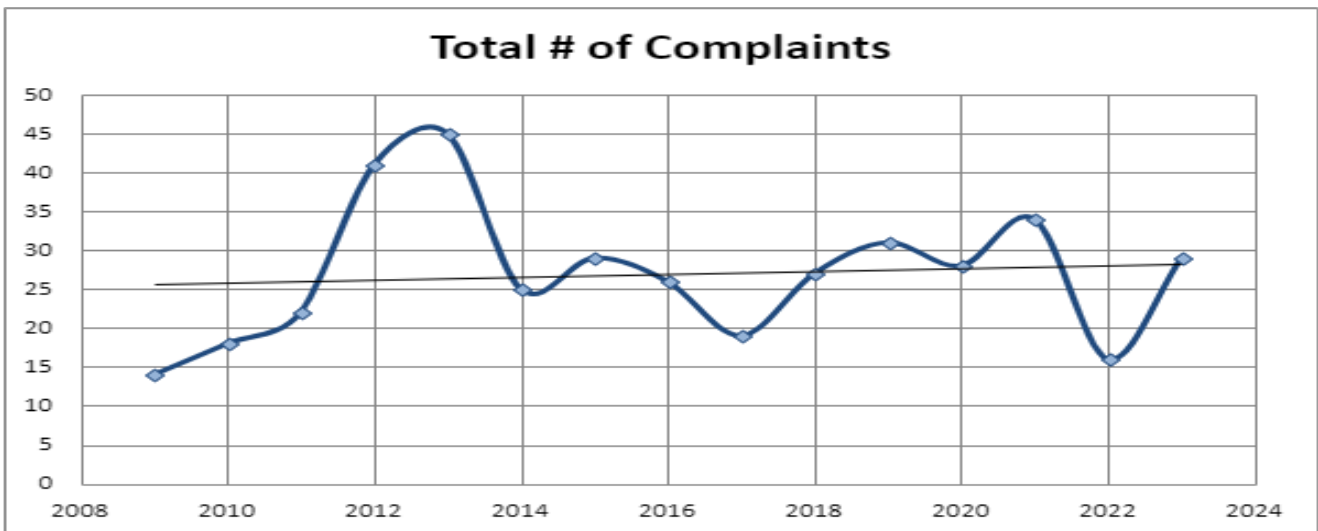
In 2023, there were a total of twenty-nine (29) citizen complaints received and investigated. The number of citizen complaints increased compared to 2022. However, the number of complaints received in 2023 is within what appears to be normal limits based on data collected over the last four years. The number of complaints in 2022 was a lot lower than the 4-year average and may be an outlier. It should also be noted that several complaints involved more than one (1) officer.



Over half (68%) of all complaints received by the Rock Hill Police Department in 2023 were filed by Black non-Hispanic males and females. This is an increase compared to 2022. A total of 36% of all complaints received by the Department in 2023 were by black males. Ten (10) black males filed complaints compared to six (6) complaints from white males. In addition, 32% (9 total) black females filed complaints against officers compared to three (3) white females during the same period. There was one (1) complaint filed from a Hispanic female. The number of complaints filed by black females increased significantly in 2023 compared to 2022 but is within normal ranges for the 4-year period.

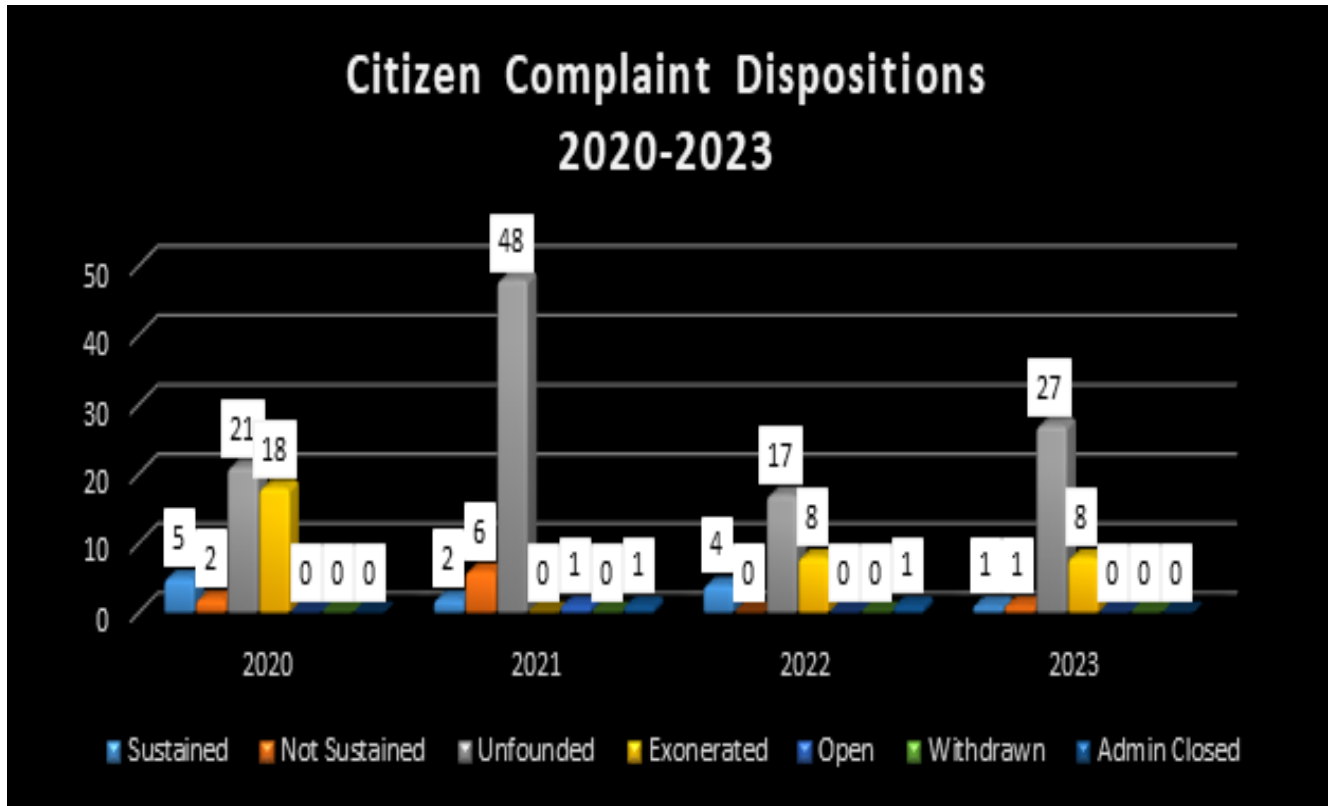


The total number of complaints has varied over the last four (4) years. The total number of complaints received has stayed relatively consistent over the last decade. Based on the chart below, the average number of citizen complaints over the last ten (10) years is slowly increasing. There were significant increases in complaints in 2012, 2013, and 2021 and a drastic decrease in 2022. Complaints increased again in 2023 but overall are in line with the department’s average. The stability of the number of complaints received illustrates that policy and procedures are being followed consistently.



Citizen Complaint Dispositions have generally remained consistent over the last four (4) years. A total of 73% of all dispositions were Unfounded in 2023, which is a significant increase. Several complaints yielded dual findings due to their involving more than one officer in the complaint. One (1) RHPD employee was involved in a Sustained complaint in 2023. The

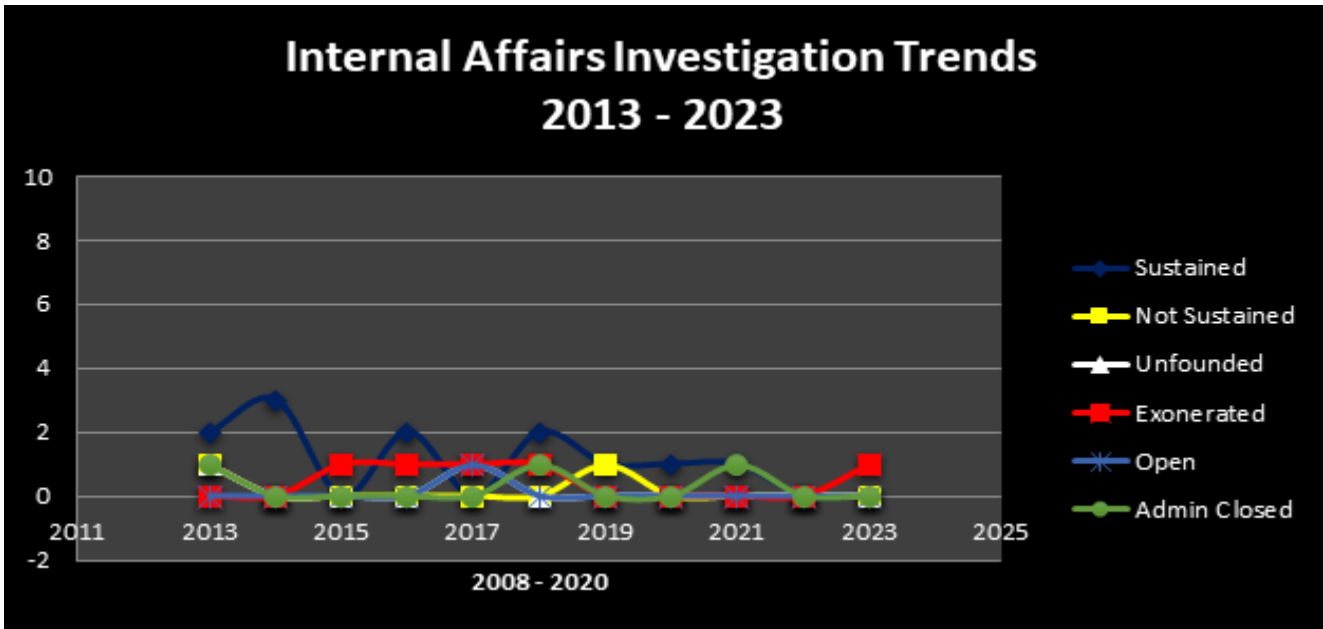
employee received verbal counseling based on the severity of the incident. No employees were terminated because of a citizen complaint in 2023. Additionally, one (1) complaint was Unsustained. In this complaint, it was found after investigation that evidence of employee wrongdoing was possible but inconclusive. The complainant was referred to another department within the City of Rock Hill for additional assistance. The high proportion of Exonerated and Unfounded complaint findings is a testament to the high caliber of professional personnel in the Department.



In 2023, the Rock Hill Police Department received 76,343 Calls for Service. In addition, Rock Hill Police Department Officers initiated 9,737 traffic contacts with citizens within the City of Rock Hill. Of the 86,080 total contacts with individuals within the jurisdiction, the fact that only twenty-nine (29) total complaints (0.03% of total contacts) were received is truly remarkable and speaks volumes for the overall professionalism of the Department.

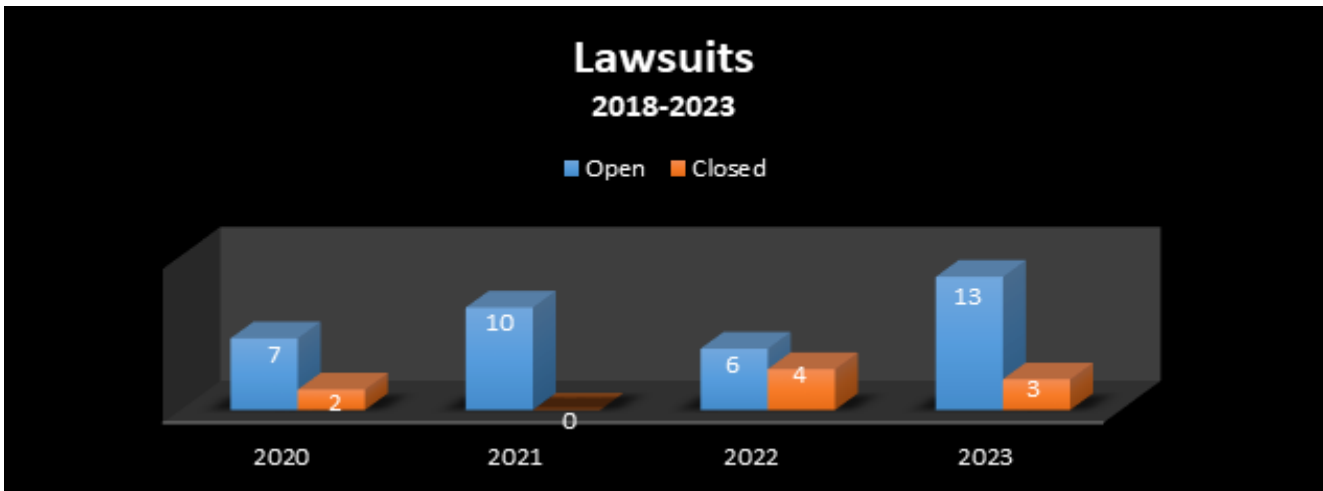
Internal Affairs Investigations

The Rock Hill Police Department completed one (1) Internal Affairs Investigation in 2023, compared to zero (0) investigations in 2022. The total number of Internal Affairs Investigations has remained very low over the last decade when compared to the size of the Department. The RHPD has an average of one (1) Internal Affairs Investigations over the last four (4) years. Considering that the Rock Hill Police Department employed one hundred forty-two (142) sworn officers and forty-five (45) non-sworn personnel in 2023. The very low number of Internal Affairs Investigations is rather extraordinary for a Department of our size. The low number of Internal Affairs Investigations clearly demonstrates the high quality of officers and personnel employed at the Rock Hill Police Department.

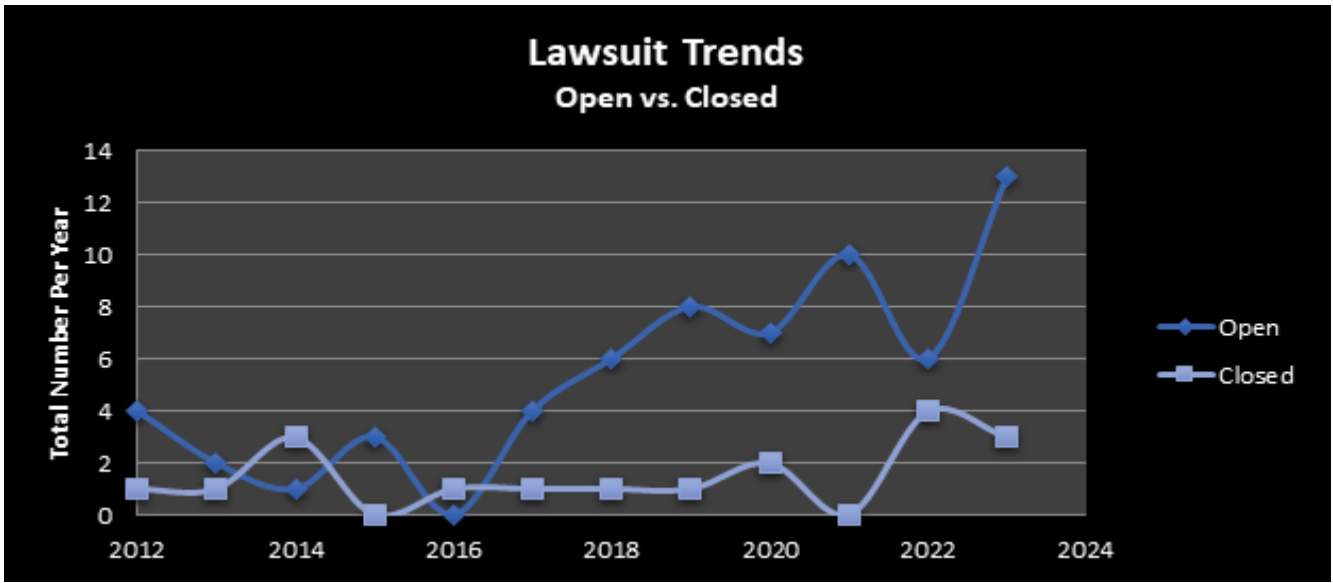


Lawsuit Analysis

The Rock Hill Police Department had sixteen (16) Lawsuits during the 2023 calendar year. Eight (8) were for False Arrest, two (2) for Excessive Force, two (2) for Harassment/Discrimination, two (2) for Injury in Custody and one (1) for Improper Search. Some lawsuits had multiple complaints and span over several years' time. As of the end of 2023, thirteen (13) lawsuits remained open.



The total number of lawsuits filed against the Department increased 30% in 2023. The total number of Lawsuits filed against the Department has steadily increased over the last four years. One case was dismissed after reaching a settlement in 2023. We anticipate that the number of lawsuits filed against the Department will continue to rise due to the continued negative attitude towards law enforcement and the litigious nature of individuals in the community.



**Rock Hill Police Department
Recruiting & Selection
Analysis & Administrative Review
2023**

Introduction

The Rock Hill Police Department strives to recruit the best-suited personnel and to ensure equal employment opportunities for all persons based on individual merit. The Department's recruiting efforts are designed to accomplish the objective of hiring the best qualified candidates for all positions. Recruitment strategies are used to improve the quality of the personnel hired, increase the diversity in the work force and lower the rate of personnel turnover.

Process and Procedures

The Recruiting Officer, who is assigned to the Internal Affairs Supervisor within the Professional Standards Division, manages the recruiting process. The Rock Hill Police Department maintains an effective working relationship with the City Human Resources Department (HR) for recruiting and other personnel issues. However, all Department members share in the responsibility for recruiting the best suited personnel and are encouraged to actively seek qualified candidates.

The Recruiting Officer and other designated Department members actively participate in recruiting events such as job fairs and career days, both locally and throughout the East Coast. Recruiting events provide an avenue in which to advertise employment opportunities and distribute information about the work, compensation, and benefits of employment with the Rock Hill Police Department. Department members who attend job fairs and other recruitment events are educated on how to present the positive attributes of the Department and personnel matters such as Equal Employment Opportunity and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as they relate to the management and operation of the Department.

Applications for entry-level positions are always accepted regardless of the status of staffing. The City of Rock Hill and the Rock Hill Police Department are Equal Opportunity Employers. Job notices are posted throughout City facilities, disseminated to community organizations, published on both the City of Rock Hill and the Department's internet websites, advertised through professional journals, and posted on various professional electronic and print media websites. All job notices include a description of duties, responsibilities, skills, educational level, other minimum qualifications, the salary range appropriate to the position, and any relevant application filing deadline.

Diversity is a key component of the Rock Hill Police Department's Recruitment Plan. The Department makes every effort to hire and retain personnel in proportion to the ethnic and gender composition of the service community. Department members from underrepresented populations actively participate in the Department's recruiting efforts to demonstrate the Department's commitment to removing barriers in hiring.

Analysis

The Rock Hill Police Department concentrates recruiting efforts on college and university campuses, military bases, and online job applicant websites to actively recruit from a more diversified population. The Rock Hill Police Department is committed to high standards and has an intense and difficult hiring process to assist the Department in maintaining the professional expectations that have been established over the years.

The Recruiting Officer spends a lot of time reaching out to colleges, universities, military bases, and other local programs to recruit personnel, especially minority men and women. Attendance at Career Fairs and Presentations included the following locations in 2023:

Benedict College	Bob Jones University	Charleston Southern University
Gardner Webb University	Limestone College	Newberry College
The Citadel	UNC Pembroke	Winthrop University
York Technical College	Cherry Point Marine Corps	Spartanburg Methodist College

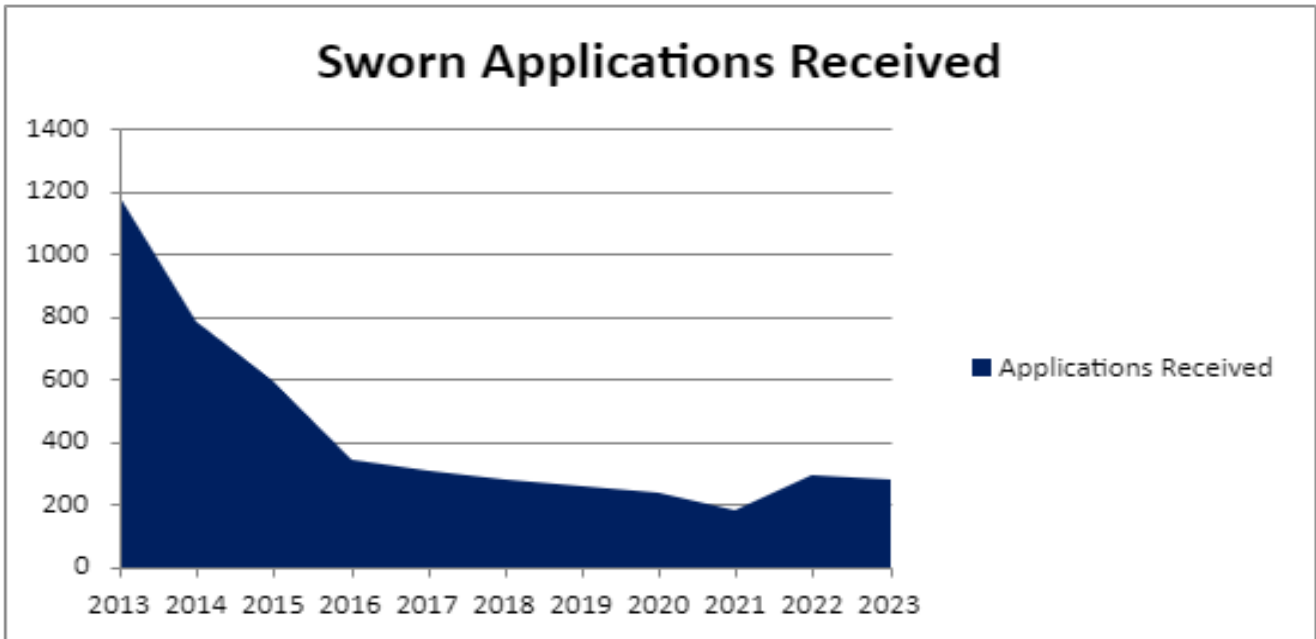
The Rock Hill Police Department strives for employee diversity that represents the available workforce in the community regarding ethnic, race, and gender composition. The following chart illustrates the Rock Hill Police Department's current diversity composition for sworn officers, the available workforce data, and the City of Rock Hill's population data for 2023.

YEAR 2023

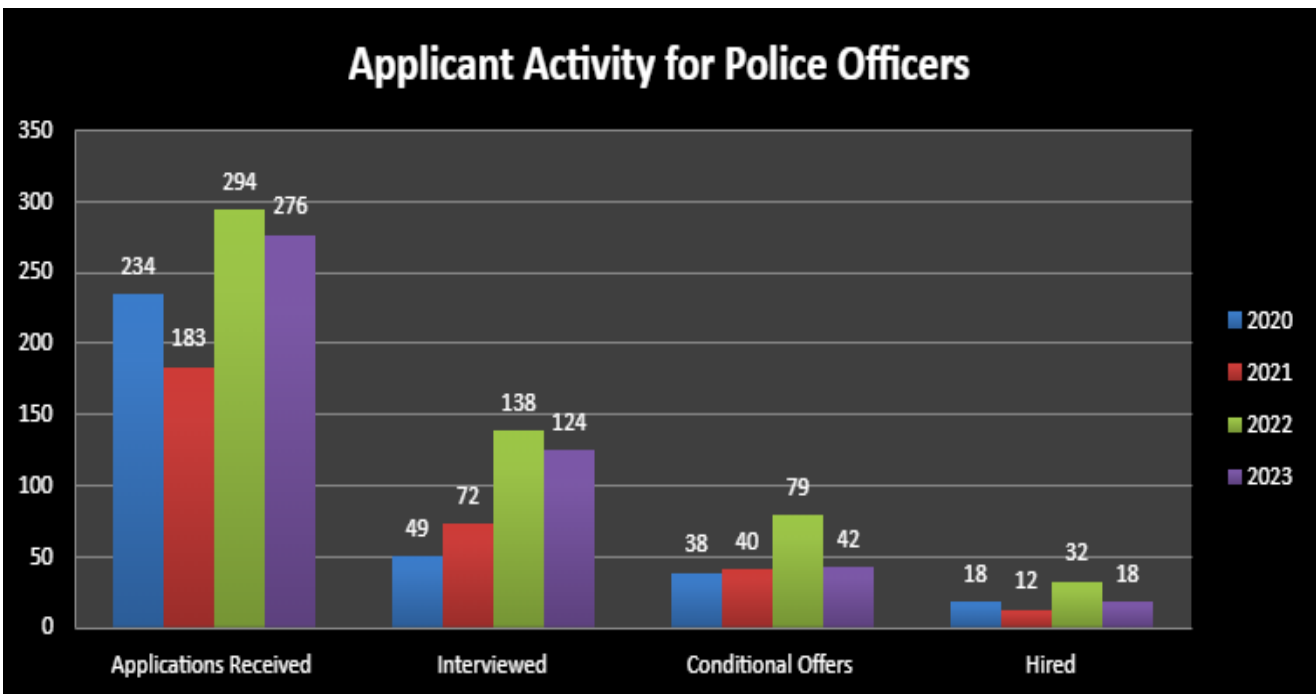
Race/Ethnicity	Service Population		Available Workforce		Current Sworn Officers		Current Female Sworn Officers	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White (Non-Hispanic)	40583	55%	21744	49%	110	81%	28	20%
Black (Non-Hispanic)	28349	38%	18744	42%	17	13%	4	3%
Hispanic-Latino (Any Race)	4454	6%	2941	6%	12	5%	2	1%
Other	1007	1%	663	3%	3	1%	0	
Total	74393	100%	44092	100%	142	100%	34	24%

SWORN APPLICANTS

The total number of police officer applications received declined slightly in 2023 but has started to increase after several years of decline. A total of two hundred seventy-six (276) police officer applications were received as of the end of December 2023. This is a 6% decrease overall but is higher than the four-year average of two hundred forty-six (246) per year.

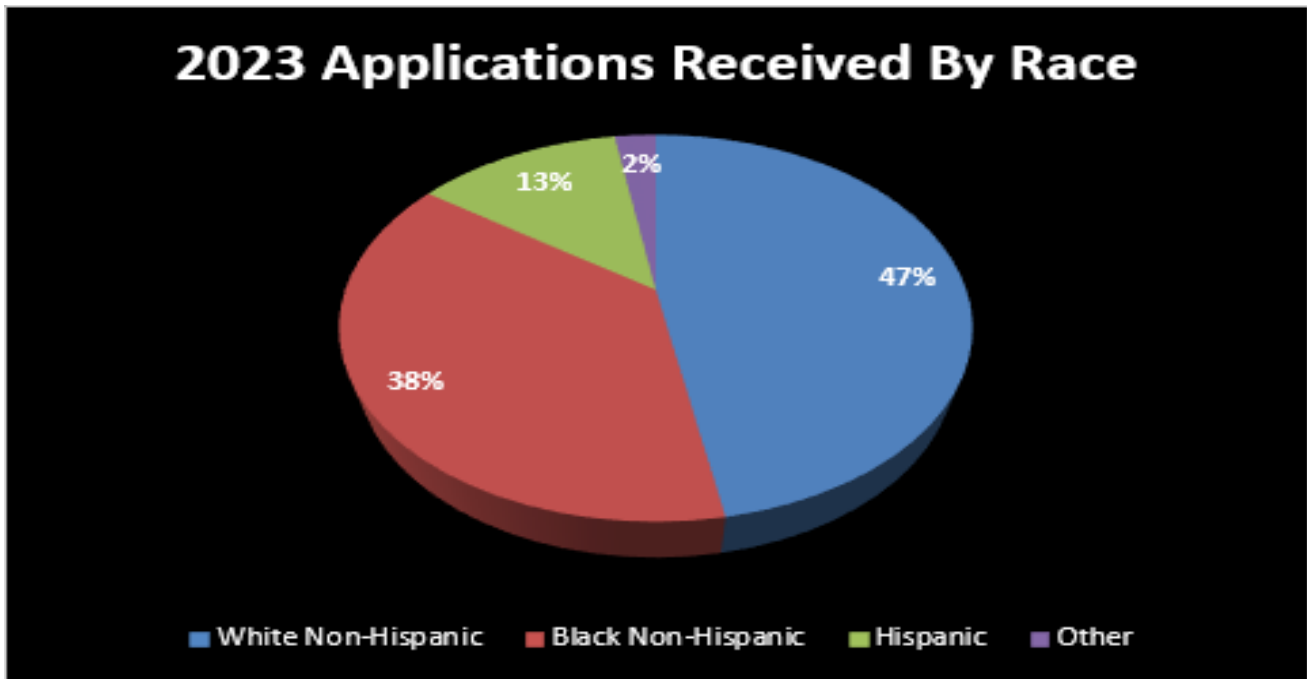


The total number of applications received for sworn officers has slowly started to rebound after six years of decline. The negative perception of law enforcement has had a significant negative impact on all law enforcement agencies across the United States. Police agencies have experienced significant shortages for several years and finding qualified applicants is getting more difficult every day.

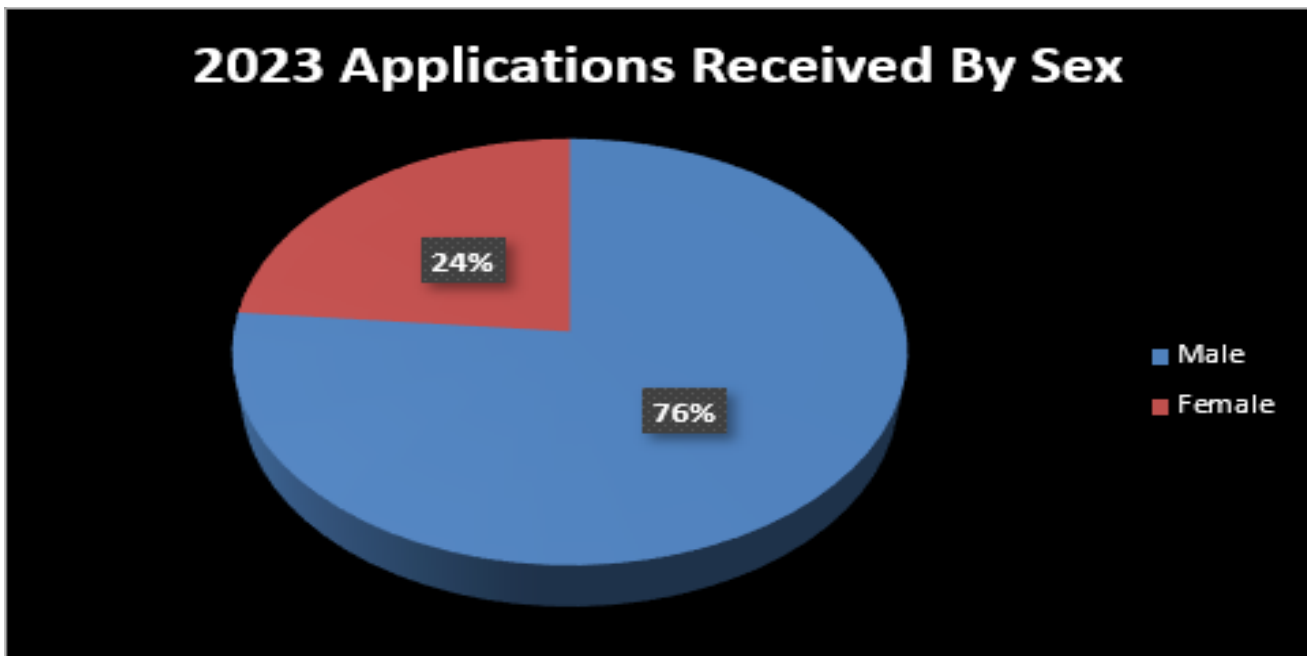


Most applicants for sworn officer positions received by the Rock Hill Police Department were by white non-Hispanics. One hundred thirty (130) applicants in 2023 were white non-Hispanics, compared to one hundred twenty-eight (128) applications in 2022, which was 47% of all applications. Alternatively, one hundred four (104) applications, or 38%, were received by black non-Hispanics during the same period in 2023. A total of 13% of the applications

were from Hispanics and 2% from Other Races. Recruitment to attract quality minority applicants has improved over the last several years. Continued recruiting in minority locations is necessary to improve the overall diversity of the Department.

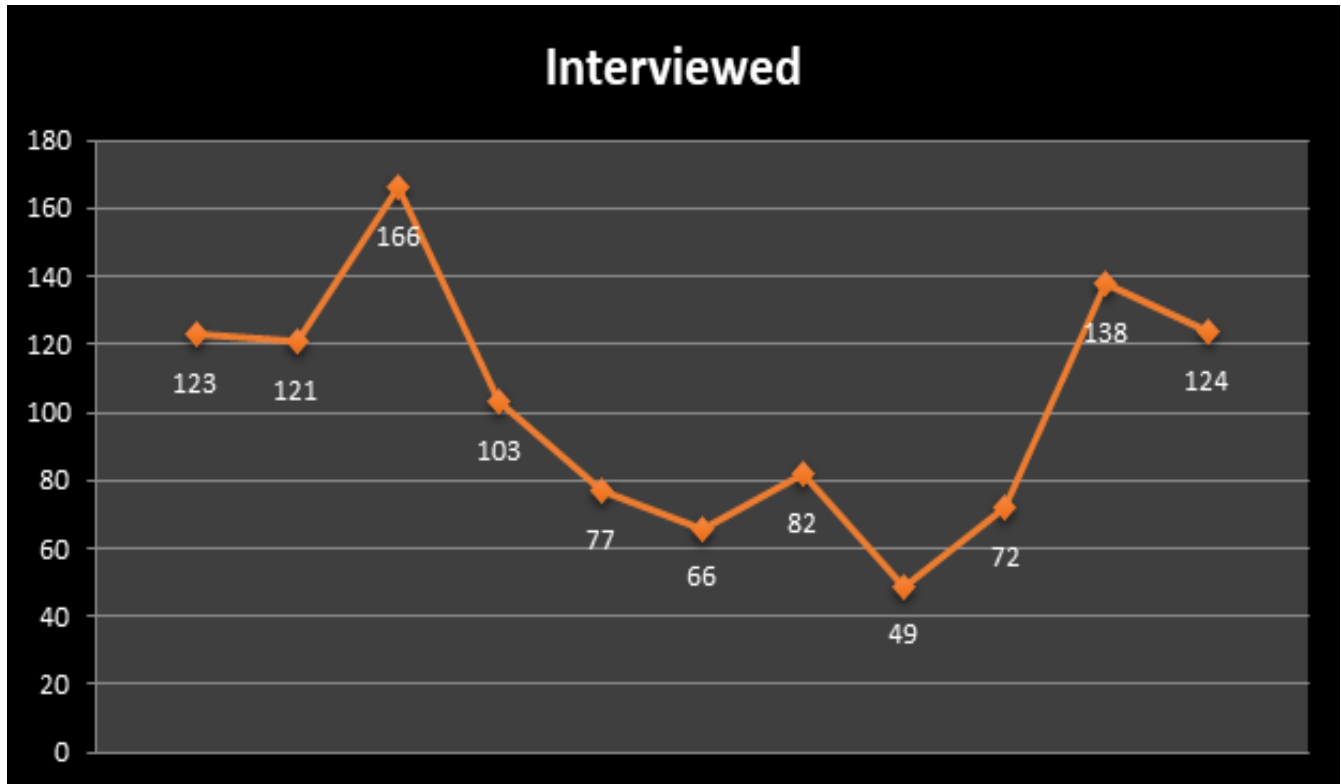


Males completed and returned the vast majority of all police officer applications. A total of two hundred eleven (211) applications were received by males of all races in 2023, which was 76% of all applications received. Historically, males have always submitted the majority of applications for sworn positions.



A total of sixty-five (65) females, or 24% of all applicants, completed applications during the same period. This is a 14% increase in 2023 and the highest number of females applicants

since 2015. The Department has experienced a significant increase in interest for sworn positions over the last several years. The differentiation between the genders has been consistent over the decade and is comparable to other police departments across the nation. However, the increase in female applicants illustrates that the demographics are beginning to change in a positive direction for women in law enforcement.



A total of one hundred twenty-four (124) individuals were interviewed for police officer positions in 2023, compared to thirty-eight (138) in 2022, which is a 10% decrease. The number of police officer applicants has fluctuated over the last four (4) years; however, the number of interviews has increased significantly over the last two years. Unfortunately, a high number of individuals did not make it to the next stage in the hiring process. The Professional Standards Unit has worked very hard to develop the most efficient and effective hiring methods to ensure the hiring process attracts the best individuals possible. It has become increasingly difficult to find applicants who are willing and qualified to be sworn officers.

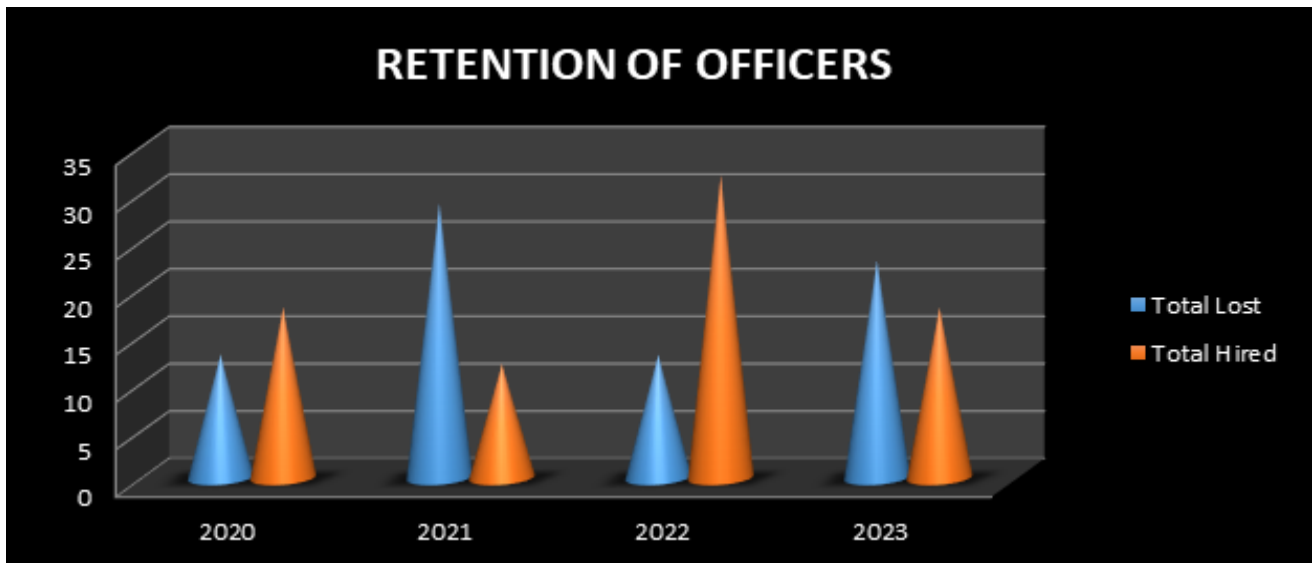
The total number of conditional offers decreased significantly in 2023. Forty-two (42) individuals were given conditional offers of employment as sworn police officers in 2023 compared to seventy-nine (79) in 2022. However, the number of conditional offers has remained consistent over the last five (5) years which is an indicator that the recruiting process is identifying quality applicants. The number of conditional offers completed in 2015 and 2022 appear to be outliers and shouldn't be included in determining a trend at this time. Approximately 15% of all applicants interviewed for police officer positions in 2023 were given conditional offers of employment.



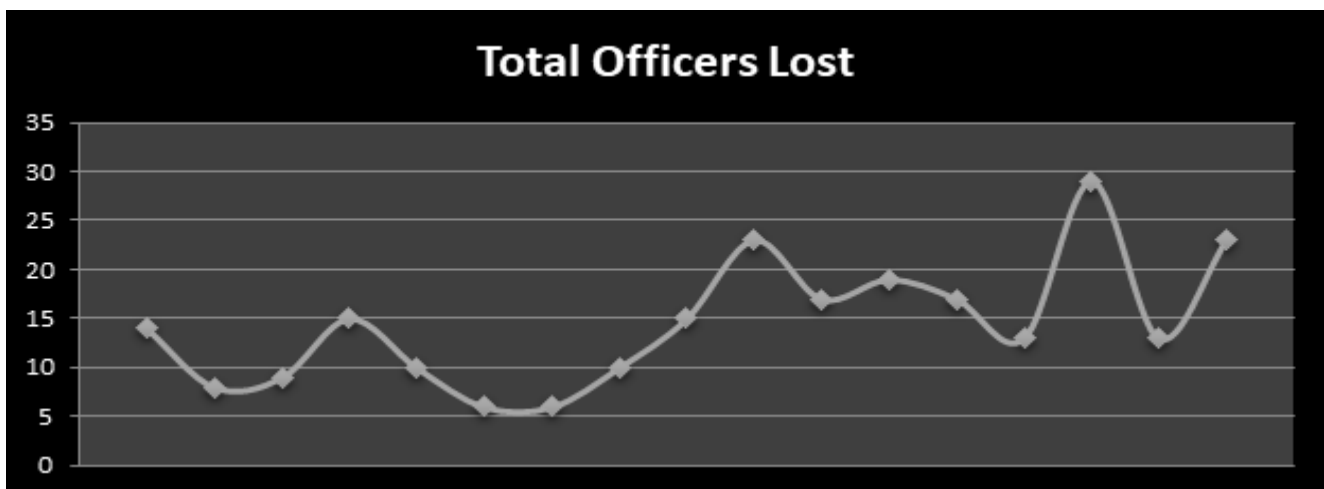
The total number of applicants hired in 2023 declined compared to 2022. A total of eighteen (18) officers were hired in 2023, compared to thirty-two (32) in 2022, which is a significant decrease. Due to our rigorous and thorough hiring practices, only 7% of all applicants were hired as law enforcement officers. At the end of 2023, the RHPD had twenty-one (21) sworn officer position vacancies. It has been several years since the Department was fully staffed. The Recruiting Officer has done a good job of recruiting quality officers, but efforts will continue to ensure that the department continues to grow and retain sworn officers in the future.



Retention of certified and trained personnel is always a challenge in any law enforcement agency. The Rock Hill Police Department has struggled over the last several years to retain sworn officers. The total number of sworn personnel leaving the Rock Hill Police Department increased by 77% in 2023. A total of twenty-three (23) officers separated from the Department in 2023, compared to thirteen (13) in 2022.

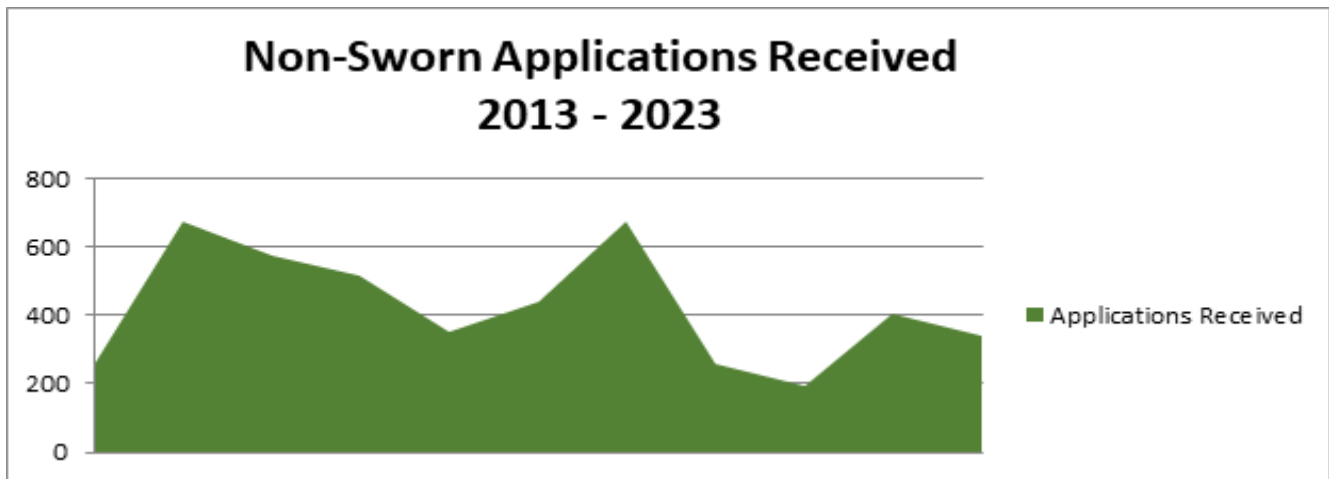


A total of 16% of all sworn officers resigned in 2023. The number of sworn officers resigning has continued to fluctuate over the last decade. Both sworn and non-sworn positions have had a high turnover rate and several retirements in the past several years. For many, police officers have a negative societal connotation, and the pressures placed upon them has increased, which has drastically affected the willingness of individuals to pursue law enforcement as a career. The younger generation of employees are in search of high paying jobs with fast promotional opportunities and do not find police work appealing or rewarding. As is the case with most law enforcement agencies across the US, the RHPD is attempting to rebuild and expand following several years of declining applications and being short staffed.

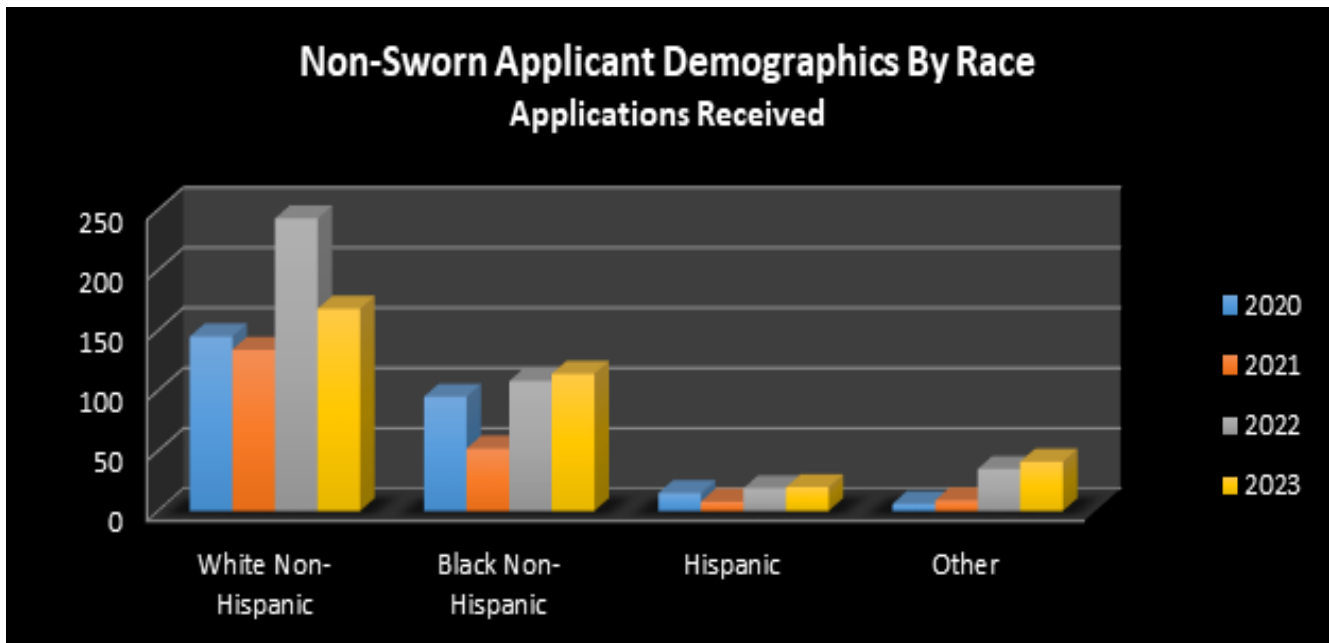


NON-SWORN APPLICANTS

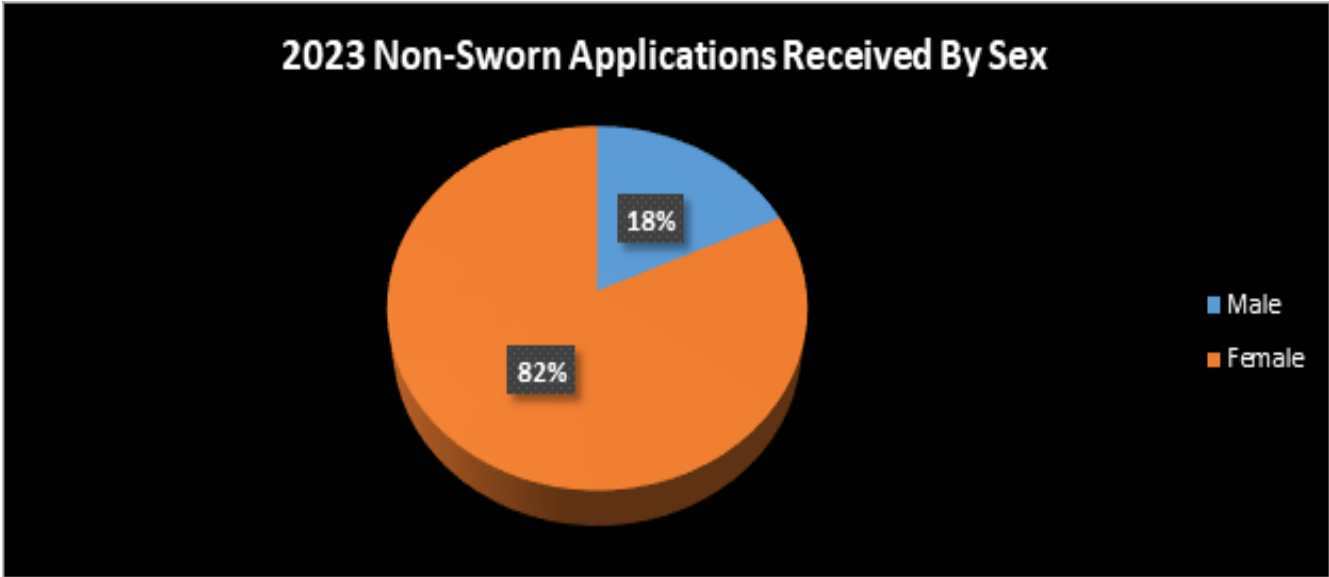
The total number of non-sworn applications received has drastically declined over the last decade. A total of three hundred forty-three (343) applications were received in 2023 compared to four hundred five (405) applications in 2022, which is a 15% decrease overall.



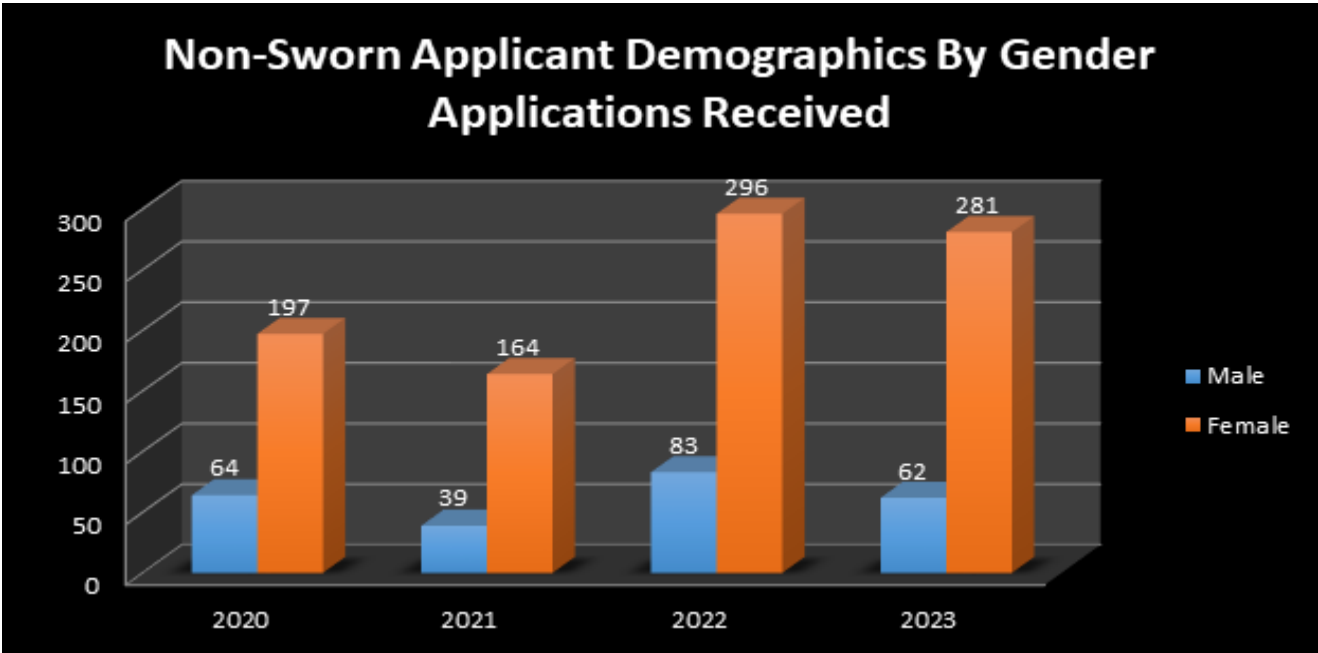
The total number of applications received for non-sworn positions has varied over the years but has increased by 76% over the last several years. Furthermore, the total number of applications for non-sworn positions at the Department has increased over the last decade. While the application process for non-sworn is slightly different than for sworn officers, the Department still requires a high level of skill, integrity, and professionalism. The increase in total applications is most likely due to an increase in available openings within the Department and a higher number of individuals seeking stable employment.



Most applications for non-sworn positions received by the Rock Hill Police Department were from white non-Hispanic individuals. A total of one hundred sixty-eight (168) applications were received from white non-Hispanic males and females in 2023, which was 49% of all total applications. One hundred fourteen (114) applications were received from black non-Hispanics, which was 33% of the total applications received and a slight increase compared to 2022. The number of applications for non-sworn position by black individuals has increased over the last four years. The number of applications by Hispanics and Other Races has also increased significantly over the last four years. The increase in minority applicants for non-sworn positions illustrates increased recruiting efforts in under-represented populations and is a positive step in the right direction for Department diversity. However, continued attention to recruiting minority applicants is necessary to continue this trend.



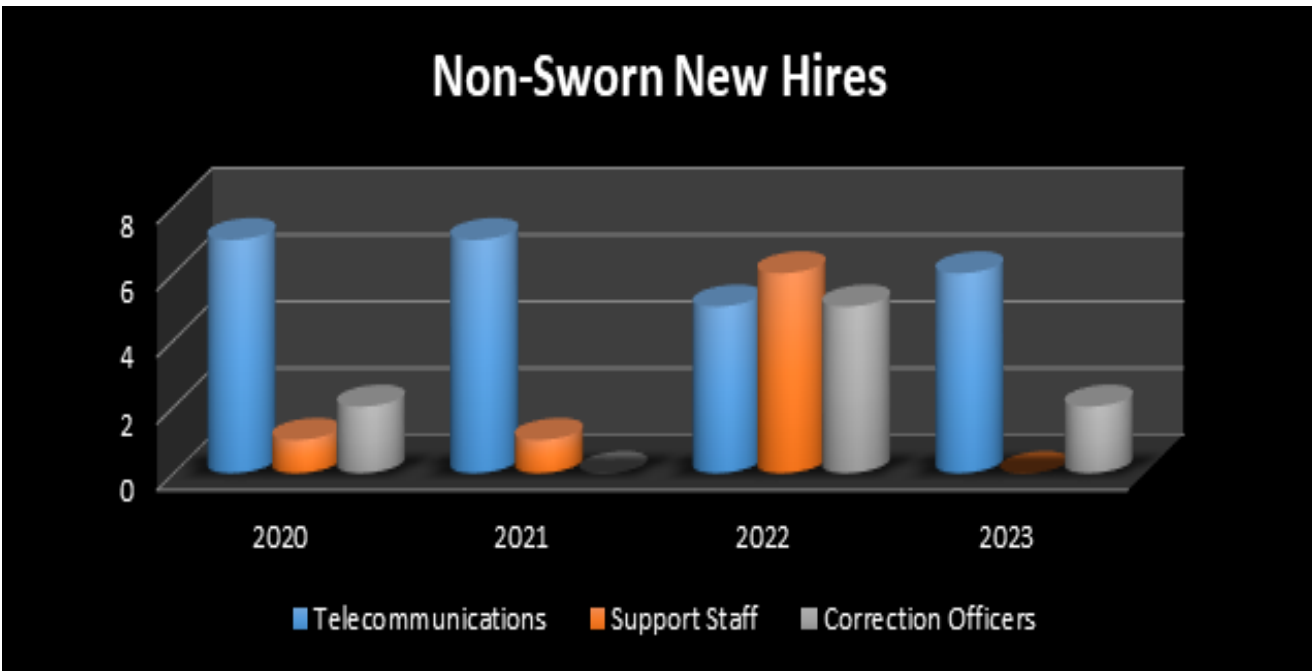
Females completed and returned the highest number of non-sworn applications. A total of two hundred eighty-one (281) females completed applications for non-sworn employment at the Rock Hill Police Department in 2023, which was 82% of all applications received. Only sixty-nine (69) males, or 18% of applicants, completed applications during the same period. The difference between the genders has been consistent over the last four years and is comparable to other law enforcement agencies in our local area. Most non-sworn positions are more clerical in nature which appeals to more women than men.



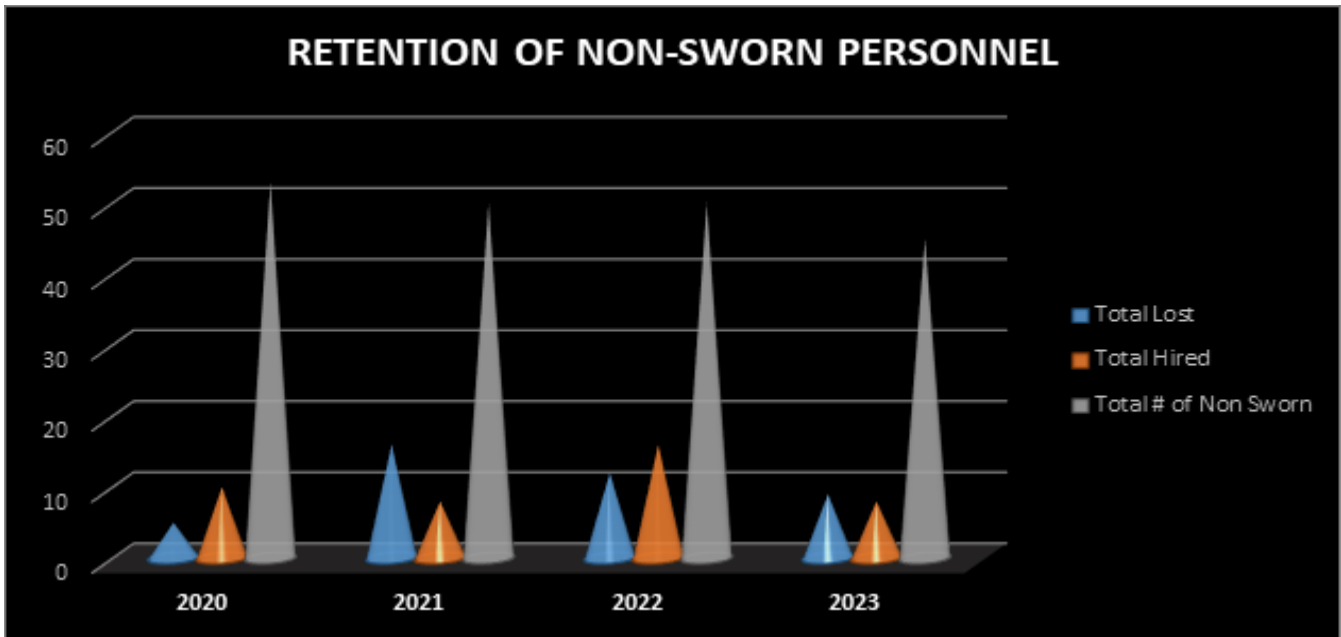
The total number of non-sworn personnel vacancies has remained low during the last four (4) years. In 2023, a total of eight (8) non-sworn personnel were hired which is consistent with trends over the last decade.



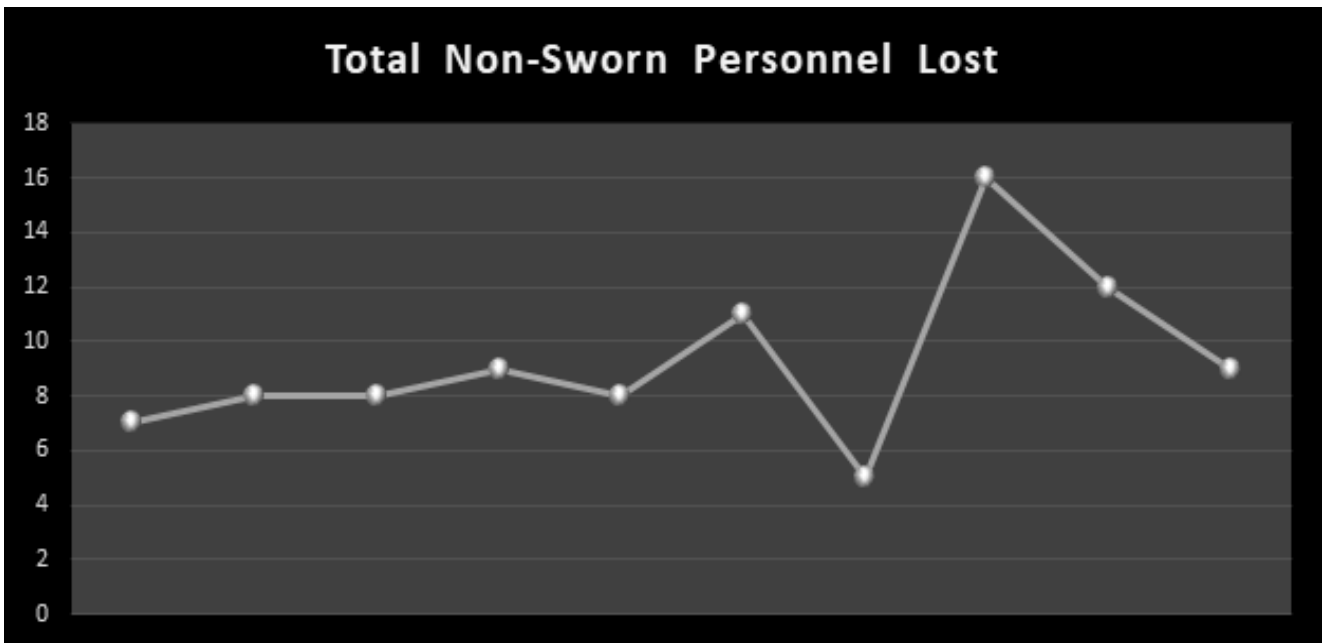
Six (6) Telecommunicators and two (2) Correctional Officers were hired during the 2023 calendar year. Generally, Telecommunications make up the largest non-sworn unit in the Department followed by Correctional Officers. Several non-sworn personnel retired in 2023, which contributed to vacancies during the year.



The total number of non-sworn personnel that have separated from the Rock Hill Police Department decreased in 2023. A total of nine (9) non-sworn personnel separated from the Department in 2023, compared to twelve (12) in 2022. The number of non-sworn separations from employment has slowly decreased over the last four years. Telecommunications had the highest number of separations, which is most likely due to the high stress nature of the position.



Non-sworn individuals often do not have a realistic view of law enforcement work until they have had a chance to experience it firsthand. The Rock Hill Police Department has also added an additional five (5) non-sworn positions over the last four (4) years. A total of 20% of all non-sworn personnel resigned in 2023 compared to 24% in 2022.



The Rock Hill Police Department experienced an increase in sworn officer vacancies and a slight reduction in non-sworn vacancies during the 2023 calendar year. As is the case with most law enforcement agencies across the US, the RHPD continues to be short staffed. Both sworn and non-sworn positions had a more than a 10% turnover rate. Add this to a several year decline in sworn and non-sworn employment applications and it was a challenging year for recruitment and retention.

At the end of 2023, there were several promising applicants for sworn officers. It is also anticipated that the number of non-sworn personnel hired in the upcoming year will increase. It is the Departments goal to have all open non-sworn positions filled by the end of 2024.

**Rock Hill Police Department
Use of Force Analysis and Administrative Review
2023**

Introduction

The Rock Hill Police Department only uses the amount of force reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the officers and others. Officers do not unnecessarily endanger themselves or others by their use of force. Excessive force is not tolerated. Deadly force is only used when an officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life and necessary to protect the officer or others from imminent danger of death or serious physical injury.

Definitions

Force: Physical contact or action taken that is considered a defensive/offensive tactic beyond mere restraint. Using handcuffs does not constitute Use of Force.

Excessive Force: Any force greater than a reasonable person in the same circumstances would find to be appropriate.

Lethal Force: Any force which a reasonable person in the same circumstances would consider likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

Less Lethal Force: Any force other than that which is considered lethal force and involves physical effort to overcome resistance of another.

Lethal Weapon: Any weapon which a reasonable person would consider likely to cause death or serious physical injury when used as it would normally be intended to be used.

Less Lethal Weapon: Any weapon other than one which a reasonable person would consider likely to cause death or serious physical injury when used as it would normally be intended to be used.

Objectively Reasonable: The determination that the necessity for using force and the level of force used is based upon the officer's evaluation of the situation in light of the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time the force is used and what a reasonable officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.

Serious Physical Injury: An injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious, permanent disfigurement; or results in long-term loss or impairment.

De-Escalation: Taking action or communicating (verbally and/or non-verbally) during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation, reduce the immediacy of the threat, and resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary. De-escalation may include the use of command presence, advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and tactical positioning.

Exigent Circumstances: Those circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a particular action is necessary to prevent physical harm to an individual, the destruction

of relevant evidence, the escape of a subject, or some other consequence improperly restricting legitimate law enforcement efforts.

Neck Restraints: Physical maneuvers that restrict an individual's intake of oxygen for the purposes of incapacitation.

Soft-Empty Hand Control: Techniques that do not involve physical strikes of any kind and are designed to respond primarily to passive and active resistance from subjects. Such control techniques include guiding a subject's movements through escort holds, transport holds, joint locks, and pressure points. Soft empty hand control also applies to physically guiding subjects that are not resisting arrest to the ground without injury.

Hard-Empty Hand Control: Techniques that include forcibly directing to the ground (take downs), and strikes with the hand, fist, forearm, elbow, head, shoulder, leg, knee or foot. Hard empty-hand control techniques are designed to effectively respond to subjects who are engaging in aggressive resistance to an officer's attempts to lawfully control or secure them.

Process and Procedure

Less Lethal force will be used after it is determined what method will best de-escalate the incident and bring it under control safely. Officers are authorized to use Department approved Less Lethal force techniques for resolution of incidents to protect themselves or others from physical harm, restrain or subdue a person resisting arrest, or bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

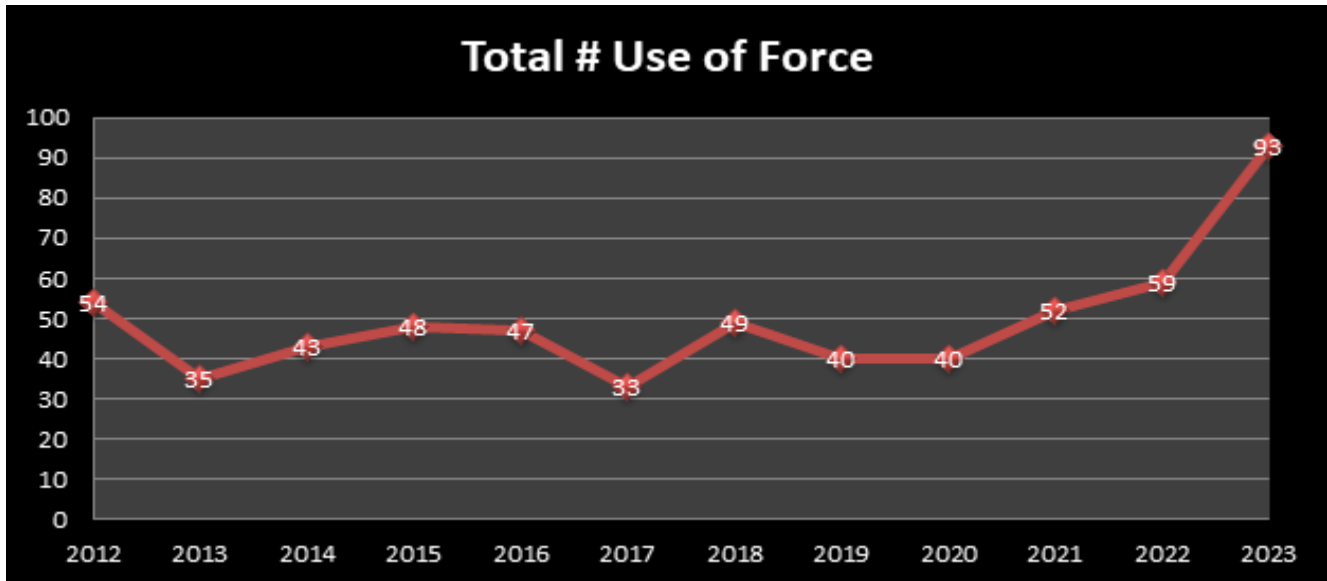
Lethal force is authorized when an officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life to protect the officer or another person from serious injury or death and to prevent the escape of a fleeing felon who poses a significant threat to human life. Officers are prohibited from discharging firearms at or from a moving vehicle except as an ultimate measure of self-defense or the defense of another when the suspect is using lethal force. Warning shots are prohibited.

In all incidents of use of force, medical treatment will be immediately provided in the form of first aid, EMS, or emergency room care. In the event a use of force results in serious injury or death, the involved employee(s) will be relieved from duty with pay pending a preliminary investigation of the incident. Internal Affairs is responsible for coordinating the investigation and will conduct an administrative investigation. In addition, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) will conduct an independent criminal investigation.

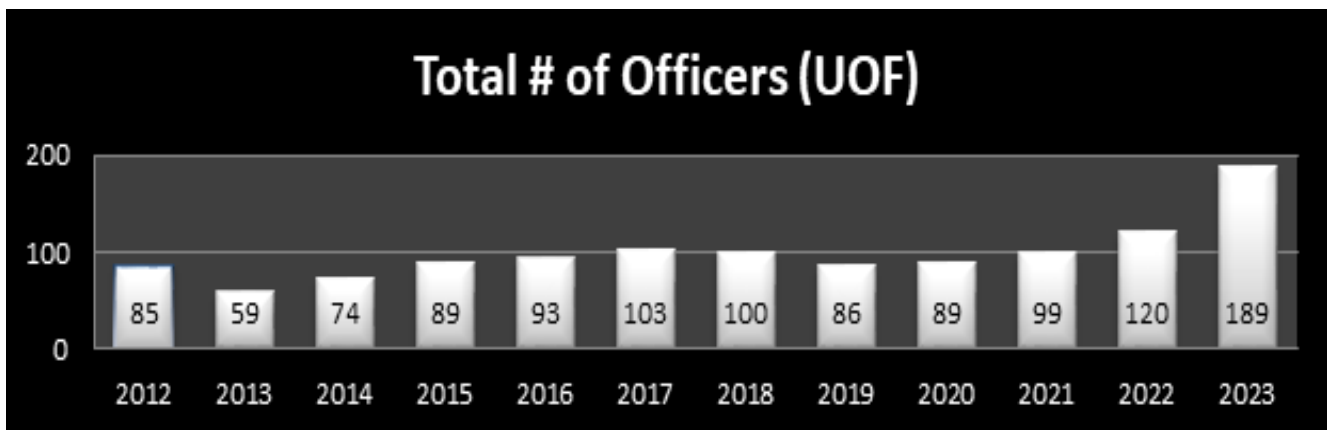
Every Use of Force incident is documented on a Department Blue Team Report, submitted through the chain of command, and required whether the officer is on or off duty. All Blue Team Use of Force entries are reviewed for compliance with federal laws, state laws, and Department issued General Orders. An administrative review is conducted by Internal Affairs on all Use of Force incidents. All reports and associated evidence are reviewed and submitted to the Chief of Police as to the justification of the use of force. Blue Team reports are separate from incident reports and are not public information.

Analysis

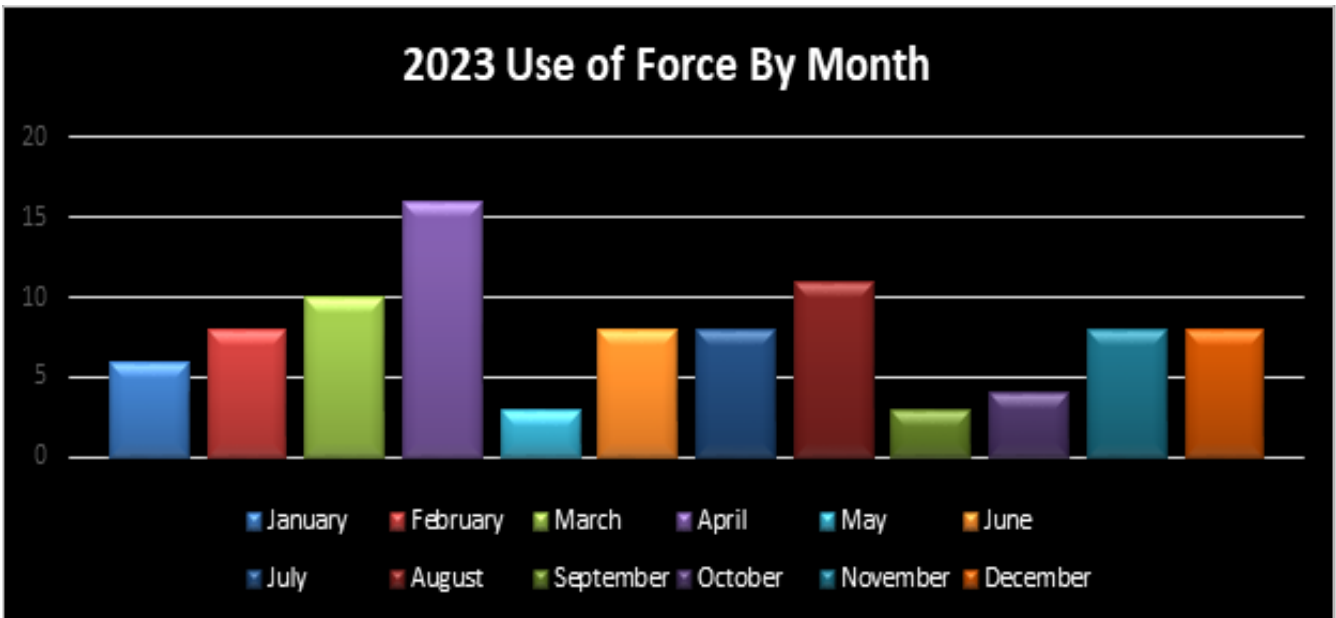
The Rock Hill Police Department responded to 76,343 total calls for service between January 1 and December 31, 2023. A total of 2,925 individuals were arrested during this period. Out of the total number of calls for service, one hundred forty-two (142) Rock Hill Police Department officers reported ninety-five (95) uses of force incidents. Of these, only 0.12% of all total incidents involved in a use of force. This number is extremely low for a department of our size.



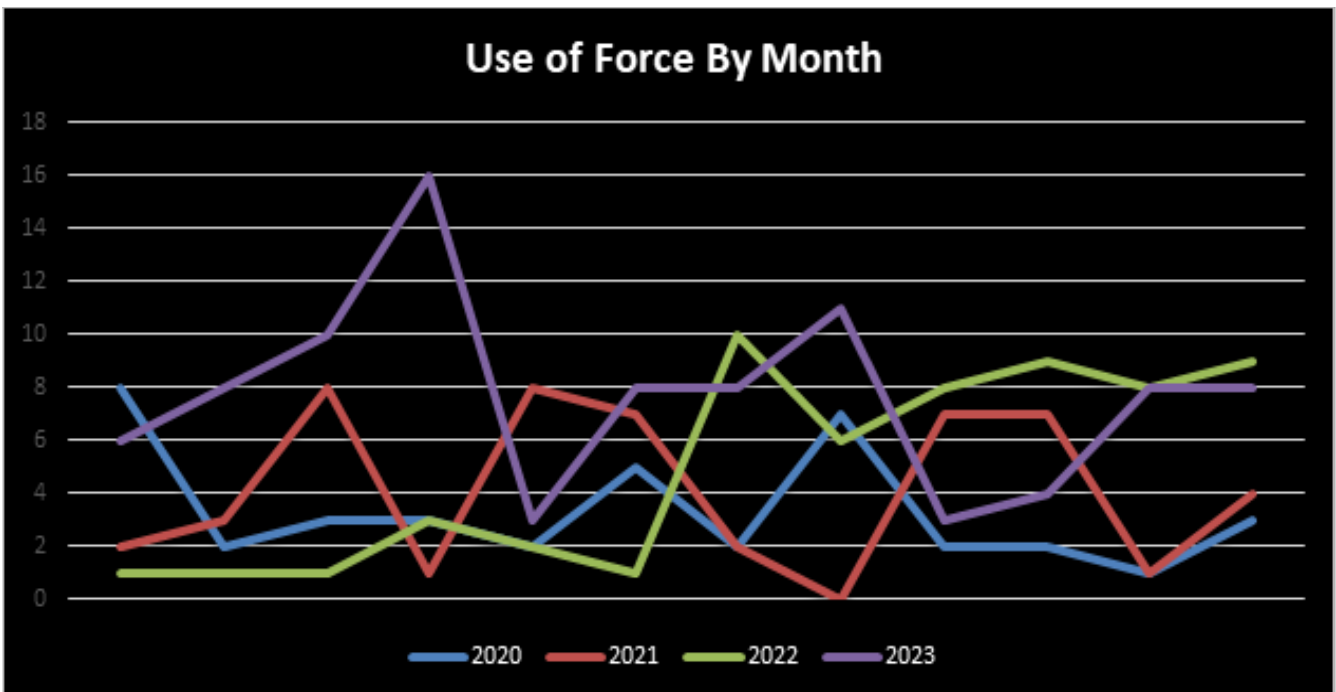
The total number of use of force incidents increased 61% in 2023. The Department has averaged 61 use of force incidents over the last four years. The total number of uses of force has significantly increased over the last four (4) years.



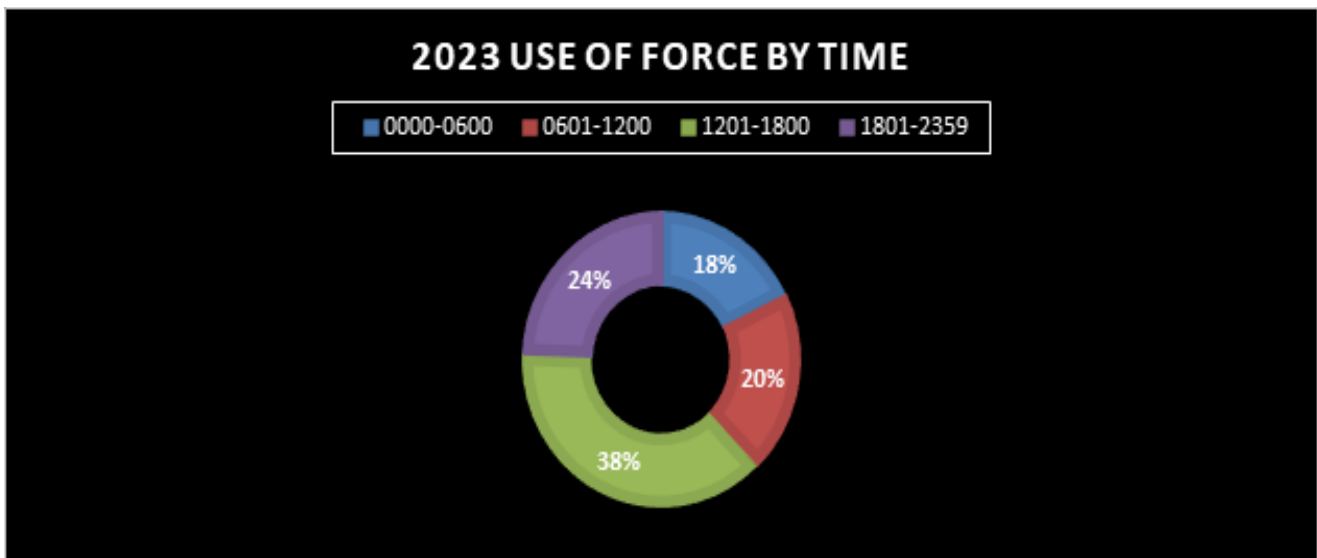
A total of one hundred eighty-nine (189) officers were involved in Use of Force incidents in 2023, compared to one hundred twenty (120) in 2022 which is a 58% increase. The total number of officers involved in Use of Force incidents has increased in the last four (4) years. It should be noted that several incidents involved multiple types of force used and more than one officer involved in an individual reported use of force. The increase in 2023 is most likely due to the current negative social climate towards law enforcement. Many individuals in the community harbor a strong distrust and fear of law enforcement which leads to increased resistance during interactions.



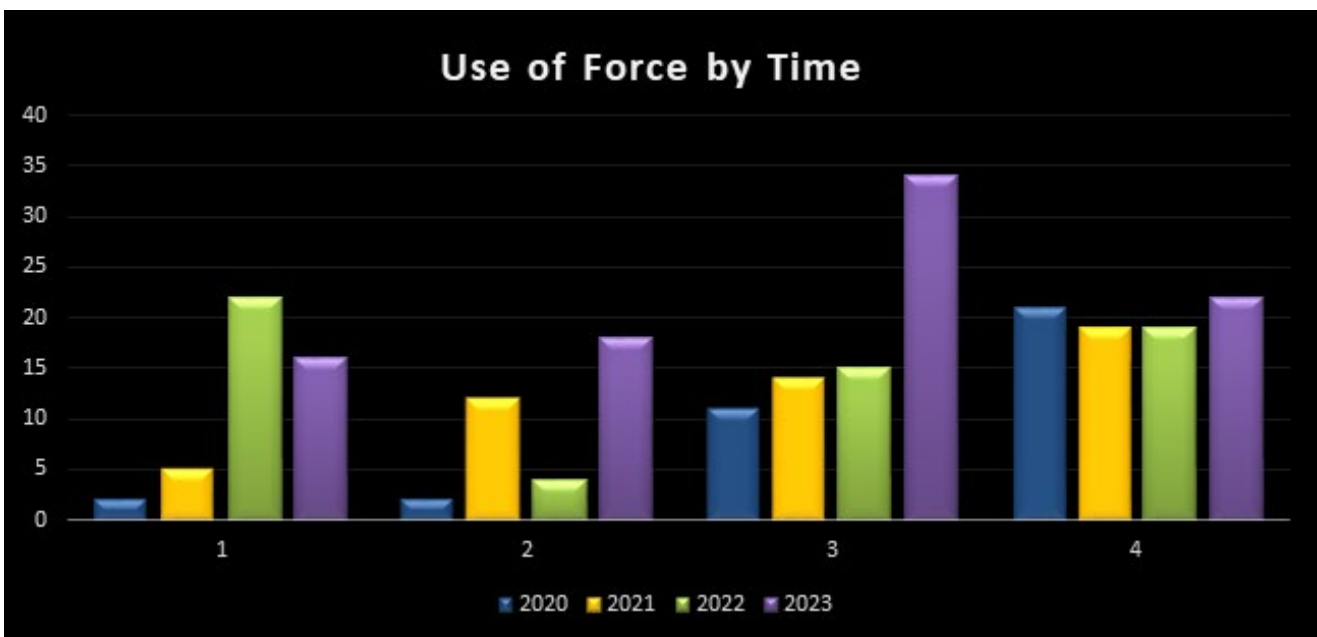
The Rock Hill Police Department experienced use of force incidents during each month of 2023. An average of eight (8) use of force incidents were reported by officers each month throughout the year. April had the most incidents for the month. A total of sixteen (16) UOF incidents occurred in April, followed by eleven (11) in August. May and September had the lowest number of Use of Force incidents with three (3) incidents each.



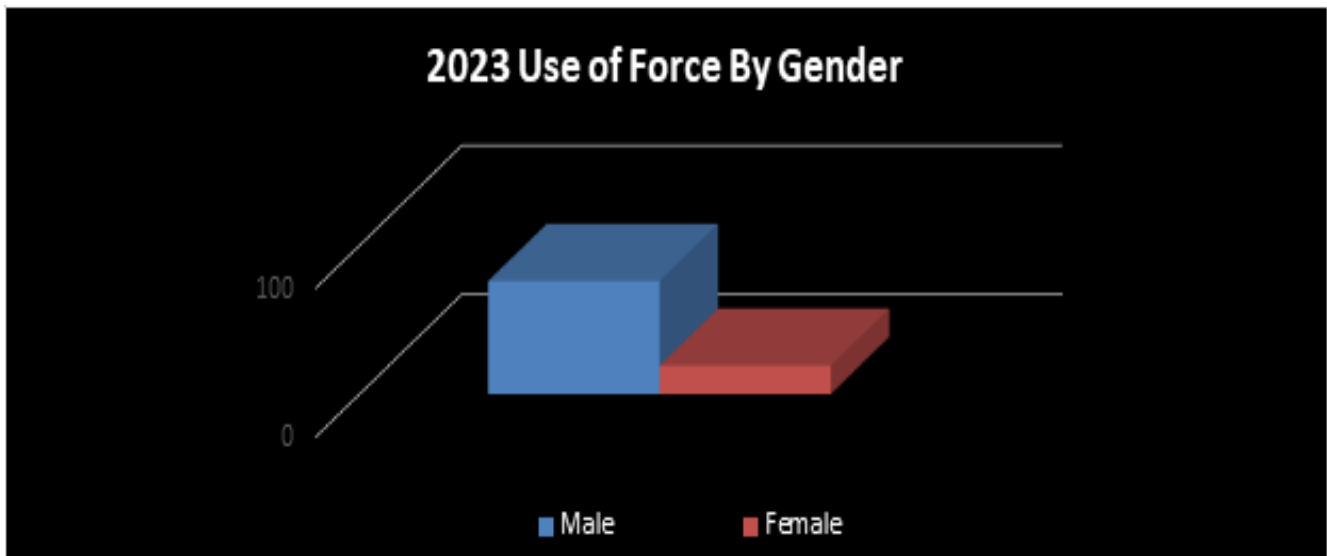
There were peaks of use of force incidents during the spring, late summer, and end of the year. Over the last 4 years, use of force incidents typically spikes during the Spring and Summer months, which is when officers tend to have more individual contacts due to better weather. In addition, trends also indicate an increase at the end of the month, which correlates with the holiday season when calls for service and incidents also increase.



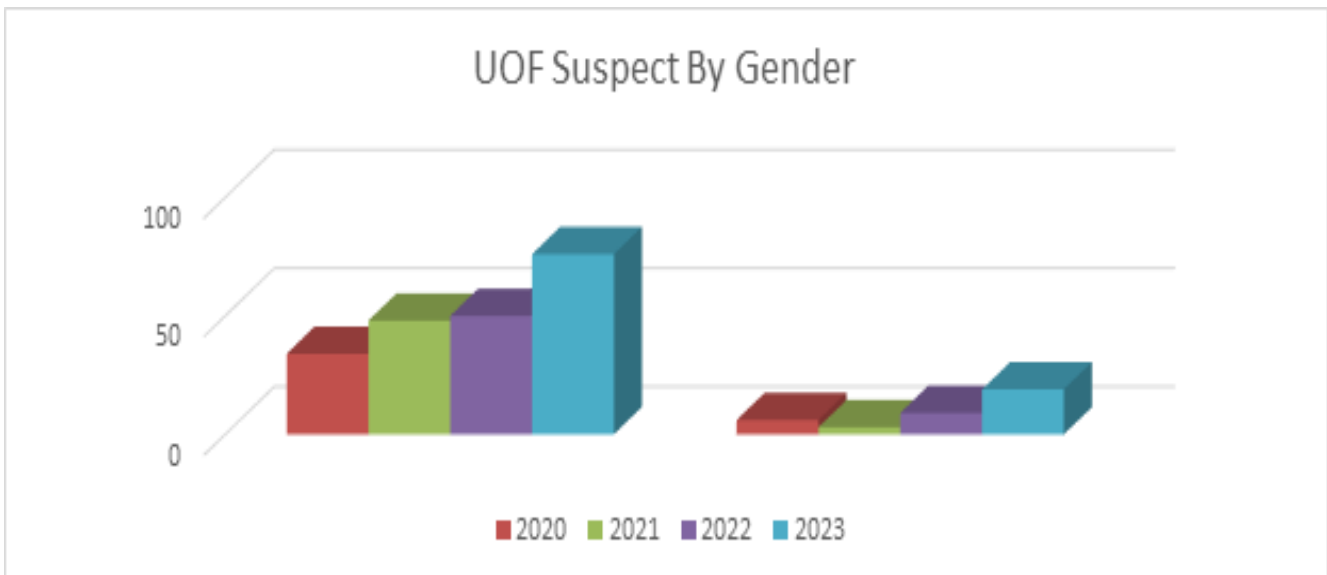
The period between 1201-1800 (12 pm – 6 pm) experienced the most use of force incidents in 2023, followed by 1801-2359 (6 pm to midnight). A total of thirty-four (34) use of force incidents occurred between noon and 6 pm, which was 38% of all incidents reported in 2023. This trend correlates to the number of calls for service that the Department receives on the average day. The hours of 0000-0600 have the least number of use of force reports. Most likely this is due to most individuals sleeping during this time.



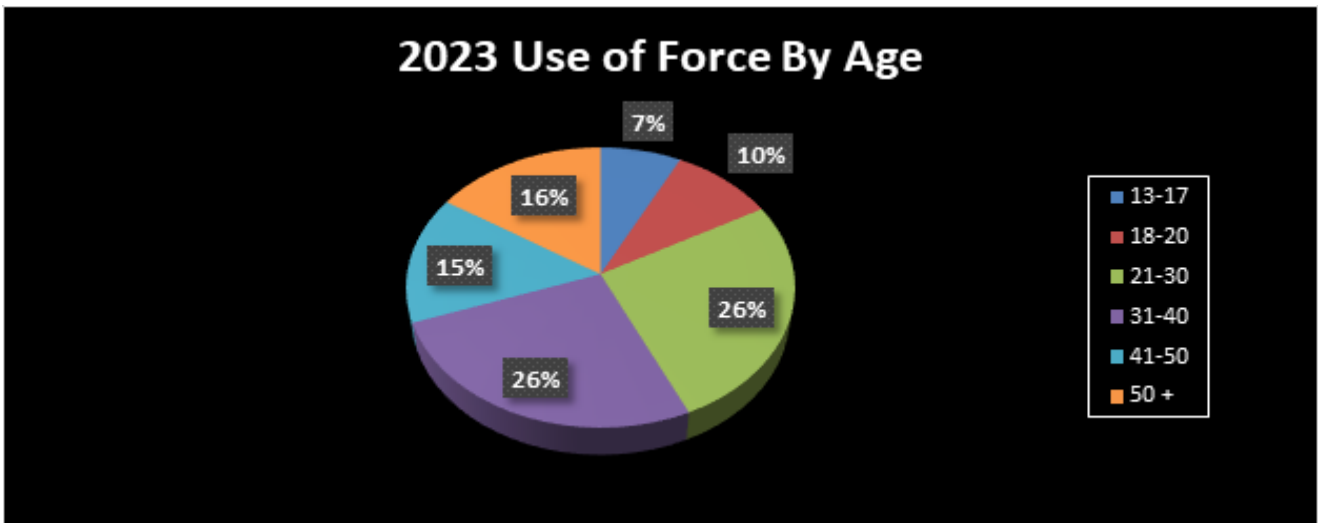
The hours of 1201 – 1800 experienced the biggest change in Use of Force incidents. There were only eleven (11) use of force incidents in 2020 compared to thirty-four (34) in 2023 during this time frame. Trends indicate that the time between noon and 6'o clock pm are more likely to experience use of force incidents. In addition, use of force incidents appear to increase the later in the day it gets. The highest number of the jurisdiction population is out in the community during this time frame, which also contributes to the increase in use of force incidents.



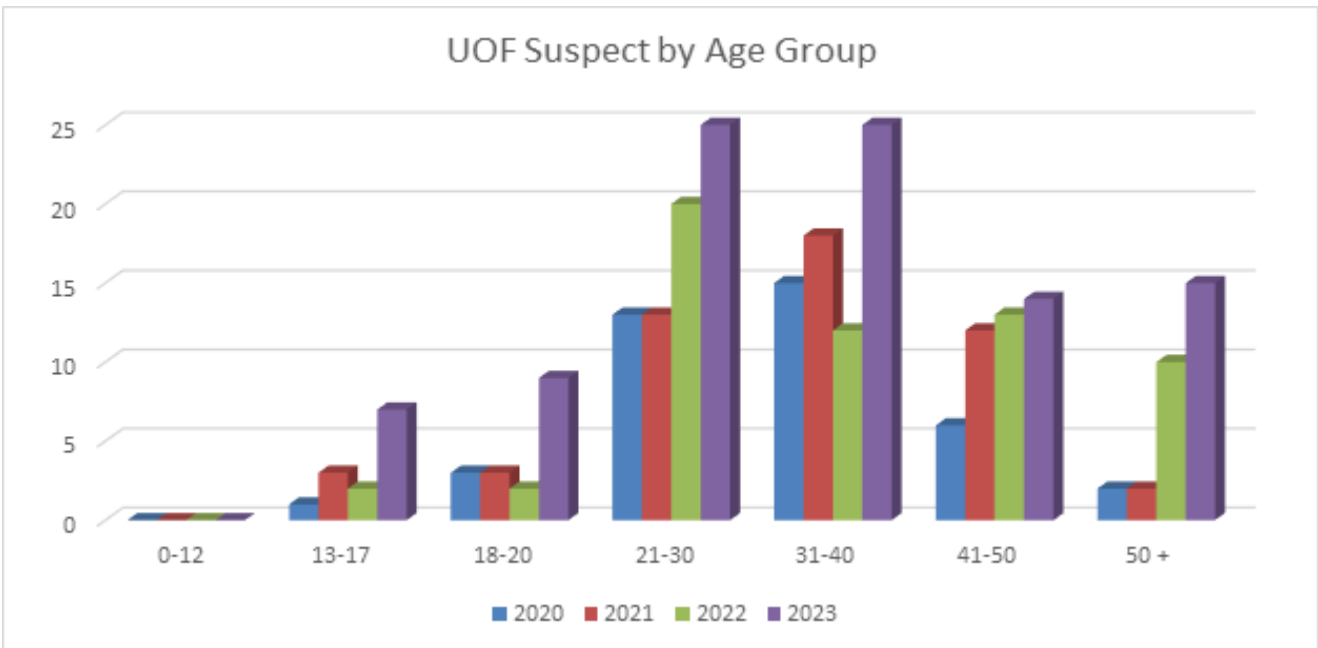
Most use of force incidents involve males. A total of seventy-six (76) males (80%) were involved in use of force incidents during the 2023 calendar year. In comparison, there were only nineteen (19) (20%) females involved in use of force incidents during the same time frame. The number of male and female use of force results are similar to the demographics for arrests during the period of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.



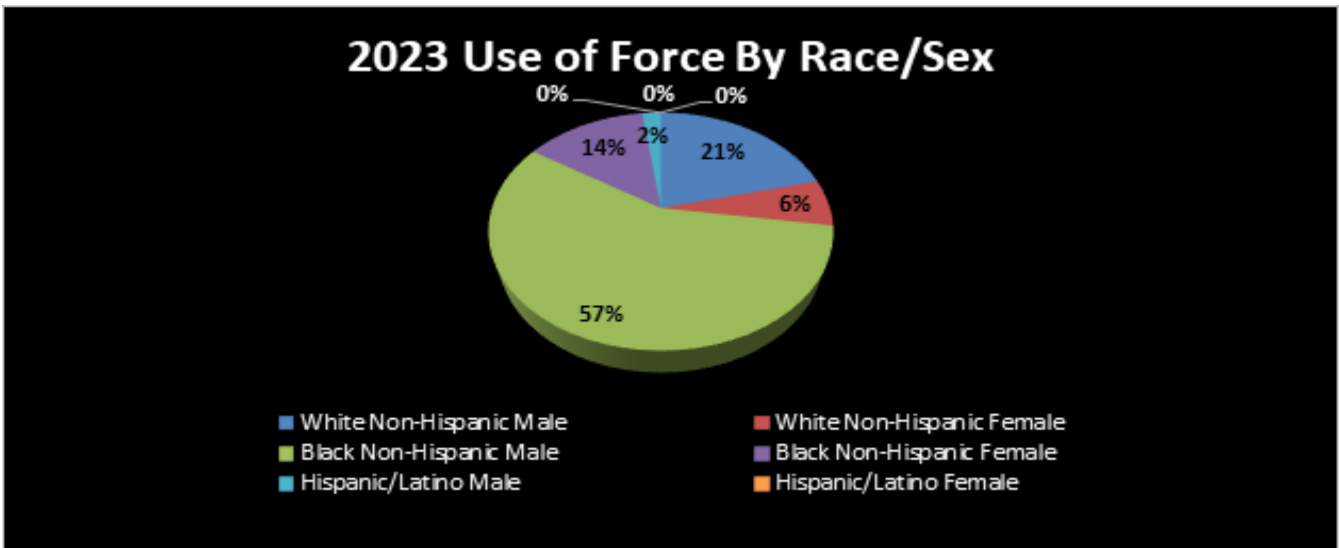
The total of males and females involved in use of force incidents increased in 2023 compared to 2022. The total number of males in use of force incidents increased by 52% while the total number of females doubled. Historically, males are more physical when interacting with law enforcement than females. However, females have become increasingly more resistant to arrest. Data prior to 2019 was not collected so a long-term trend cannot be determined at this time.



Adult men and women were the highest age group involved in use of force incidents in 2023. A total of twenty-five (25) individuals aged 21-30 and twenty-five (25) aged 31-40 were involved in uses of force during the 2023 calendar year. Men and women aged 31-40 experienced a 100% increase in this age group compared to 2022. This increase may be due to cultural and generational feelings towards law enforcement and a resistance to incarceration based on past criminal history.

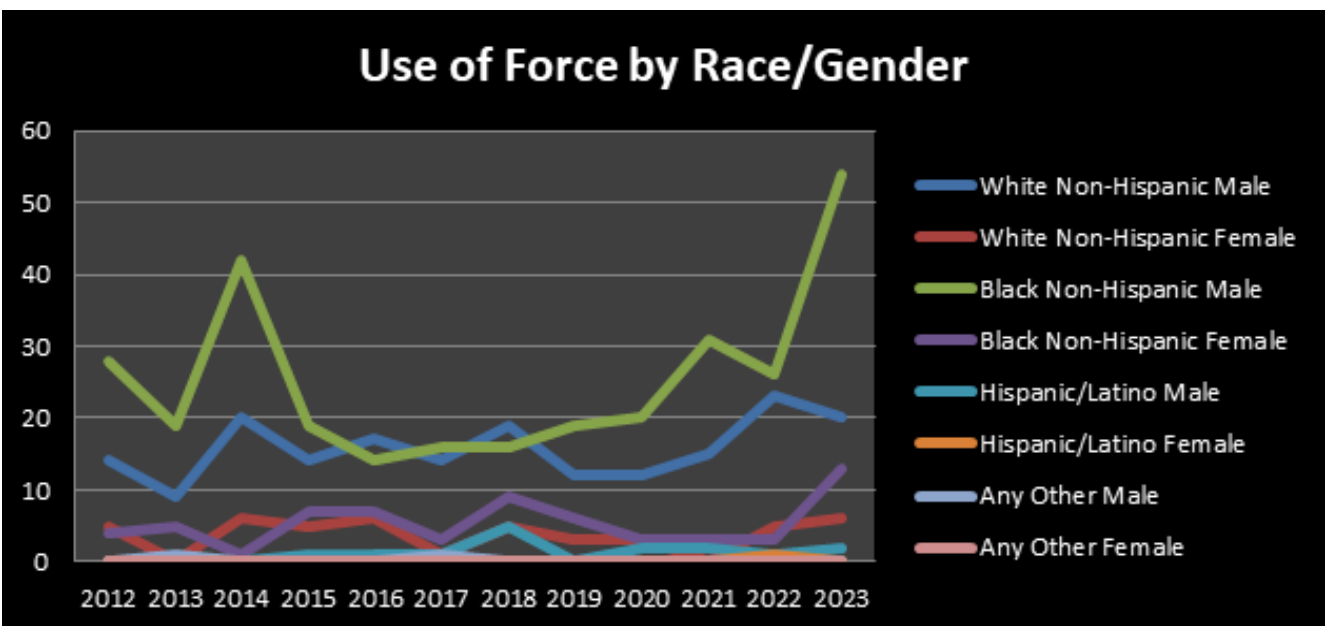


Men and women in every age group, except juveniles under 13 years of age, experienced increases in use of force incidents. It is clear that use of force incidents is increasing throughout all age groups in the jurisdiction. It is difficult to determine the exact cause of the increase due to many factors. Additional data and study in the future is necessary to determine the cause of the continued increase in use of force incidents.



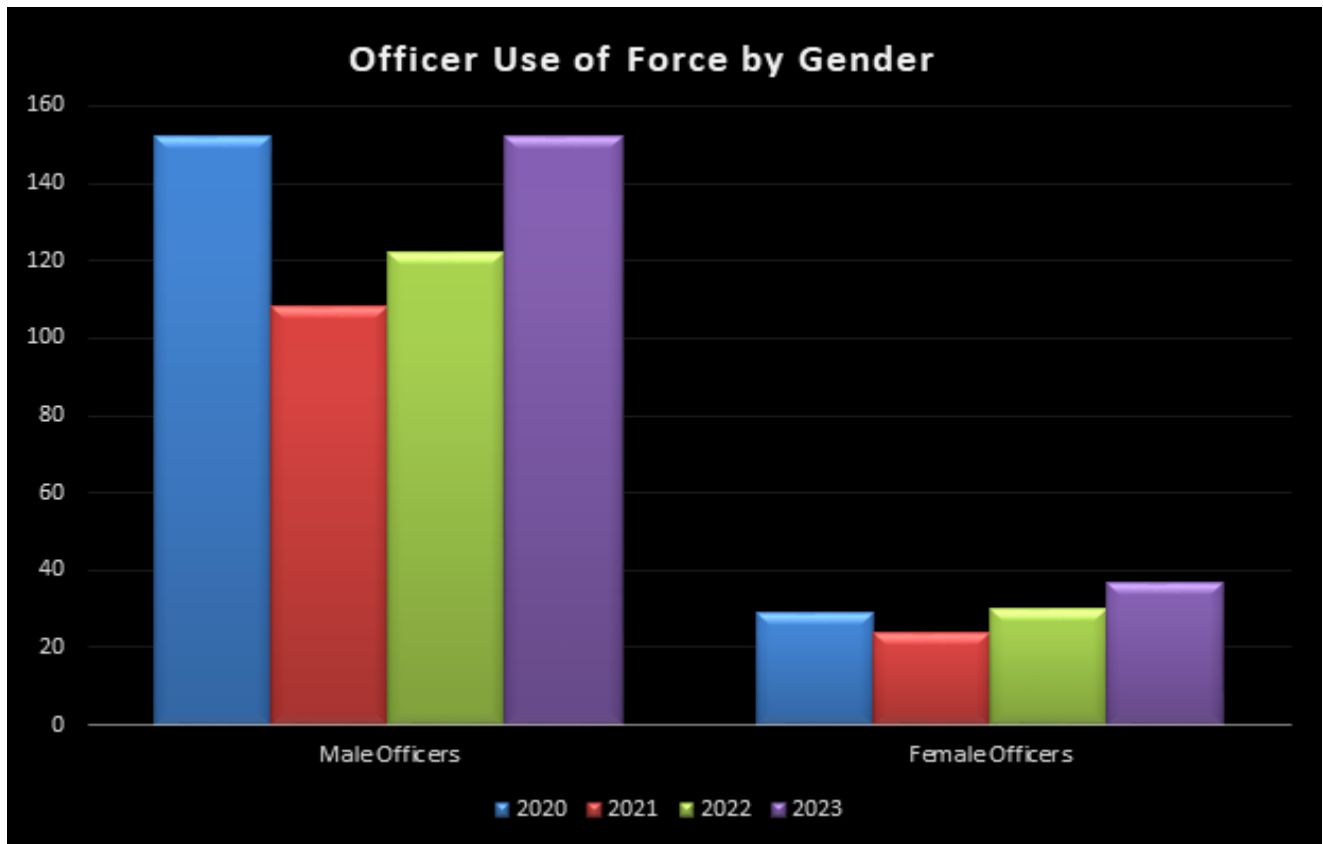
As stated earlier, a total of ninety-five (95) individuals were involved in use of force incidents with Rock Hill Police Department officers in 2023. Black non-Hispanic males made up the highest percentage of individuals involved in use of force incidents during the 2023 calendar year. Fifty-four (54) black males (57% total) were involved in use of force incidents in 2023 compared to twenty-six (26) in 2022. White males experienced a slight decrease in the number of use of force incidents during the 2023 calendar year. Twenty (20) white males (21% total) were involved in incidents where force was used in 2023 compared to twenty-three (23) in 2022 resulting in a 13% decrease.

Black females also experienced a significant increase in use of force incidents during the 2023 calendar year. A total of thirteen (13) black females (14%) were involved in use of force compared to only three (3) in 2022. In comparison, six (6) white females were also involved in use of force incidents in 2023, which is a slight increase. Additionally, two (2) Hispanic/Latino males were involved in use of force incidents in 2023.

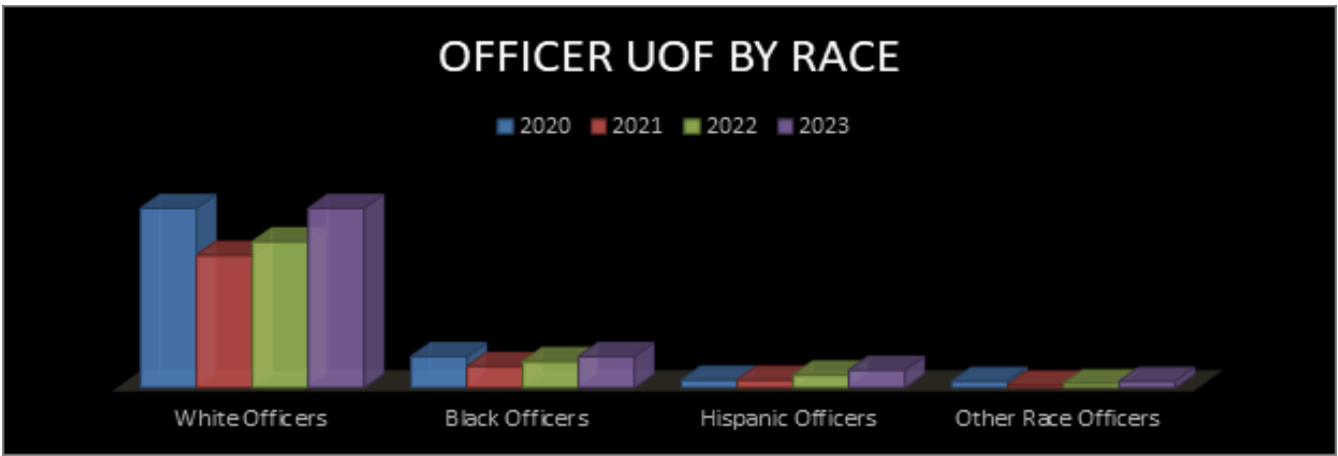


Use of force incidents involving black males varied over the last four (4) years after several years of stabilization. Black males involved in use of force incidents with Rock Hill Police Department officers has increased by 29% when compared to 2014 (42 total). Black males also have the highest arrest rate (43% overall arrests in 2023) within Rock Hill Police Departments jurisdiction. Use of force incidents have remained reasonably consistent over the last decade. Black female use of force incidents increased significantly in 2023, however, there is no indication that this is a trend at this time.

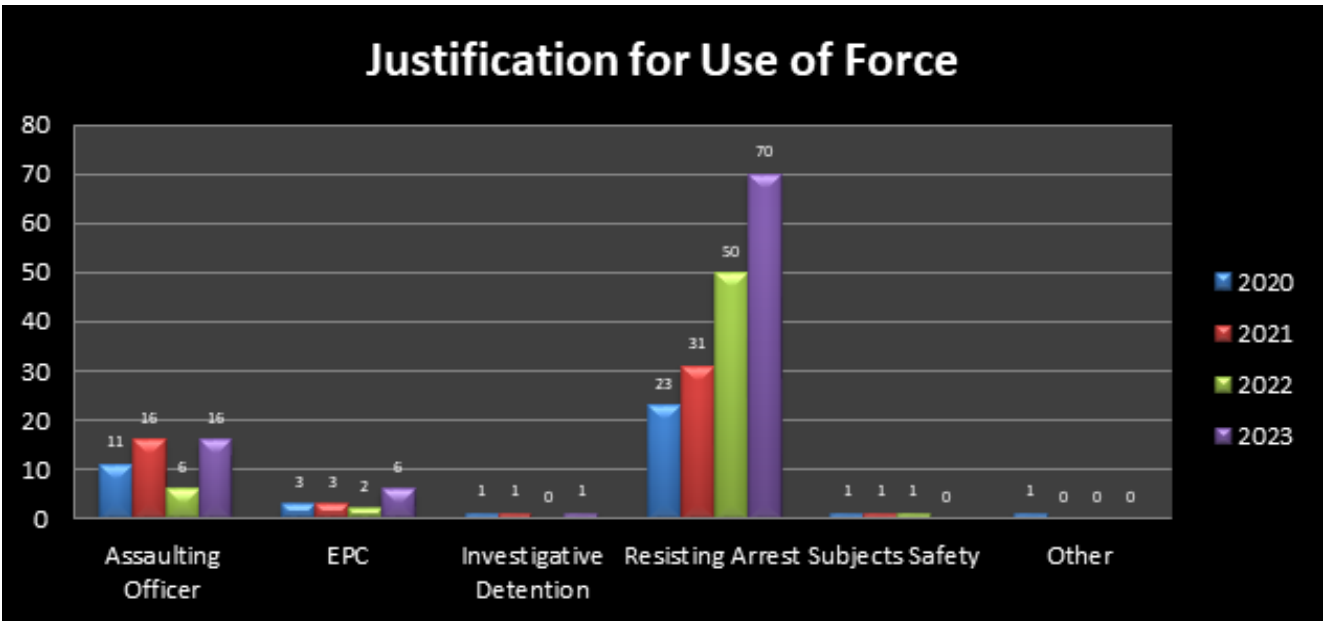
Mistrust of law enforcement has greatly influenced the tendency for individuals to resist arrest which increases the likelihood of use of force incidents. The Department and the citizens of Rock Hill must work together to build public trust to reduce the number of use of force incidents in the community.



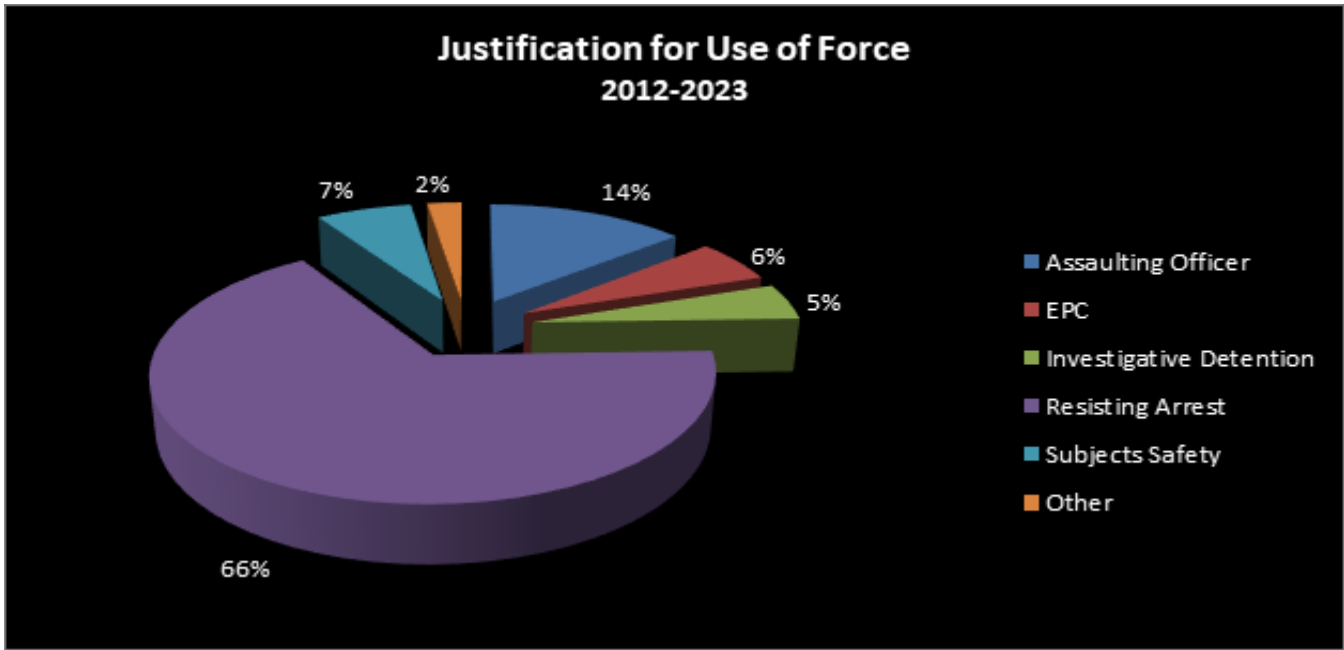
Based on data collected for 2023, white non-Hispanic male officers have the most use of force incidents. A total of one hundred forty-five (145) white male officers were involved in ninety-five (95) use of force incidents (66%), during the 2023 calendar year. Black non-Hispanic male officers were involved in twenty-two (22) use of force incidents, which equated to 12% overall.



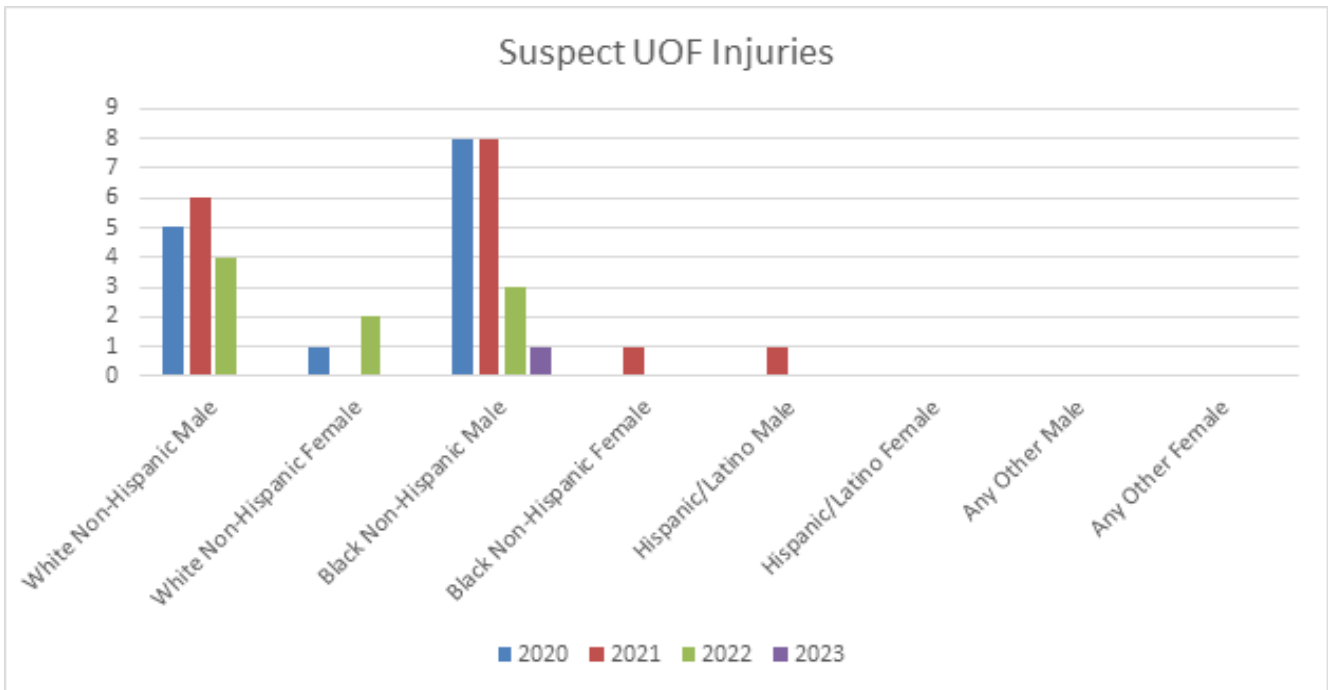
White non-Hispanic females were involved in 14% (26 total) use of forces compared to three (3) black non-Hispanic female officers (2% overall). Six (6) Hispanic/Latino male officers and five (5) males of other races (Asian, etc.) were involved in use of force incidents which was 6% of all use of forces. No Hispanic/Latino or other Race female officers were involved in use of force incidents during the 2023 calendar year. The distribution of officers by race compared to the number of use of force incidents correlates to the RHPD sworn personnel demographics for the 2023 calendar year. White non-Hispanic male and female officers used force during arrests more often compared to black non-Hispanic male and female officers. The total number of use of force incidents by white non-Hispanic males and females is comparable to the number of employed white non-Hispanic officers, which would correlate to the higher number of incidents based on race.



Resisting Arrest remains the most common justification for use of force by the Rock Hill Police Department. In 2023, 74% of all use of force incidents were a result of Resisting Arrest. The same holds true for the last ten (10) years – 66% of all use of force incidents reported in 2013 through 2023 were due to Resisting Arrest. Resisting Arrest use of force incidents increased from twenty-three (23) in 2020 to seventy (70) in 2023 which is a significant increase over a short time. The negative perception of law enforcement is most likely the reason for the increases over the last several years.

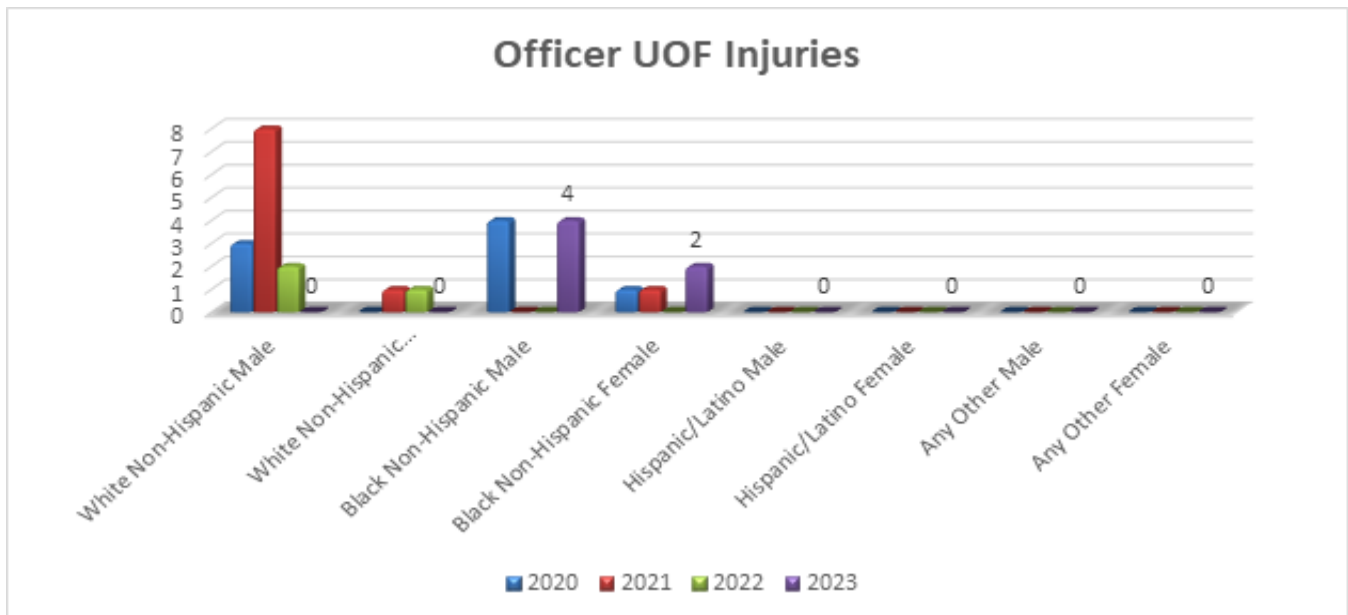


Beginning in 2020, the Rock Hill Police Department began collecting information on use of force injuries and officer assaults. The RHPD has been fortunate that there have been relatively few injuries during use of force incidents.

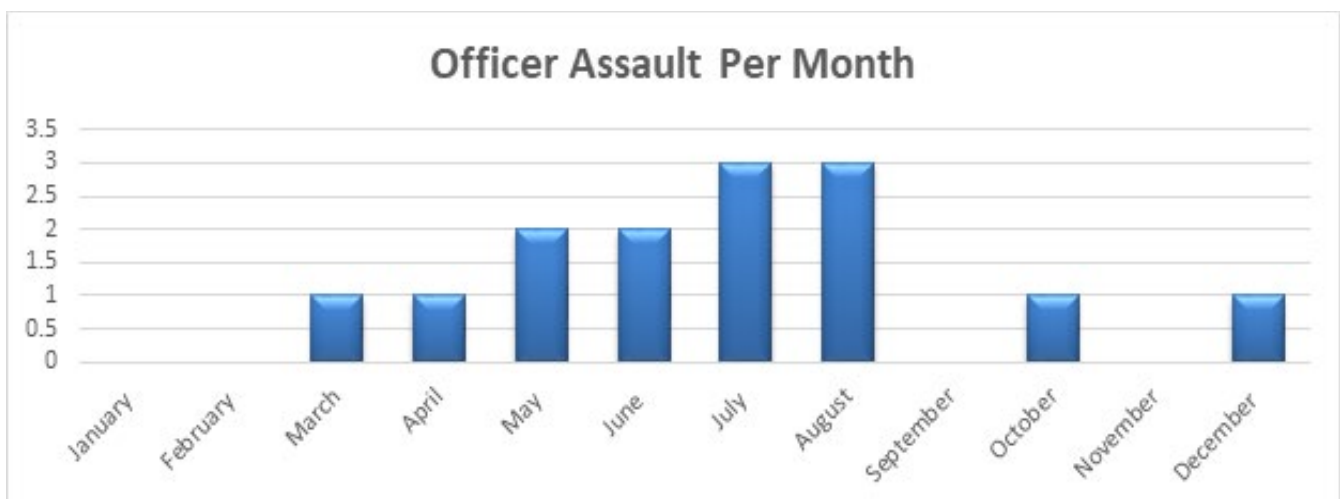


Injuries sustained during use of force incidents decreased for all genders and races in 2023, which illustrates improvement in de-escalation techniques. A total of 1% of all use of force incidents sustained injuries. One (1) black non-Hispanic male sustained a use of force related injury in 2023. However, injuries by black males decreased by 89% in 2023 compared to 2022. Injuries to females of all races is very low historically. There were no serious injuries to any female suspects during the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. There was

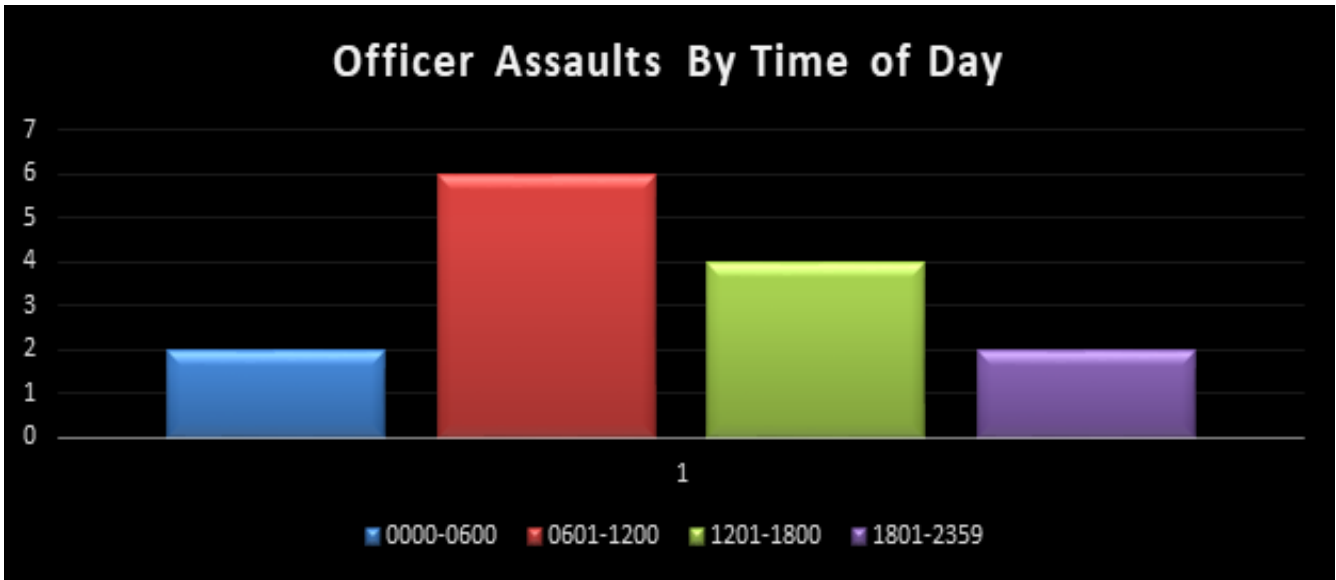
no use of force related fatalities to suspects in 2023. All injuries were treated by medical personnel in a timely manner.



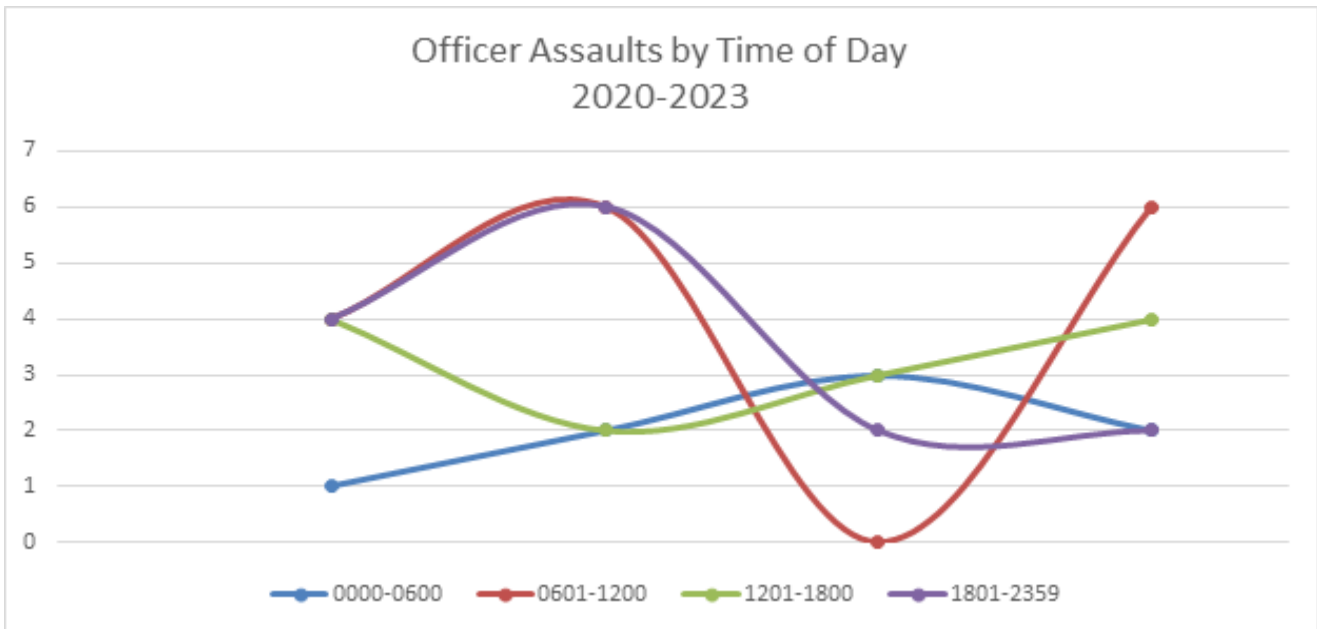
A total of six (6) officers were injured in use of force incidents during the 2023 calendar year, compared to three (3) in 2022. Four black male officers and two (2) black female officers sustained injuries in 2023. No officers have been seriously injured or killed over the last four (4) years. The low number of officer injuries clearly illustrates an understanding of de-escalation and defensive tactics that keep both the officers and the suspects safe from serious injuries during high intensity situations. Any injuries sustained by officers were treated by medical personnel, as appropriate.



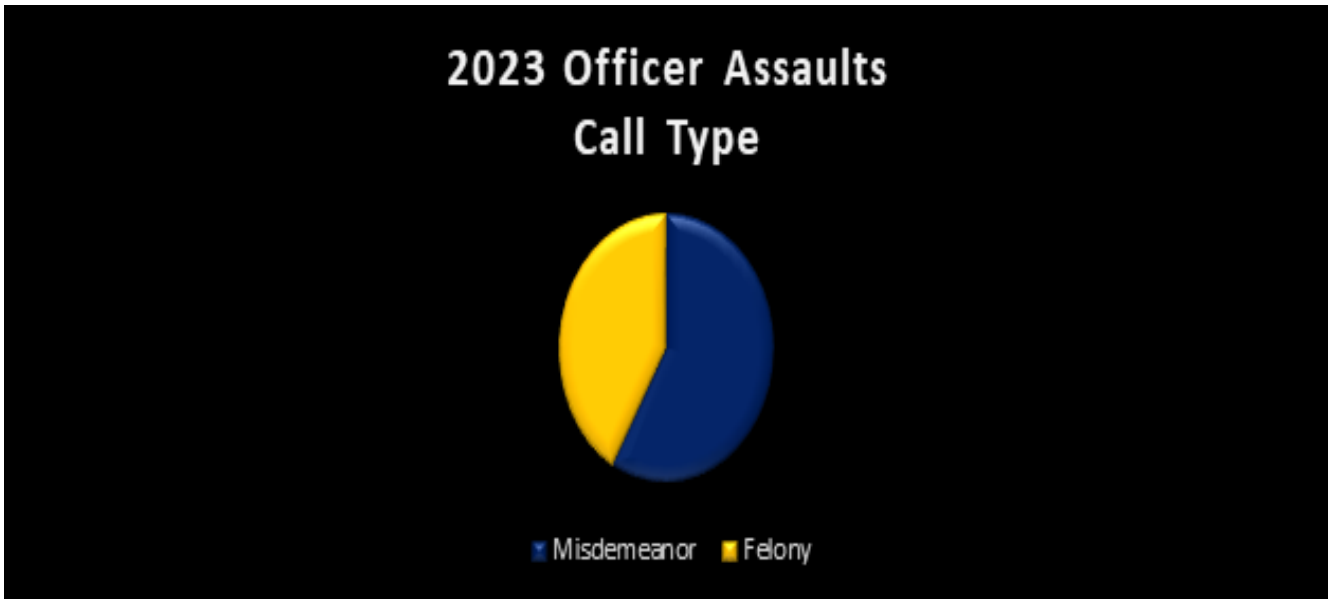
There was a total of fourteen (14) officer assaults between the period of January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, compared to eight (8) during the same period of 2022. Three (3) officers were assaulted during the months of July and August, which were the highest months of the year. Officers also experienced assaults during each month of the year except for January, February, September, and November. Out of one hundred forty-two (142) officers, 10% were assaulted during the 2023 calendar year.



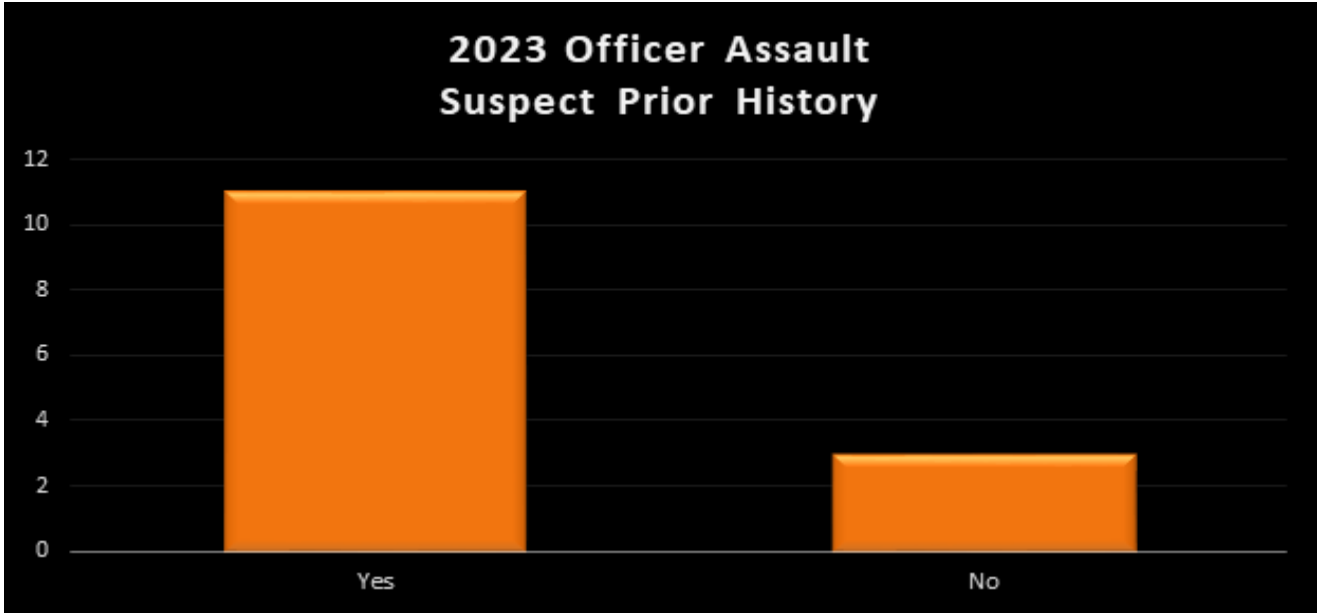
Officer assaults occurred during all hours of the 2023 calendar year. There were fewer assaults during the hours of 1801 – 2359 (6 pm to midnight) and 0000 - 0600 (midnight to 6 am). Two (2) officers assaults occurred during both these time periods. Officers working during the period of 0601-1200 (6 am to noon) experienced six (6) officer assaults during this period. In addition, four (4) officers were assaulted during the hours of noon to 6 pm. Based on current information, officers were assaulted more often during the morning hours and early afternoon hours in 2023.



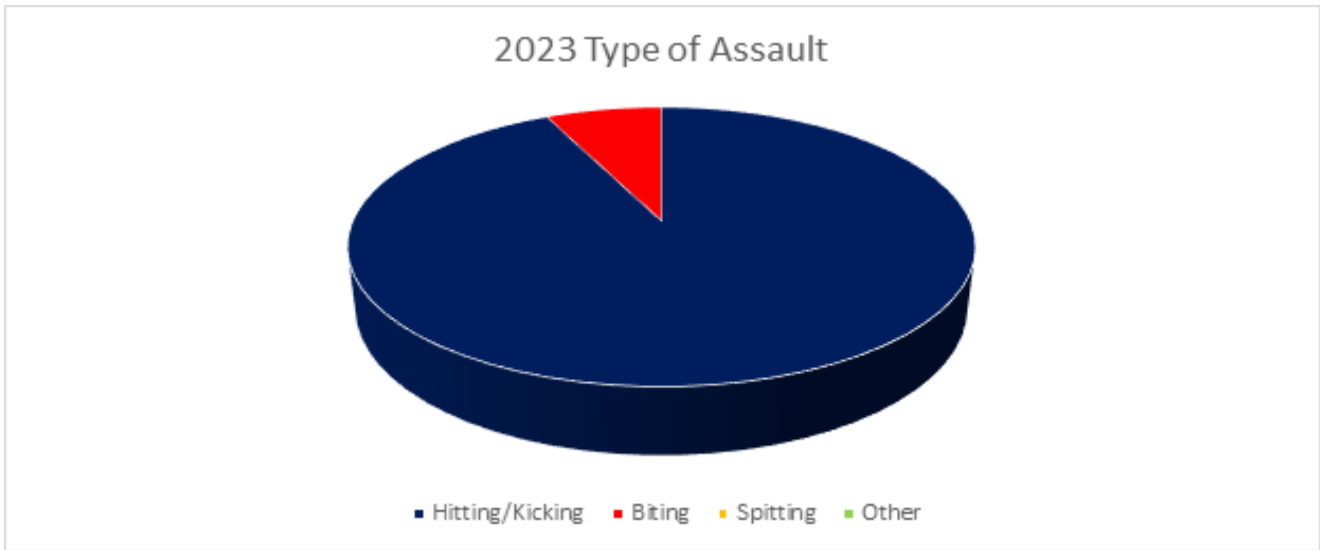
Data collected over the last four years indicates that officers are more likely to be assaulted between the hours of 6 am and noon. Officer assaults are least likely to occur in the early morning hours of midnight to 6 am. Citizens are the least active during the early morning hours, thus reducing physical interactions between officers and others.



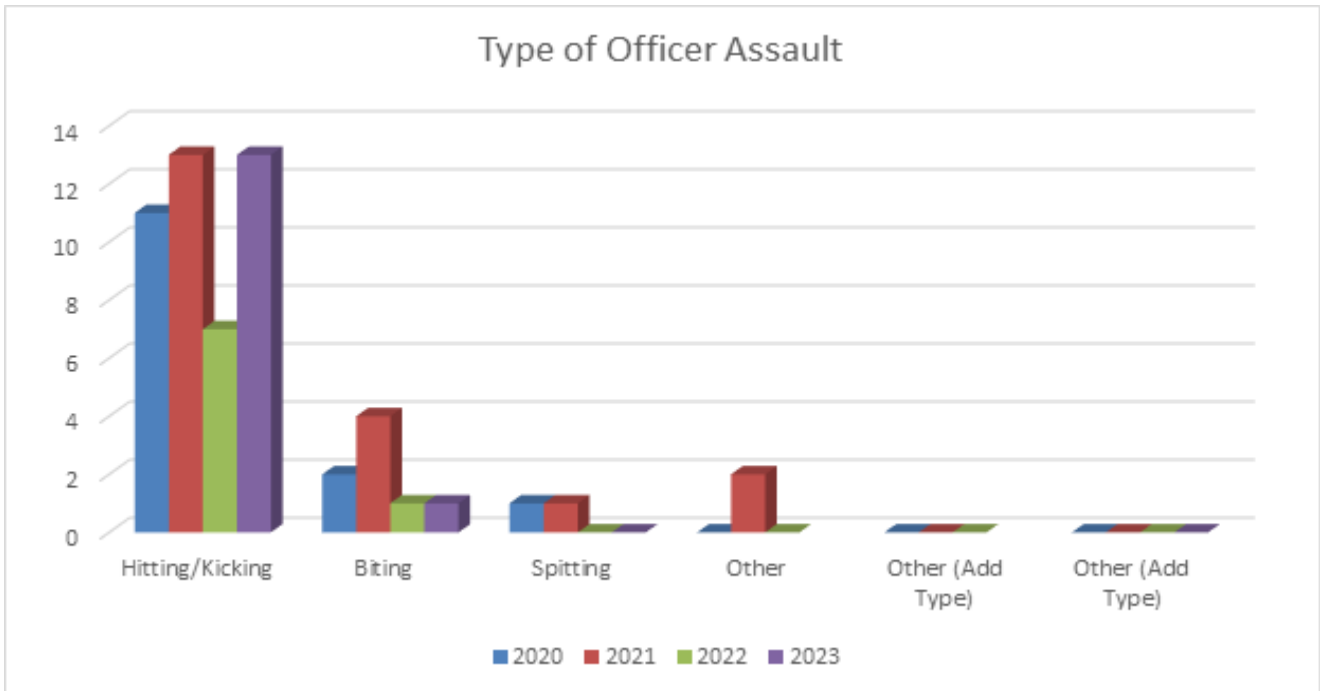
More officer assaults were in response to misdemeanor incidents than felonies. A total of seven (7) assaults to officers were for misdemeanor charges, compared to five (5) felony charges in the 2023 calendar year. A total of 78% of all individuals who committed an assault on an officer had prior criminal history. Individuals are assaulting officers more frequently, which supports resisting arrest data.



None of the assaults on officers involved a weapon. A total of 93%, or thirteen (13) officers were hit or kicked during officer assaults. There was also one (1) assault involving biting. Fortunately, none of the officer assaults escalated into a serious incident and no one was seriously hurt.

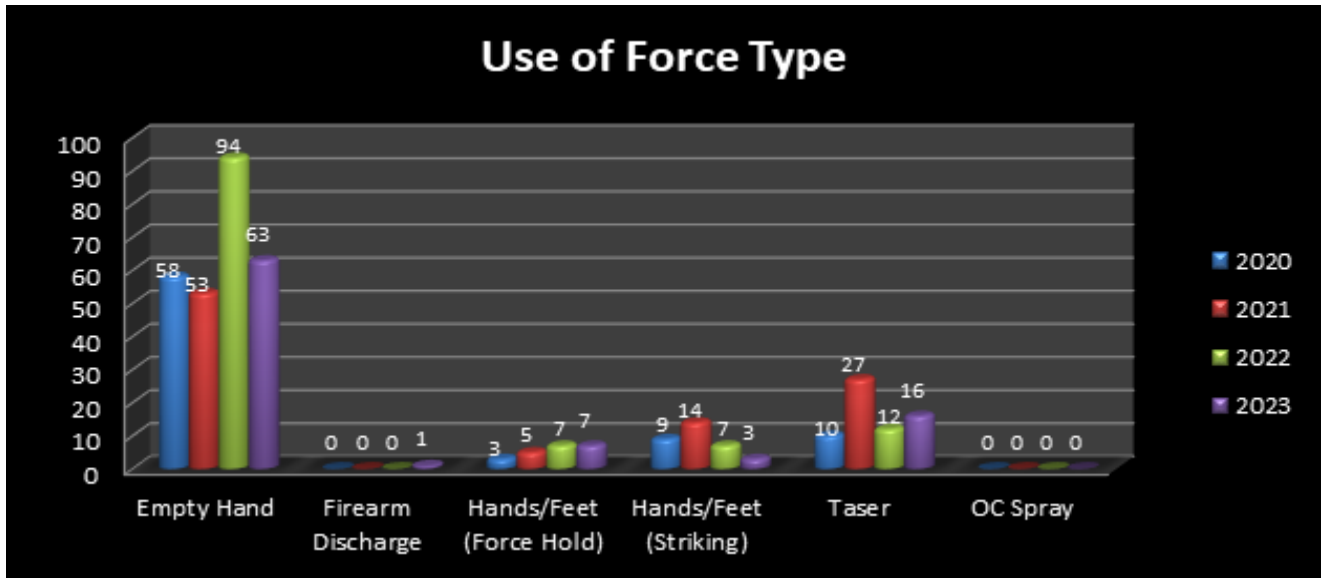


Officer involved assaults involving hitting/kicking from the suspect have been the vast majority over the last four years. A total of 79% of all officer assaults were due to attacks using the hands and feet during actively resisting persons. As stated previously in this report, individuals have become more inclined to become physical with law enforcement over the last several years. The low number of officer assaults in 2023 clearly illustrated that Rock Hill Police Department officers have used de-escalation techniques to aid in defusing most situations.

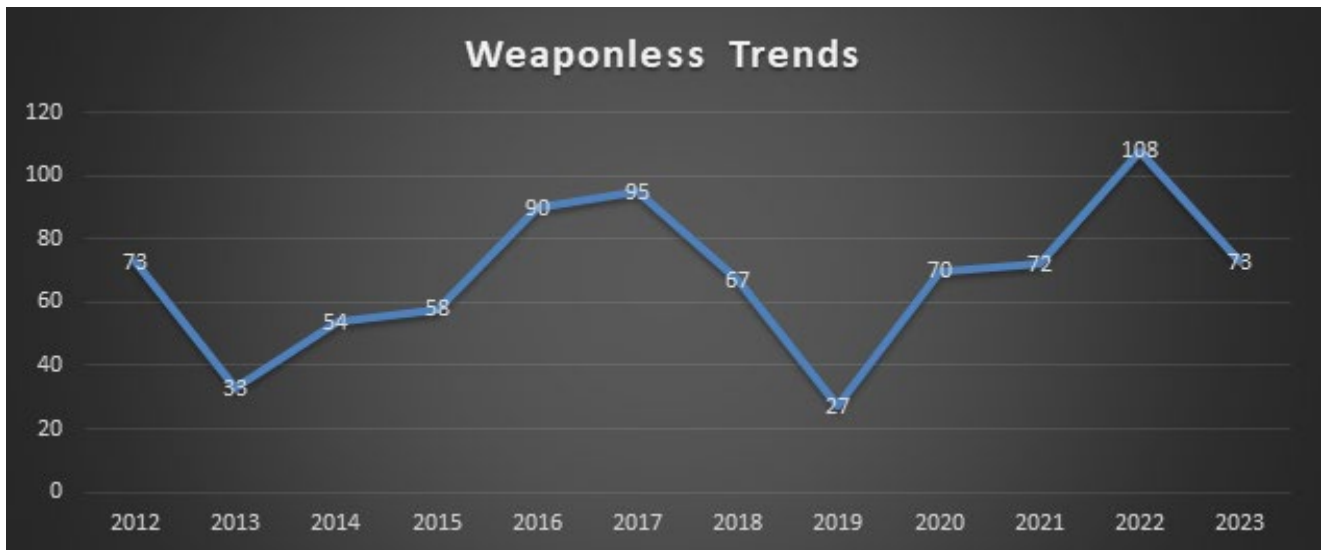


The most common use of force type used by Rock Hill Police Department officers in 2023 was Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques, followed by the use of Tasers. The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques constituted 78% of all use of force types utilized in 2023. Taser use of force equaled 17% percent of all reported uses of force during the same period. There was one (1) use of force incident involving the Discharge of a Firearm in 2023. No officers

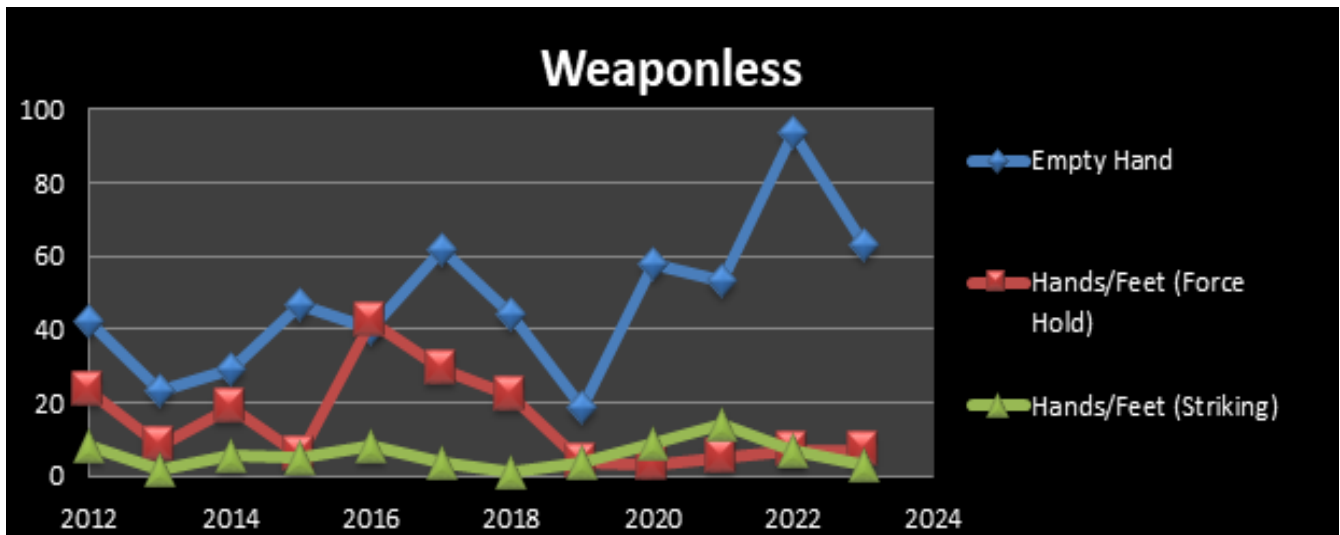
used OC Spray during the calendar year. Rock Hill Police Department officers are not issued Batons.



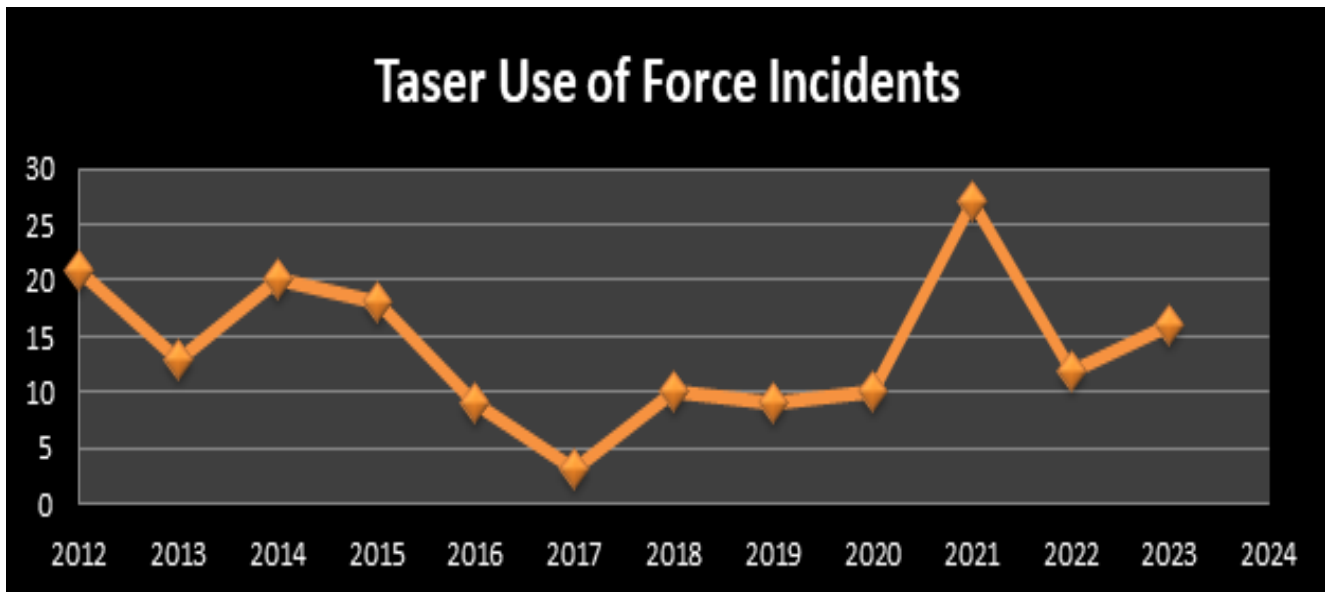
Weaponless use of force techniques utilized by the Rock Hill Police Department include Empty Hand, Hands/Feet (Force Hold) and Hands/Feet (Striking). The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques during use of force incidents decreased 32% in 2023 compared to 2022. The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand use of force has varied since 2012 but has varied over the last decade.



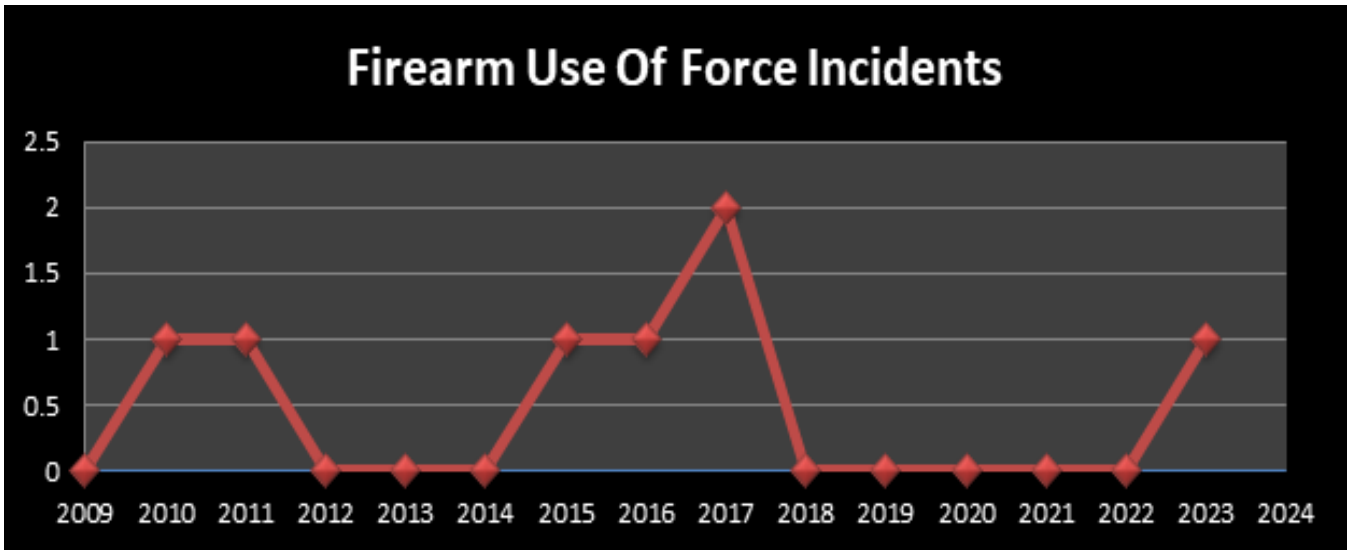
Empty Hand use of force continues to be the most used technique by Rock Hill Police Department officers. It was used sixty-three (63) times during the 2023 calendar year and has been used two hundred sixty-eight (268) times during the last four years (2020-2023). The use of Empty Hand techniques during use of force incidents decreased 33% (63 incidents in 2023 compared to 94 in 2022). The use of Hands/Feet (Force Hold) stayed the same in 2023. The use of Hands/Feet (Striking) decreased by 57% from seven (7) in 2022 to three (3) in 2023. Officers are utilizing Empty Hand and Force Hold use of force techniques more than physical strikes, which further illustrates successful de-escalation techniques.



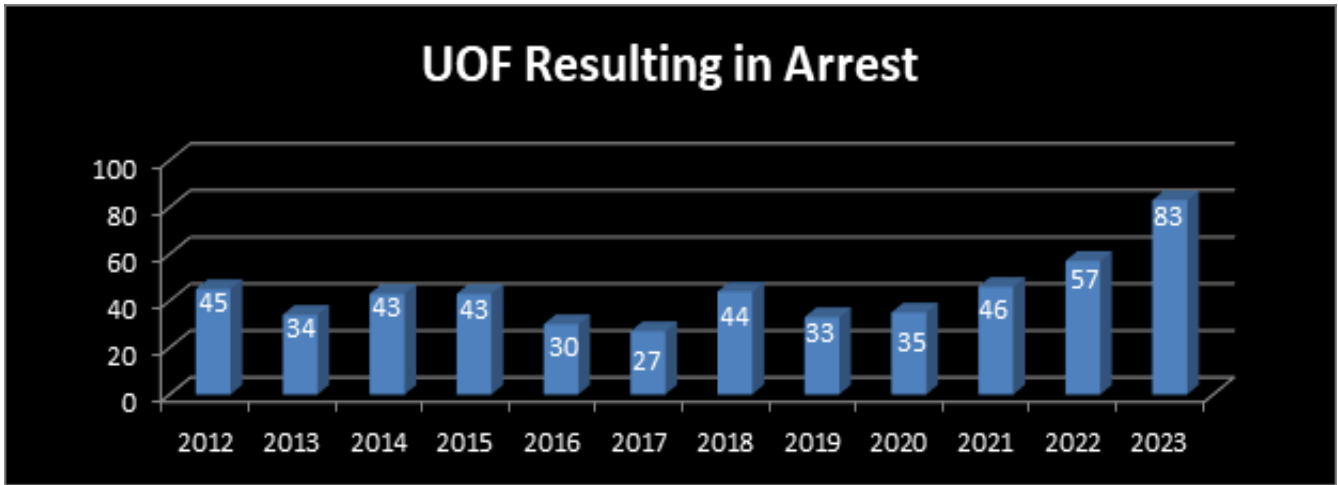
The choice for officers to employ Weaponless use of force techniques is a decision the officer must make based on suspect behavior due to the proximity of the threat, the level of resistance being used, and the officer's ability to transition to a higher level of force before being overtaken by the suspect. The information above clearly illustrates that Rock Hill Police Department officers have a firm understanding of de-escalation techniques, use of force principles, and response to resistance as taught by Department instructors.



Use of force incidents involving the use of a Taser increased slightly in 2023. There was a total of sixteen (16) use of force incidents in 2023, compared twelve (12) in 2022. The use of Tasers during use of force incidents has decreased over the last ten years (2013 – 2023) but is slowly increasing. Tasers were only used 17% of all use of force techniques during the 2023 calendar year. The increase in the use of Tasers in 2023 is most likely due to an increase in level of resistance from suspects. The overall low use of Tasers is most likely due to a concentration on de-escalation techniques and an emphasis on utilizing the least amount of force necessary to bring an individual under control.

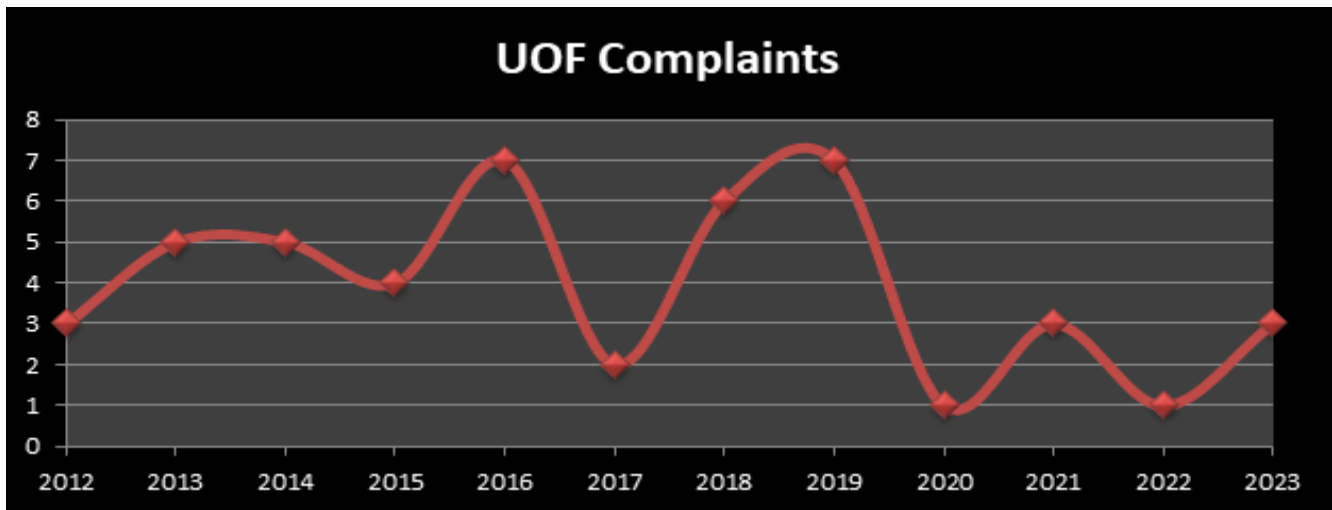


In 2023, there was one (1) use of force Incident involving a firearm. A suspect presented and pointed a firearm at officers. The suspect was shot by officers and sustained a non-life-threatening injury to their hand. SLED and Internal Affairs conducted separate investigations and concluded that the officer-involved shooting was justified. The Rock Hill Police Department has been extremely fortunate to have very few firearms related use of force incidents. A total of five (5) officer-involved shootings have occurred in the decade (2013 – 2023). Only 1% of all use of force incidents over the last ten (10) years has involved a firearm discharge. None of those discharges were determined to be unjustified or out of policy. The small number of firearm related use of force incidents illustrates the high level of officer restraint, the quality of officer training, and excellent use of discretion by RHPD officers based on the City of Rock Hill’s population, level of crime, and the total number of sworn officers in the Department.

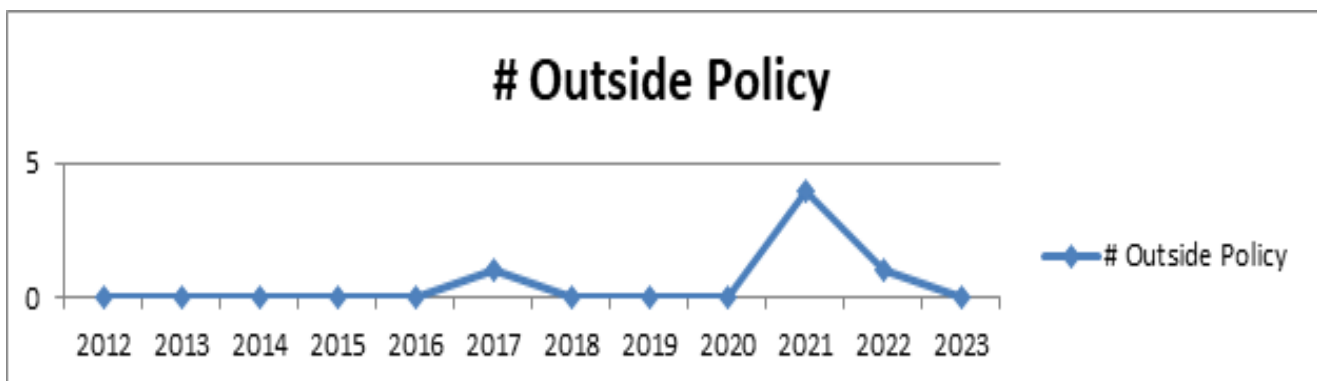


There were eighty-three (83) arrests associated with use of force incidents in 2023 compared to fifty-seven (57) in 2022. This accounted for a 46% increase. The total number of arrests reporting a use of force incident has steadily increased over a four-year period (2020 – 2023). This correlates to the increase in total use of force incidents over the same period. On average, fifty-five (55) arrests with use of force incidents occurred between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2023, which is higher compared to the total number of overall arrests. The increase in use of force incidents during arrest illustrates the propensity for increased

resistance which results in an increase in use of force. An individual arrested by the Rock Hill Police Department has a 3% chance of being involved in a use of force incident. The low number of use of force incidents per arrest illustrates that Rock Hill Police Department officers only use force when absolutely necessary and as a response to resistance.



Citizen complaints due to a use of force incident increased slightly in 2023. There were three (3) complaints in 2023 compared to one (1) in 2022. The total number of complaints for use of force by Rock Hill Police Department officers remains low. A total of 3% of all use of force incidents that occurred in 2023 resulted in a Citizen Complaint. The total number of use of force related complaints over the last four years has decreased significantly compared to the period of 2016-2019. This reduction in use of force complaints over the last decade is a testament to improved training and officer accountability within the Department.



The low number of complaints concerning use of force incidents illustrates our commitment to the high quality of training and professionalism of Rock Hill Police Department officers. All use of force complaints were investigated, and zero (0) were found to be outside of Department policy in 2023. Over the last ten (10) years, six (6) use of force complaints have been found to be outside of policy. When a use of force was found to be out of policy, the incident was quickly investigated, discipline was administered, and termination was recommended when warranted.

**Rock Hill Police Department
Vehicle Pursuits
Analysis & Administrative Review
2023**

Police vehicular pursuits are potentially dangerous to the community, the officers involved, and the persons attempting to evade the police. The risk associated with pursuits requires that officers exercise sound judgment and discretion throughout every pursuit. Policies and practices are in place at the Rock Hill Police Department to guide officers in the decision-making process, which apply to all sworn personnel that operate Department assigned vehicles equipped with lights and sirens. Vehicles that are not equipped with lights and sirens are not permitted to engage in any vehicular pursuits. Officers of the Rock Hill Police Department may engage in vehicular pursuits only when they can reasonably determine that the potential harm to persons and property threatened by the pursuit does not outweigh the potential harm to persons and property threatened by the fleeing offender.

Rock Hill Police Department officers are trained and are thoroughly familiar with all SC Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, concerning the use of emergency vehicles and equipment and Department Pursuit policy. All traffic law exemptions and policies are contingent upon due regard for the safety of all persons.

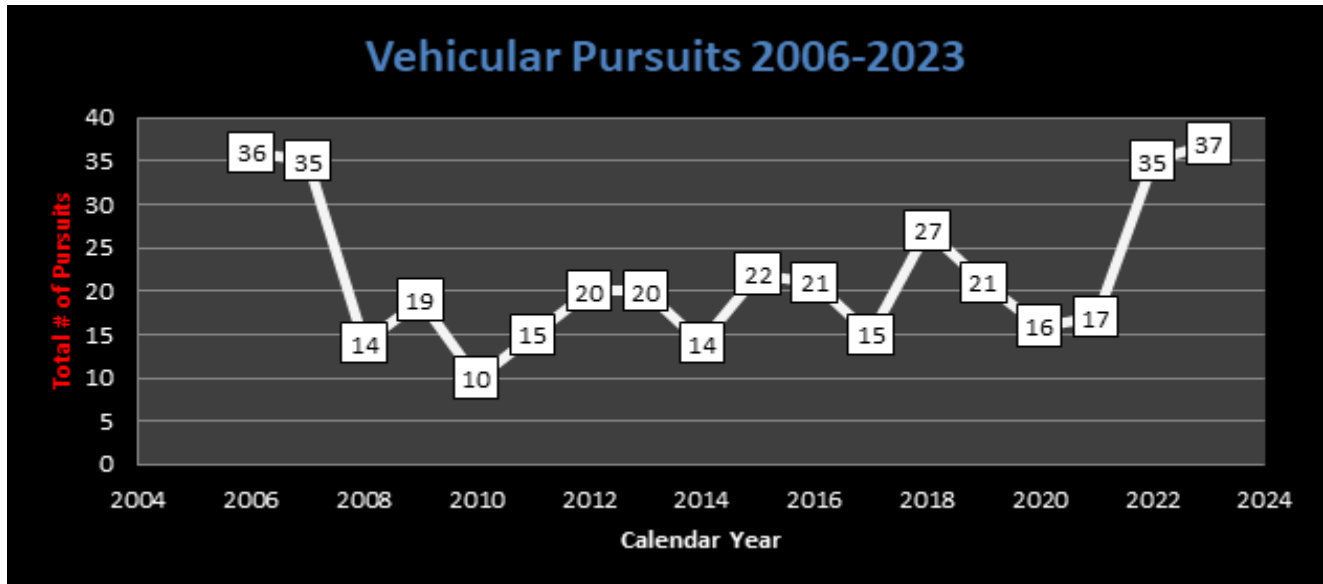
When an officer is involved in a situation where a possible pursuit may occur, officers consider the seriousness of the original offense and the safety of the community to include overall community safety, environmental considerations, familiarity with the roadway design, the capability and quality of police equipment, pursuit speeds, and evasive tactics. Officers are only permitted to engage in a pursuit when there is reasonable suspicion that the driver of the vehicle has committed a violent felony, there is evidence of outrageous reckless driving, or the driver is most likely driving under the influence prior to the officer's initiation of the pursuit. All pursuits are conducted in accordance with established tactical requirements and emergency equipment (blue lights and siren) will be in continuous operation during the pursuit.

The use of roadblocks is prohibited. The use of Low-Speed and High-Speed Box-In techniques are only used in cases where seizure and deadly force are justified. Tire deflation device use is permitted by personnel that have received training on the use and deployment of the devices. The use of stop sticks is approved by a supervisor and deployment must follow the Department Use of Force and Vehicular Pursuit policies.

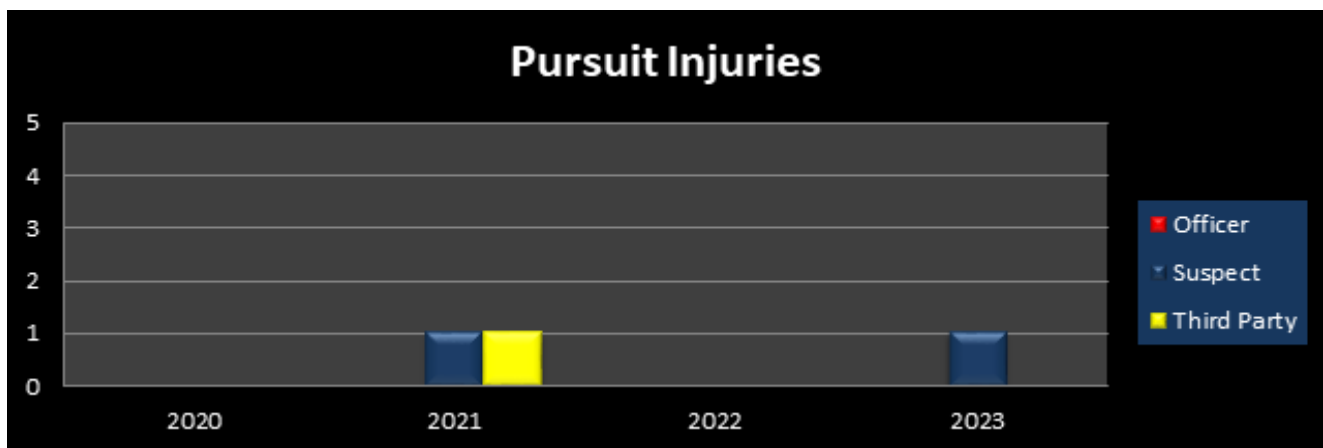
Vehicular pursuits are terminated based on the analysis of the risk created by the pursuit compared to the benefits gained by apprehension. Pursuits are immediately terminated upon the order of any supervisor and when other mitigating circumstances are involved in the incident. The safety of all involved is of utmost importance.

Each vehicular pursuit is thoroughly reviewed and critiqued by shift supervisors, Captains, and Internal Affairs to ensure that all Federal laws, State laws, and Departmental policies were followed. An Accident and Pursuit Review Committee may convene to review vehicular pursuits that result in personal injury, death, or serious property damage. Vehicular pursuit reviews include all the facts and evidence and may assemble witnesses and request advice from driving instructors and legal advisors. A thorough evaluation of the pursuit is performed, and the results are forwarded to the Chief of Police.

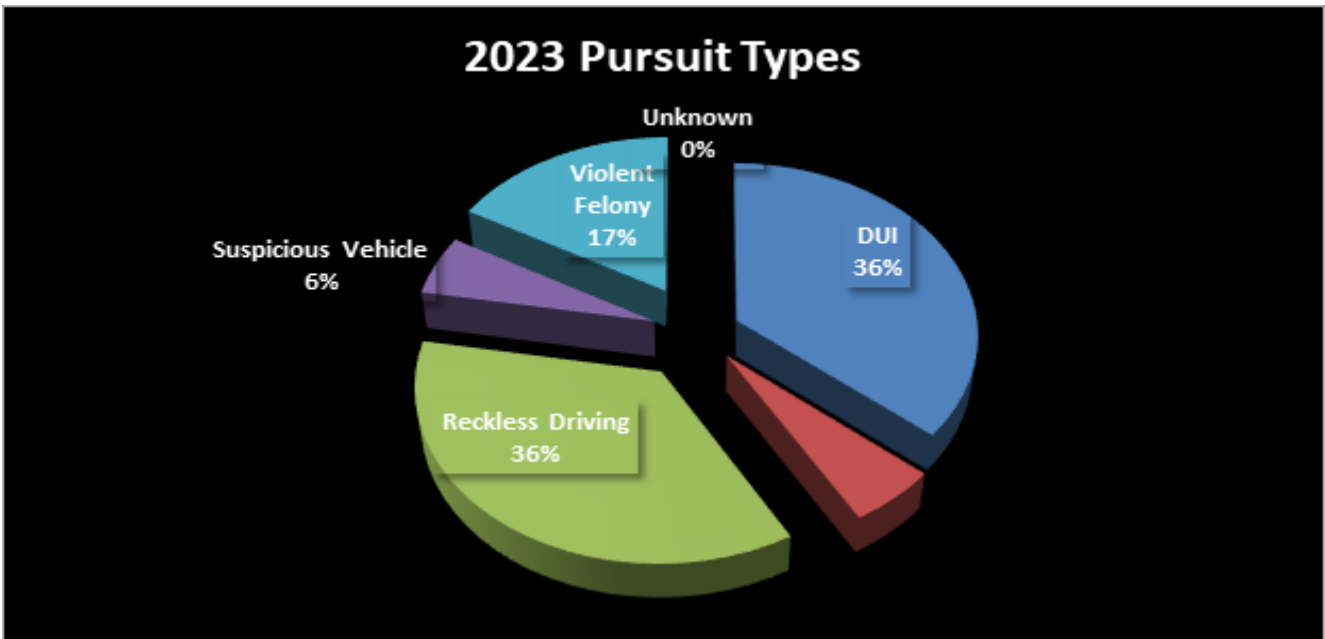
There have been thirty-seven (37) pursuits during the period of January 1, 2023, thru December 31, 2023, by RHPD officers, compared to thirty-five (35) during the 2022 calendar year. Rock Hill Police Department officers have initiated a total of three hundred ninety-four (394) vehicular pursuits during the period of 2006 to 2023. An average of 22 pursuits have occurred each year during this period. The number of suspects fleeing from officers during traffic stops has clearly increased in recent years.



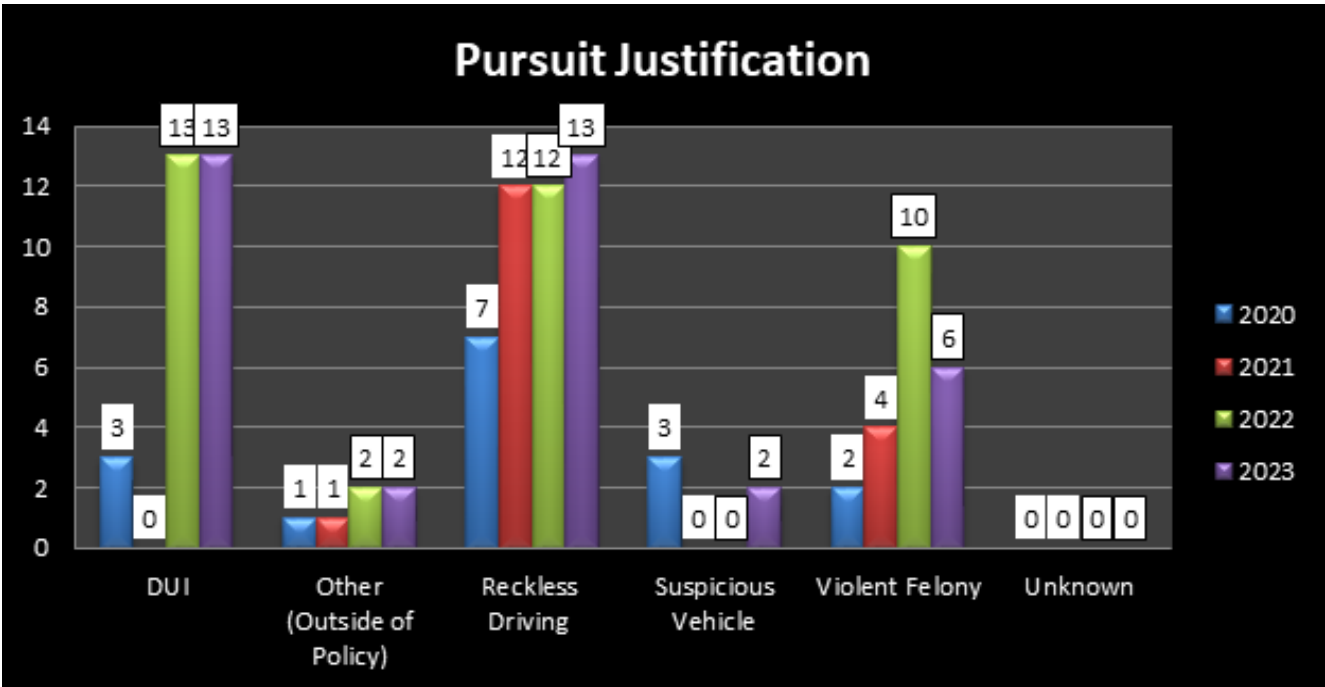
There have been very few accidents with injuries because of vehicular pursuits. There have been no officers injured during vehicular pursuits over the last four (4) years. One (1) civilian was injured as a result of a vehicular pursuits during the 2023 calendar year. No fatalities were reported during the same period. The very low number of accidents during vehicular pursuits is a testament to the high quality of training and the emphasis of overall safety at the Rock Hill Police Department.



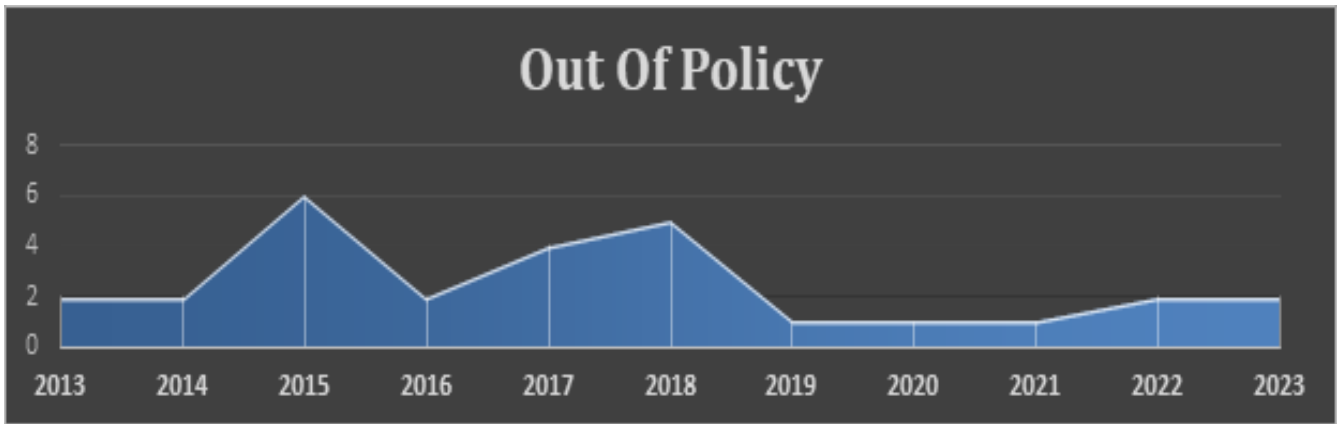
Most vehicular pursuits by the Rock Hill Police Department during the 2023 calendar year were due to DUI's and Reckless Driving. A total of thirteen (13) pursuits were for DUI's and thirteen (13) for Reckless Driving. In addition, officers were engaged in vehicular pursuits for six (6) violent felonies.



DUI pursuits stayed the same over the last two years, after a significant increase in 2022. Additional analysis will be needed to determine if the upward trend in DUI's will continue. The RHPD will enhance focus on DUI enforcement and will increase police presence in focused traffic enforcement areas of higher collisions and citations throughout Rock Hill in the future.



Two (2) vehicular pursuits were found to be Outside of Policy following Accident and Pursuit Reviews in 2023, which is the same as the 2022. Overall, the total number of pursuits that were found to be out of policy is relatively low. Only 5% of all pursuits initiated in 2023 were out of policy in 2023. The total number of out of policy pursuits has decreased and remained low over the last four (4) years.



Pursuit reviews and discipline following out of policy actions were re-evaluated in 2018 and the number of pursuits decreased as a result. The officers involved in out-of-policy pursuits were counseled on proper policy and procedures, received a written warning, and reviewed the Vehicular Pursuit policy with their immediate supervisor.

The logo of the Rock Hill Police Department is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a blue background with a yellow border. The words "ROCK HILL" are written in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the top. Below this, the words "SOUTH CAROLINA" are written in smaller, yellow, serif capital letters. The word "POLICE" is written in large, blue, serif capital letters across the middle. At the bottom of the shield is a colorful, stylized flower or starburst design with six petals in red, green, yellow, blue, purple, and white.

2023 RHPD Annual Report Contributors:

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