

TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT



Photo by Scott Grau

Annual Response to Resistance Analysis Report 2025

June 16, 2026

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Subject: Response to Resistance Analysis Report – 2025

Police officers routinely encounter dynamic and rapidly evolving situations that require immediate decision-making. In some circumstances, officers may be required to make critical judgments regarding the use of force with limited time to assess available options. These decisions can impact officers, subjects, and members of the public. Maintaining situational awareness and exercising sound judgment are essential to determining whether force is necessary and ensuring that any force used is objectively reasonable under the circumstances.

Through ongoing training, a comprehensive supervisory review process, and an annual Response to Resistance Analysis, the Toledo Police Department seeks to reduce and mitigate the number of use-of-force incidents involving officers and members of the public.

The annual Response to Resistance Analysis is conducted in accordance with standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The purpose of this analysis is to systematically review response-to-resistance incidents, to identify patterns or trends that could indicate the need for training, equipment modifications, and/or policy revisions.

Toledo Police officers are authorized to use only physical control techniques that are objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances known to them at the time, to accomplish lawful objectives. The Toledo Police Department operates in accordance with applicable legal standards established by the United States Supreme Court decisions, including *Graham v. Connor* and *Tennessee v. Garner*.

Officers shall document all instances in which physical control techniques are used (beyond routine escorting or control) including actions taken to take a subject into custody, control or contain a situation, effect an arrest, or protect persons or property. Written documentation of such incidents is required and shall be subject to supervisory review for compliance, accuracy, and completeness.

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2025 Response to Resistance Overview

The year 2025 involved 579 incidents that required the use of force by officers. This number is a 10.1% decrease from 2024 which had 644 incidents. In 2025, the Toledo Police Department responded to 179,767 total incidents. This total is down from 2024, which had 189,904 incidents, a 5.6% decrease. Response to resistance related incidents in 2025 accounted for 0.32% of total incidents. This number is down slightly, from what was observed in 2024, 0.35%.

In 2025, the IAPro database continued to be the sole source for the collection and analysis of data used for response to resistance incidents and complaint investigations relating to alleged use of force violations. The use of IAPro allows for easier access to more accurate information and for enhanced tracking of each response to resistance related incident while also assisting with the analysis of the data.

Regarding the use of less-lethal options, the department saw a decrease in the use of some of these options from 2024 to 2025. More specifically, TASER usage decreased from 81 incidents in 2024 to 46 incidents in 2025. In 2025, TASERS were utilized in only 7.9% of all response to resistance related incidents. Of the incidents where a TASER was utilized in 2025, all 46 were full probe deployments. The TASER was reported to have been effective 29 times, ineffective 8 times, and limited effect 9 times. Ineffective deployments can be a result of several factors such as, one or both probes failing to make effective contact with the target, bulky or loose clothing, minimal probe spread on the target, pain tolerance or individuals under the influence of certain controlled substances.

The use of chemical agents decreased from 2024 to 2025. There were 20 incidents in 2024 involving chemical agents, compared to 11 incidents in 2025. Of the 11 incidents involving chemical agents in 2025, 1 incident utilized both aerosol and projectile chemical agents, 1 incident only utilized aerosol chemical agent, and 9 incidents only utilized projectile chemical agents fired from a department issued pepper ball gun.

The Canine Unit responded to 3,039 calls for service and deployed their canines a total of 1,927 times in 2025. That is compared to 3,873 calls for service and 2,641 deployments in 2024. This represents a 22% decrease in calls for service and a 27% decrease in deployments from 2024 to 2025. A canine can be deployed for numerous reasons including, but not limited to, building searches, odor work, community relations deployment, warrant services, tracking, burglaries and explosive sweeps. From the deployments in 2025, there were 34 apprehensions, in which 4 injuries resulted to the subject. That is compared to 2024 when there were 39 apprehensions which resulted in 4 subjects sustaining injuries.

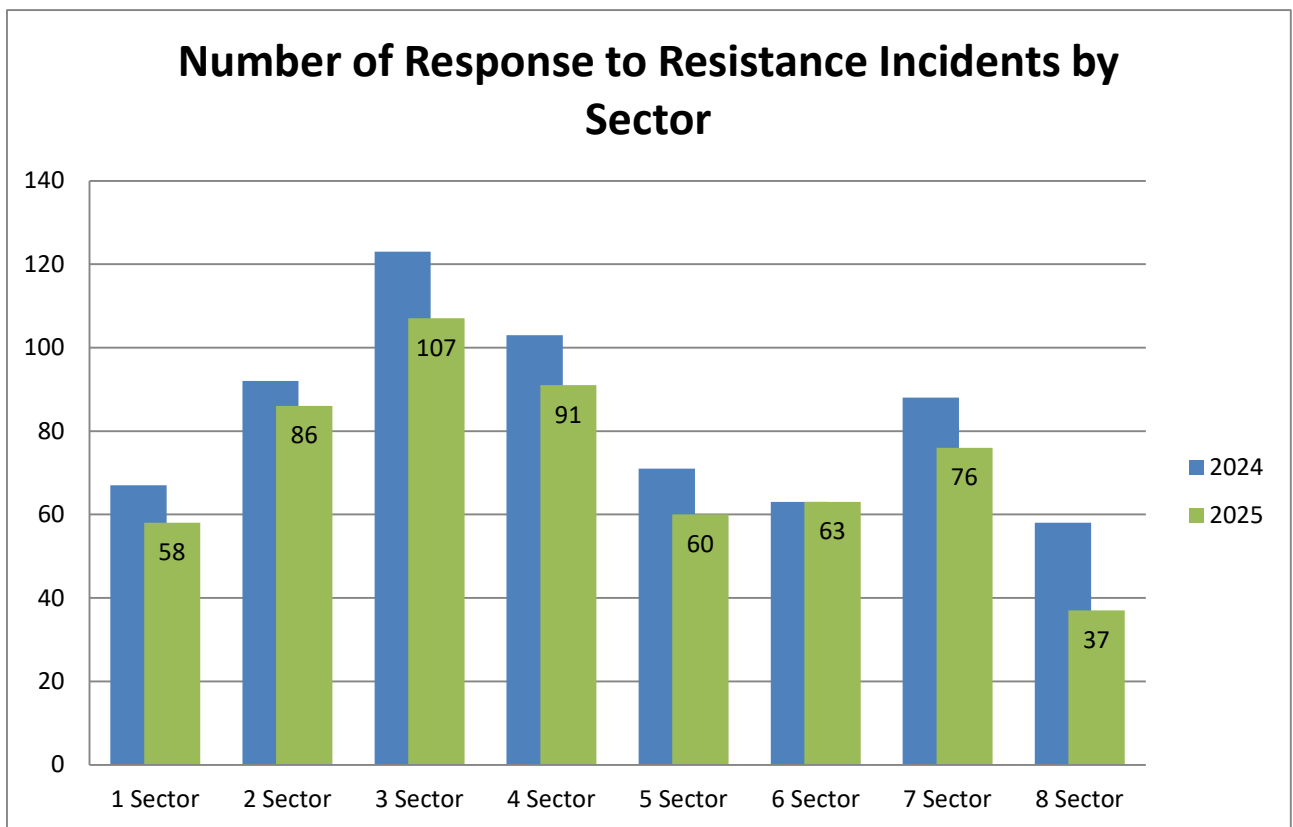
In 2025 the department saw a decrease in the total number of officers injured. There were 44 officers injured in 2025, compared to 69 officers injured in 2024.

Lastly, in 2025, there were three incidents where officers used deadly force on a human. Six incidents occurred in 2024 where officers used deadly force on a human. The three incidents in 2025 will be reviewed later in this report. Of the three occurrences, two subjects were fatally wounded. In 2025, no warning shots were fired by a Toledo Police Officer, as it is against policy.

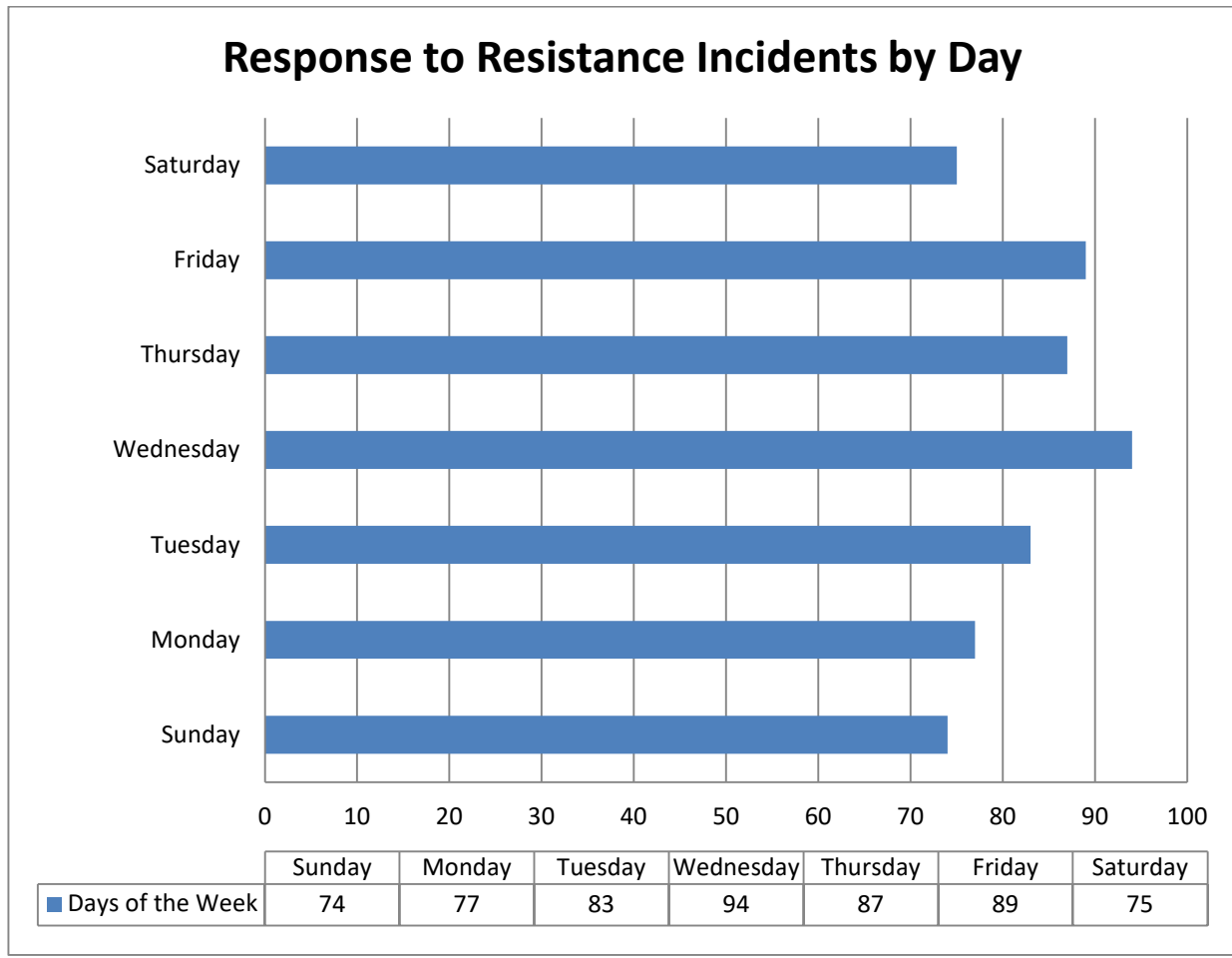
Where Response to Resistance Incidents are Occurring

The following analysis summarizes the distribution of response to resistance incidents by patrol sector for 2024 and 2025. In 2025, Sector 3 reported the highest number of incidents with 107, followed by Sector 4 with 91. The lowest totals were observed in Sector 8 with 37 and Sector 1 with 58.

The elevated number of incidents in Sector 3 is consistent with higher concentrations of violent crime reported within that sector which had a reported 194 incidents. Violent crime classifications include homicide, aggravated assault, rape, gross sexual imposition, and robbery, as defined by the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS). Increased violent crime activity may contribute to a higher frequency of encounters requiring officer use of force. In 2025, one response to resistance incident was reported as occurring outside the primary jurisdiction of the Toledo Police Department. This incident occurred after officers transported a subject to St. Charles's Hospital (Oregon, Ohio) for a mental health evaluation.

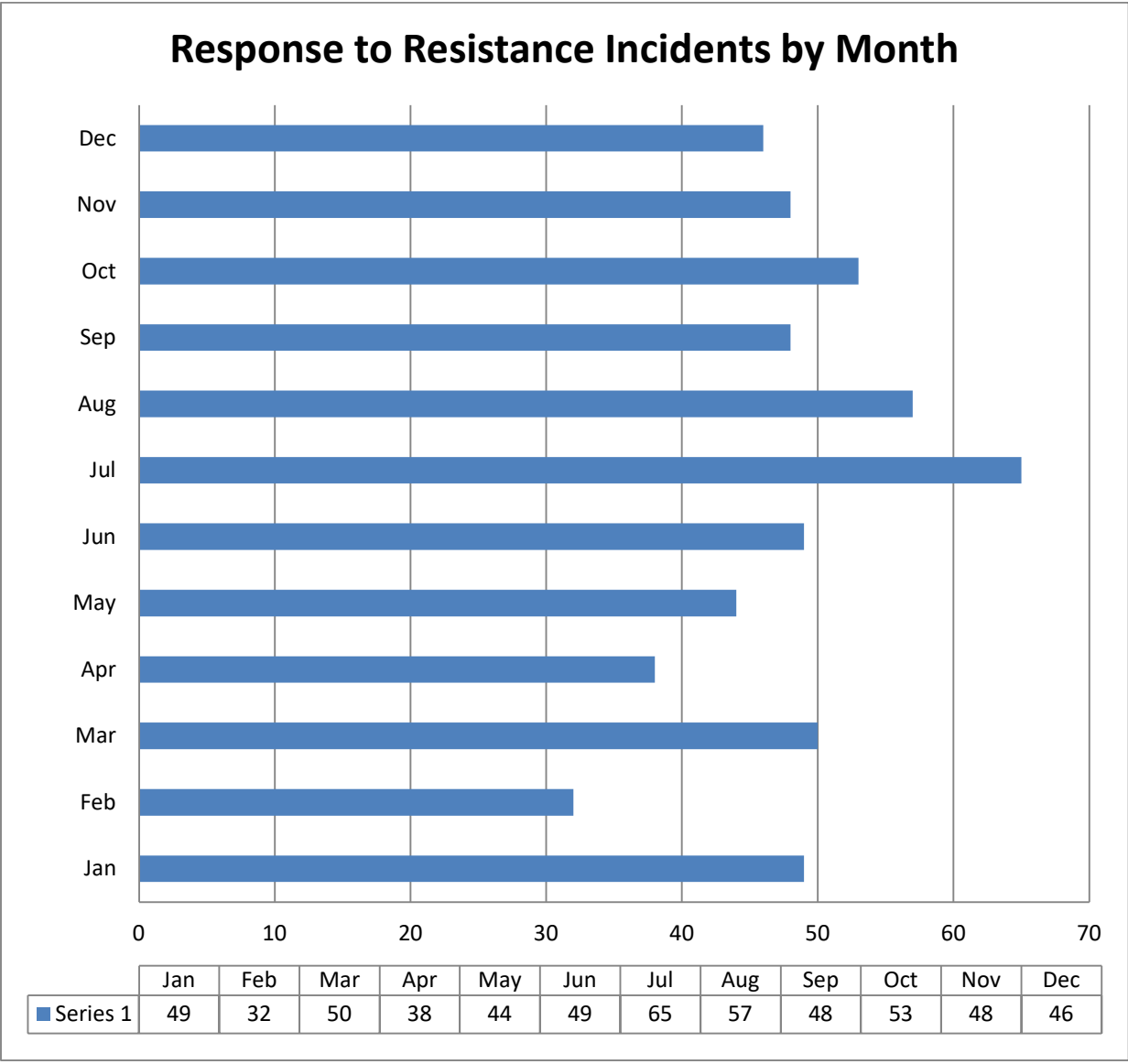


When Response to Resistance Incidents are Occurring



Response to resistance incidents in 2025 occurred most frequently on Wednesday (94 incidents), followed by Friday (89 incidents) and Thursday (87).

In comparison, 2024 data indicated that Saturdays (107 incidents) had the highest frequency of response to resistance incidents, followed by Sunday and Thursday (100 incidents each day).

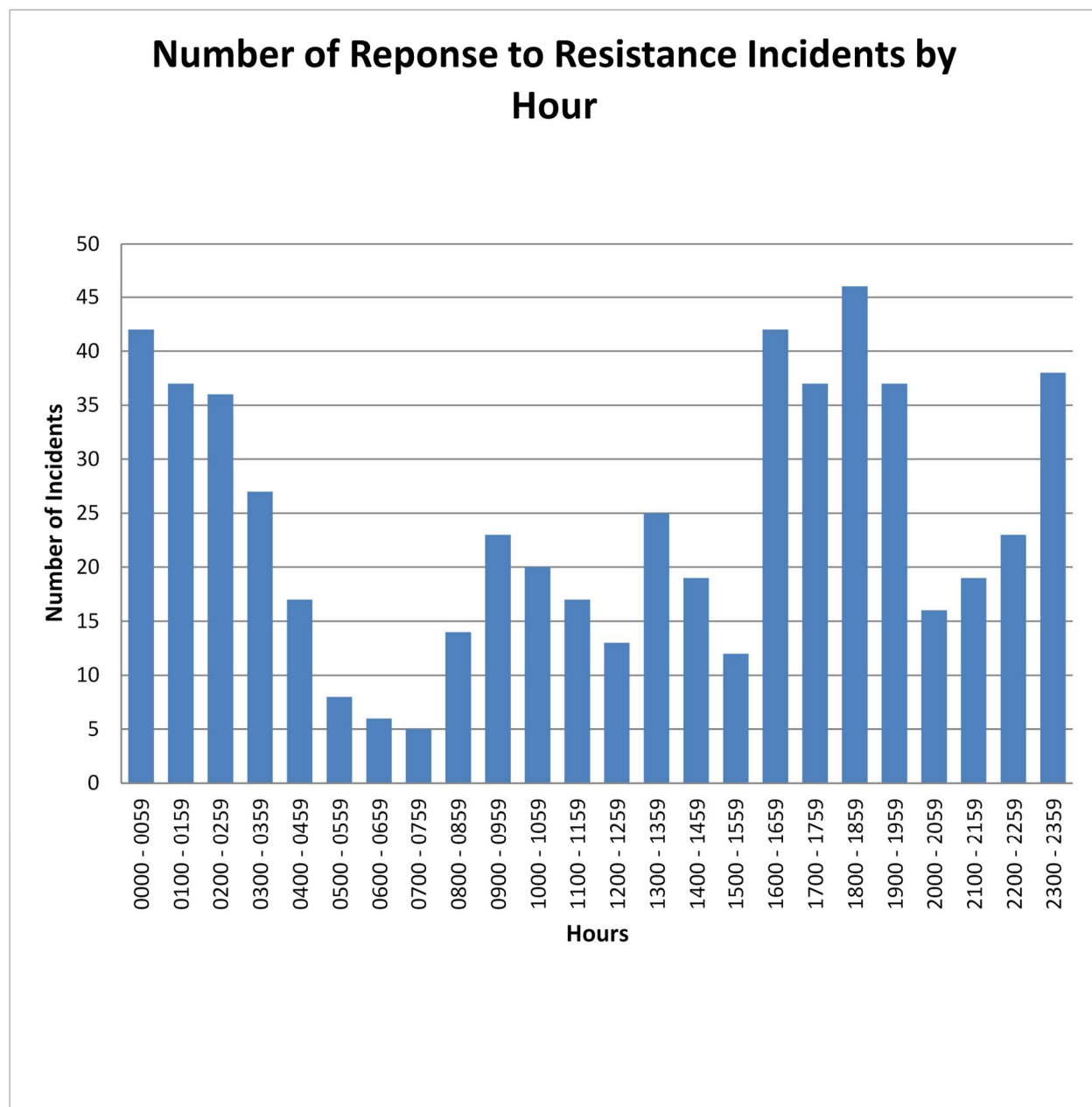


July recorded the highest number of response-to-resistance incidents (65), followed by August (57). February had the lowest total, with 32 incidents. In 2024, February recorded the highest number of response-to-resistance incidents (70).

A multi-year comparison shows a slight increase in July 2025 (65) compared to July 2024 (63). July totals were higher in 2023 (70) and lower in 2022 (54).

July and August have historically reflected elevated levels of response-to-resistance incidents. These months typically coincide with increased outdoor activity due to more favorable weather conditions, which may contribute to a greater likelihood of criminal activity and law enforcement encounters.

Additionally, July is traditionally one of the warmest months of the year, and higher temperatures can contribute to increased irritability and interpersonal conflict.



In 2025, the highest frequency of response-to-resistance incidents occurred between 1800 and 1859 hours, with 46 incidents. This reflects an increase from 31 incidents during the same time period in 2024.

The lowest frequencies in 2025 were observed between 0700 and 0759 hours (5 incidents) and 0600 and 0659 hours (6 incidents). By comparison, the lowest time period in 2024 was 0600 to 0659 hours, with 6 incidents.

A notable year-to-year decrease was observed in selected time periods. Incidents occurring between 2000 and 2059 hours declined from 35 in 2024 to 16 in 2025. Similarly, incidents between 1100 and 1159 hours decreased from 35 in 2024 to 17 in 2025. Incidents between 2100 and 2159 hours also declined from 37 in 2024 to 19 in 2025. These variations indicate a potential shift in the temporal distribution of response-to-resistance incidents.

Response to Resistance Incidents by Day / Hour

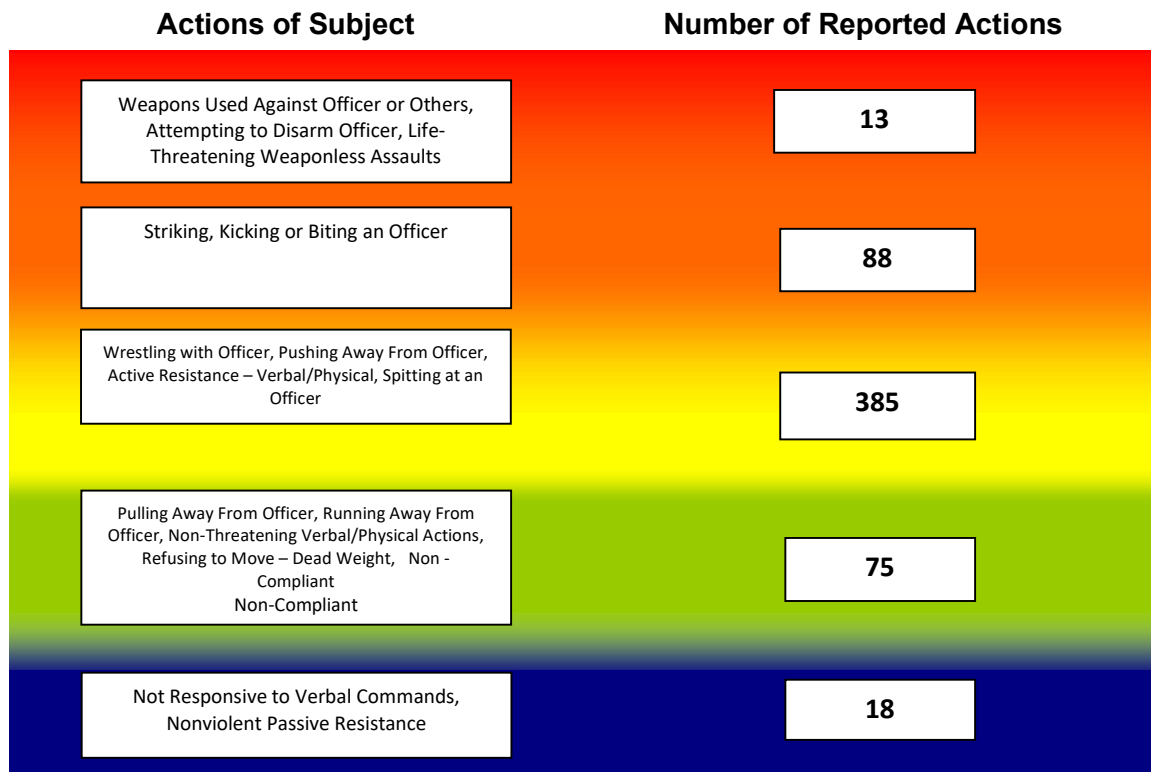


	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0000 - 0059	3	5	4	7	10	8	5
0100 - 0159	11	3	1	6	3	4	9
0200 - 0259	12	3	6	4	3	3	5
0300 - 0359	5	5	0	7	5	1	4
0400 - 0459	3	1	2	1	3	2	5
0500 - 0559	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
0600 - 0659	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
0700 - 0759	1	0	2	0	1	1	0
0800 - 0859	0	1	2	6	0	3	2
0900 - 0959	0	7	5	4	4	1	2
1000 - 1059	1	2	2	2	3	8	2
1100 - 1159	1	2	6	3	2	3	0
1200 - 1259	1	3	3	4	0	2	0
1300 - 1359	1	4	6	5	3	5	1
1400 - 1459	0	1	7	1	6	4	0
1500 - 1559	3	1	1	3	1	2	1
1600 - 1659	7	5	4	10	7	6	3
1700 - 1759	7	4	7	7	4	3	5
1800 - 1859	3	5	6	3	9	11	9
1900 - 1959	6	8	3	7	5	3	5
2000 - 2059	2	5	2	0	2	2	3
2100 - 2159	2	1	5	4	2	1	4
2200 - 2259	2	1	4	4	3	6	3
2300 - 2359	2	9	4	3	8	7	5

In 2025, the highest frequency of response to resistance incidents for a combined day and hour period occurred on Sunday between 0200–0259 hours, with 12 incidents.

Additionally, there were multiple day and hour combinations during which zero response to resistance incidents were reported. These findings reflect variability in the temporal distribution of incidents across specific day and hour intervals.

2025 Response to Resistance Graphic Analysis – Subjects’ Actions



The 2025 Response to Resistance Graphic Analysis illustrates the range of subject behaviors encountered by officers during response to resistance incidents. In 2025, there were 579 incidents requiring the use of force by officers of the Toledo Police Department.

Subject actions were categorized based on resistance levels, ranging from the highest threat level (represented in red) to the lowest (represented in blue). While multiple actions may occur within a single incident, only the highest-level action exhibited by each subject was recorded and reflected in the analysis.

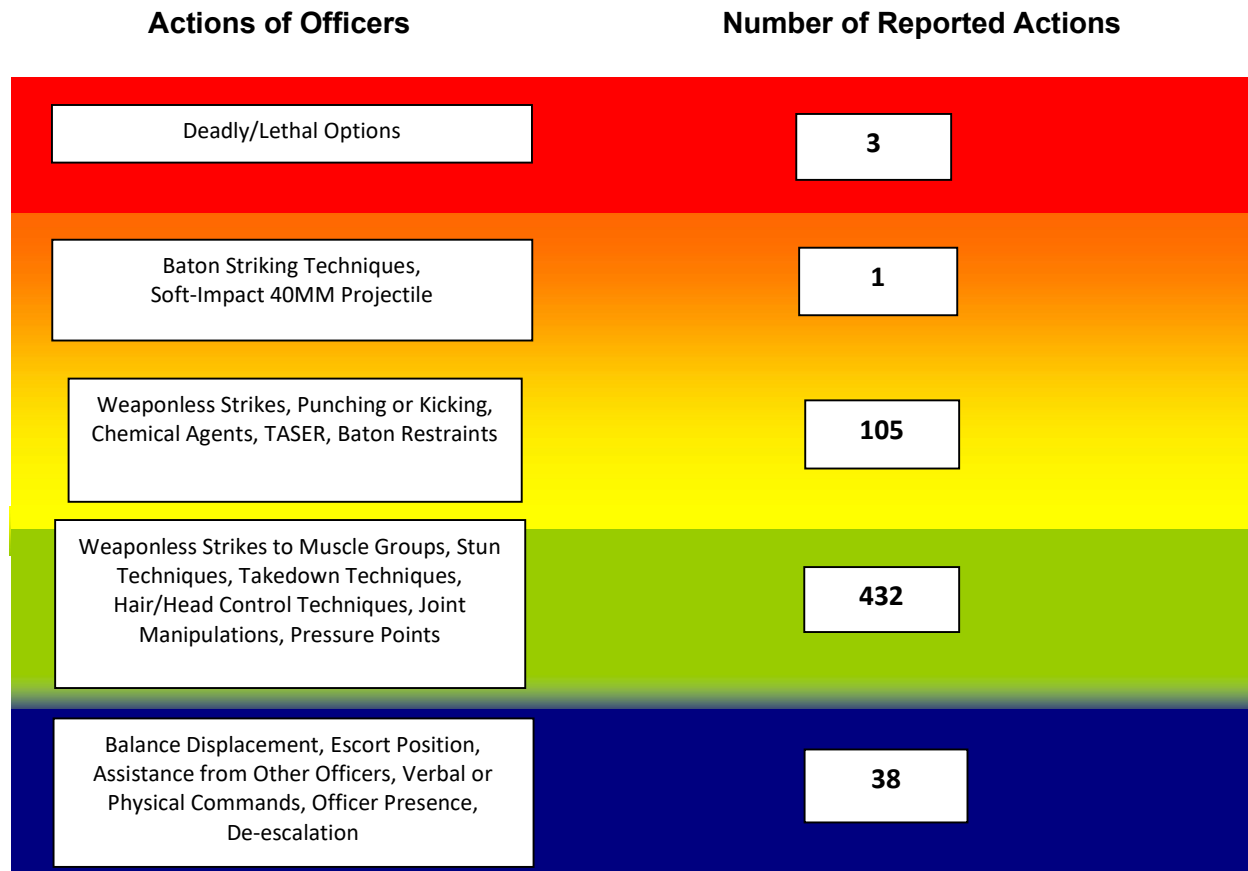
Subject behaviors ranged from passive noncompliance, such as failure to respond to verbal commands, to active aggression, including the use of weapons against officers. The majority of subject actions were categorized as follows:

- Wrestling with Officer
- Pushing Away from Officer
- Active Resistance – Verbal / Physical
- Spitting at an Officer

In addition to the actions above, there were 88 cases where the subject’s actions were categorized as striking, kicking, or biting an officer.

In 11 cases, the subject used weapons against an officer or others, attempted to disarm the officer, or there was a life-threatening weaponless assault on the officer. This number increased from 2024, which had 6 incidents. Most often the weapon was a gun, 4 incidents, or an edged weapon, 3 incidents. The subject did not necessarily attempt to use that weapon against the officer but was in possession of the weapons, displayed the weapon, or threatened to use the weapon against an officer or other person. The remaining incidents involved hedge shears, a car, a crow bar, and a pen/pencil.

2025 Response to Resistance Graphic Analysis - Officers' Actions



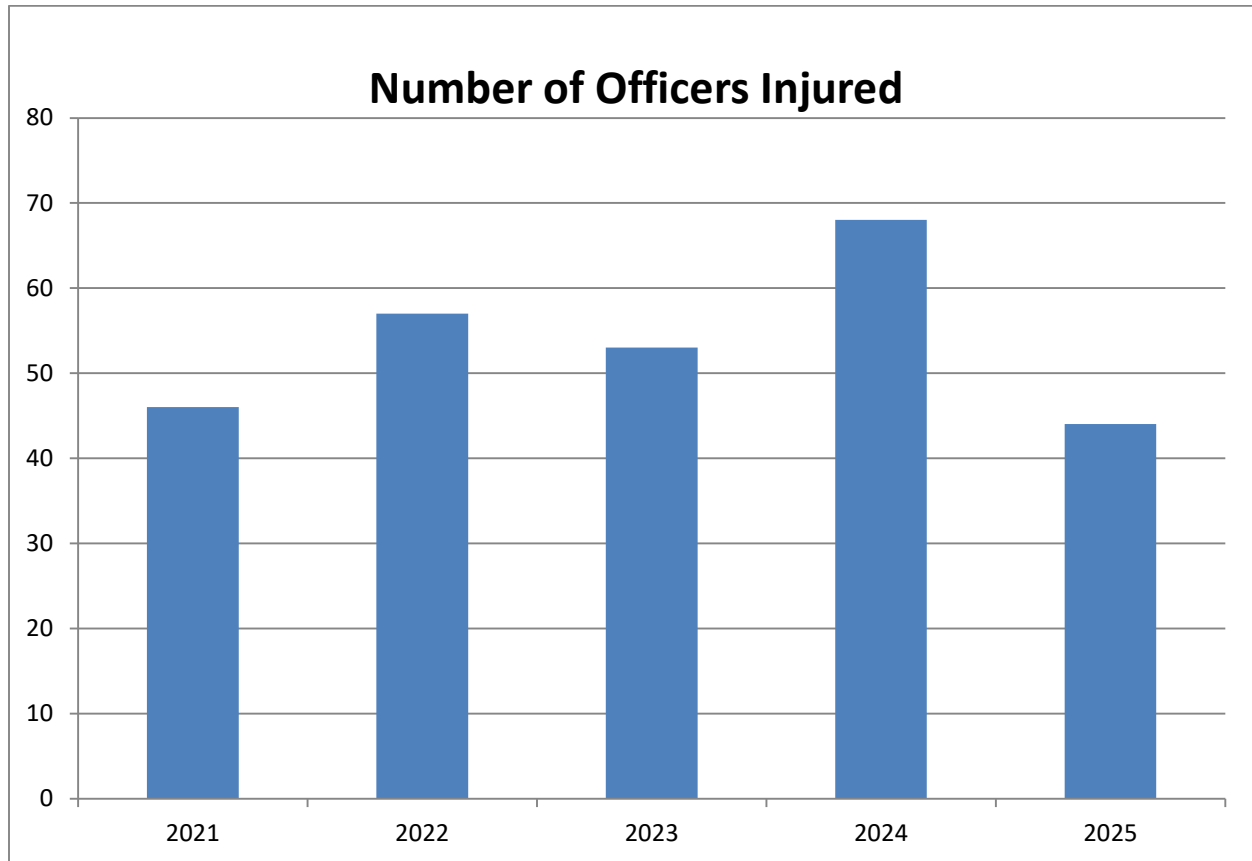
The accompanying chart illustrates the range of physical control techniques reported by officers in response to subject actions across the same 579 response to resistance incidents. These techniques are categorized by level of force, ranging from the highest level of control (red) to the lowest (blue).

Officer responses typically involve a progression of actions, beginning with officer presence and escalating as necessary based on subject behavior. Data derived from submitted response to resistance reports indicate that the majority of incidents involved some form of physical contact by officers. Within these, techniques classified in the intermediate (green) category were utilized most frequently.

Consistent with prior methodology, the chart reflects only the highest level of force applied by an officer in each interaction. It should be noted that multiple officers may be involved in a single incident, each employing varying levels of force in response to subject actions.

Of the 579 subjects involved in response-to-resistance incidents, 200 (34.5%) were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the encounter, as reported by officers of the Toledo Police Department.

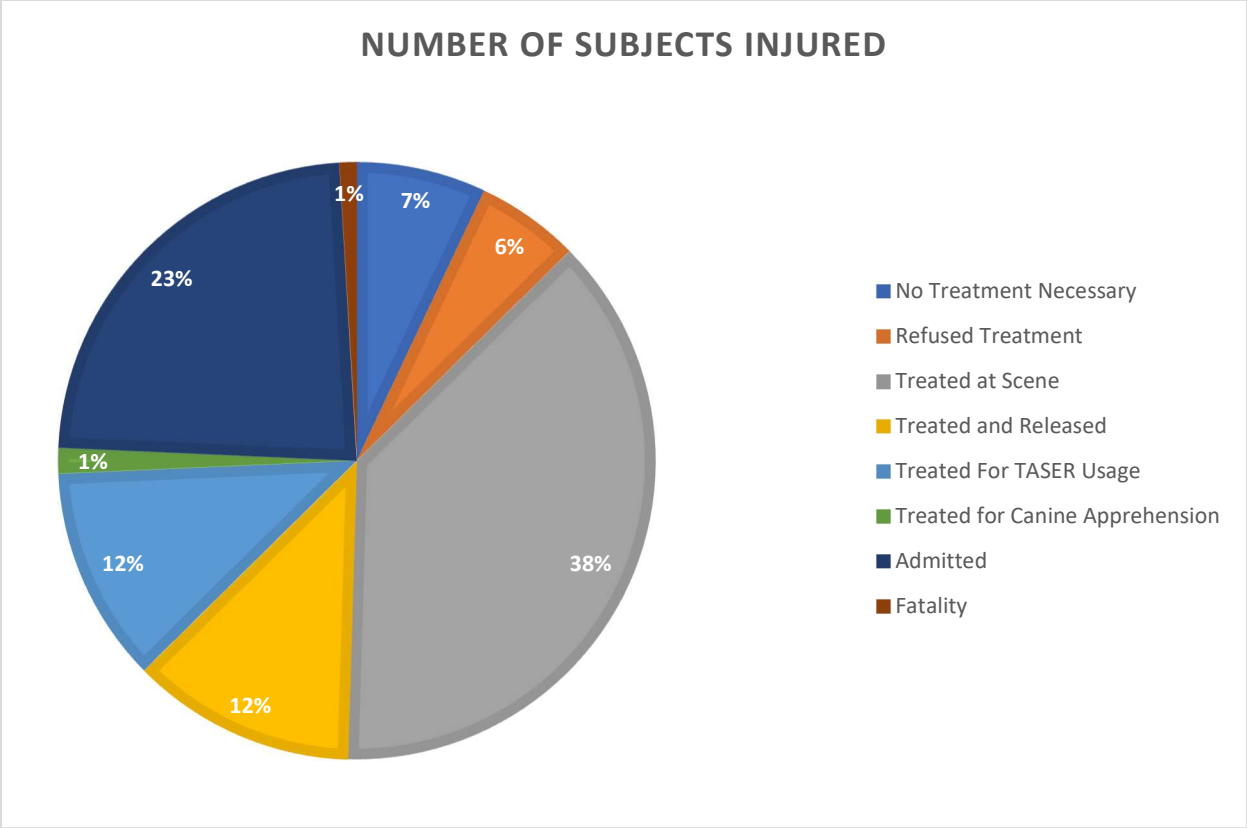
Officer and Subject Injuries



In 2025, a total of 44 officers reported injuries resulting from response to resistance incidents involving the Toledo Police Department. This represents a decrease from 68 officers injured in 2024 and constitutes the lowest number of reported officer injuries within the past five years.

Of the reported injuries in 2025, three were classified as serious. These injuries resulted in the affected officers being placed off-duty for a period of time, followed by assignment to light duty until full recovery.

The remaining 41 injuries were classified as minor. These incidents involved officers who were either treated and released from a medical facility, treated at the scene, or did not require medical treatment.



Of the 579 subjects involved in response to resistance incidents with the Toledo Police Department in 2025, 59 (10.2%) claimed injuries during the incident. Injuries sustained prior to officer intervention accounted for 27 (4.7%) subjects, while 9 (1.6%) involved self-inflicted injuries. Self-inflicted injuries include actions such as suicide attempts or the ingestion of illicit substances. The “injured prior to officer intervention” category also includes individuals hospitalized for psychiatric reasons.

Among subjects identified as injured or claiming injury (59), 15 individuals did not require medical treatment. Twelve subjects refused treatment. Emergency medical care was provided at the scene by Toledo Fire and Rescue Department in 43 cases. Additionally, 26 subjects were treated and released from a medical facility.

Exposure to a TASER (Conducted Electrical Weapon, CEW), resulted in 25 subjects receiving medical evaluation or treatment due to direct taser probe contact or drive stunning (when a TASER is pressed directly against a person and activated, delivering electrical pulses through the contact points without firing the probes).

Injuries associated with canine deployments accounted for 3 subjects who required medical treatment.

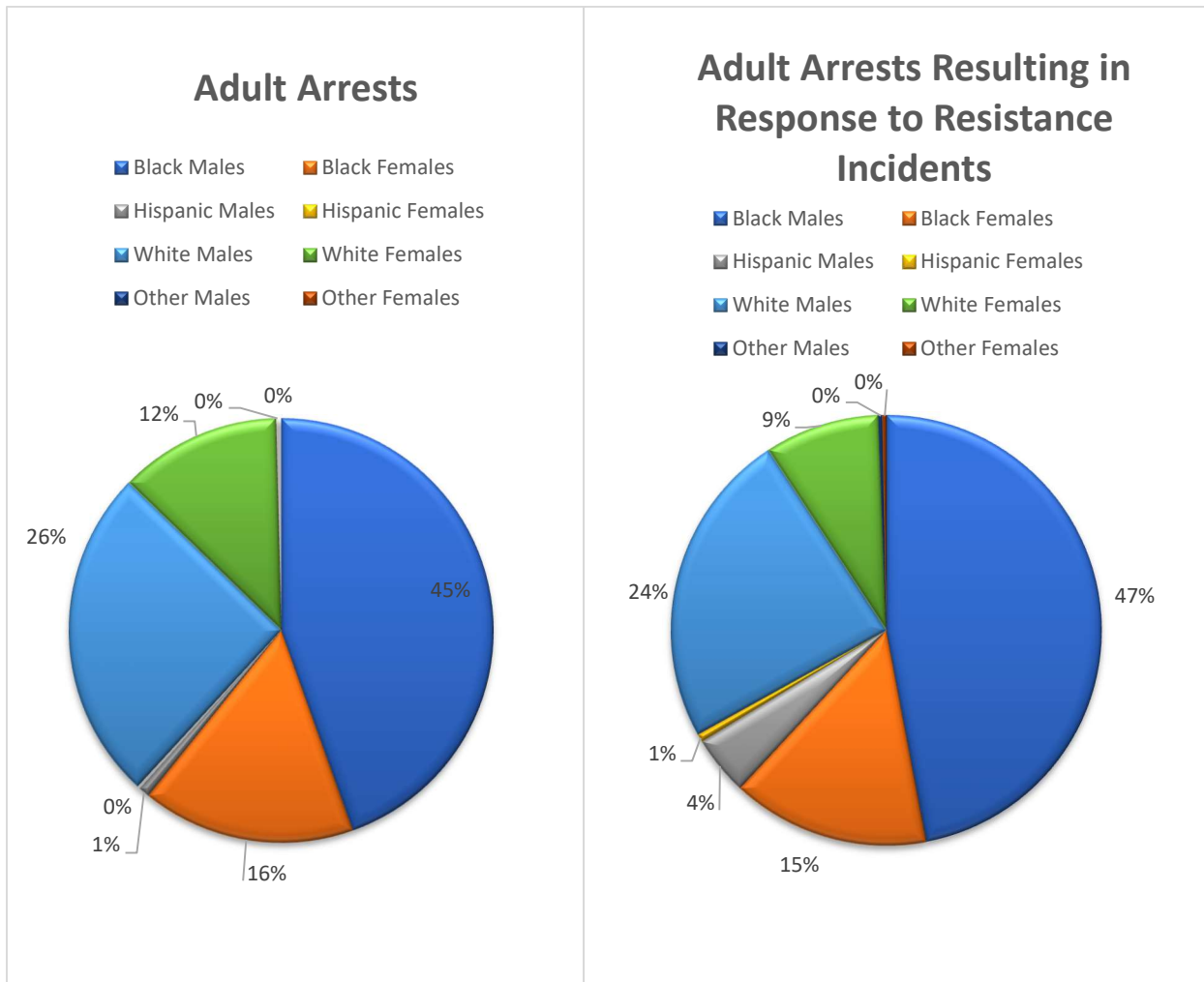
A total of 50 subjects of the 579 subjects involved in a response to resistance incident (8.6%) were admitted to a medical facility. In most of these cases, admission was precautionary or for observation, often due to conditions such as extreme intoxication or impairment from illicit substance use, rather than significant physical injury.

In 2025, there were three officer-involved shootings, two of which resulted in fatalities. These incidents are addressed in detail in a subsequent section of this report.

It should be noted that subjects may be represented in multiple injury and treatment categories. For example, a subject may have sustained injuries prior to officer intervention and incurred additional injuries during the incident, or may have experienced both self-inflicted and incident-related injuries. Likewise, a subject may have received treatment at the scene and subsequently been admitted to a medical facility.

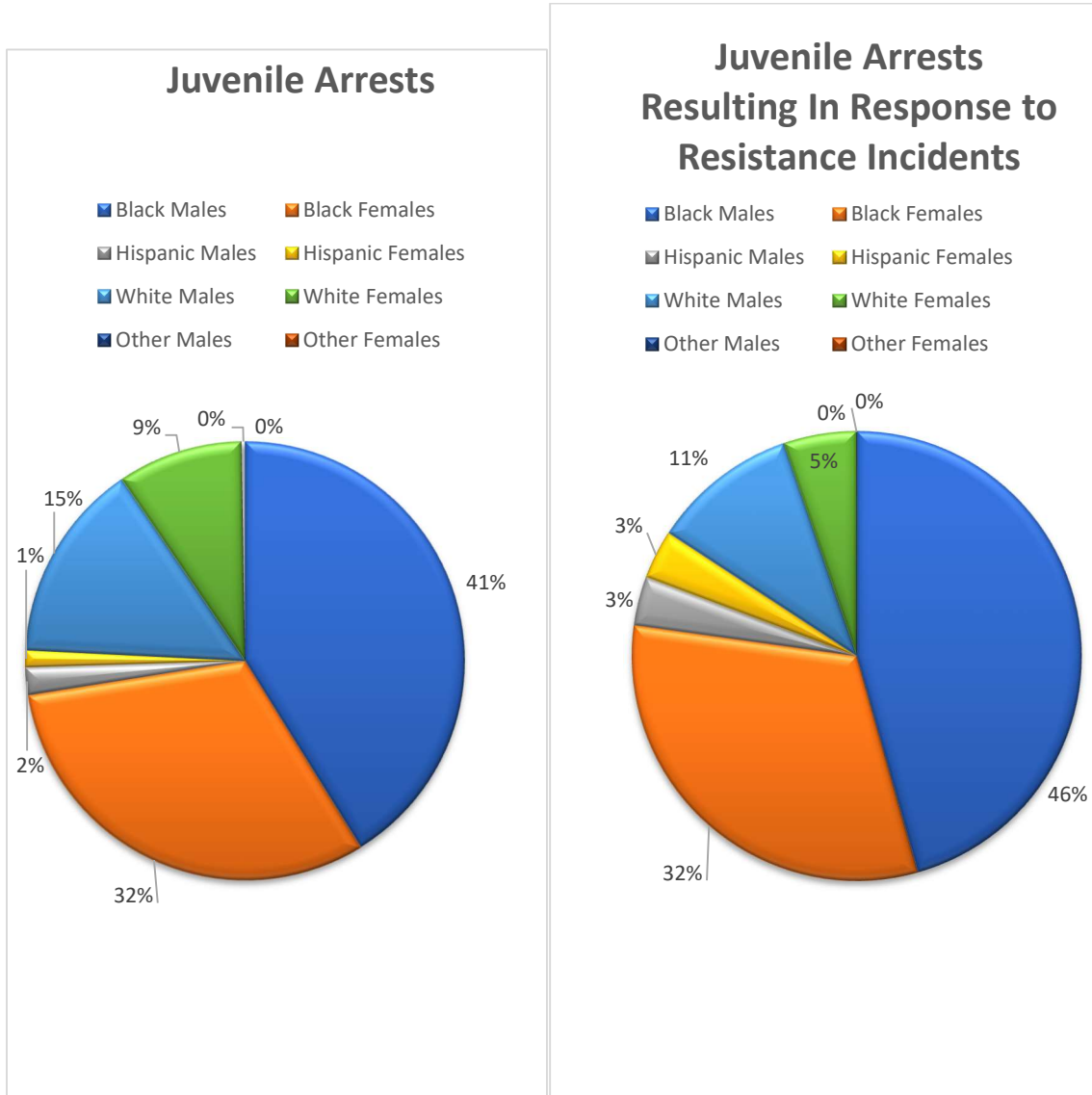
ARREST TOTALS ADULTS

There were 11,889 adults who were arrested in 2025 by Toledo Police officers. This number is down approximately 3.3% from 2024 with 12,378 adult arrests. Those numbers are broken down below by race and gender. Not all response to resistance related incidents end in arrest. Some incidents involve subjects who are admitted to a hospital due to various reasons as well as situations that involve subjects who had warrants issued in lieu of arrest at the time of the incident.



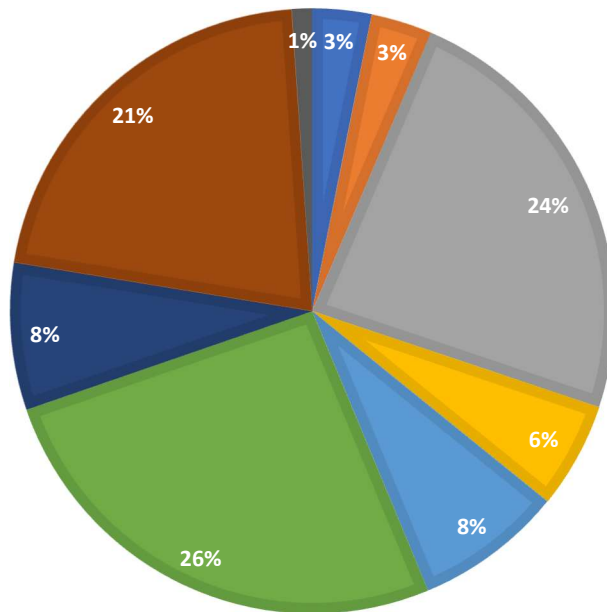
ARREST TOTALS JUVENILES

There was a total of 1,127 juveniles who were arrested by a Toledo Police officer in 2025. This number represents an increase of one arrest from 2024 which had 1,126 juveniles arrested. From those incidents, 78, or roughly 6.9% required some sort of action by the police that resulted in the completion of a Response to Resistance report. Those numbers are broken down below by race and gender. As previously explained, not all incidents end in the subject being charged with a crime.



CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE INCIDENTS

■ Assault on PO ■ Drugs ■ Person ■ Property ■ Warrants ■ Resisting ■ Traffic ■ Obstructing ■ Weapons



The chart above displays the crime category that each subject involved in a response to resistance related incident was charged with. Not all crimes are accounted for and some subjects had multiple charges. Resisting arrest is the highest category with 26% of the total. The next highest category is crimes against persons with 24%, followed by obstructing with 21%. The majority of response to resistance related incidents involved crimes against the public and crimes of violence.

2025 Review of Response to Resistance Incidents

Below is a summary of response-to-resistance incidents occurring in 2025 that involved officers using deadly force against a subject.

RB#025145-25

On July 8, 2025, officers responded to a report of domestic violence. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the victim outside the residence and observed apparent injuries. After a brief interview, one officer proceeded to a second-floor apartment to make contact with the subject, while a second officer arrived shortly thereafter and followed.

While positioned in the hallway near the staircase, officers observed the subject begin to exit the apartment. The subject initially refused to comply with commands to show his left hand while standing in the doorway. Officers issued repeated verbal commands, which the subject failed to follow. The subject then brandished a firearm in his left hand, subsequently switched it to his right hand, and pointed it at officers at waist level.

An officer discharged his duty weapon, striking the subject. The subject retreated into the apartment. Officers maintained positions in the hallway, utilizing cover and concealment while monitoring the doorway.

Moments later, the subject exited the apartment unarmed. Officers issued additional verbal commands, which were not followed. An officer advanced and utilized a takedown technique to bring the subject to the ground. Joint manipulation and head control techniques were applied, and the subject was secured in handcuffs.

Following review by the Firearms Review Board, the officers' actions were determined to be within agency policy. It was further determined that no policy or training deficiencies contributed to the outcome. The incident was presented to the Lucas County Grand Jury, which returned a no bill of indictment.

RB#026055-25

On July 14, 2025, at approximately 2026 hours, officers were dispatched to a "person shot" call. Dispatch advised that a suspect had fired at an individual and fled the scene.

Officers responded and observed an individual matching the suspect description exiting an alley. As officers parked to initiate contact, the suspect removed a firearm from his waistband and fled on foot, briefly stumbling before continuing.

During the pursuit, the suspect abruptly turned, pointed a firearm at officers, and discharged one round. Officers returned fire, striking the suspect. Additional officers arriving on scene also discharged their firearms after assessing that the suspect continued to pose an active threat.

Once the suspect no longer posed an immediate threat, officers immediately rendered aid. The suspect was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased.

Following review by the Firearms Review Board, the officers' actions were determined to be within agency policy. No policy or training deficiencies were identified. The incident was presented to the Lucas County Grand Jury, which returned a no bill of indictment.

RB#038130-25

On October 7, 2025, officers responded to a district station regarding a report of an unwanted person at a separate location. Upon arrival, officers met with a witness who reported that he had met the suspect through an online gaming platform and had permitted him to stay at his residence.

The witness reported that the suspect began exhibiting unusual behavior and was in possession of firearms. Fearing for his safety, the witness requested police assistance in removing the suspect from the residence.

Officers responded to the location and observed the suspect seated in a vehicle. As officers attempted to make contact, the suspect fled the scene in the vehicle. Although the suspect initially eluded officers, he was later located inside a disabled vehicle with front-end damage in commercial parking lot.

The suspect refused to exit the vehicle. Officers initiated dialogue, during which the suspect stated he was not returning to prison and expressed a desire to die. Additional officers responded to the scene, and a lead negotiator was established.

After approximately 30 minutes, the suspect exited the vehicle and raised a semi-automatic handgun toward officers. Officers discharged their firearms, striking the suspect. The suspect was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased.

Following review by the Firearms Review Board, the officers' actions were determined to be within agency policy. No policy or training deficiencies were identified. The incident was presented to the Lucas County Grand Jury, which returned a no bill of indictment.

Unnecessary Use of Physical Control Techniques

In 2025, four complaints alleging unnecessary use of physical control techniques were filed with the Internal Affairs Section. This represents a decrease from 2024, during which six such complaints were filed. All four complaints in 2025 were initiated administratively through supervisory review of reported incidents.

Incident One:

This administratively initiated case involved the use of force on a subject experiencing a severe mental health crisis. Prior to police involvement, the subject had assaulted family members and attempted to assault a responding officer. The subject was transported to a hospital but continued to exhibit erratic and combative behavior. Officers, in conjunction with medical personnel, were required to physically restrain the subject. During the restraint, the subject attempted to bite an officer. In response, the officer delivered a strike to the subject's head to regain control.

Following the investigation, the allegation of unnecessary use of physical control techniques was exonerated.

Incident Two:

This administratively initiated case involved a highly intoxicated subject who was being evaluated by Toledo Fire & Rescue Department personnel. While being escorted to a marked patrol vehicle, the subject directed racial slurs and threats toward officers and spat on one officer. An officer utilized a takedown technique to bring the subject to the ground. While on the ground and again while standing, the subject attempted to kick officers. The subject was subsequently secured and placed in the rear seat of a patrol vehicle.

Following the investigation, the allegation of unnecessary use of physical control techniques was exonerated.

Incident Three:

This administratively initiated case involved a subject who fled from officers on foot. An officer utilized a takedown technique to bring the subject to the ground. While on the ground, the subject struck the officer in the face and placed his hand in the officer's mouth. The subject was subsequently taken into custody and transported to the hospital. While at the hospital, the subject spat in an officer's face. In response, the officer struck the subject and applied head and hair control techniques to stop the assaultive behavior.

Following the investigation, the allegation of unnecessary use of physical control techniques was exonerated.

Incident Four:

This administratively initiated case involved a subject who fled from officers following a vehicle pursuit. After abruptly exiting the vehicle, the subject fled on foot and was subsequently apprehended. The subject refused to comply with verbal commands and actively resisted arrest. Officers utilized physical control techniques to bring the subject to the ground. During the struggle, officers delivered strikes to gain compliance. The subject was later found to be in possession of OC spray (mace) and sustained minor injuries.

Following investigation, the allegation of unnecessary use of physical control techniques was exonerated.

The meanings of the findings are listed below:

- **SUSTAINED** – The investigation established sufficient evidence to clearly show that the wrongful act alleged in the complaint did occur.
- **SUSTAINED NO PENALTY** – The investigation established sufficient evidence to clearly show that the act alleged in the complaint did occur. However, the chief of police, at his/her sole discretion based on mitigating circumstances, has decided not to issue discipline.
- **NON-SUSTAINED** – The investigation was unable to find sufficient evidence to prove or disprove the allegation of a wrongful act made in the complaint.
- **EXONERATED** – The act described in the complaint did occur, however, the investigation revealed the act was lawful and in accordance with established department policy and procedures.
- **UNFOUNDED** – The investigation proved conclusively that the alleged act did not occur and/or the accused officer did not commit the act or there is no credible evidence to support the complaint.
- **INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE** -- The Chief of Police has determined that an investigation is unable to proceed due to lack of cooperation on the part of the complainant, or an inability to contact the complainant.

Conclusions

Police officers routinely encounter individuals experiencing significant stress, emotional crisis, mental illness, psychological impairment, or the effects of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of these factors. Such conditions may impair judgment, decision-making, and behavioral control, thereby increasing the likelihood of actions that require police intervention.

Although not all distressed or impaired individuals physically resist officers, resistance may occur even when a subject initially appears calm and exhibits no overt indicators of aggression or potential violence. Accordingly, officers must remain prepared to recognize rapidly evolving behaviors and respond in a manner that is reasonable, proportionate, and consistent with department policy and training.

Officers often respond to unpredictable and potentially dangerous situations, frequently with limited information and little time to assess the circumstances. They must make split-second decisions while balancing the safety of the subject, the public, and themselves. Officers face inherent disadvantages when subjects choose to resist:

1. Reactionary Position – Officer responses are initiated in reaction to the subject’s actions.
2. Lack of Constraints – Unlike officers, subjects are not bound by rules or policies and may use any means to achieve their objectives.

Despite these challenges, an analysis of 2025 response to resistance data indicates that Toledo Police officers are generally applying response to resistance techniques appropriately in each situation.

When comparing subject and officer actions, the data were analyzed by documenting the highest action level displayed by the subject and the highest corresponding action level used by the officer in each incident. Multiple officers may be involved in a single incident; therefore, the total number of officer actions may exceed the number of subjects.

Subject vs. Officer Actions

Analysis of 2025 incidents reveals that officers frequently respond with lower levels of force than they are authorized to use. For example, the highest level of subject physical action occurred at the “yellow” level in 385 incidents. These actions included wrestling with an officer, pushing, active verbal or physical resistance, and spitting.

In contrast, officers’ corresponding highest response to these actions was most frequently classified at the “green” level in 432 incidents—one level below the subject’s highest level. This demonstrates that, while officers are justified in responding at the same level as the subject, they predominantly employ a measured and lower level of force.

This approach aligns with the department's training and policies. As outlined in Department Manual Policy 103.2 – Response to Resistance:

“At times, an officer may be justified in moving to a higher or lower response than recommended on the continuum. Officers must be prepared to respond to rising levels of action by the subject and likewise de-escalate promptly when appropriate. The Response to Resistance Continuum provides ranges of reasonable officer responses and allows for the unique circumstances of each incident. The decision to move to a higher or lower level shall be based on the totality of the circumstances.”

Notably, 81% of officer actions occurred at the “blue” and “green” levels (the two lowest), whereas 84% of subject actions were classified as “yellow,” “orange,” or “red” (the three highest levels). These findings indicate that Toledo Police officers effectively assess resistance levels and apply an appropriate,. In many cases, officers are able to effect an arrest without using the degree of force they are permitted to use.

Mental Health Considerations

The department tracks incidents in which officers perceive a subject to have suspected mental health issues or where subjects self-report such conditions. In 2025, 92 subjects (15.8% of all response-to-resistance incidents) were identified as having potential mental health concerns.

To address this, the Toledo Police Department provides training in accordance with CALEA Standard 41.2.7 – Mental Health Issues, which requires both documented entry-level training and annual refresher training. Entry-level training is conducted at the Toledo Police Academy, and sworn personnel completed annual mental health in-service training in 2025.

Additionally, 242 officers are trained as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers and have received specialized instruction in responding to individuals experiencing mental health crises. The number of CIT-certified officers increased by 12% in 2025, from 216 in 2024 to 242 in 2025. CIT officers serve as subject-matter specialists during incidents involving persons with mental illness, including situations that may not involve criminal conduct but present risks to community safety. Continued adherence to CALEA standards, combined with further strengthening the CIT program, is recommended to enhance officer preparedness and promote public safety.

Policies and Procedures

The Toledo Police Department maintains comprehensive policies and procedures to guide officers in handling interactions with individuals experiencing mental illness. These policies address the following areas:

- Recognizing indicators and characteristics of mental illness
- Approaching and interacting with individuals exhibiting mental health concerns
- Hospitalization procedures for individuals with mental illness
- Safe transport of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis

These guidelines provide officers with clear direction for safely and effectively managing incidents involving individuals with mental health needs.

Recommendations

1. Training

Providing timely, relevant, and innovative training is essential to enhancing officer proficiency across all operational responsibilities. Well-trained officers are better equipped to apply learned skills effectively and appropriately in the field. The department provides annual training in the following areas:

- Use of Force policy
- Lethal weapons
- Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs/Tasers)
- Mental health awareness
- Agency wellness

Biennial training is provided in ethics, subject control, and less-lethal weapons. Collectively, these training areas encompass overlapping competencies ranging from verbal communication and de-escalation techniques to the application of lethal force, ensuring officers are prepared to respond to a broad spectrum of operational scenarios.

2. Supervision

Effective supervision begins with officer self-awareness and extends throughout all levels of the chain of command. Officers who understand their individual strengths and areas for improvement, as well as those of their peers, are better equipped to engage in continuous self-assessment and take corrective action when appropriate.

The supervisory review of response-to-resistance incidents serves as an important component of the agency's accountability system, providing multiple levels of evaluation and oversight. Supervisory review and feedback may:

- Recognize and reinforce appropriate performance and decision-making;
- Identify opportunities for additional training, guidance, or clarification; and
- Address performance concerns and ensure compliance with agency policy and established standards.

This process is currently functioning effectively. In 2025, four complaints alleging the unnecessary use of physical control techniques were identified through supervisory review. Each complaint was initiated internally and investigated by the Internal Affairs Bureau. Upon completion of a thorough investigation, all four cases resulted in exoneration.

The continued proactive involvement of supervisors in identifying, reviewing, and addressing potential response-to-resistance concerns is essential to maintaining accountability, promoting policy compliance, supporting officer development, and reinforcing community trust and confidence in the department.

3. Early Intervention System (EIS)

The Early Intervention System (EIS), integrated within the department's IAPro database, tracks individual officer actions and behaviors. The system is designed to identify potential negative patterns or trends before they escalate into more significant issues, thereby allowing for proactive intervention.

Supervisors work collaboratively with officers to develop corrective action plans and provide guidance when necessary, ensuring personnel remain aligned with department standards, expectations, and best practices.

4. Agency Wellness

The Toledo Police Department prioritizes the mental, physical, and emotional wellness of both sworn and civilian personnel. Recognizing that the stressors associated with law enforcement can adversely affect health, well-being, and job performance, the department established the Wellness Unit in October 2021.

The Wellness Unit promotes:

- Positive physical and emotional wellness practices
- Increased job satisfaction and productivity
- Access to professional, objective, and confidential support services

The Wellness Unit administers the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team and the Peer Support Team, both of which provide confidential support for personnel involved in critical incidents as well as those experiencing routine occupational stressors.

Additionally, programs such as the Fitness Incentive Tiered (FIT) Program, implemented in 2022, encourage and reward officers for maintaining physical fitness, further supporting overall employee wellness and resiliency.