



Open Data Report

2023

An annual overview of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (ISO) data collected between January and December 2023 conducted by the Professional Oversight Unit of the Department of Personnel & Professional Standards.

2023 Response to Resistance Incidents



DEFINITIONS

Response to Resistance (RTR) Incident - Any incident involving the necessary application of a reasonable degree of force by an officer in the course of his official duties that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- A firearm was discharged;
- An intermediate weapon was used on or against an individual or animal;
- A person or animal was exposed to a chemical irritant;
- A Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) team member used a specialty weapon in a non-SWAT incident;
- A Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) was intentionally deployed at a person or animal in Probe or Touch-Stun mode;
- A REACT/Band-It device was activated;
- Physical force was applied to a subject and the force resulted, or was alleged to have resulted, in any injury, regardless of the severity;
- An injury was observed on a subject following any application of force, to include loss of consciousness;
- An arrestee was rejected admission to the Pretrial Detention Facility (PDF) and directed to the hospital due to alleged injuries sustained from an officer's application of force;
- After an arrestee was granted admission to the PDF, the arrestee alleged an injury was sustained from a officer's application of force; or
- A supervisor determines an RTR Report is appropriate.

Use of Force - The application of an agency-approved technique used to establish the physical control of a suspect who is resisting an officer's lawful attempts to take the suspect into custody. The five categories are:

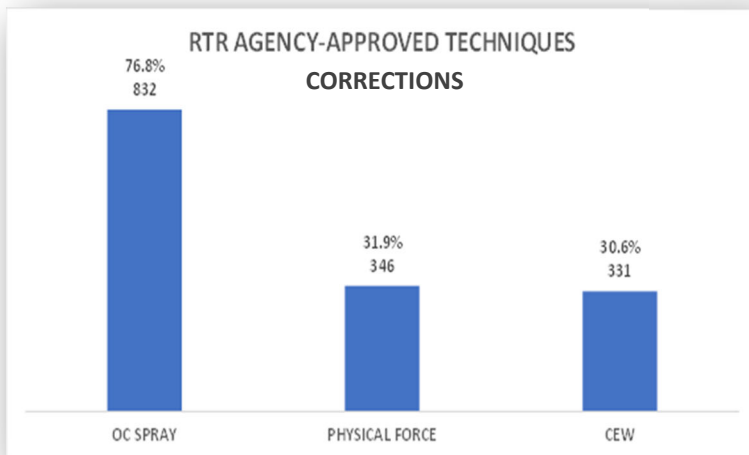
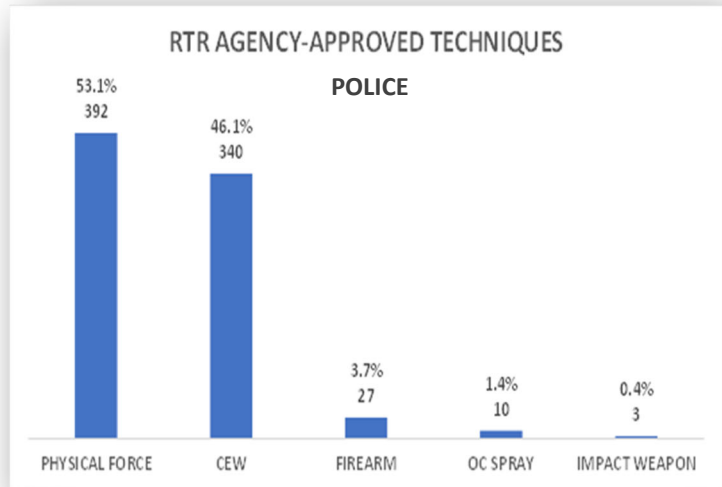
- **CEW:** Force that involved the use of a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), commonly referred to as a "Taser";
- **Chemical:** Force that involved a chemical irritant such as Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray;
- **Firearm:** Force that involved the use of an agency-issued or agency-approved small arms weapon, such as a rifle or pistol;
- **Intermediate:** Force that involved a baton and/or specialty impact weapon; and
- **Physical (or Weaponless):** Force that involved the use of physical control techniques, restraint devices, transporters, pain compliance, takedown techniques and counter move techniques.

OVERALL 2023 FIGURES

In 2023, Response to Resistance (RTR) incidents occurred in **less than 1%** of the 758,871 calls for service and in **2%** of 26,855 arrests made, supporting a minimal occurrence of force in documented police-citizen encounters. From January to December 2023, there were **738 RTR incidents** involving police officers employed by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) and **1,083 RTR incidents** involving corrections officers. Included in the 738 Police RTR incidents were **13** officer involved shooting incidents with suspects and **9** of the suspects were fatally injured.

Police officers responded to suspect resistance with applied force in **738 Police RTR incidents**. The most used agency-approved technique by police officers was physical force in **53.1%** of RTR incidents, followed by CEW applications in **46.1%** of RTR incidents. The most common physical force technique applied was physical control in **35.4%** of RTR incidents, followed by takedown techniques in **31.6%**.

*Note: The data included in the bar chart will exceed the total number of RTR incidents (738) because police officers can select multiple reasons for the applications of force in the report for each RTR incident.

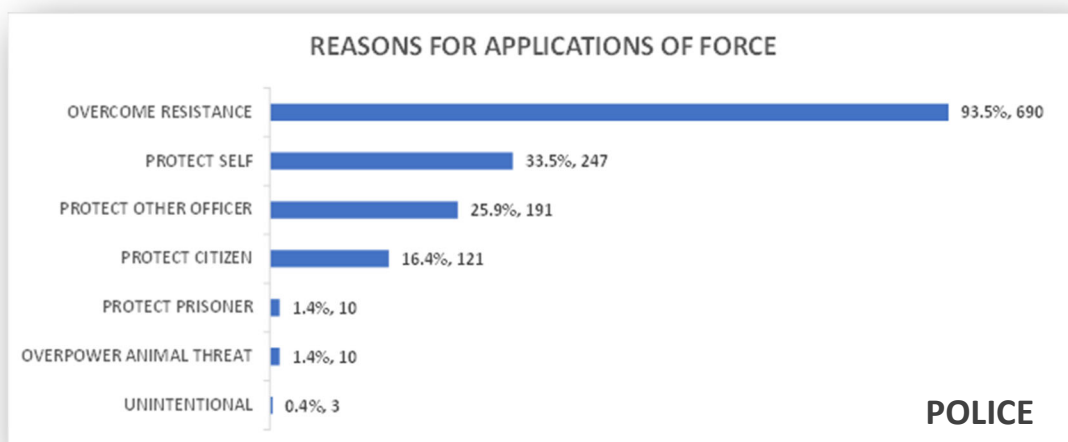


The majority of the **1,083 Corrections RTR Incidents** involved the deployment of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray (**76.8%**) in response to inmate resistance, followed by applications of physical force (**31.9%**).

*Note: The data included in the bar chart will exceed the total number of RTR incidents (1,083) because corrections officers can select multiple reasons for the applications of force in the report for each RTR incident.

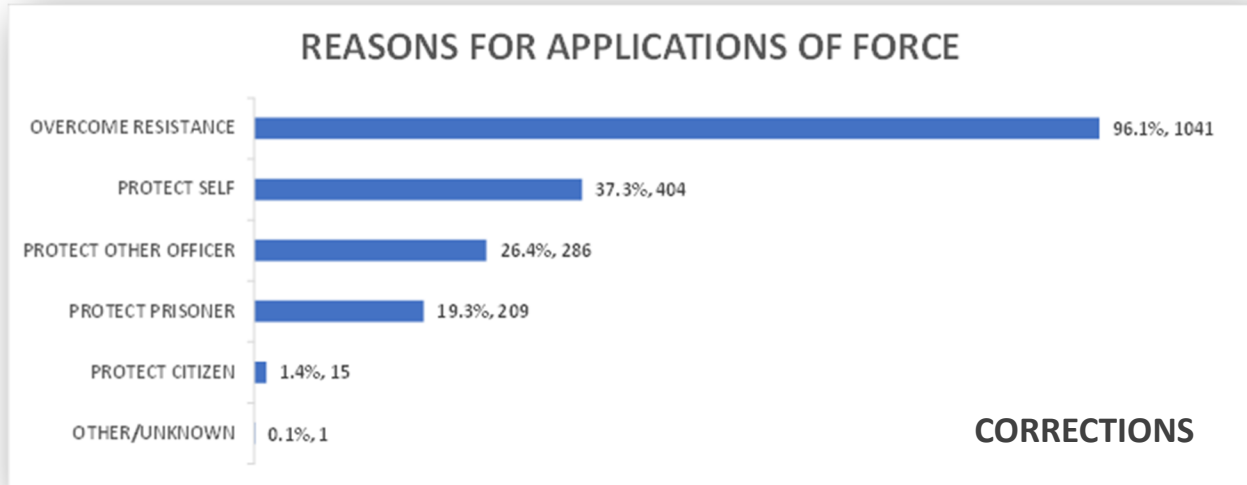
JUSTIFICATION FOR APPLICATIONS OF FORCE

During RTR incidents, the reason for, or justification of applied force can evolve from police officers attempting to overcome a suspect’s resistance to police officers protecting themselves or others from harm. Therefore, the police officer has the ability to select multiple reasons in the RTR report for their response consistent with RTR reporting parameters. Overcoming suspect resistance was the most documented reason police officers used force (**690, 93.5%**).



*Note: The data included in the bar chart will exceed the total number of RTR incidents (738) because police officers can select multiple reasons for the applications of force in the report for each RTR incident.

One of the primary duties of a corrections officer is to maintain order within the correctional facility to ensure a safe environment for inmates and employees. In **96.1%** of Corrections RTR incidents, corrections officers reported the reason for using force was to overcome inmate resistance, followed by the need to protect themselves or others at **84.4%**.



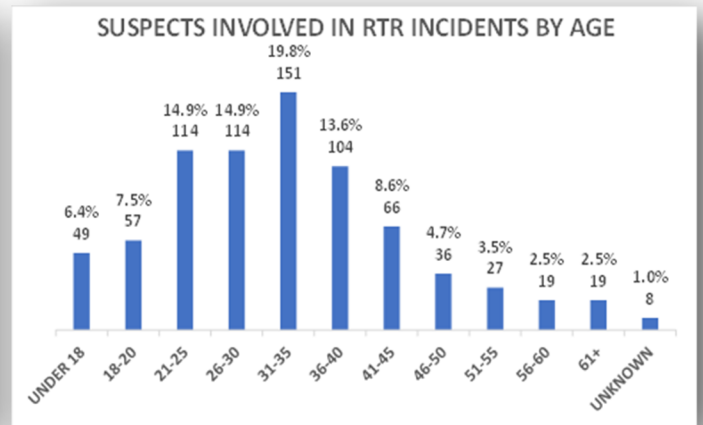
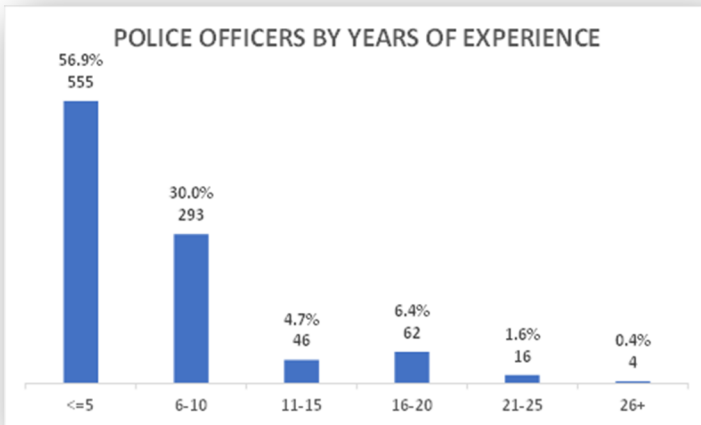
INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN POLICE RTR INCIDENTS

Total # of Police Officers Involved: 976

81.3% of officers were uniformed patrol officers.
86.9% of officers had 10 years of experience or less.
69.9% of officers were under the age of 35.

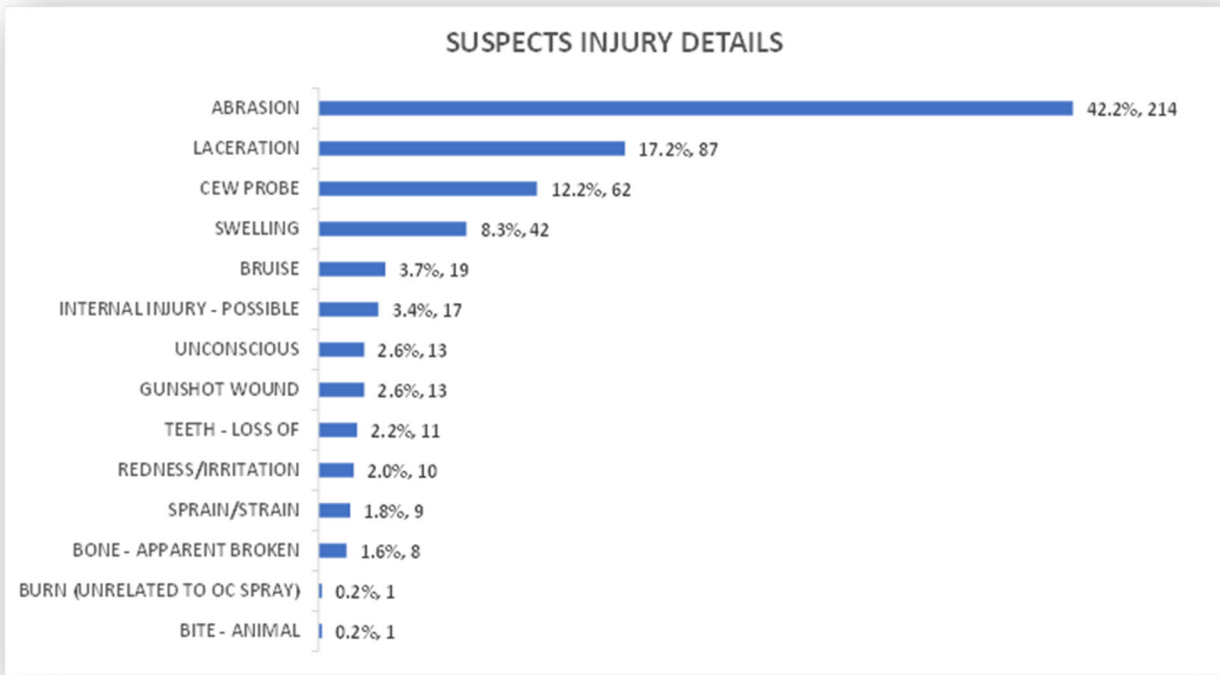
Total # of Suspects Involved: 764

16 suspects were involved in 2 or more separate RTR incidents.
63.5% of suspects under the age of 35.



SUSPECTS INJURED IN POLICE RTR INCIDENTS

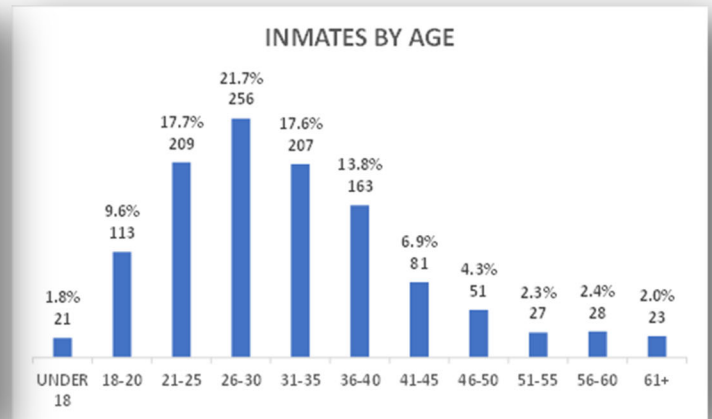
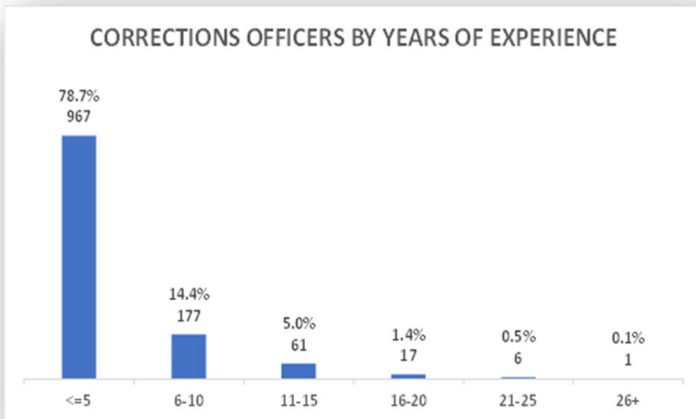
Police officers are required to document a response to resistance incident if the application of force resulted in suspect injury or alleged suspect injury. In 2023, **498** of the **764 suspects (65.2%)** reported or alleged injury as the result of an application of force. The largest percentage of documented suspect injuries were abrasions and lacerations (**59.4%**). The majority of those injuries were treated by a medical professional. Of the **498** suspects injured, **9** suspects were fatally injured, confirming that approximately **99%** of all suspect encounters with police officers where force was used did not result in fatal injuries.



INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN CORRECTIONS RTR INCIDENTS

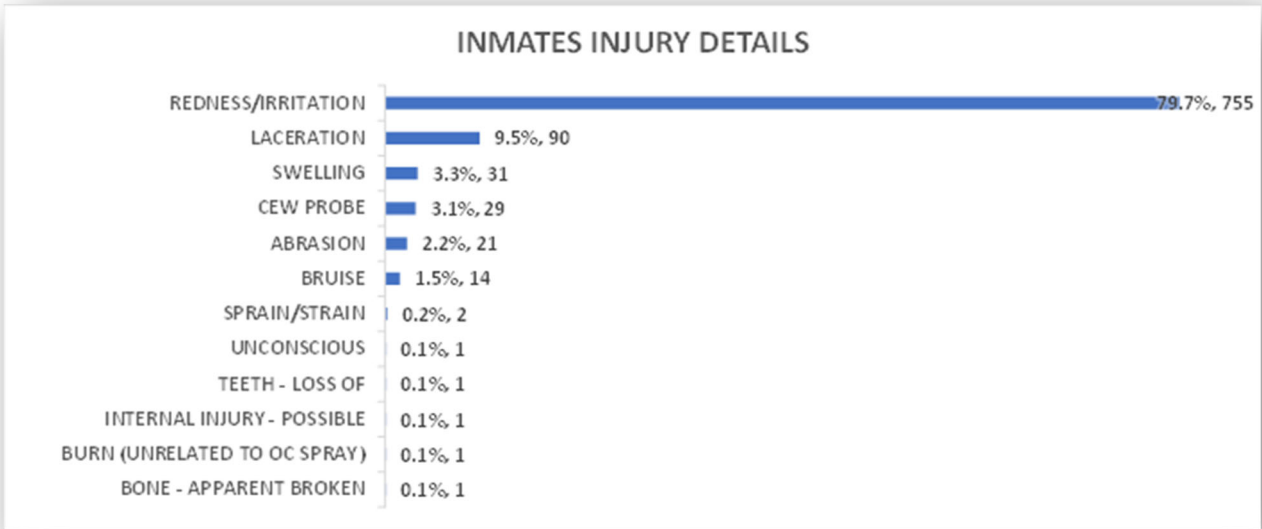
Total # of Corrections Officers Involved: 1,229
93.1% officers had 10 years of experience or less.
87.6% officers were under the age of 35.

Total # of Inmates Involved: 1,179
162 inmates were involved in 2 or more separate incidents.
68.4% of inmates were under the age of 35.



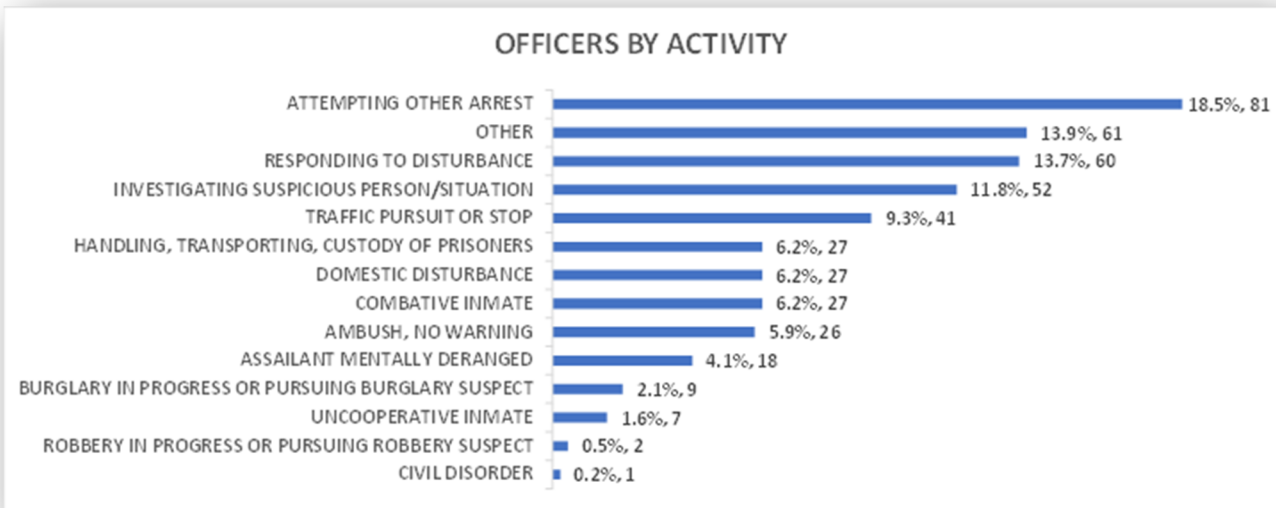
INMATES INJURED IN CORRECTIONS RTR INCIDENTS

As with police officers, corrections officers are required to document an RTR incident if the application of force resulted in inmate injury or alleged injury. Of the **1,179** inmates involved in Corrections RTR incidents, **1,005 (85.2%)** inmates were reported as being injured or alleged injury. Redness/Irritation (**79.7%**) was the most reported inmate injury.



ASSAULTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

In 2023, the agency had **354 incidents** involving assaults on law enforcement officers. Of the 354 incidents, **458 officers** were involved in these incidents (405 were police officers, 37 were corrections officers, 5 community service officers, 7 bailiff/judicial officers, 3 auxiliary officers and 1 security officer). In 2022, there were a total of 242 incidents involving assaults on law enforcement officers, showing a **46% increase** in officer-assaulted incidents in 2023. Possible reasons for the significant increase in officer-assaulted incidents include an increase in overall citywide calls for service, the reallocation of manpower to higher crime areas, and improved reporting parameters. Arresting a suspect (**18.5%**) and responding to a disturbance (**13.7%**) were the some of the most common activities that resulted in an officer being assaulted.



DOCUMENTATION AND REVIEW OF RTR INCIDENTS

Officers are required to complete an RTR report, in accordance with policy, following an RTR incident. This report is reviewed by the responding supervisor's chain-of-command and by the Professional Oversight Unit. RTR reports are subject to further review by the Director of Personnel & Professional Standards, the RTR Review Board, and/or the Internal Affairs Unit, to ensure compliance with agency policy and training. Further, the JSO Cold Case Unit and the State Attorney's Office conduct criminal investigations for all officer-involved shooting incidents.

TRAINING

The agency conducts annual training with officers on the application of all types of force, as well as advanced training opportunities. The Training Academy and the Professional Oversight Unit monitor trends in the agency, and in other agencies, to ensure policy and training represents national best practice standards. Training is conducted using a variety of methods, including:

- Basic law enforcement and basic corrections training classes;
- Annual in-service training for officers and supervisors;
- Bi-annual firearms requalification and training;
- Monthly roll call training;
- Specialized classes offered to officers for advanced training, including *Defensive Tactics* and *Understanding and Articulating Use of Force Incidents*; and
- Remedial training for officers who have demonstrated a deficiency in a specific area.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST EMPLOYEES

Complaints against employees of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office are accepted from any source and forwarded to the Internal Affairs Unit. The Internal Affairs Unit conducts a preliminary review of each complaint and all evidence/documentation associated with the complaint. Complaints involving allegations of misconduct are either forwarded to the employee's supervisor for further investigation (when the allegation is of **minor misconduct**) or are investigated by an Internal Affairs detective (when the allegation is of **serious misconduct**). Based on the results of the administrative investigation, each allegation of misconduct is given one of the following dispositions:

- **Unfounded:** The administrative investigation determined an allegation of misconduct was false or not supported by the facts.
- **Exonerated:** The administrative investigation determined an incident involving alleged misconduct occurred, but the employee's actions were lawful and proper.
- **Not Sustained:** The administrative investigation determined there was insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation of misconduct.
- **Sustained:** The administrative investigation determined there was a preponderance of evidence to prove the employee committed the alleged misconduct.

When an allegation of misconduct is **sustained**, the agency administers corrective and/or disciplinary action to the employee, for the purpose of preventing future violations of policy. The hierarchies of training and disciplinary actions that follow sustained misconduct are:

- **Training:** The employee is given additional training in an area where they have demonstrated one or more deficiencies. Training is positive and correctively advisory in nature. It can be given in addition to any other form of corrective/disciplinary actions and is not considered discipline.
- **Informal Counseling Session:** This is a discussion between the supervisor and an employee, which is positive and correctively advisory in nature, and is the first step in bringing about improvements in the employee's behavior. It may involve, among other things, a procedural clarification, recommendation to obtain additional training, suggestions for improvement, an oral admonishment for a perceived indiscretion, or a suggestion that the employee obtain professional counseling. Informal Counseling does not require written documentation and is not considered discipline.

- **Formal Counseling Session:** This is a discussion between a supervisor and an employee in which the employee's improper behavior and necessary improvements are brought to his attention. Formal counseling sessions are, generally, used after informal supervisor/subordinate communications have failed to produce the desired results or when the conduct or performance is somewhat more serious. Formal counseling sessions should be held on a positive note, be conducted by the employee's immediate supervisor or higher authority, and be correctively advisory in nature. This step is also not considered discipline, but is documented and is considered a more significant course of action than an Informal Counseling Session.
- **Written Reprimand Level One:** This is the first official disciplinary step in the hierarchy. The employee is given a document that outlines the violation(s) of policy, discusses consequences for future violations, and it stays active for three years. Written Reprimands are given when an employee has not responded to previous training and/or counseling, but they are also given without any previous corrective actions if the policy violation is significant enough.
- **Written Reprimand Level Two:** A Written Reprimand Level Two is similar to a Written Reprimand Level One, but is given to an employee for more significant violations of policy and may be given with other higher forms of disciplinary action such as, forfeiture of leave time, reduction of pay, suspension without pay and/or demotion.
- **Suspension or Demotion:** When an employee has failed to respond to written reprimands or when an employee commits an act of serious misconduct, he may be suspended without pay or, if the employee has achieved supervisory rank, he may be demoted to a previously-held rank.
- **Termination:** In situations where an employee has committed particularly serious violations of policy, or has committed numerous violations of policy without any improvement in performance, he may be separated from the agency.

During this period in 2023, there were **1,511** total employee complaints (Police, Corrections, and Civilian) received by the Internal Affairs Unit. Of those 1,511 complaints, **1,232** were submitted by citizens and **279** complaints were initiated by an agency employee. Following the preliminary review conducted by the Internal Affairs Unit, **690** of those complaints necessitated further investigation by either the employee's supervisor or by the Internal Affairs Unit.

ADMINISTRATIVELY INVESTIGATED COMPLAINT DISPOSITIONS

199 were *Sustained*
(155 in-house / 44 citizen)

13 were *Unfounded*
(6 in-house / 7 citizen)

45 were *Exonerated*
(23 in-house / 22 citizen)

39 were *Not Sustained*
(6 in-house / 33 citizen)

**Note: 2023 totals will not include complaints that are still active investigations or complaints that did not warrant an administrative investigation.*

CORRECTIVE / DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINED CASES

Sustained Cases:

67 Informal Counseling Sessions

87 Written Reprimand Level Ones

18 Written Reprimand Level Two with Suspension

5 Terminations

83 Formal Counseling Sessions

18 Written Reprimand Level Twos

21 Resignations

**Note: Individual complaints that are sustained may result in more than one corrective or disciplinary action. Additionally, these numbers include administrative investigations that began prior to 2023.*

COMPLAINTS OF BIAS-BASED PROFILING

Complaints that allege any form of bias-based profiling are distinctly monitored so that any trends can be easily identified. Bias-based profiling occurs when, whether intentionally or unintentionally, employees apply their own personal, societal, or organizational biases or stereotypes when making decisions or taking law enforcement action, and the ONLY reason for that decision or action is because of a person's race, ethnicity, background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, culture or other personal characteristic, rather than due to the observed behavior of the individual or the identification of the individual being engaged in criminal activity.

In 2023, the Internal Affairs Unit received **12** bias-based complaints. **Zero** were *Sustained* at the time of publication.

COMPLAINTS OF UNNECESSARY FORCE

In 2023, the JSO conducted **164** investigations into allegations of unnecessary use of force. Those investigations resulted in the following dispositions:

- **11** cases were classified as *Exonerated*
- **9** cases were classified as *Not Sustained*
- **1** case was classified as *Sustained*
- **4** cases were classified as *Unfounded*

135 of the **164** allegations of unnecessary force were not formally investigated based on the initial review of information gathered by Internal Affairs, such as body-worn camera footage or other video recordings which clearly showed officers were within policy. **4** of the investigations are still active.

CONCLUSION

The Professional Oversight Unit (POU) is responsible for overseeing administrative cases related to Response to Resistance (RTR) incidents, JSO vehicle crashes/incidents, and vehicle pursuits, as well as facilitating the operation of the Response to Resistance Review Board, Safety Review Board, Personnel Early Intervention Program, and all process improvement projects for the agency. By having this additional layer of administrative review, JSO can continue to ensure employees comply with policy, training, and national standards. The Professional Oversight Unit will continue to review incidents and determine if any modifications to training, policy, practices, or equipment are needed.