# USE OF FORCE ANNUAL REPORT

## Springfield Police Department

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Professional Standards Unit
February 25th, 2025

# USE OF FORCE

### A. Polices and Overview of Force

The Springfield Police Department's Use of Force policies are published collectively as UOF-1 through UOF-9[1]. UOF-1 (UOF Policy), along with the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) guidelines, provides officers with a basis for using sound judgment in making reasonable and prudent decisions regarding using force. UOF-2 (UOF Reporting) sets forth the SPD's policy and procedures regarding reporting the use of force and the protocols that must be followed. UOF-3 (UOF Review and Investigation) sets forth the policy to guide supervisors regarding reporting to, managing the scene of, and reviewing and investigating a Level Two through Level Five use of force[2]UOF-4 through UOF-9 set forth guidelines regarding the following categories: UOF-4—Use of Force Committee; UOF-6—Foot Pursuit; UOF-7—Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C) Spray; UOF-8—Impact Weapons; and UOF-9—Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW).

Force is categorized and reviewed by type:

Level One (1): References cooperative control tactics used with a non-resistant subject, such as un-resisted handcuffing, hand control or escort techniques (e.g., elbow grasp) and does not constitute a Use of Force.

Level Two (2): Includes (1) uses of force such as wrist lock, arm bar, and single use of OC spray, where there is no reported or observed injury beyond the level of discomfort commonly associated with the use of OC spray, however in the event of a single use of OC spray, all available body worn camera footage will be tagged and investigated within 72 hours; (2) pointing a firearm or Conducted Electrical Weapon ("CEW") at an individual; (3) "cycling" a CEW as a form of warning ("Displaying the Arc"); (4) pressure point compliance techniques that do not result in injury; and (5) forcible takedowns that do not result in actual injury or complaint of injury. It does not include escorting, touching, or handcuffing a person with minimal or no resistance.

Level Three (3): An intermediate Use of Force that causes or could reasonably be expected to cause an injury greater than transitory pain but does not rise to a Level 4 or 5 Use of Force. Level 3 may include uses of force such as (1) the use of OC spray if there is an injury reported or observed, or if OC spray is used more than once on the same individual; and (2) pressure point compliance techniques.

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[1] SPD does not currently have a UOF-5 policy.

[2] Use of force is categorized into levels One through Five as defined in UOF-3. These categories are used to determine the type of response required from the uninvolved supervisor.

Level Four (4): A serious level of force including (1) any discharge of a CEW in drive stun or probe mode, aimed at a person, that is not Level 2 or 3 force, including where a CEW is fired at a person but misses; (2) weaponless defense techniques (e.g., elbow or closed-fist strikes, kicks); (3) any discharge of a less-lethal launcher/munition; (4) any canine inflicted injury, except those that would otherwise constitute Level 3 force; and (5) any strike, other than a strike with impact weapon, to the head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidney area.

Level Five (5): The most serious level of force, to include (1) strikes to the head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidney area with an impact weapon; (2) weaponless defense techniques (e.g., elbow or closed-fist strikes, kicks) directed to the head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidney area that results in visible injury, and/or requires medical attention, and/or results in complaint of injury; (3) firearms discharges, including unintentional firearm discharges; (4) applications of three or more CEW cycles on an individual during a single encounter regardless of the mode (probe or drive-stun) or duration of the application and regardless of whether the applications are by the same or different officers; (5) uses of force resulting in death, serious physical injury, loss of consciousness, or requiring hospitalization; and (6) uses of deadly force.

## B. Quantitative Overview of Use of Force

The Springfield Police Department documents force at Levels Two through Five[3]. Most broadly, the use of force at the incident level (generally but not always associated with a specific computer-aided dispatch (CAD) event) may involve multiple officers and/or subjects, each of whom may be documented as either involved or witness to the use of force. At the individual officer level, force is documented and recorded as the combination of a force incident, a unique officer, and a unique subject; accordingly, depending on how many officers used force during an incident, a single use of force incident may be associated with multiple uses of force reports. The most granular level of documentation occurs at the type of force used level, at which the involved officer documents each reportable application of force; a single use of force event may thus include multiple applications of force. Each use-of-force event is reviewed at the level commensurate with the highest level of force used by any officer involved.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, SPD received **223,479** calls for service generated by either Officer-Initiated, 911 calls, Telephone, Walk-ins, Radio, or Other means. Of these, **321** different calls for service resulted in **329** reportable use-of-force events involving **846** Officers and **1,034** individual applications of force.[4]

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[3] Level One (1) does not constitute a Use of Force.
[4] Individual types of force include "Firearm Display Only" and "Taser Display Only," which are not considered uses of force but are documented in use-of-force incidents.

**Viewed in the context of overall calls for service, this means that less than one-quarter of one percent (0.1436%) of calls for service resulted in a reportable use-of-force event.**

## 1. Use of Force by Level of Force

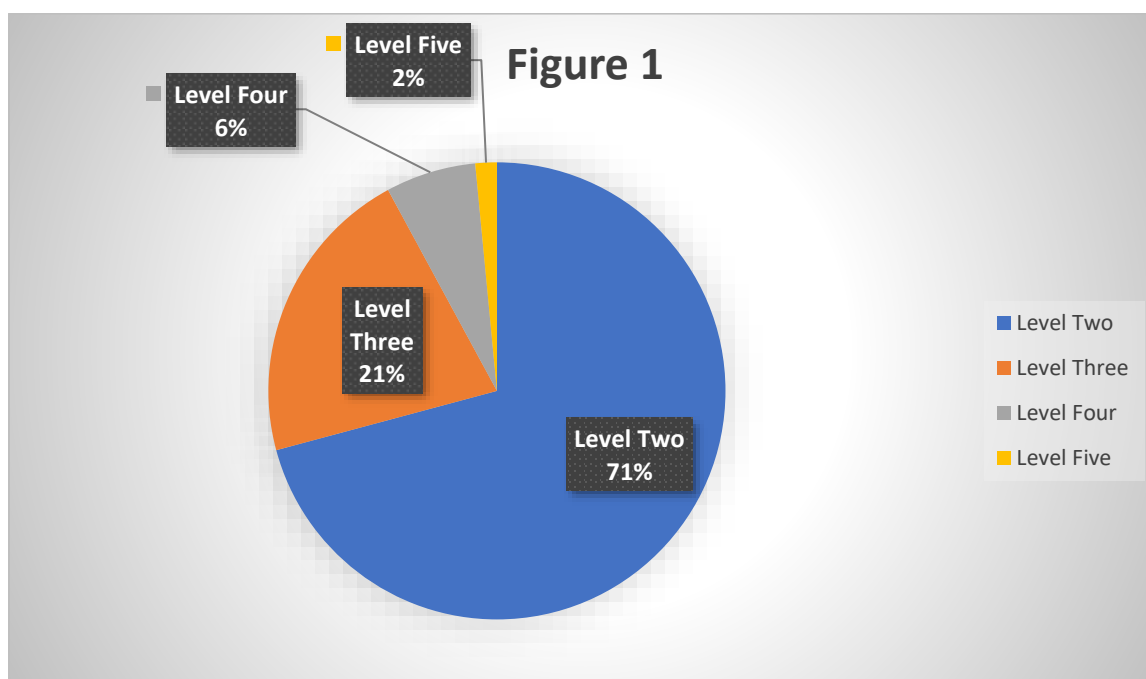**Figure 1: Total Uses of Force Events by Level (January 1 – December 31, 2024)**



Figure 1 shows the breakdown of use-of-force events by level over the calendar year reported. Of the **329** events, **233 (71%)** had Level Two force reported as the highest level; **70 (21%)** reported Level Three force as the highest level; **21 (6%)** reported Level Four force as the highest level; and **5 (2%)** reported Level Five force as the highest level.

## 2. Use of Force by Individual Application[5]

**Figure 2: Individual Application of Force Used in Level Two Events (January 1 – December 31, 2024)**
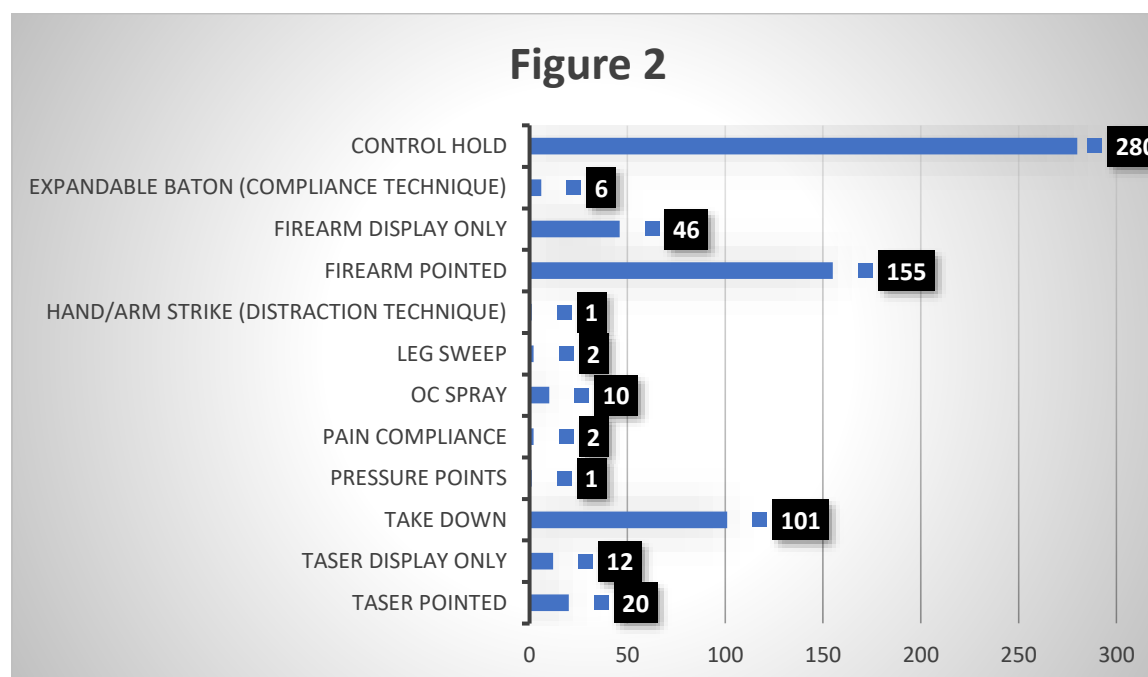


Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the different individual applications of force used (**636 total**) for all Level Two events over the reported calendar year. Of these **636** individual uses of force, **280 (44%)** were reported as "Control Hold"; **6 (1%)** were reported as "Expandable Baton (Compliance Technique)"; **46 (7%)** were reported as "Firearm Display Only"; **155 (25%)** were reported as "Firearm Pointed"; **1 (<1%)** were reported as Hand/Arm Strike (Distraction Technique)**; 2 (<1%**) were reported as "Leg Sweep"; **10 (2%)** were reported as "OC Spray"; **2 (<1%)** were reported as "Pain Compliance"; **1 (<1%)** were reported as "Pressure Points"; **101 (16%)** were reported as "Take Down"; **12 (2%)** were reported as "Taser Display Only"; and **20 (3%)** were reported as "Taser Pointed".

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[5] Use-of-force events are categorized into levels based on the highest level of force used by any officer involved. Because of this, level 3 through 5 events have individual applications of force that would otherwise be a level 2 application, however, due to the fact that they occurred in conjunction with a higher-level application of force, they are documented within that higher level.

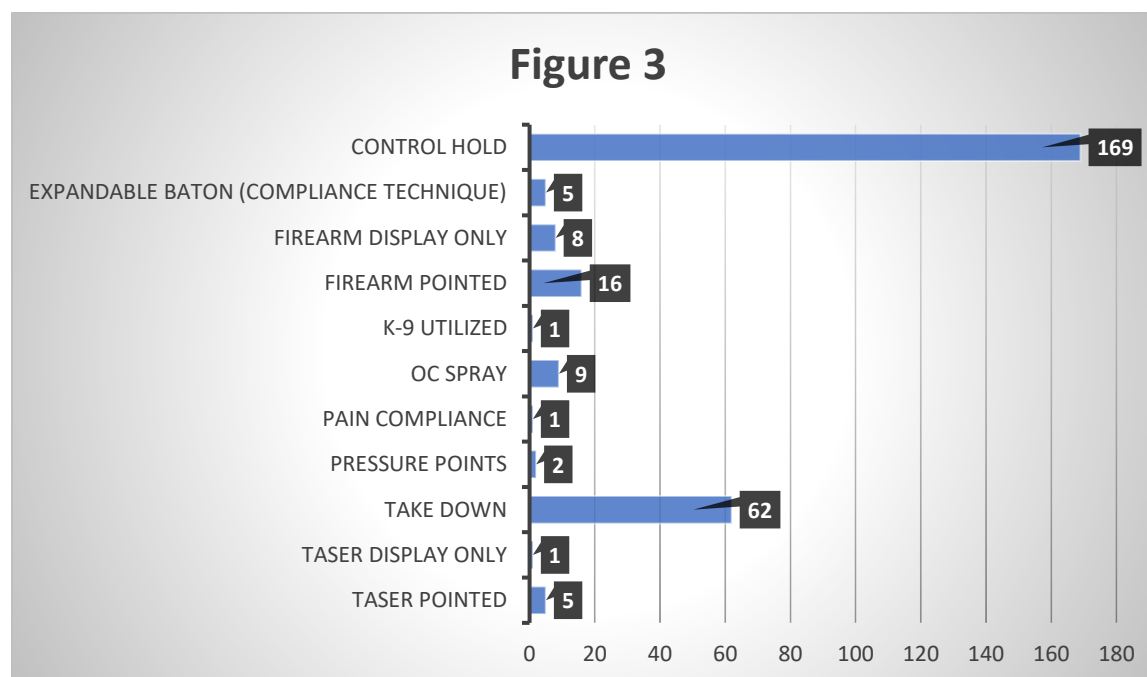**Figure 3: Individual Application of Force Used in Level Three Events (January 1 – December 31, 2024)**



Figure 3 shows the breakdown of individual applications of force used **(279 total)** for all Level 3 events over the reported calendar year. Of these **279** individual uses of force, **169 (61%)** were reported as "Control Hold"; **5 (2%)** were reported as "Expandable Baton (Compliance Technique)"; **8 (3%)** were reported as "Firearm Display Only"; **16 (6%)** were reported as "Firearm Pointed"; **1 (<1%)** were reported as "K-9 Utilized"; **9 (3%)** were listed as "OC Spray"; **1 (<1%)** were reported as "Pain Compliance"; **2 (1%)** were reported as "Pressure Points"; **62 (22%)** were reported as "Take Down"; **1 (<1%)** were reported as "Taser Display Only"; and **5 (2%)** were reported as "Taser Pointed."

**Figure 4: Individual Application of Force Used in Level Four Events (January 1 – December 31, 2024)**



Figure 4 shows the breakdown of individual applications of force used **(90 total)** for all Level 4 events over the reported calendar year. Of these **90** individual uses of force, **46 (51%)** were reported as "Control Hold"; **1 (1%)** were reported as "Expandable Baton (Compliance Technique)"; **1 (1%)** were reported as "Firearm Display Only"; **2 (2%)** were reported as "Firearm Pointed"; **3 (4%)** were reported as "Hand/Arm Strike"; **1 (1%)** were reported as "Leg Sweep"; **10 (11%)** were reported as "Take Down"; **20 (22 %)** were reported as "Taser"; **2 (2%)** were reported as "Taser Display Only"; and **4 (5%)** were reported as "Taser Pointed."

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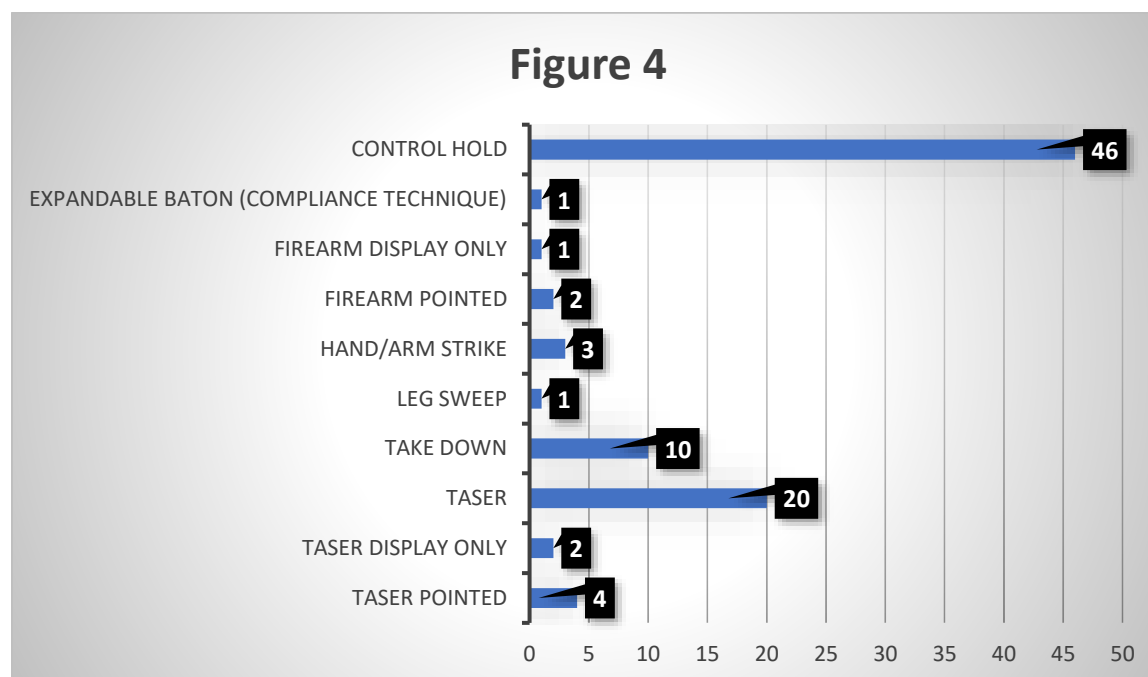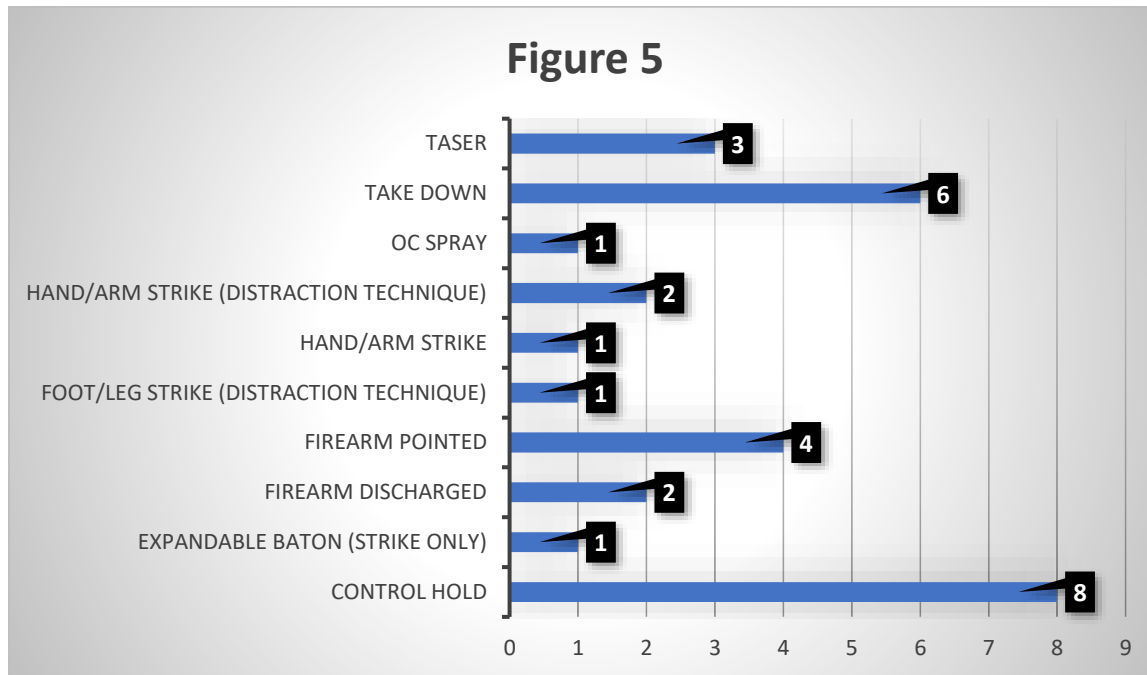**Figure 5: Individual Application of Force Used in Level Five Events (January 1 – December 31, 2024)**



Figure 5 shows the breakdown of individual applications of force used (**29 total**) for all Level 5 events over the reported calendar year. Of these **29** individual uses of force, **8 (28%)** were reported as "Control Hold"; **1 (4%)** were reported as "Expandable Baton (Strike Only)"; **2 (7%)** were reported as "Firearm Discharged"*; **4 (14%)** were listed as "Firearm Pointed"; **1 (3%)** were reported as "Foot/Leg Strike (Distraction Technique)"; **1 (3%)** were reported as "Hand/Arm Strike"; **2 (7%)** were reported as "Hand/Arm Strike (Distraction Technique)"; **1 (3%)** were reported as "OC Spray"; **6 (21%)** were reported as "Take Down"; and **3 (10 %)** were reported as "Taser."

*Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS): SPD had one OIS in 2024. During this event, two SPD Officers each discharged their firearm once.

## 3. Use of Force by Subject Demographics

In discussing disparity in the demographic distribution of subjects involved in any study of law enforcement activity, one crucial note bears emphasizing. As is reflected in statistics nationwide, racial disparity is of significant ongoing concern. It is an important issue that requires continued discussion and analysis within the limited role of law enforcement and beyond. In the present state of sociological and criminal justice research, there is no proven, reliable methodology for accounting for all the multitude of recognized factors that may combine to result in a disparity within the metric measured – including those critical factors upstream (education, socioeconomic status, family structure, etc.) of police involvement that may contribute to the likelihood a person will come into contact with police. ***In other words, while numbers can identify a disparity, they cannot explain it.***

Regarding the SPD's 2024 data, **389**[6] subjects with demographic data entered were involved in a use-of-force event. **310 (79.6%)** were male, and **79 (20.4%)** were female. Approximately **34% (133)** of the subjects were Black, **39% (153)** were Hispanic, **24% (95)** were White, and less than **1%** each were Indian (**1**), Middle Eastern (**1**), and unknown (**6**).

**Figure 6: Use of Force Involving Male Subject by Race**



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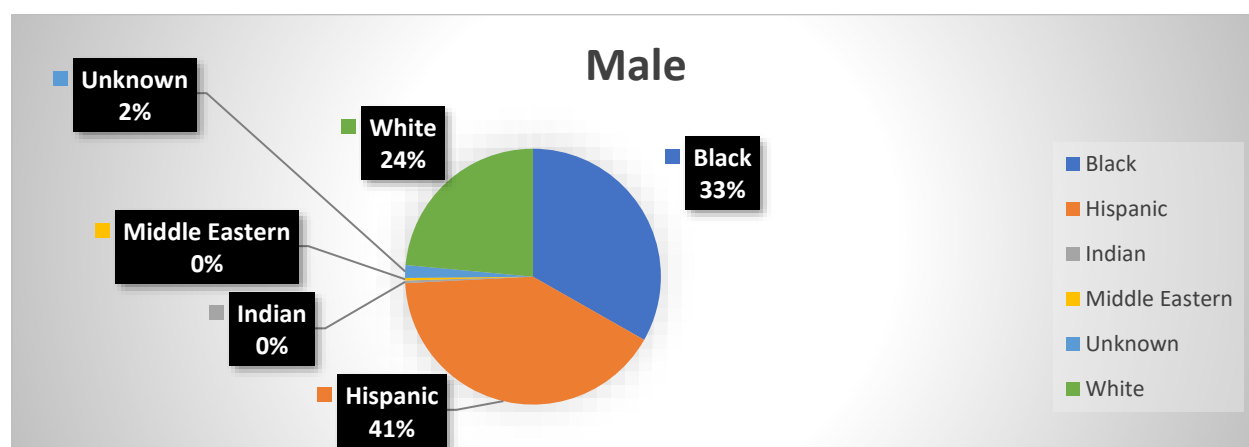
[6] There were 391 total subjects, however, 2 subjects were not apprehended and therefore we do not have demographic data for them.

**Figure 7: Use of Force Involving Female Subject by Race**
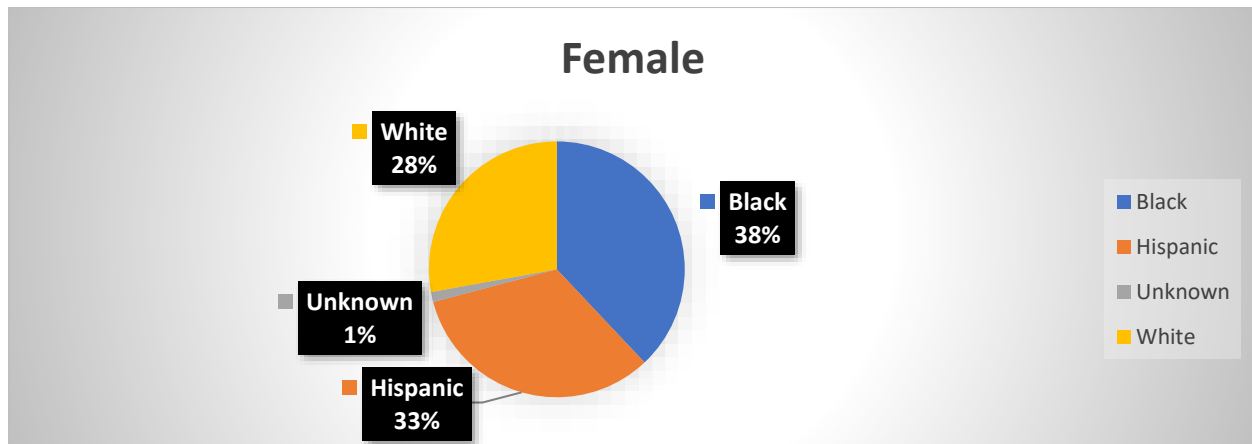


Of the **389** subjects involved in use-of-force events in 2024, **69** were under 20, **121** were 20 to 29, **109** were 30 to 39, **59** were 40 to 49, and **31** were 50 and up.

**Table 1: Detailed Breakdown by Age/Race/Gender**

|  | Under 20 Male/Female | 20 to 29 Male/Female | 30 to 39 Male/Female | 40 to 49 Male/Female | 50 and Up Male/Female |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Black** | 19/5 | 40/11 | 31/7 | 8/3 | 5/4 |
| **Hispanic** | 22/5 | 32/8 | 39/6 | 24/5 | 10/2 |
| **Indian** | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 1/0 | 0/0 |
| **Middle Eastern** | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 1/0 | 0/0 |
| **Unknown** | 2/0 | 2/1 | 1/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| **White** | 10/6 | 24/3 | 18/7 | 13/4 | 8/2 |

The software used to enter use-of-force reports, BlueTeam[7] does not allow officers to specify which force application was used on whom when multiple subjects are involved in a single use-of-force event. Therefore, we cannot accurately break down the previously reported individual force applications by race. However, we can accurately report the level of force by the race of the subjects involved.

**Table 2: Use of Force Level by Race of Subject**

|  | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Black** | 95 | 26 | 9 | 3 |
| **Hispanic** | 112 | 32 | 8 | 1 |
| **Indian** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Middle Eastern** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Unknown** | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **White** | 69 | 19 | 6 | 1 |

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[7] BlueTeam is the software used to enter use-of-force reports that are then stored in IAPro which allows for analytical reports to be run based on the data entered.

## 4. Use of Force by Officer Demographics

Regarding SPD's 2024 data, there were **846** involved officers with a reportable application of force[8]. **767** were male, and **79** were female. **157** are Black, **13** are Asian, **394** are Hispanic, and **282** are White.

**Figure 8: Use of Force by Involved Officer Demographics**
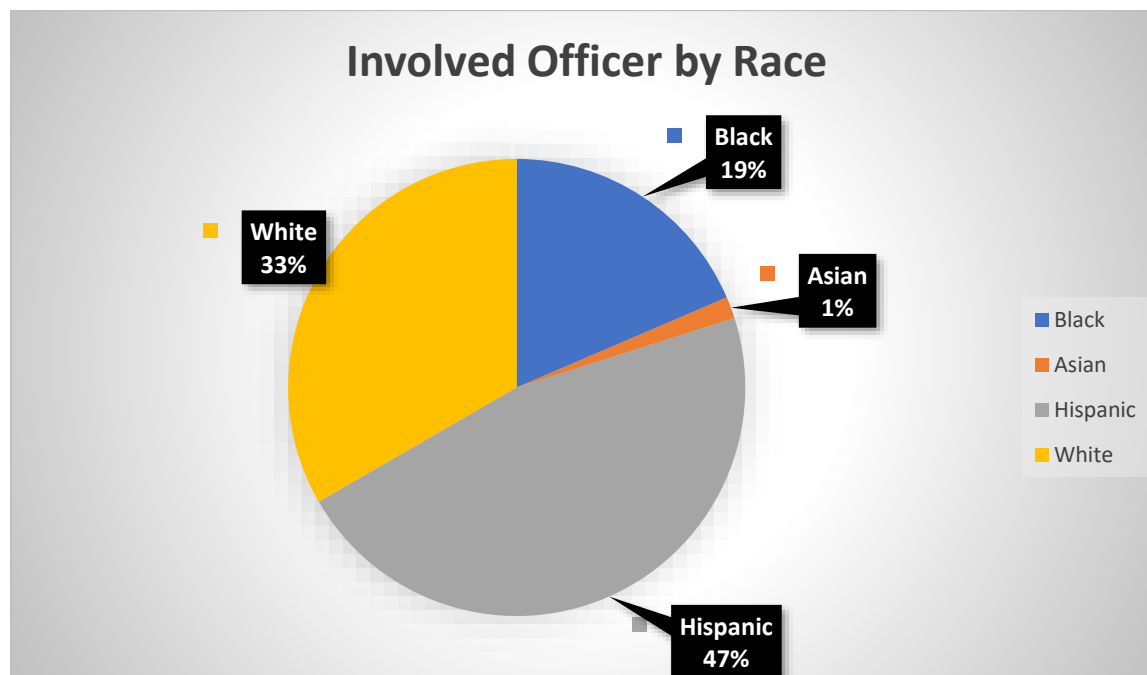


Of the **846** officers involved, **29** use-of-force events involved **53** members of the Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU). Of the **29** events, **4** were Level Three, and the rest were Level Two. There were no Level Four or Five use-of-force events that involved any members of FIU. It must also be noted that at least one member of FIU is also a member of SPD's Emergency Services Unit (ESU) and **9** of the **29** events involved that member while in the ESU capacity. There was **one** other event that involved a current FIU member. However, the event occurred when that member was still assigned to Squad and was not a member of FIU at the time.

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[8] This number includes officers who were involved in multiple use-of-force events and does not represent 846 different officers.

**Figure 9: Use of Force Events Involving FIU**
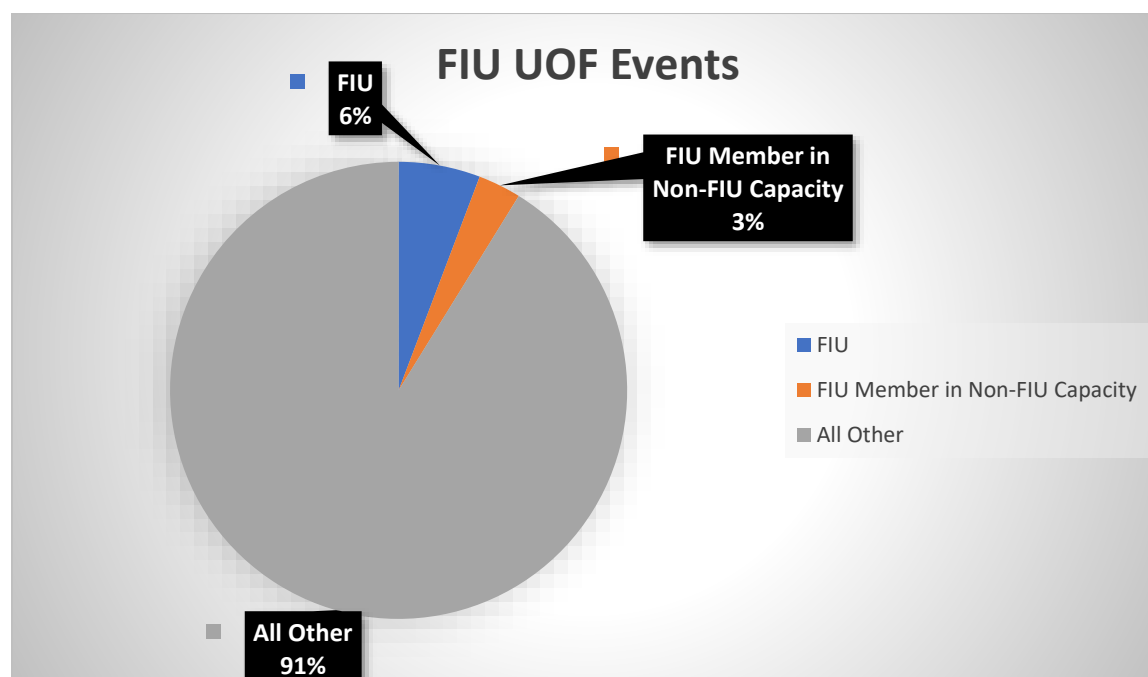


## 5. Other Measures

The following section displays other important measurable data, including whether the type of force applied was noted as effective or not effective, the subject's resistance, subject injuries, whether or not the subject was arrested, type of charges against involved subjects, whether or not the subject was injured in conjunction with use-of-force, whether or not a subject was taken to the hospital, employee injuries, whether or not the employee was taken to the hospital, the reason for us-of-force, and the type of service being rendered at the time of use-of-force.

**Table 3: Type of Force Tally and Effectiveness**

| | Effective | | Not Effective | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Control Hold** | 443 | 88% | 60 | 12 | 503 |
| **Expandable-Baton (Compliance Technique)** | 8 | 67% | 4 | 33% | 12 |
| **Expandable-Baton (Strike Only)** | 0 | 0% | 1 | 100% | 1 |
| **Firearm Discharged** | 2 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 2 |
| **Firearm Display Only** | 36 | 65% | 19 | 35% | 55 |
| **Firearm Pointed** | 161 | 91% | 16 | 9% | 177 |
| **Foot/Leg Strike (Distraction Technique)** | 1 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 1 |
| **Hand/Arm Strike** | 2 | 50% | 2 | 50% | 4 |
| **Hand/Arm Strike (Distraction Technique)** | 3 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 3 |
| **K-9 Utilized** | 0 | 0% | 1 | 100% | 1 |
| **Leg Sweep** | 3 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 3 |
| **OC Spray** | 14 | 70% | 6 | 30% | 20 |
| **Pain Compliance** | 2 | 67% | 1 | 33% | 3 |
| **Pressure Points** | 3 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 3 |
| **Take Down** | 169 | 94% | 10 | 6% | 179 |
| **Taser** | 13 | 57% | 10 | 43% | 23 |
| **Taser Display Only** | 7 | 47% | 8 | 53% | 15 |
| **Taser Pointed** | 16 | 55% | 13 | 45% | 29 |
| | | | | | 1,034 |

**Table 4: Subject Resistance Tally**

| | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| **Assaultive – Bodily Harm** | 78 | 16% |
| **Assaultive (SBI[9]/Death)** | 9 | 2% |
| **Compliant** | 81 | 17% |
| **Resistant (Active)** | 264 | 55% |
| **Resistant (Passive)** | 45 | 9% |
| **Total** | **477** | |

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[9] Serious Bodily Injury

**Table 5: Subject Injury Tally**

|  | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| **Abrasion/Laceration** | 98 | 22 |
| **Complaint of Pain** | 30 | 7% |
| **Gunshot Wound** | 3 | 1% |
| **Internal Injury** | 2 | <1% |
| **Minor Injury** | 53 | 12% |
| **Moderate Injury** | 2 | <1% |
| **No Injuries Noted or Visible** | 237 | 53% |
| **Obvious Disfigurement** | 1 | <1% |
| **Prior Injury** | 16 | 4% |
| **Serious Bodily Injury** | 1 | <1% |
| **Stabbing Wound** | 1 | <1% |
| **Total** | **444** | |

**Table 6: Subject Arrested in Conjunction with Use-of-Force (# Incidents)**

|  | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| **No** | 88 | 27% |
| **Yes** | 241 | 73% |
| **Total** | **329** | |

**Table 7: Tally of Charges Against Involved Subject**

|  | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| **Felony** | 166 | 43% |
| **Misdemeanor** | 153 | 39% |
| **Other Than Arrest** | 69 | 18% |
| **Total** | **388** | |

**Table 8: Subject was Injured in Conjunction with Use-of-Force (# Incidents)**

|  | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| **No** | 245 | 74% |
| **Yes** | 84 | 26% |
| **Total** | **329** | |

**Table 9: Subject Taken to Hospital in Conjunction with Use-of-Force (# Incidents)**

|  | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| **No** | 228 | 69% |
| **Yes** | 101 | 31% |
| **Total** | **329** | |

**Table 10: Employee Injury Tally**

| | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| *Admitted to Hospital | 2 | <1% |
| *Refused Medical Aid | 8 | 1% |
| *Treated/Released – Scene | 9 | 1% |
| Abrasion/Laceration | 26 | 3% |
| Complaint of Pain | 13 | 2% |
| Internal Injury | 1 | <1% |
| Minor Injury | 35 | 4% |
| Moderate Injury | 4 | <1% |
| No Injuries Noted or Visible | 747 | 88% |
| Total | **845** | |

**Table 11: Employee was Injured in Conjunction with Use-of-Force (# Incidents)**

| | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| No | 259 | 79% |
| Yes | 70 | 21% |
| Total | **329** | |

**Table 12: Employee Taken to Hospital in Conjunction with Use-of-Force (# Incidents)**

| | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| No | 315 | 96% |
| Yes | 14 | 4% |
| Total | **329** | |

**Table 13: Reason for Use-of-Force**

| | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| Crime in Progress | 134 | 41% |
| Defense of Another Person(s) | 20 | 6% |
| Defense of Self | 63 | 19% |
| Other | 49 | 15% |
| Prevent Escape from Custody | 63 | 19% |
| Total | **329** | |

**Table 14: Type of Service Being Rendered at time of Use-of-Force**

|  | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| **Call for Service** | 229 | 70% |
| **Custody – Transport** | 4 | 1% |
| **Custody – Booking** | 6 | 2% |
| **Disorderly Conduct** | 12 | 4% |
| **Officer Initiated** | 33 | 10% |
| **Pedestrian Stop** | 3 | 1% |
| **Pre-Planned Operation** | 17 | 5% |
| **Public Flag-Down** | 2 | 1% |
| **School Dist – Student** | 3 | 1% |
| **Vehicle Stop** | 20 | 6% |
| **Total** | **329** |  |

## 6. Use of Force by Location

The SPD divides the city of Springfield into three districts: North, Central, and South. These districts are further divided into sectors A through I.
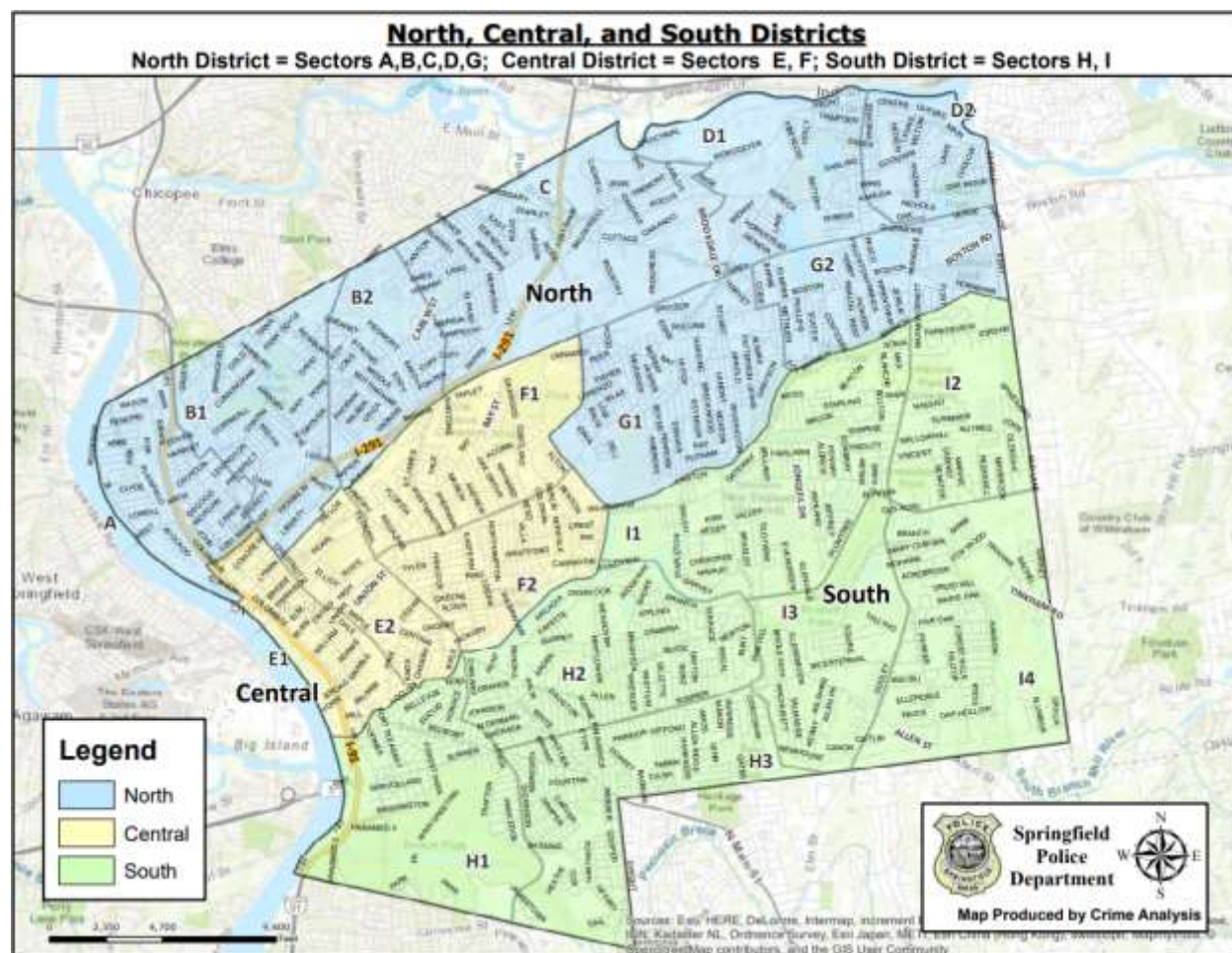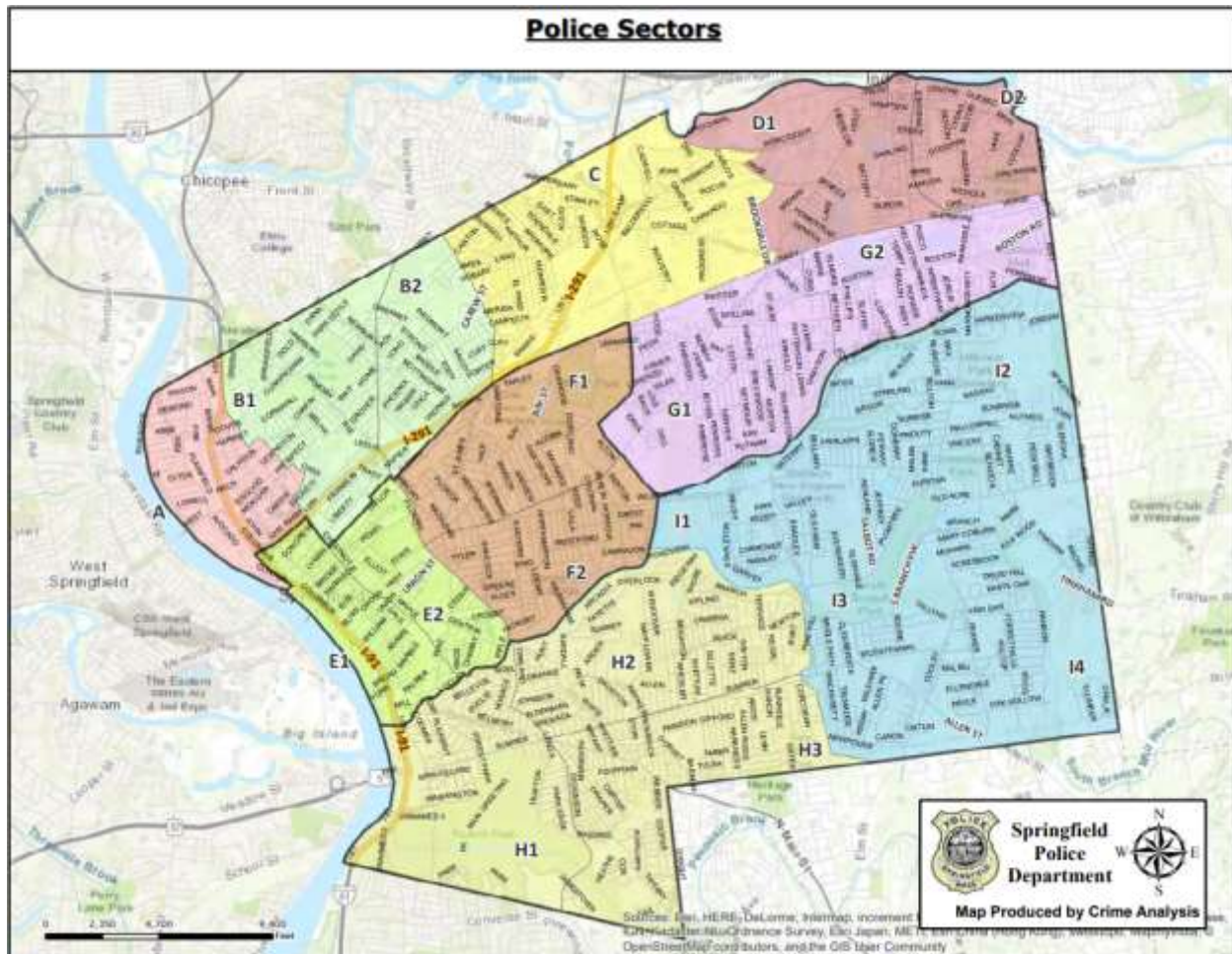
**Table 15: Use-of-Force Event by Sector**

| Sector | Count | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| Sector A | 19 | 6% |
| Sector B | 24 | 7% |
| Sector C | 7 | 2% |
| Sector D | 19 | 6% |
| Sector E[10] | 107 | 32% |
| Sector F | 52 | 16% |
| Sector G | 22 | 7% |
| Sector H | 58 | 18% |
| Sector I | 18 | 5% |
| Outside of Jurisdiction[11] | 3 | 1% |
| Total | **329** | |

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[10] Includes **nine** events where location was "Headquarters," which is located in Sector E.
[11] Occurred outside of Springfield.

## 7. Use of Force Review

The Springfield Police Department has established procedures to provide a comprehensive approach to the review and the appropriate investigation of Use of Force events within the Springfield Police Department. Identified roles for supervisors are set forth to gather all relevant and necessary data about Use of Force Levels 1 through 5 for review and submission to investigators for thorough inquiry to ensure accountability and transparency. How police personnel use both deadly force and non-deadly force is a highly critical issue to the Department and the community and one that understandably generates intense public scrutiny. When these incidents occur, they demand a thorough and complete inquiry into all the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. Only through a comprehensive investigative inquiry can the complete and accurate facts of the incident evolve, allowing for public trust and confidence to be maintained.

An uninvolved supervisor reviews every use-of-force event to ensure that officers accurately, thoroughly, and in a timely manner report all uses of force. The commander of the shift or unit (captain or lieutenant) will review the uninvolved supervisor's use-of-force review to ensure that the report file is thorough and complete and makes the necessary and appropriate findings of whether the use-of-force was consistent with SPD policy. Furthermore, consideration is made whether there are tactical, equipment, or policy considerations that need to be addressed.

*SPD remains committed to providing the public with as much transparency and accessibility to its data as possible while respecting our community's privacy interests. The department regularly assesses all data collection systems to improve accuracy and reliability.*

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