

2024 Annual Report

Rock Hill Police Department

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[www.cityofrockhill.com/
departments/police-department](http://www.cityofrockhill.com/departments/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.

2025
Rock Hill Police Department
Biased Policing Administrative Review

Introduction

The Rock Hill Police Department is committed to providing unbiased law enforcement services and ensuring constitutional protection to the citizens we serve. The Department recognizes the legitimacy of criminal profiling. However, the selection of people 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 seizures 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 present a threat to his/her safety or the safety of others. Complaints of improper biased policing are treated with the utmost urgency by Internal Affairs and are tracked through 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.

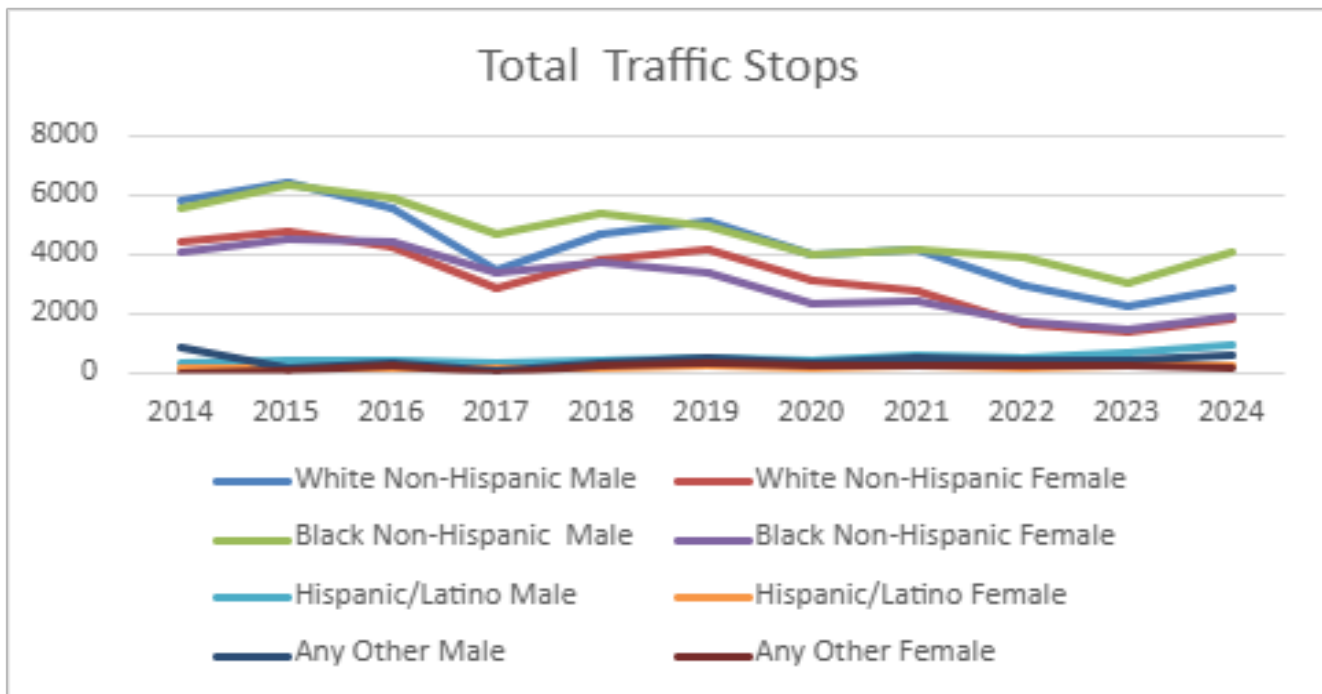
Analysis

There was a total of three (3) complaints of Bias Based Policing during the 2024 calendar year. All three of those complaints were investigated by Internal Affairs and were deemed Unfounded. There have been eight (8) complaints over the last 4 years, and a total of fourteen

(14) complaints filed with the Rock Hill Police Department in the last two decades. The number of bias policing complaints has increased over the last four years but remained the same for the last two years. The increase corresponds to the total number of overall citizen complaints filed within the jurisdiction.

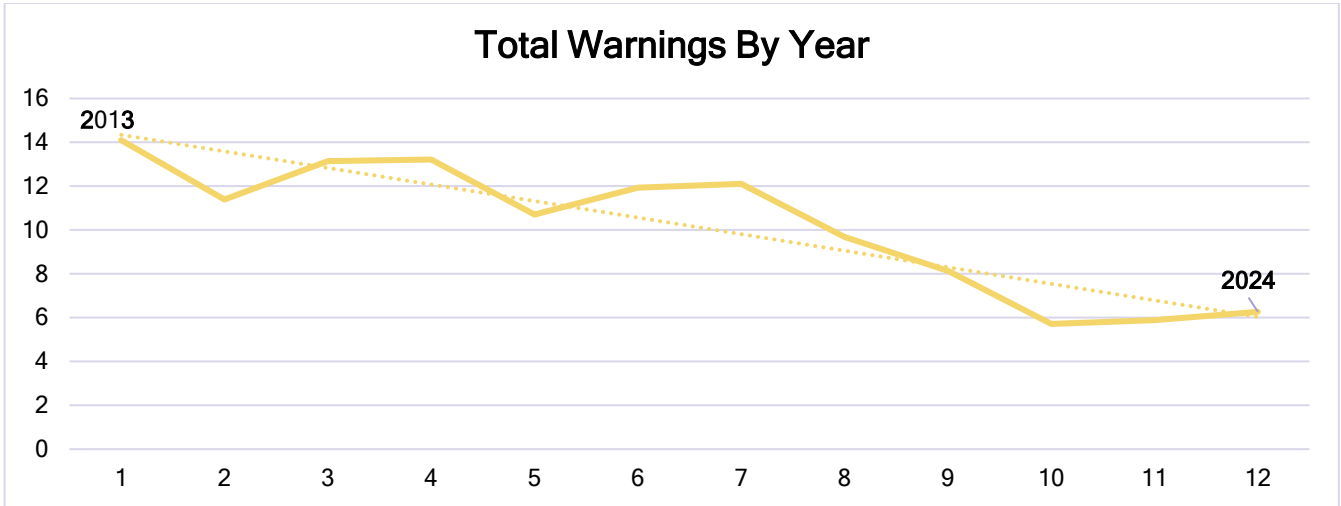


The total number of Traffic Warnings and Citations increased in 2024. A total of 12,834 Traffic Stops were conducted in 2024, compared to 9,737 in 2023 resulting in a 31.8% overall increase. Traffic Warnings and Citations have stayed consistent over the last several years.

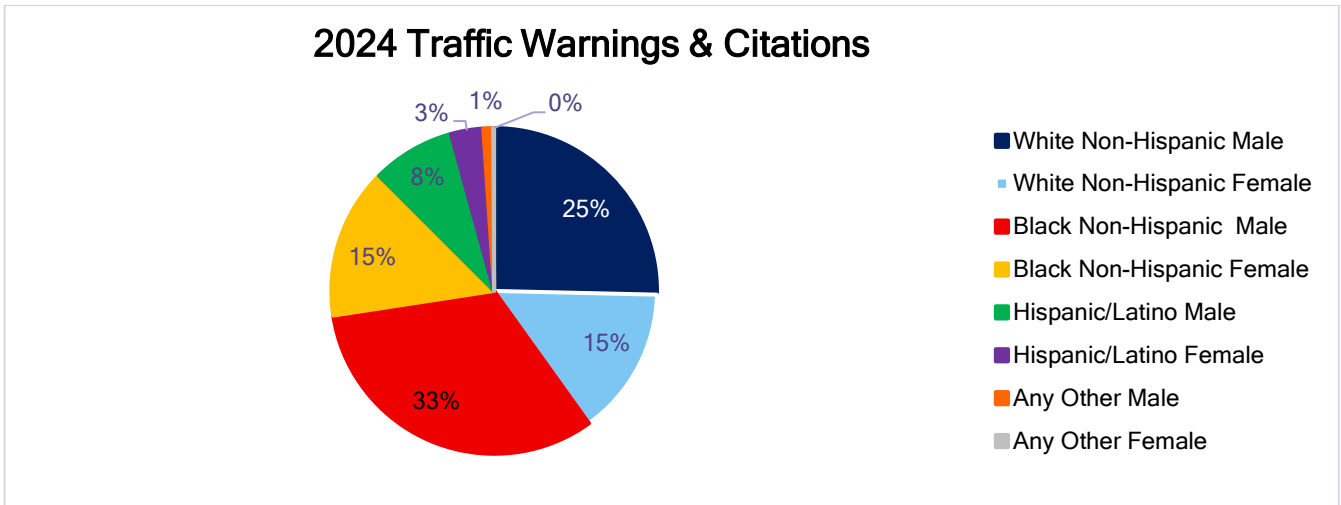


Traffic Warnings

A total of 6,269 Traffic Warnings were issued in the 2024 calendar year, compared to 5,880 in 2023 for a 7% increase overall. The total number of Traffic Warnings has continued to decrease in all categories over the last four (4) years.

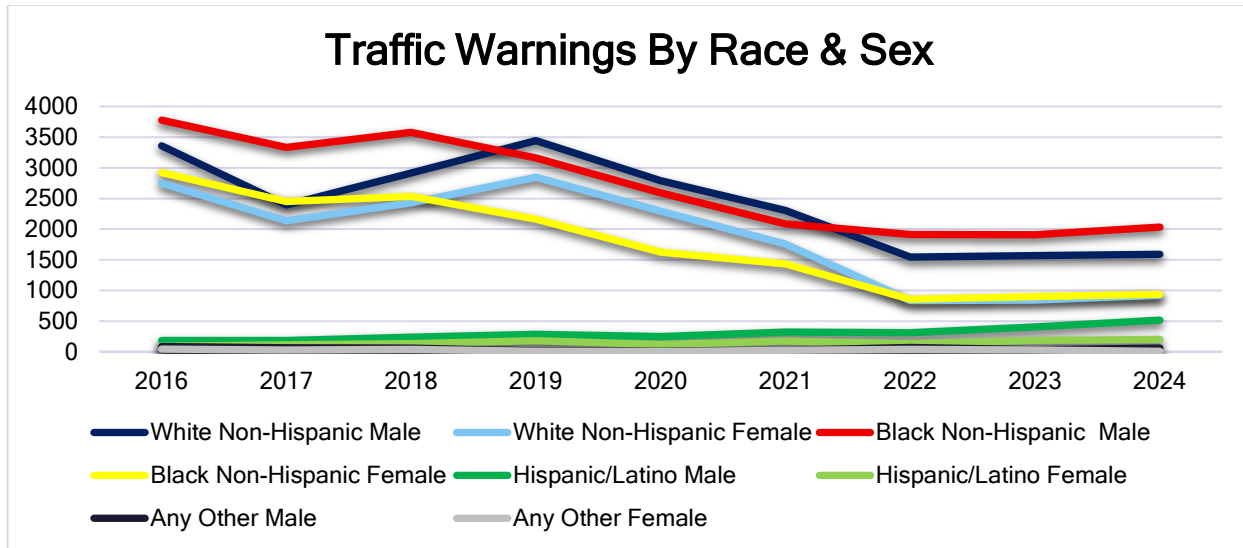


Black non-Hispanic males represent the highest percentage of traffic warnings issued over the period of January to December 2024. 33% of all traffic warnings were issued to Black non-Hispanic males, compared to 25% for white non-Hispanic males. This percentage correlates with overall traffic stops and current arrest data. White non-Hispanic females were issued 15% of all warnings and black non-Hispanic females were issued 15% of all Traffic Warnings issued in 2024. Traffic warnings have stayed consistent for white and black individuals.



Traffic Warnings issued to Hispanic/Latino males and females also continues to slowly increase. Traffic Warnings that were classified within the other category equal 12% of all Traffic Warnings issued during the 2024 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 784 Traffic Warnings were issued by RHPD officers in 2024, compared to 661 in 2023, for a 19% increase. Interestingly, the total

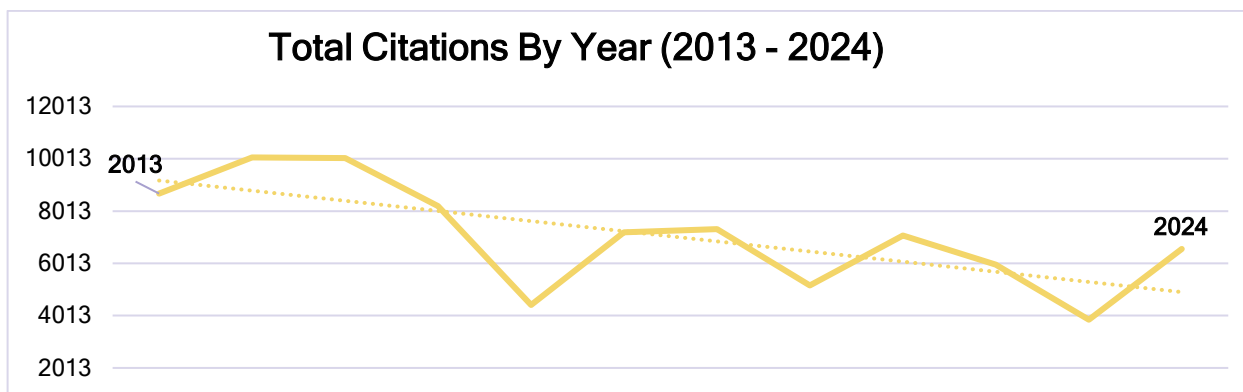
number of females of Other races decreased 80% in 2024 compared to 2023. This number may be an outlier and will need to be further analyzed in the upcoming year to determine any significance. Although the total number of warnings issued to individuals of Other Races has increased in the last twelve months, 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.



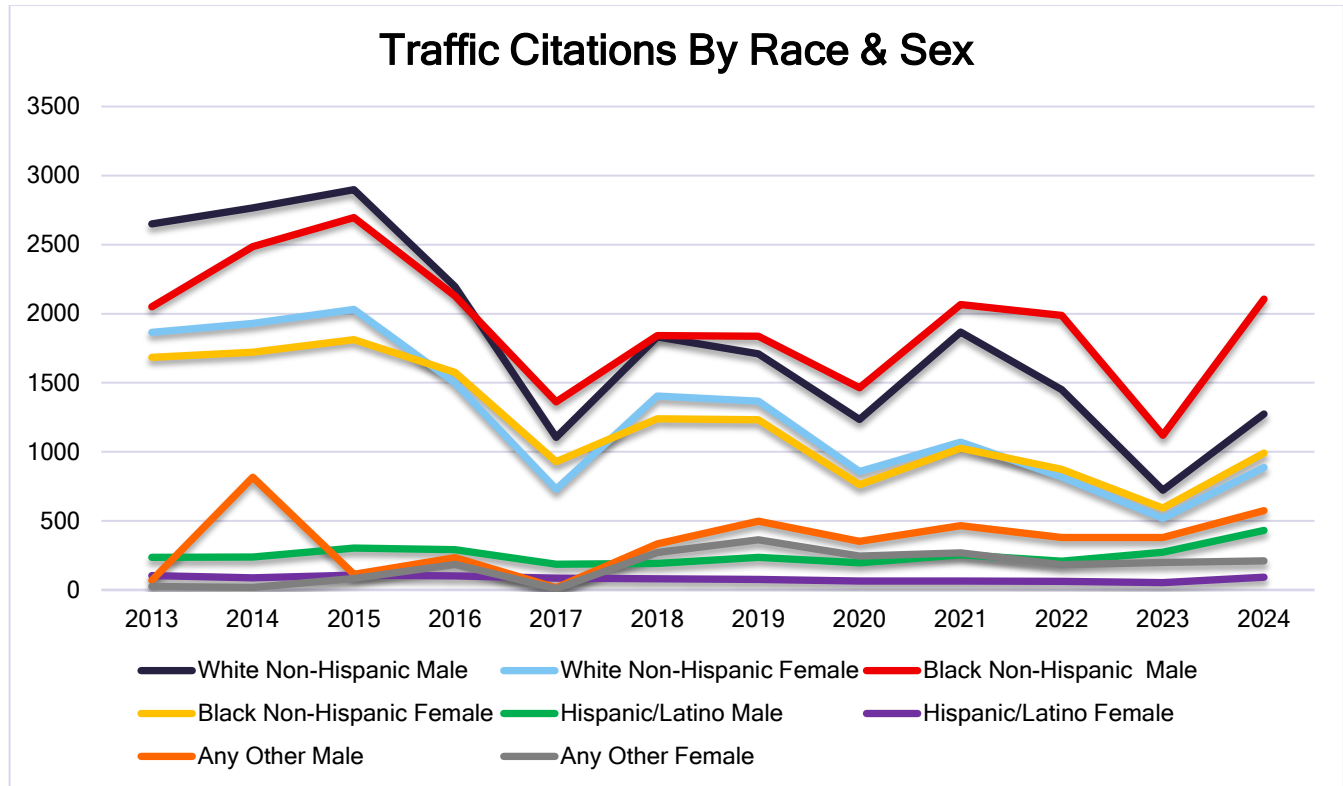
Warnings increased overall for the 2024 calendar year. Overall, 40% of all Traffic Warnings issued in 2024 were to White non-Hispanic individuals compared to 48 % of all Traffic Warnings issued to Black non-Hispanic individuals over the same period. Warnings have remained relatively consistent for all racial groups over the past 3–4 years. The number of issued Traffic warnings increased for both males and females of all races, except for females of Other races. This is most likely due to the increase in these populations in our area. The total number of overall Traffic Warnings issued has continued to decrease over the last decade.

Traffic Citations

A total of 6,565 Traffic Citations were issued in the calendar year 2024, compared to 3,857 in 2023 for a 70% increase. However, the total number of traffic citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department has decreased over the last four (4) years.



White non-Hispanic males were issued a total of 1,275 Traffic Citations in 2024 for a 77% increase. White non-Hispanic females were issued a total of 886 Citations in 2024 for a 71% increase. Black non-Hispanic males received 2,105 Citations in 2024 for an 88% increase. Black non-Hispanic females received 991 traffic citations in 2024 compared to 593 Citations in 2023 for a 67% increase.

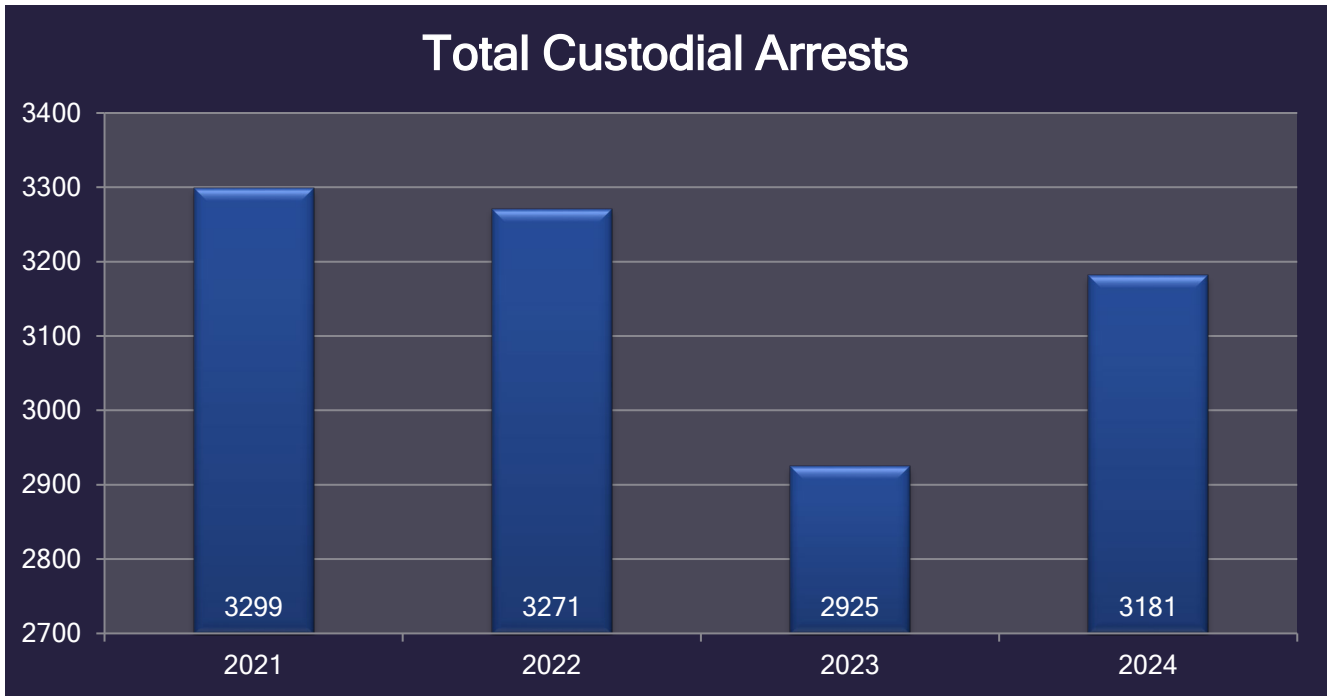


A total of 33% of all citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department in 2024 were issued to White non-Hispanic males and females, which is the same as 2023. A total of 47% were issued to Black non-Hispanic males and females during the same period. This is an increase compared to 2023.

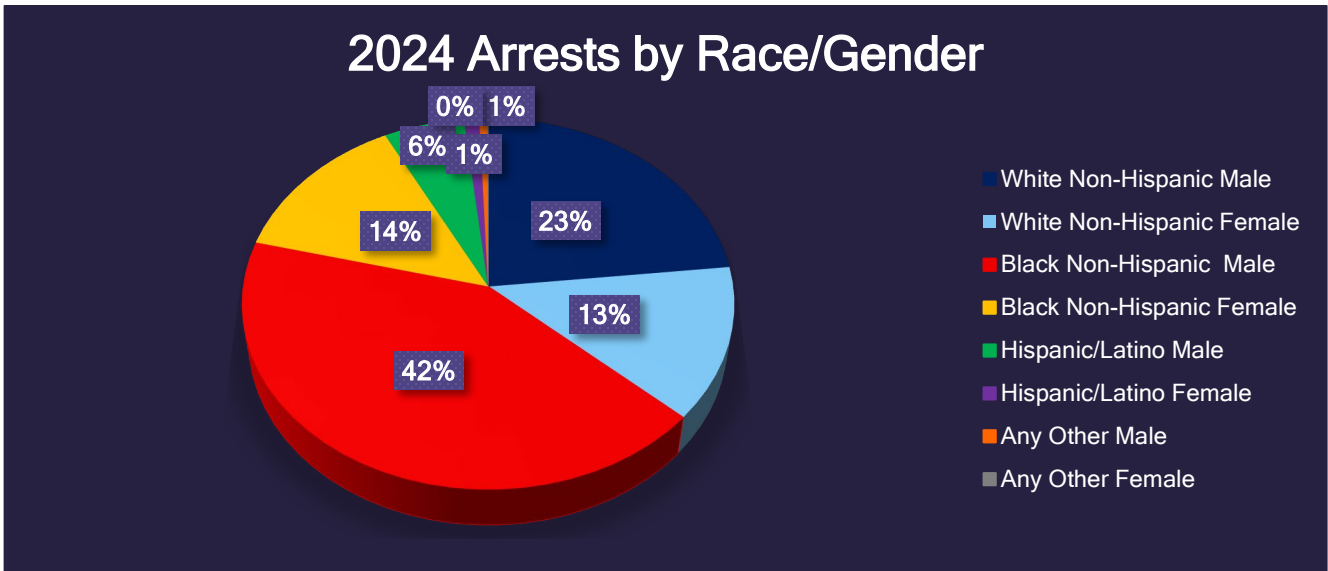
Totals for traffic citations increased for all races and genders in 2024. This is most likely attributed to a rise in population over the last several years. In addition, more attention to speeding and reckless driving may have also contributed to the increase in citations. While the number of black non-Hispanic individuals increased in 2024, it appears to be within normal limits when comparing the trend of issued citations over a ten (10) year period. Traffic contacts for black non-Hispanic males and females will be closely monitored in the next year to ensure that traffic contacts are made uniformly.

Arrests

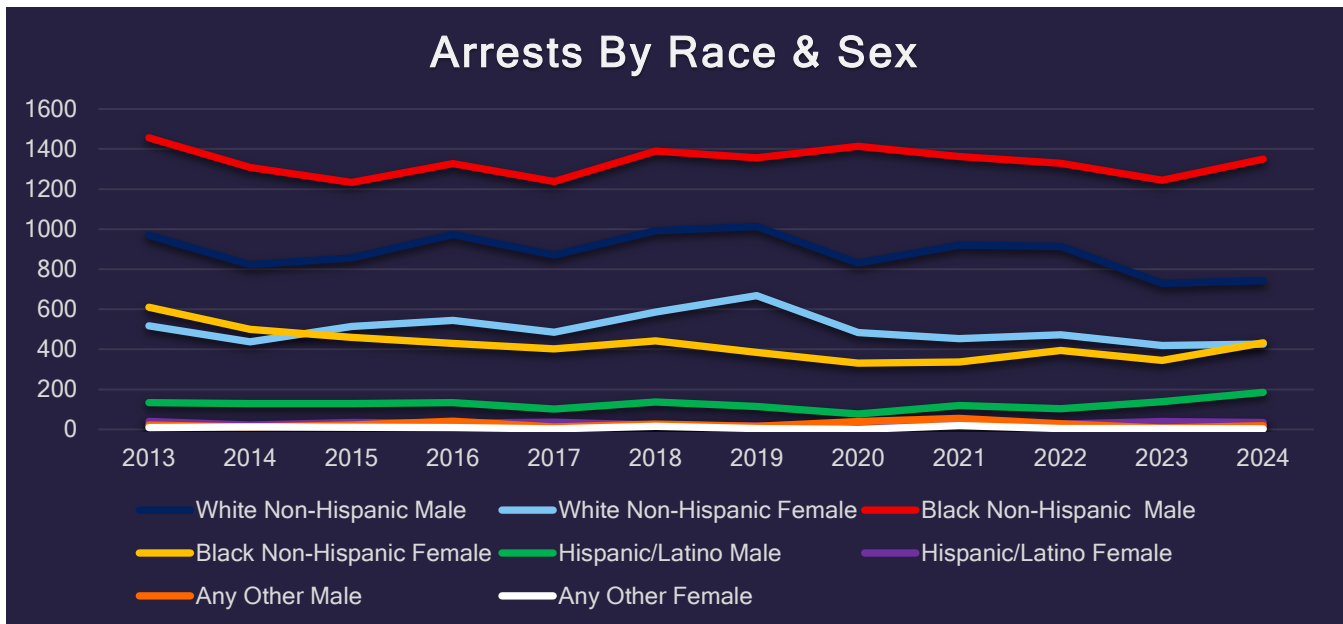
The total number of Arrests in 2024 increased compared to 2023. A total of 3,191 arrests were made in 2024 compared to 2,925 in 2023, which is a 9% increase overall.



A total of 743 white non-Hispanic males were arrested in 2024, for a 2% increase. A total of 426 white non-Hispanic females were arrested in 2024, which is a 2% increase. A total of 1,350 black non-Hispanic males were arrested in 2024, for an 8% decrease. Black non-Hispanic females saw the highest increase in arrests during the 2024 calendar year. A total of 432 black non-Hispanic females were arrested in 2024, which was a 26% increase.



The total number of arrests for persons in other ethnic races (Hispanic, Asian, etc.) is low compared to white and black non-Hispanic individuals. A total of 240 arrests of Hispanic and Other Race individuals (male and female) were made by RHPD officers in 2024, for a 27% overall increase. Arrests that were classified within the Other category equaled only 7.5% of all arrests made during the 2024 calendar year.



The total number of arrests has been consistent over the last ten (10) years. The number of arrests increased 9% in 2024, however, they decreased 2% over the last 10 years. In addition, Black non-Hispanic male arrests have had a 25% reduction since 2012.

2024
Rock Hill Police Department
Citizen Complaints, Internal Affairs
Annual Analysis & Administrative Review

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 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. Internal Affairs 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 Axon Standards 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 complaint with 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 an Axon Standards 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 Axon Standards Report is created. Any attempts to resolve the complaint by the Supervisor are noted in the Complaint Report 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 an Axon Standards 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 Axon Standards 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.

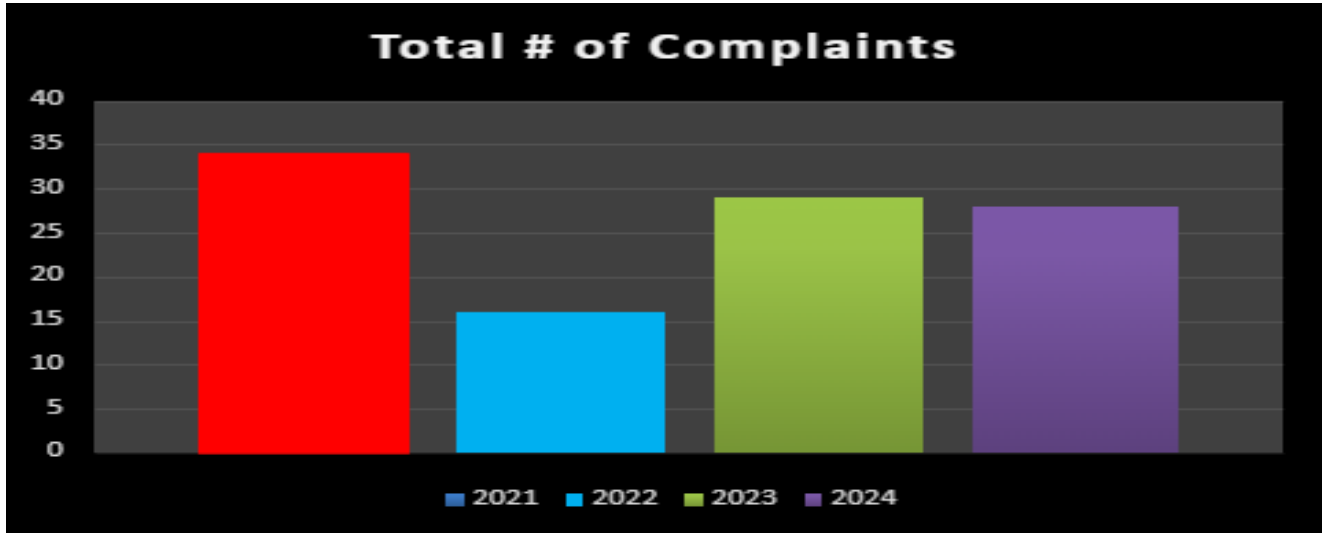
The Department member may be required to participate in a counseling program in lieu of other disciplinary action when it is determined to be in the best interest of the Department, the employee, and the public. Failure to participate fully as required may result in the imposition of the original disciplinary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

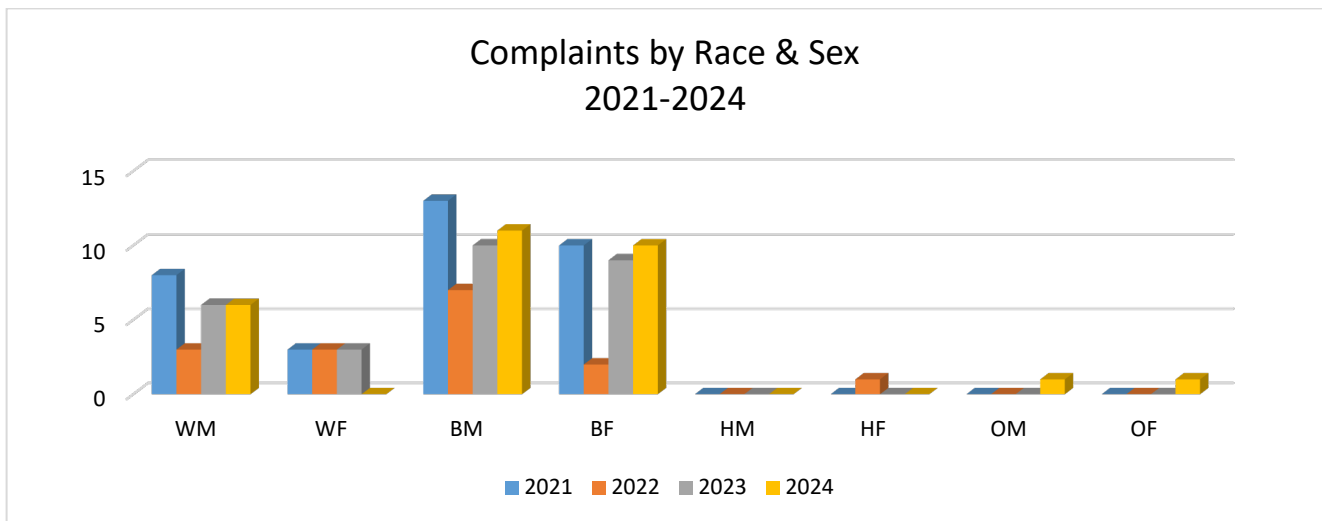
Citizen Complaint and Internal Affairs Investigation Analysis

Citizen Complaints

In 2024, there were a total of twenty-eight (28) citizen complaints received and investigated. The number of citizen complaints decreased slightly compared to 2023. The number of complaints in 2024 was slightly higher than the 4-year average (27). It should also be noted that several complaints involved more than one (1) officer.

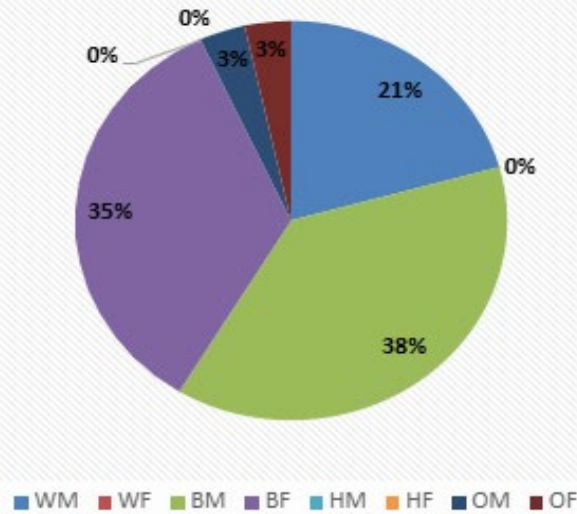


Most of all complaints (73%) received by the Rock Hill Police Department in 2024 were filed by Black non-Hispanic males and females. This is an increase compared to 2023. A total of 38% of all complaints received by the Department in 2024 were by black males.



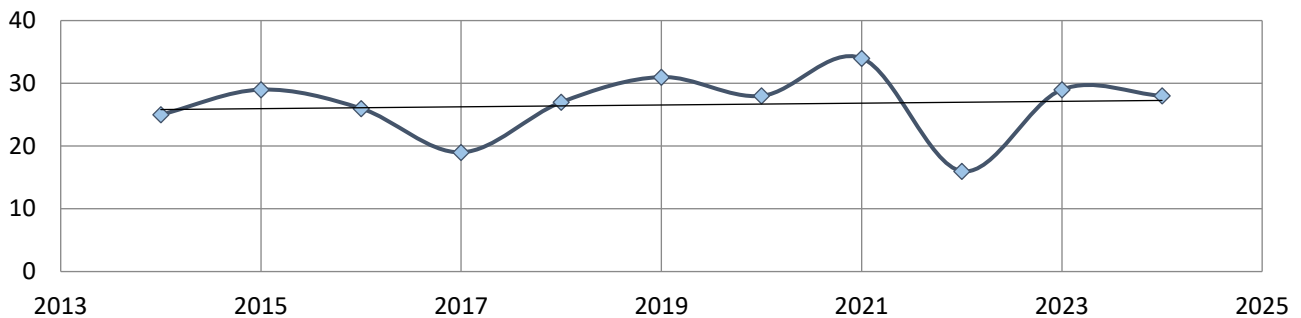
Eleven (11) black males filed complaints compared to six (6) complaints from white males. In addition, 35% (10 total) black females filed complaints against officers compared to zero (0) white females during the same period. There was also one (1) complaint filed from an Other Race Male and one (1) Other Race female. The number of complaints filed by black females continued to increase in 2024, compared to 2023, but has stayed within normal ranges for the 4-year period.

2024 Complaints By Race & Gender



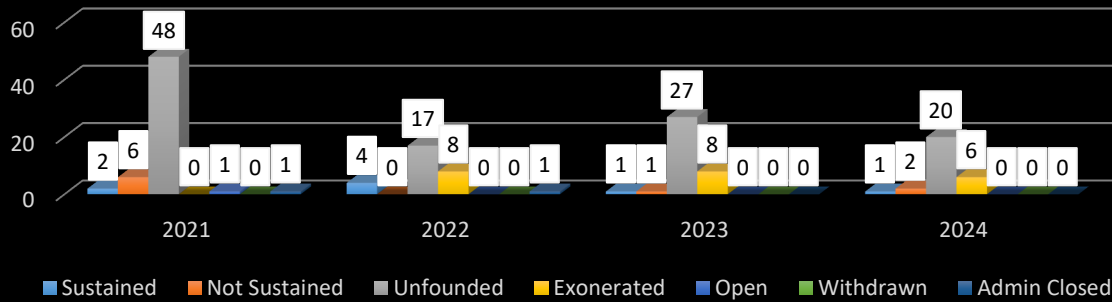
The total number of complaints has varied over the last four (4) years. Based on the chart below, the average number of citizen complaints over the last ten (10) years is slowly increasing. There were significant increases in complaints in 2012, 2013, and 2021 and a drastic decrease in 2022. Complaints decreased by 3% in 2024 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.

Total # of Complaints



Citizen Complaint Dispositions have generally remained consistent over the last four (4) years. A total of 69% of all dispositions were Unfounded in 2024. 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 2024. That employee received verbal counseling based on the severity of the incident. No employees were terminated because of a citizen complaint in 2024. Additionally, two (2) complaints were Not Sustained. In these complaints, it was found after investigation that there was not enough evidence to confirm or refute the allegations made. The high proportion of Exonerated and Unfounded complaint findings is a testament to the high caliber of professional personnel in the Department.

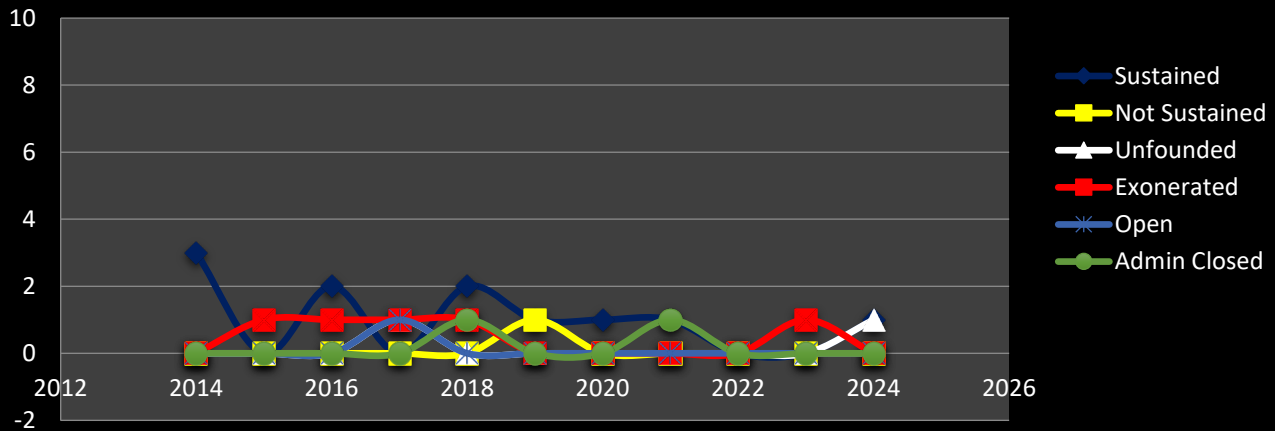
Citizen Complaint Dispositions 2021-2024



In 2024, the Rock Hill Police Department received 76,931 Calls for Service. In addition, Rock Hill Police Department Officers initiated 12,834 traffic contacts with citizens within the City of Rock Hill. Of the 89,765 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

Internal Affairs Investigation Trends 2014 - 2024



The Rock Hill Police Department completed two (2) Internal Affairs Investigations in 2024, compared to one (1) investigation in 2023. 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 maintained an average of one (1) Internal Affairs Investigation over the last four (4) years. Considering that the Rock Hill Police Department employed one hundred fifty-six (156) sworn officers and forty-seven (47) non-sworn personnel in 2024, 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.

2024
Rock Hill Police Department
Recruiting & Selection
Analysis & Administrative Review

Introduction

The Rock Hill Police Department strives to recruit the best-suited personnel and to ensure equal employment opportunities for all people 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 being used to improve the quality of the personnel hired, increase the diversity in the workforce 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 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 RHPD is committed to high standards and has a 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 2024:

Appalachian State Univ.	Benedict College	Bob Jones University
Clemson University	Converse College	Fort Bragg
Gardner Webb University	Lander University	SC State University
UNC Charlotte	USC Aiken	USC Lancaster
Winthrop University		

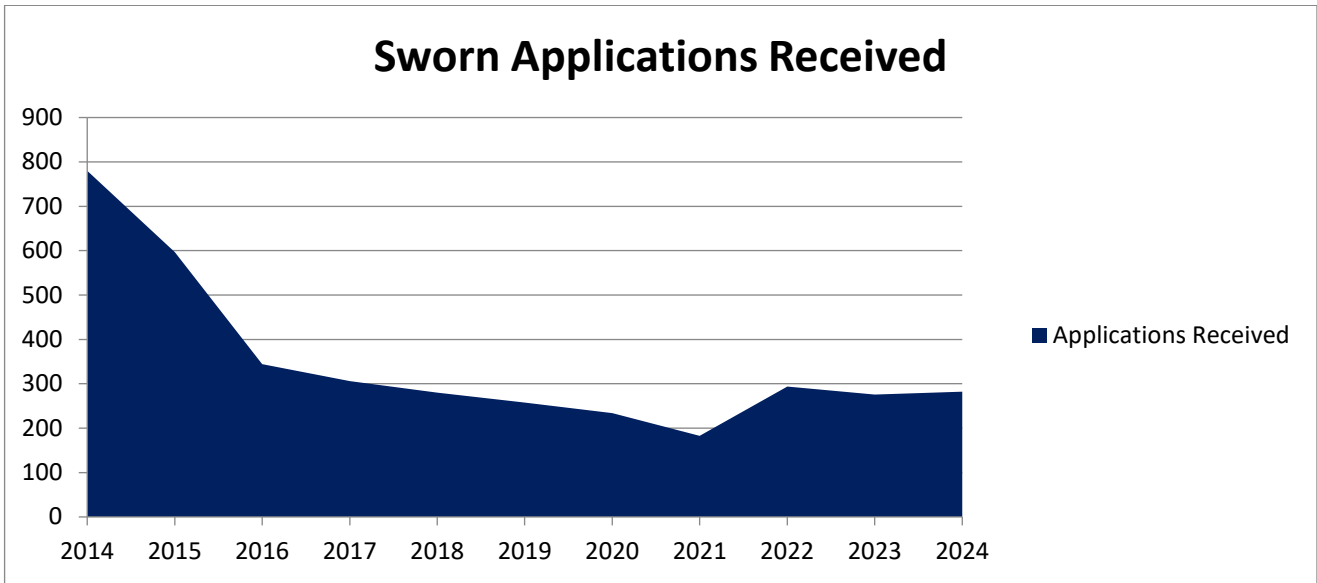
The Rock Hill Police Department strives for employee diversity that represents the available workforce in the community regarding ethnic, race, and gender composition. The following chart illustrates the Rock Hill Police Department's current diversity composition for sworn officers, the available workforce data, and the City of Rock Hill's population data for 2024.

YEAR 2024

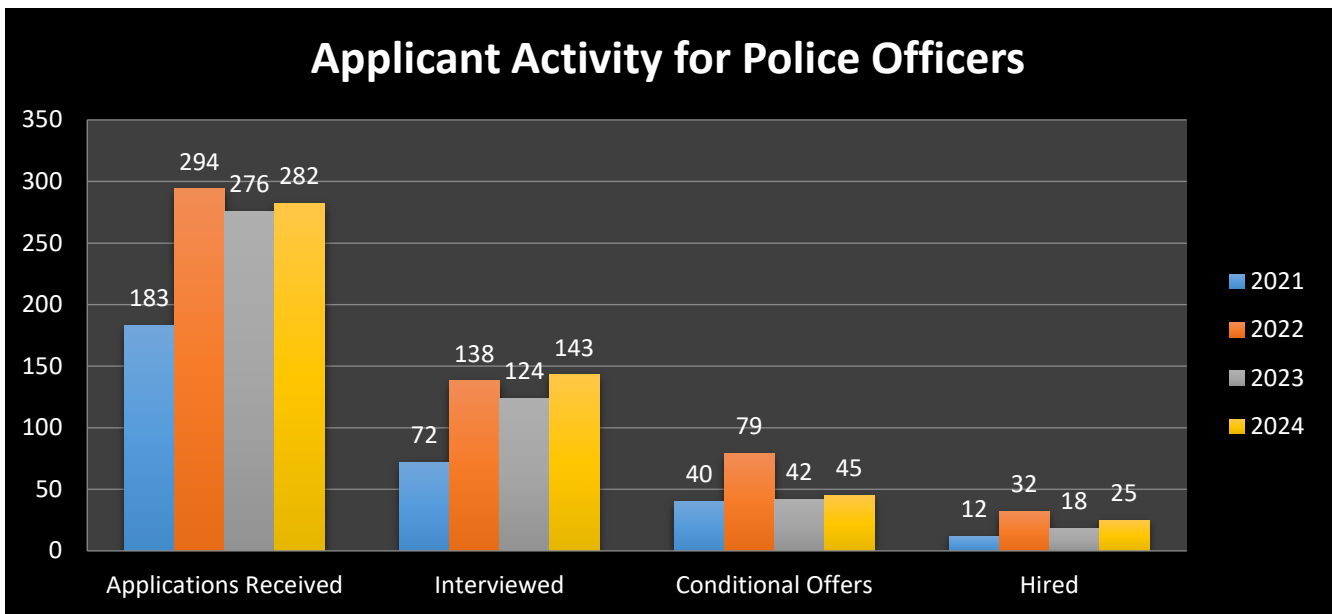
Race/Ethnicity	Service Population		Available Workforce		Current Sworn Officers		Current Female Sworn Officers	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White (Non-Hispanic)	39228	55%	21744	49%	117	75%	30	19%
Black (Non-Hispanic)	33126	38%	18744	42%	22	14%	7	4%
Hispanic-Latino (Any Race)	4710	6%	2941	6%	14	9%	3	2%
Other	7019	1%	663	3%	3	2%	0	0%
Total	84083	100%	44092	100%	156	100%	40	25%

SWORN APPLICANTS

The total number of police officer applications received increased in 2024. A total of two hundred eighty-two (282) police officer applications were received as of the end of December 2024. This is a 2% increase overall and is higher than the four-year average of two hundred fifty-eight (258) per year.

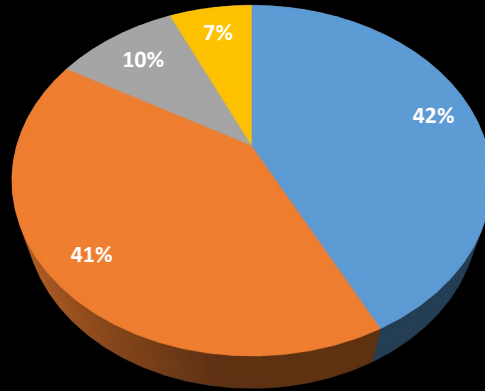


The total number of applications received for sworn officers has slowly started to rebound after several years of decline. The negative perception of law enforcement and competitive salaries within other careers has had a significant negative impact on all law enforcement recruitment across the United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



Minority applicants for sworn officer positions received by the Rock Hill Police Department increased in 2024. One hundred twenty (120) applicants (42%) in 2024 were white non-Hispanics individuals. Comparatively, one hundred fifteen (115) applications, or 41%, were received by black non-Hispanics during the same period. In addition, 10% of the applications were from Hispanics and 7% from Other Races. A total of 57% of all sworn officer applications were received by minorities in 2024. Recruitment to attract quality minority applicants has greatly improved over the last several years.

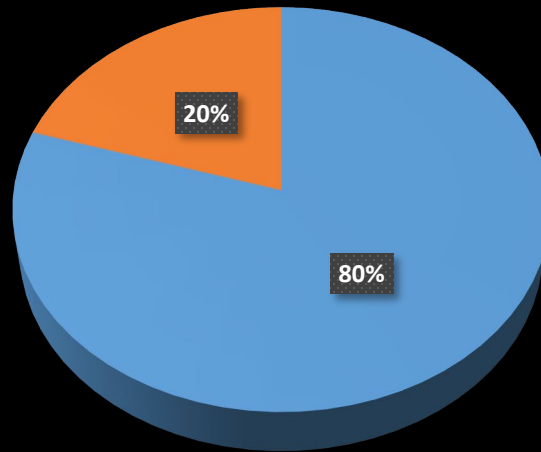
2024 Applications Received By Race



■ White Non-Hispanic ■ Black Non-Hispanic ■ Hispanic ■ Other

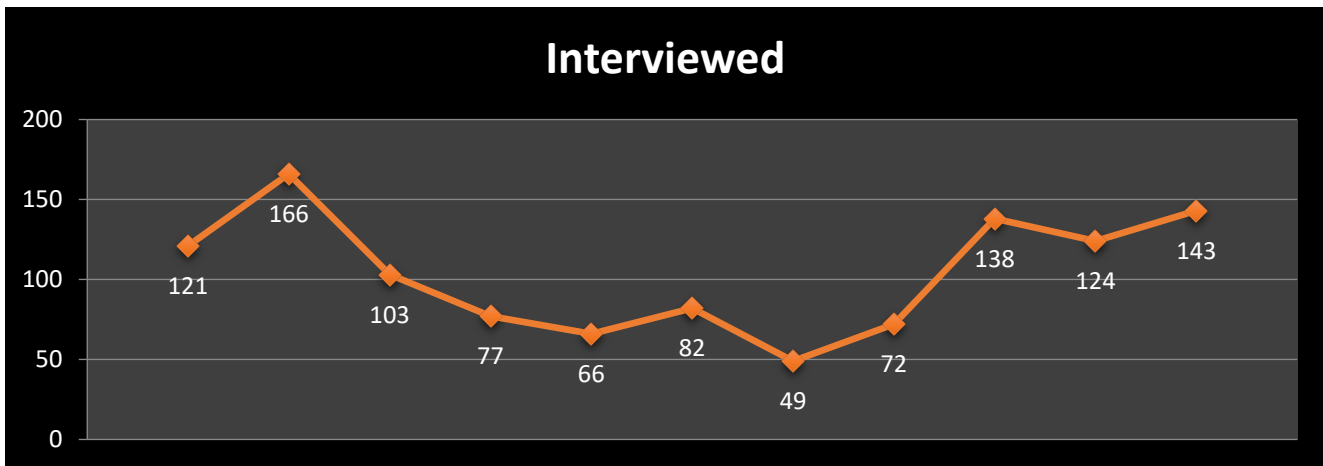
Males completed and returned most of all police officer applications. A total of two hundred twenty-five (225) applications were received by males of all races in 2024, which was 80% of all applications received. Historically, males have always submitted the most applications for sworn positions.

2024 Applications Received By Sex



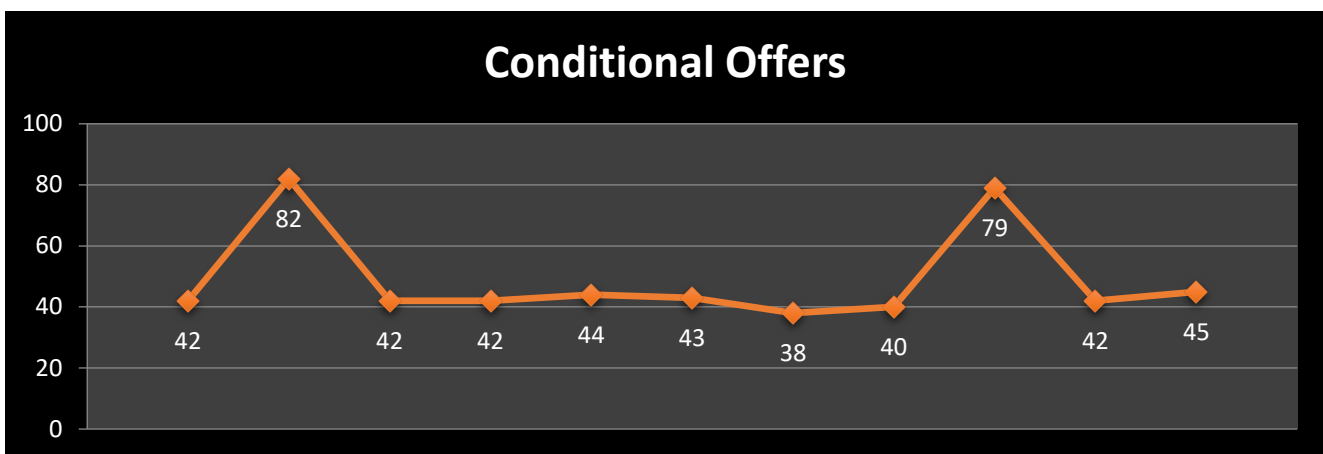
■ Male
■ Female

A total of fifty-seven (57) females, or 20% of all applicants, completed applications during the same period. This is a 12% decrease in 2024. However, the percentage of female sworn officers at RHPD is well above the national average of 14%. A total of 20% of all officers at the Rock Hill Police Department are female. Interest in sworn officer positions has stayed relatively consistent 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. The increase in minority applicants illustrates that the workplace demographics are beginning to change in a positive direction for law enforcement.

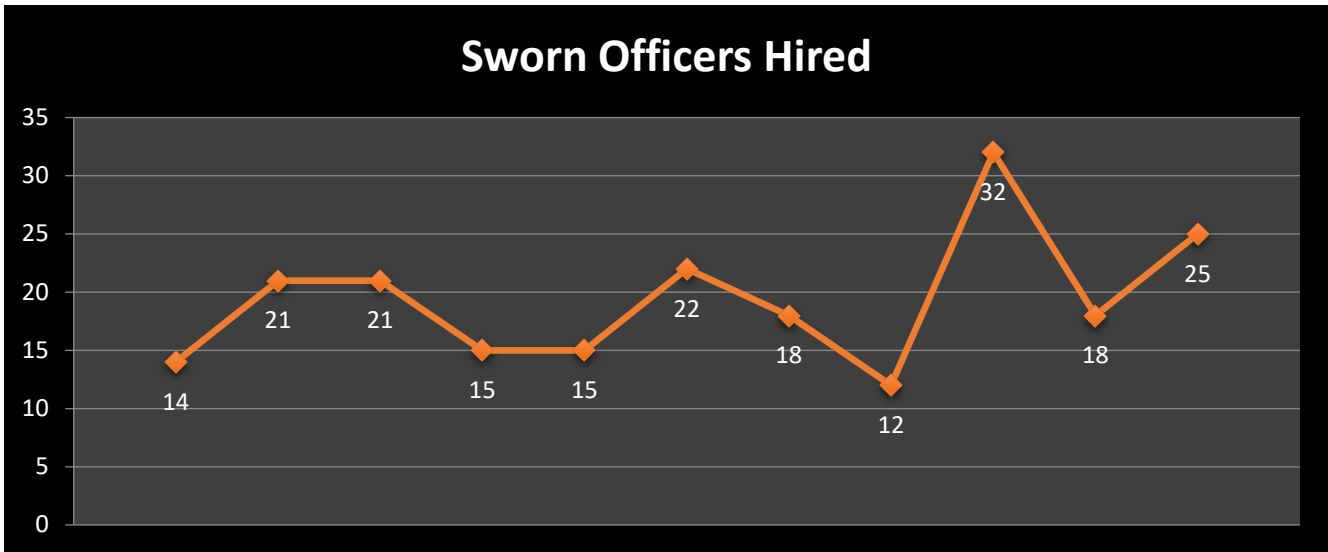


A total of one hundred forty-three (143) individuals were interviewed for police officer positions in 2024, compared to one hundred twenty-four (124) in 2023, which is a 15% increase. The number of police officer applicants has increased over the last four (4) years. Unfortunately, a high number of individuals 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 continues to be difficult to find applicants who are willing and qualified to be sworn officers.

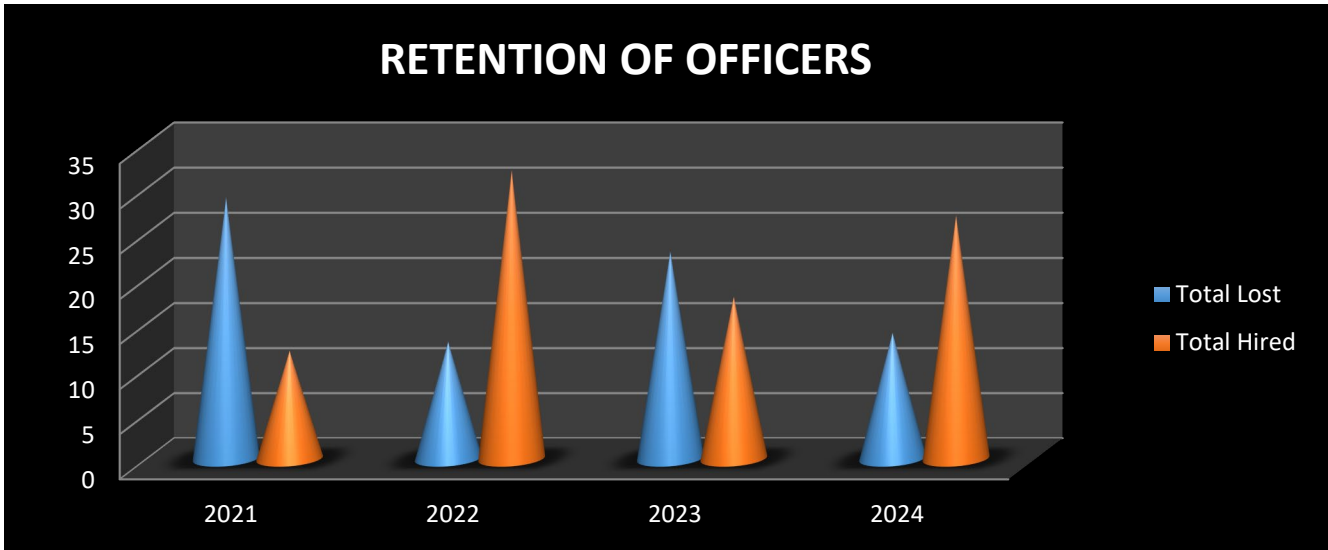
The total number of conditional offers increased slightly in 2024. Forty-five (45) individuals were given conditional offers of employment as sworn police officers in 2024 compared to forty-two (42) in 2023. However, the number of conditional offers has remained consistent over the last decade, which 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 2024 were given conditional offers of employment.



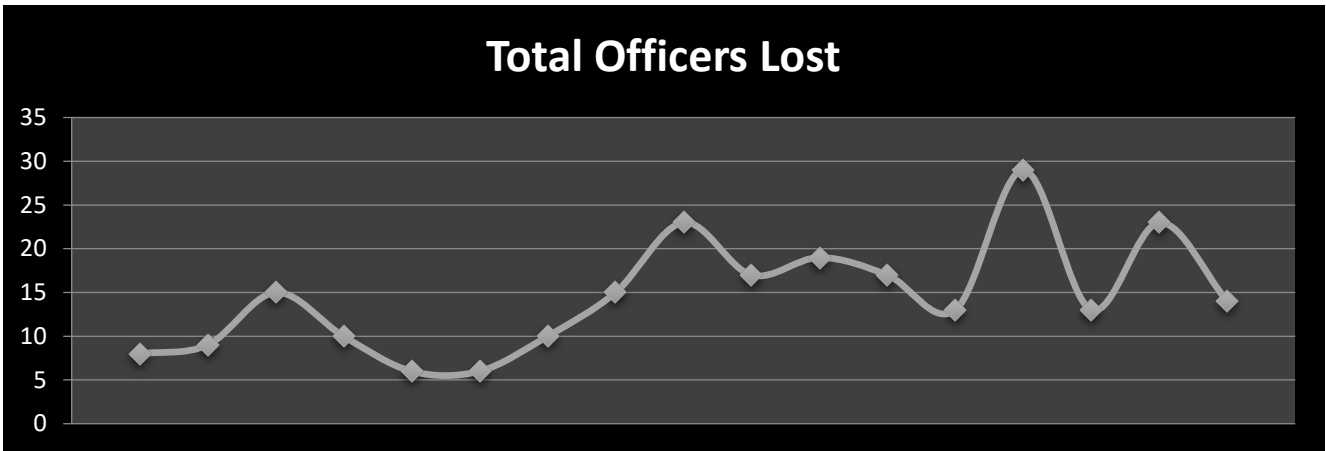
The total number of applicants hired in 2024 increased compared to 2023. A total of twenty-five (25) officers were hired in 2024, compared to eighteen (18) in 2023. Due to our rigorous and thorough hiring practices, only 9% of all applicants were hired as law enforcement officers. The Recruiting Officer has excelled in 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 a challenge in all law enforcement agencies. 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 decreased by 41% in 2024. A total of fourteen (14) officers separated from the Department in 2024, compared to twenty-three (23) in 2023.

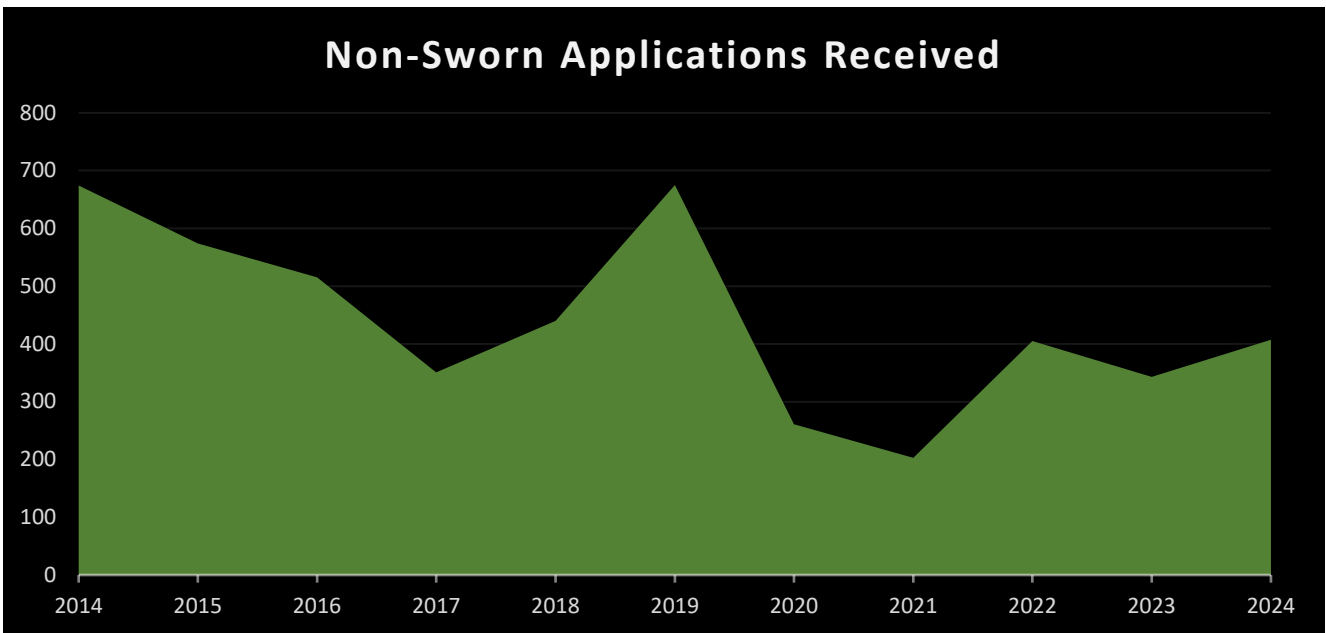


A total of 9% of all sworn officers resigned in 2024. The number of sworn officers resigning has continued to fluctuate over the last decade. Both sworn and non-sworn positions have had a high turnover rate and several retirements in the past several years. For many, police officers have a negative societal connotation, and the stress placed upon them has increased, which has drastically affected the willingness of individuals to pursue law enforcement as a career. Younger generations are in search of higher paying jobs with fast promotional opportunities and do not find police work as rewarding as in the past. As 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.



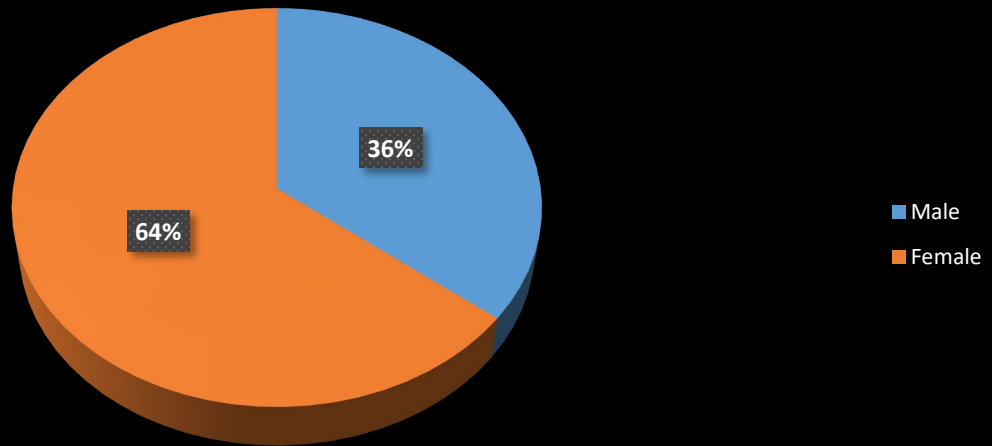
NON-SWORN APPLICANTS

The total number of non-sworn applications received has fluctuated over the last decade. A total of four hundred seven (407) applications were received in 2024 compared to three hundred forty-three (343) applications in 2023, which is a 19% increase overall. However, the total number of non-sworn applications has continued to decrease 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.



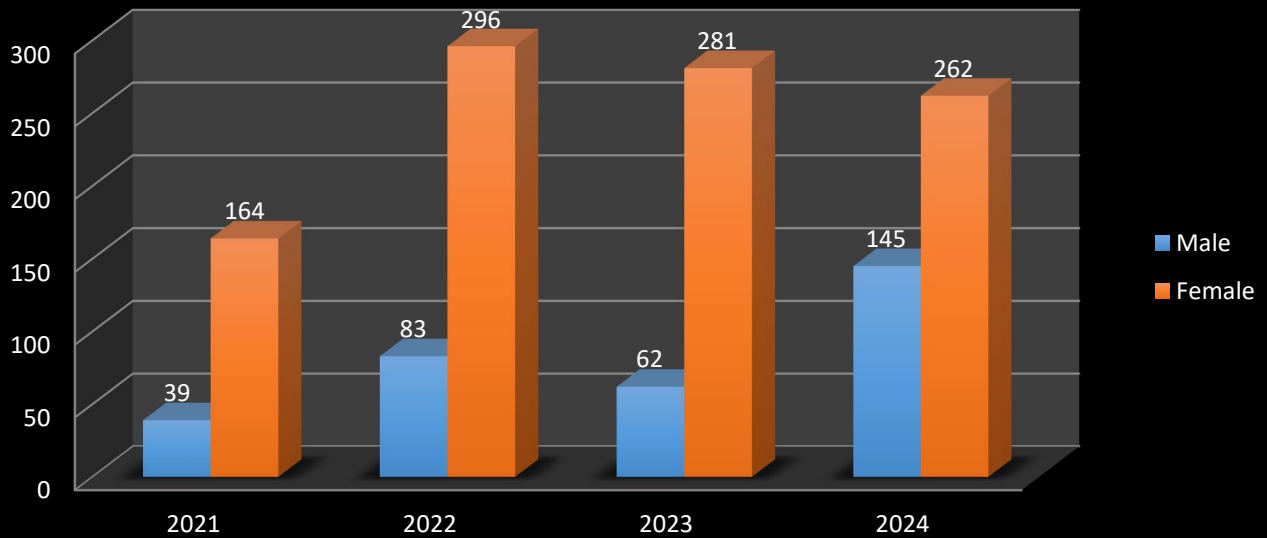
Data concerning non-sworn applicant race cannot be accurately evaluated for the 2024 calendar year. The City of Rock Hill’s Human Resources Department eliminated race from applications for a portion of the calendar year. Data collected for sworn applicant race was procured from completed addendums to the application that non-sworn applicants aren’t required to complete. Non-sworn applicant race will continue to be collected and analyzing going forward.

2024 Non-Sworn Applications Received By Sex



Females completed and returned the highest number of non-sworn applications. A total of two hundred sixty-two (262) females completed applications for non-sworn employment at the Rock Hill Police Department in 2024, which was 64% of all applications received. One hundred forty-five (145) males, or 36% of applicants, completed applications during the same period. The number of male applicants has significantly increased for males compared to 2023. Most non-sworn positions are more clerical in nature which appeals to more women than men.

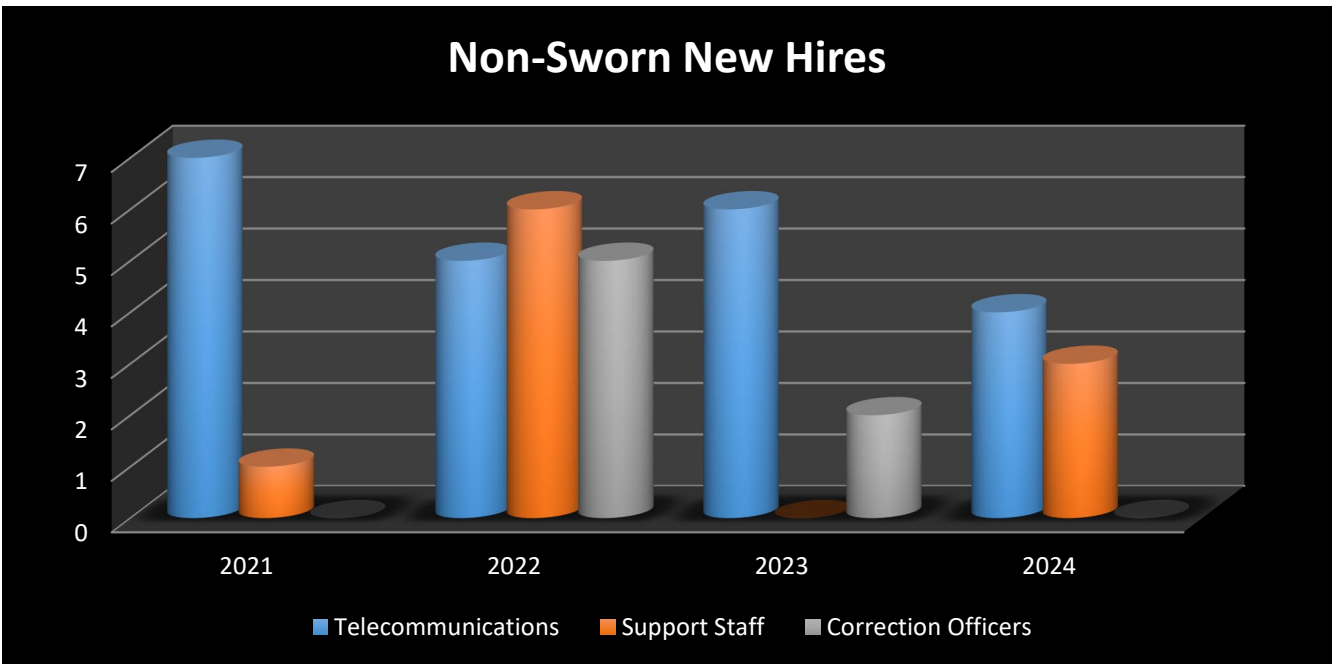
Non-Sworn Applicant Demographics By Gender Applications Received



The total number of non-sworn personnel vacancies has decreased during the last four (4) years. In 2024, a total of seven (7) non-sworn personnel were hired, which is consistent with trends over the last decade.

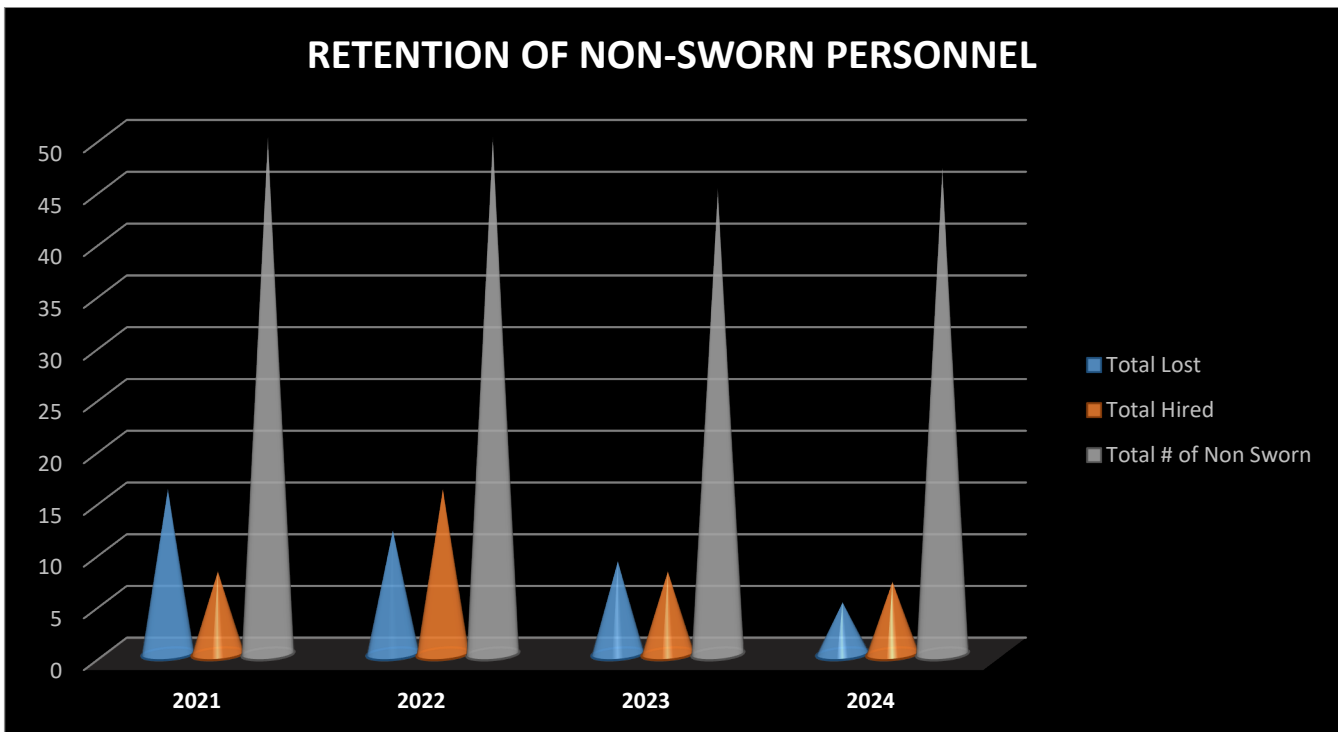


Four (4) Telecommunicators and three (1) Support Staff were hired during the 2024 calendar year. The RHPD filled a new position for a Communications and Marketing Coordinator in 2025 who is responsible for social media management and assists with Recruitment efforts through advertisements. Generally, Telecommunications make up the largest non-sworn unit in the RHPD followed by Correctional Officers.



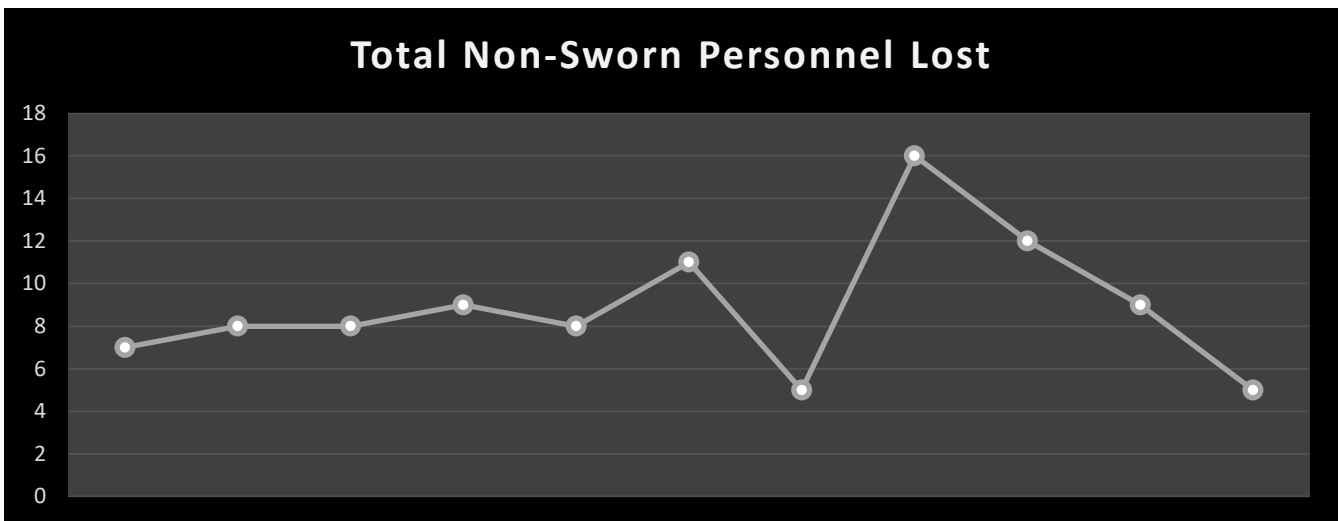
The total number of non-sworn personnel that have separated from the Rock Hill Police Department decreased in 2024. A total of five (5) non-sworn personnel separated from the Department in 2024, compared to nine (9) in 2023. The number of non-sworn separations from employment has continued to decrease 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.

RETENTION OF NON-SWORN PERSONNEL



Non-sworn individuals often do not have a realistic view of law enforcement work until they have had a chance to experience it firsthand. A total of 11% of all non-sworn personnel resigned in 2024 compared to 20% in 2023. The Rock Hill Police Department has also added an additional five (5) non-sworn positions over the last four (4) years.

Total Non-Sworn Personnel Lost



The Rock Hill Police Department experienced a decrease in both sworn officer and non-sworn vacancies during the 2024 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.

At the end of 2024, there were several promising applicants for sworn officers. It is also anticipated that the number of non-sworn personnel vacancies in the upcoming year will decrease. It is the Departments goal to have decrease the number of sworn vacancies and fill all open non-sworn positions by the end of 2025.

2024
Rock Hill Police Department
Use of Force Analysis
and Administrative Review

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.

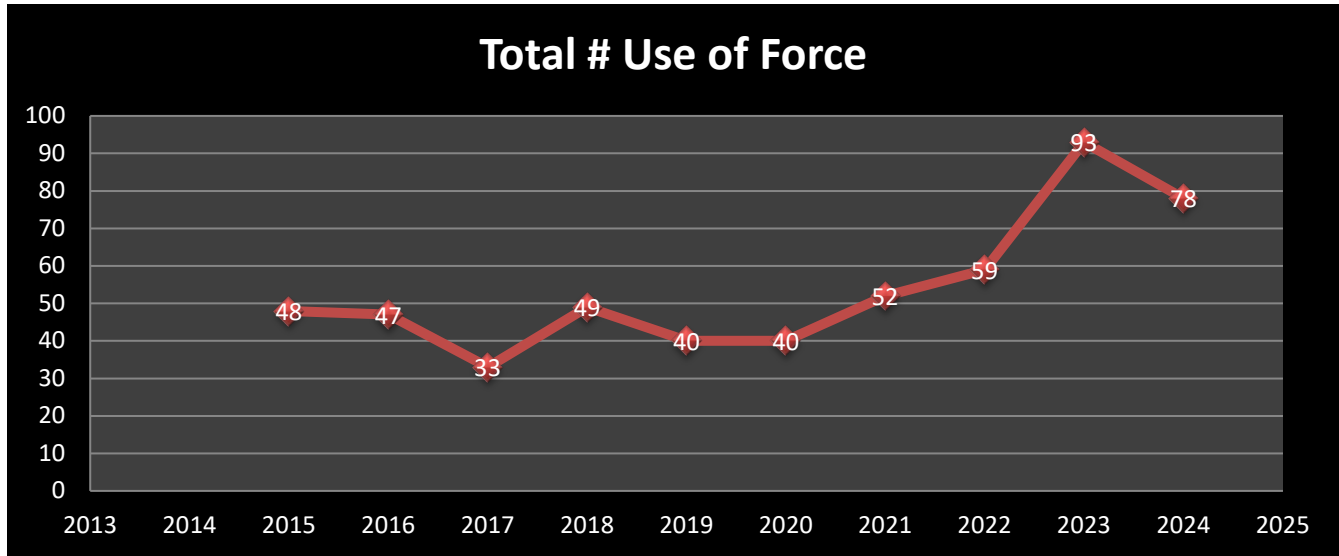
Lethal force is authorized when an officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life to protect the officer or another person from serious injury or death and to prevent the escape of a fleeing felon who poses a significant threat to human life. Officers are prohibited from discharging 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.

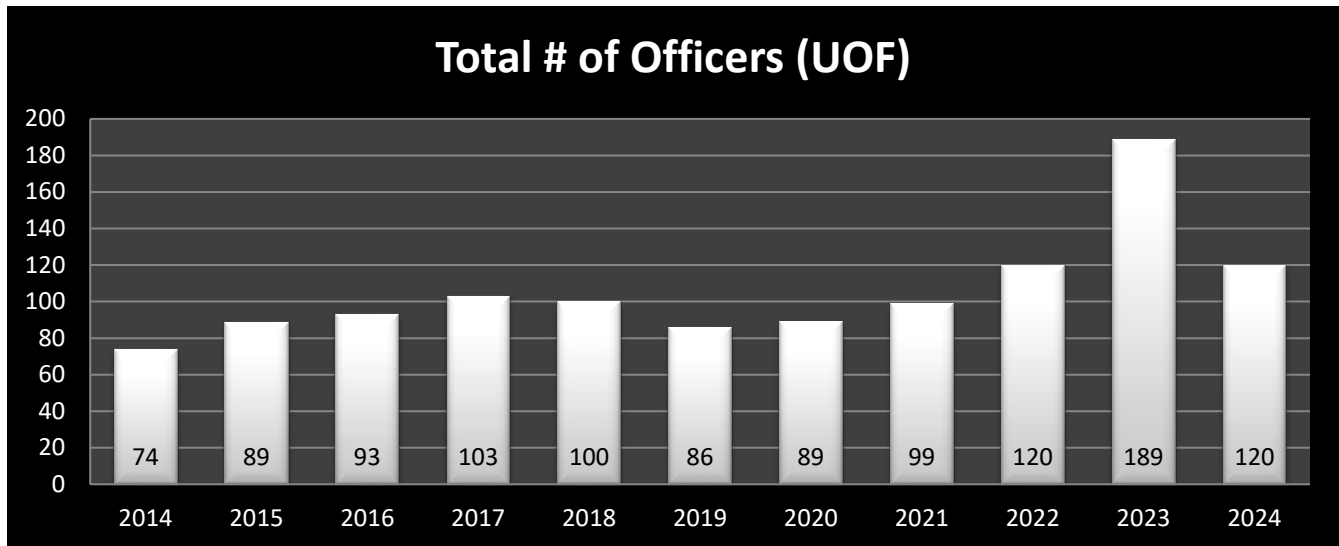
Every Use of Force incident is documented on a Department Blue Team Report, submitted through the chain of command, and required whether the officer is on or off duty. All Blue Team Use of Force entries are reviewed for compliance with federal laws, state laws, and Department issued General Orders. An 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

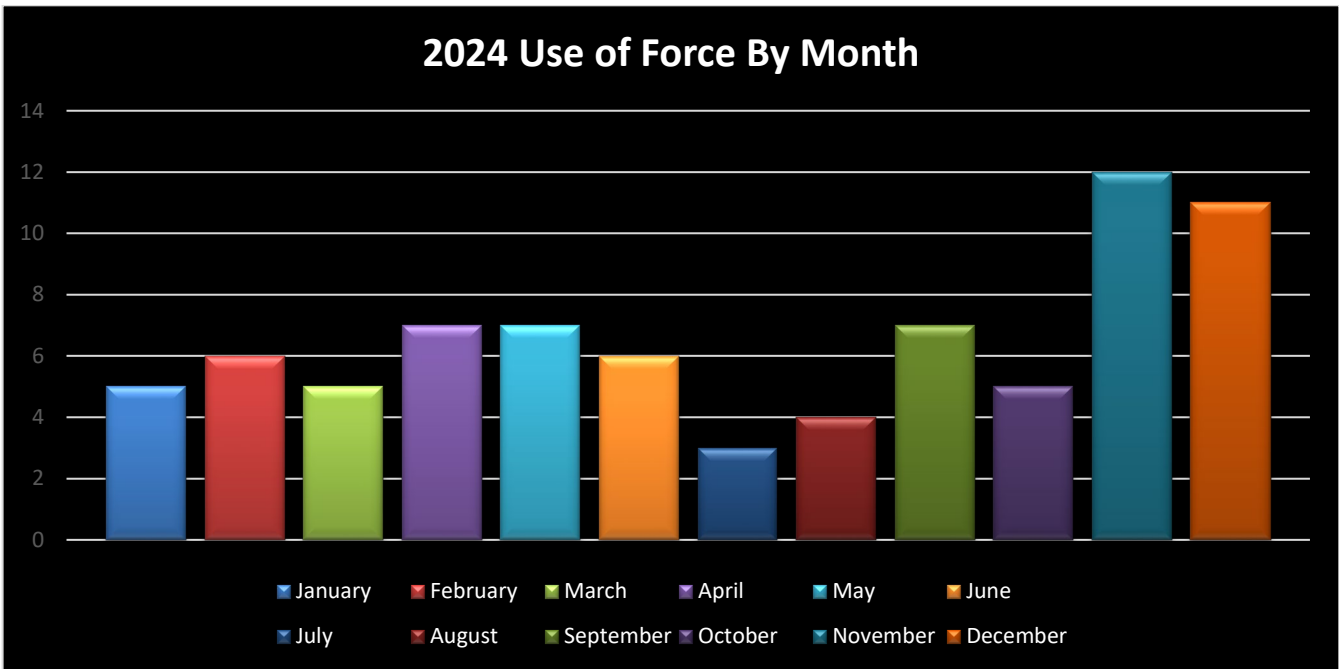
The Rock Hill Police Department responded to 76,931 total calls for service between January 1 and December 31, 2024. A total of 3,191 individuals were arrested during this period. Out of the total number of calls for service, one hundred fifty-six (156) Rock Hill Police Department officers reported seventy-eight (78) uses of force incidents. Of these, only 0.11% of all total incidents involved in a use of force. This number is extremely low for a department of our size.



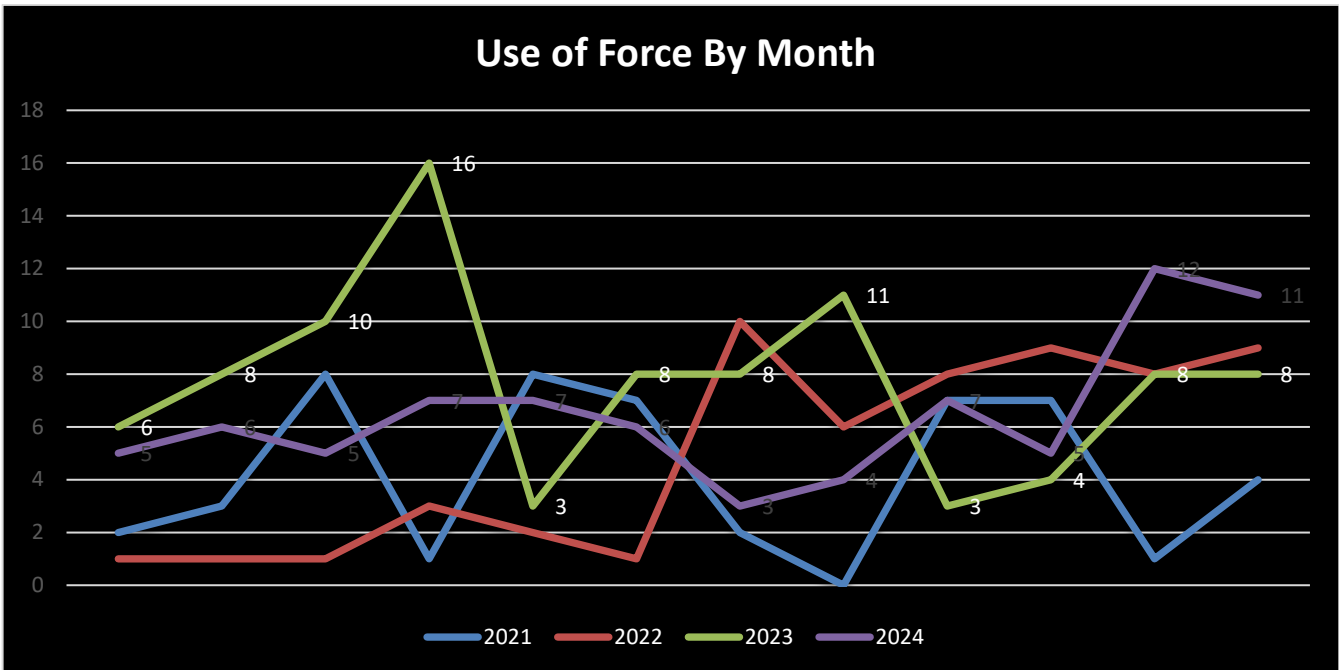
The total number of use of force incidents decreased 16% in 2024. The Department has averaged 70 use of force incidents over the last four years. The total number of uses of force has significantly increased over the last four (4) years.



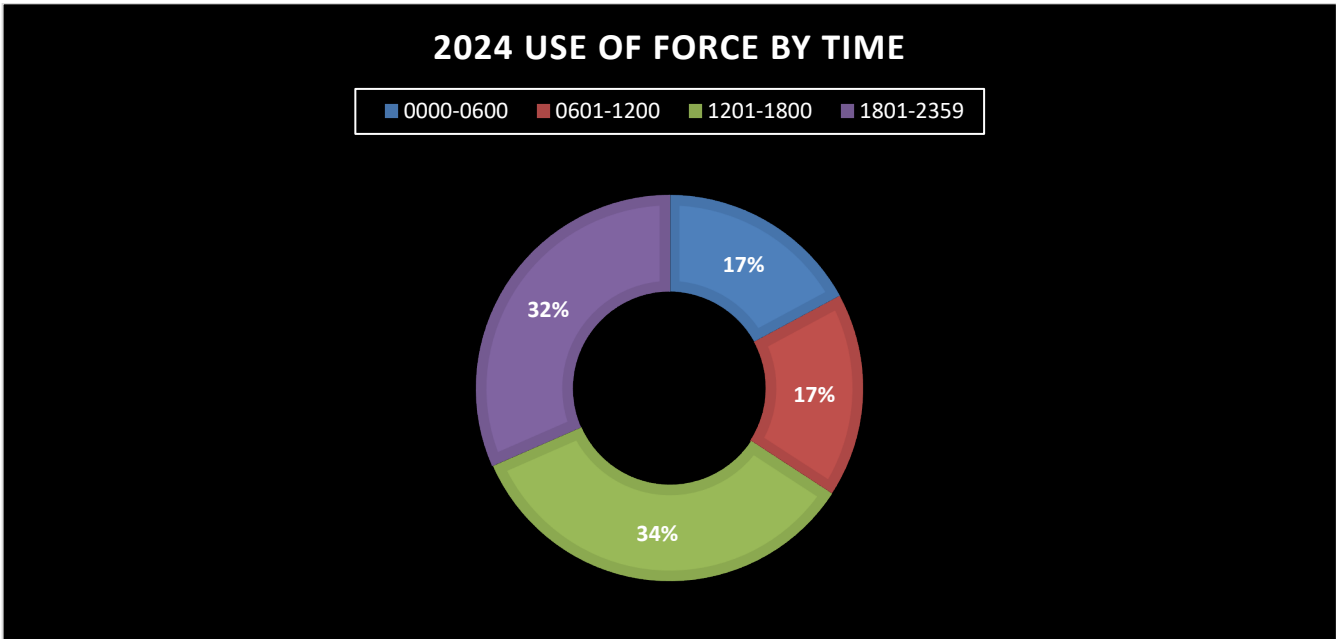
A total of one hundred twenty (120) officers were involved in Use of Force incidents in 2024, compared to one hundred eighty-nine (189) in 2024 which is a 36.5% decrease. The total number of officers involved in Use of Force incidents has remained fairly consistent over the last four (4) years. It should be noted that several incidents involved multiple types of force used and more than one officer involved in an individual reported use of force.



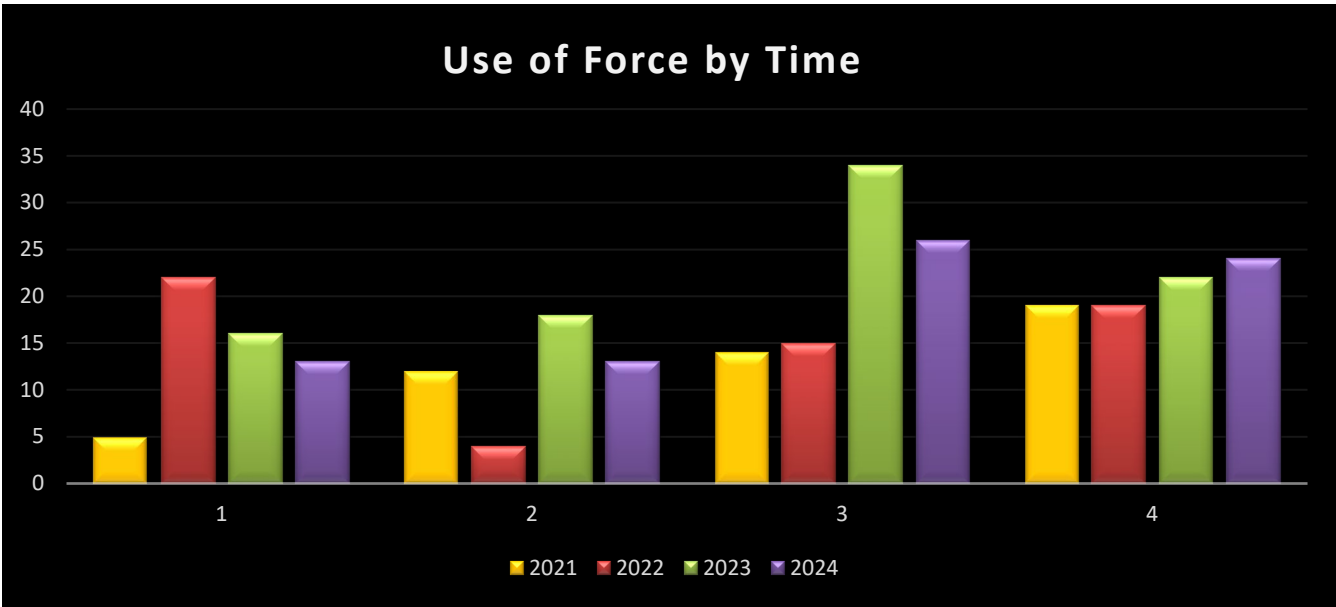
The Rock Hill Police Department experienced use of force incidents during each month of 2024. An average of seven (7) use of force incidents were reported by officers each month throughout the year. There was a significant increase in Use of Force incidents at the end of the year. A total of twelve (12) UOF incidents occurred in November, followed by eleven (11) in December. July and August had the lowest number of Use of Force incidents.



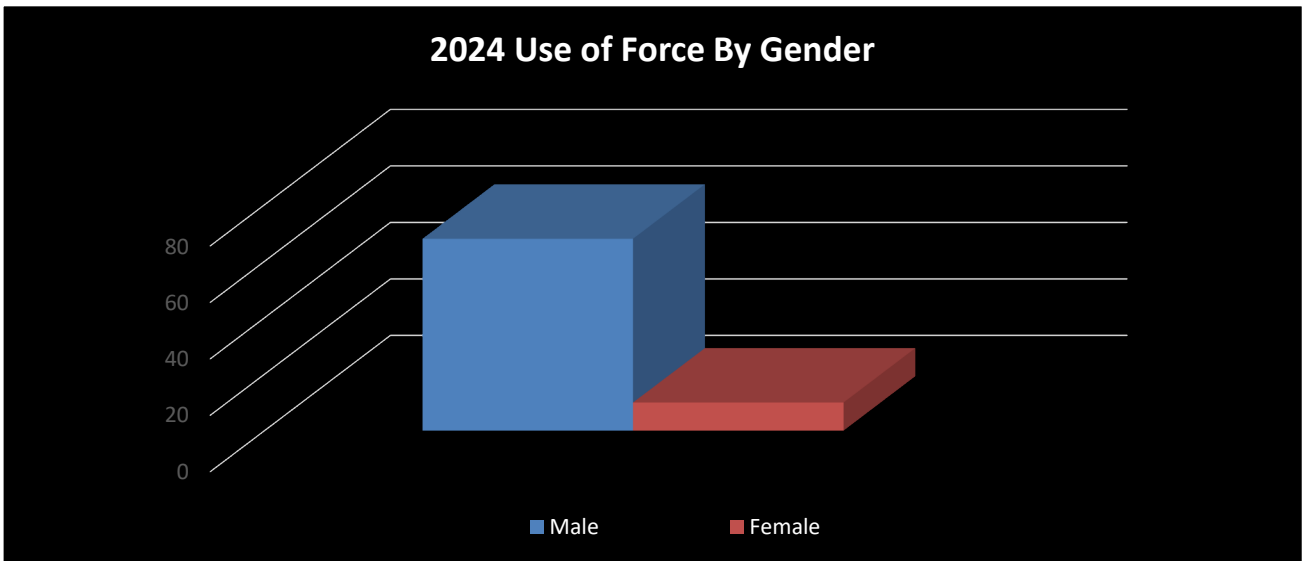
There is no discernable trend in reference to the month use of force incidents occur. Over the last four years, use of force incidents fluctuated, although incidents usually spike during the Spring and Summer months when officers tend to have more contacts due to better weather. The increase at the end of the year correlates with the holiday season when calls for service and incidents also increase.



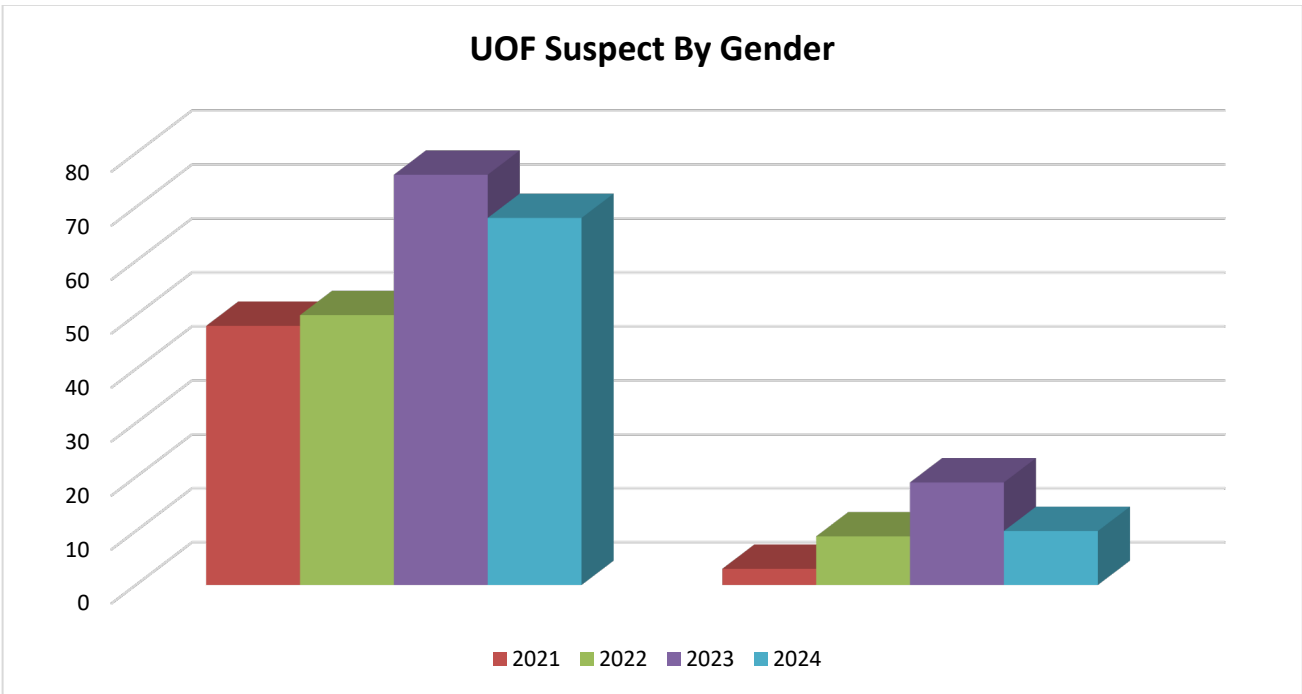
The period between 1201-1800 (12 pm – 6 pm) experienced the most use of force incidents in 2024, followed by 1801-2359 (6 pm to midnight). A total of twenty-six (26) use of force incidents occurred between noon and 6 pm, which was 34% of all incidents reported in 2024. This trend also correlates to the 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.



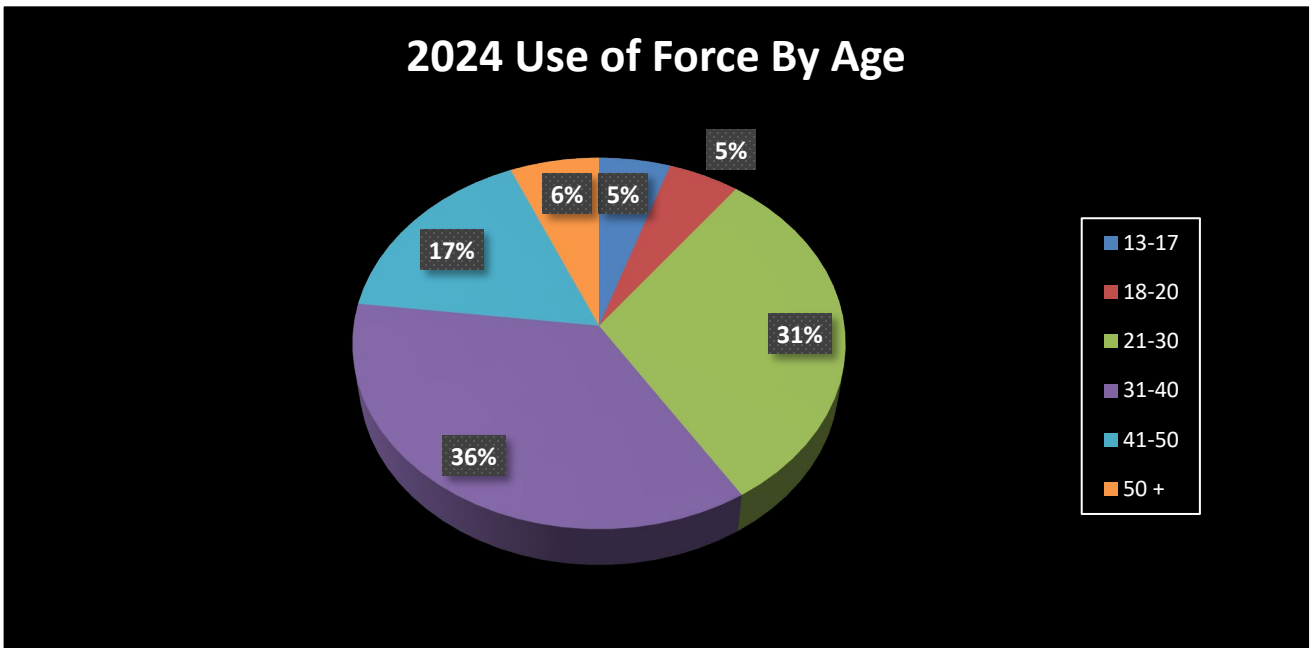
The hours of 1201 – 1800 also experienced the biggest change in Use of Force incidents. There were fourteen (14) use of force incidents in 2021 compared to twenty-six (26) in 2024 during this time frame. Trends indicate use of force incidents are more likely to occur at the time between noon and 6 o'clock pm. In addition, use of force incidents appears to increase later in the day. More individuals are out in the community during this time frame, which also contributes to the increase in use of force incidents.



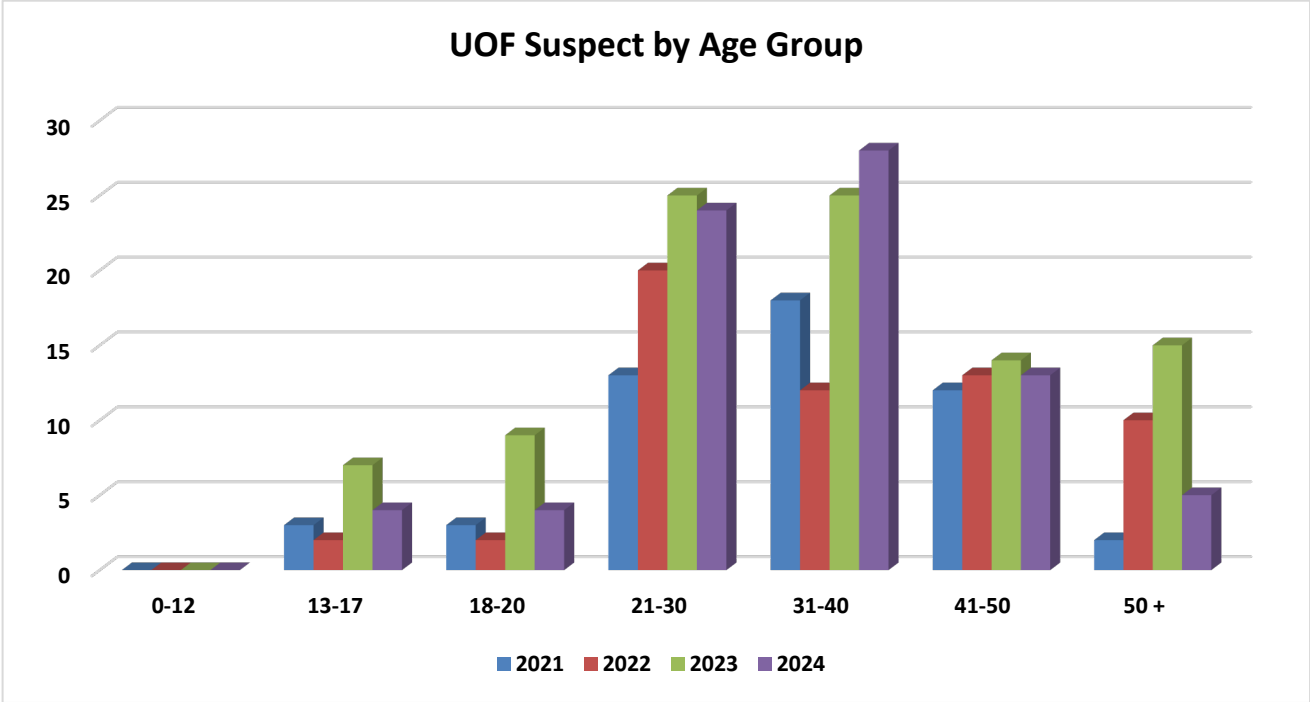
Most use of force incidents involve males. A total of sixty-eight (68) males (87%) were involved in use of force incidents during the 2024 calendar year. In comparison, there were ten (10) (13%) females involved in use of force incidents during the same time frame. The number of male and female use of force results are similar to the demographics for arrests during the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.



The total of males and females involved in use of force incidents decreased in 2024 compared to 2023. The total number of males in use of force incidents decreased by 11% while the total number of females decreased by 47%. Historically, males are more physical and likely to resist arrest when interacting with law enforcement than females. Data prior to 2019 was not collected so a long-term trend cannot be determined at this time.

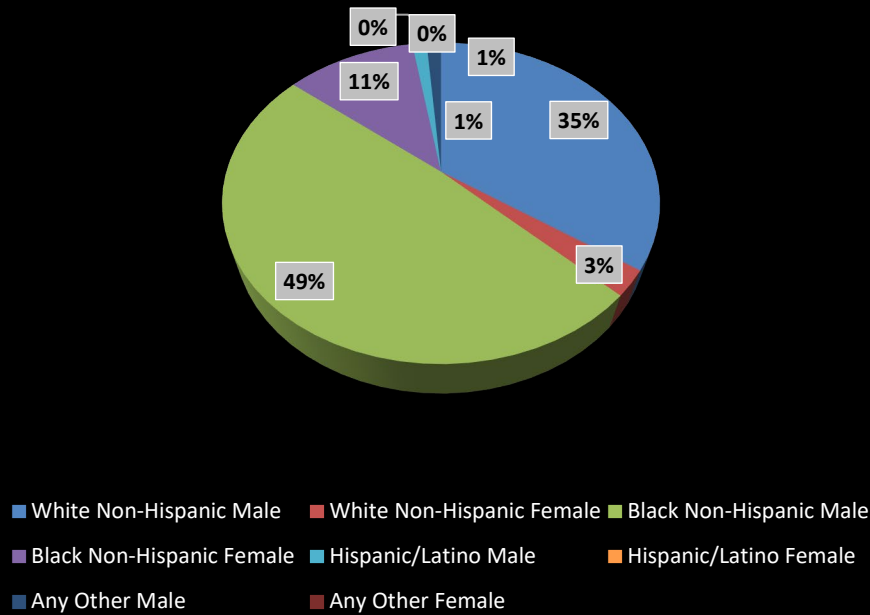


Adult men and women over the age of thirty (30) were the highest age group involved in use of force incidents in 2024. A total of twenty-eight (28) individuals aged 31-40 and twenty-four (24) aged 21-30 were involved in uses of force during the 2024 calendar year. Both of these age groups remained almost the same when compared to 2023. However, the instances of use of force for individuals between the ages of 13-20 decreased by 50%. Trends in use of force by age correlate to arrest data.



Men and women in every age group, except adults aged 31-40, experienced decreases in use of force incidents. It is difficult to determine the exact cause due to many factors. Additional data and study are necessary to determine which age group experiences the most use of force incidents.

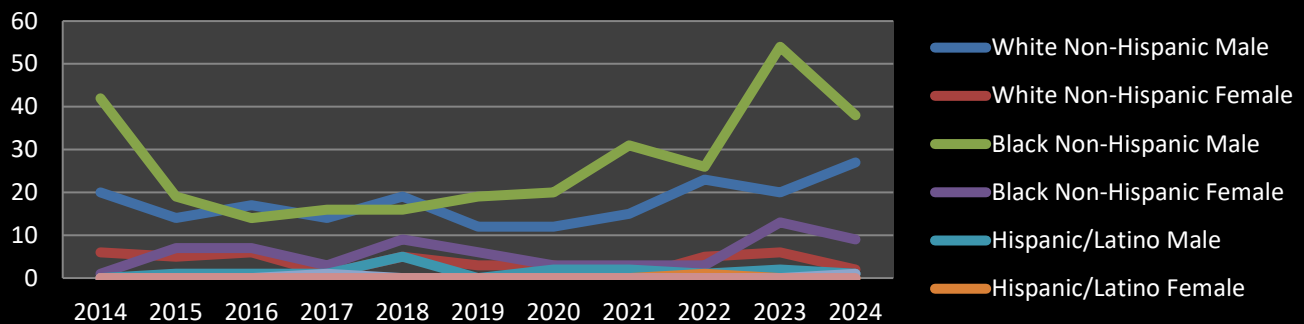
2024 Use of Force By Race/Sex



As previously stated, a total of seventy-eight (78) individuals were involved in use of force incidents with Rock Hill Police Department officers in 2024. Black non-Hispanic males made up the highest percentage of individuals involved in use of force incidents during the 2024 calendar year. Thirty-eight (38) black males (49% total) were involved in use of force incidents in 2024 compared to Fifty-four (54) in 2023, which is a 30% decrease. White males experienced an increase in the number of use of force incidents during the same time period. Twenty (20) white males (21% total) were involved in incidents where force was used in 2023 compared to twenty-seven (27) in 2024 resulting in a 35% increase. Additionally, one (1) Hispanic/Latino male and one (1) male of Other Race was involved in use of force incidents in 2024.

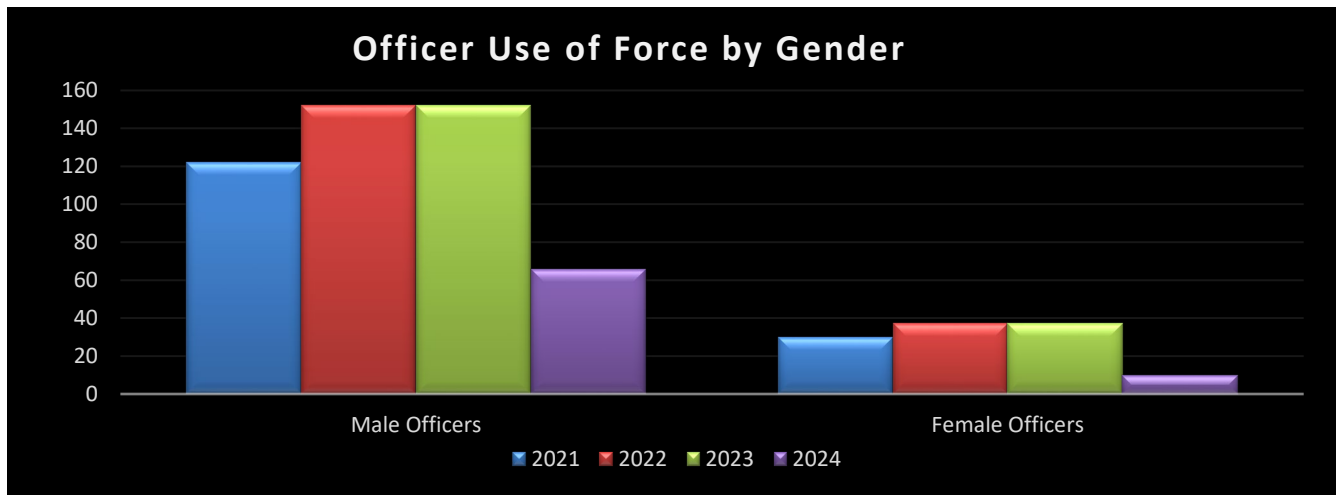
Females also experienced a decrease in use of force incidents during the 2024 calendar year. More black females were involved in use of force incidents than white females. A total of nine (9) black females (11%) were involved in use of force in 2024 compared to thirteen (13) in 2023. In comparison, two (2) white females were also involved in use of force incidents in 2024, compared to six (6) in 2023, both of which is a decrease.

Suspect Use of Force by Race/Gender

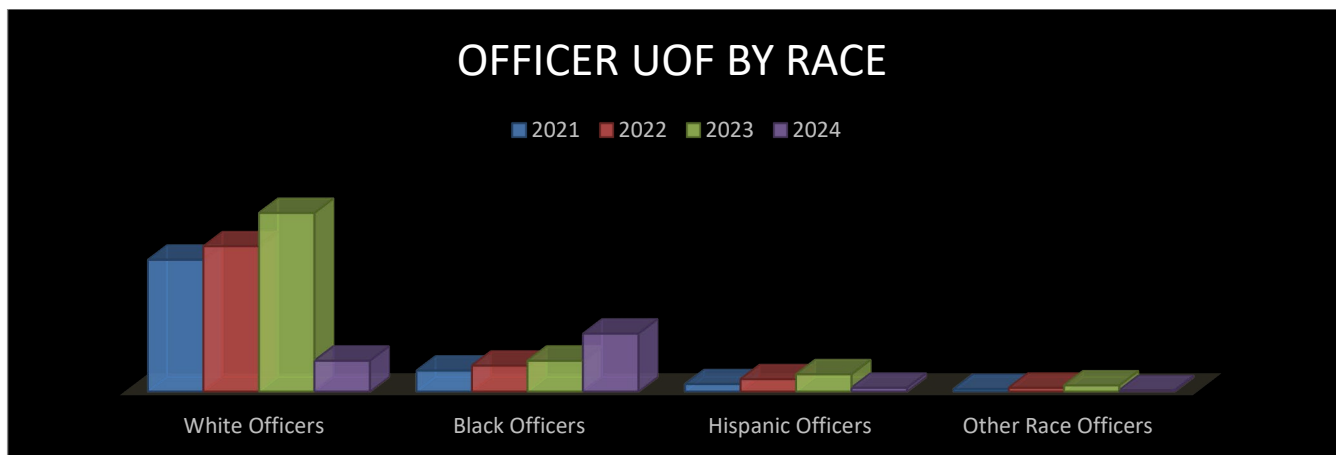


Use of force incidents involving black males increased over the last two (2) years after several years of stabilization. However, black males involved in use of force incidents with Rock Hill Police Department officers decreased in 2024 by 30% when compared to 2023 (38 total). Black males also have the highest arrest rate (42% overall arrests in 2024) within Rock Hill Police Departments jurisdiction. Use of force incidents appear to be increasing overall over the last decade. Black female use of force incidents also decreased in 2024.

Mistrust and negative attitudes towards law enforcement have greatly influenced the tendency for individuals to resist arrest. This increases the likelihood of use of force incidents. The Department and the citizens of Rock Hill must continue to work together to improve public trust to reduce the number of use of force incidents in the community.

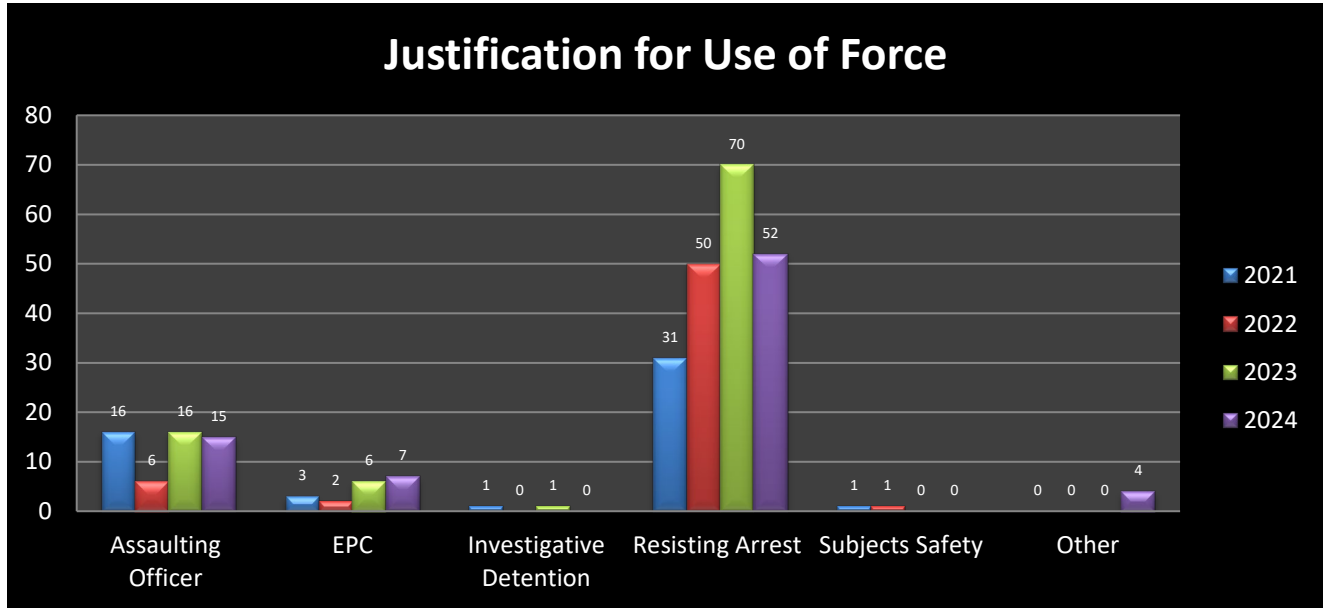


Based on data collected for 2024, black non-Hispanic male officers have the most use of force incidents. A total of forty (40) black male officers were involved in seventy-six (76) use of force incidents (53%), during the 2024 calendar year. White non-Hispanic male officers were involved in twenty-two (22) use of force incidents, which equated to 29% overall. The number of black male officers involved in use of force incidents has increased over the last four years. The cause for this increase is unknown at this time, however, it may be due to internal racial pressure and social dynamics between the officers and suspects.

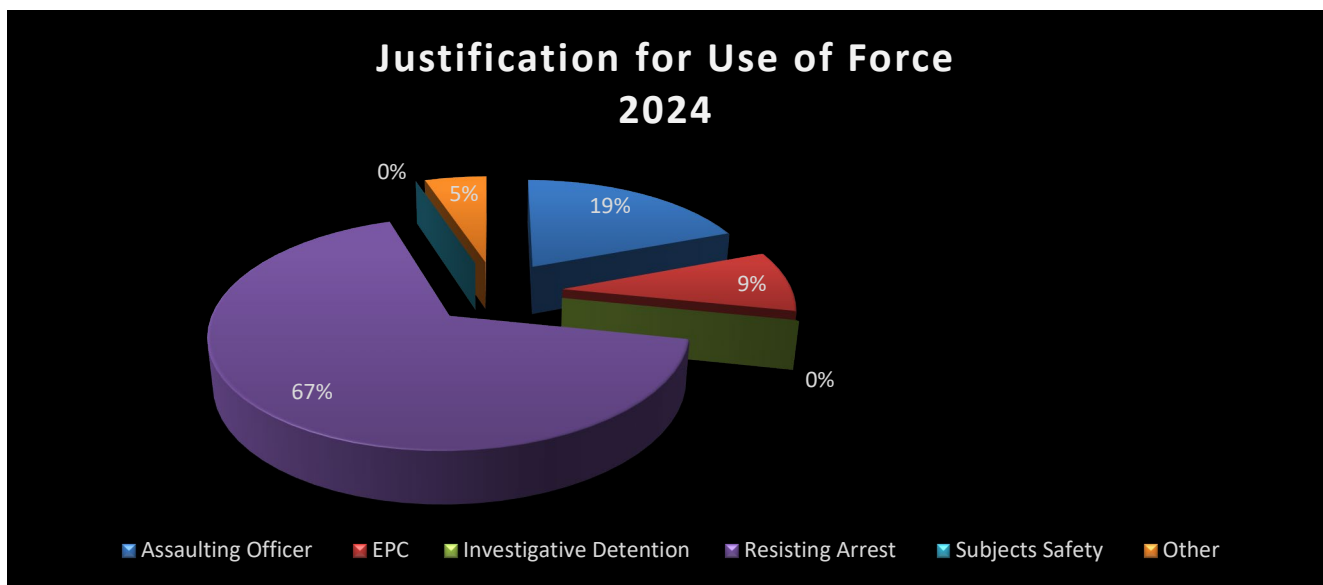


Similarly, black non-Hispanic females were involved in 9% (7 total) use of forces compared to three (3) white non-Hispanic female officers (4% overall). In addition, three (3) Hispanic/Latino

male officers and one (1) male 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 2024 calendar year. The distribution of officers by race and the number of use of force incidents is comparative to RHPD sworn personnel demographics for the 2024 calendar year.

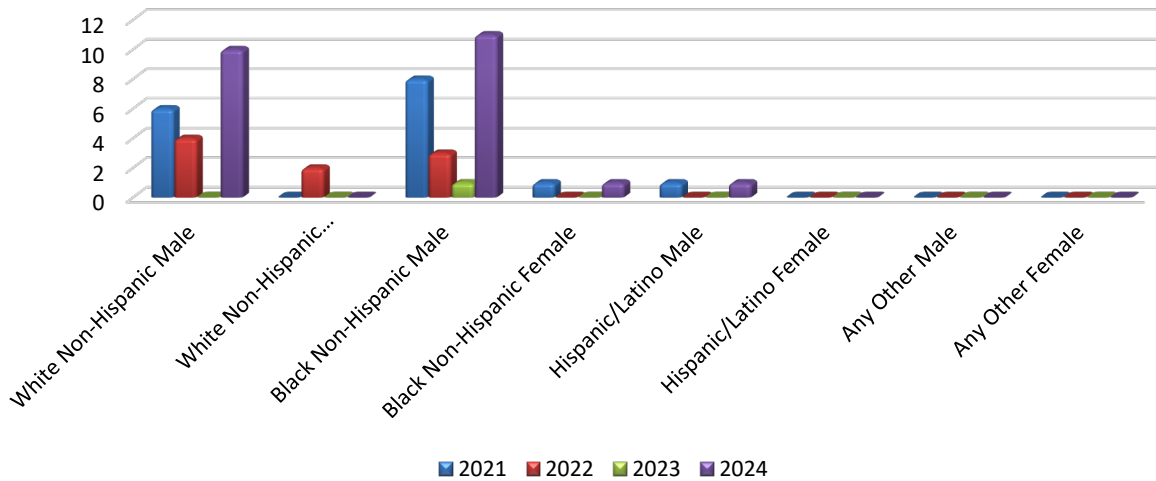


Resisting Arrest remains the most common justification for use of force by the Rock Hill Police Department. In 2024, 67% of all use of force incidents were a result of Resisting Arrest. The same holds true for the last ten (10) years – 66% of all use of force incidents reported in 2014 through 2024 were due to Resisting Arrest. Negative attitudes toward law enforcement is most likely the reason for the increase over the last several years.



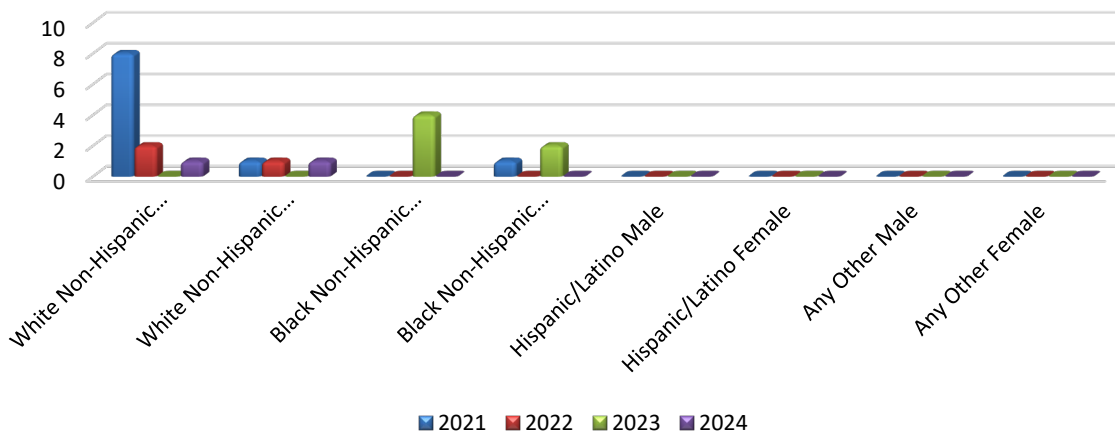
Beginning in 2020, the Rock Hill Police Department began collecting information on use of force injuries and officer assaults. The RHPD has been fortunate that there have been relatively few injuries during use of force incidents.

Suspect Non-Fatal UOF Injuries



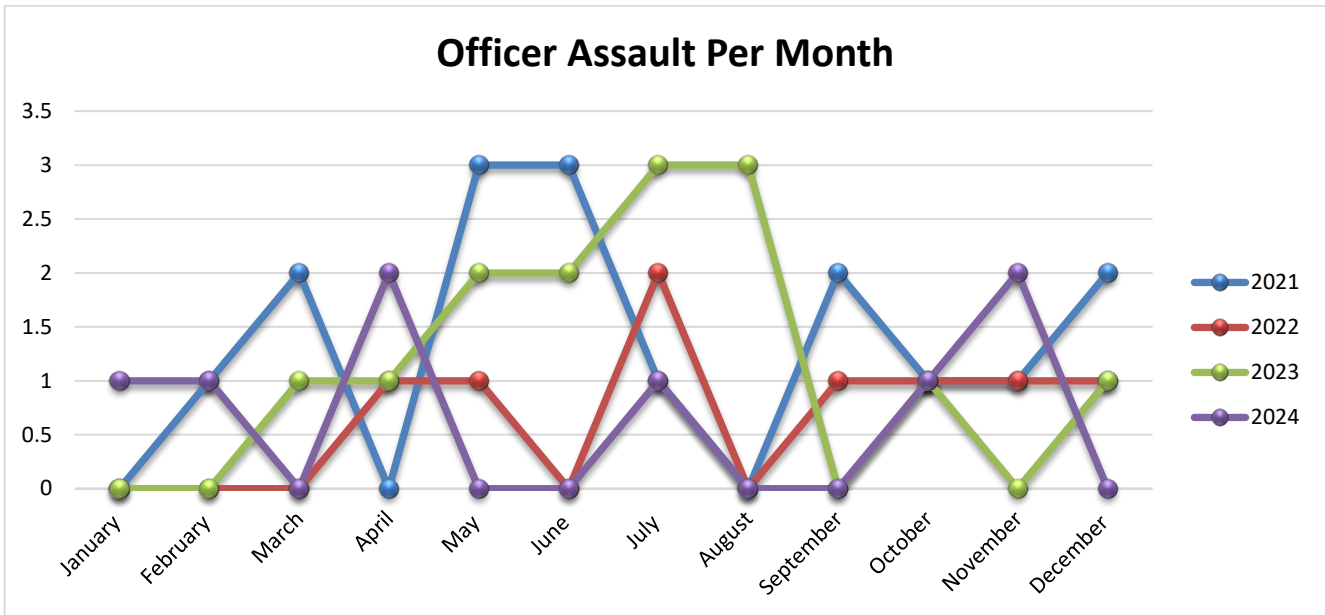
Injuries sustained during use of force incidents increased significantly for all genders and races in 2024. A total of 30% of all use of force incidents sustained injuries. Eleven (11) black non-Hispanic males and ten (10) white non-Hispanic males sustained a use of force related injuries in 2024. Injuries to females of all races is very low historically. There was one (1) black non-Hispanic female injured during a use of force incident during the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. There was no use of force related fatalities to suspects in 2024. All injuries were treated by medical personnel in a timely manner. The increase in the number of injuries sustained during use of force incidents is most likely attributed to an increase in the use of tasers during the year.

Officer Non-Fatal UOF Injuries

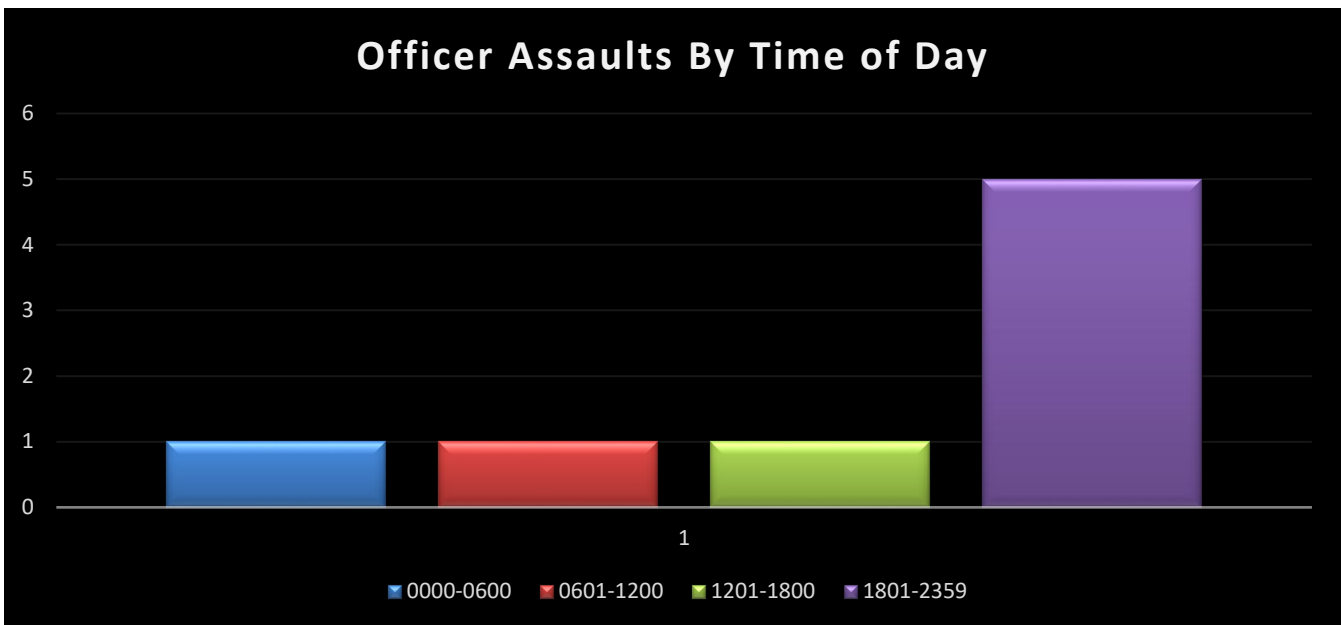


A total of two (2) officers were injured in use of force incidents during the 2024 calendar year, compared to six (6) in 2023. One (1) white male officer and one (1) black female officer sustained injuries in 2024. No officers have been seriously injured or killed over the last four (4) years. The low number of officer injuries illustrates an understanding of de-escalation and defensive tactics that keep both the officers and the suspects safe from serious injuries during

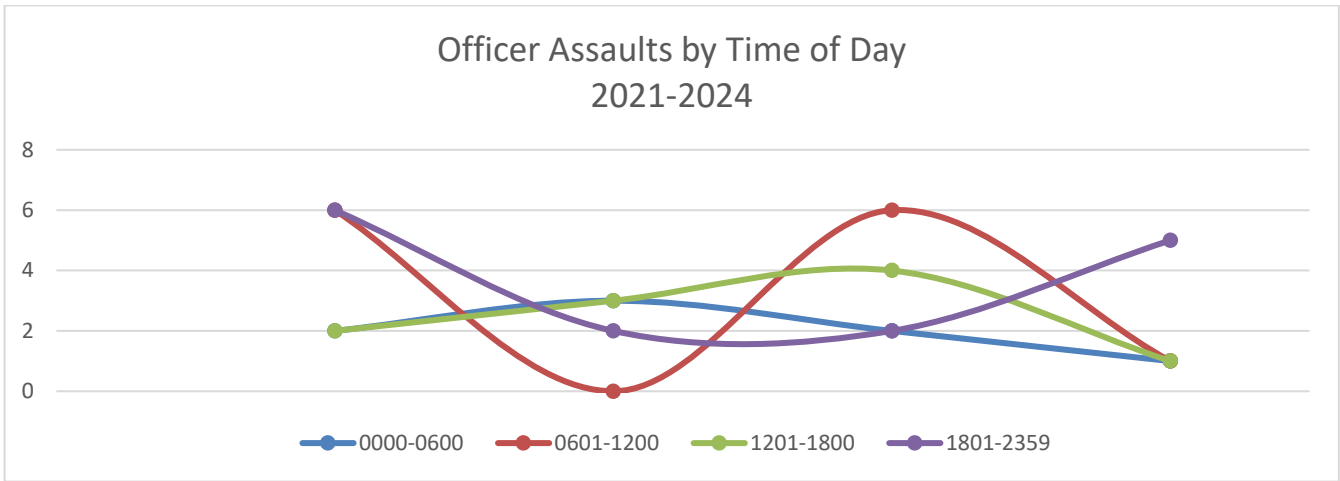
high intensity situations. Any injuries sustained by officers were treated by medical personnel, as appropriate.



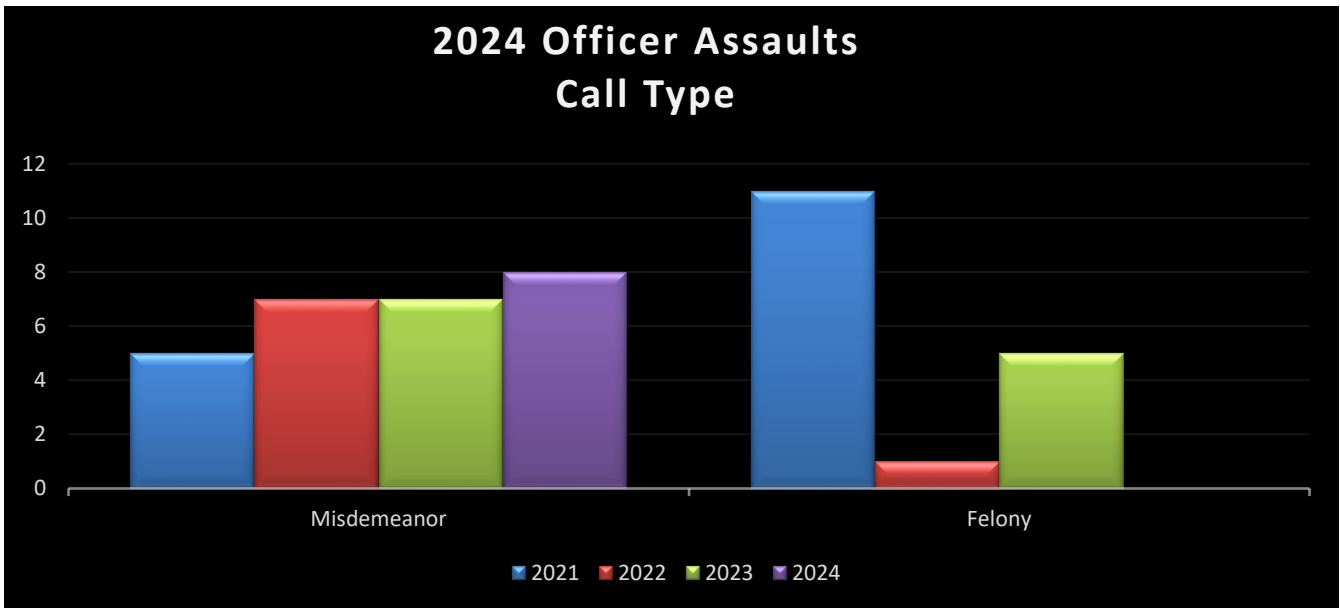
There was a total of eight (8) officer assaults between the period of January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, compared to fourteen (14) during the same period of 2023. Officers experienced more assaults during the months of April and November than any other months throughout the year. Out of one hundred fifty-six (156) officers, 5% were assaulted during the 2024 calendar year, which is a reduction compared to 2023. However, there has been no discernable trend when evaluating officer assaults per month over the last four (4) years.



Officer assaults occurred during all hours of the 2024 calendar year. A total of five (5) officers assaults occurred from 1801 – 2359 (6 pm to midnight). More officer assaults occurred during this time than any other time. One (1) officer assault occurred during each of the other 6-hour periods for a total of three (3) assaults during the period of 0000-1800 (Midnight to 6 pm).

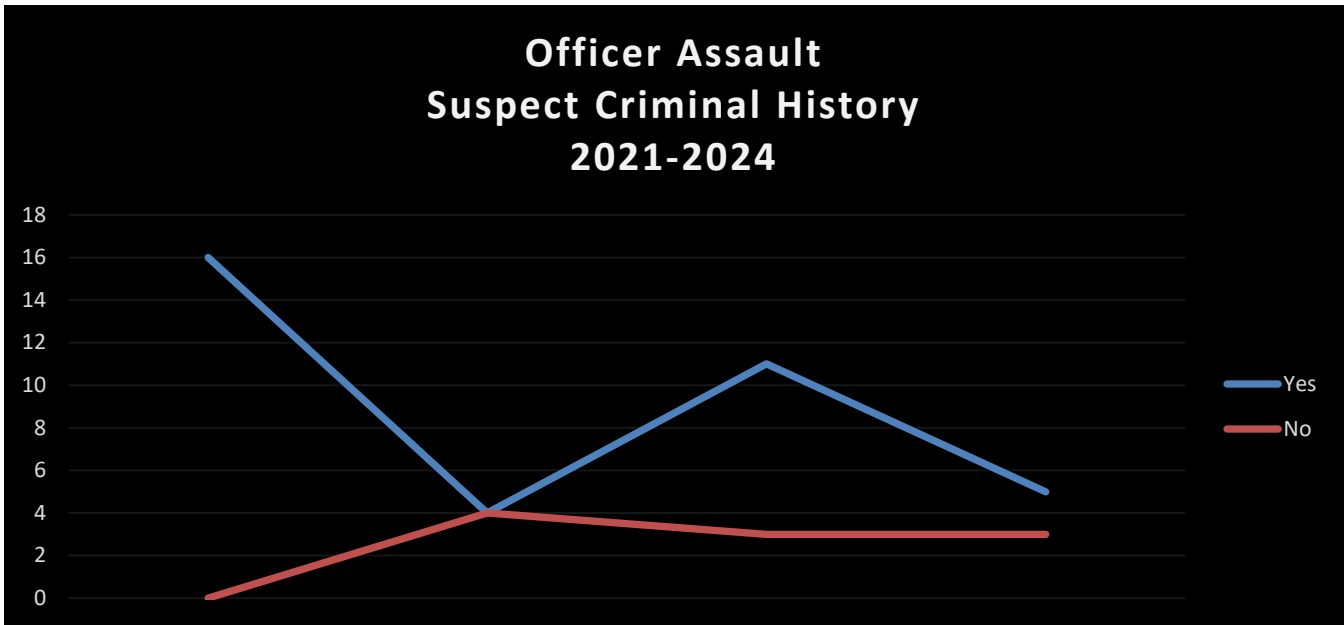


Data collected over the last four years indicates that officers are more likely to be assaulted between the hours of 6 pm to midnight and 6 am to noon. Alcohol and drug use are more likely during the evening hours when most individuals are not at the workplace, which contributes to criminal behavior. Additionally, most of the population of Rock Hill is out in the community during daylight hours, which contributes to the increase in assaults during this time. 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.

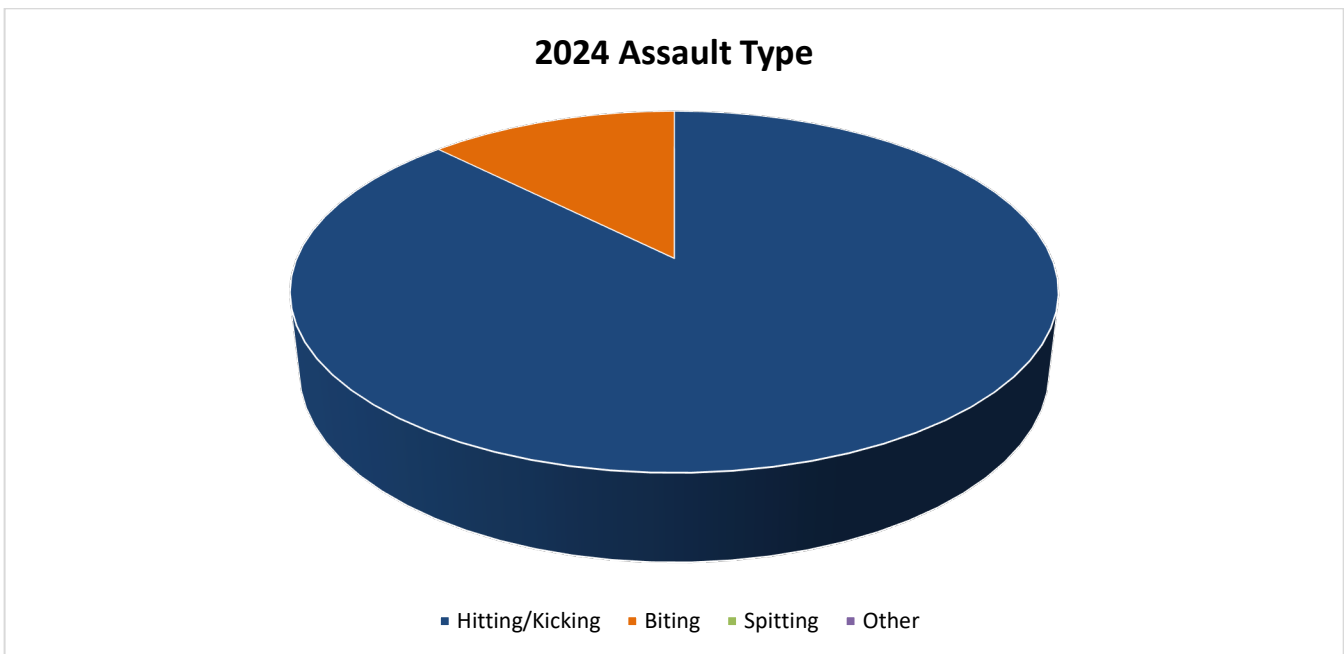


More officer assaults are in response to misdemeanor incidents than felonies. In 2024, a total of eight (8) assaults on officers were for misdemeanor charges compared to zero (0) for felony charges. The number of officer assaults for misdemeanor crimes has increased while those for felonies has decreased over the last four (4) years. This indicates that suspects with less serious crimes have become increasingly combative in recent years.

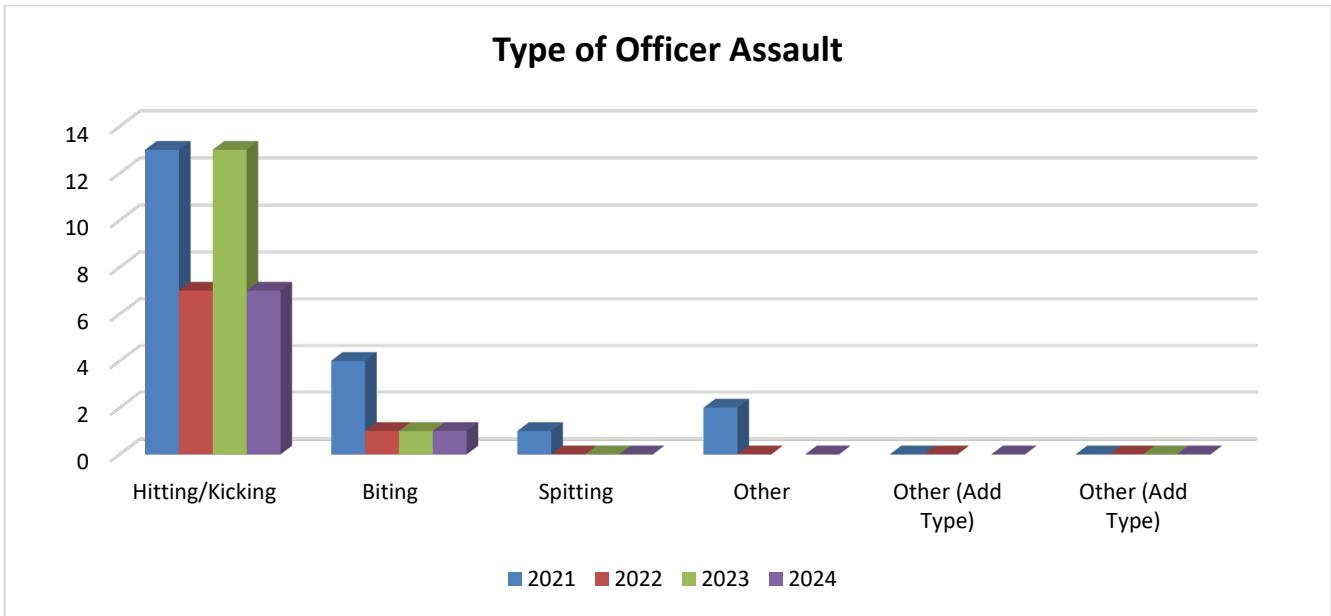
Five (5) out of eight (8) individuals who committed an assault on an officer in 2024 had a prior criminal history. 78% of all officer assaults over the last four (4) years have previous criminal charges. Based on collected data, individuals with criminal histories continue to assault officers on a more frequent basis.



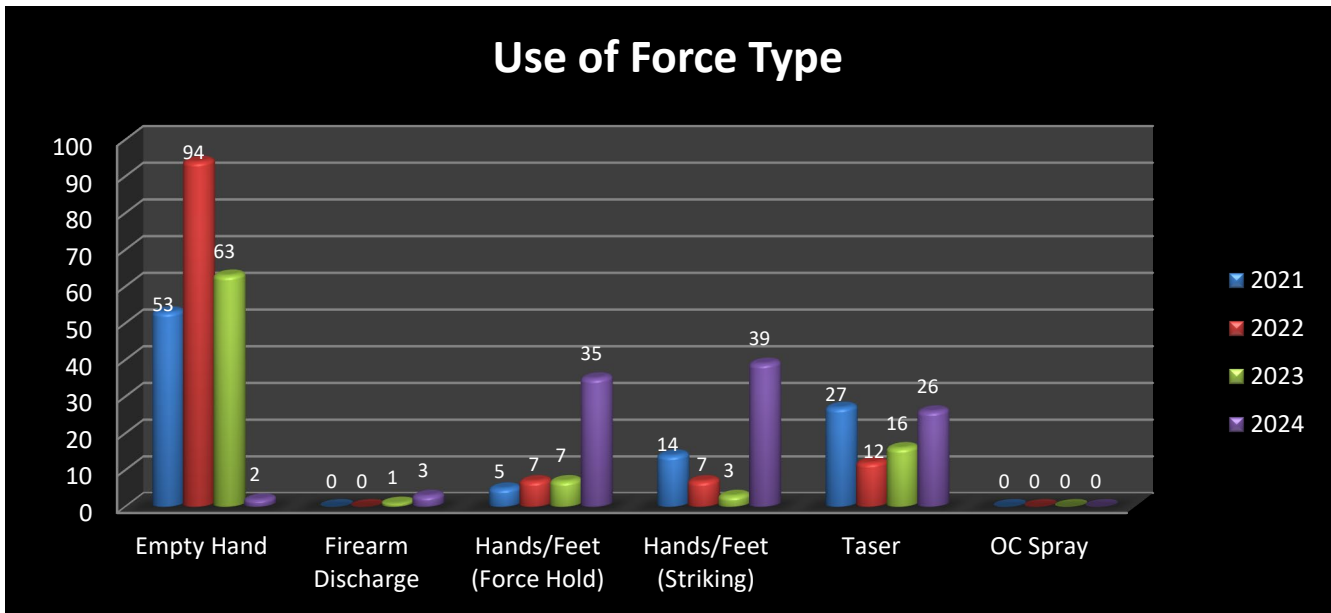
None of the assaults on officers in 2024 involved a weapon. Seven (7) officer assaults involved hitting or kicking, and one (1) involved biting. Fortunately, none of the officer assaults escalated into a serious incident and no one was seriously hurt.



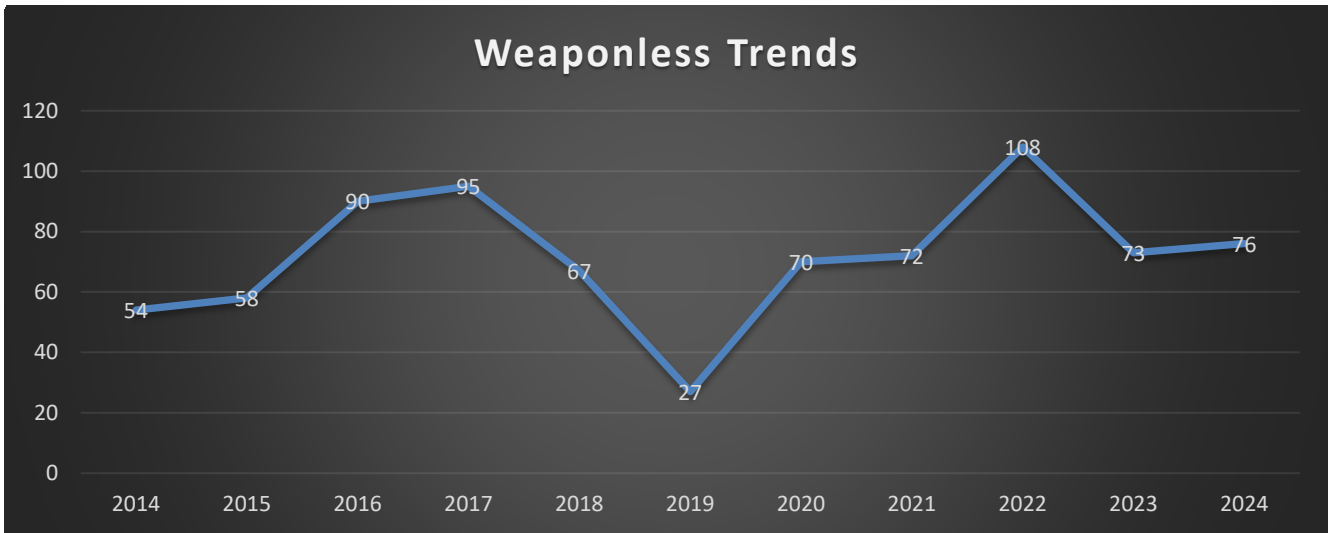
Officer involved assaults involving hitting/kicking from the suspect have been the vast majority over the last four years. A total of 80% of all officer assaults were due to attacks using the hands and feet with actively resisting people. As stated previously in this report, individuals have become more inclined to become physical with law enforcement over the last several years. However, only 10% of all use of force incidents resulted in officer assaults. The low number of officer assaults in 2024 illustrates that Rock Hill Police Department officers have properly used de-escalation techniques to aid in defusing most situations.



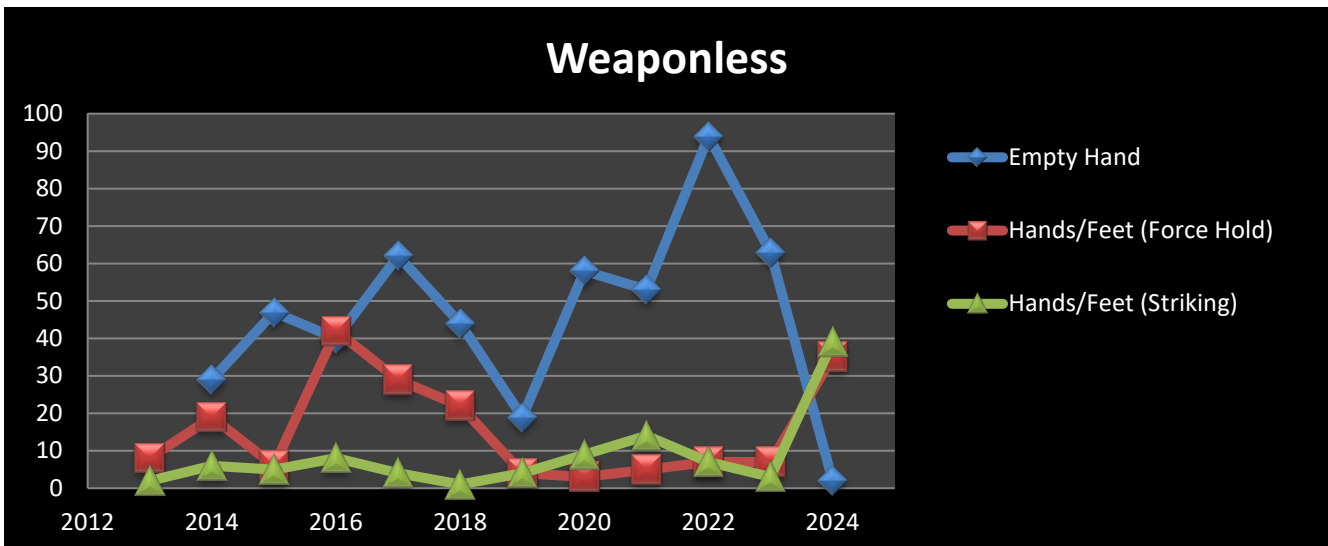
The most common use of force type used by Rock Hill Police Department officers in 2024 was Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques, followed by the use of Tasers. The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques constituted 67% of all use of force types utilized in 2024. Taser use of force equaled 23% percent of all reported uses of force during the same period. There were three (3) use of force incidents involving the Discharge of a Firearm in 2024. 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 increased 4% in 2024 compared to 2023. The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand use of force has stayed relatively consistent outside of 2019 and 2022.

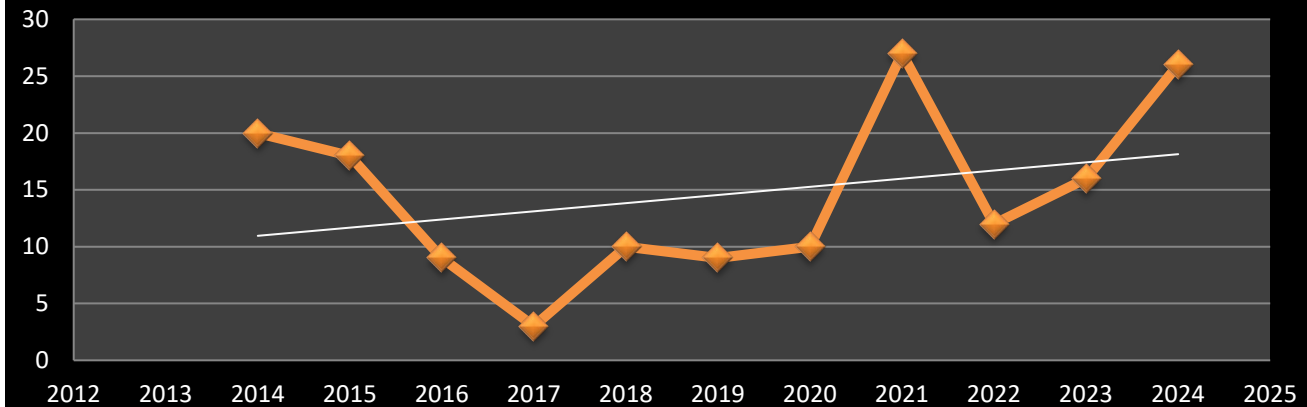


Hands and Feet (Force Hold and Striking) use of force was the most used technique by Rock Hill Police Department officers during the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Hands and Feet were used seventy-four (74) times during the 2024 calendar year and has been used two hundred seventy-nine (279) times during the last four years (2021-2024). The use of Empty Hand techniques during use of force incidents decreased significantly (96%) from two (2) incidents in 2024 compared to sixty-three (63) in 2023. Conversely, the use of Hands/Feet (Force Hold) and Hands/Feet (Striking) both significantly increased in 2024. Officers used Hand/Feet (Force Hold) techniques thirty-five (35) time and Hands/Feet (Striking) a total of thirty-nine (39) times during the 2024 calendar year. The drastic changes in weaponless use of force incidents may be an outlier. However, it should be noted that several incidents involved more than one type of use of force type depending on the response to resistance at time of arrest.



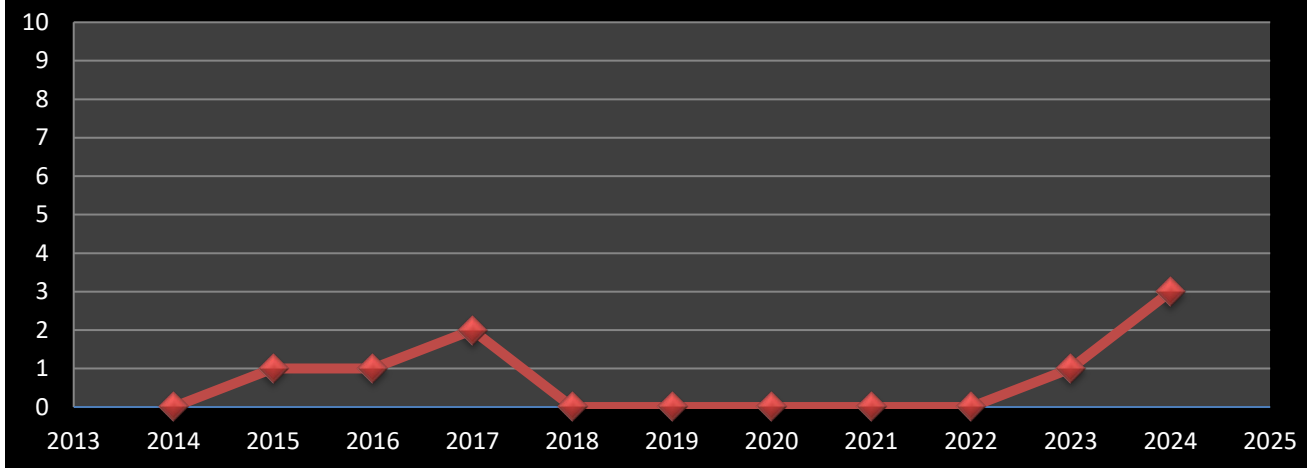
The choice for officers to employ Weaponless use of force techniques is a decision the officer must make based on suspect behavior due to the proximity of the threat, the level of resistance being used, and the officer's ability to transition to a higher level of force before being overtaken by the suspect. 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.

Taser Use of Force Incidents



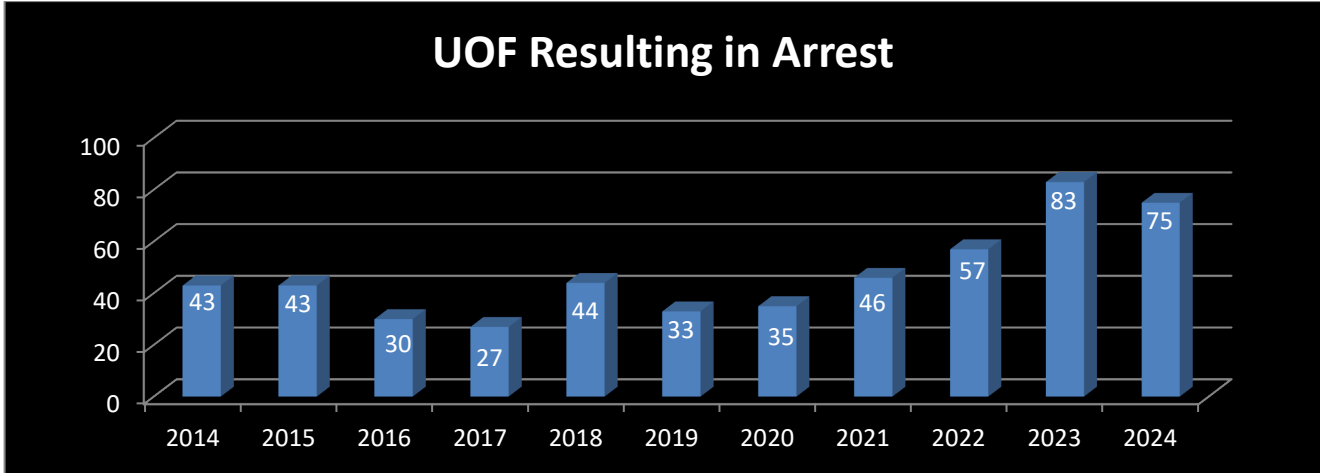
Use of force incidents involving the use of a Taser continued to increase in 2024. There was a total of twenty-six (26) use of force incidents in 2024, compared to sixteen (16) in 2023, for a 63% increase. The use of Tasers during use of force incidents has increased over the last ten years (2014 – 2024). Tasers were only used 23% of all use of force techniques during the 2024 calendar year. The increase in the use of Tasers in 2024 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.

Firearm Use Of Force Incidents

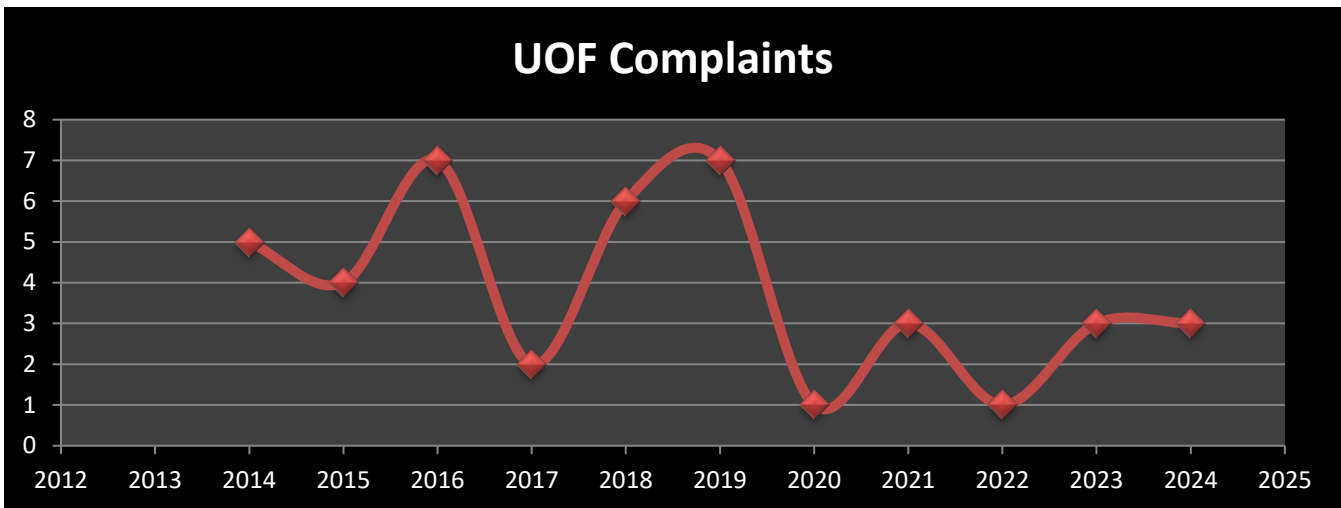


In 2024, there were three (3) use of force incidents involving a firearm. One (1) incident involved a multiple homicide suspect presenting and pointing a firearm and then charging at officers. The suspect was shot and sustained a non-life-threatening injury to their leg. SLED and Internal Affairs conducted separate investigations and concluded that the officer-involved shooting was justified. The other two (2) incidents involved Firearm Discharges to euthanize animals. The Rock Hill Police Department has been extremely fortunate to have very few firearms related use of force incidents. A total of eight (8) officer-involved shootings have occurred in the decade (2014 – 2024). Less than 1% (0.08%) 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.

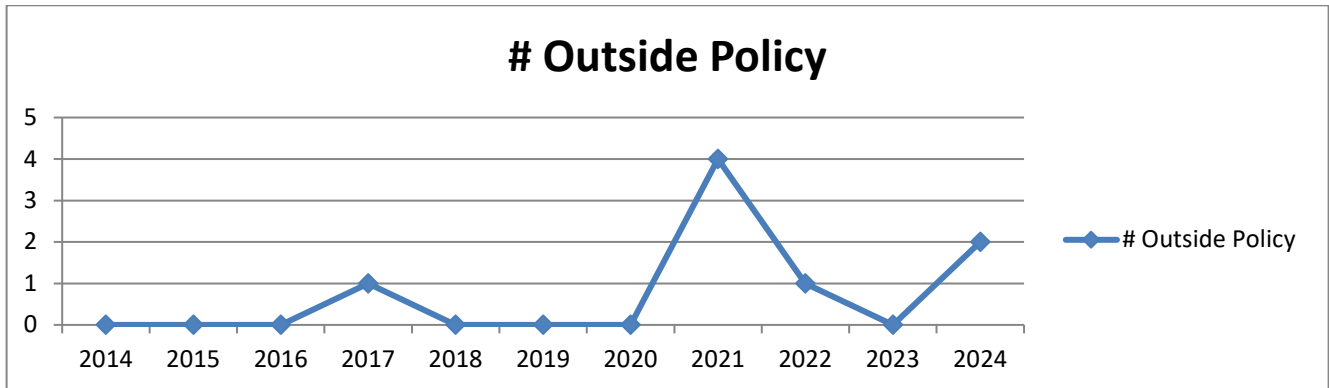


There were seventy-five (75) arrests associated with use of force incidents in 2024 compared to eighty-three (83) in 2023. This accounted for a 10% decrease. The total number of arrests reporting a use of force incident has increased over a four-year period (2021 – 2024). This correlates to the total use of force incidents over the same period. On average, sixty-five (65) arrests with use of force incidents occurred between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2024, which is lower than the total number of overall arrests. The decrease in use of force incidents during arrest illustrates an increased emphasis in officer de-escalation whenever possible. An individual arrested by the Rock Hill Police Department has a 2% 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 necessary and as an appropriate response to resistance.



Citizen complaints due to a use of force incident stayed the same in 2024. There were three (3) complaints both in 2023 and 2024. The total number of complaints for use of force by Rock Hill Police Department officers remains very low. A total of 4% of all use of force incidents that

occurred in 2024 resulted in a Citizen Complaint. The total number of use of force related complaints over the last four years has decreased compared to the period of 2017-2020. This reduction in use of force complaints over the last decade is a illustrates and emphasis in 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 two (2) were found to be outside of Department policy in 2024. Discipline concerning out of policy use of force incidents included one (1) suspension and one (1) termination. Over the last ten (10) years, eight (8) use of force complaints have been found to be outside of policy. This is equal to 1% of all use of force incidents over the last decade. 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.

2024
Rock Hill Police Department
Vehicle Pursuits Analysis
& Administrative Review

Police vehicular pursuits are potentially dangerous to the community, the officers involved, and the person 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.

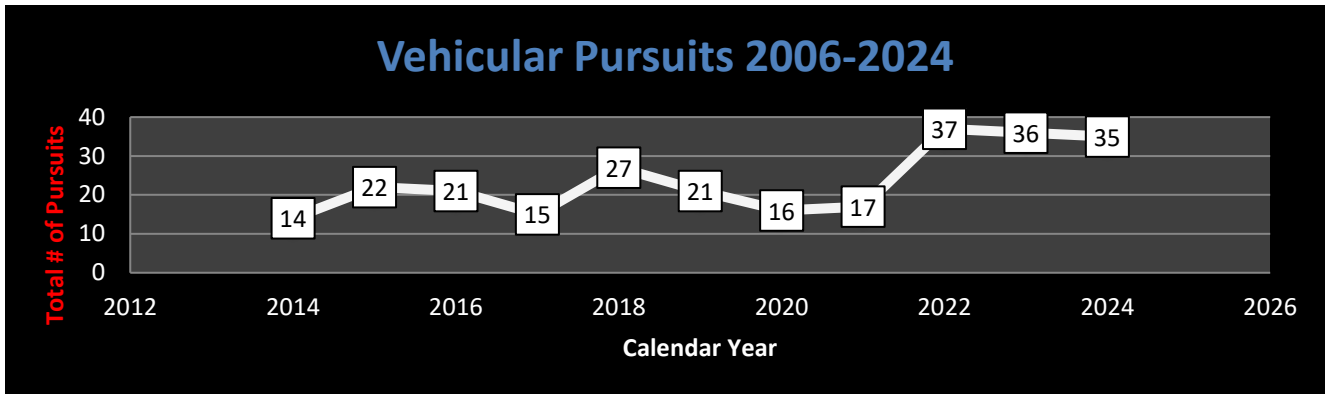
When an officer is involved in a situation where a possible pursuit may occur, officers consider the seriousness of the original offense and the safety of the community to include overall community safety, environmental considerations, familiarity with the roadway design, the capability and quality of 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.

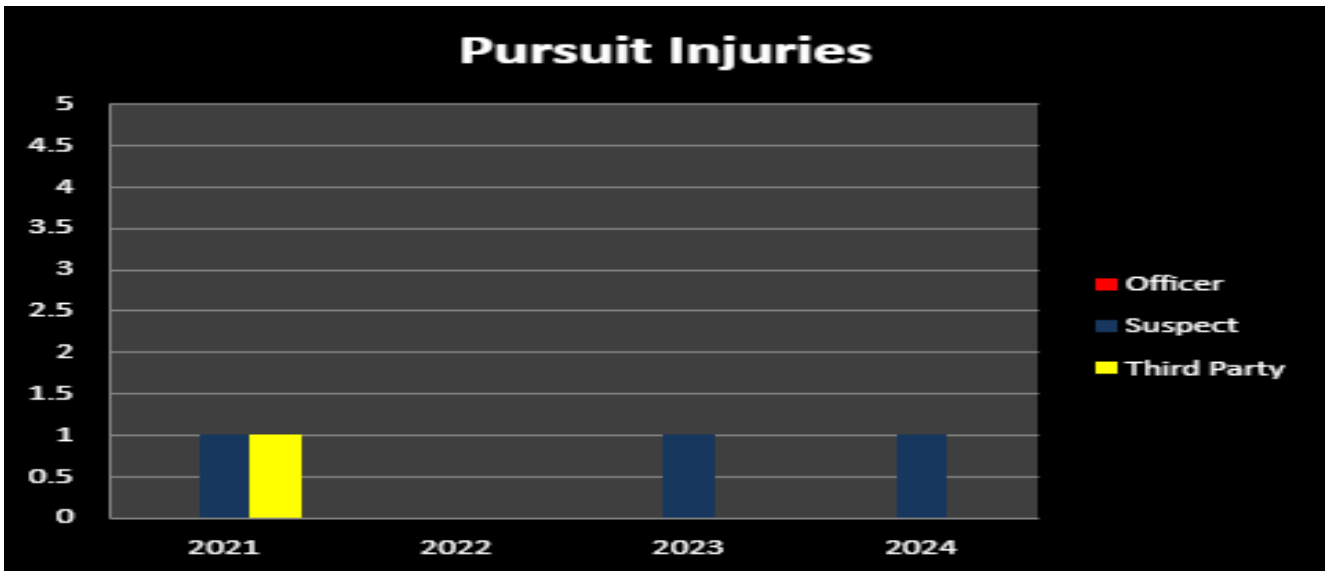
Vehicular pursuits are terminated based on the analysis of the risk created by the pursuit compared to the benefits gained by apprehension. Pursuits are immediately terminated upon the order of any supervisor and when other mitigating circumstances are involved in the incident. The safety of all involved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

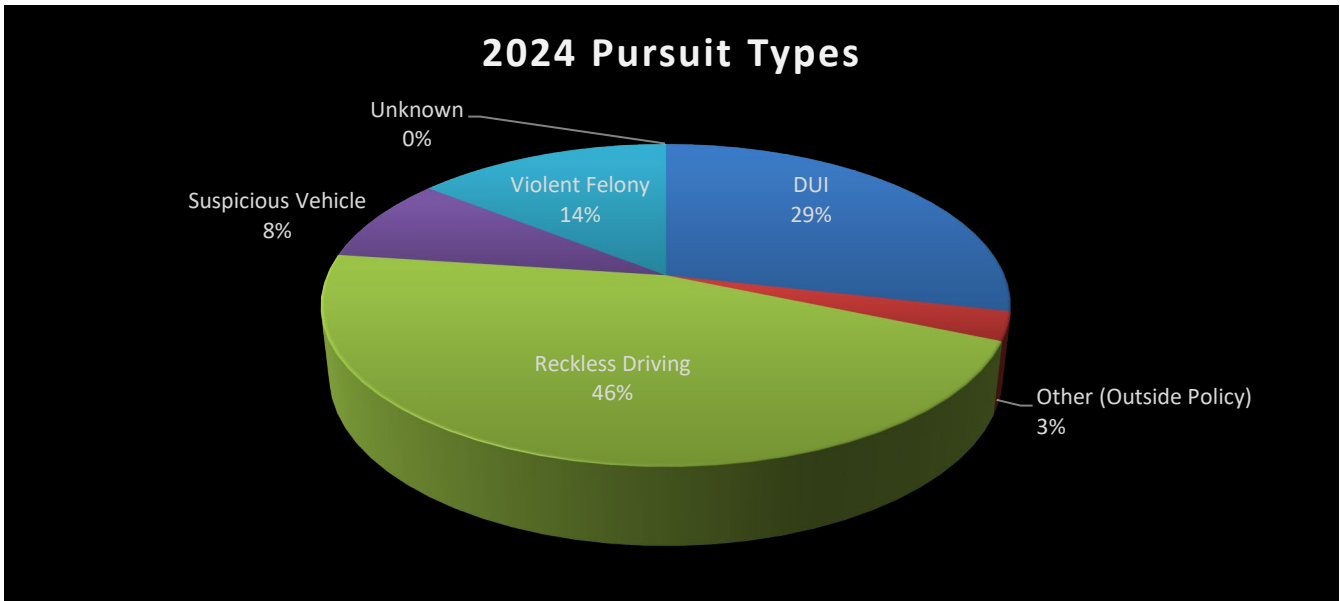
There were thirty-five (35) pursuits during the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, by RHPD officers, compared to thirty-six (36) during the 2023 calendar year. Rock Hill Police Department officers have initiated a total of two hundred sixty-one (261) vehicular pursuits during the period of 2014 to 2024. An average of twenty-four (24) pursuits occurred each year during this period. The number of suspects fleeing from officers during traffic stops has begun to slowly decrease over the last several years.



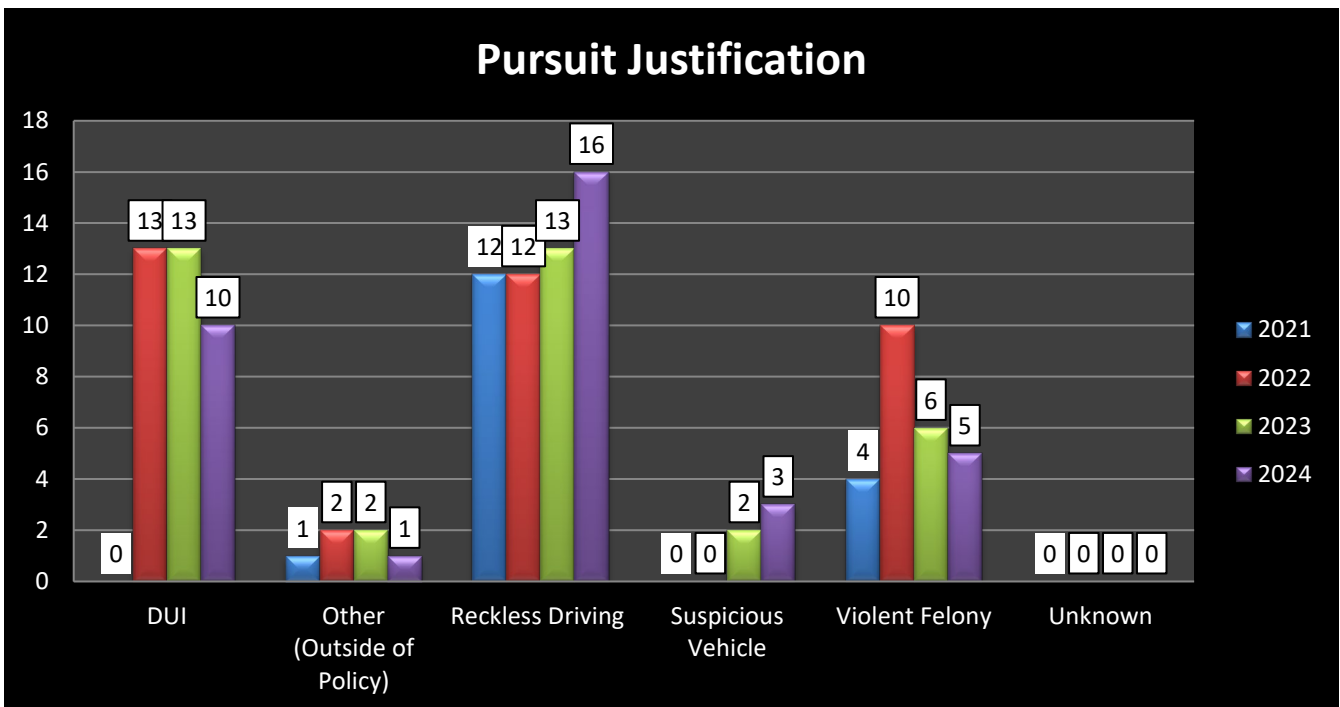
There have been very few accidents with injuries because of vehicular pursuits. There have been no officers injured during vehicular pursuits over the last four (4) years. One (1) suspect was injured during vehicular pursuits during the 2024 calendar year. No fatalities were reported during the same period. The very low number of accidents during vehicular pursuits is a testament to the high quality of drivers training and the emphasis of overall safety at the Rock Hill Police Department.



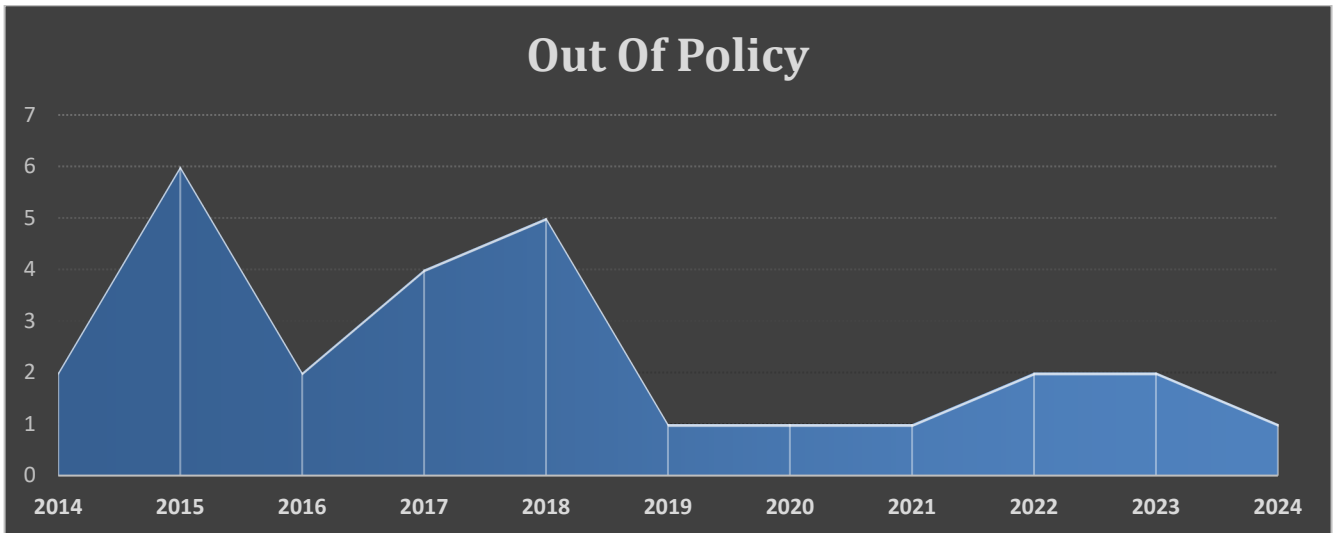
Most vehicular pursuits by the Rock Hill Police Department during the 2024 calendar year were due to Reckless Driving and DUI. A total of sixteen (16) pursuits were for Reckless Driving and ten (10) for DUI's. In addition, officers were engaged in vehicular pursuits for five (5) violent felonies and three (3) suspicious vehicles.



Reckless Driving pursuits increased 23% in 2024 compared to 2023. Conversely, DUI pursuits decreased the same percentage. Reckless driving pursuits show a continued increase over a 4-year span. Additional analysis will be needed to determine if the trend will continue. The RHPD plans to increase police presence in focused traffic enforcement areas of higher collisions and citations throughout Rock Hill in the future to assist in the reduction of reckless driving and DUI's.



One (1) vehicular pursuit was found to be Outside of in 2024. Overall, the total number of pursuits found to be out of policy is relatively low. Only 3% of all pursuits initiated in 2024 were out of policy. The total number of out of policy pursuits has 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 (and has stayed consistently low) 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.

2024 RHPD Annual Report Contributors:

The background of the page is a large, semi-transparent shield logo for the Rock Hill Police Department. The shield is blue and yellow with a grey border. At the top, it says "ROCK HILL" in large yellow letters. Below that, "SOUTH CAROLINA" is written in smaller yellow letters. The word "POLICE" is written in large blue letters across the middle. At the bottom, there is a colorful circular emblem with six interlocking arrows pointing outwards in red, green, yellow, blue, purple, and teal.

Chief Chris Watts
Deputy Chief Michael Belk
Captain Brent Allmon
Captain David Biggers
Captain James Grayson
Captain Kathy Harveston
Captain Roderick Stinson

Prepared By: Carrie R. Gordon