

BART Police  
Use of Force  
Annual Report

2024

### **Report Content**

As required by the BART Police Department Use of Force Policy, the Department prepares an annual analysis of use of force incidents. The report is submitted to the Chief of Police and provided to the Independent Police Auditor, BART Civilian Review Board, and posted online. This report does not contain names or case numbers but will include identification of any trends in the use of force, training recommendations, equipment recommendations, and policy recommendations. This report contains statistics on the types of force used, cause for the use of force, service being rendered at the time of force being used, custody status of involved persons, and injuries to officers and involved persons.

### **Year in Review**

The year 2024 experienced a notable increase in transit ridership compared to 2023, particularly during weekends. This surge was driven by a resurgence of post-COVID events and social gatherings, which brought more residents and visitors back to the Bay Area to engage in community activities. Concurrently, this rise in ridership was reflected in an increase in calls for service across the BART system. Additionally, 2024 marked a significant decline in crime rates and the overall number of use of force incidents involving BART Police officers. Despite this positive trend, as highlighted in the 2023 report, acts of community violence persisted, and the widespread abuse of controlled substances continued to impact the communities served by BART. These environmental factors contributed to ongoing challenges such as illegal weapons possession, increased incidents of violence and unpredictable behavior, trespassing in restricted areas, and medical emergencies related to drug overdoses, frequent situations requiring police intervention. In response, BART Police personnel administered NARCAN in 84 incidents throughout 2024, representing a 44% decrease compared to 2023. 2023 saw a 64% increase in NARCAN administrations from the previous year, 2022. While these external influences are not directly measurable in law enforcement use of force, they remain important related factors to consider when evaluating police interactions and outcomes.

In September 2024, the BART Police Department (BART PD) transitioned from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system to the more comprehensive National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This shift has resulted in more detailed and meaningful crime data, enhancing our ability to develop targeted safety deployment strategies and increasing transparency with the public. In 2024, BART PD experienced a 17% reduction in Part One crimes compared to 2023, reflecting our ongoing commitment to community safety. Additionally, BART PD began the design of a new headquarters in downtown Oakland, which will serve as a modern facility focused on supporting police employee wellness, retention, and fostering stronger connections with the communities we serve. To further promote employee wellness, we launched the custom app CORDICO, providing all BART PD personnel and their families with direct access to peer support, mental health resources, nutrition guidance, financial services, and information. To support physical fitness, we secured a Law Enforcement wellness grant to purchase gym equipment and

established our first ever BART PD gym at headquarters. We recognize that the physical and mental health of our officers directly impacts their decision-making, reaction capabilities, and proficiency in utilizing training and de-escalation techniques.

Additionally, BART retired its legacy fleet, replacing it with the Fleet of the Future, which features modern equipment and enhanced CCTV coverage which plays a crucial role in reviewing Use of Force incidents and solving crime. Furthermore, the new fare gate project was approximately 50% completed in 2024, improving operational efficiency and security. The impacts of these internal BART PD and BART influences are not directly measurable to the rate and types of force used, or to the dramatic decrease in crime rates, but do play a role in and should be considered in overall outcomes.

We continued to focus our patrol deployment on high visibility and supporting the clean and safe plan. A Strategic Response Team was created to enhance the high visibility protocol with a focus on problem solving and crime reduction. The high visibility patrol strategy primarily puts our employees in stations and on trains, with a continued commitment to have 50% of our patrol deployment on train beats. The positive feedback from our riders, reduction in crime rates, ability to deploy our units to critical and social events, and reduced number of use of force incidents called for us to continue to staff the shift sign-ups using this strategy. We maintained this deployment throughout 2024 which required a significant amount of mandatory overtime to fill the vacancies. This deployment was adjusted in 2025 to enhance the work life balance and support officer wellness which is a critical factor in relation to UOF and de-escalation efforts.

In 2024 we maintained a strong focus on our Progressive Policing Strategies which include diverting calls for service away from armed police officers when the circumstance allows, increased use of crisis intervention during calls for service, a strong partnership between crisis intervention specialists and patrol operations, increased partnerships for community engagement and outreach, and continued use of de-escalation tactics. In 2024, the BART Police Department's Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau's Crisis Intervention Specialists enhanced their use of the Bitfocus application to better serve riders. They engaged individuals via the BART system to meet basic needs, improve quality of life, identify emerging trends, and allocate resources effectively. The goal is to offer support and resources to those in crisis, reducing reliance on enforcement.

The PPCEB accomplishments during 2024 included:

- Continued the implementation and staffing for the Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau (PPCEB) including adding a third civilian supervisor and four (4) crisis intervention specialists to the unit.
- Provided training to sworn and civilian staff on topics such as crisis intervention and de-escalation training, and mental health first-aid.

## BART Police Use of Force, 2024 Annual Report

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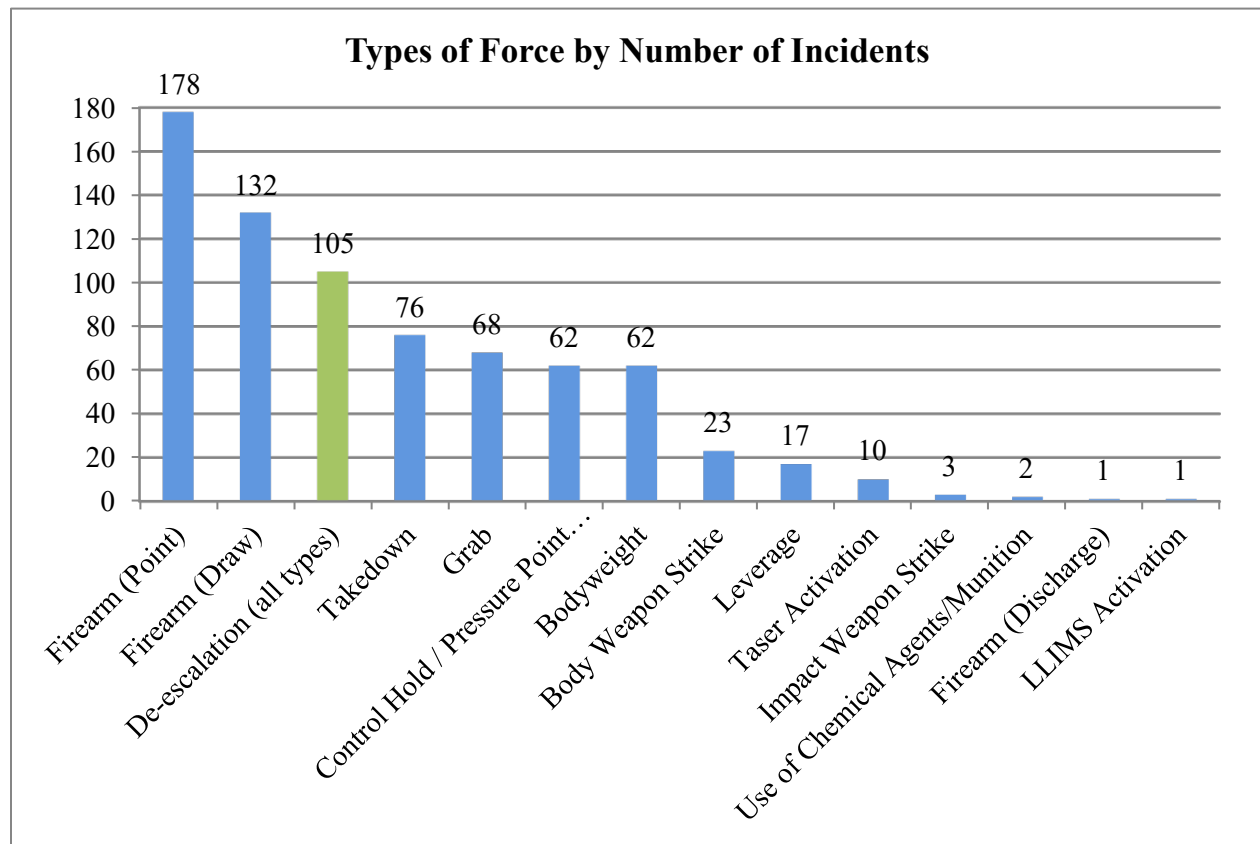
In September 2024, BART PD hosted a "Policing the Teen Brain" training that equips officers with crucial insights into strategies for effectively engaging with young people. It is designed to reduce conflict and increasing officer safety, avoid escalation of interactions with youth, how to demonstrate good communication approaches, and use developmental competence to work with teens.

- Continued to monitor the PPCE data in the Quarterly Performance Report which is provided to the BART Board of Directors. Data included the number of times that unarmed civilian staff from the PPCEB diverted calls for service from requiring response by sworn staff and connections to services for people in crisis.
- In 2024, members of the PPCEB performed more than 13,500 welfare checks on people in the BART system who appeared to need help. PPCEB members conducted over 10,200 train checks and security checks on more than 10,376 platform checked nearly the same number of station platforms. There were more than 3,200 instances when PPCEB members intervened when they saw violations of BART's Code of Conduct. In the past those violations would have required a response by a sworn officer. Instead, members of the PPCEB can offer a more appropriate response with unarmed, specially trained BART PD staff. That has freed up sworn officers to respond more quickly to urgent emergency calls. BART PD has one of the fastest response times for tier 1 emergency calls at an average of less than 5 minutes.
- Patrol staffing levels required officers assigned to the Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau to cover patrol assignments as part of the regular duties. While the assignment to patrol eliminated the dedicated partnership between sworn PPCE Officers and Crisis Intervention Specialists, the split assignments did allow for greater geographical coverage for PPCE Officers and Crisis Intervention Specialists to respond to calls for service to support the Operations Bureau.

## **REPORT TOPIC: TRENDS IN THE USE OF FORCE**

In 2024, there were 364 reported incidents that involved an officer's use of force. This was a 6% decrease from 388 incidents reported in 2023. It should be noted that each use of force included in this report was given a thorough review through the chain of command, was subject to independent civilian review, and the use of force by officers is also included as one of the factors considered in the Department's Early Warning System for employee performance. Overall, employees of the BART Police Department use force infrequently to accomplish their duties. This is demonstrated by the fact that during 2024 there were 85,735 incidents recorded in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system which equals a ratio where only 1 out of every 235 incidents resulted in a documented use of force investigation by a supervisor. This was a 5% increase in the number of CAD incidents and a 6% decrease in the number of use of force investigations. This resulted in a 12% reduction in the ratio of CAD incidents per use of force investigations from the prior year.

The data on the chart below counts the total reported number of incidents that involve each type of force used, but not the number of times that force was applied in each incident. This method of reporting gives a better overall comparison of the types of force used in incidents without duplicating the count of force options based on the number of officers who were present at any incident. (The total count of individual force types used is included in a subsequent section of this report.)

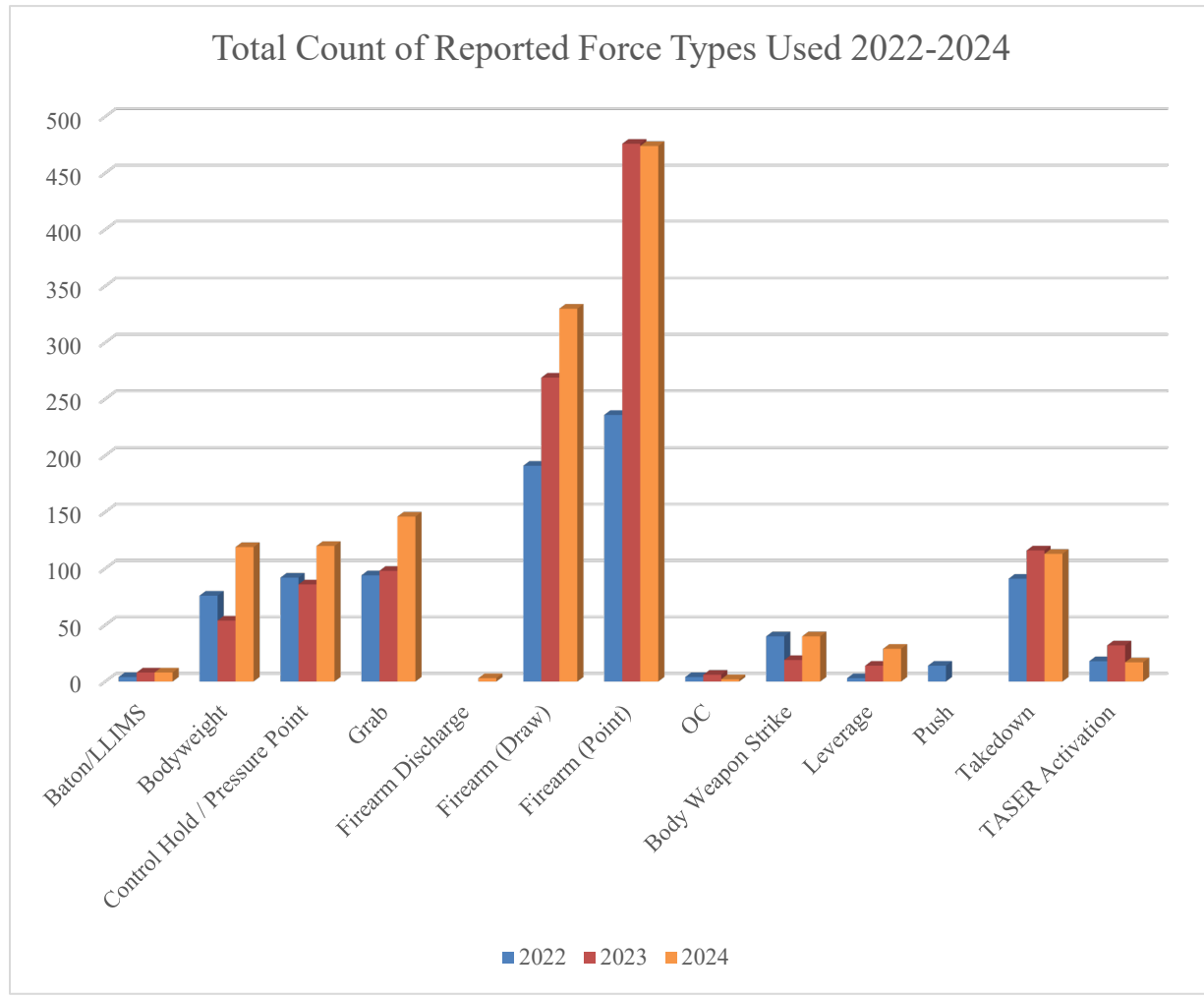


The use of de-escalation, while not a use of force, is included in the summary of the types of force used (and is depicted in the above graph with a green bar). The BART Police Department utilizes the BlueTeam data collection software which captures the de-escalation statistics only when there is a use of force investigation by a supervisor. As a result, the data set that the BlueTeam software records does not fully capture every instance when a BART Police Officer employs a de-escalation tactic. For example, there are many instances where de-escalation is used that result in no force used by the officer and no BlueTeam entry generated by a supervisor. Therefore, not all de-escalation used by officers is captured in this use of force data. BART Police Officers use de-escalation tactics frequently to successfully resolve situations without a use of force during their normal course of duty; this is essentially a “blind-spot” in the use of force statistics. Another potential area for improvement in use of force data collection is to better define what tactics constitute a use of de-escalation and train supervisors to record de-escalation in a more consistent manner to better record comparable data. The recorded use of de-escalation decreased by 18% compared to 2023. This decrease could indicate that de-escalation was used less frequently, or it could indicate that de-escalation was used more frequently in situations that did not ultimately result in a reportable use of force.

Another potential area for improvement in the analysis of use of force data is to find a way to compare incidents where force was used with similar types of incidents where force could have been used but was not. If possible, future work with stakeholders should go beyond basic use of force counts and explore a deeper comparison of similar incidents to look at the contributing factors that determine why force is used (also known as a causal inference analysis). The BART Police Department will seek to include this type of analysis for future use of force review, if possible.

The following data compares year to year reported totals of the types of force used. For 2024 there were zero incidents of K9 bites. There was also an increase in the number of incidents involving drawing firearms while the number of incidents involving pointing firearms remained steady from 2023. There has been a significant increase in incidents involving suspects who are armed, or reported to be armed, with weapons which results in more officers needing to tactically deploy firearms, and therefore an increase for the total count of use of force incidents. There was one incident involving a firearm discharge. This incident was thoroughly investigated.

## BART Police Use of Force, 2024 Annual Report

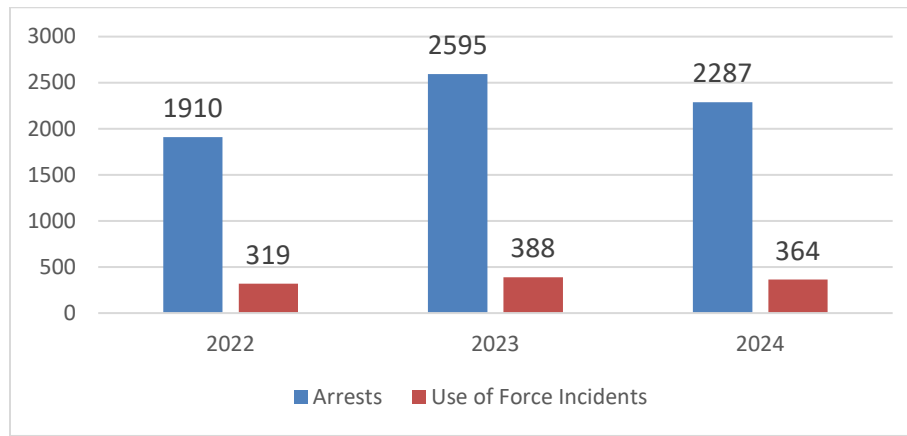


The following data shows a three-year comparison of the reported number of use of force incidents per month. There were 24 fewer incidents reported in 2024 compared to 2023. The total number of incidents in 2024 is higher than the mean but equal to the median average number of incidents of the past three-years (mean = 357, median = 364).

Annual Summary of Use of Force Incidents by Month												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2024	25	34	33	36	42	26	43	33	25	27	26	14
YTD 2024	25	59	92	128	170	196	239	272	297	324	350	364
2023	28	24	28	31	45	28	47	37	26	40	31	23
YTD 2023	28	52	80	111	156	184	231	268	294	334	365	388
2022	28	18	28	17	22	36	22	38	27	32	30	21
YTD 2022	28	46	74	91	113	149	171	209	236	268	298	319

## BART Police Use of Force, 2024 Annual Report

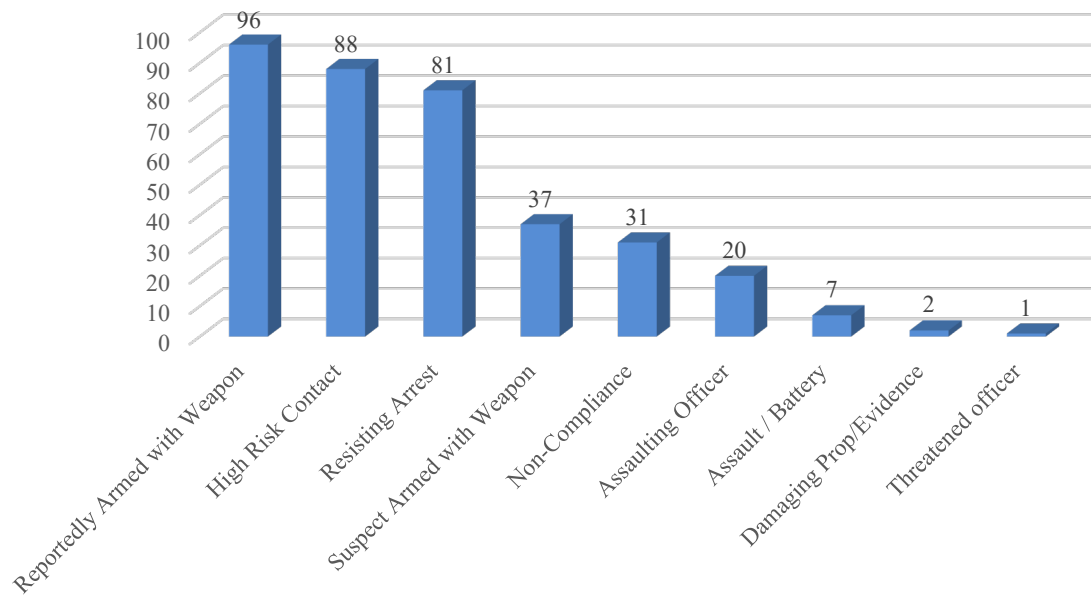
The following data shows the total number of arrests compared to the number of use of force incidents. While the number of arrests during COVID decreased year to year in 2020 and again in 2021, the number of arrests in 2023 and 2024 returned to levels similar to 2018. The three-year data indicates that there is a strong correlation between arrest numbers and use of force incidents (a correlation coefficient of +0.993297). In 2024, there was one reported use of force for every 6.3 arrests which was equal to the three-year average of uses of force per arrest. This indicates that although there is a strong correlation between arrests and uses of force, the majority of arrests do not involve a reportable use of force.



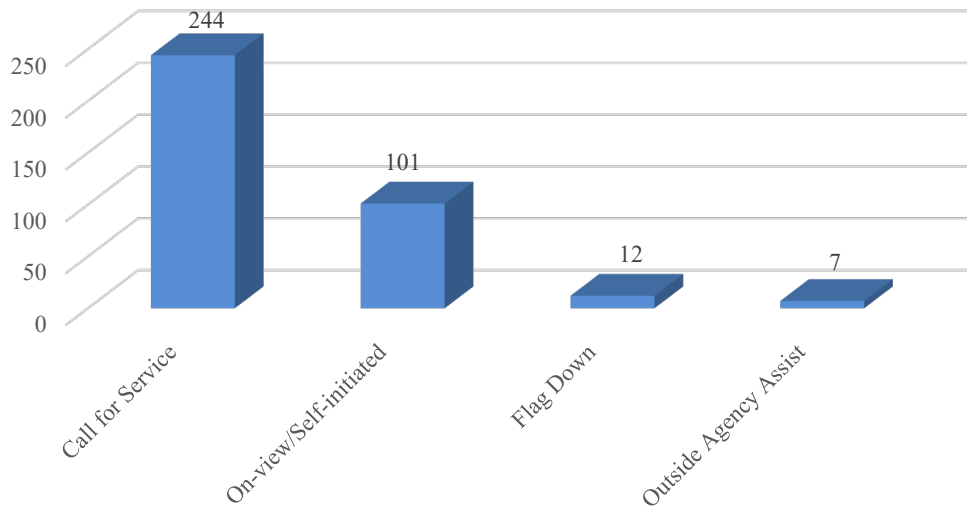
The following graph shows the circumstances involved in use of force incidents. Each incident may have multiple contributing factors. The most common circumstance in use of force incidents is a situation where someone is reportedly armed with a weapon (26.4%) or there is a high-risk contact (24.2%). These two circumstances account for 50% of all uses of force. Officers recovered 41 illegal firearms in 2024. Incidents involving knives and edged weapons were also a common occurrence in 2024.



### Use of Force Incident Circumstances

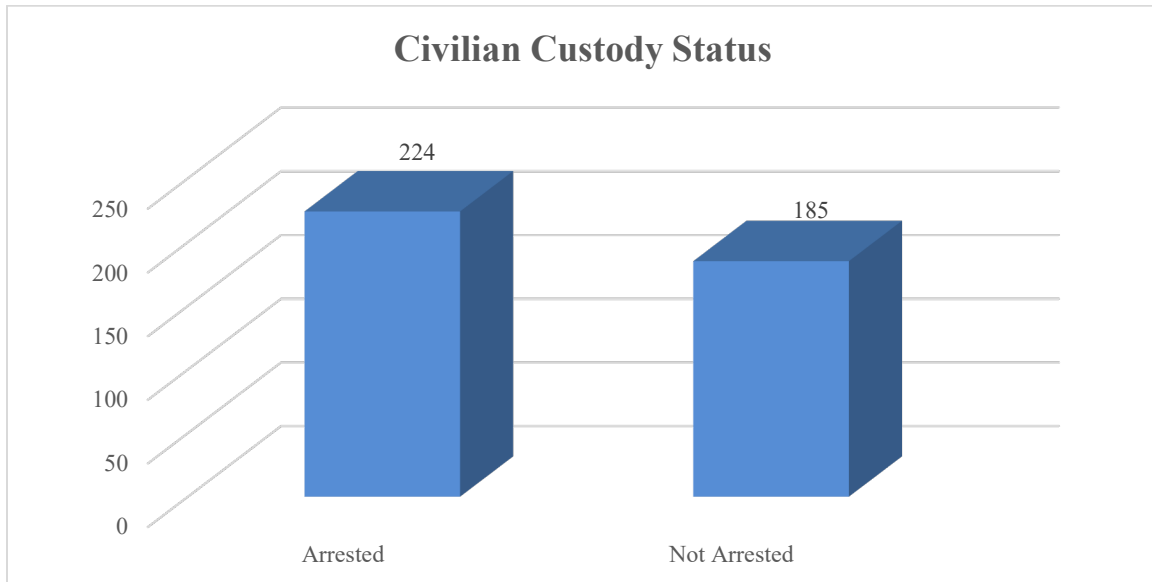


### Initiation of Incident

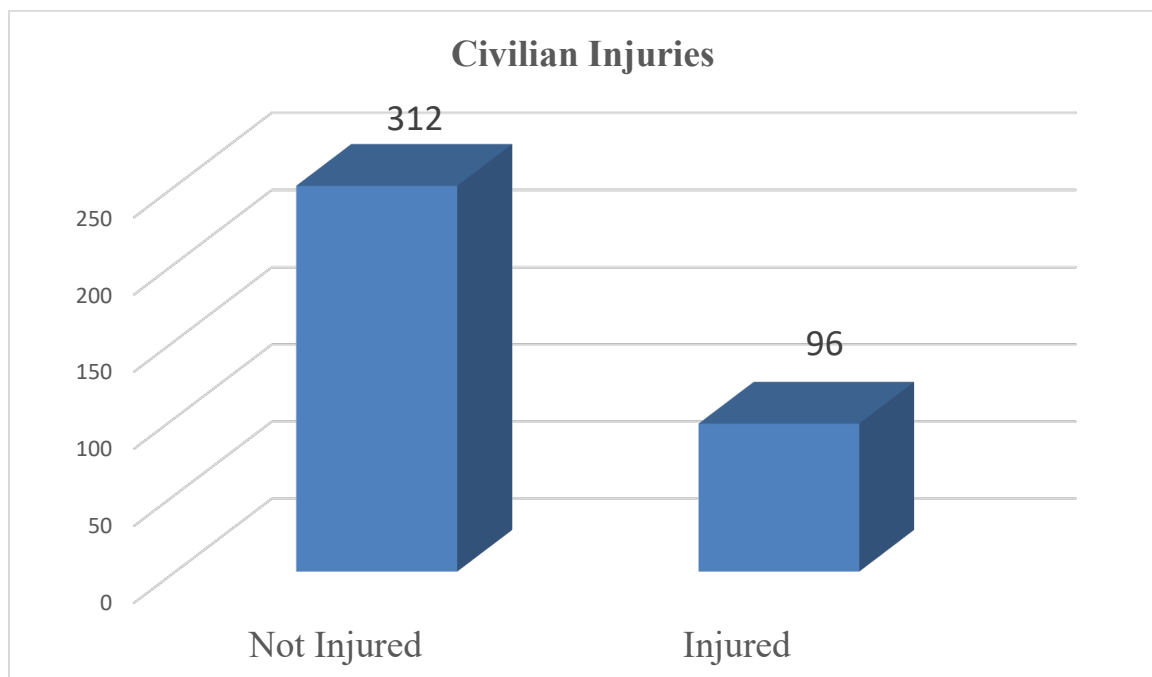


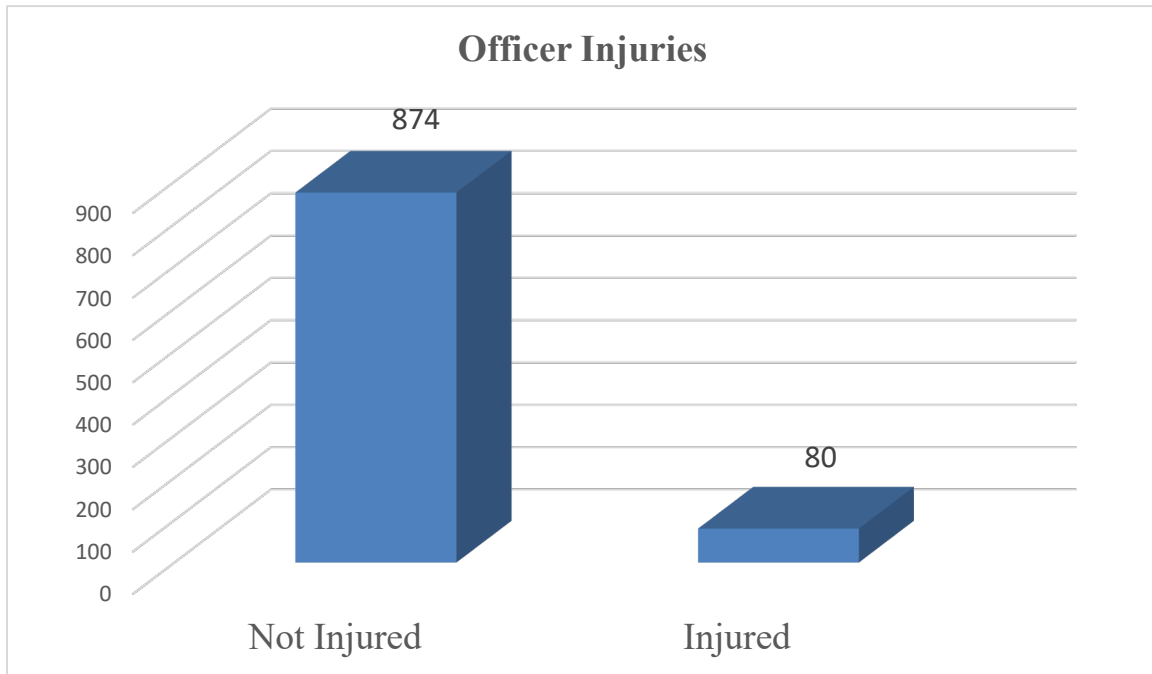
## BART Police Use of Force, 2024 Annual Report

Dispatched calls for service were the source of 244 of the 364 incidents that involved a reportable use of force. This was 67% of the total number of incidents and 2.4 times greater than the number of incidents that resulted from officer-initiated activity.



Note: Reasons for not arresting a person upon whom force was used include psychiatric detentions, or the detention of a person who is later released without criminal charges (such as the investigative detention of a passenger involved in a high-risk car stop or other situations involving a reportable use of force, including incidents where the only force used is the display of a weapon).





Note: Between 2023 and 2024, reported injuries to community members in use of force incidents increased by 19% and reported injuries to officers increased by 16% even though overall use of force incidents decreased by 6.2%. Based on the number of individuals involved in use of force incidents, 77% of civilians and 91% of officers reported no injury as a result of the use of force incident. The term injury refers to any visible injury or complaint of injury/pain, whether or not medical care was required.

## BART Police Use of Force, 2024 Annual Report

### Demographics from Use of Force Incidents:

Age Groups of Involved Persons	Number of Persons	Percentage
under 20	64	15.9%
20 - 29	99	24.6%
30 - 39	124	30.9%
40 – 49	70	17.4%
50 - 59	36	8.9%
60 and up	9	1.2%
Total	402	

Ethnicity/Gender of Involved Persons	Number of Persons	Percentage
Black Male	170	42.3%
Hispanic Male	84	20.9%
White Male	57	14.2%
Black Female	32	8%
Other Male	15	3.7%
White Female	12	3%
Hispanic Female	11	2.7%
Asian Male	5	1.2%
Mid. Eastern Male	4	1%
Unknown Male	3	0.8%
Pac Islander Male	3	0.8%
Black Transgender	2	0.8%
Other Female	1	0.3%
Unknown Female	1	0.3%
Asian Female	1	0.3%
Indian Male	1	0.3%
Total	402	

There were 402 persons associated with the 364 use of force incidents that were reported in 2024. This difference in numbers is because some of the use of force incidents involved more than one subject upon whom force was used (including incidents where the force used was drawing or pointing a weapon at a person who was being detained with no physical force applied to the person). An analysis of the data determined that there were fifteen individuals during this reporting-period who were each involved in more than one use of force incident. The demographic breakdown of those individuals who were involved in more than one incident was: eight Black Males, four Hispanic Males, one White Male, one White Female, and one Black Female. The total number of people who are in the under 20 age group increased from 51 people in 2023 to 64 people in 2024.

Black Males account for 42.3% of the persons upon whom force was used, this is a decrease of 4.3% from the data for 2023. The next most frequent persons upon whom force was used were Hispanic Males (20.9%), White Males (14.2%), and Black Females (8%). For reference, the most recent BART customer service demographic survey conducted in 2024 reported the following

## BART Police Use of Force, 2024 Annual Report

breakdown of riders; White 29%, Hispanic 24%, Black 12%, Asian/Pacific Islander 28%, all other 7%. It should be noted that the incidents handled by the BART Police Department frequently involve people who are not passengers and therefore are not reflected in the demographic survey of BART riders. Persons who are in areas such as the free area of stations, station parking lots and pedestrian plazas, BART maintenance facilities, and locations outside of BART are not counted in the BART demographic survey although many of the use of force incidents occur in these areas. The discrepancy means that the survey demographics do not necessarily represent the community of persons who interact with the BART Police Department.

To examine the disparity in the use of force outcomes for Black Males, the following tables were prepared. The tables analyze the use of force data for Black Males reporting the reason that force was used, community member role, and the force types by the age of the citizens.

Comparison of Force Reason		
Use of Force Reason	Black Males	All Others
High Risk Contact	46	76
Reportedly Armed with Weapon	48	58
Resisting Arrest	30	48
Suspect Armed with Weapon	25	16
Non-Compliance	15	16
Assaulting Officer	8	17
Assaulting Citizen	3	4
Threatened officer	1	0
Damaging Prop/Evidence	0	2

Role in Incident	Black Males	All others
Arrestee	103	158
Detainee	77	85

## BART Police Use of Force, 2024 Annual Report

Force Type and Age Demographics (Black Males)								
		<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	>60	Grand Total
Firearm (Point)		18	20	22	15	11	5	91
Firearm (Drawn)		16	13	20	12	11	3	75
Takedown		2	11	13	6	1		33
Grab		9	3	10	4	3		29
Bodyweight		5	7	9	6	2		29
Control Hold/Pressure Point Application		6	7	13	5	3		34
Taser Activation			1	2	1	1		5
Leverage		4		2	1	2		9
Body Weapon Strike		3		3	1	1		8
Impact Weapon Strike		1		1				2
LLIMS Activation						1		1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>170</b>

De-escalation and Age Demographics								
		<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	>60	Grand Total
De-escalation (Black Males)		9	7	21	7	8	3	55
De-escalation (All Others)		12	18	27	8	4		69

While a full analysis of the factors driving the disparity in use of force upon Black Males is beyond the scope of this report, the data above indicates several areas where the Department could focus to ensure that force is being applied in a manner that is compliant with the Constitution, law, and Department policy.

- In 2024 the categories of “High Risk Contact” and “Reportedly Armed with Weapon are the first and second most commonly reported reason for the use of force for all persons, including Black Males. The circumstances of a situation which is reported to the BART Police Department for investigation are mostly outside of the control of the involved officers, but providing additional training on topics such as implicit bias may have positive results in ensuring that employees do not incorrectly categorize Black Males as “high risk” in situations where other persons would not be seen in the same manner. The “Tactics” component of the Department’s ICAT and scenario-based training also provides an opportunity to reduce the level of force used in these types of scenarios by implementing sound tactics that reduce the need to use force. The Department is working to establish department-wide ICAT training in 2026.
- “Resisting Arrest” is the third most commonly reported reason for use of force for all persons, including Black Males. Between 2023 and 2024, the number of incidents reported for Black Males decreased from 48 to 30 (-37.5%), while incidents for all others only

decreased from 53 to 48 (-9.4%). In many cases the involved person's resistance is beyond the control of the officers, but this is an area that could benefit from training and community outreach focused on building trust and legitimacy for law enforcement. Trust and legitimacy are essential to gain the cooperation of community members, and this is an area in which the Black community's history of oppression works against the development of effective relationships with law enforcement.

- Persons under the age of 40 account for 73% of persons who are involved in reported use of force incidents. For Black Males, this age-group accounts for 69% of the reported use of force incidents. Community outreach should focus on persons in this age-range to build trust and develop better relationships to help reduce conflict and misunderstanding that may contribute to an increased use of force.

## **REPORT TOPIC: TRAINING**

The Department presented the following training in 2024 to improve professionalism, customer service, and community relations:

Advanced Officer Training - 2024	
Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC)	8 hours
Patrol Rifle/Handgun Update and Qual	4 hours
Lowlight Rifle/Handgun Training and Qual	4 hours
Use of Force PSP	4 hours
Defensive Tactics	12 hours
TASER	4 hours
Less Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIMS)	4 hours
POST Portal Pursuit Policy	2 hours
First Aid	8 hours
Active Shooter Response	8 hours
Dispatcher Training - 2024	
POST Next Gen Dispatching	2 hours
POST Career Resiliency	2 hours
POST Dispatcher Wellness	2 hours
Non-Sworn Training - 2024	
Radio Communication and Scenario Based Training	8 hours
Mental Health First Aid	8 hours

Based on the review of use of force incidents and officer assaults in 2024, the following training is recommended:

- The department should continue the curriculum in the training plan which includes perishable skills training involving de-escalation, tactical communication, and defensive tactics skills. Increasing officers' competency in these areas will assist with making good use of force decisions during the dangerous and rapidly evolving situations encountered. The department should also ensure that all personnel listed in the training plan continue to receive Crisis Intervention Training and updates to best serve our ridership.



- The Department should provide line-up training to employees on the trends and patterns of officer assaults to improve officer safety through awareness of the issues that may increase risk and allow for improved decision making and tactics.

The Department should continue to identify appropriate training and classes for non-sworn staff to align with the Department's mission of providing clean and safe reliable transportation throughout the Bay Area.

The Department should initiate a training consistent with real-world scenarios, which emphasize de-escalation and the continual evaluation of tactics and alternatives.

## **REPORT TOPIC: EQUIPMENT AND POLICY**

In 2023, the Department upgraded our use-of-force tracking software to BlueTeam NextGen, used by over 550 agencies nationwide. This upgrade enhanced customization and allowed us to update the force options list to align with Lexipol Policy 300. The new system helps frontline supervisors accurately document and review force incidents in accordance with policy. In 2024, the upgrade continued to support the documentation, supervisory oversight, and organizational accountability for use-of-force incidents.

Throughout 2024, the Support Services Bureau and the Personnel & Training Bureau started a comprehensive modernization of the department's long-gun program. By issuing patrol rifles to sworn officers, and removing outdated shotgun systems, the BART Police Department significantly improved operational capability, accuracy, officer safety, and public protection. The Department also continued to provide department-wide training while establishing equipment management protocols to ensure accountability and appropriate control, this initiative ensures that sworn staff are equipped with a consistent, reliable, and highly effective weapon system that reflects both best practices in modern policing and the unique operational environment of the BART transit system.

The internal department Policy Committee met to continue enhancing and updating policies, including Lexipol Policies 300, 310, 311, 419, 432, and 451. Additionally, they reviewed and made revisions to several other department policies to ensure ongoing compliance and effectiveness.

During 2024, the Chief of Police realigned the Internal Affairs Chain of Command, adding a Deputy Police Chief to oversee the unit. The Internal Affairs Unit is responsible for investigating Use of Force complaints as well as liaising with the Office of Independent Auditor. By adding a Deputy Chief, it provided another layer of review and oversight to investigate all allegations of misconduct.

The Department will continue to work with the Office of the Independent Police Auditor (OIPA) and the BART Police Civilian Review Board (BPCRB) to review the equipment, policies, and practices of the Department and identify areas for improvement. The Department has recently implemented changes to the process of updating policies to ensure that the BART Police Civilian Review Board has the opportunity to provide review and input prior to the implementation of any changes.