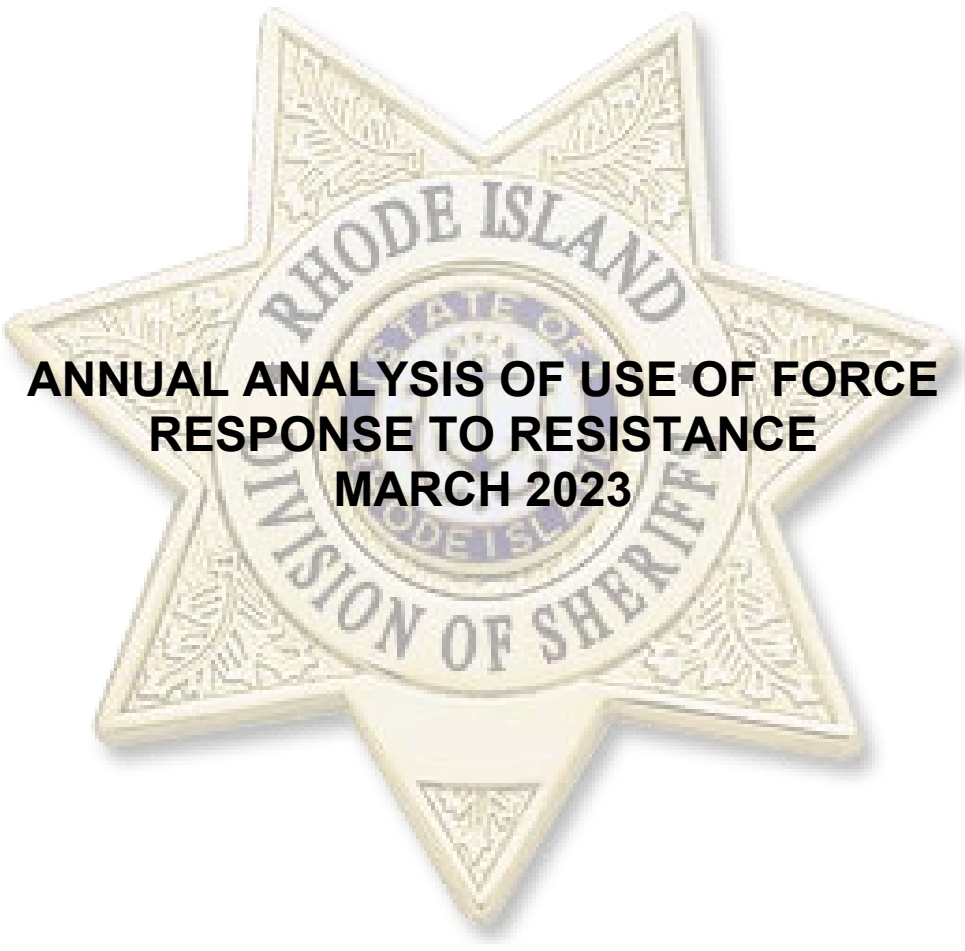




RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
Division of Sheriffs



**ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF USE OF FORCE  
RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE  
MARCH 2023**

**PREPARED BY: MAJOR PAUL MARTELLINI**

The use of force is implemented infrequently as the Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs primary function is to work with the Department of Corrections and all law enforcement agencies in a spirit of cooperation; to protect and provide security for all who enter the Rhode Island Courts while maintaining the highest degree of professionalism and decorum.

Annually our Division conducts a documented analysis of all Response to Resistance/Non- Complaint reports filed by our deputies during the year. In reviewing Resistance/Non-Complaint reports reported by our deputies we look for patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and /or policy modifications.

By Division Policy a Response to Resistance/Non-Complaint reports are submitted whenever a member of the Division:

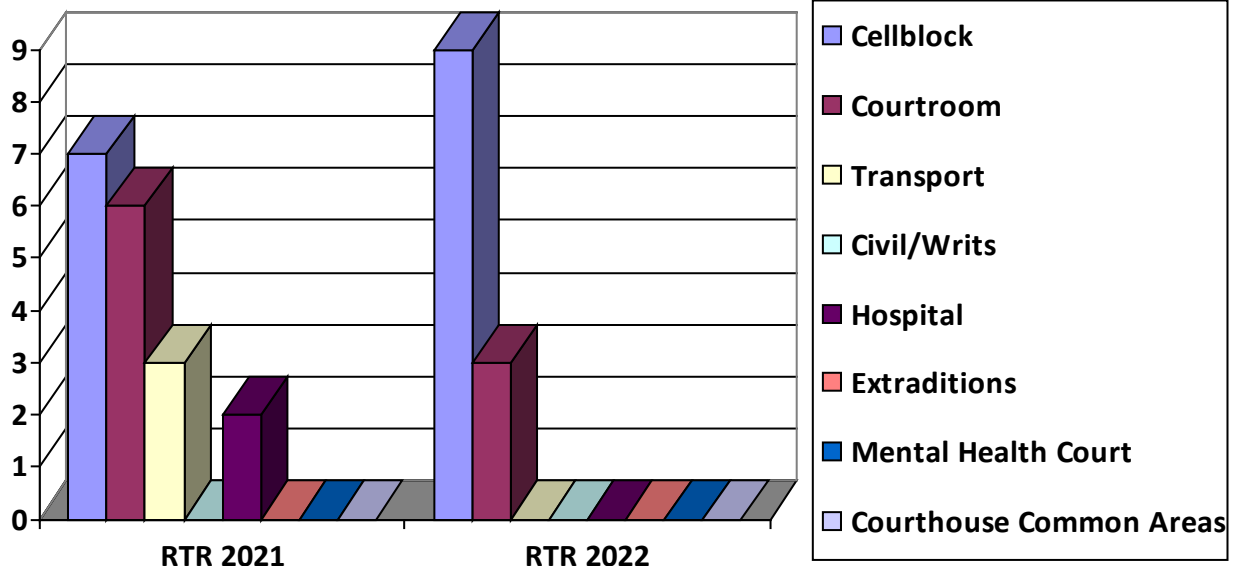
1. The use of force results in death, injury, or an allegation of injury to a person.
2. The drawing of a firearm on a person for the purpose of obtaining and/or maintaining control of that person.
3. A lethal force or a less-lethal force option is used on a person
4. A firearm is discharged outside of the firing range.
5. A firearm is discharged to euthanize an animal

The Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs handled 38,547 prisoners/inmates for the calendar year 2022.

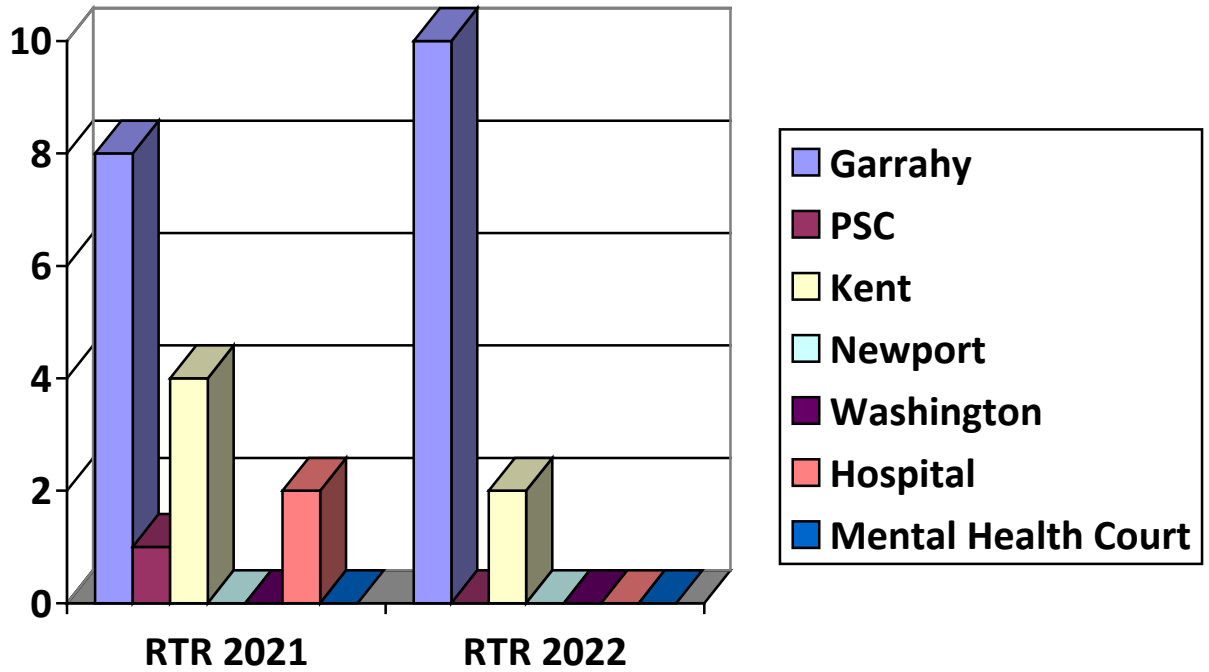
In the pages that follow I have documented an analysis in graphs and tables the following:

**1. Frequency of Use of Force by Location:**

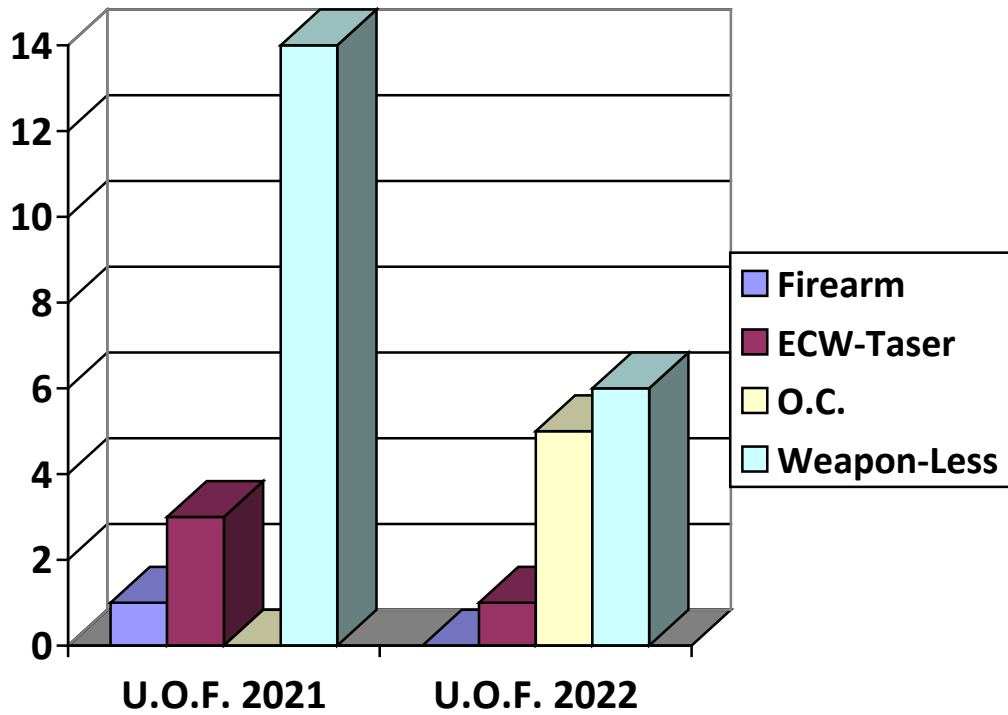
- i. Cellblock
- ii. Courtroom
- iii. Transport
- iv. Civil/Writs
- v. Hospital
- vi. Extraditions
- vii. Mental Health Court
- viii. Courthouse Common Areas



## 2. Frequency of Force by Courthouse(s)



## 3. Frequency of Use of Force Options



## Conclusion:

As of December 2021, there were eighteen (18) documented uses of force (RTR). Fourteen (14) uses disclosed physical techniques were utilized, no reports of deputy injuries. Zero (0) documented incidents required oleoresin capsicum, three (3) required the display of a taser for the purpose of obtaining maintaining control of a person, and one (1) drawing of a firearm on a person for the purpose of obtaining maintaining control of that person. The Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs handled 31,658 prisoners/inmates for the calendar year 2021. After extensive review of incidents, it was determined that the deputies utilized objectively reasonable force and their actions were within Division policy. **The use of force utilized by deputies for calendar year 2021 was .056%.** There were no firearms discharged outside of training nor any documented patterns of behaviors in 2021.

In 2021, the data revealed the incidents involving use of force occurred predominately at the Garrahy Courthouse.

An analysis of the location(s) data revealed the following: seven (7) Cellblock, six (6) RTR occurred in the Courtroom, three (3) in Transport and two (2) at the hospital.

Reviews of the Response to Resistance reports filed in 2021 did not indicate any need for action or modification to current policy or training.

As of December 2022, there were twelve (12) documented uses of force (RTR). Six (6) uses disclosed physical techniques were utilized, five (5) documented incidents required oleoresin capsicum, and one (1) required the display of a taser for the purpose of obtaining maintaining control of a person. Six (6) deputies sustained injuries in the uses of force (RTR). Zero (0) injuries were sustained by the offender. The Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs handled 38,547 prisoners/inmates for the calendar year 2022. After extensive review of incidents, it was determined that the deputies utilized objectively reasonable force and their actions were within Division policy. **The use of force utilized by deputies for calendar year 2022 was .031%.** There were no firearms discharged outside of training nor any documented patterns of behaviors in 2022.

In 2022, the data revealed the incidents involving use of force occurred predominately at the Garrahy Courthouse.

An analysis of the RTR location(s) data revealed the following: nine (9) Cellblock and three (3) occurred in the Courtroom.

Reviews of the Response to Resistance reports filed in 2022 did not indicate any need for action or modification to current policy or training.

The Division has purchased and is utilizing the Guardian Tracking System software. The software allows for positive recognition in praising employees for doing an outstanding job in accomplishing the goals and mission of the organization. Guardian

Tracking helps the Division to focus on moving the organization forward by using the software as a leadership tool through positive reinforcement. When employees know their work has meaning and someone has appreciated their efforts, they feel motivated to continue on that path. The software also acts as an Early Intervention, or Early Warning, in seeing and identifying a pattern of behavior where change is necessary in order to prevent a major issue or termination. Guardian Tracking features a flag warning system that notifies managers of behavior that may need to be addressed.

In 2022, the Division sent a supervisor to be certified as an Instructor in the Law Enforcement Active Diffusion Strategies (L.E.A.D.S.) Program. The instructor will be instructing Division members on implementing the Active Diffusion Strategies that can avoid escalating or resolve conflict by employing tactical de-escalation methods.

The Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs presented data and analysis depicting what appears to be effective, constitutional policing and use of force application. This is achieved by continuous in-service training, supervision and policy governance. The Division of Sheriffs appear to be tactful, intelligent and disciplined when the need for use of force application presents itself. Our detailed use of force policy holds deputies strictly accountable. The Division of Sheriffs presents a commitment to transparency and self-assessment as it looks to constantly improve upon its foundation to ensure policing in the Division of Sheriffs remains equitable and just, while never sacrificing transparency and public safety.