

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Rock Hill Police Department

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It is my pleasure to present to you the 2022 Rock Hill Police Department (RHPD) Annual Report. The men and women of the RHPD are committed to providing the best service possible and maintaining a high level of professionalism and confidence within the community.

I look forward to working with all members of our community to make Rock Hill an even better and safer place to live, work and visit.

Sincerely,



Chris Watts
Chief of Police



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.

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.

**Rock Hill Police Department
2022 Biased Based Policing
Administrative Review**

Introduction

The Rock Hill Police Department is committed to providing unbiased law enforcement services and ensuring the constitutional protections of the citizens we serve. The Department recognizes the legitimacy of criminal profiling. However, the selection of persons 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.

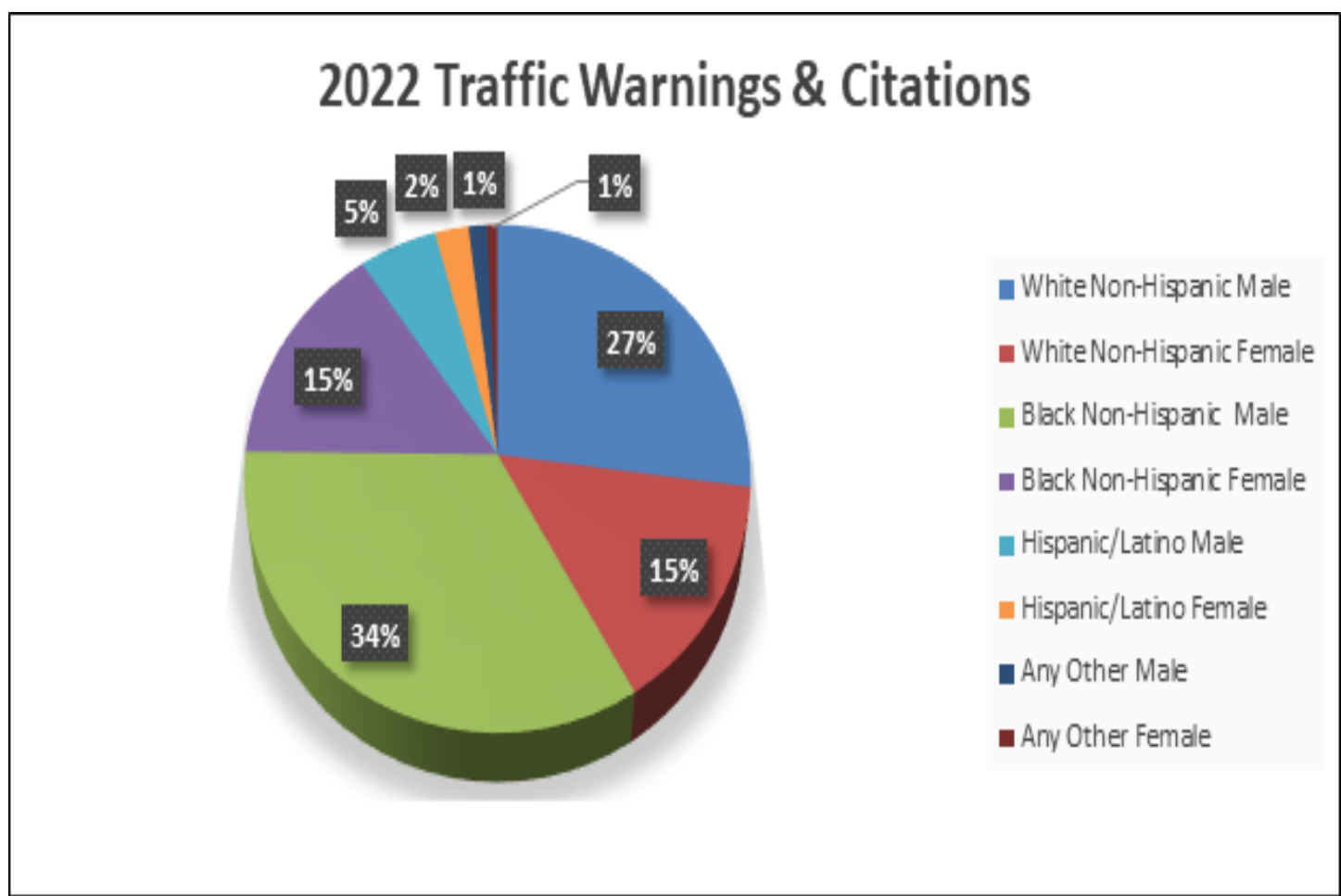
Process and Procedure

All investigative traffic contacts, field contacts, and searches and seizures (to include asset seizure 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 currently presented a threat to his/her safety or the safety of others. Complaints of biased policing are treated with the utmost urgency by Internal Affairs and are tracked through the IA Pro Early Personnel Warning system. 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

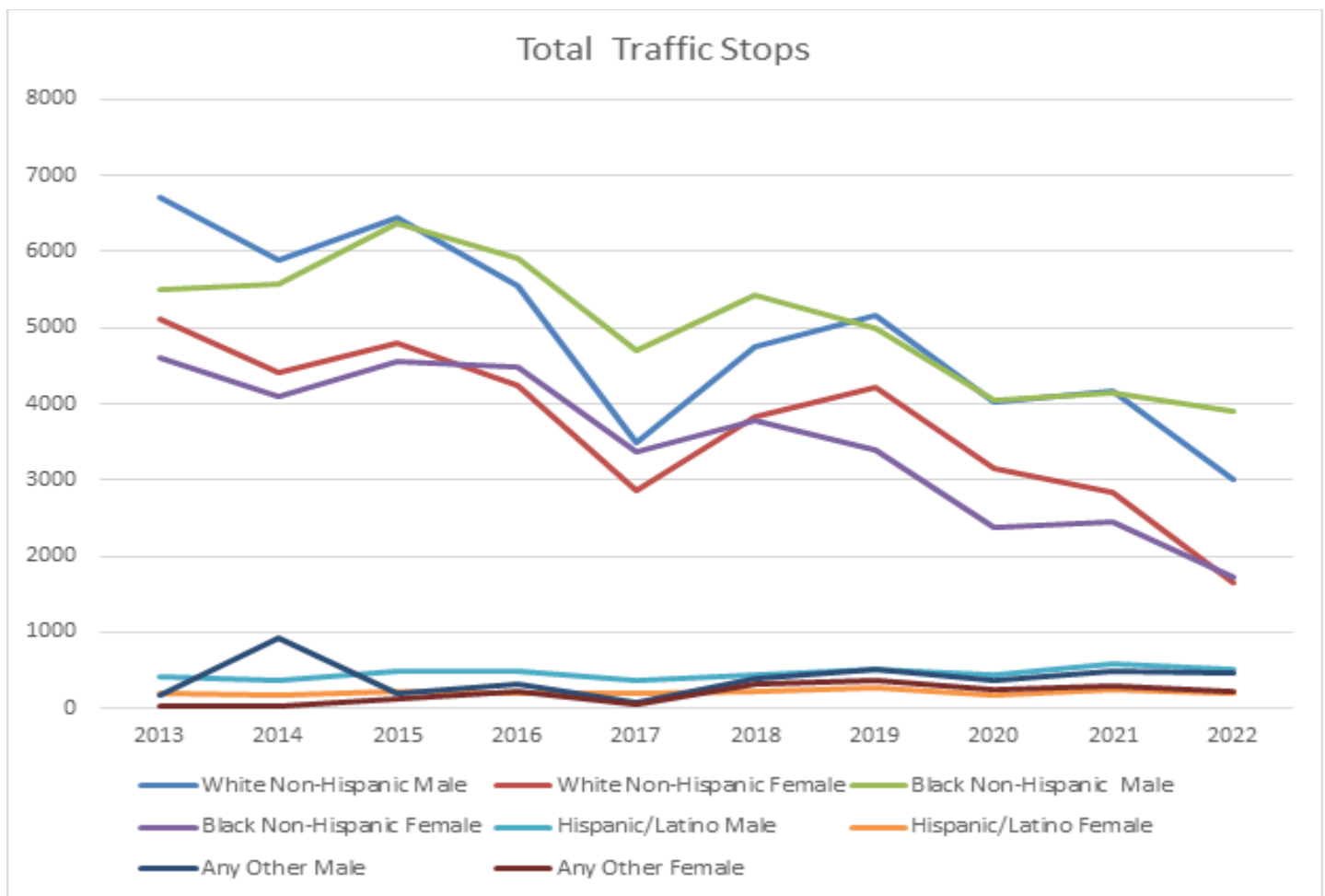
There were zero (0) complaints of Bias Based Policing during the 2022 calendar year. There has been a total of eight (8) complaints filed with the Rock Hill Police Department in the last two decades. The low number of complaints for Bias Based Policing demonstrates that the Rock Hill Police Department's Bias Based Policing policy, training, and practices have been administered fairly to all persons within the service area of the Department.

The total number of Traffic Warnings and Citations decreased in 2022 overall compared to 2021. A total of 11,676 Traffic Stops were conducted in 2022, compared to 15,212 in 2021 resulting in a 23% overall decrease. Traffic Warnings and Citations have been on the decline over the last several years.



Black non-Hispanic males were stopped more than all other races and genders during the 2022 calendar year. Black non-Hispanic males were stopped 3,903 times during Traffic Contacts in 2022 which was 34% of all traffic stops during the period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. Comparatively, a total of 2,996 white non-Hispanic males, or 27% of all traffic stops, were conducted during the same period in 2022. While the instances of traffic contacts among black males increased when compared to last year, the number of traffic contacts by black males have stayed relatively unchanged over the last three (3) years and has declined over the last five (5) years.

Both the percentage of white non-Hispanic females and black non-Hispanic females remained unchanged in 2022 compared to 2021. 15% of both white females and black females were involved in traffic stops during the 2022 calendar year. In addition, the total number of females involved in traffic stops has consistently decreased over the last 10 years.

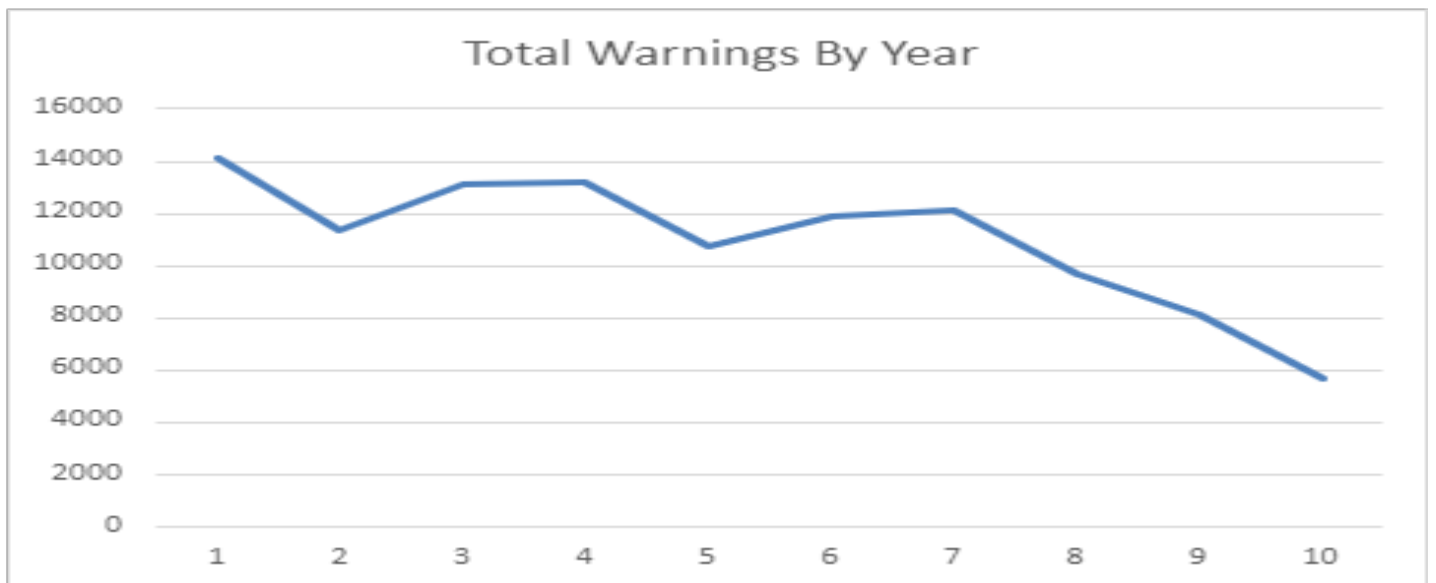


The total number of Traffic Contacts for persons in Other ethnic races (Hispanic, Asian, etc.) is extremely low compared to those of white and black non-Hispanic individuals. Traffic Warnings and Citations classified within the Other category equaled 11% of all Traffic contacts combined during the period of January 2022 to December 2022. The overall number of Hispanic and Other Race traffic contacts has slowly increased over the last four (4) years. There have not been any dramatic changes in the number of Other race traffic contacts since 2014. The increase is most likely due to population increases within the jurisdiction.

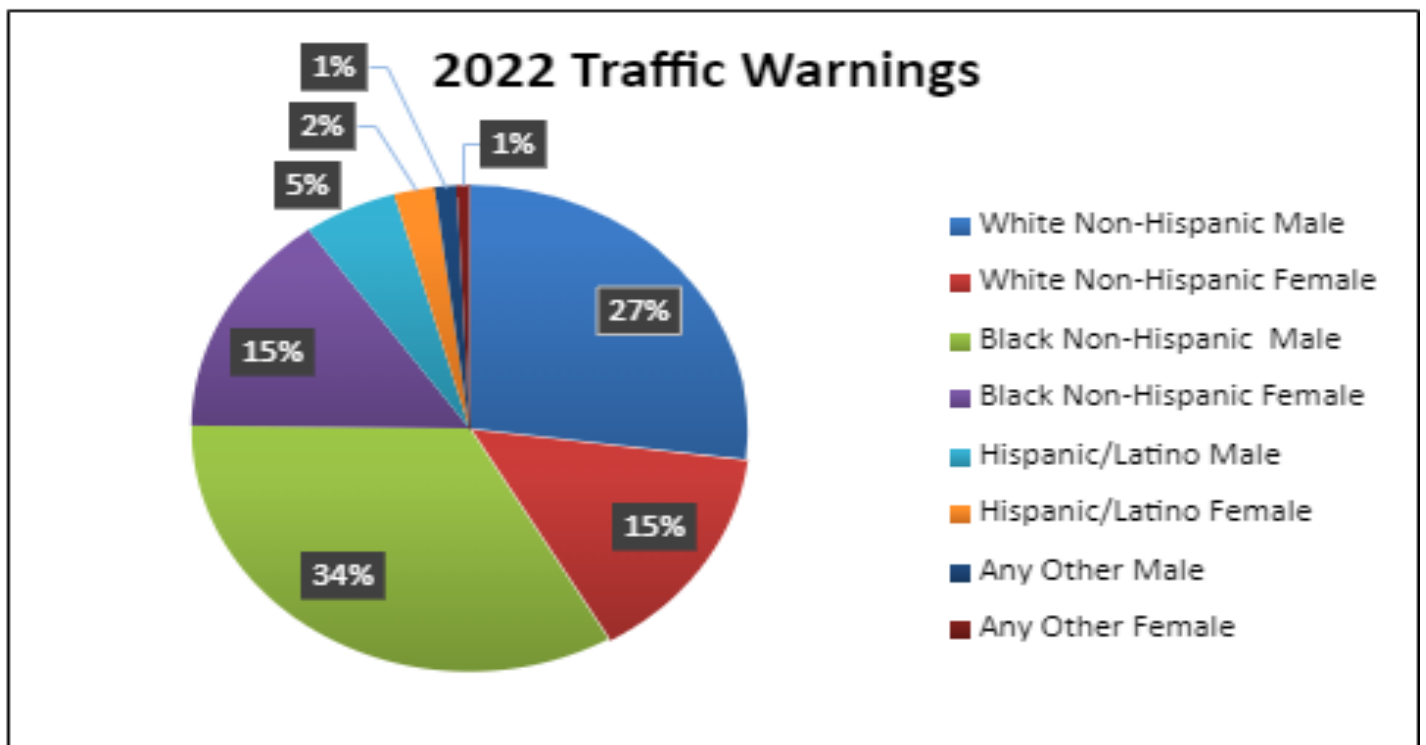
Overall, the total number of Traffic Contacts conducted during the 2022 calendar year appears to indicate that 48% of all traffic contacts involve black non-Hispanic males and females compared to 40% white non-Hispanic males and females. The total number of Warnings and Citations indicates that traffic contacts made by the Rock Hill Police Department were generally proportional among both White and Black non-Hispanic individuals in 2022. Additional analysis will need to be completed if the number of traffic contacts for black non-Hispanic individuals continues to increase in the next year.

Traffic Warnings

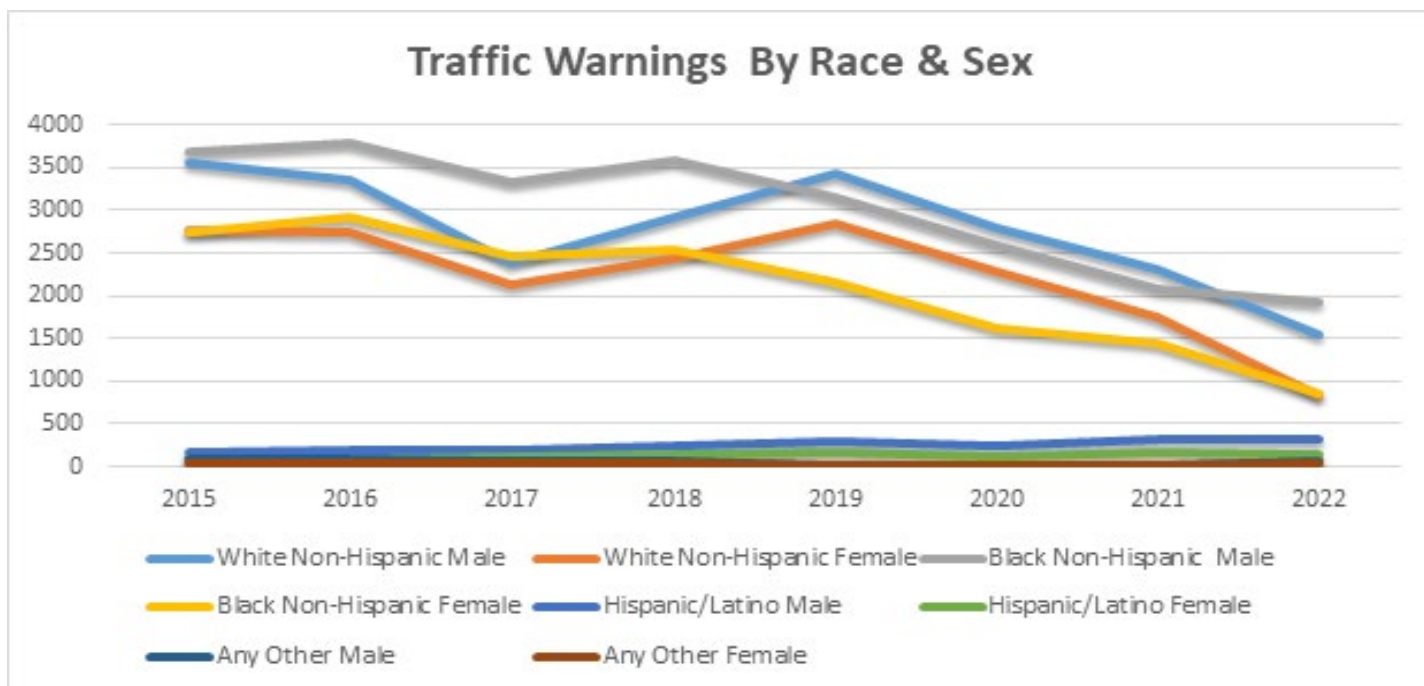
A total of 5,714 Traffic Warnings were issued in the 2022 calendar year, compared to 8,129 in 2021 for a 30% decrease overall. The total number of Traffic Warnings has steadily decreased in all categories over the last four (4) years.



Black non-Hispanic males represent the highest percentage of traffic warnings issued over the period of January to December 2022. 34% of all traffic warnings were issued to Black non-Hispanic males, compared to 27% for white non-Hispanic males. This percentage correlates with current arrest data. While the percentage of traffic warnings issued to black males increased, the overall number of black males receiving a Traffic Warning decreased in 2022.



White non-Hispanic females and black non-Hispanic females were both issued 15% of all Traffic Warnings issued in 2022. Traffic warnings issued to females has continued to decrease over the last several years, except for Other Races. The total number of Traffic Warnings for females of other races has gradually increased over the last four (4) years, which can most likely be associated to the growing population in the area.



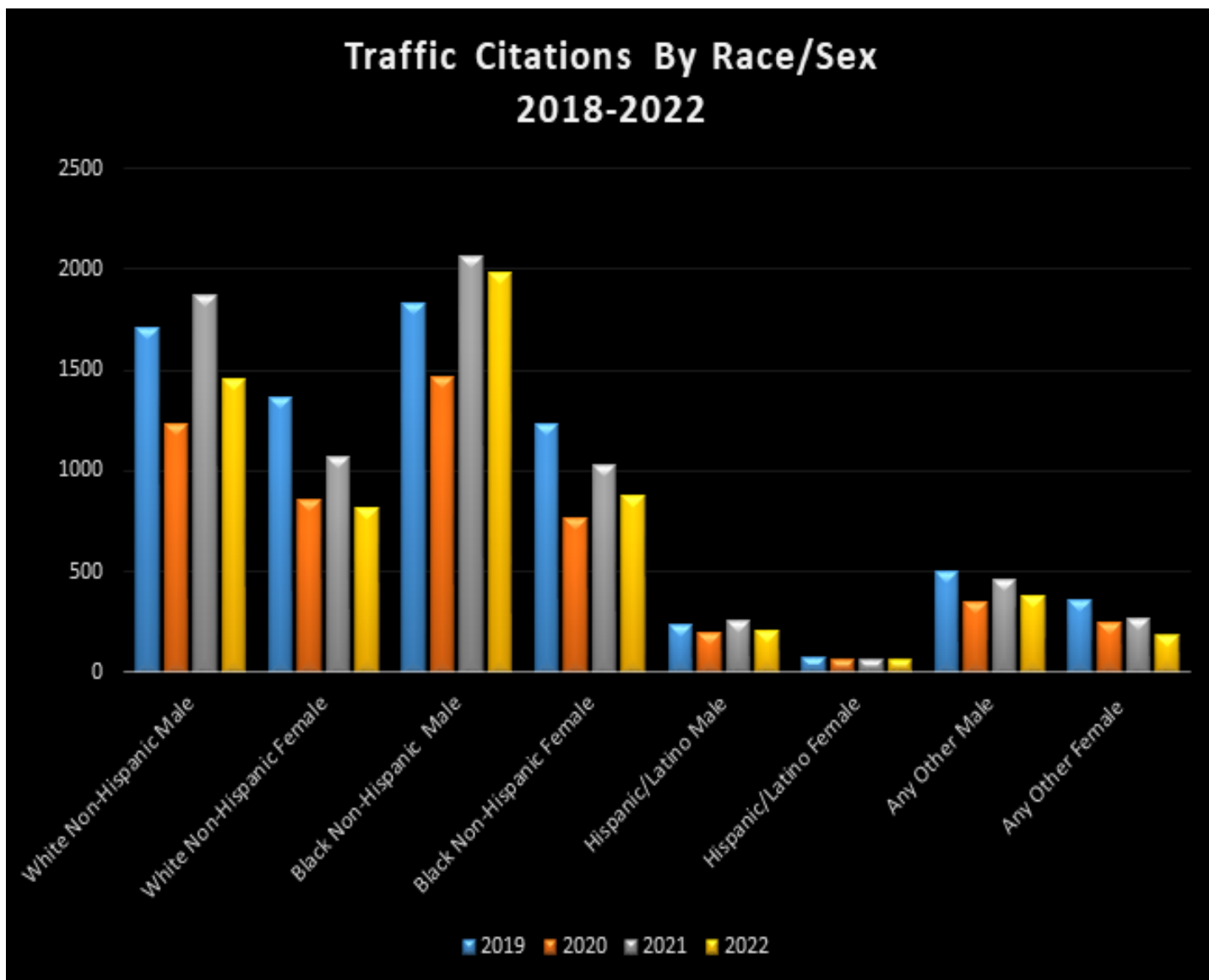
Hispanic/Latino males received 207 Warnings in 2022 for a 3% decrease. Hispanic/Latino females received 65 Warnings in 2022 for a 5% decrease. Traffic Warnings that were classified within the other category equaled only 5% of all Traffic Warnings issued during the 2022 calendar year.

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 115 Traffic Warnings were issued by RHPD officers in 2022, compared to 51 in 2021. 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 warning for individuals of other races.

Overall, 42% of all Traffic Warnings issued in 2022 were to White non-Hispanic individuals compared to 49 % of all Traffic Warnings issued to Black non-Hispanic individuals over the same period. Traffic warnings issued to both white non-Hispanic and black non-Hispanic individuals (male and female) decreased when compared to the previous year. Hispanic/Latino and Other Races within Rock Hill continued to increase compared to the previous year. This is most likely due to the increase in these populations in our area. The total number of overall Traffic Warnings issued over the last four years has decreased.

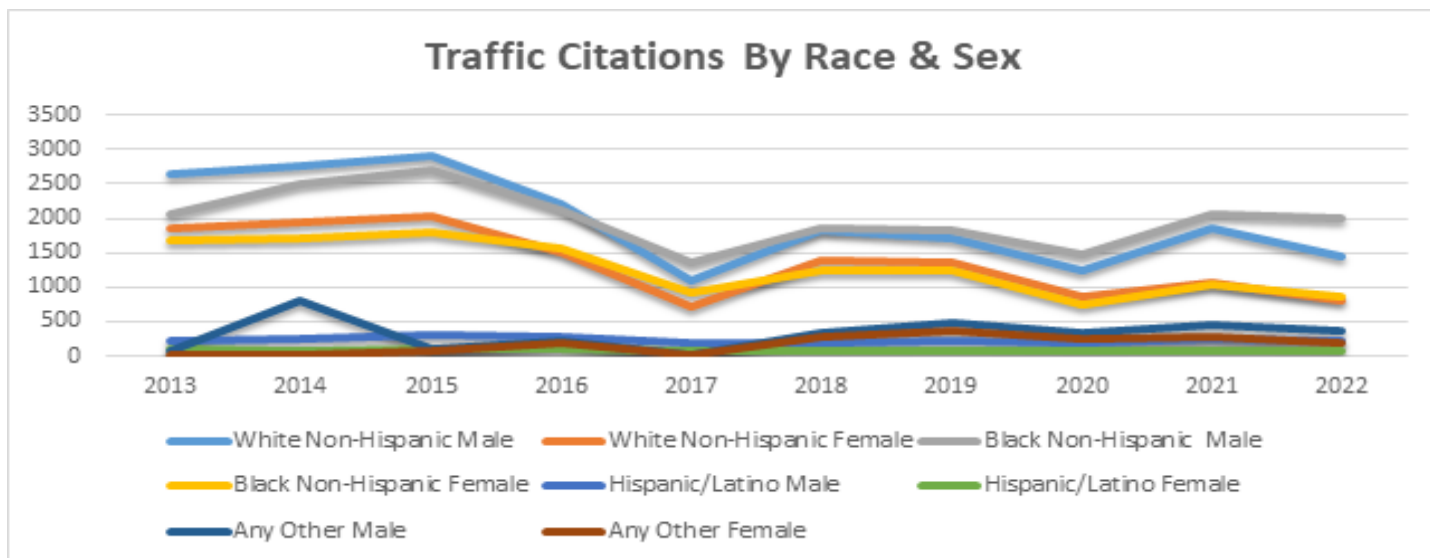
Traffic Citations

A total of 5,692 Traffic Citations were issued in calendar year 2022, compared to 7,083 in 2021 for a 20% decrease overall. The total number of traffic citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department has fluctuated over the last four (4) years.



The total number of traffic citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department decreased during the 2022 calendar year. White non-Hispanic males were issued a total of 1,451 Traffic Citations in 2022 compared for a 22% decrease. White non-Hispanic females were issued a total of 818 Citations in 2022 which is a 24% decrease. Black non-Hispanic males received 1,988 Citations in 2022 for a 4% decrease. Black non-Hispanic females received 873 traffic citations in 2021 compared to 761 Citations in 2020 for a 15% decrease.

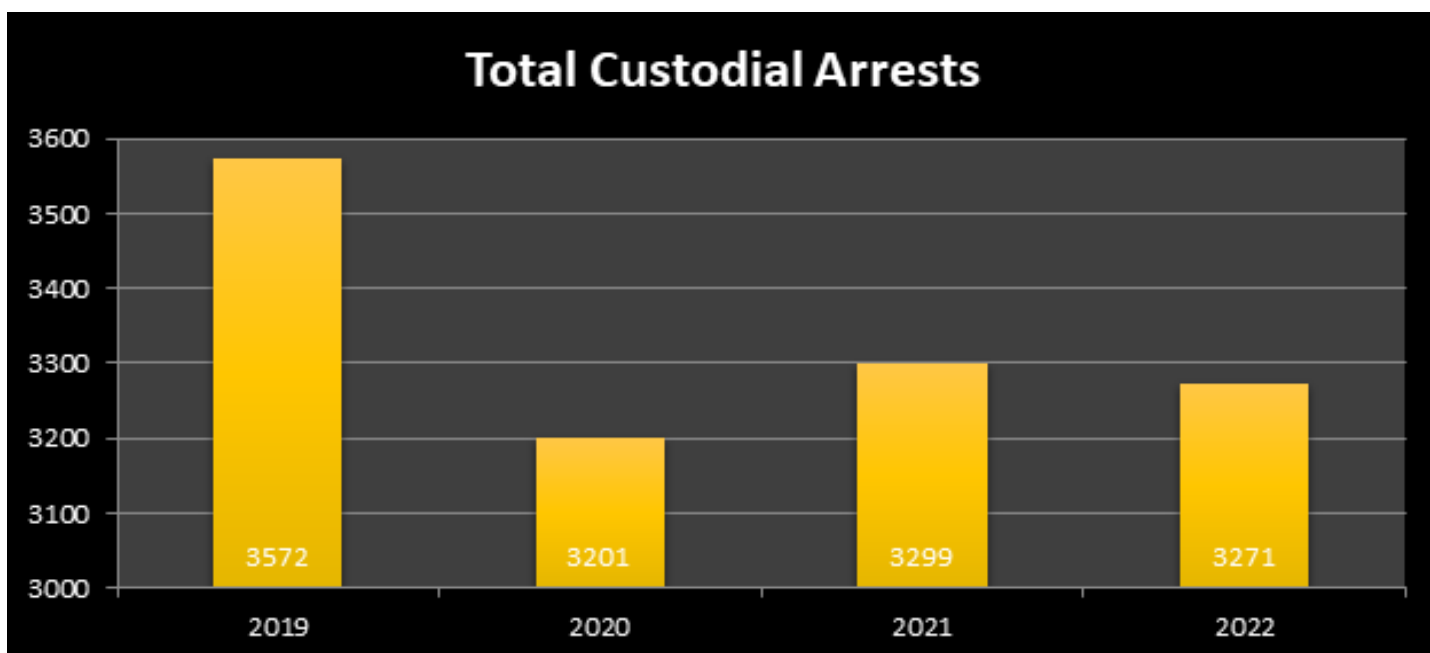
Hispanic/Latino males received 207 Citations in 2022 compared for a 19% decrease. Hispanic/Latino females received 62 Citations 2022 which is a 5% decrease. Other males (Asian, etc.) received 380 Citations in 2022 for a 18% decrease. Other females (Asian, etc.) received 183 Citations in 2022 for a 32% decrease.



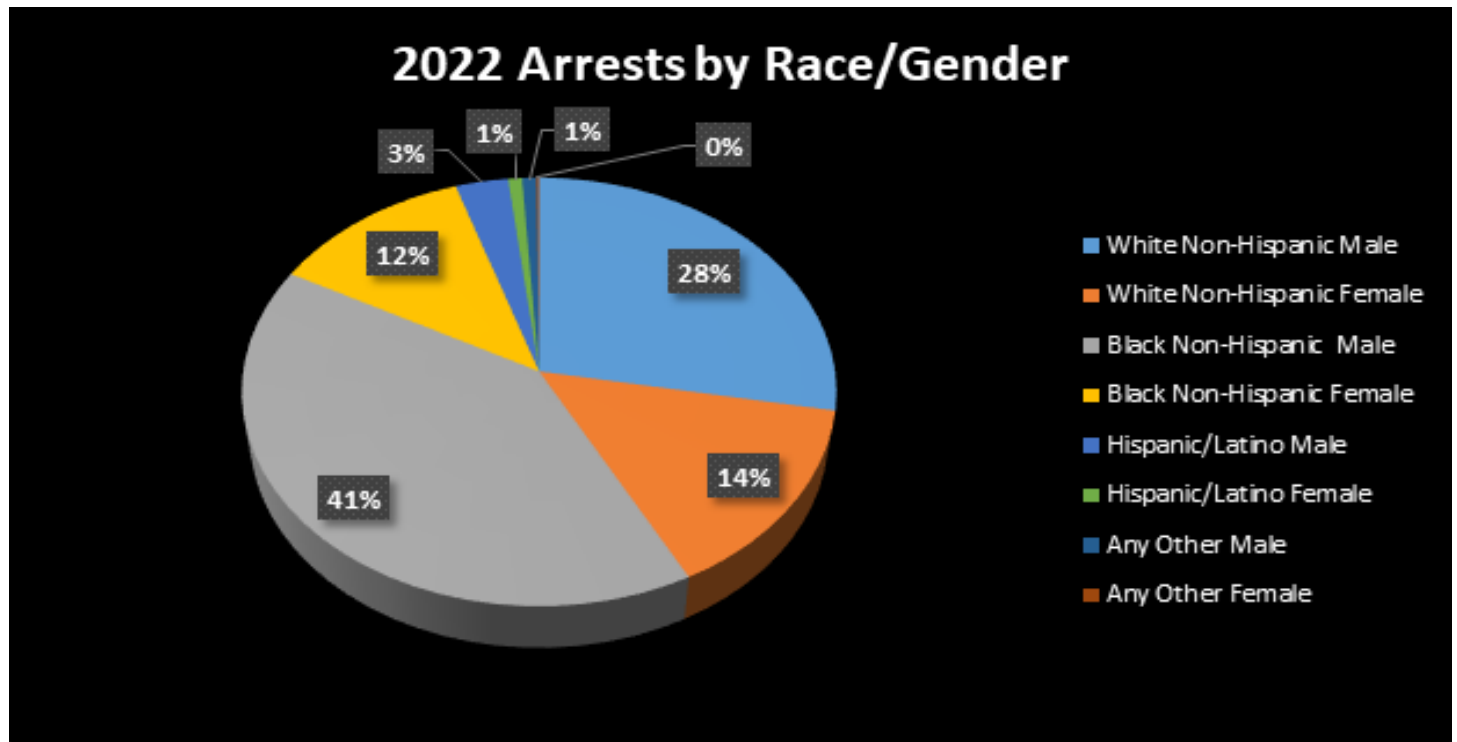
A total of 38% of all citations issued by the Rock Hill Police Department in 2022 were to White non-Hispanic males and females. A total of 48% were issued to Black non-Hispanics during the same period. Totals for traffic contacts (both Warnings and Citations) decreased for all races and genders, except for Warnings for Other Races. Warnings issued to Other Race males and females increased during the 2022 calendar year. This increase is most likely attributed to an increase in this population over the last several years. There does not seem to be a significant upward trend in the number of Traffic Warnings and Citations issued to any group of individuals at this time. Traffic contacts for black non-Hispanic males and both men and women in Other Races will be closely monitors in upcoming years to ensure that traffic contacts are made uniformly.

Arrests

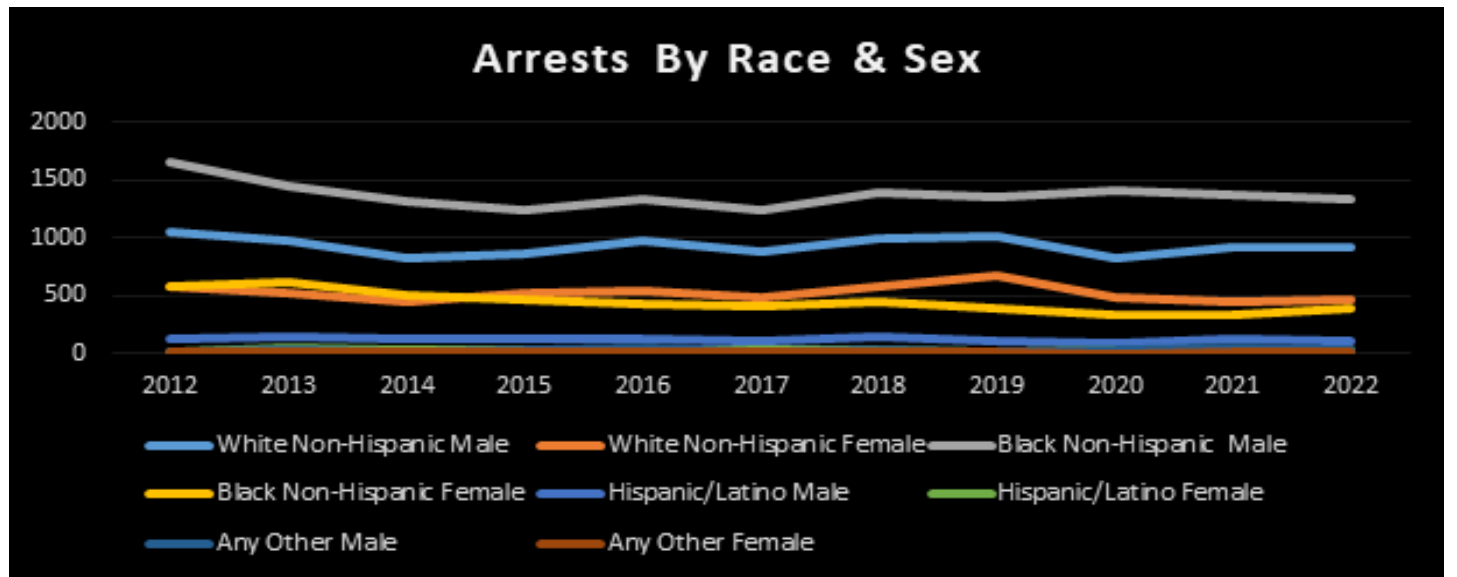
The total number of Arrests in 2022 decreased slightly compared to 2021. A total of 3,271 arrests were made in 2022, compared to 3,299 in 2021, which is a 1% decrease overall.



A total of 913 white non-Hispanic males were arrested in 2022, for a 1% decrease. A total of 472 white non-Hispanic females were arrested in 2022, which is a 4% increase. A total of 1,329 black non-Hispanic males were arrested in 2022, for a 2.5% decrease. A total of 394 black non-Hispanic females were arrested in 2022, for a 15% increase. Arrests for both white and black females increased, while arrests for white and black males decreased in 2022.



The total number of arrests for persons in other ethnic races (Hispanic, Asian, etc.) is very low compared to white and black non-Hispanic individuals. A total of 163 arrests of Hispanic and Other Race individuals were made by RHPD officers in 2022, for a 28% overall decrease. Arrests that were classified within the Other category equaled only 5% of all arrests made during the 2022 calendar year.



The total number of arrests appears to be relatively consistent over the last ten (10) years but has varied over the last four (4) years. Rock Hill Police Department arrests have decreased 19% over the last ten (10) years. Black non-Hispanic males have had an 20% reduction in arrests since 2012.

Calls for service and vehicular traffic has returned to almost normal as people returned to work and school following the pandemic. Arrests of Black non-Hispanic females increased over the period of January to December 2022. There have been no large increases in arrests that would indicate an issue with Biased Policing. RHPD officers have worked hard to make and maintain positive relationships within the community and the members they serve.

Rock Hill Police Department 2022 Citizen Complaints, Internal Affairs Investigations and Lawsuits Annual Administrative Review and Analysis

Introduction

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 of them 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.

Definitions

Citizen Complaint: any allegation against the Department and/or a Department member of any action or failure to act which the complainant believes to be improper. The information may be received from a known or unknown source within or outside the Department. Depending on the seriousness of the complaint and the nature of information developed, a citizen complaint may be upgraded to an internal affairs investigation.

Supervisory Investigation: an investigation generated as a result of less serious allegations that warrant investigation, but do not rise to the level of a serious allegation. Examples may include but are not limited to the use of profane or discourteous language or manner; rudeness; or other acts, including failure to follow Department policy, which would not usually result in serious disciplinary action (i.e., suspension, demotion, or dismissal).

Internal Affairs Investigation: an investigation generated as a result of serious allegations that may damage the reputation of the Department or its personnel. Examples may include but are not limited to improper or excessive use of force; allegations of excessive or improper use of force, illegal conduct; criminal misconduct; breaches of an individual's civil rights; and sexual harassment.

Sustained: Allegation is true, and action taken was inconsistent with policy.

Not Sustained: There is insufficient evidence to confirm or to refute the allegation.

Exonerated: Allegation is true, but action taken was consistent with policy.

Unfounded: Allegation is demonstrably false or there is no credible evidence for support.

Policy Failure: Allegation is true, but action taken was not inconsistent with policy and there is an indication of a need for policy review.

Process and Procedures

Administration

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. The Internal Affairs Supervisor 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.

The Internal Affairs and Supervisory Investigations General Order (General Order Chapter 52, Section #1.01) is reviewed annually by the Chief of Police, the Accreditation Manager, and members of the Accreditation Team to ensure that policies, procedures, and training are current and applicable to Department practices. Any changes in policy and practice are reviewed and discussed prior to any revisions being made to the policy. Revised policies are published in Zuercher and are available to all personnel.

Citizen Complaint Processing

All complaints against Department members are documented and investigated using the Citizens Complaint Form and an accompanying Blue Team 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 complainant 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 a Blue Team 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 Blue Team Report is created. Any attempts to resolve the complaint by the Supervisor are noted in the Blue Team 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 a Blue Team 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 Blue Team 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.

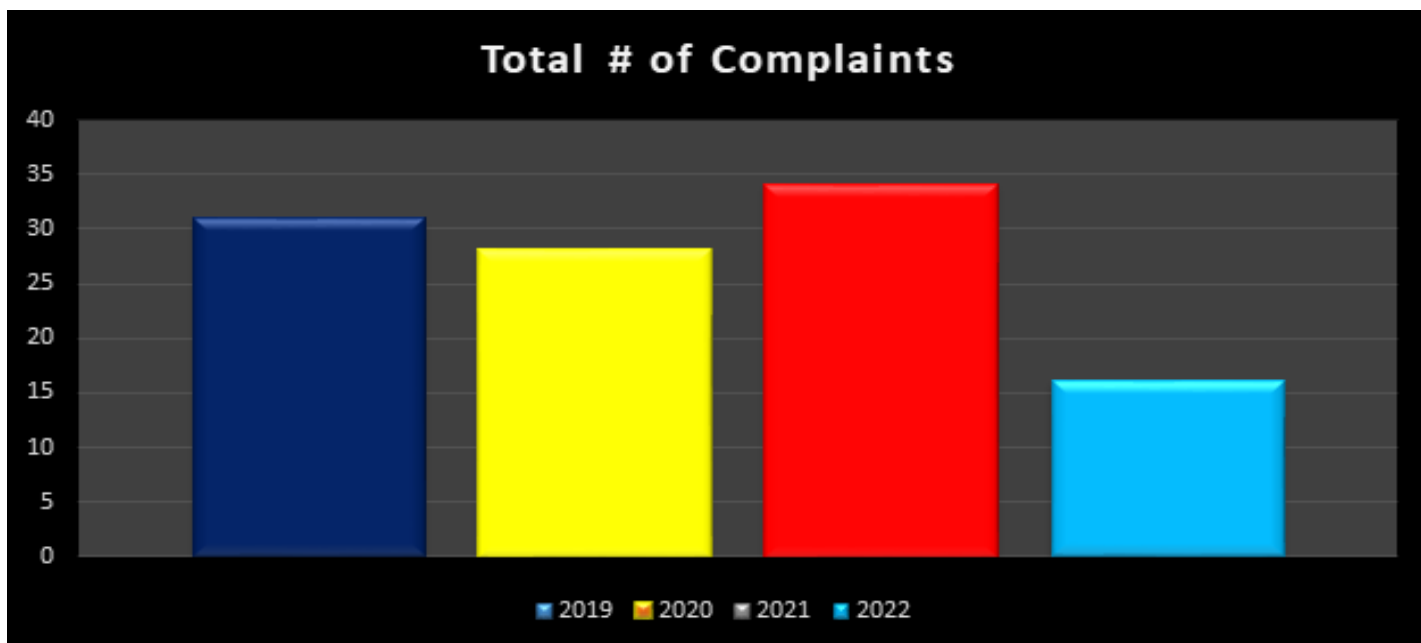
The Department member may be required to participate in a counseling program in lieu of other disciplinary action when it is determined to be in the best interest of the Department, the employee, and the public. Failure to participate fully as required may result in the imposition of the original disciplinary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

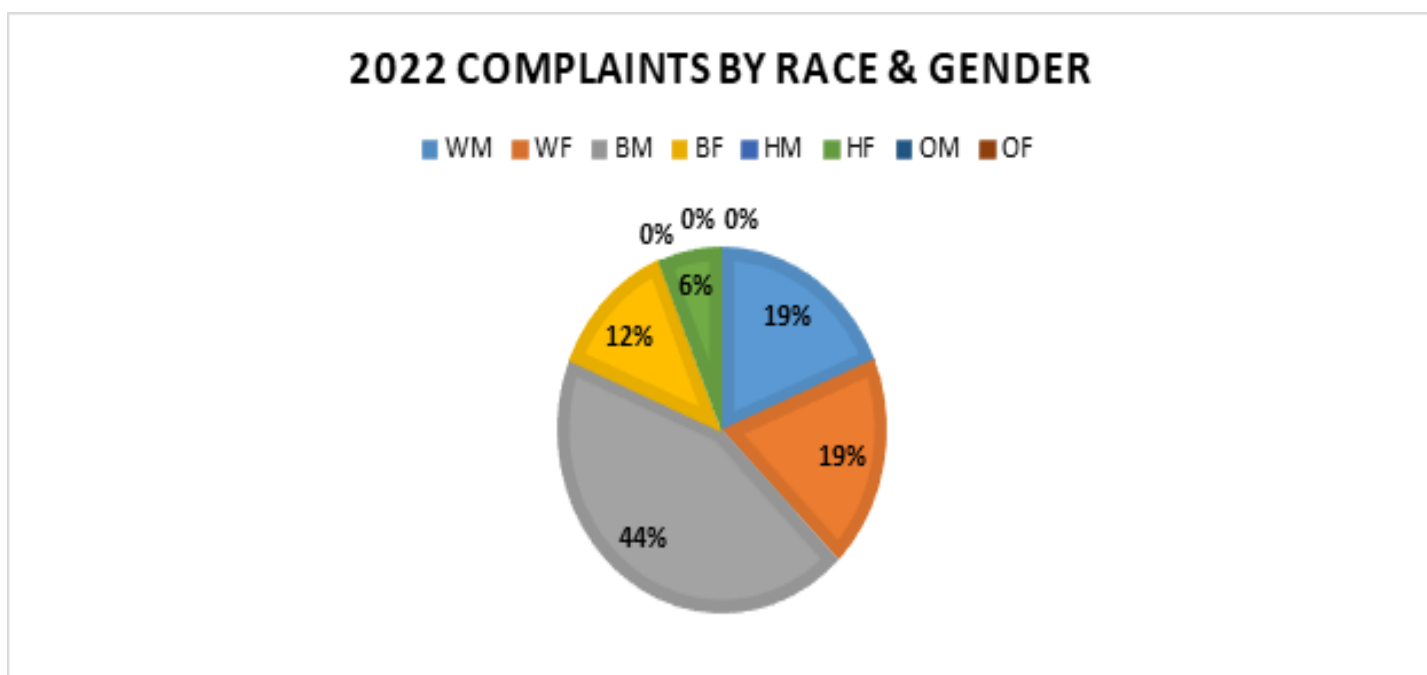
Citizen Complaint and Internal Affairs Investigation Analysis

Citizen Complaints

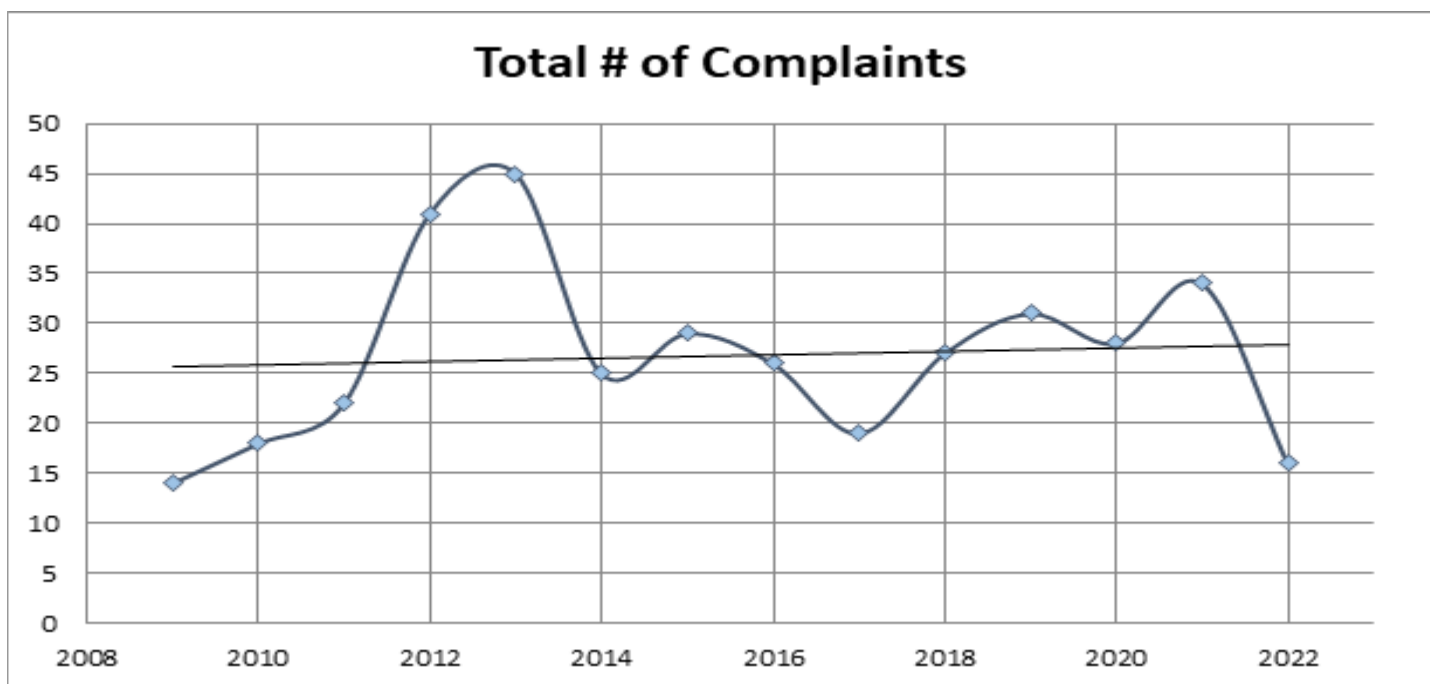
In 2022, there were a total of sixteen (16) citizen complaints received and investigated. The number of citizen complaints decreased 53% compared to 2021. Several complaints involved more than one (1) officer.



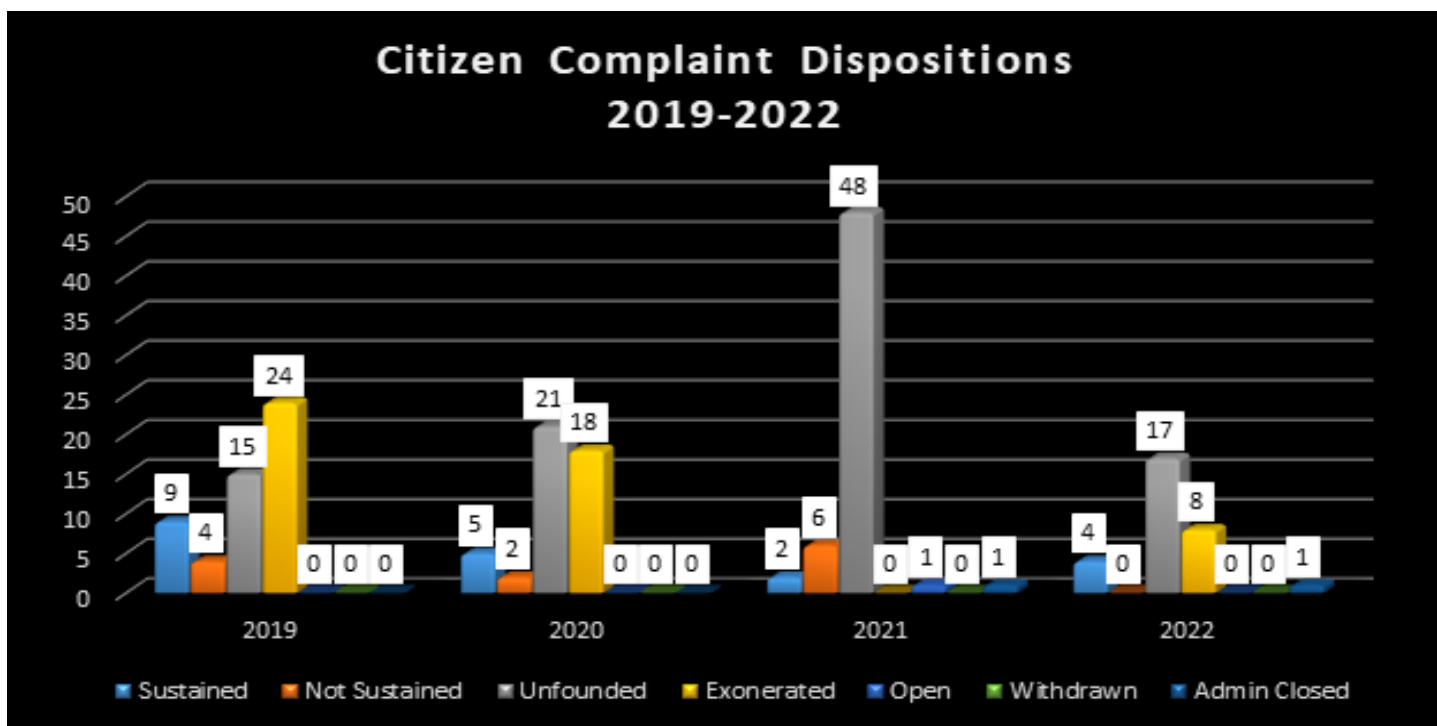
Over half (56%) of all complaints received by the Rock Hill Police Department in 2022 were filed by Black non-Hispanic males and females. This is an increase compared to 2021. A total of 44% of all complaints received by the Department in 2022 were by black males. Seven (7) black males filed complaints compared to three (3) complaints from white males. In addition, 12% (2 total) black females filed complaints against officers compared to three (3) white females during the same period. There was one (1) complaint filed from a Hispanic female.



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 decreasing. There was a significant increase in complaints in 2012, 2013, and 2021 and then a drastic decrease in 2022. The total number of complaints fell 11% in 2022 compared to 2010.

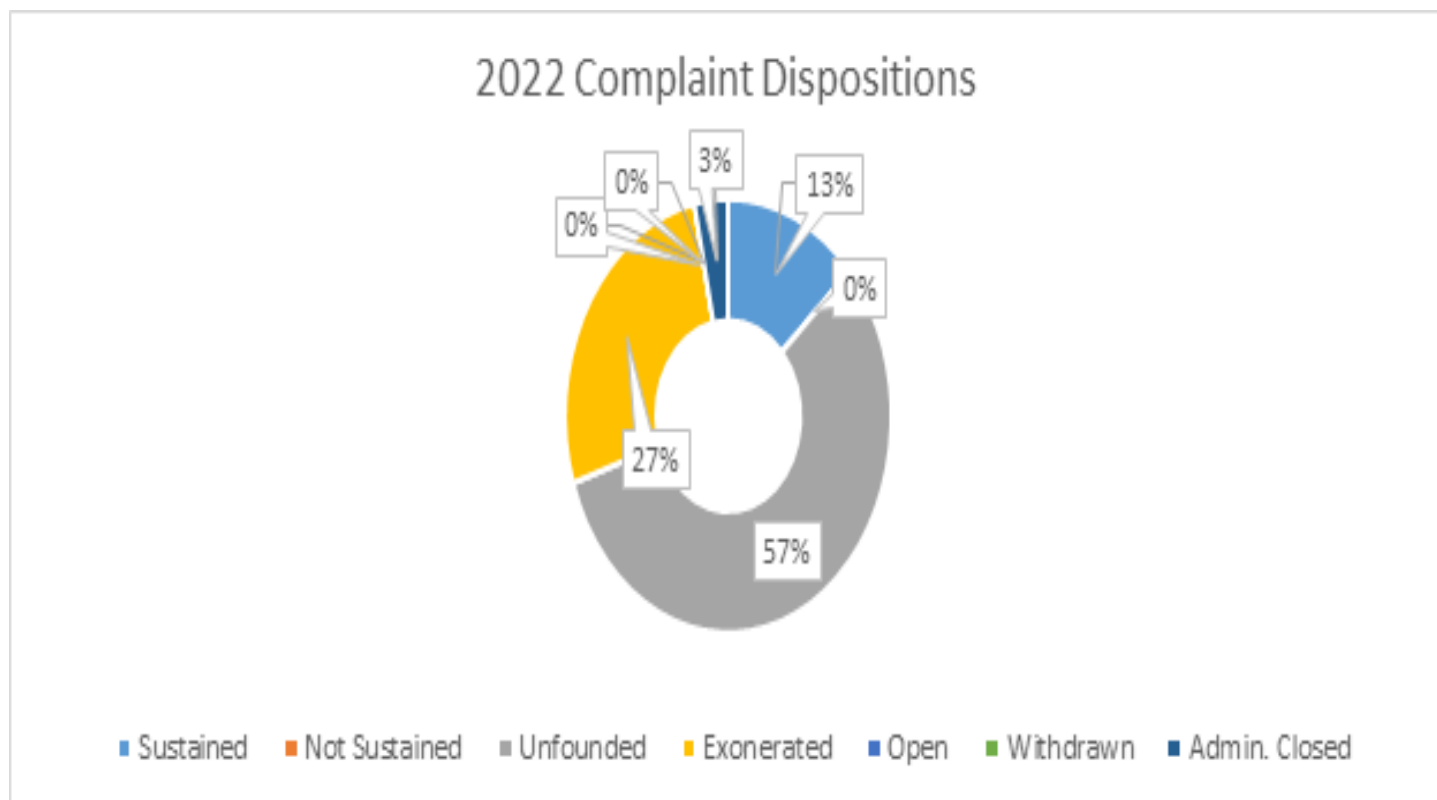


The decrease in citizen complaints most likely stems from more positive interactions with citizens in the community. In addition, there have not been as many repeated complaints from individuals as in the past.



Citizen Complaint Dispositions have generally remained consistent over the last four (4) years. A total of 57% of all dispositions were Unfounded in 2022. Several complaints yielded dual findings due to their involving more than one officer in the complaint. RHPD employees involved in Sustained complaints were provided with verbal counseling and written warnings based on the severity of the

incident. No employees were terminated because of a citizen complaint in 2022. The number of Exonerated and Unfounded complaints is a testament to the high caliber of professional personnel in the Department.

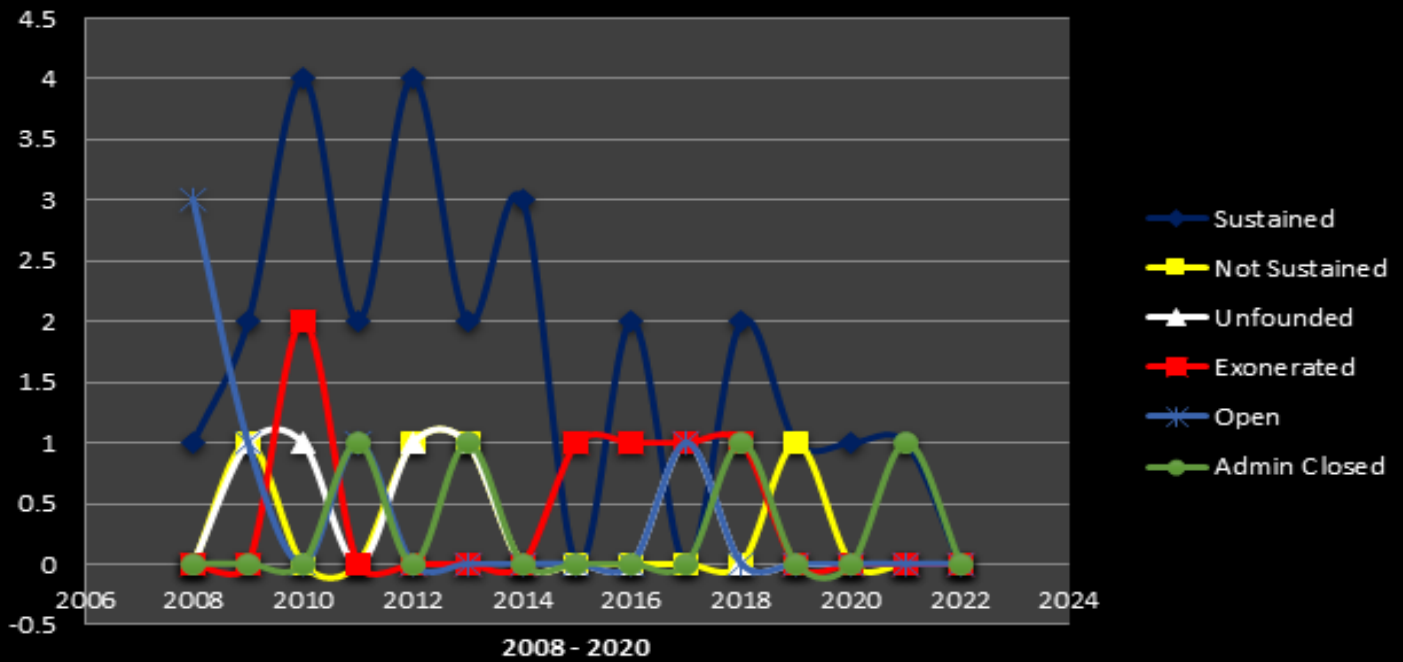


In 2022, the Rock Hill Police Department received 78,889 Calls for Service. In addition, Rock Hill Police Department Officers initiated 11,676 traffic contacts with citizens within the City of Rock Hill. Of the 90,595 total contacts with individuals within the jurisdiction, the fact that only thirty (30) 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

The Rock Hill Police Department did not have any Internal Affairs Investigations completed in 2022, compared to two (2) investigations in 2021. The total number of Internal Affairs Investigations has continued to experience a decline from the end of 2008 to the end of 2022 and has stayed low when compared to the size of the Department. The RHPD has an average of one (1) Internal Affairs Investigations over the last four (4) years. Considering that the Rock Hill Police Department employed one hundred fifty-two (152) sworn officers and forty-six (46) non-sworn personnel in 2022, to have zero (0) Internal Affairs Investigations is rather extraordinary for a Department of our size. The low number of Internal Affairs Investigations demonstrates the high quality of officers and personnel employed at the Rock Hill Police Department.

Internal Affairs Investigation Trends 2008 - 2022

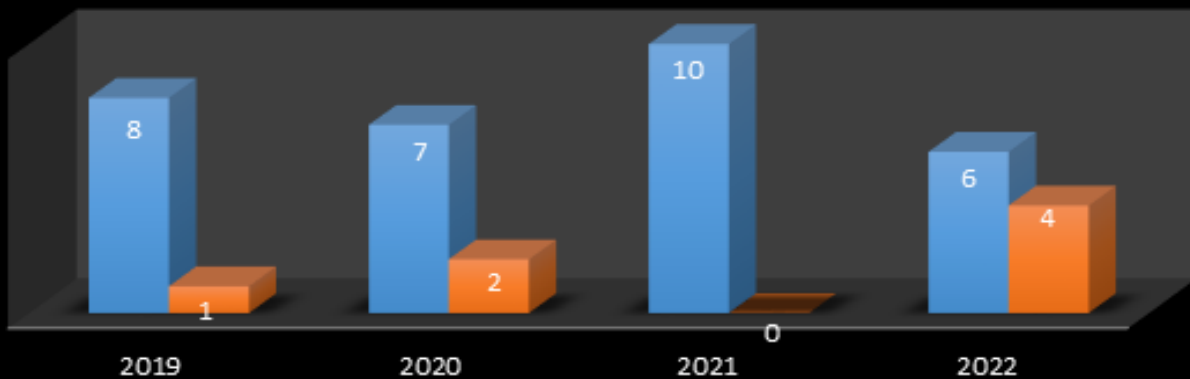


Lawsuit Analysis

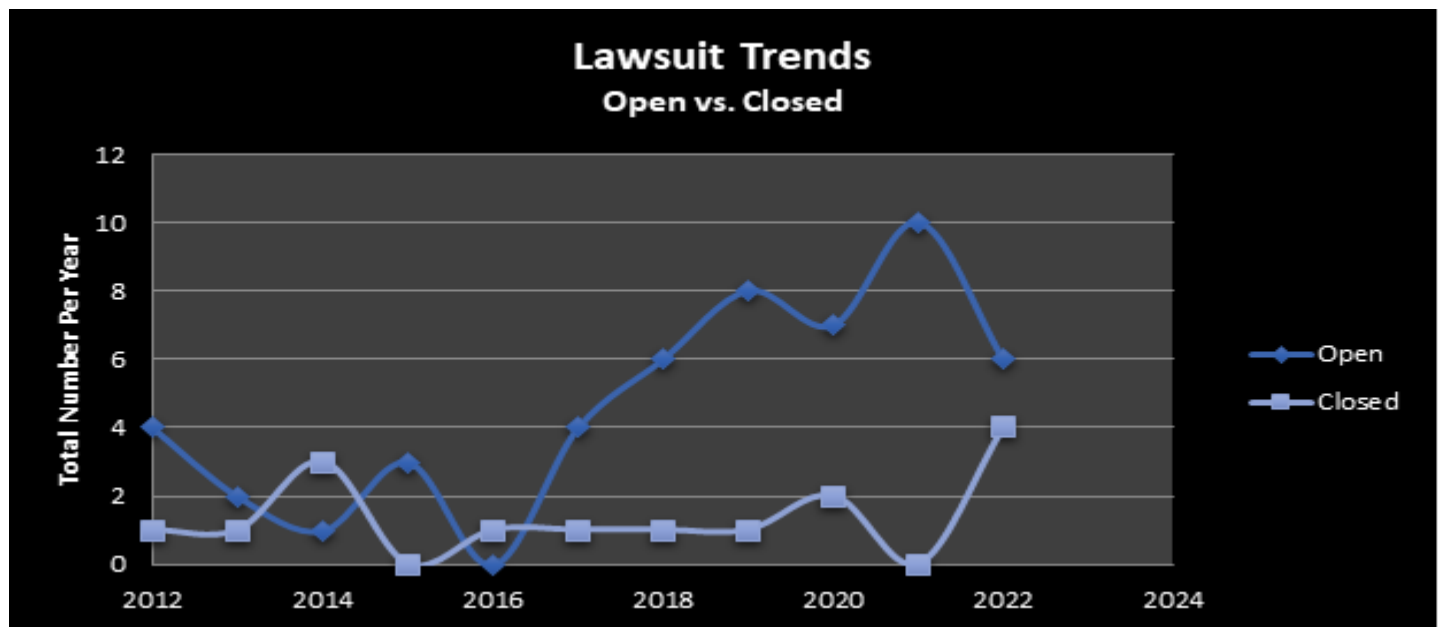
The Rock Hill Police Department had ten (10) Lawsuits during the 2022 calendar year. Three (3) were for False Arrest, two (2) for Excessive Force, two (2) for Injury in Custody, two (2) for Traffic Accident Related and one (1) for Improper Search. Some lawsuits had multiple complaints. As of the end of 2022, six (6) lawsuits remain open.

Lawsuits 2018-2022

■ Open ■ Closed



The total number of lawsuits filed against the Department stayed the same compared to 2021. The total number of Lawsuits filed against the Department has increased over the last four years. Due to the increase in complaints over the last several years, we anticipate that the number of lawsuits filed against the Department will continue to rise due to the continued negative attitude towards law enforcement and the litigious nature of society.



Rock Hill Police Department 2022 Recruiting Analysis and Administrative Review

Introduction

The Rock Hill Police Department strives to recruit the best-suited personnel and to ensure equal employment opportunities for all persons 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 used to improve the quality of the personnel hired, increase the diversity in the work force 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 in 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 current 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

In the 2022 calendar year, the Rock Hill Police Department concentrated recruiting efforts on college and university campuses, military bases, and online job applicant websites to actively recruit from a more diversified population. The Rock Hill Police Department is committed to high standards and has an intense and 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. Career Fairs and Presentations included the following locations in 2022:

Cherry Point	Fort Bragg	Onslow County
Raleigh Veterans	Reliant Hiring Expo	Southern Wesleyan University
USC Upstate	Western Carolina University	Winthrop University
York County	US Marine Corp	Coastal Carolina University
Bob Jones University	North Greenville University	Lander University
Gardner Webb University	Wingate University	

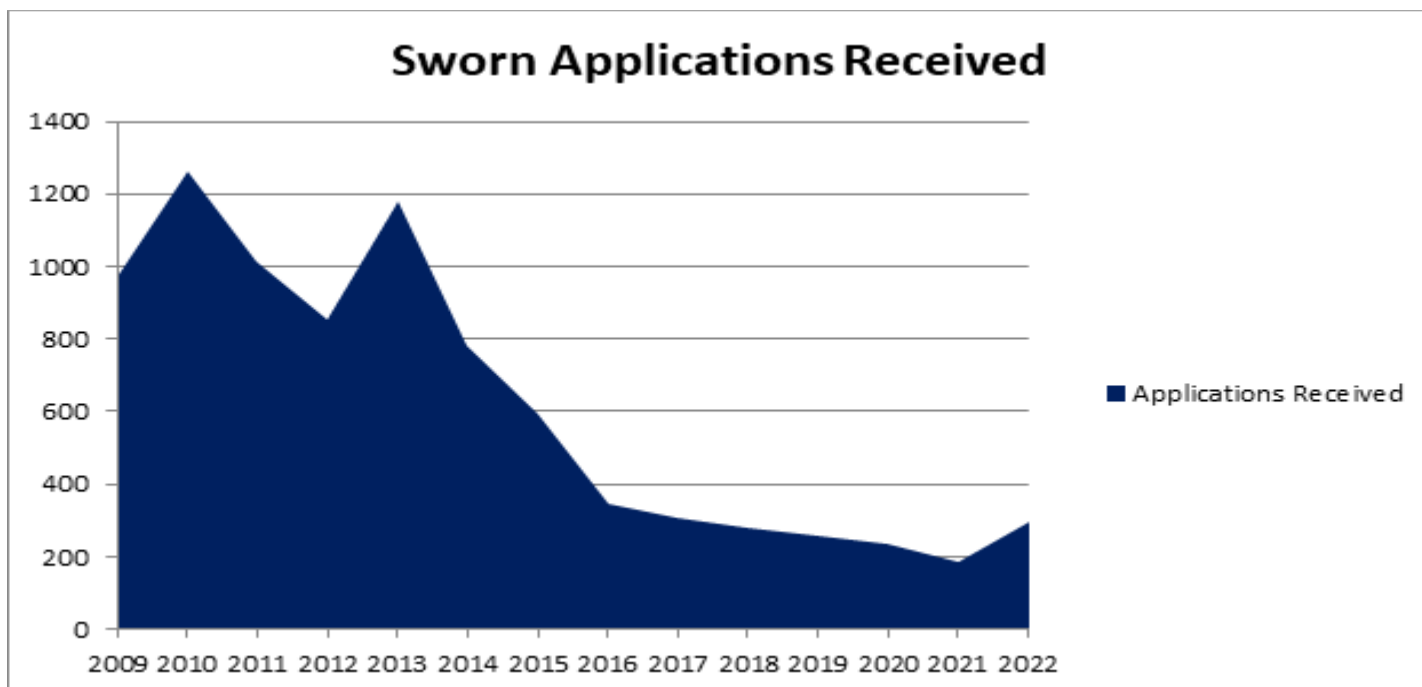
The Rock Hill Police Department strives for employee diversity that represents the available workforce in the community regarding ethnic, race, and gender composition. The following chart illustrates the Rock Hill Police Department's current diversity composition for sworn officers, the available workforce data, and the City of Rock Hill's population data for 2022.

YEAR 2022

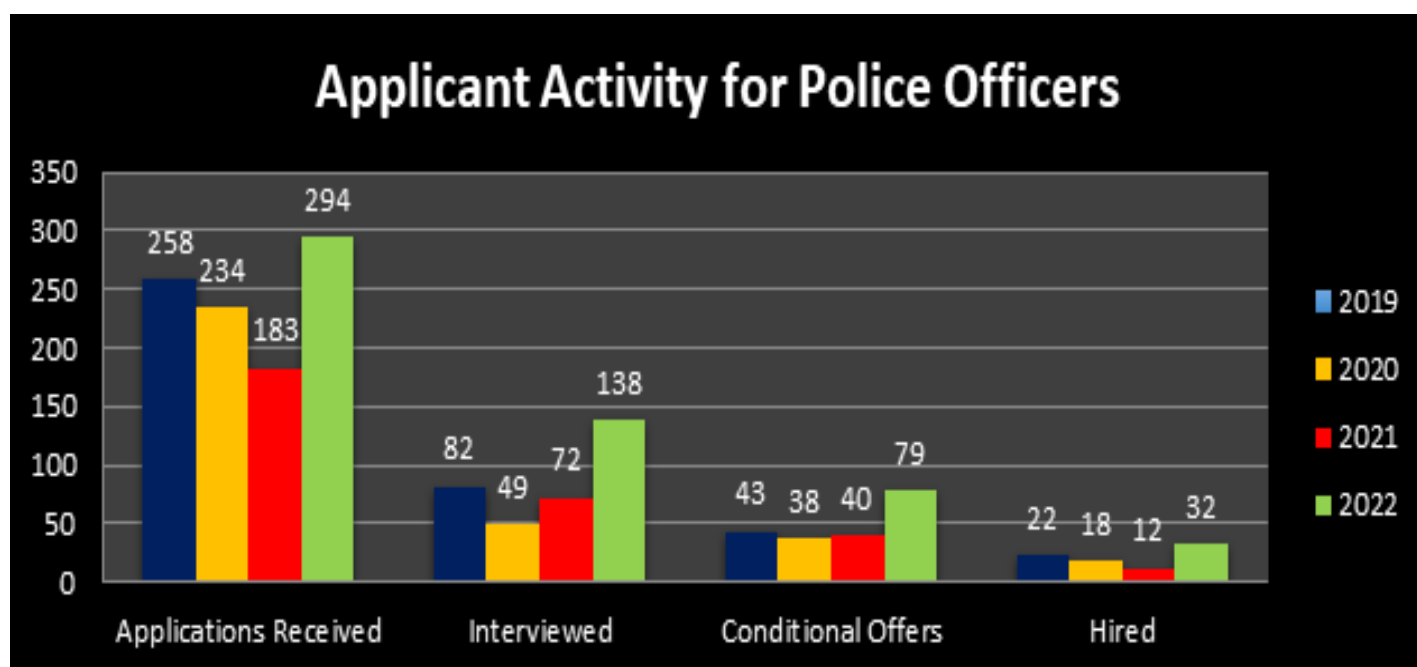
Race/Ethnicity	Service Population		Available Workforce		Current Sworn Officers		Current Female Sworn Officers	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
White (Non-Hispanic)	36147	55%	18950	51%	117	77%	24	16%
Black (Non-Hispanic)	25348	38%	15115	41%	22	14%	5	3%
Hispanic-Latino (Any Race)	3761	6%	2220	6%	10	7%	1	1%
Other	898	1%	984	3%	3	2%	0	
Total	66154	100%	37269	100%	152	100%	30	20%

Sworn Applicants

The total number of police officer applications received has started to increase after several years of decline. A total of two hundred ninety-four (294) applications were received in 2022 compared to one hundred seventy-nine (179) in 2021, which is a 64% increase and below the four-year average of two hundred thirty-eight (238) per year.

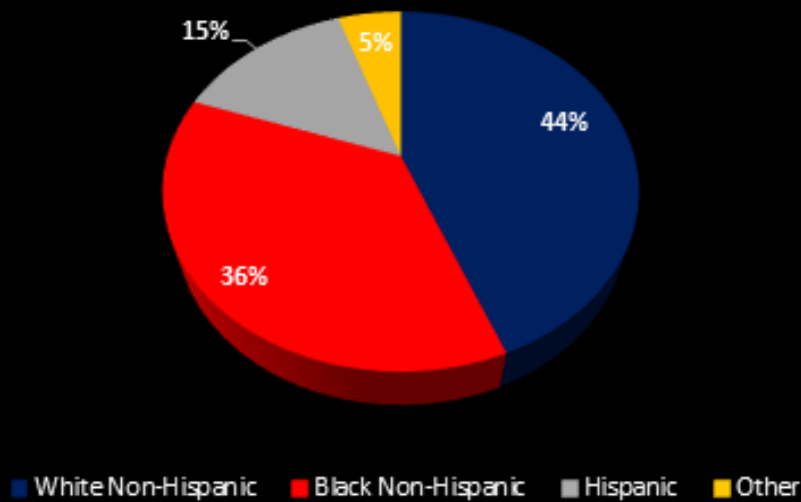


The total number of applications received for sworn officers has started to rebound after several years of decline. The negative climate towards law enforcement has had a significantly negative impact on all law enforcement agencies across the United States. Police agencies have experienced significant shortages and finding qualified applicants is getting more difficult every day.



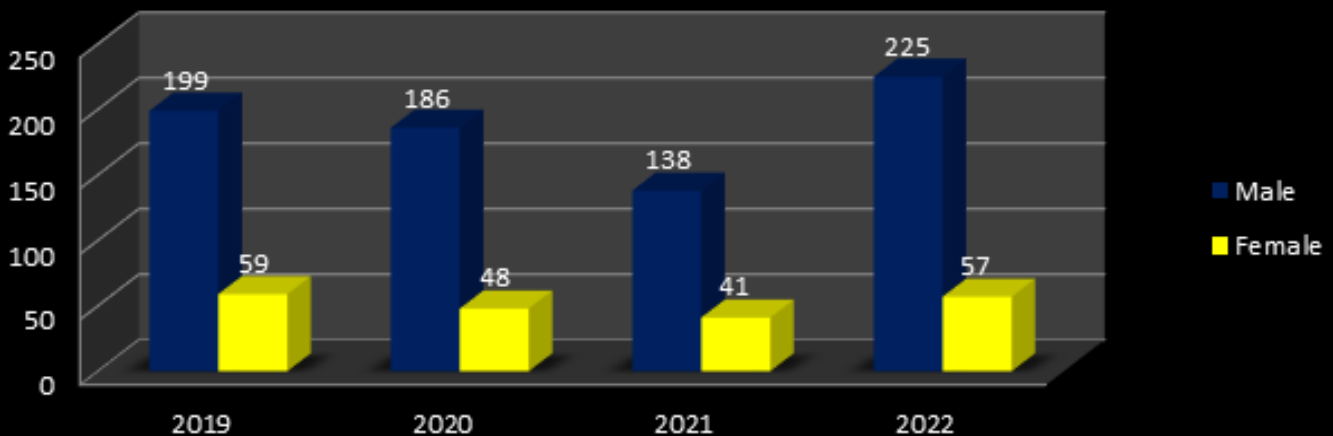
Most applicants made up of sworn officer positions received by the Rock Hill Police Department were from white non-Hispanics. A total of one hundred twenty-eight (128) applications were received from white non-Hispanic males and females in 2022, which was 44% of the total applications.

2022 Applications Received By Race



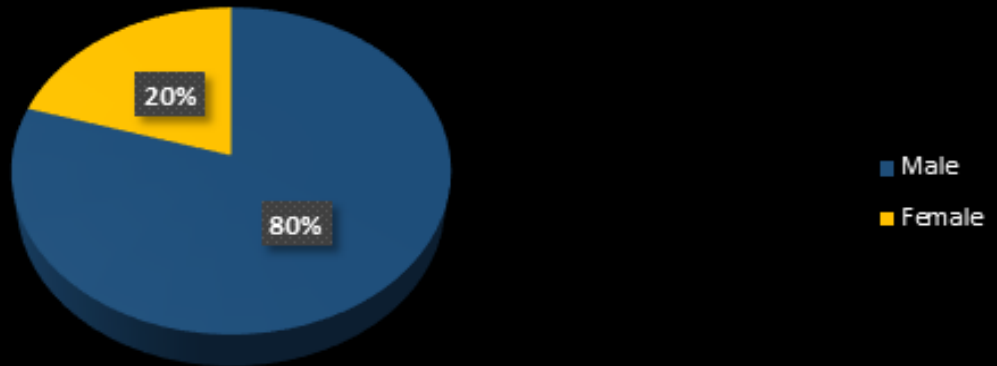
One hundred six (106) applications (36%) were received from black non-Hispanics, which was an 89% increase from 2021. A total of 15% of the applications were from Hispanics and 5% from Other Races, which were also increases compared to 2021 applicants. Recruitment to attract quality minority applicants has been very successful during the 2022 calendar year. Continued recruiting in minority locations is necessary to improve the overall diversity of the Department.

Sworn Applicant Demographics By Gender Applications Received



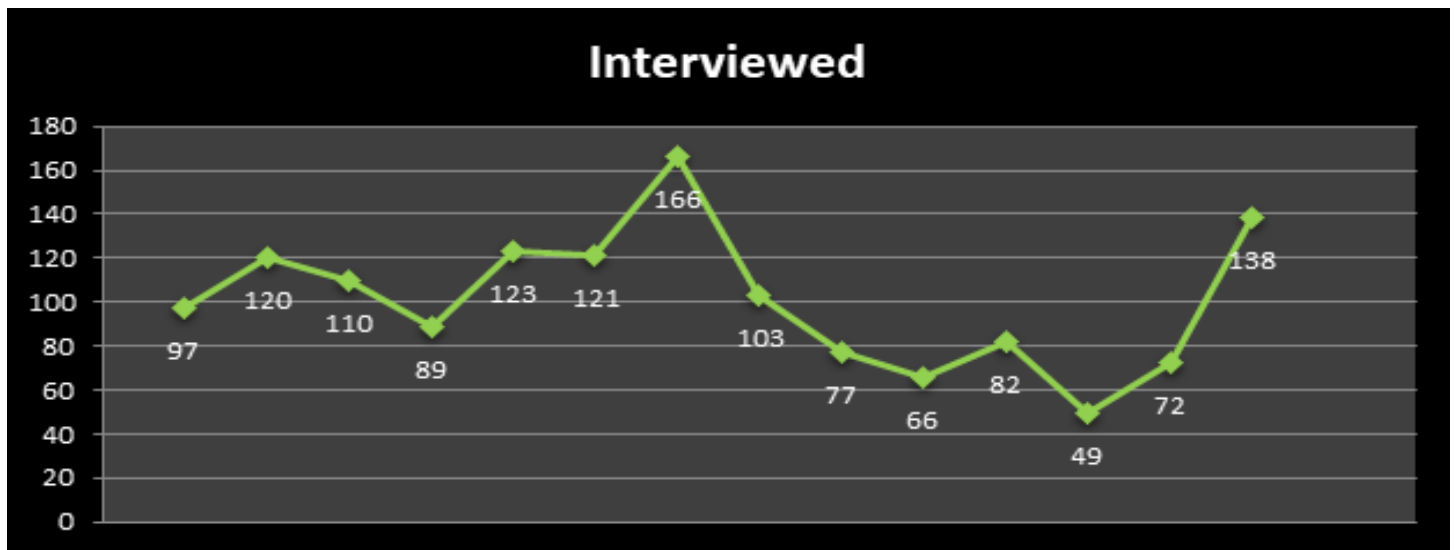
Males completed and returned the highest number of police officer applications. A total of two hundred twenty-five (225) completed applications for employment at the Rock Hill Police Department in 2022, which was 80% of all applications received. Historically, males have always been the majority of applicants for sworn positions.

2022 Applications Received By Sex



Only fifty-seven (57) females, or 20% of applicants, completed applications during the same period. The differentiation between the genders has been consistent over the last four years and is comparable to other police departments across the nation.

A total of one hundred thirty-eight (138) individuals were interviewed for police officer positions in 2022, compared to seventy-two (72) in 2021, which is a 92% increase. The number of police officer applicants has fluctuated over the last four (4) years. 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 has become increasingly difficult to find applicants who are willing and qualified to be sworn officers.



Seventy-nine (79) individuals were given conditional offers of employment in 2022 compared to forty (40) in 2021. The total number of conditional offers increased 98% in 2022. The number of conditional offers has increased over the last four (4) years, which is a strong indicator that the recruiting process is successfully identifying quality applicants. Approximately 57% of all applicants interviewed in 2021 were given conditional offers of employment.

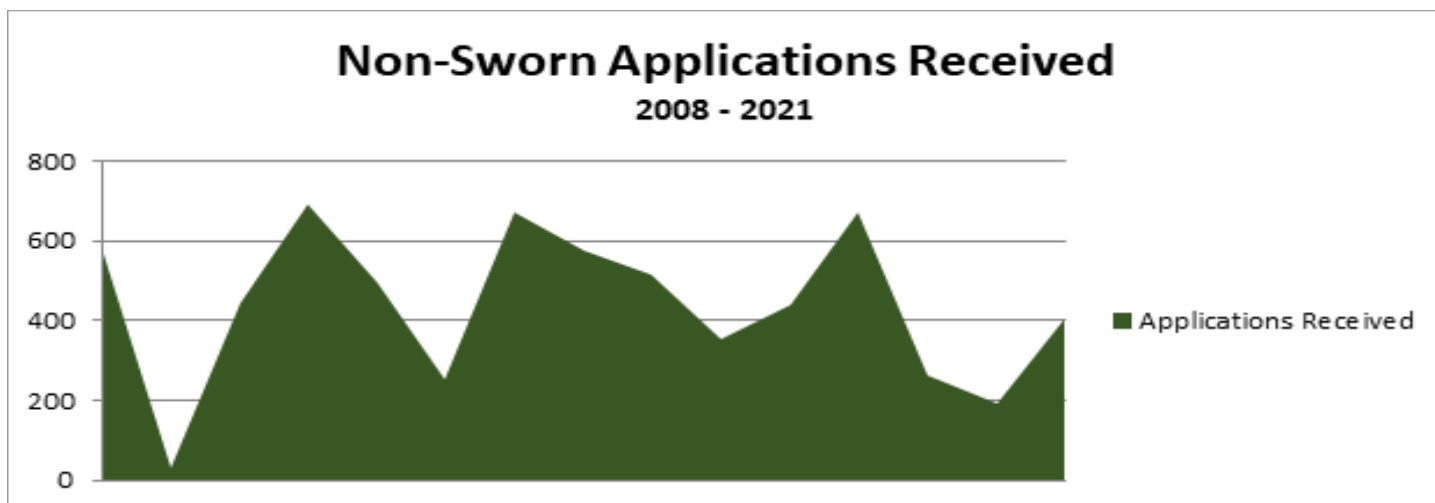


The total number of applicants hired is expected to level off in 2022 due to filling vacancies. A total of thirty-two (32) police officer applicants were hired in 2022, compared to twelve (12) in 2021, which is a significant increase. Due to our rigorous and thorough hiring practices, only 11% of all applicants are currently hired as law enforcement officers. Out of those offered conditional employment in 2022, 23% were hired. To add to the importance of hiring quality police officers, the total number of budget-approved sworn officers in the Department has increased by 16 % from one hundred forty (140) officers in 2012 to one hundred sixty-two (162) officers as of December 31, 2021. At the end of 2022, the RHPD was short ten (10) officers, which is a great improvement compared to 2021. It has been several years since there were no vacancies in sworn positions. The Recruiting Officer has done a good job of recruiting quality officers, but the efforts will continue to ensure that the department continues to grow.

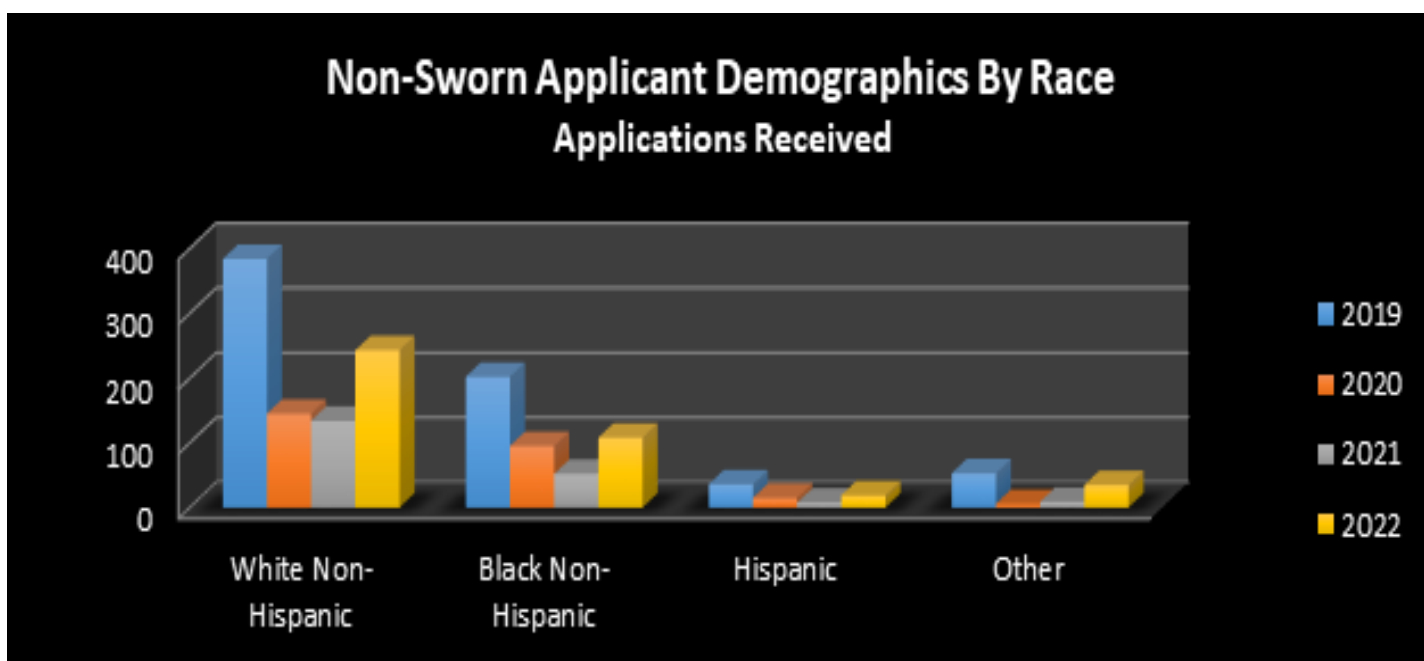


Non-Sworn Applicants

The total number of non-sworn applications received has drastically declined over the last four (4) years but has started to increase. A total of four hundred five (405) applications were received in 2022 compared to one hundred ninety-four (194) in 2021, which is a significant increase and above the four-year average of two hundred forty-two (242) applications per year.

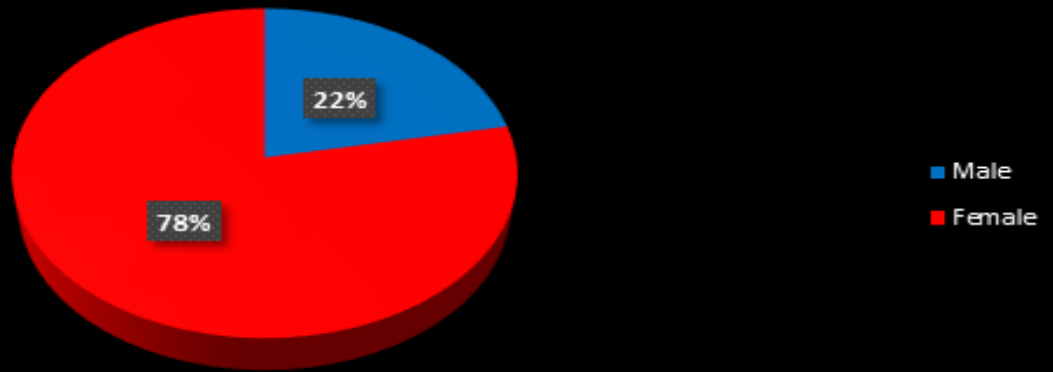


The total number of applications received for non-sworn positions has varied over the years but has decreased 40% over the last four (4) years. Additionally, the total applications for non-sworn positions in the Department have decreased 18% over the last decade. While the application process for non-sworn is slightly different than for sworn officers, the Department still requires a high level of skill, integrity, and professionalism. The increase in non-sworn applicants in 2022 is a promising indicator that recruiting and hiring efforts for non-sworn positions is on the rise.



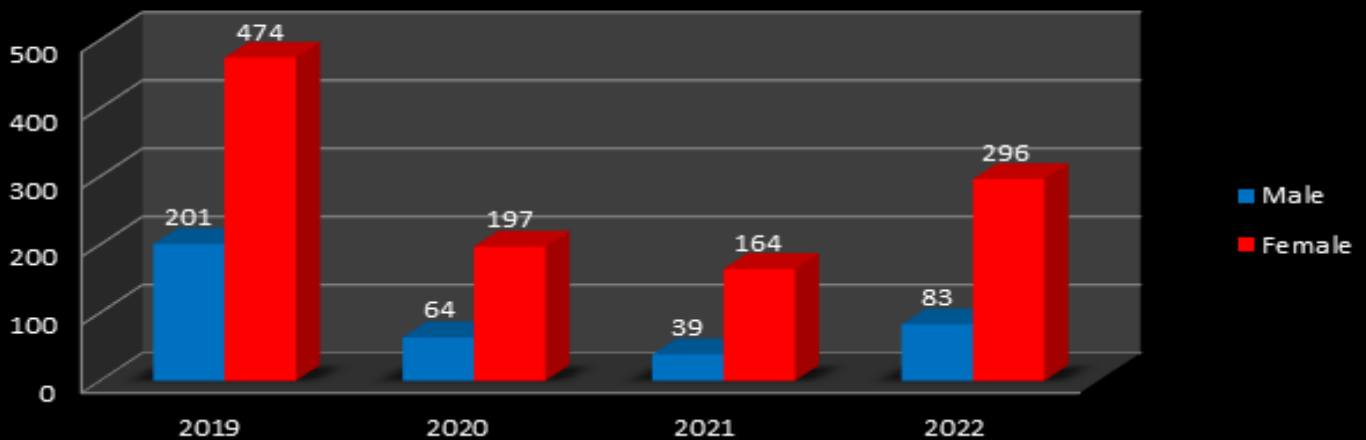
Most applications for non-sworn positions received by the Rock Hill Police Department were from white non-Hispanics. A total of two hundred forty-three (243) applications were received from white non-Hispanic males and females in 2022, which was 60% of the total applications. One hundred eight (108) applications were received from black non-Hispanics, which was 27% of the total applications received. Only 13% of the applications were from Hispanics and Other Races, which is the highest percentage of minority applicants in almost a decade. Continued recruiting minority applicants is necessary to further improve the overall diversity of the Department.

2022 Non-Sworn Applications Received By Sex



Females completed and returned the highest number of non-sworn applications. A total of two hundred ninety-six females completed applications for non-sworn employment at the Rock Hill Police Department in 2022, which was 78% of all applications received. Only eighty-three males, or 22% of applicants, completed applications during the same period. The difference between the genders has been consistent over the last four years and is comparable to other law enforcement agencies in our local area.

Non-Sworn Applicant Demographics By Gender Applications Received



The total number of non-sworn personnel vacancies has remained relatively low during the last four (4) years. However, several employees retired, and several new non-sworn positions were added to the Department, which increased our overall number of vacancies. In 2022, a total of sixteen (16) non-sworn personnel were hired.



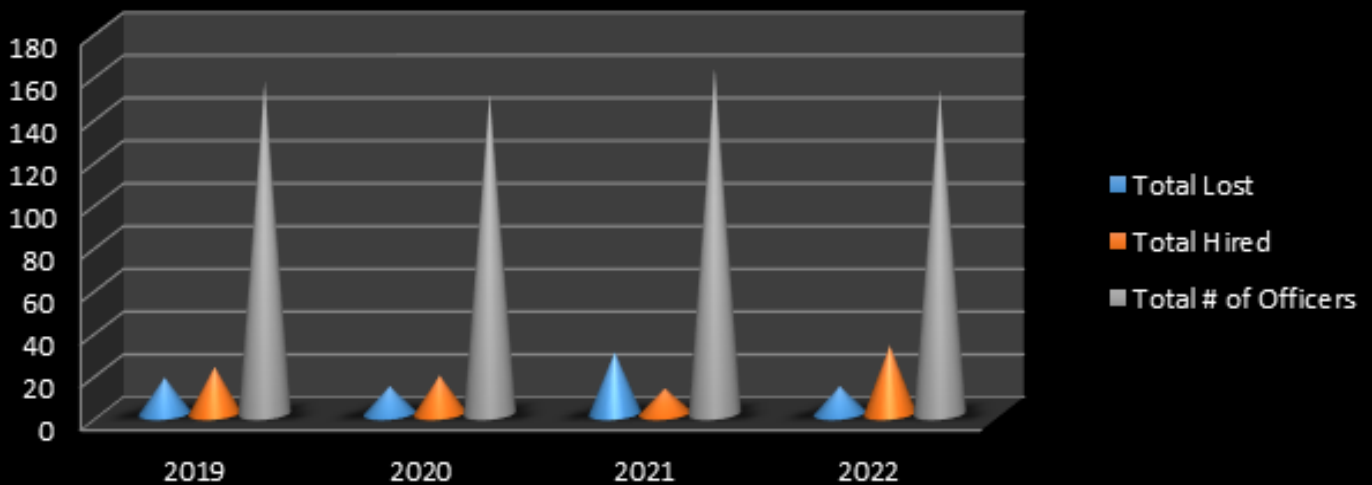
Five (5) Telecommunicators, five (5) Correctional Officers, and six (6) Support Staff were hired during the 2022 calendar year. Generally, Telecommunications hires the greatest number of non-sworn personnel. They make up the largest non-sworn unit in the Department and the turnover rate is much higher due to the nature of the position. There were several turnovers within the Correctional Officers as well. Further research into the cause will be completed if the trend continues into 2023. The department also added several new non-sworn support staff in 2022 to include a second Research Analyst, among others. It is anticipated that the number of non-sworn personnel hired in the upcoming year will decrease due to a higher retention rate among non-sworn personnel.



Retention

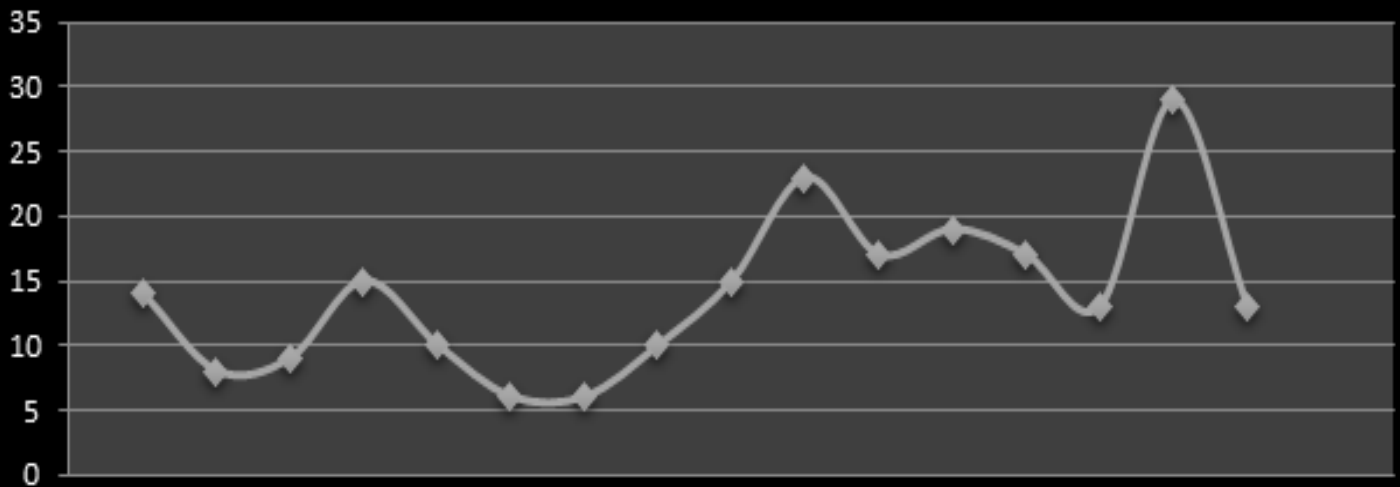
Retention of certified and trained personnel is always a challenge in any law enforcement agency. The total number of sworn personnel leaving the Rock Hill Police Department decreased by 55% in 2022. A total of thirteen (13) officers separated from the Department in 2022, compared to twenty-nine (29) in 2021.

RETENTION OF OFFICERS



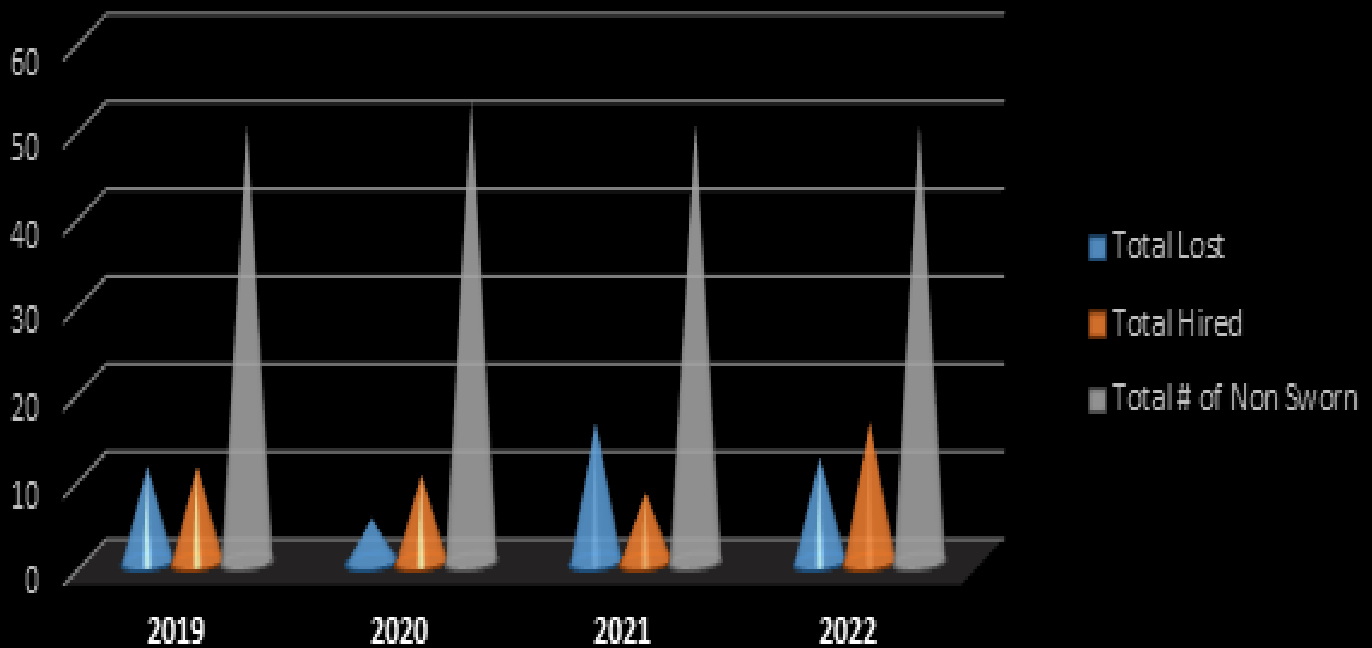
A total of 9% of all sworn officers resigned in 2022. The number of sworn officers resigning has continued to fluctuate over the last decade. Police officer's today have a negative societal connotation and the pressures placed upon them has increased, which has drastically affected the willingness of individuals to pursue law enforcement as a career. The younger generation of employees are in search of high paying jobs with fast promotional opportunities and do not find police work appealing.

Total Officers Lost



The total number of non-sworn personnel that have separated from the Rock Hill Police Department in 2022 decreased slightly compared to 2021. A total of twelve (12) non-sworn personnel separated from the Department in 2022, compared to sixteen (16) in 2021. Telecommunications had the highest number of separations, which is most likely due to the high stress nature of the position. In addition, several non-sworn employees retired throughout the year.

RETENTION OF NON-SWORN PERSONNEL



The Rock Hill Police Department experienced a gain in personnel during the 2022 calendar year. As is the case with most law enforcement agencies across the US, the RHPD is slowly rebuilding following several years of declining applications and being short staffed. Both sworn and non-sworn positions had a high turnover rate and several retirements in 2022. By the end of the year, there were ten (10) sworn and four (4) non-sworn vacancies.

Training

The Recruiting Officer and Internal Affairs Unit receive training in recruitment and personnel issues to include the following: federal and state compliance guidelines; recruitment needs; available career opportunities; salaries, benefits, training, and medical requirements; the selection process; characteristics that can disqualify candidates and cultural awareness concerning different ethnic groups and subcultures. Both the Training Supervisor and the Training Officer were filled with new officers and a non-sworn Training Administrator was added to the Training Unit. Additional training in recruiting, retention, and other training related courses is planned in the next year. The Department is also considering developing a Recruitment Team to be more efficient and consistent at recruiting events.

Process and Policy Review

The Rock Hill Police Department annually reviews all General Orders, to include General Order Chapter 31, Section #1.01 (Recruiting). The 2022 annual review of the Recruiting policy and procedures was conducted on April 11, 2022. The 2022 General Order Review found that the General Order remained relevant and practical as written. No policy or practice issues are found at this time.

Recommendations

The Rock Hill Police Department will continue to recruit the best qualified candidates using innovative recruiting and retention initiatives for both sworn and non-sworn personnel. A continued effort to recruit qualified minority officers will be the primary focus in 2022 to better represent the composition of the workforce population in our area. New ways to interact and recruit a younger generation of employees will also be explored to better communicate and relate to incoming applicants. In addition, the information contained within this report will be used to develop new incentives to aid in the retention of existing officers and non-sworn personnel to improve the overall personnel shortage. The current Recruiting Plan is sound, but efforts will be improved to ensure a more diverse pool of applicants. A continued focused effort to attract, hire, and retain personnel will remain a top priority within the Department. Current and future trends will continue to be closely monitored to identify potential underlying problems and establish best practices to enhance the recruiting program.

**Rock Hill Police Department
2022 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.

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 in order 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.

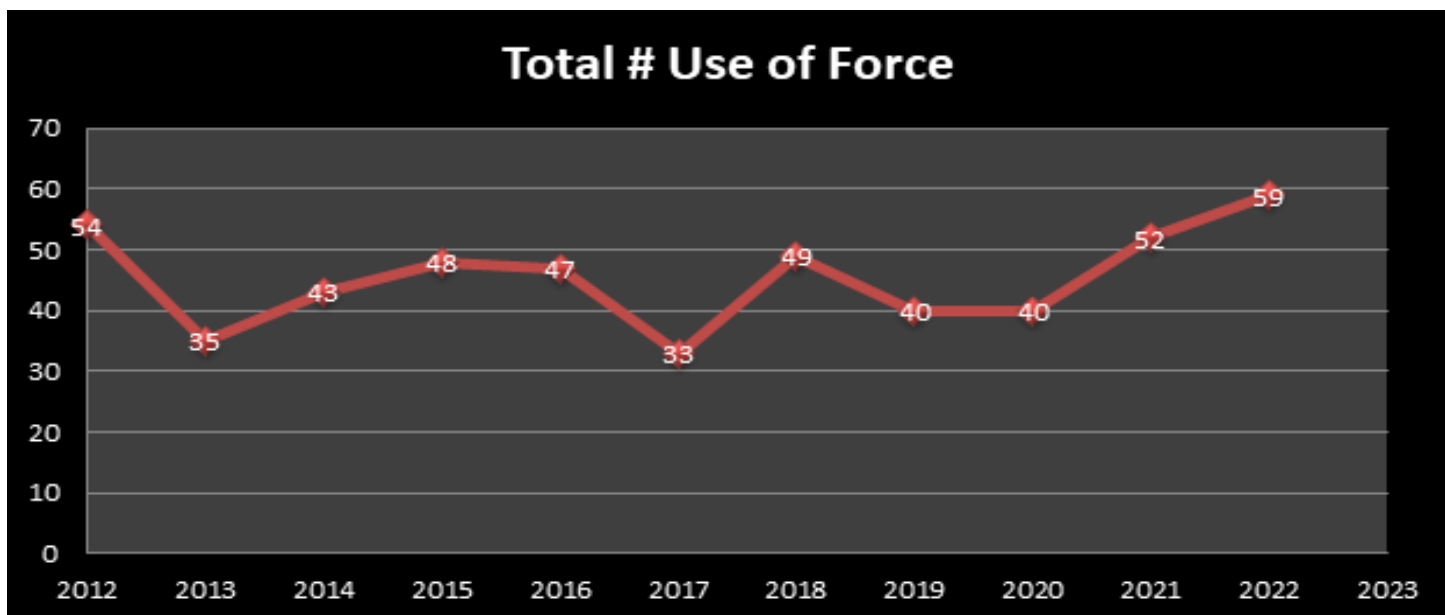
Lethal force is authorized when an officer reasonably believes that the action is in defense of human life in order to protect the officer or another person from serious injury or death and to prevent the escape of a fleeing felon who poses a significant threat to human life. Officers are prohibited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

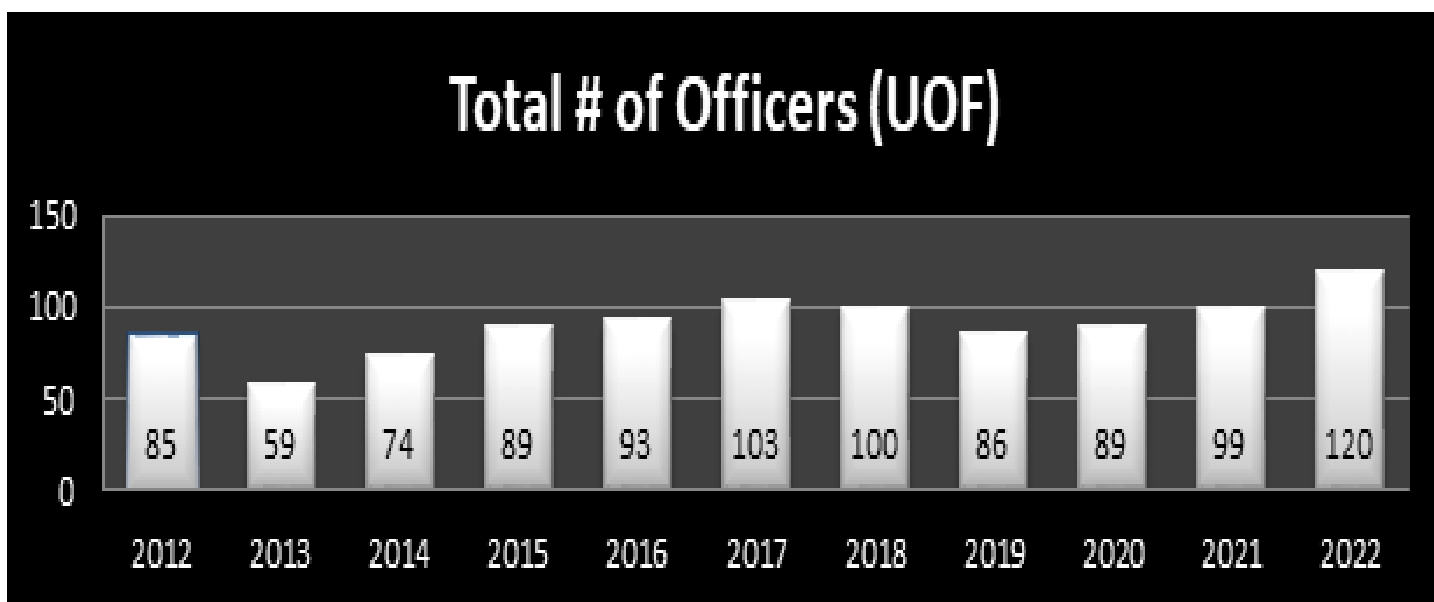
Every Use of Force incident is documented in a Department Blue Team Report, submitted through the chain of command, and required whether the officer is on or off duty. All Blue Team Use of Force entries are reviewed for compliance with federal laws, state laws, and Department issued General Orders. An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

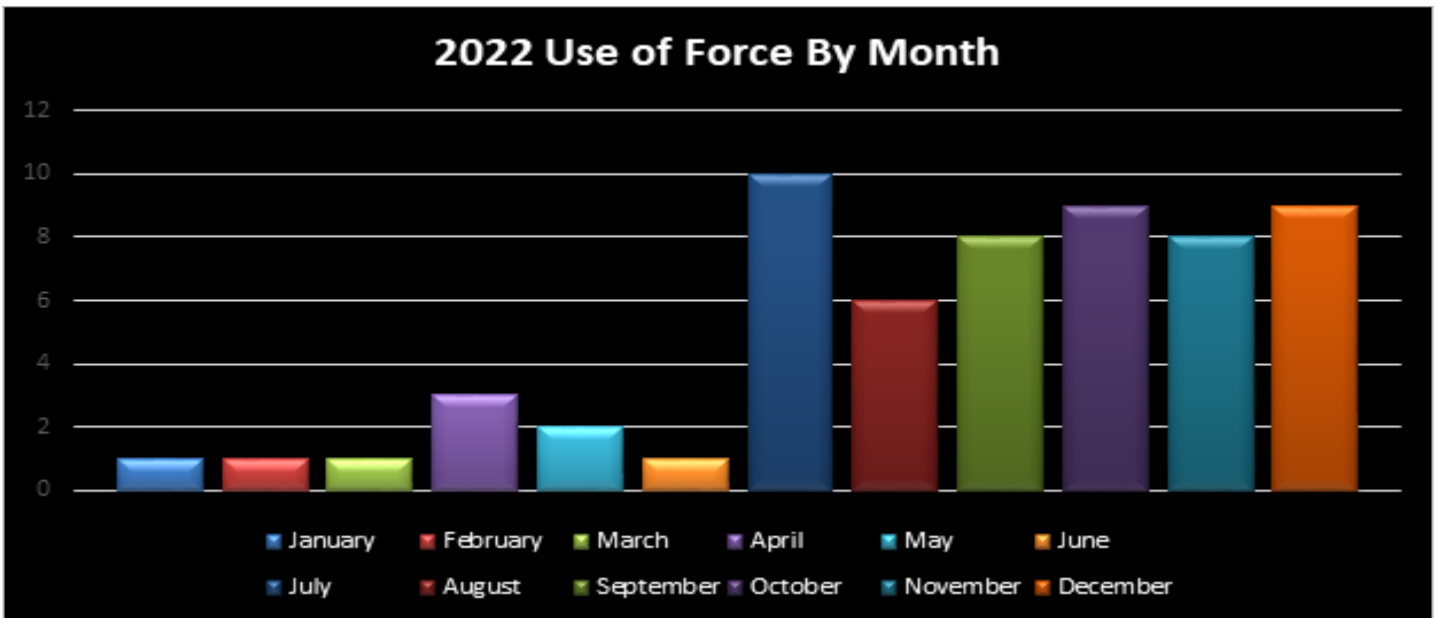
The Rock Hill Police Department responded to 78,889 total calls for service between January 1 and December 31, 2022. A total of 3,271 individuals were arrested during this period. Out of the total number of calls for service, one hundred fifty-two (152) Rock Hill Police Department officers reported fifty-nine (59) uses of force incidents. Of these, only 0.07% of all total incidents were involved in a use of force. This number is extremely low for a department of our size.



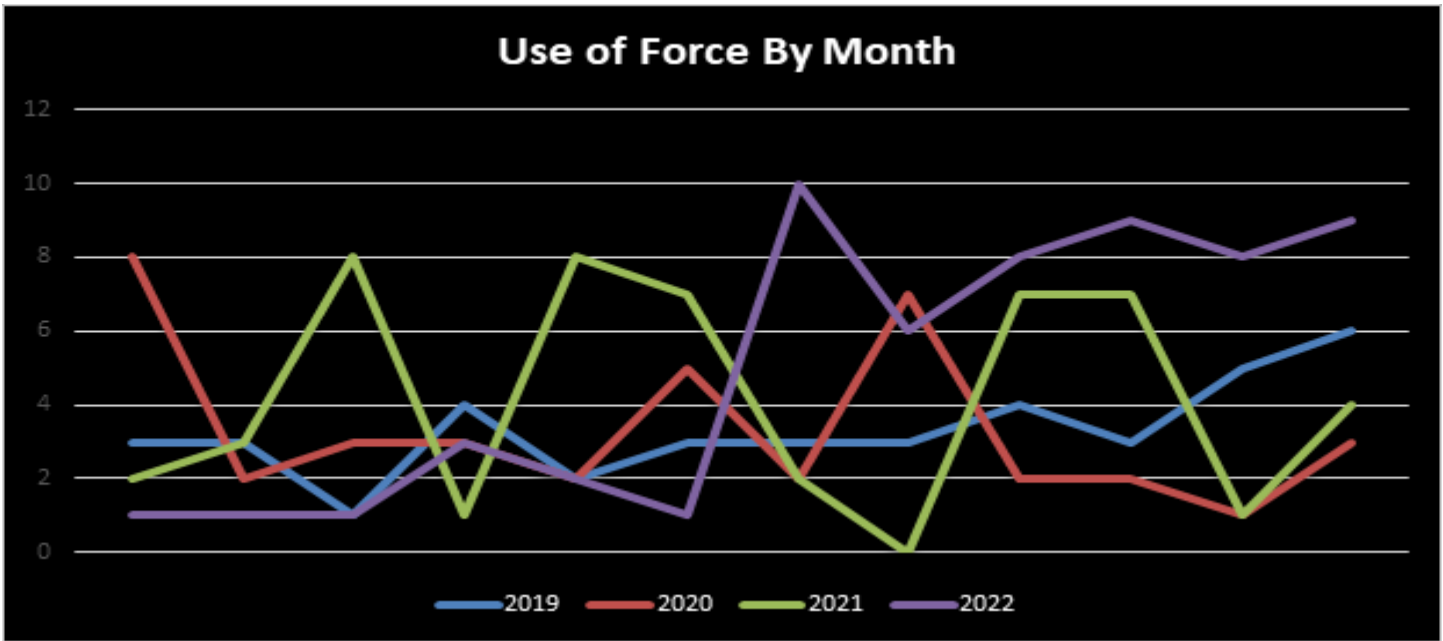
The total number of use of force incidents increased by 13% in 2022. The Department has averaged 47.75 use of force incidents over the last four years. The total number of uses of force has increased by 48% over the last four (4) years.



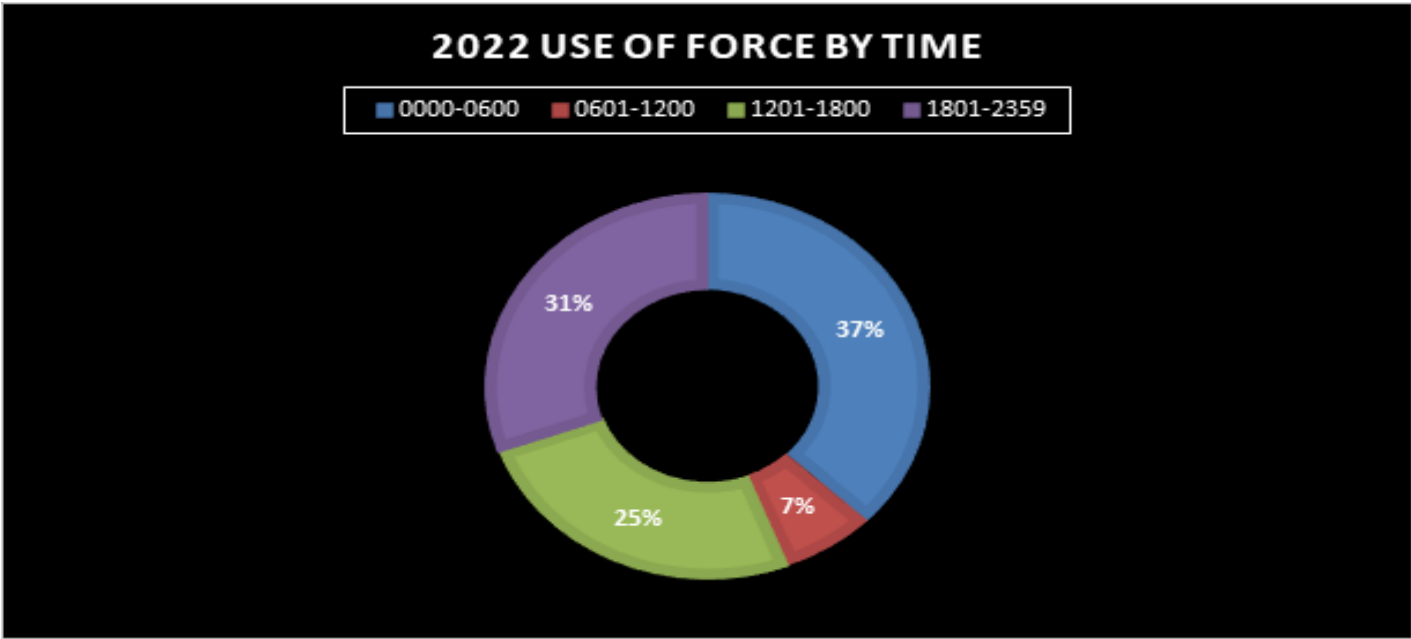
A total of one hundred twenty (120) officers were involved in Use of Force incidents in 2022, compared to ninety-nine (99) in 2021 which is a 21% increase. The total number of officers involved in Use of Force incidents has increased in the last four (4) years. However, the total number of officers employed by the RHPD has also increased. It should also be noted that in some incidents, there were multiple types of force used and more than one officer involved in an individual reported use of force. The increase in 2022 is most likely due to the current negative social climate towards law enforcement. Many individuals still have a strong distrust and fear of law enforcement which leads to more resistance during interactions.



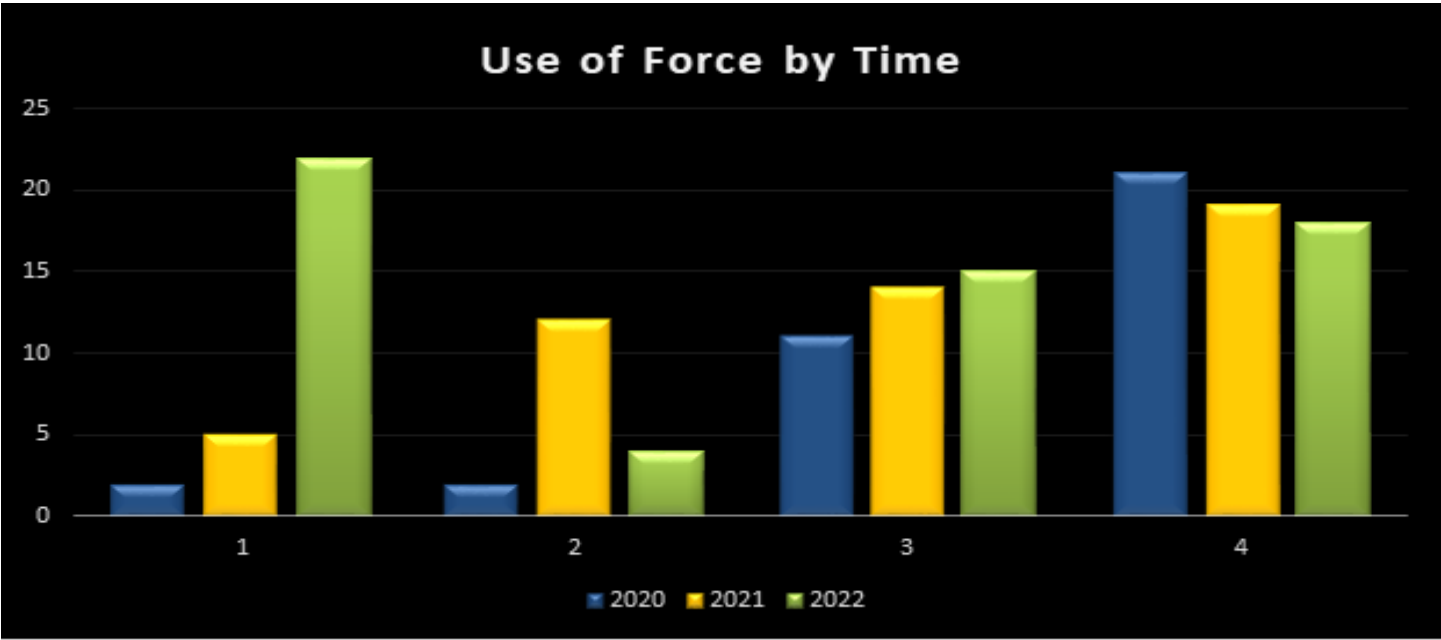
The Rock Hill Police Department experienced use of force incidents during each month of 2022. An average of five (5) use of force incidents were reported by officers each month throughout the year. July had the most incidents for the month. A total of ten (10) UOF incidents occurred in July, followed by nine (9) in both October and December. There was only (1) use of force incidents during the months of January through March and June.



There were peaks of use of force incidents during the late summer through the winter months. Both 2020 and 2021 had a spike in use of force incidents during Spring and Summer, which is when officers tend to have more individual contacts due to better weather. Data prior to 2019 was not collected so a long-term trend cannot be determined at this time. However, based on available data the spring and summers are the periods with the most use of force incidents.

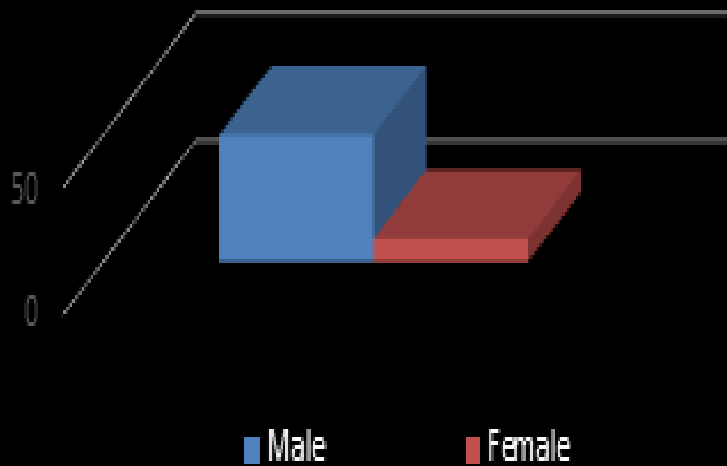


The period between 0000-0600 (12 am – 6 am) experienced the most use of force incidents in 2022, followed by 1801-2359 (6 pm to midnight). A total of twenty-two (22) use of force incidents occurred between midnight and 6 am, which was 37% of all incidents reported in 2022. This trend is similar to the number of calls for service that the Department receives on the average day. The hours of 0600-1200 have the least number of use of force reports. Most likely this is due to most individuals sleeping during this time.



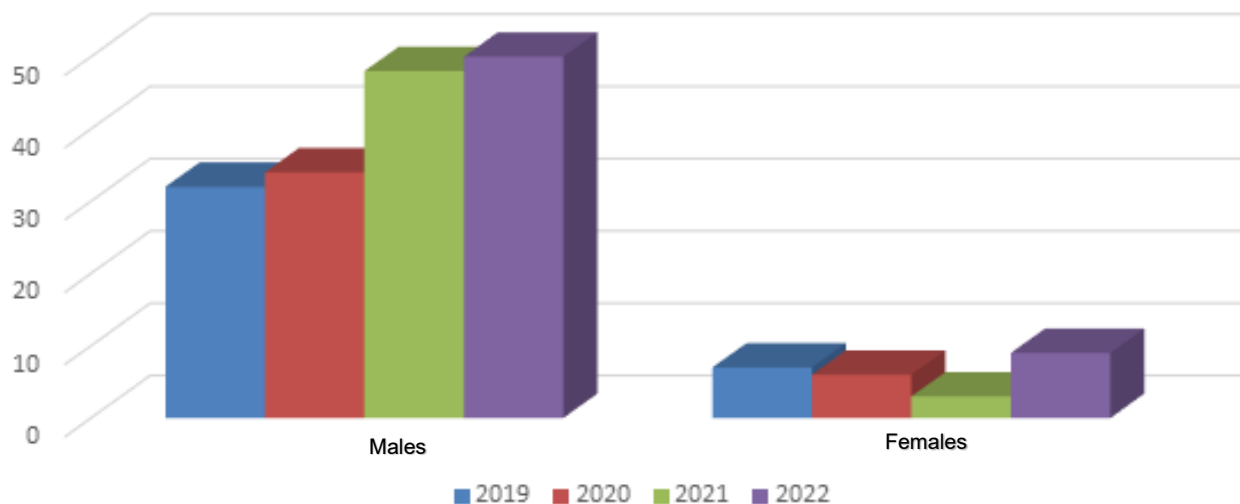
The hours of 0000 – 0600 experienced the biggest change in 2022 compared to 2021. There were only two (2) use of force incidents in 2020 compared to twenty-two (22) in 2022 during the hours of 12 midnight to 6 am. Trends indicate that the likelihood of use of force incidents increase the later in the evening it gets. The population was not as mobile and visible during 2020 compared to 2022. Data prior to 2019 was not collected so a long-term trend cannot be determined at this time.

2022 Use of Force By Gender



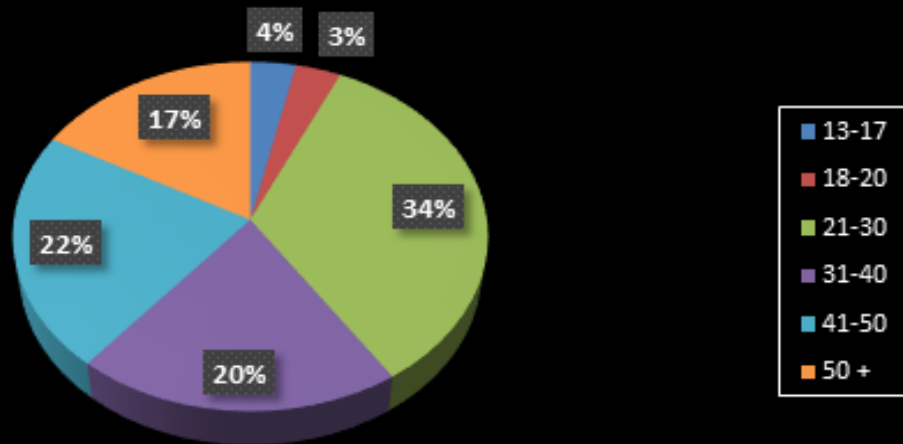
Most of the use of force incidents involve males. A total of fifty (50) males (85%) were involved in use of force incidents during the 2022 calendar year. In comparison, there were only nine (9) (15%) females involved in use of force incidents during the same time frame. The number of male and female use of force results are similar to the demographics for arrests during the period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

UOF Suspect By Gender



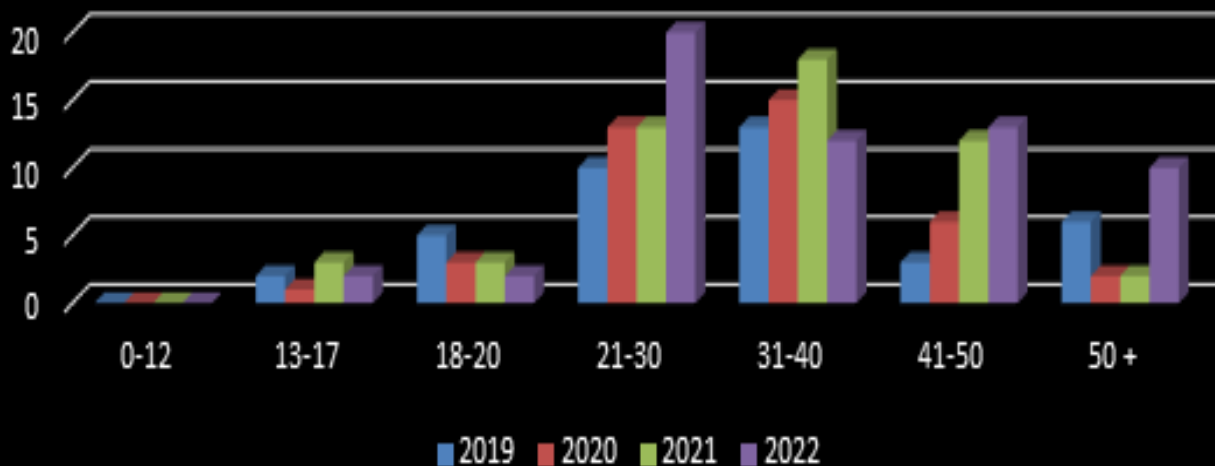
The total of males and females involved in use of force incidents increased in 2022 compared to 2021. The total number of males in use of force incidents increased by 4% while the total number of females more than doubled. Historically, males are more physical when interacting with law enforcement than females. However, females have become more resistant to arrest recently. Data prior to 2019 was not collected so a long-term trend cannot be determined at this time.

2022 Use of Force By Age



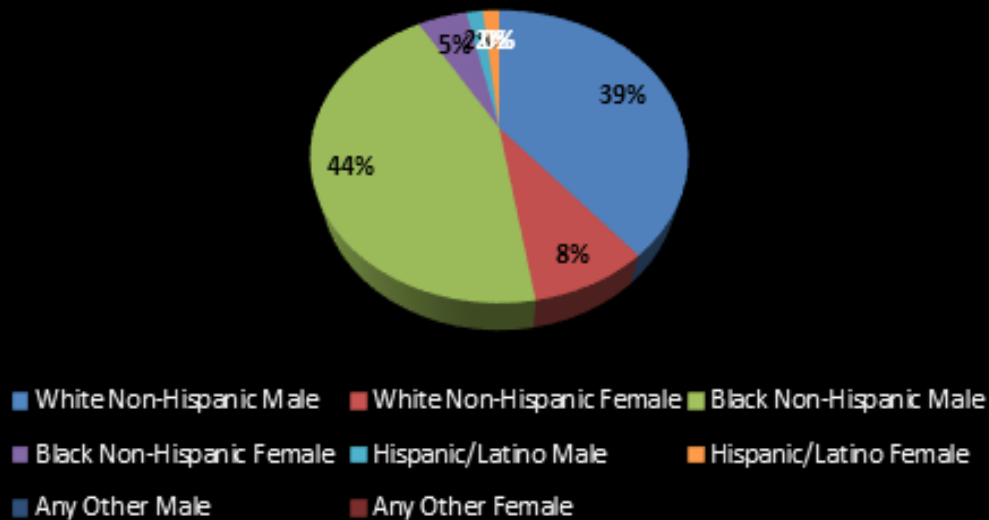
Young adult men and women were the highest age group involved in use of force incidents in 2022. A total of twenty (20) individuals aged 21-30 were involved in uses of force during the 2022 calendar year. This is a 54% increase in this age group compared to 2021. These demographics mirror the ages of most of the criminal offenders within the Rock Hill Police Department's jurisdiction.

UOF Suspect by Age Group



Men and women aged 21-30, 41-50, and 50 and over experienced increases in use of force incidents. Those individuals 50 and over experienced a significant increase during the 2022 calendar year. It is difficult to determine the cause of the increase due to data not being collected on age and gender prior to 2019. Additional data in the future is necessary to determine if there is an emerging trend.

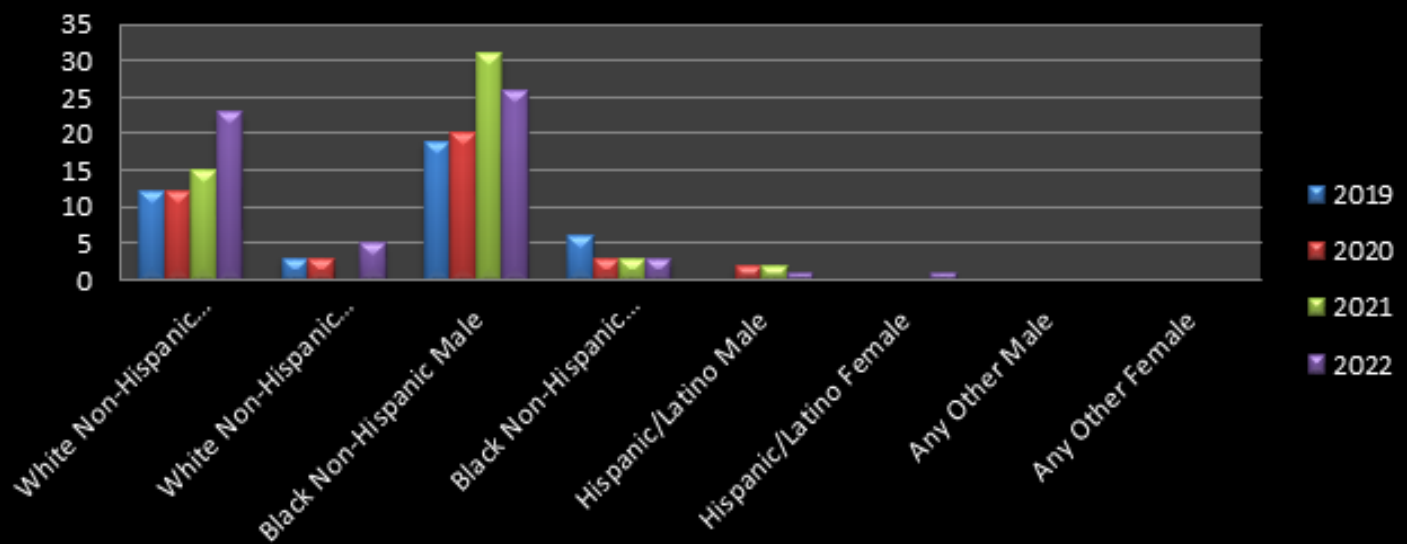
2022 Use of Force By Race/Sex



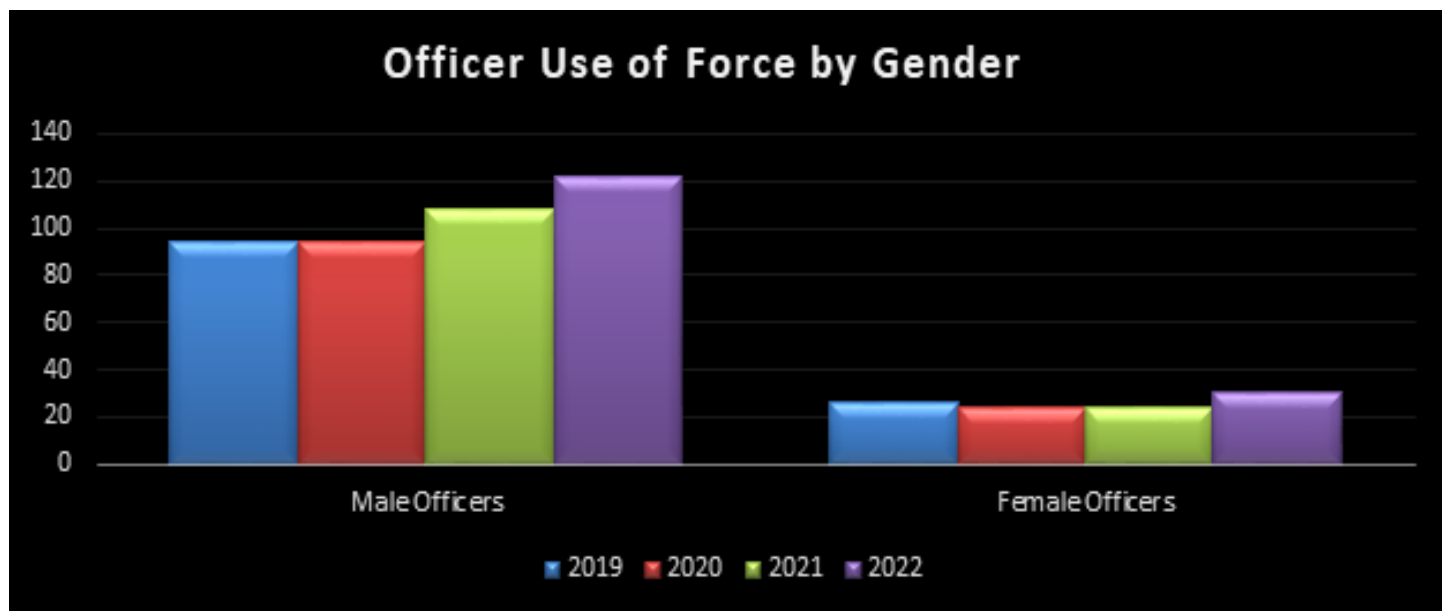
As stated earlier, a total of fifty-nine (59) individuals were involved in use of force incidents with Rock Hill Police Department officers in 2022, which is a 16% increase compared to 2021. Black non-Hispanic males made up the highest percentage of individuals involved in use of force incidents during the 2022 calendar year. Twenty-six (26) black males (61% total) were involved in use of force incidents in 2022 compared to thirty-one (31) in 2021 which is a 16% decrease.

White males experienced an increase in the number of use of force incidents during the 2022 calendar year. Twenty-three (23) white males (39% total) were involved in incidents where force was used in 2022 compared to Fifteen (15) in 2021 resulting in a 53% increase. In addition, five (5) white females were also involved in use of force incidents in 2022, which is an increase. One (1) Hispanic/Latino male and one (1) Hispanic/Latino female were involved in use of force incidents in 2022.

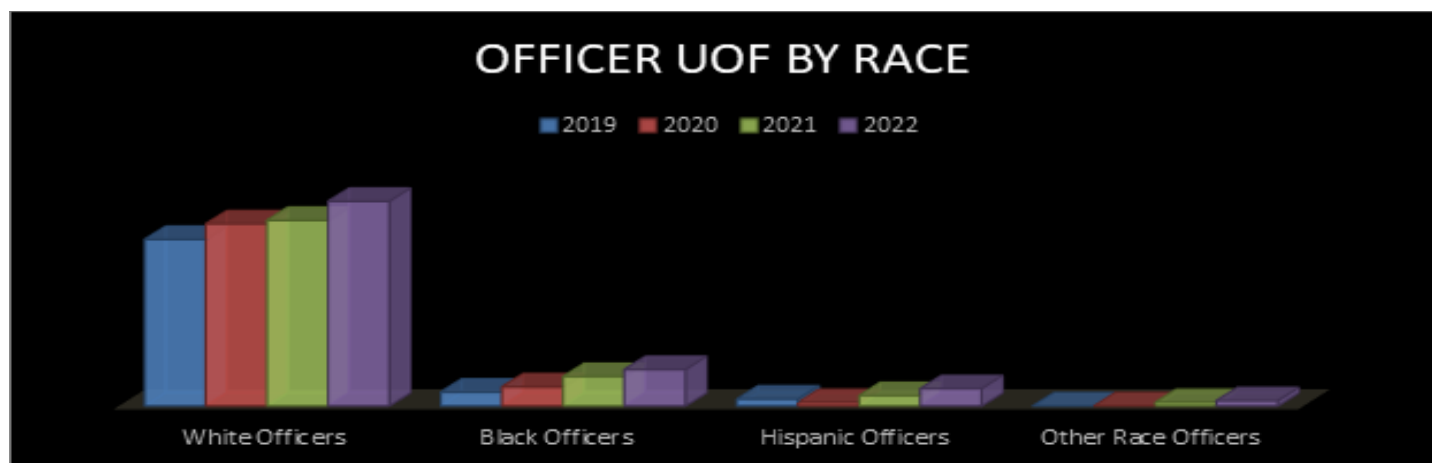
Use of Force by Race/Gender



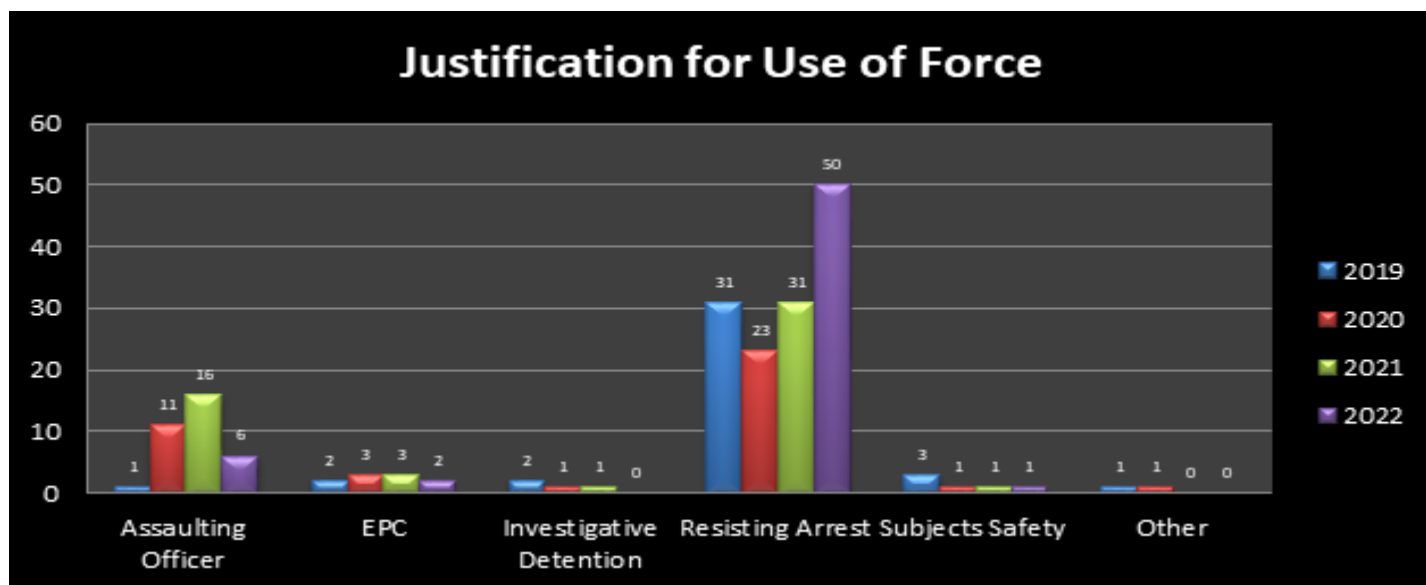
Use of force incidents involving black males appears to have peaked over the last four (4) years. Black males involved in use of force incidents with Rock Hill Police Department officers has increased by 94% when compared to 2018 (16 total). Black males have the highest arrest rate within Rock Hill Police Departments jurisdiction. It is unclear if there is a trend in white male and female use of force incidents at this time. The current mistrust of law enforcement has greatly influenced the tendency for individuals to resist arrest which increases the likelihood of use of force incidents. The Department and the citizens of Rock Hill must work together to build public trust to reduce the number of use of force incidents in the community.



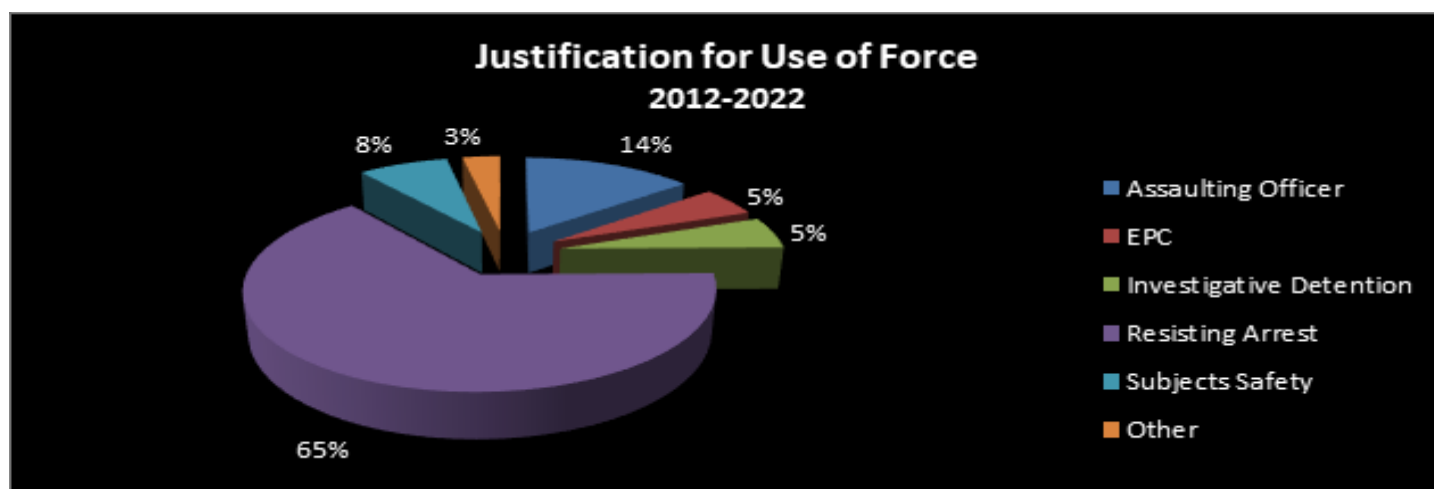
Based on data collected for 2022, white non-Hispanic male officers have the most use of force incidents. Eighty-three (83) white male officers were involved in fifty-nine (59) use of force incidents (70%) during the 2022 calendar year. Black non-Hispanic male officers were involved in nine (9) use of force incidents, which equated to 7% overall. White non-Hispanic females were involved in 19% (22 total) use of forces compared to two (2) black non-Hispanic female officers (2% overall). Two (2) Hispanic/Latino male officers and zero (0) Hispanic/Latino female officers were involved in use of force incidents during the 2022 calendar year.



In addition, no male or female officers of any other race were involved in use of force incidents during the same period. White non-Hispanic male and female officers used force during arrests more often compared to black non-Hispanic male and female officers. The total number of use of force incidents by white non-Hispanic males and females is comparable to the number of employed white non-Hispanic officers, which would correlate to the higher number of incidents based on race.

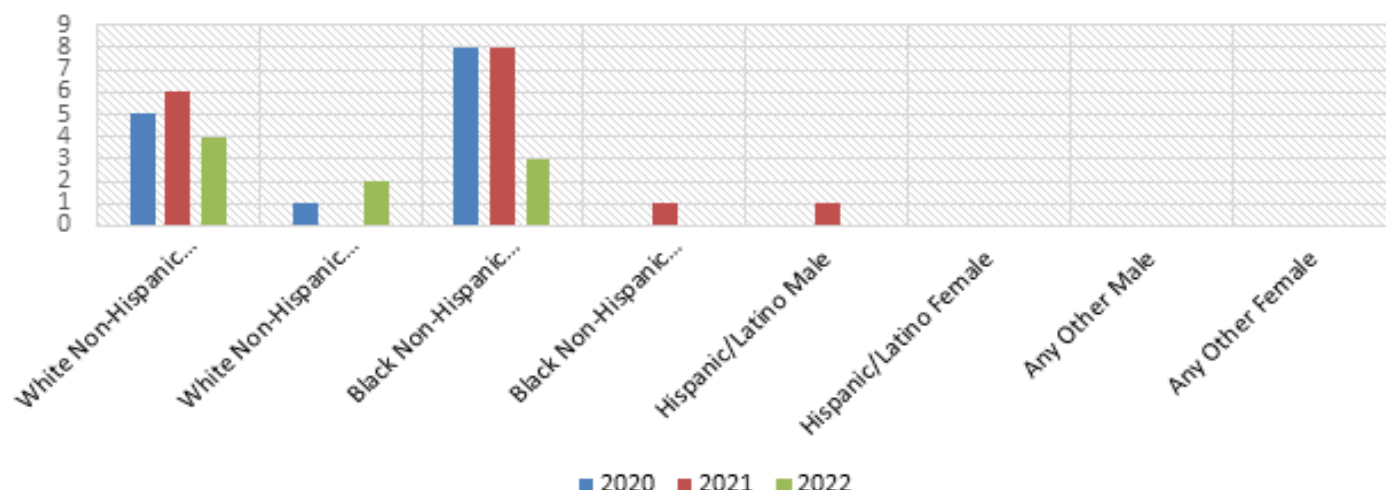


Resisting Arrest is the most common justification for use of force by the Rock Hill Police Department. In 2022, 85% of all use of force incidents were a result of Resisting Arrest. The same holds true for the last ten (10) years – 65% of all use of force incidents reported in 2012 through 2022 were due to Resisting Arrest. Resisting Arrest use of force incidents increased from thirty-one (31) in 2019 to fifty (50) in 2022 which is a significant increase over a short time. The current negative perception of law enforcement is most likely the reason for the increases over the last several years.



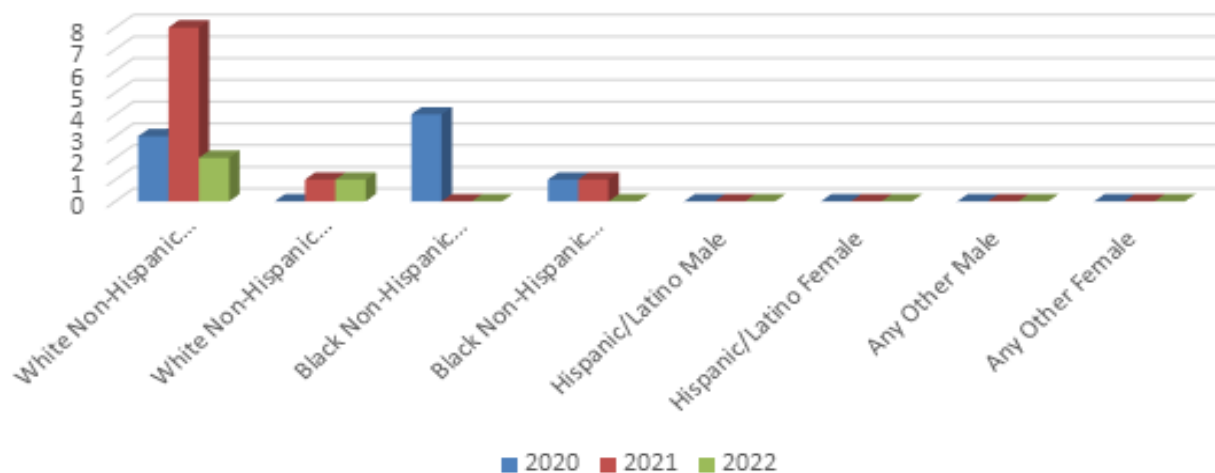
Beginning in 2020, the Rock Hill Police Department began collecting information on use of force injuries and officer assaults. The RHPD has been fortunate that there have been relatively few injuries during use of force incidents.

Suspect Non-Fatal UOF Injuries

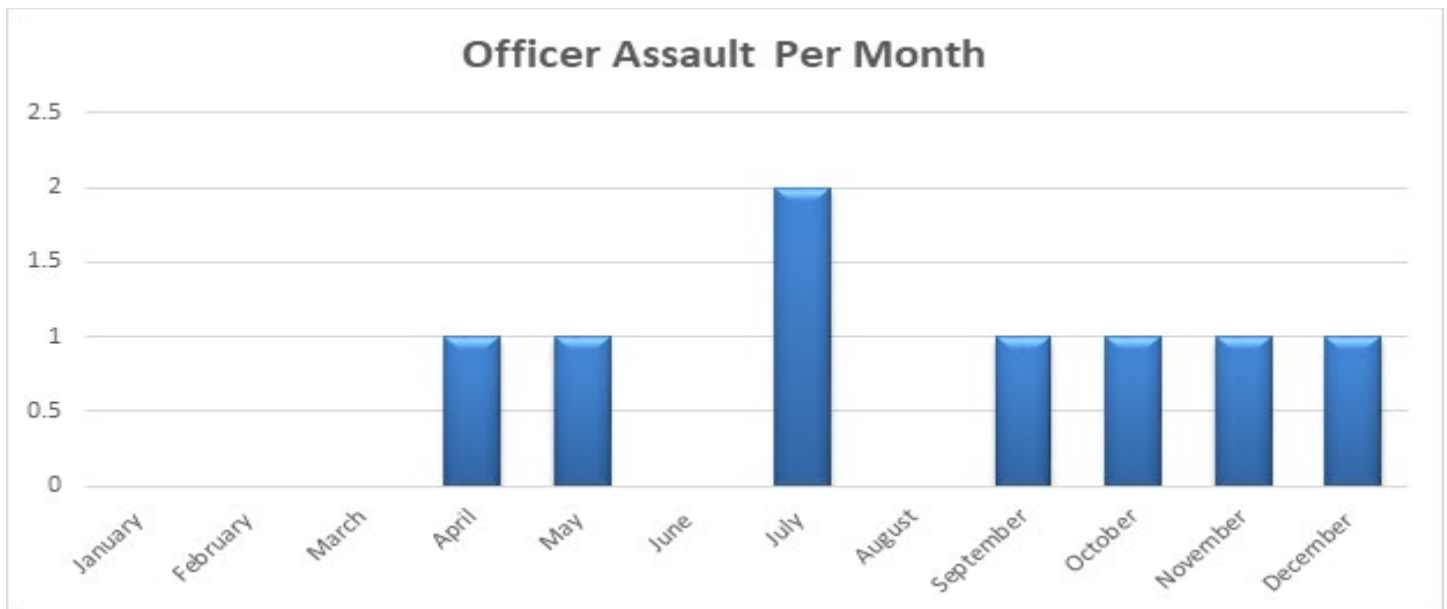


Injuries sustained during use of force incidents decreased for all genders and races in 2022, which illustrates improvement in de-escalation techniques. A total of 15% of all use of force incidents sustained injuries. White non-Hispanic males sustained more injuries compared to black non-Hispanic males in 2022. However, injuries by black males decreased by 63% in 2022 compared to 2021. Injuries to females of all races is very low historically. There were no serious injuries or fatalities to any suspects during the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. All injuries were treated by medical personnel in a timely manner.

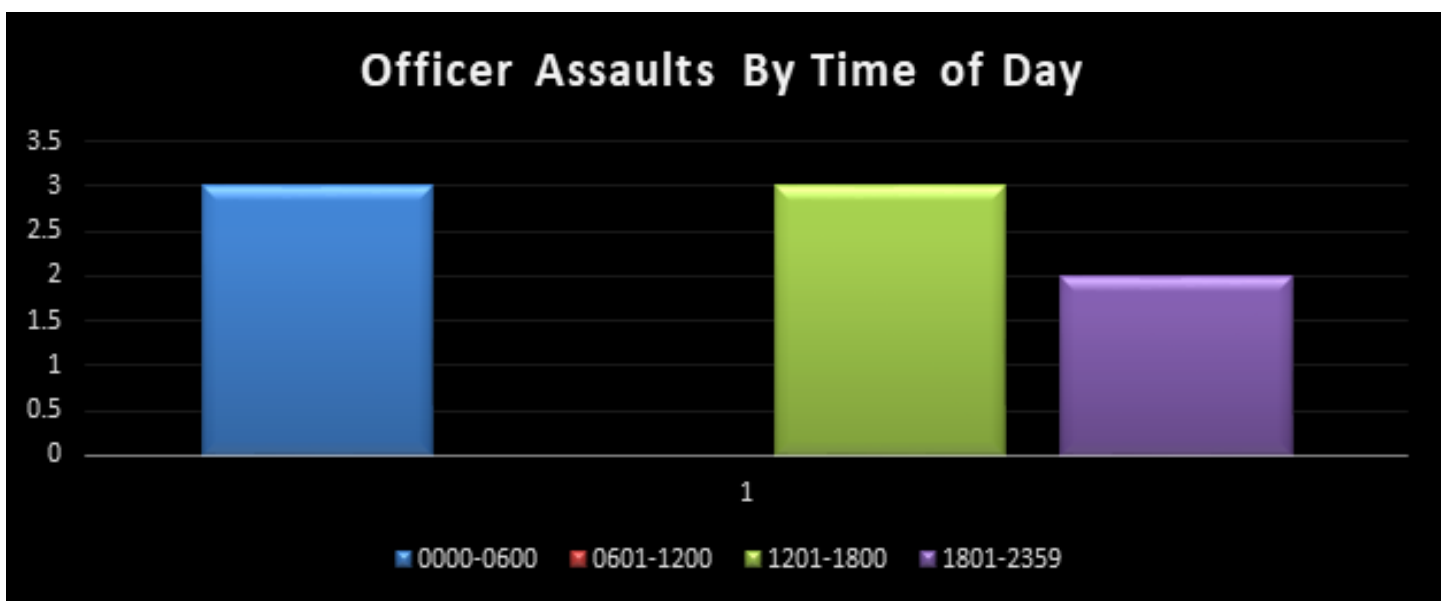
Officer Non-Fatal UOF Injuries



A total of three (3) officers were injured in use of force incidents during the 2022 calendar year. No officers have been seriously injured or killed over the last three years. The low number of officer injuries clearly 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, 2022, and December 31, 2022, compared to sixteen (16) during the same period of 2021. Two (2) officers were assaulted during the month of July, which was the highest month of the year. Officers also experienced assaults during the months of April, May, September, October, November, and December. No assaults were reported in the months of January, February, March, June, and August. Out of one hundred fifty-two (152) officers, 5% were assaulted during the 2022 calendar year.



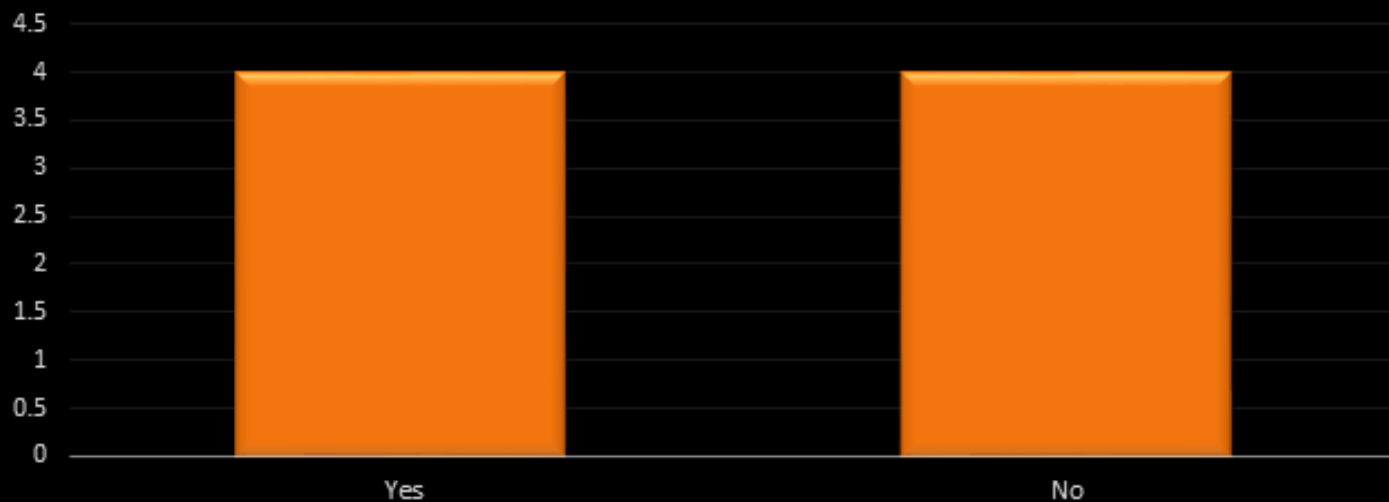
Officer assaults occurred during all hours, except during the period of 6 am to noon during the 2022 calendar year. There were fewer assaults during the hours of 1801 – 2359 (6 pm to midnight). Two (2) officers assaults occurred during this time period. The time periods of 0000-0600 (midnight to 6 am) and 1201 - 1800 (noon to 6 pm) both experienced three (3) officer assaults during these time periods. Based on current information, officers are assaulted more often during the late night/early morning hours and early afternoon hours.

2022 Officer Assaults Call Type

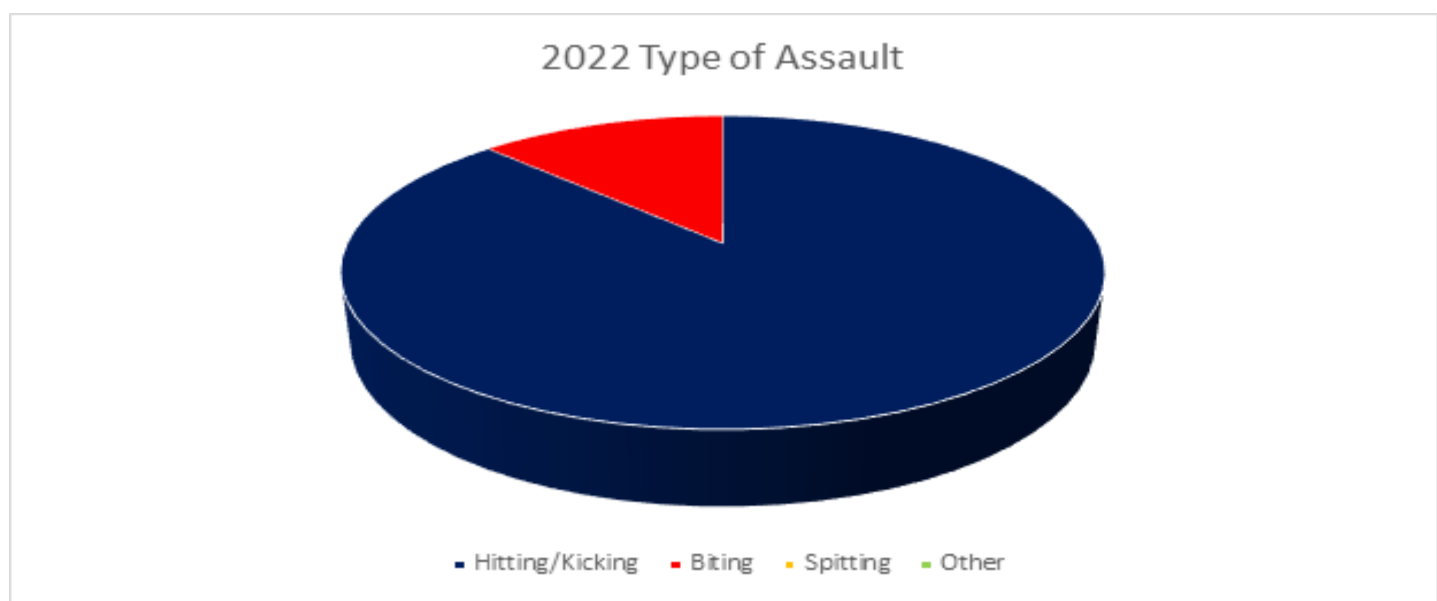


Most officer assaults were in response to misdemeanor incidents. A total of seven (7) assaults to officers were for misdemeanor charges, compared to one (1) felony charge in the 2022 calendar year. Half (50%) of all individuals who committed an assault on an officer had prior criminal history. Individuals are assaulting officers more frequently for lesser charges, which supports resisting arrest data.

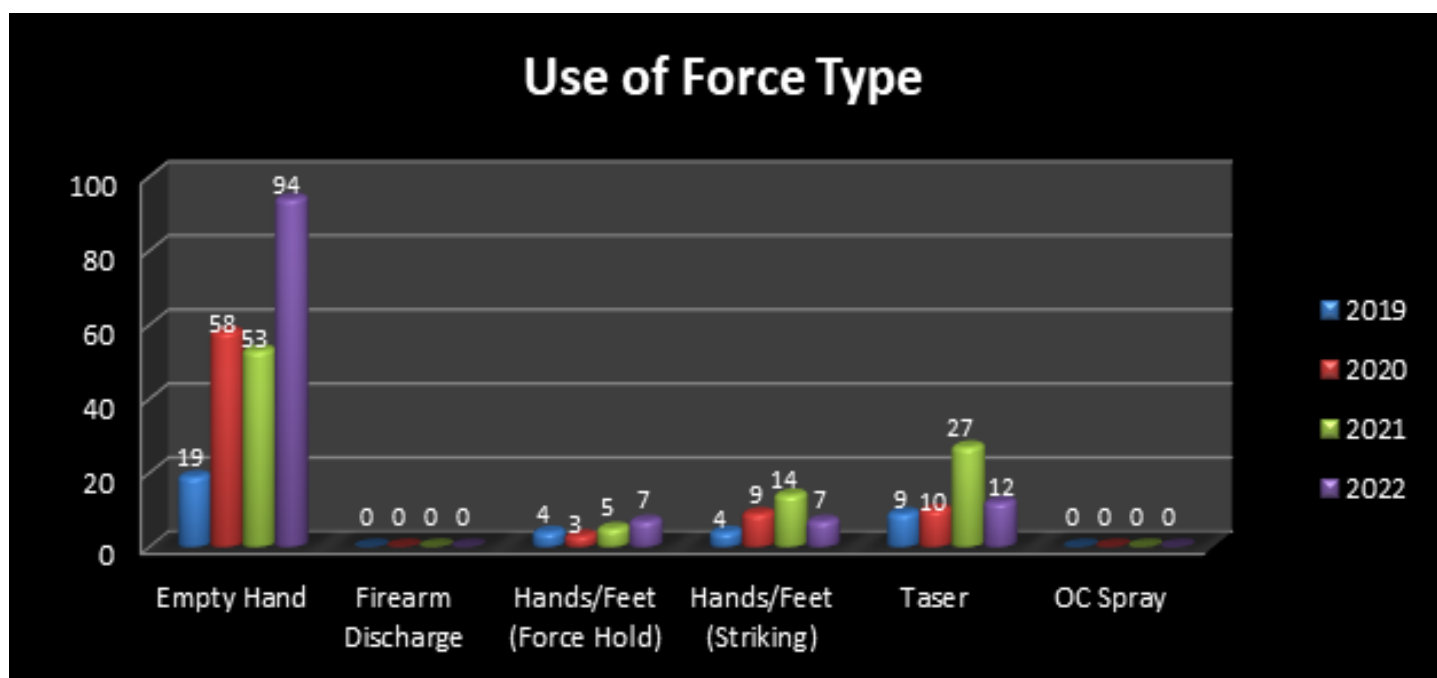
2022 Officer Assault Suspect Prior History



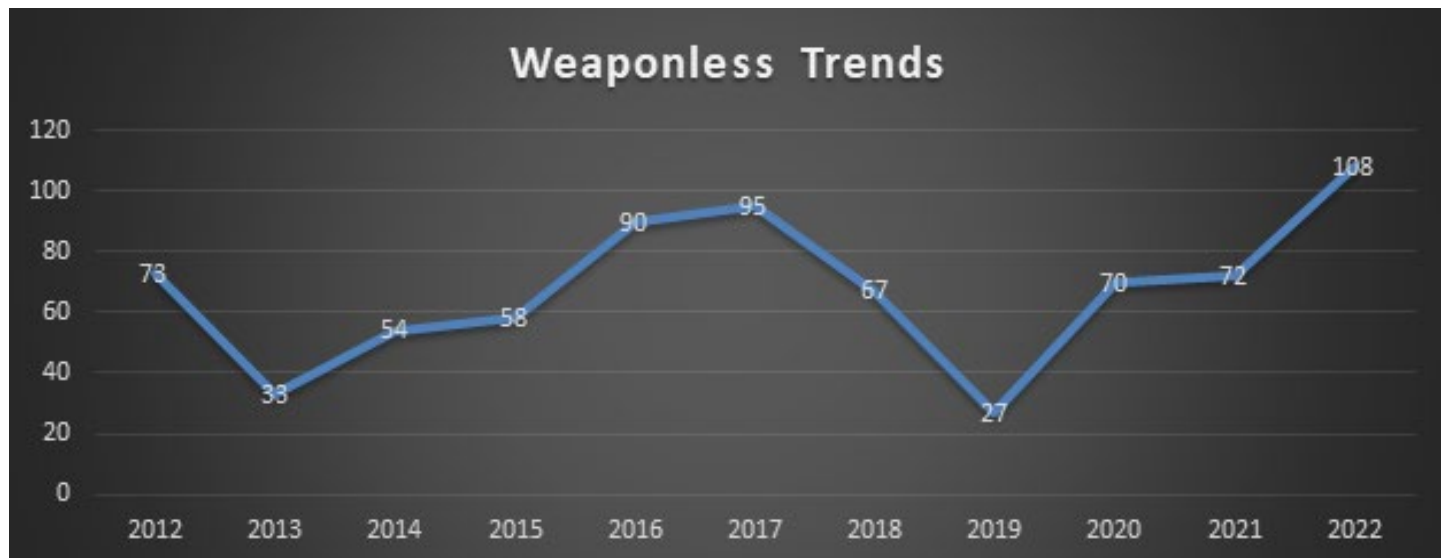
None of the assaults on officers involved a weapon. A total of 88%, or seven (7) officers were hit or kicked during officer assaults. There was also one (1) assault involving biting. Fortunately, none of the officer assaults escalated into a serious incident and no one was seriously hurt. Based on the lower number of officer assaults in 2022, it is evident that Rock Hill Police Department officers have used de-escalation training to aid in defusing most situations.



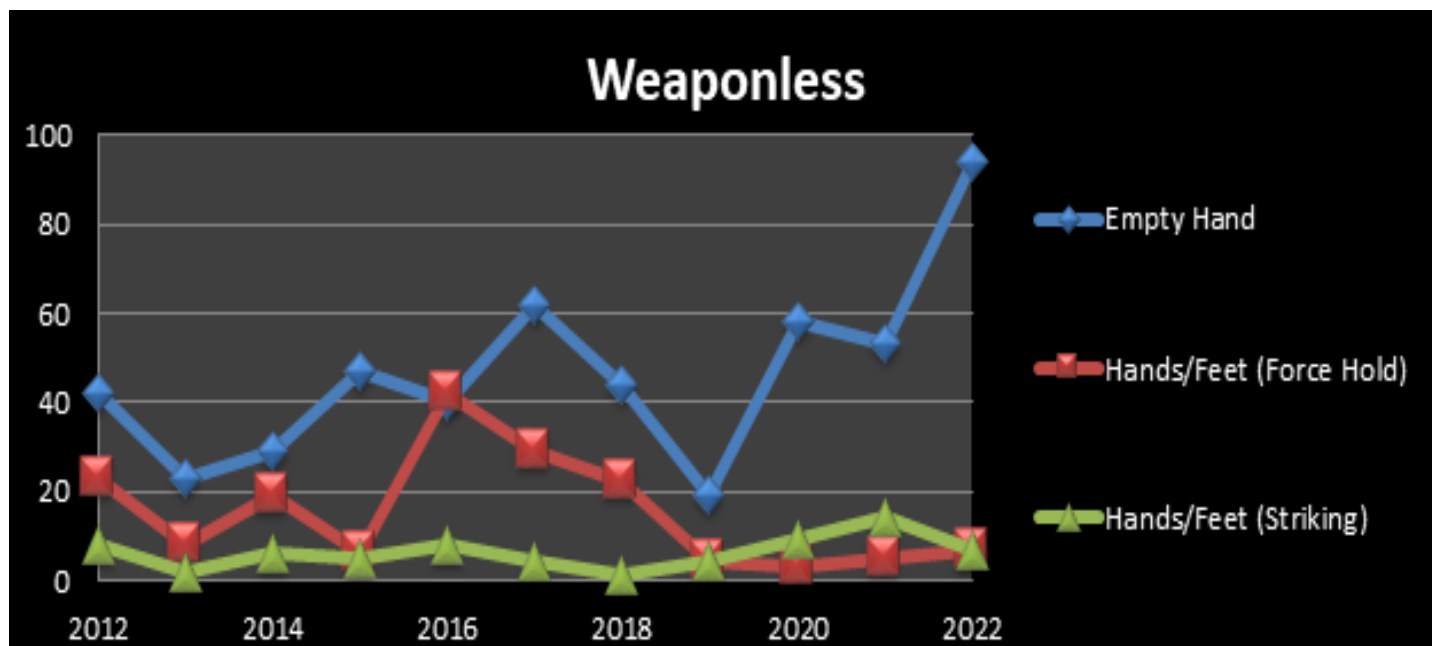
The most common use of force type used by Rock Hill Police Department officers was Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques, followed by the use of Tasers. The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques constituted 78% of all use of force types utilized in 2022. Taser use of force equaled 10% percent of all reported uses of force during the same period. There was no use of force incidents involving the Discharge of a Firearm or OC Spray. Rock Hill Police Department officers are not issued Batons.



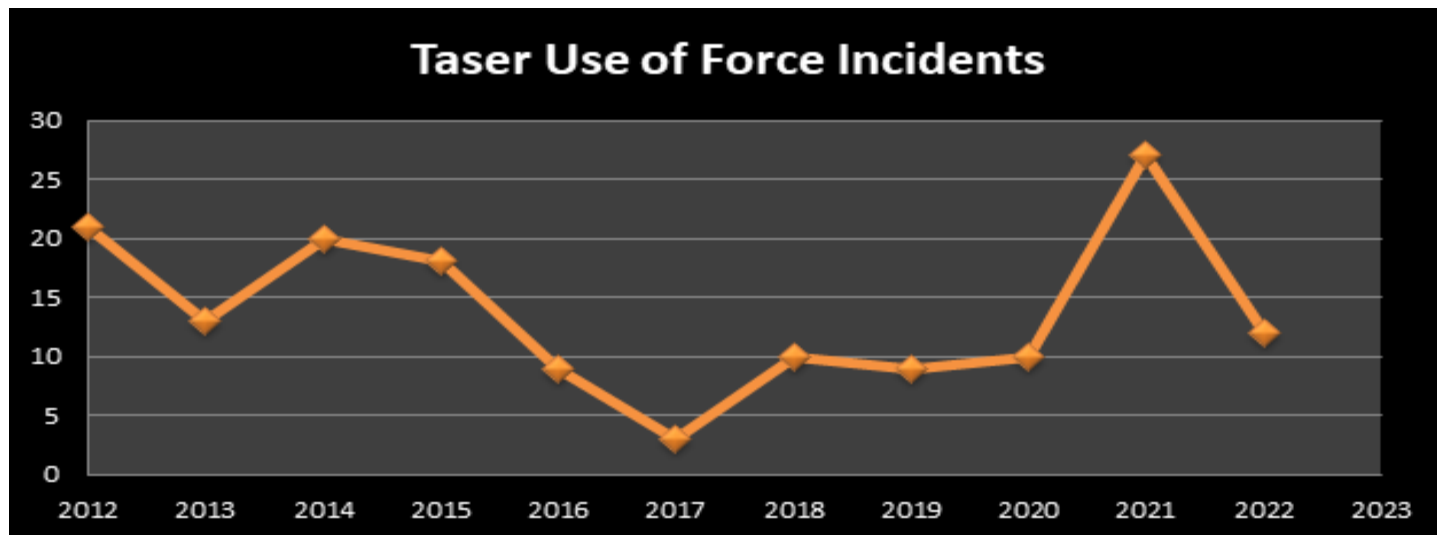
Weaponless use of force techniques utilized by the Rock Hill Police Department include Empty Hand, Hands/Feet (Force Hold) and Hands/Feet (Striking). The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand techniques during use of force incidents increased 50% in 2022 compared to 2021. The use of Weaponless/Empty Hand use of force has varied since 2012 but has remained the most used form of use of force by officers. The high use of Weaponless use of force techniques illustrates that officers are properly utilizing de-escalation techniques in most incidents. Based on past trends, it is expected that Weaponless use of force will continue to increase in the future.



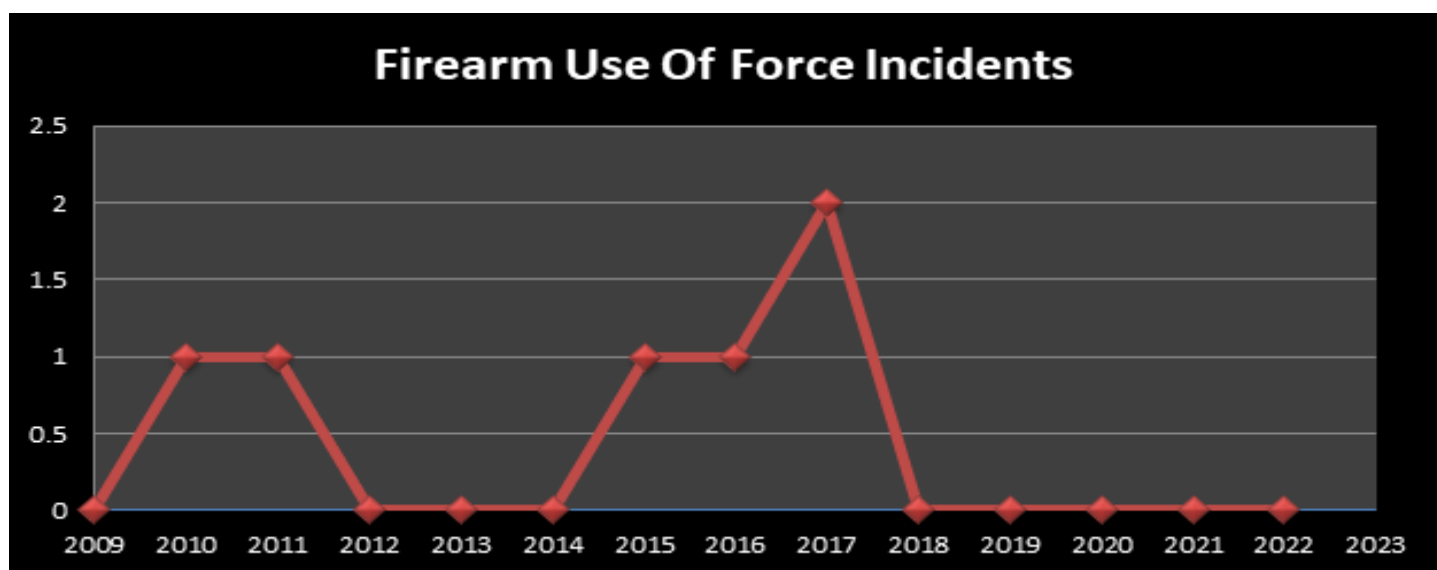
Empty Hand use of force continues to be the most used technique by Rock Hill Police Department officers. It was used ninety-four (94) times during the 2022 calendar year and has been used five hundred eleven (511) times during the last four years (2019-2022). The use of Empty Hand techniques during use of force incidents increased 77% (94 incidents in 2022 compared to 53 in 2021). The use of Hands/Feet (Force Hold) decreased 40% in 2022 compared to 2021 (7 in 2022 compared to 12 in 2021). The use of Hands/Feet (Striking) decreased by 50% from fourteen (14) in 2021 to seven (7) in 2022.



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, use of force principles, and response to resistance as taught by Department instructors as illustrated by the high number of weaponless use of force incidents compared to other methods.

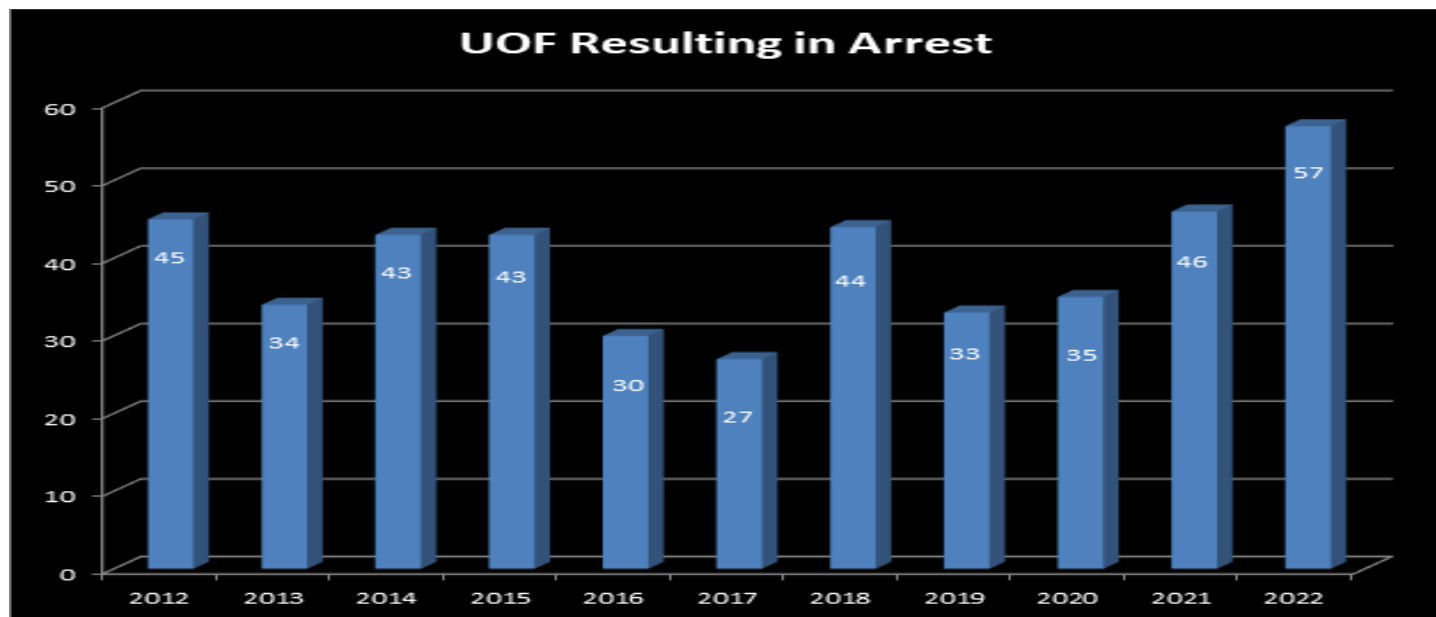


Use of force incidents involving the use of a Taser decreased dramatically in 2022. There was a total of twelve (12) use of force incidents in 2022, compared to twenty-seven (27) in 2021. The use of Tasers during use of force incidents has decreased over the last ten years (2012 – 2022), except for 2021. Tasers were only used 10% of all use of force techniques during the 2022 calendar year. The 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.

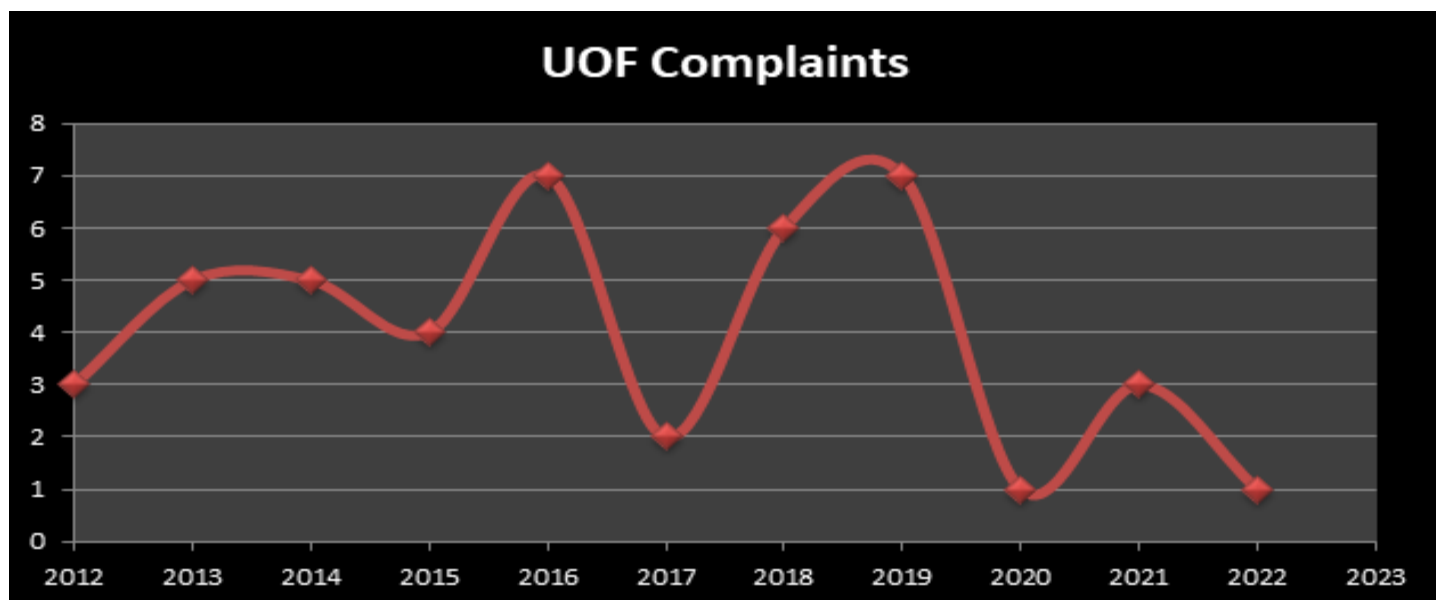


In 2022, there were zero (0) use of force Incidents involving a firearm. The Rock Hill Police Department has been extremely fortunate to have very few firearms related use of force incidents. A total of six (6) officer-involved shootings have occurred in the last thirteen years (2009 – 2022). Only 1% of all use of

force incidents over the last ten (10) years has involved a firearm discharge. 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 based on the City of Rock Hill’s population, level of crime, and the total number of sworn officers in the Department.



There were fifty-seven (57) arrests associated with use of force incidents in 2022 compared to forty-six (46) in 2021. This accounted for a 24% increase. The total number of arrests reporting a use of force incident has increased by 73% over a four-year period (2019 – 2022). The number of arrests that include a use of force incident has stayed consistent over the last decade. The average number of arrests with use of force incidents between 2018 and 2021 is 42, which is slightly higher compared to the total number of overall arrests. Past trends indicate the total number of use of force incidents will decrease in the upcoming year. An individual arrested by the Rock Hill Police Department has less than a 1.7% 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 absolutely necessary and as a response to resistance.



Citizen complaints due to a use of force incident decreased in 2022. There was one (1) complaint in 2022 compared to three (3) in 2021. The total number of complaints for use of force by Rock Hill Police Department officers remains low. A total of 2% of all use of force incidents that occurred in 2022 resulted in a Citizen Complaint. The total of use of force complaints is well below the four-year average of three (3) complaints per year.

The low number of complaints concerning use of force incidents illustrates the continued high quality of training and professionalism of Rock Hill Police Department officers. All use of force complaints were investigated, and one (1) was found to be outside of Department policy. The involved officer received counseling and discipline. Over the last ten (10) years, six (6) use of force complaints have been found to be outside of policy. In each one, the incident was quickly investigated, and termination was recommended when warranted.

Rock Hill Police Department 2022 Vehicle Pursuit Analysis and Administrative Review

Introduction

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

Definitions

Pursuit: when an officer attempts a traffic stop by requesting or signaling for a motorist to stop, and the motorist fails to do so, maintaining or accelerating his speed and maneuvering his vehicle to elude the officer. The violator initiates the pursuit. The officer decides whether to continue or terminate the pursuit.

Minor traffic violation: All traffic offenses except driving while impaired/driving under the influence and reckless driving. Possible other exceptions include hit & run with personal injury, misdemeanor death by motor vehicle, etc.

Reckless Driving: Any person who drives any vehicle in such a manner as to indicate either a willful or a wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

Violent Felony: A serious felony that involves an actual or threatened attack that the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe could result or has resulted in death or serious bodily injury (i.e., aggravated assault, armed robbery, homicide, etc.)

Process and Procedures

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.

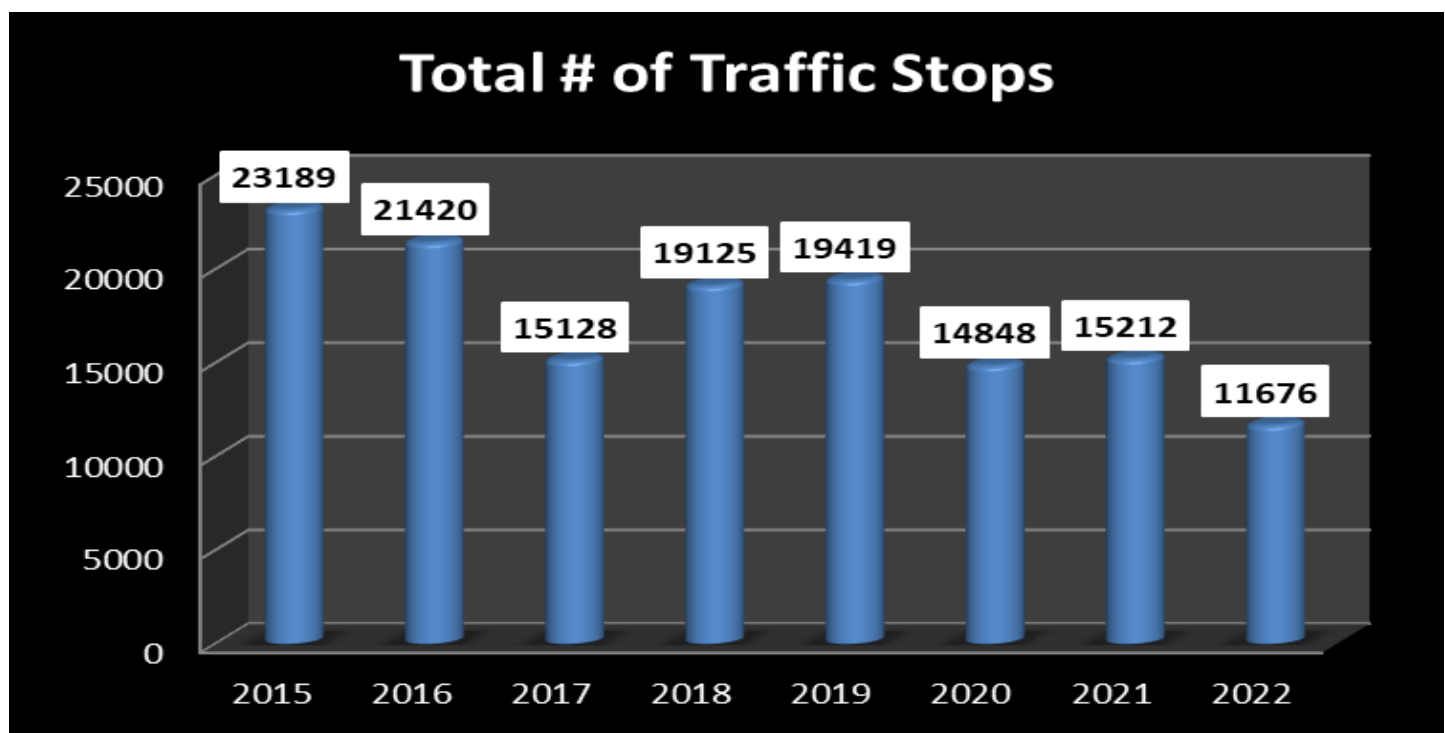
When an officer is involved in a situation where a possible pursuit may occur, officers consider the seriousness of the original offense and the safety of the community to include overall community safety, environmental considerations, familiarity with the roadway design, the capability and quality of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

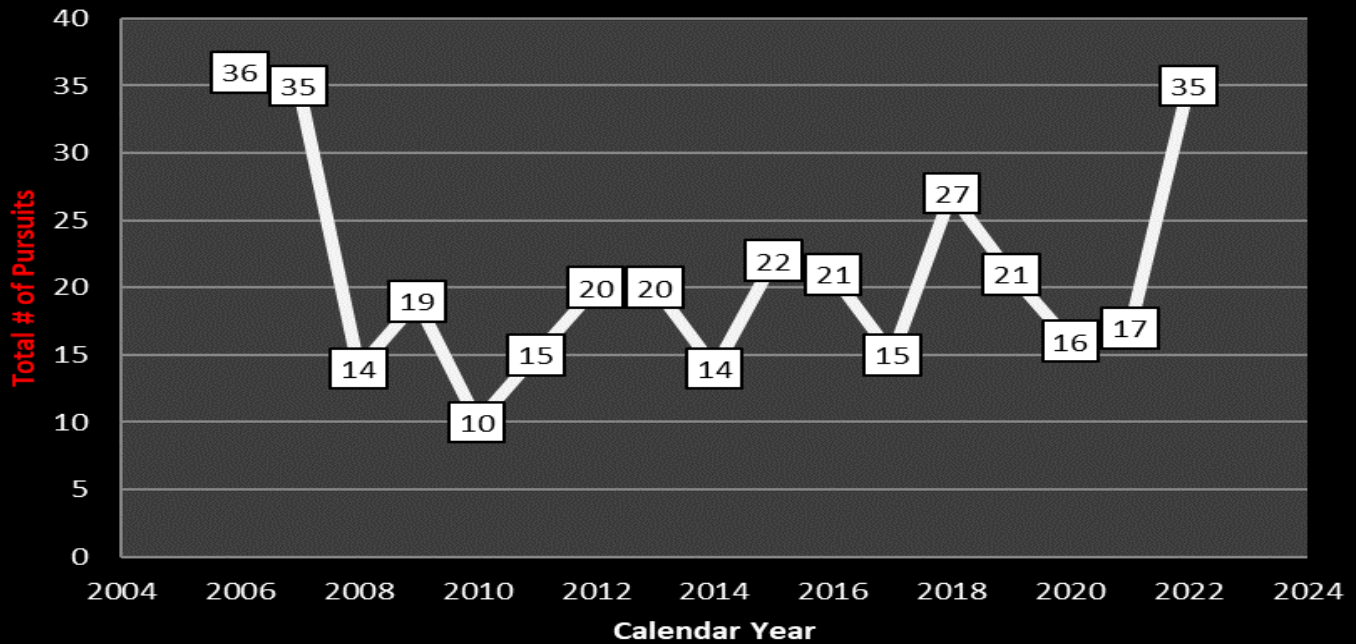
Each vehicular pursuit is thoroughly reviewed and critiqued by shift supervisors, Captains, and Internal Affairs to ensure that all Federal laws, State laws, and Departmental policies were followed. An Accident and Pursuit Review Committee may convene to review vehicular pursuits that result in personal 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.

Analysis



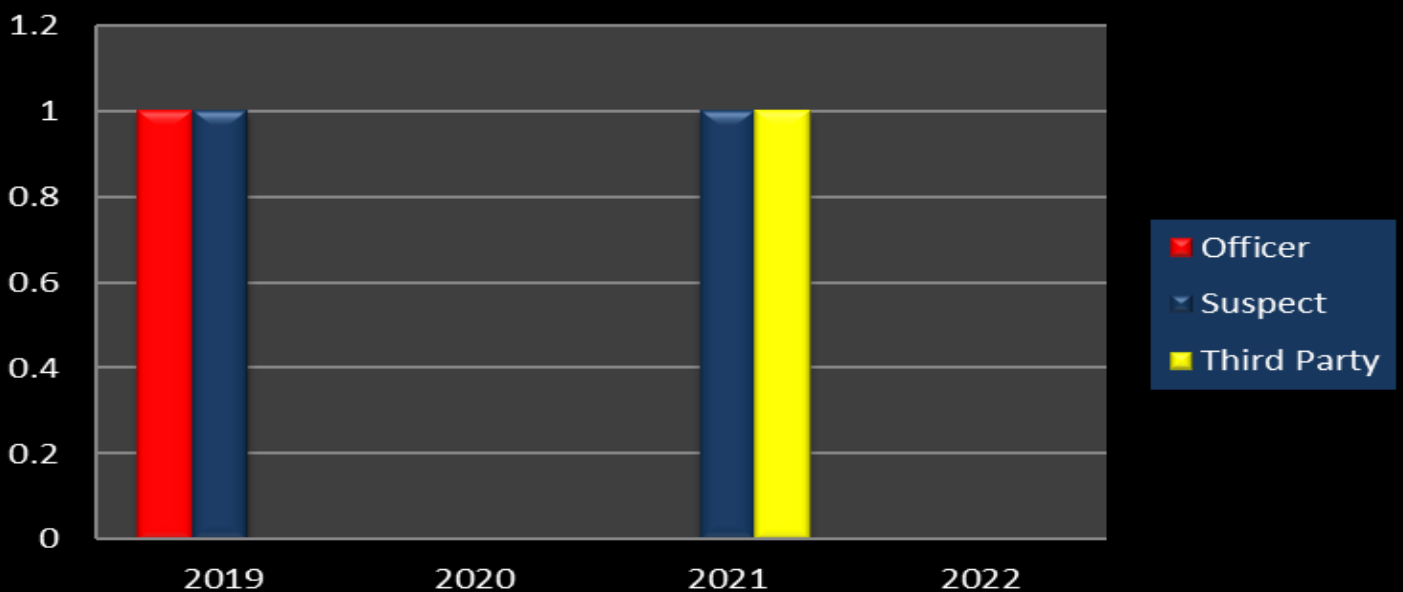
One hundred fifty-two (152) officers initiated a total of 11,676 traffic stops during the 2022 calendar year. The total number of traffic stops decreased by 23%, and the number of Rock Hill Police Department officers increased by 15% compared to 2021. Rock Hill Police Department officers have initiated a total of three hundred fifty-seven (357) vehicular pursuits during the period of 2006 to 2022. An average of 21 pursuits have occurred each year during this period. Thirty-five (35) vehicular pursuits were reported during the period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. Suspects appear to be more likely to fail to stop for police officers than in the past.

Vehicular Pursuits 2006-2022

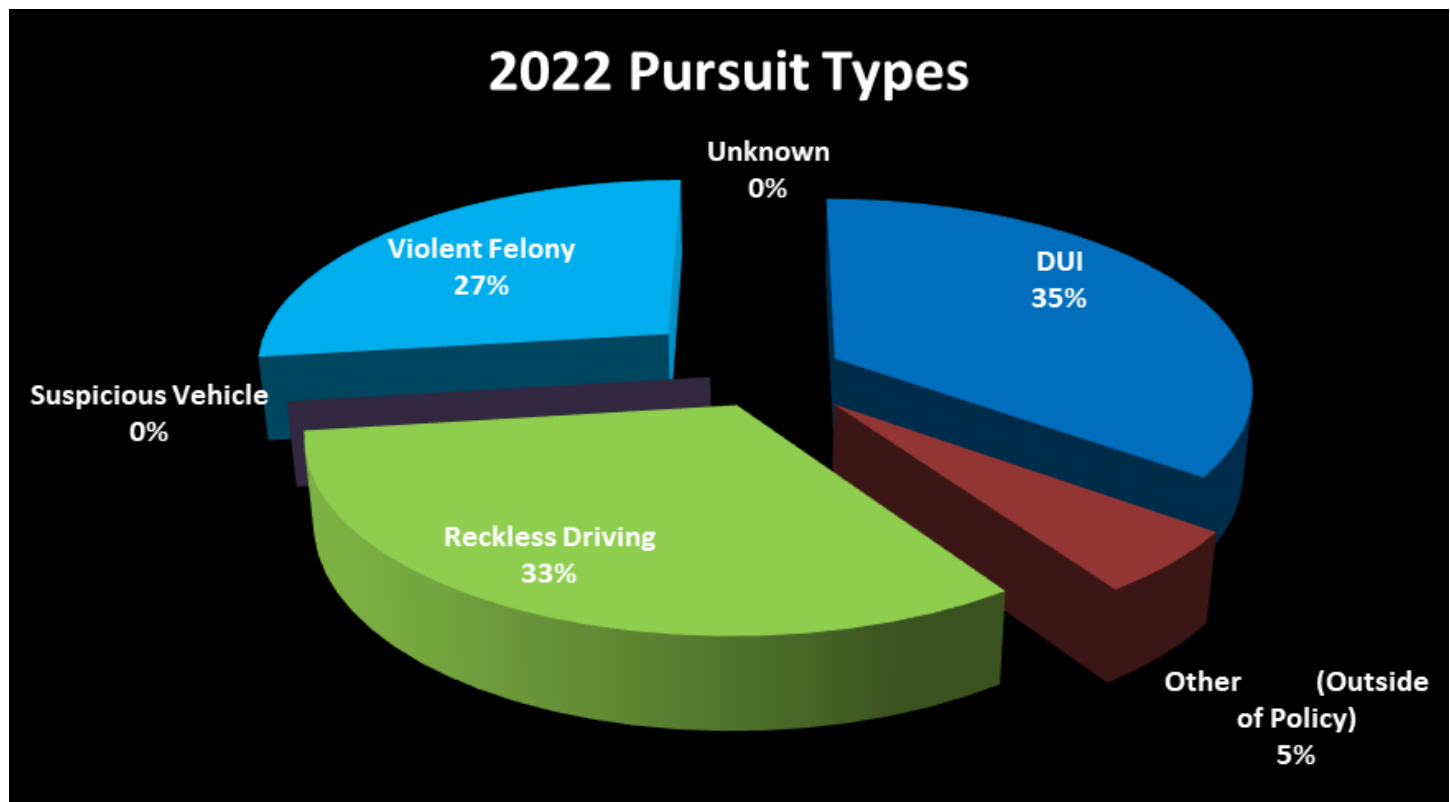


There have been very few accidents with injuries because of vehicular pursuits. There were no officers injured during vehicular pursuits in 2022 and only one (1) injury in the last four (4) years. No suspects or third-party citizens were injured as a result of vehicular pursuits during the 2022 calendar 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 training and the emphasis of overall safety at the Rock Hill Police Department.

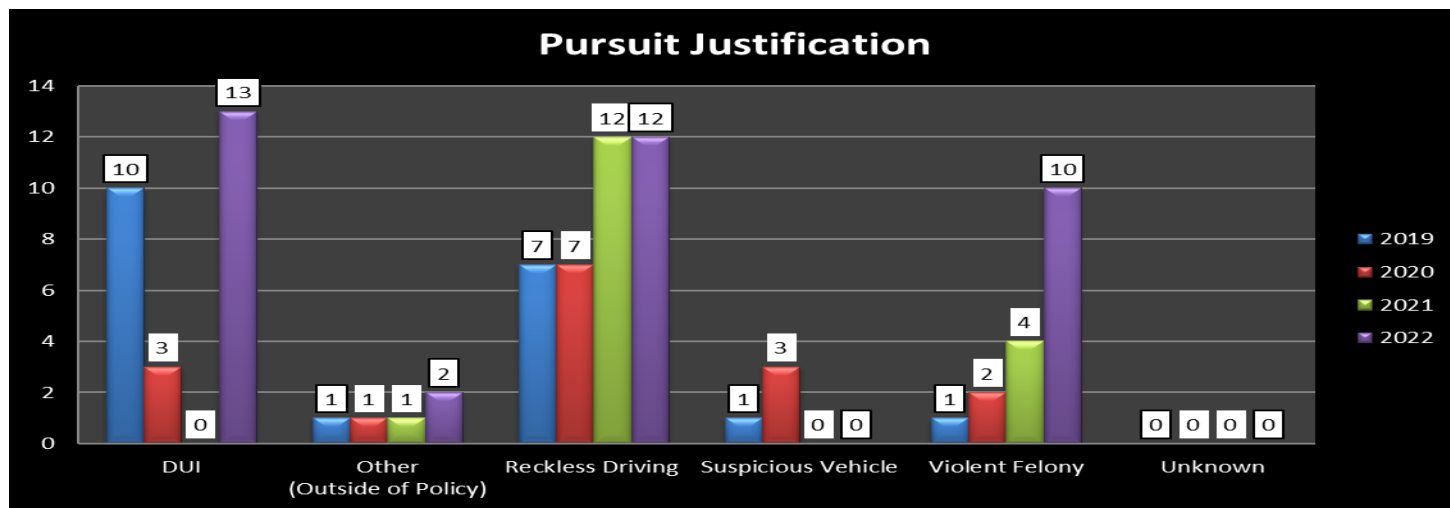
Pursuit Injuries



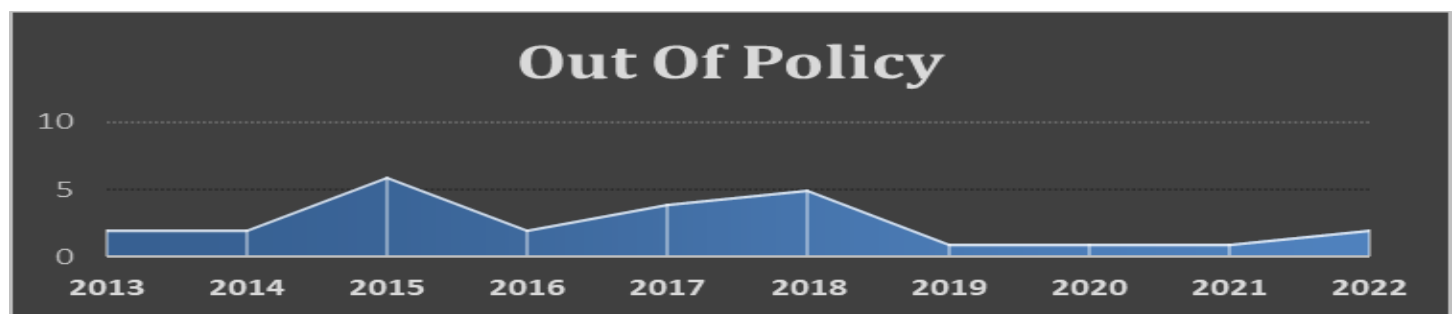
Most vehicular pursuits by the Rock Hill Police Department during the 2022 calendar year were due to DUI's, followed closely by Reckless Driving and Violent Felonies. A total of thirteen (13) pursuits were for DUI's, twelve (12) for Reckless Driving and ten (10) for Violent Felonies. In addition, officers were engaged in vehicular pursuits for two (2) for other charges.



All categories of pursuit justifications increased in 2022, except for reckless driving, which stayed the same. Most notably, DUI pursuits significantly increased during the 2022 calendar year. The increase in DUI pursuits is most likely due to an increase in drunk drivers and reckless driving throughout the jurisdiction, in addition to an increased distrust of law enforcement. The RHPD will strive to focus on DUI enforcement and will increase police presence in focused traffic enforcement areas of higher collisions and citations throughout Rock Hill.



Two (2) vehicular pursuits were found to be Outside of Policy following Accident and Pursuit Reviews in 2022. The officers involved in the 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.



Overall, the total number of pursuits that were found to be out of policy is relatively low. Only 6% of all pursuits initiated in 2022 were out of policy. The total number of out of policy pursuits has decreased and remained low over the last four (4) years.

The background of the page features a large, faded shield logo of the Rock Hill Police Department. The shield is blue with a yellow border. At the top, it says "Rock Hill" in large yellow letters. Below that, "SOUTH CAROLINA" is written in smaller yellow letters. In the center, "POLICE" is written in large blue letters. At the bottom, there is a colorful circular emblem with arrows pointing inwards.

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