



## **Durham Police Department**

### **Response to Resistance and Assault on Officer Analysis**

This analysis documents all events categorized as a “use of force” related call for service by members of the Durham Police Department as well as assaults or attempted assaults on Durham Officers occurring in 2024. The term “Response to Resistance” refers to any form of resistance by an offender requiring a response beyond the accepted application of handcuffs by a Durham Police Officer.

Captain Jack Dalton  
1/21/2025

# **Response to Resistance and Assault on Durham** **Police Officer Analysis – 2024**

## **Executive Summary**

The Durham Police Department has completed its annual analysis of force-related incidents for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Captain Jack Dalton, a 26-year veteran of New Hampshire law enforcement, conducted this analysis.

Documents reviewed include all 2024 Response to Resistance Reports, related arrest and offense reports, supplemental police reports, shift schedules, and the training records of all involved officers.

Whenever an officer uses any physical force greater than the simple application of handcuffs to safely bring a suspect into custody, a standardized "Response to Resistance Report" must be completed. This report, along with any related documents, is forwarded to the Deputy Chief of Police, a certified Use of Force Instructor, for review. If the Deputy Chief determines that the actions comply with department policies and applicable laws, the report is sent to the Captain for further analysis and data collection.

If the Deputy Chief or Captain identifies a potential policy violation, the report is forwarded to the Chief of Police, and an Internal Affairs investigation is initiated. Since 1996, no use of force incident has resulted in a violation of department policy or applicable laws. Additionally, there have been no flawed or outdated policies identified during this period.

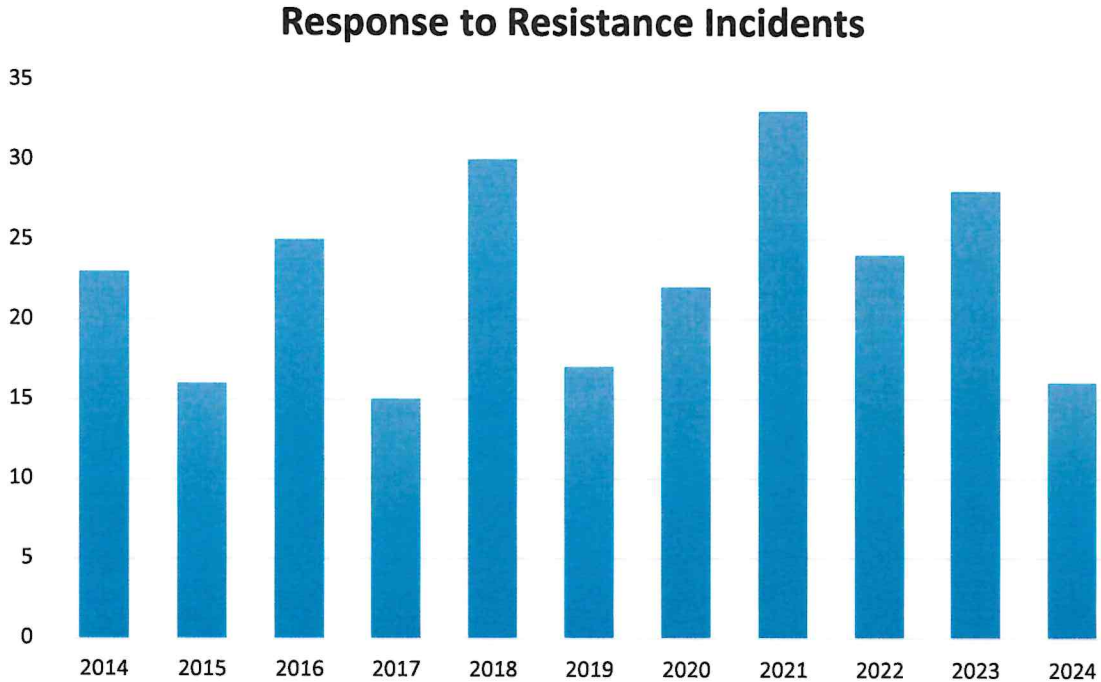
## **Full Report**

In 2024, I analyzed all assaults on police officers in the Town of Durham to determine trends or patterns that will allow the department to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training needs. In 2024, of the sixteen incidents reported by the Durham Police Department involving the use of force, one resulted in actual assault or attempted assault on the officer(s) involved.

In 2020, most of the department's Use of Force policies were updated to follow the recommended guidelines provided by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). After an extensive 2024 review, we did not find any need to update or modify any policies involving force.

## Response to Resistance Incidents

In 2024, the Durham Police Department experienced a 4.7% increase in calls for service from 2023. During the same period, the department experienced a decrease in the number of instances where officers found it necessary to resort to force to bring a person safely into custody.



## Calls for Service

In our 2020 report, we noted a pattern had developed since 2012. That pattern demonstrated response to resistance increased one year and decreased the next. However, from 2019 to 2020, and again from 2020 to 2021 our response to resistance increased. In 2022, we saw a decrease from 33 incidents in 2021 to 24 incidents in 2022. From 2022 to 2023, we saw an increase of 24 to 28 incidents for the year. From 2023 to 2024, we saw a decrease from 28 incidents to 16 incidents for the year. Although we will continue to monitor the response to resistance incidents on a yearly basis, the information so far over a period of eleven years has yielded no predictable pattern.

The Durham Police Department responded to 20,897 calls for service in 2024, an increase of 4.7% from 19,952 in 2023. Officers used physical force in sixteen incidents,



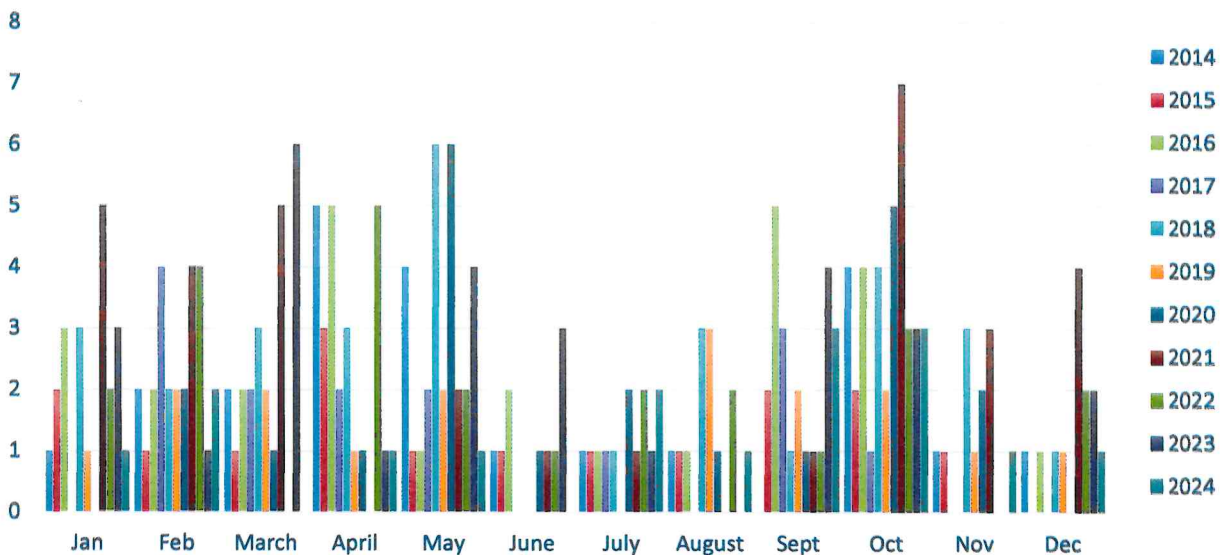
representing only 0.08% of total calls. This low percentage highlights the department's emphasis on patience, professionalism, and the principles of conflict resolution and de-escalation.

Of the sixteen incidents, one involved an actual or attempted assault on an officer. Analysis revealed no identifiable trends or patterns necessitating changes to existing policies or practices.

The analysis also revealed that there were nine incidents where department members ended the suffering of an injured animal. Those incidents are not factored into this report for analysis purposes.

The following statistical analysis serves to correspond to each category that encompasses the department's resistance reports. The goal is to analyze how that breakdown applies to response to resistance incidents occurring in the Town of Durham and how the response by Durham officers affects the safety of the community. Mutual aid calls and response to resistance actions by members of the Special Reaction Team (SRT) have been included in this analysis.

### Response to Resistance by Month: 2024



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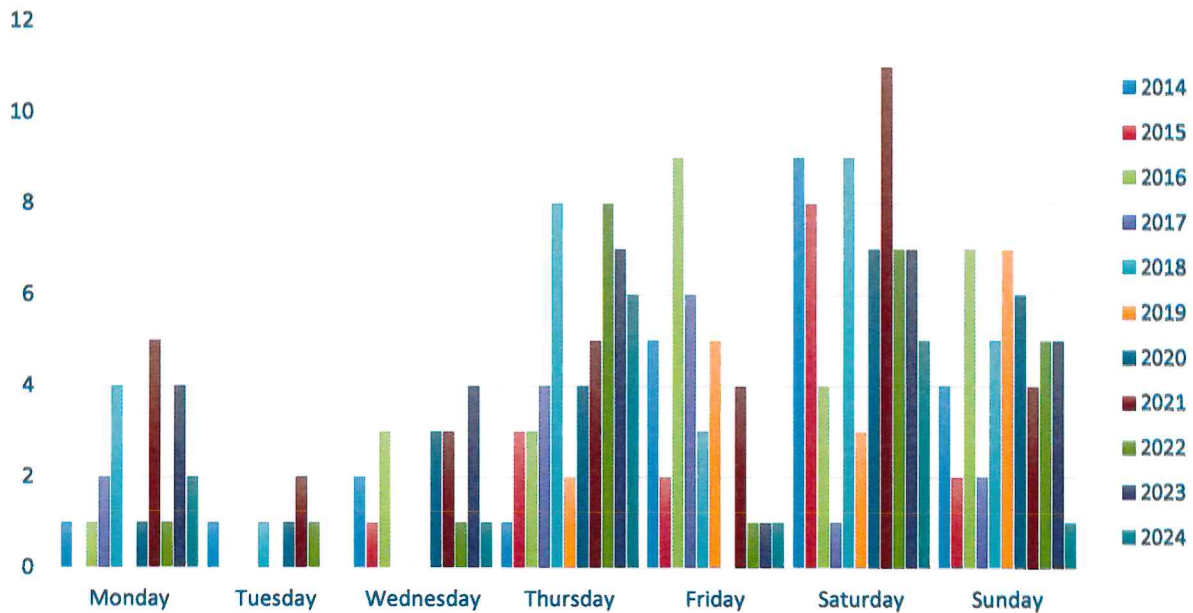
This chart represents a review of response to resistance activity for the past ten years by month. In 2024, Durham officers have responded to acts of resistance during every



month except March and June. In previous years, we noted that the beginning of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) academic school year, identified as the end of August to midway through October, remained relatively steady regarding assault patterns. Four of the sixteen incidents reported in 2024 involved UNH students directly.

As in previous years, it is the conclusion of this report that the agency continues to monitor the activity and maintain the current staffing strategy, which is strategically posting additional officers on patrol for both spring and fall. We have identified no obvious pattern that would cause alarm or suggest we change our current strategy.

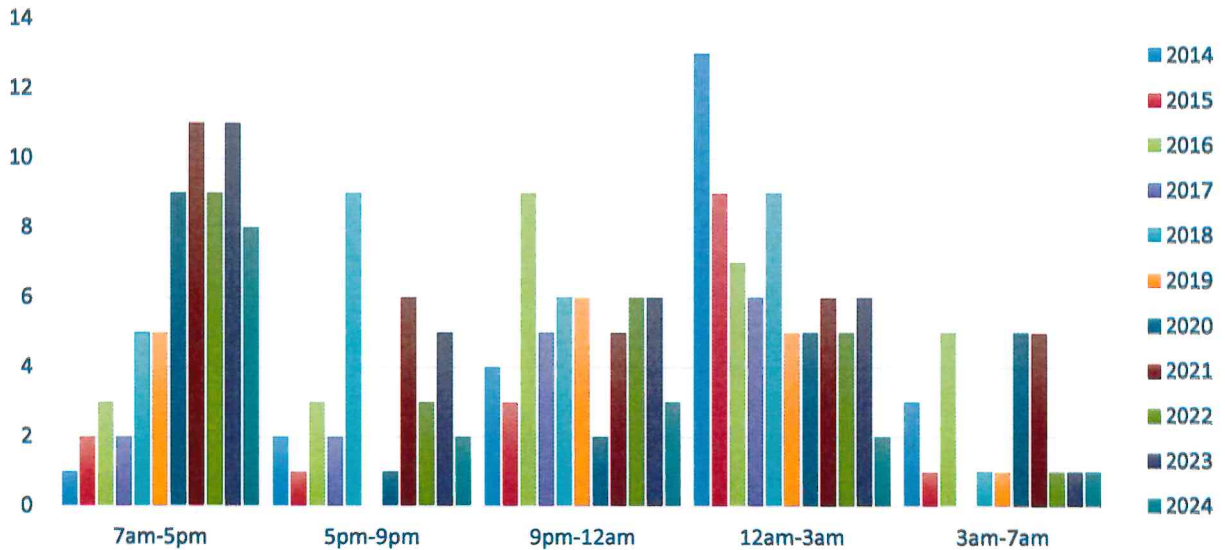
### Response to Resistance by Day: 2024



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This chart illustrates that in 2024, the majority of response to resistance incidents occurred on Thursday and Saturday.

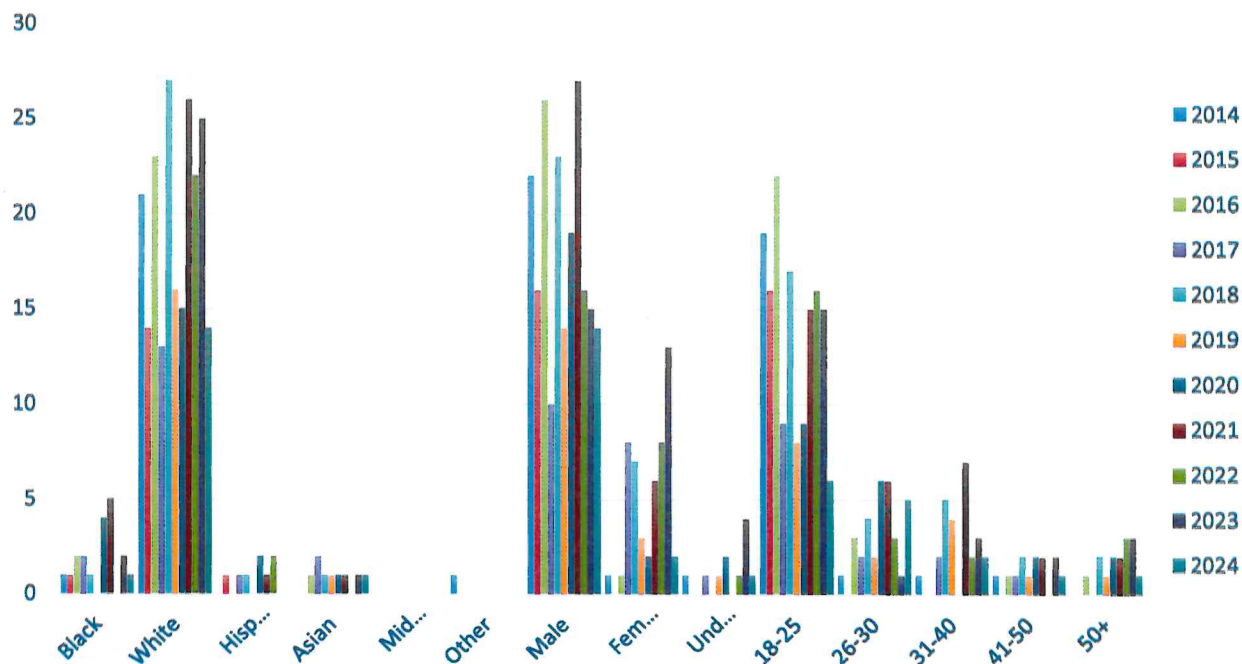
## Response to Resistance by Hour: 2024



## Response to Resistance by Hour: 2024

Analyzing our 2024 response to resistance data hour-by-hour illustrates that the most physically dangerous hours for a Durham officer are between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. There were eight incidents of force that occurred between the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. It has now been five years in a row that most of our response to resistance incidents occurred between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. A review of the response to resistance incidents that occurred in 2020 through 2024, during the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, revealed no apparent pattern of specific types of calls where any type of force was needed. However, between the hours 9:00 PM and 12:00 AM, a much smaller time frame, we encountered three response to resistance incidents. Inherently, between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, there is added personnel due to administrative staffing and detectives. Therefore, I recommend keeping our additional staffing between 9:00 PM and 12:00 AM. This data is valuable information to the department when factoring in shift coverage or any possible modifications to the schedule.

## Demographics by Gender, Ethnicity and Age: 2024



## Demographics by Gender, Ethnicity and Age: 2024

In 2024, six people we encountered were between the ages of 18 and 25, and five people between the ages of 26 and 30. The oldest suspect involved in a response to resistance incident this year was 65-years-old, and the youngest was 12-years-old.

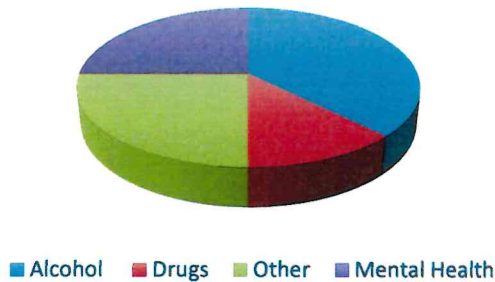
The demographic data has remained consistent over the past ten years. As in previous years, our use of force instructors should continue to take this fact into account when evaluating use of force lesson plans. Officers should always be reminded during training that there is no instance when an officer should make assumptions due to the apparent age, gender, or ethnicity of a suspect.

In 2024, fourteen of the suspects we encountered were males, and two were females.

White males and females accounted for fourteen of the sixteen response to resistance encounters by members of the Durham Police Department. There is no pattern that would suggest any form of bias by any individual officer or the agency. The analysis of response to resistance reports allows for the conclusion that all persons encountered are treated fairly and equally with the officers' response appropriate to the level of force necessary to affect a lawful arrest.



## Alcohol, Drugs, Other, Mental Health: 2024



### Alcohol/Drugs/Mental Health and Other: 2024

Alcohol and drugs continue to play a significant role in poor judgment and decision making by persons who are subjected to a lawful arrest. Out of sixteen response to resistance incidents, twelve of the people taken into custody were under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both. There is no definitive pattern concerning the types of calls that officers respond to that involve the consumption of alcohol or drugs. Two incidents involved members of the Strafford County Regional Tactical Operations Unit (SCRTOU) responding to a neighboring community, and one response to resistance incident took place during a mutual aid call in a neighboring community.

Mental health issues continue to play a significant role in calls involving some form of resistance. Of the suspects encountered in 2024, four people were suffering from some type of mental health issue at the time of the encounter.

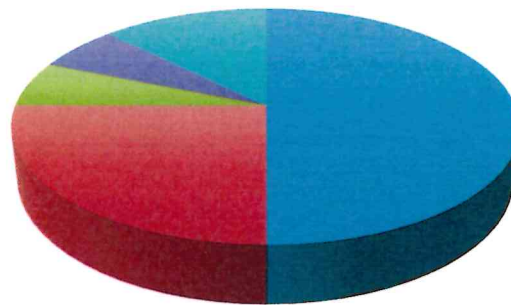
The Durham Police Department's field training program and in-service training programs continue to prioritize de-escalation technique training and awareness. In 2021, we sent a supervisor and a patrol officer to Tennessee to become instructors in de-escalation. In 2024, all department personnel attended a mandatory two-hour de-escalation training put on by the police academy. The department is also scheduled for an eight-hour de-escalation class in 2025.

Officers continue to receive annual training in identifying possible mental health related issues, as well as learning appropriate interaction methods. It is a fine line for an officer to make that connection when taking a person into custody who is physically resisting the lawful command of the officer. Unfortunately, it is not unusual for the level of resistance from a person suffering from mental health related issues to be similar to someone simply attempting to avoid arrest. However, it remains critical that Durham

officers understand the extra level of patience and restraint that may be required when dealing with a person who is suffering from a mental health issue. In 2024, the department conducted a thorough policy review related to: Involuntary Emergency Admission (IEA), Mental Illness Awareness, Suicide, Mental Illness, and Response Involving Juveniles.

As mental health related calls continue to rise around the country, I recommend that the department continues to stay ahead of this challenging issue by seeking new and updated training opportunities.

### Resistance by Locale: 2024



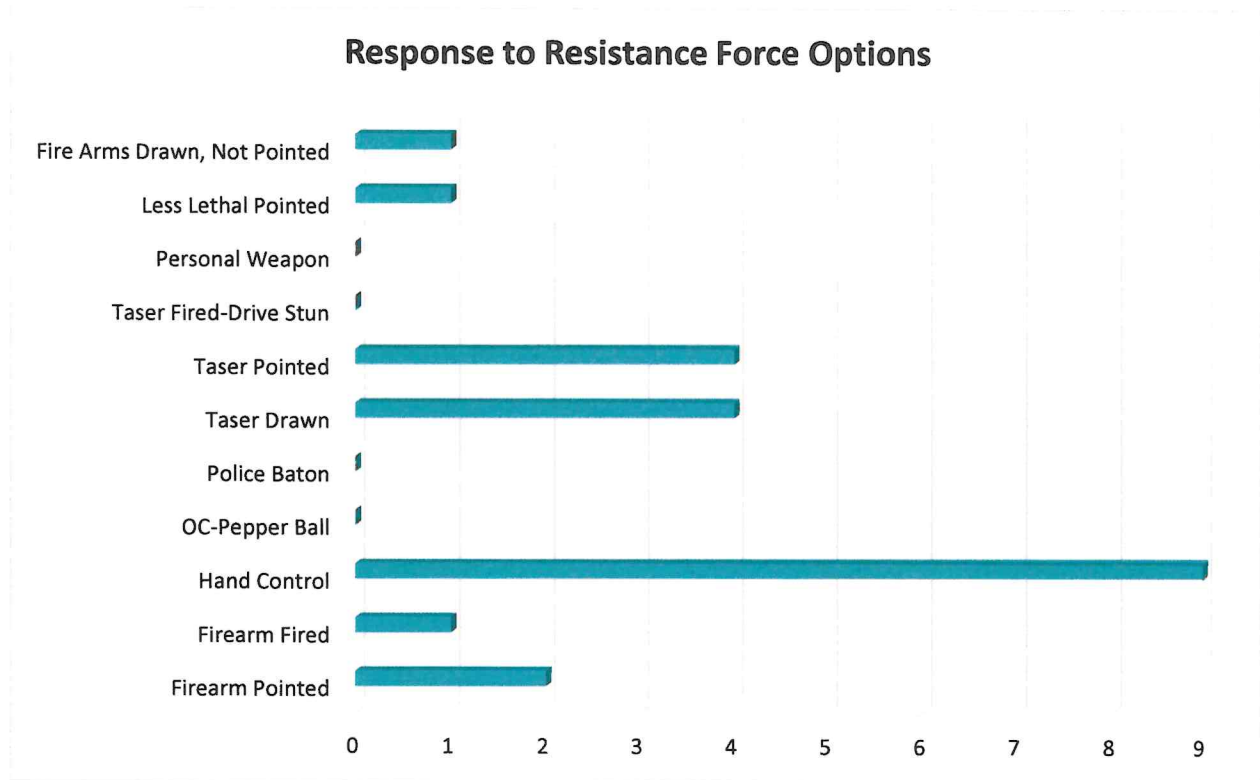
■ North ■ South ■ West ■ Mutual Aid ■ SRT Related

### Response to Resistance by Location: 2024

The Durham Police Department assigns officers on duty to sectors identified as North, South, and West. Of the sixteen responses to resistance reviewed in 2024, one occurred on the western side of town. The West Sector is made up of off-campus student housing such as “The Lodges” located on Mast Road, and “The Cottages” located off Technology Drive. There was no noticeable pattern identified in the West Sector from this analysis.

In 2024, eight of the department’s sixteen response to resistance encounters took place in the North Sector. The North Sector includes all businesses, residences, properties, and roadways north of Main Street. This sector is predominantly off-campus student housing, fraternal organizations, liquor establishments, and food/beverage stores that remain open late at night or into the morning hours. Several major arteries lead to these areas, and they are heavily traversed by vehicle and pedestrian traffic. There was no discernable pattern identified in the North Sector for this analysis.

Durham Police Officers responded to four calls for service resulting in resistant behavior south of Main Street. The South Sector includes businesses, residences, properties, and roadways south of Main Street. This sector is similar to the make-up of the North Sector, but it does not include fraternities and sororities, and it does not usually produce the level of foot traffic typically found in the North Sector. There was no discernable pattern identified in the South Sector for this analysis.



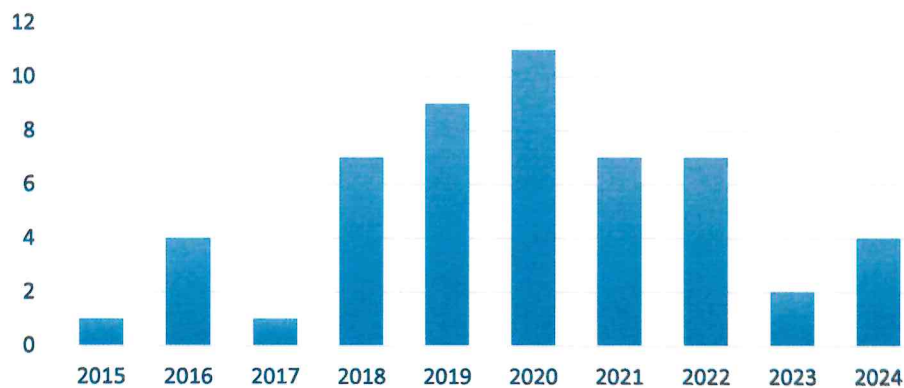
**Force Methods/Types/Tools: 2024**



## Deadly Force Related

In 2024, there were four documented incidents where a Durham officer displayed the threat of deadly force. The Incidents where deadly force was displayed are listed in the Response to Resistance Summaries portion of the analysis. One incident involved a firearm being discharged, unrelated to department firearms training. The narrative for this incident can also be found in the Response to Resistance Summaries portion of the analysis.

### 9 Year Comparison: Deadly Force Deployment



Our analysis found that in 2024, the number of times an officer had to resort to the display of deadly force increased (It is important to note that we did not start adding SRT callouts to our response to resistance statistics until 2018.)

## Hand on Control Tactics

The use of “hands-on” control tactics is the principal method used by officers to subdue and ultimately gain control of suspects. Nine of our response to resistance incidents involved the officer taking a person into custody through the utilization of hand control tactics. In several incidents it took more than one officer to gain control and compliance of the suspect. Hand control tactics may include grappling/wrestling with the suspect or physical control only. Basically, this equates to holding onto the suspect and guiding him/her as they walk towards a transport vehicle or taking them to the ground to gain control. The department must continue to prioritize defensive tactics training, with an emphasis on “hands-on” control techniques. All patrol officers attended a Defensive Tactics Training in December 2024.

## **Personal Weapons as Striking Tools**

For the past seven years there have been no incidents involving an officer physically striking a suspect with a personal weapon as a striking tool.

## **Application of Handcuffs**

Traditional hinged handcuffs were used thirteen of the sixteen times while taking suspects into custody. Handcuffs were double locked and checked for looseness every time it was possible to do so relative to the violent behavior of the suspect. There was one incident where flex-cuffs were used. \*

(\*Flex-cuffs, also known as plastic handcuffs, are a form of physical restraint for the hands or legs made of plastic, which fit most body types.)

## **Disarmed or at Risk of Being Disarmed**

In 2024, no incident involved an officer being disarmed or at risk of being disarmed.

## **Contributing Factors**

In 2024, Durham officers confronted multiple suspects on several different occasions. It is not uncommon in a university community setting for officers to encounter multiple suspects or to deal with large crowds/gatherings. Confronting suspects in large crowds, such as parties, can offer significant challenges. The Durham Police Department understands the delicate nature of these gatherings and officers are taught to use common sense and an abundance of caution when forced to make arrests in such situations.

In 2024, six Durham officers indicated that the low light was a factor when dealing with an individual in a response to resistance situation. All officers in the department have received low light training in 2024 as a part of the semi-annual firearms training. On one occasion, an officer indicated that the suspect's size, strength, and skills played an important role in the decision to escalate the force continuum.

## **Injuries**

In 2024, no Durham officer was injured while in the act of taking a person into custody.

One suspect was shot and killed during his direct interaction with a Durham officer in 2024. The incident is documented in the Response to Resistance Summaries portion of this analysis. No other suspect was hurt or injured during their interaction with a Durham officer.

As in previous years, it is evident from the analysis that Durham officers use the minimum amount of force necessary when taking a person into custody. I believe that our hiring practices and our annual use of force training play vital roles in how Durham officers treat people in custody. Our hiring practices continue to be centered on identifying mature officers that reflect a calm and patient demeanor when communicating in stressful situations. Our training focuses on the appropriate amount of force needed during response to resistance encounters, including when that force should stop, and signs and symptoms that would indicate to an officer the suspect is in distress; both mentally and physically. Our policies and training also further clarify when an officer has the duty to intervene.

### **Plainclothes vs. Uniformed Patrol**

In 2024, no plainclothes officers were involved in a response to resistance situation without there also being a uniformed patrol officer on scene. All uniformed officers had their badges clearly displayed. One incident in 2024 involved an unmarked police cruiser, however, there was also a Durham Police marked cruiser on scene too. Officers involved in response to resistance encounters were wearing the appropriate style uniform for the time of year or assignment. There is no obvious pattern that shows the style of uniform playing a role in the outcome of an encounter.

### **Verbal Directions**

Officers shouted verbal commands during all reported incidents where it was necessary to do so. Officers made every effort to identify themselves as Durham Police Officers and continued to repeat commands when necessary.

### **TASER**

The Taser Electro-Muscular Disruption System is an important tool that filled the continuum between Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) and deadly force and proves to be a desirable alternative method of force that substantially limits injury to the suspect and the responding police officer.

The Taser can be deployed two ways. The officer can use discretion to fire the weapon, or drive-stun the suspect. Firing the weapon happens when the officer pulls the trigger, and a cartridge shoots two prongs attached to two separate wires. The prongs enter through the skin and a charge is delivered to the suspect. The duration of the charge is five seconds. When using this method, the Taser deploys its own evidence in the form of confetti that has the Taser serial number of each cartridge used.

Drive-stunning the suspect involves pressing the “arc switch” and placing the cartridge bays against the suspect. The officer can control the seconds utilized by pressing and



releasing the arc button. An officer may possibly choose this method when a suspect is wearing loose clothing or is dealing with the suspect in close quarters.

When using the drive-stun method, there is no confetti evidence because cartridges are not used. All the information concerning deployment is downloaded to the computer. Downloading information immediately after deployment is completed when the officer uses the drive-stun method or fires the weapon. Downloaded information will also verify that the officer tested the Taser prior to the start of their shift.

In 2024, officers of the Durham Police Department had no documented incidents of deploying a Taser to subdue a suspect. On four separate occasions in 2024, Durham officers removed their Taser from their holster and pointed it at a suspect. As agency personnel encounter more and more incidents involving mental health, the Taser provides the officer with a much safer and less-lethal use of force. I believe we need to continue supplying officers with this force continuum option.

### **OC/Pepper Spray**

OC, unlike tear gas, is a highly concentrated form of peppers or other natural substances, therefore the product is deemed biodegradable. OC acts as an inflammatory to the mucous membranes of humans and animals. When applied to the face, it typically causes swelling of the mucous membranes, involuntary closing of the eyes, gagging, coughing, shortness of breath, and an intense feeling of burning on the exposed areas.

In 2024, officers of the Durham Police Department had no documented incidents of using OC spray to subdue a suspect. OC spray remains an effective tool when in close quarters or when the Taser does not affect the suspect in the manner anticipated. It is clear that OC spray can reduce injuries. I recommend that we continue to keep this non-lethal option available to sworn officers.

### **Police Expandable Straight Baton**

The "Police Expandable Straight Baton", formally known as the ASP Straight Baton, was designated as an "optional" tool on the Use of Force Continuum in 2011. At that time, several of the officers voiced concern and lack of confidence in the straight baton as an effective tool. There were no documented uses of the straight baton in 2024, nor was it used in any manner during the nine previous years. It is my recommendation that the department continue to train in the use of the baton and provide officers with the option to carry it on duty if they choose to do so. When trained properly, and with individual practice, the baton can be a very effective option on the Force Continuum.

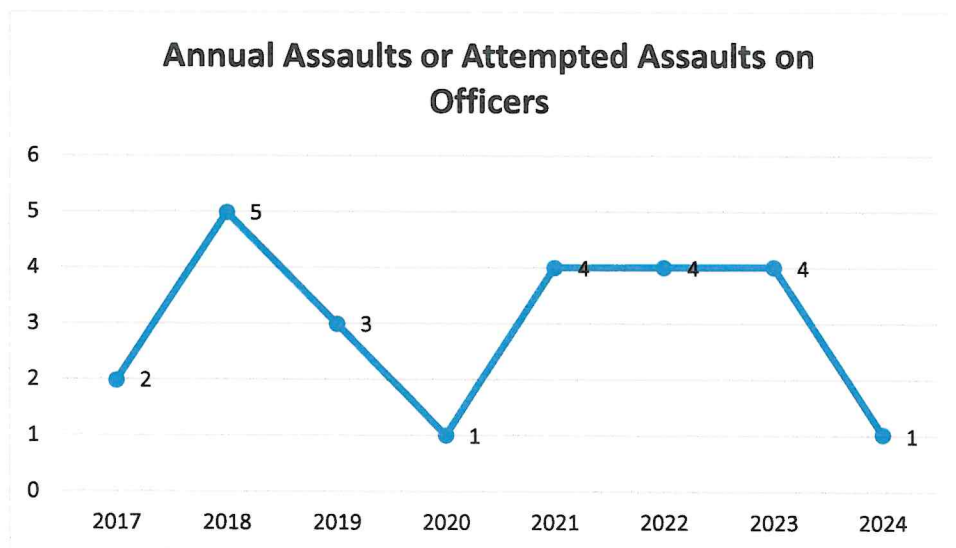
## Pepperball

Pepper balls contain Pelargonic Acid and Vanillylmaide (PAVA). PAVA is pharmaceutically manufactured. It acts as an inflammatory agent to the mucous membranes of humans and animals. When the powder contacts the face, it typically causes swelling of the mucous membranes, involuntary closing of the eyes, gagging, coughing, shortness of breath, and an intense feeling of burning on the exposed areas. Pepperball Guns are used by members of the Durham Police Department to control and disperse large crowds of moving or resisting demonstrators or to prevent self-destructive acts of violence, such as any violent or potentially violent act by a suspect that is attempting or threatening to commit suicide or serious bodily injury to themselves by any means.

In 2024, there were no incidents involving the deployment of Pepperball. It is important we maintain our training and preparation for celebratory events due to their unpredictable nature. It is also important that the organization continue to train and explore optional methods of deployment regarding the use of Pepperball or similar products.

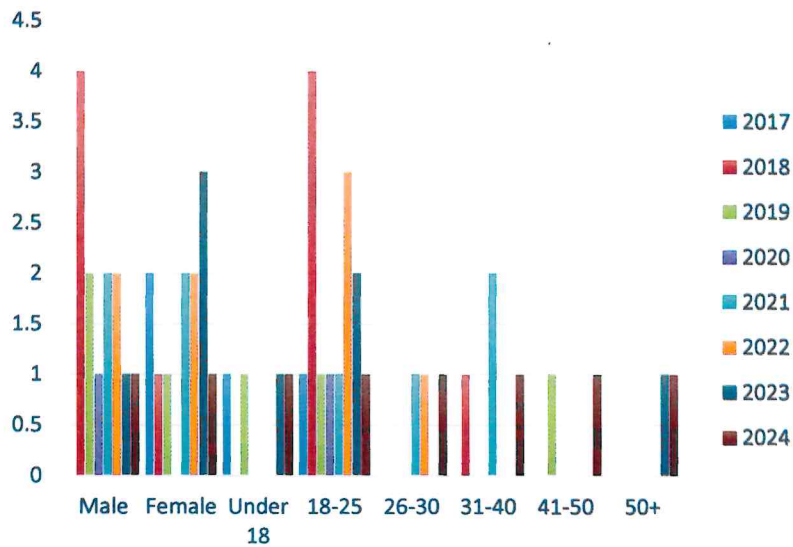
## Assaults or Suspected Assaults on Durham Police Officers in 2024

The following is an analysis of all assaults or attempted assaults on police officers in the Town of Durham for 2024. This analysis began in 2017 and is conducted annually to determine trends or patterns that allows the department to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training needs. In 2024, of the sixteen responses to resistance reported by officers of the Durham Police Department, one resulted in an attempt or actual assault of the officer involved.



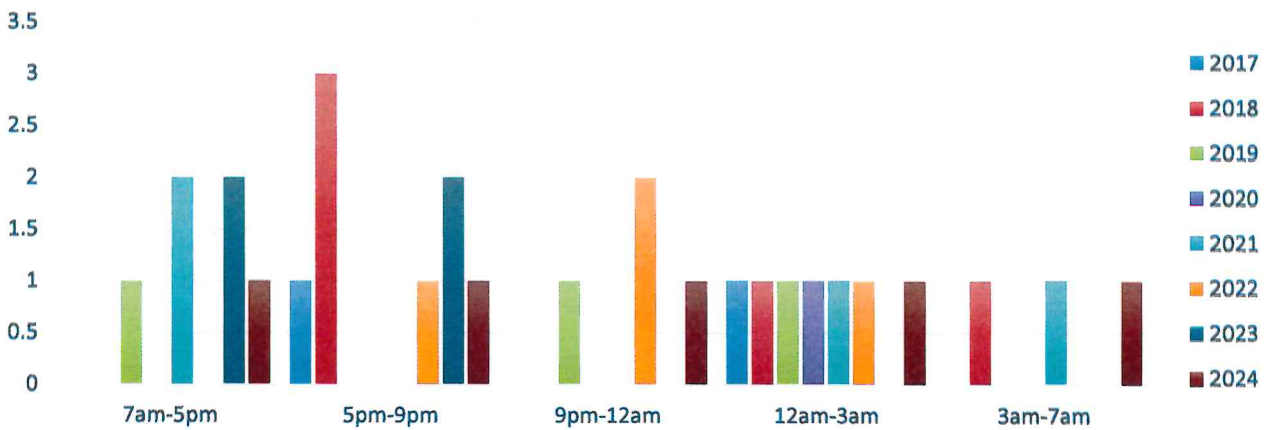
**Chart A: Annual Assaults or Attempted Assaults on Officers**

### Assaults or Attempted Assaults by Suspect Gender and Age



**Chart B: Assaults or Attempted Assaults by Suspect Gender and Age**

### Assaults or Attempted Assaults by Time Frame



**Chart C: Assaults or Attempted Assaulted by Time Frame**



### Assaults or Attempted Assaults by Month

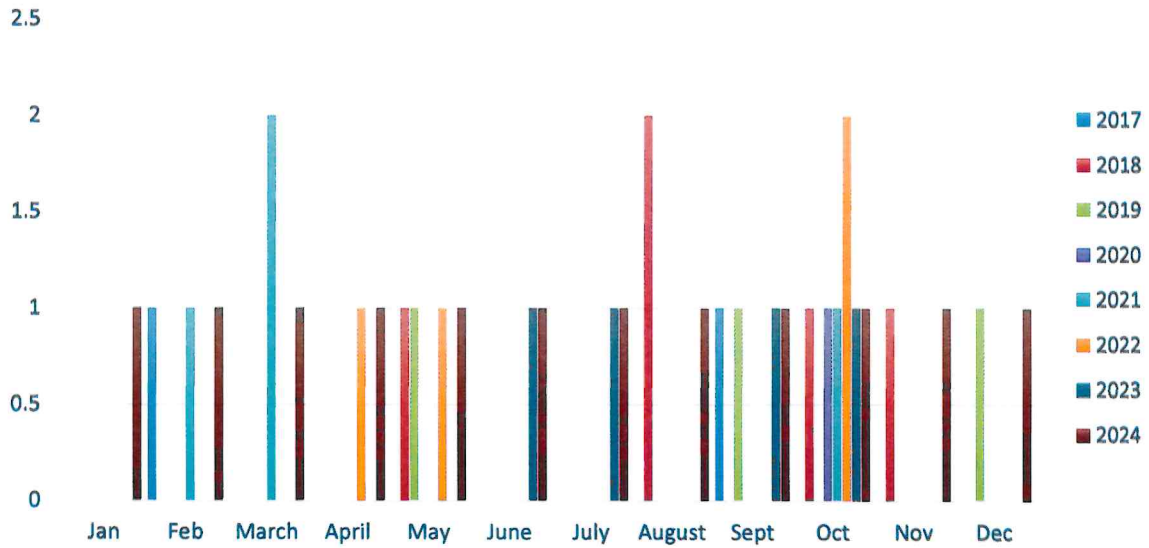


Chart D: Assaults or Attempted Assaults by Month

### Method of Assault or Attempted Assault

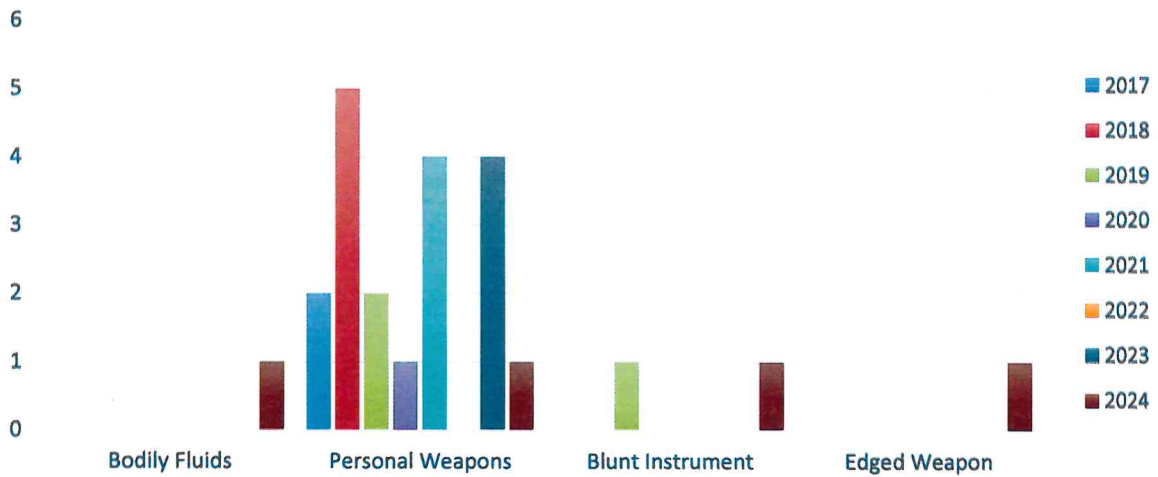


Chart E: Method of Assault or Attempted Assault

## **Assaults on Durham Police Officers: Trends or Patterns**

The analysis over the past eight years shows no emerging trends that would affect our current staffing levels or shift allocations.

What continues to remain true is the importance of our agency personnel continuing to train with both lethal and less-lethal weapons, such as the Taser and OC.

Suspects primarily use hands, feet, biting, or spitting as methods of assault. Officers primarily use hands-on tactics to prevent the various types of resistance they encounter. It verifies that our officers are using the appropriate level of force when dealing with unarmed or armed suspects.

I recommend that we continue to prioritize our defensive tactics training and remind our officers to remain vigilant no matter the time of day or month, and regardless of gender or age of a suspect when dealing with a hostile situation.

Officer Data: In 2024, the age and relative experience of officers reporting the application of force when responding to resistance generates no discernable pattern.

## **Identified Deficiencies/Suggestions for Improvement**

- Due to the increase in department personnel turnover over the past few years the department will need to prioritize the identification and training of Taser, Firearms, Pepperball, and Defensive Tactics Instructors in 2025.

## **Positive Efforts**

- The state mandates mental health training for all sworn New Hampshire police officers, which all Durham officers completed in 2024.
- Emergency tactical first aid was taught to all officers in 2024. This training included tourniquet application and tactical considerations when moving victims.
- Individual tourniquets continue to be purchased for all sworn officers to carry with them during their patrol shifts.
- All officers received Ethics, Bias, and De-escalation awareness training in 2024.
- The agency has continued to review and modify existing policies to maintain best practices related to police response to force.

- Instructors continue to ensure that the firearms, less lethal, and hands on defensive tactics training plan outlines are consistent and complement each other.
- Continue to being transparent by posting all Response to Resistance policies online.

### **Recommended Action Steps**

- The department should continue refresher training in Use of Force policies and Duty to Intervene policies/trainings.
- The agency should continue refresher training in Ethics, Bias, De-escalation, Standards of Conduct, and Mission and Values to ensure that our officers understand that the agency is committed to a “Guardian” culture. It is critical that we continue to ensure the officers understand and embrace the premise that policing in Durham exists to provide services in a compassionate and unbiased manner.
- Continue to seek mental health, domestic violence, and suicide related awareness training.
- Increase practical training in the use of defensive tactics and simunitions scenarios.
- Continue our practice of training in low-light conditions.
- Continue to provide specialized training for Use of Force instructors and make every effort to identify qualified officers to join the team of certified instructors.
- The department must continue to evaluate all force continuum options; ensuring that whenever new technology emerges, officers are being provided with the most advanced tools and training. By maintaining best practice standards, it will allow our officers to utilize the least amount of force necessary when attempting to gain compliance from a resisting suspect.
- Continue training in verbal de-escalation strategies that have been proven effective to lessen the need to respond to violent offenders with force.

## Response to Resistance Summaries

The following are summaries of all sixteen response to resistance incidents in 2024 where Durham officers used any level of force beyond the application of handcuffs:

#1

On 01/06/2024, at approximately 12:40 p.m., a Durham officer was on patrol when he observed a vehicle operating with its high beams on. The vehicle continued into the Irving Gas Station and then abruptly left the establishment. The officer pulled his cruiser behind the vehicle. The male operator suddenly applied the brakes and swerved the vehicle to the right side of the roadway. The officer then initiated a motor vehicle stop. The man kicked his driver's door open and got out of his vehicle as the officer exited his cruiser. The man began walking towards the officer and retrieved his wallet from his back pocket. The man was yelling aggressively at the officer, as he continued to walk towards him. The officer continued to give direct orders for the man to return to his vehicle, which he ignored.

Due to the man's erratic behavior, the officer attempted to detain him by gaining control of his left wrist. The officer then told the man to place his hands on his vehicle. The man responded by pulling away from the officer's grasp and back peddled towards his vehicle, while continuing to scream incoherent statements at the officer. The officer then retreated to his cruiser for cover. The man went back inside his vehicle and shut the door. The officer unholstered his pistol and held it in the low ready position, while continuing to issue verbal commands for the man to show his hands and step out of the vehicle. The man continued to scream at the officer while waving his left arm out of the driver's side window, but keeping his right arm near the center console, out of sight of the officer. The man then suddenly exited the vehicle. The officer noted his hands were empty and holstered his pistol, transitioning to his taser. The officer continued to issue verbal commands for the man to put his hands on top of the vehicle, but he continued to ignore direct orders. The man told the officer he was not under arrest and proceeded to drive away from the scene. He was later arrested.

#2

On 02/01/2024, at approximately 7:35 a.m., Durham officers responded to a single motor vehicle rollover on Route 4. Officers and medical personnel located a conscious and alert operator outside of the vehicle. The operator was ultimately transported to the hospital and placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence of a Controlled Drug. As the male was proceeding through the bail process, he aggressively stood close to the face of the Bail Commissioner. The officer attempted to deescalate and restrain the man, who then became uncooperative and began actively resisting by tensing his muscles and pulling away from the officer. The suspect was eventually placed in



handcuffs. Upon release from the hospital, the man was transported to the Strafford County Jail until sober enough to be released.

#3

On 02/18/2024, at approximately 2:30 a.m., a Durham officer was on patrol when he witnessed a group of three men standing on a sidewalk, near the public roadway. Two of the men appeared to be urinating in public. As the officer attempted to contact the group, to address the violation, the two men seen urinating on the sidewalk, fled the scene on foot. The officer ordered the men to stop as he chased the suspects. The suspects split up and fled in different directions. The officer was able to detain one suspect by grabbing the suspect's shirt after the suspect tripped and fell on the roadway. The suspect was handcuffed and placed under arrest without any further resistance.

#4

On 04/27/2024, at approximately 3:50 p.m., two Durham officers responded to a hit-and-run accident on Dover Road where one of the involved vehicles fled the scene. Dispatch updated the officers that the fleeing vehicle had just been reported stolen in Dover, New Hampshire. One of the Durham officers left the first accident scene to locate the stolen vehicle, and came upon a second accident scene, further south on Dover Road, near Newmarket Road, involving the stolen vehicle. The officer ordered the male operator out of the stolen vehicle, giving him commands to exit the vehicle and show his hands. The suspect acted very much under the influence of an illicit drug, based on his movement, speech, and appearance. The officer ordered the suspect, several times, to place his hands on the hood of the vehicle and not to turn around. The man initially complied but then turned around numerous times, putting the officer's safety at risk. The officer drew and armed his taser, aiming and pointing it at the suspect. The officer held the male at Taser point until an additional officer arrived and assisted in placing the man in handcuffs.

#5

On 05/30/2024, at approximately 3:35 p.m., Durham officers went to a residence to conduct a welfare check and arrest a man with an outstanding warrant for violating a stalking order. Officers had been to the man's apartment several times during the day to arrest him and to check on his wellbeing, after threatening comments were made. Upon the officers' arrival, the man became verbally defiant and refused to open his door or submit to arrest. He had previously made threats to harm officers if they approached him. Using a key provided by the living facility, officers gained entry to his apartment. He immediately tried to flee and barricade himself in a room. The man then began pushing and pulling with officers as they attempted to gain control of his arms. One

officer had his Taser pointed at the suspect, but it was not deployed. The suspect continued to fight with officers, refusing their commands and trying to get away. The man was ultimately placed into handcuffs by physical control only.

#6

On 07/22/2024, at approximately 8:30 p.m., the Strafford County Regional Tactical Operations Unit (SCRTOU) was activated to assist the Seacoast Emergency Response Team (SERT) with a barricaded man at a residence in Kensington. Five Durham police officers on the SCRTOU responded. Four officers were tactical operators, and one was a crisis negotiator. Members of the SERT had been on scene for hours and the suspect remained barricaded in the house. After hours of de-escalation and attempts to get the man to surrender peacefully, the man exited the house with a firearm and was shot and killed. One Durham police officer fired their rifle along with five other officers from different agencies. The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office conducts investigations into all officer involved shootings and is investigating this incident. The investigation is ongoing, and the Attorney General's Office will release a formal final report with their findings at the conclusion of the investigation.

#7

On 07/25/2024, at approximately 9:00 p.m., officers responded to a mental health related disturbance. After speaking with the man, who appeared to be having mental health issues, it was determined that he needed to go to the hospital for a mental health evaluation. After extensive de-escalation techniques by an officer, the man refused to go to the hospital willingly. The man was told to stand up so that he could be placed in protective custody and transported to the hospital. The man refused to stand and then lifted his feet, to make it more difficult to assist him up. He then attempted to pull away from the officers and resisted when officers attempted to place his hands behind his back. He had to be escorted to the ground to be placed in handcuffs. He continued to resist while being placed on a stretcher. When the man was removed from handcuffs, to be restrained to a stretcher, he again attempted to pull away from officers. Officers had to grab his hands and hold them against the stretcher, as he was continuing to pull away. His hands were held until medical personnel could restrain him. While being transported to the hospital, he attempted to take off the restraints, while trying to bite an officer. The officer had to place a spit mask on the man's head to prevent him from biting and spitting on the officer. When arriving at the hospital, the man slipped out of the restraints, and an officer was forced to hold him down to prevent him from escaping.

#8

On 09/09/2024, at approximately 6:00 a.m., two Durham Police officers assigned to the Strafford County Tactical Operations Unit (SCRTOU), were deployed with the SCRTOU team to affect a high-risk arrest warrant on multiple wanted subjects, some of whom were known to be in possession of firearms at a residence in Dover, New Hampshire. Both Durham officers were assigned to the entry team. During the execution of the arrest warrant and subsequent search warrant, one Durham officer pointed a less-lethal munitions launcher at multiple suspects while taking them into custody. The officer did not deploy any other less-lethal munitions. The second Durham officer also pointed a duty firearm at multiple suspects present in the general direction of the residence throughout the duration. The second officer did not fire his duty weapon. All wanted subjects were taken into custody by SCRTOU team members.

#9

On 09/14/2024, at approximately 9:40 p.m., a Durham officer saw a man who was in possession of an open alcoholic beverage while in a public roadway. The officer stopped the man to address the violation. When doing so, the man fled from the officer on foot. The officer provided a description over the radio to other officers, while chasing behind the man. A second Durham officer responded to the area, locating the suspect. The officer tackled the suspect to the ground. The suspect was handcuffed and placed under arrest without any further resistance.

#10

On 09/21/2024, at approximately 10:55 p.m., a Durham officer attempted to stop an underage man who had an open alcohol container on a public roadway. The man threw the container and ran from the officer. The officer told the man to stop, but he continued to flee. Another Durham officer in a patrol car, with lights and sirens activated, attempted to stop the man, but he continued to flee. The officer on foot eventually caught up to the suspect and was forced to pull him to the ground to take him into custody.

#11

On 9/26/2024, at approximately 11:50 a.m., Durham officers responded to an apartment building for a welfare check, in which the individual was having suicidal ideations and claimed he had taken several medications to commit suicide; however, officers were unable to locate the individual at the residence. Approximately one hour later, officers were updated that the woman may be headed back to the residence. As a result, an officer stayed in the area to await her return. Shortly after, the officer observed two vehicles pull into the building's parking lot. The officer followed and was immediately

met by the individual's mother who was frantically screaming for them to help her daughter, who had passed out. The officer then noticed a man walking silently from the other vehicle toward him. The woman seemed angry and frantic as she tried to relay information about the man to the officer. Considering the chaos and uncertainty of what occurred, the officer decided to detain the man until the situation was calm. The officer asked the man to get on the ground, but he refused. He then began placing his hands behind his back obscuring them from the officer's view. The officer then was forced to take his attention away from the victim and place handcuffs on the suspicious man. The officer then had to escort the man to a grassy area approximately 15 feet away, while the women continued to yell for help. While escorting the man, he became very agitated and told the officer that he could not arrest him. Given his earlier unwillingness to follow commands, the officer believed he may become uncooperative, so he gently pinned him against an uninvolved parked car, before assisting him to a seated position. There were no further uses of force during this incident. The man was subsequently arrested for Driving While Intoxicated.

#12

On 10/03/2024, at approximately 9:15 p.m., Durham officers were dispatched to a disturbance call involving a woman who was heard screaming at a residence. While en route, officers received information that the reporting party had seen a vehicle quickly leave the residence after hearing the screaming. Upon arrival, officers discovered that a door to the residence was left fully open and the lights to the home were still on. Officers made multiple announcements to any tenants inside, with no reply. Given the nature of the initial call, officers announced their presence and entered the residence to check for anyone in danger. Three Durham officers drew their duty pistols from their holsters and kept them in a low ready position while searching the residence. Officers contacted two men at separate locations within the residence. Both men were given commands and were taken into custody without issue. While giving commands to both men, all officers holstered their weapons after confirming the men were not in possession of any deadly weapons. It should be noted that neither man was involved in what turned out to be a domestic violence incident.

#13

On 10/09/2024, at approximately 2:00 p.m., a Durham officer responded to Lee, New Hampshire to assist with a juvenile who needed to be Involuntarily Emergency Admitted, due to being in crisis. Upon the officer's arrival, he assisted Lee Police with contacting the male juvenile. The juvenile refused to cooperate with his parents or police. He made attempts to bite the officers and tried to wrap himself in a blanket and hide from the officers. While attempting to get the juvenile into the care of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the Durham officer used soft hand control to move the juvenile



out of his bedroom. As the juvenile continued to struggle and resist officers, he was restrained to a stair chair and then ultimately carried to the ambulance. He was held down by the Durham officer on the stretcher while EMS prepared him for transport to the hospital. No officers were injured, and the juvenile was transported to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

#14

On 10/12/2024, at approximately 2:15 a.m., a Durham officer, on Strafford Avenue, heard property being destroyed on the front lawn of a residence. He then saw two men running away from the area. The officer was able to stop one man, but the other ran away when he was ordered to stop. The officer relayed a description of the suspect and direction of travel to other responding officers. Additional Durham officers located the man hiding in the back of a pickup truck on Garrison Avenue. The man was again instructed to stop by officers, which he ignored by jumping out of the pickup truck and fleeing. Officers quickly caught up to the man, who then pulled his arms away from the officers and twisted his body so the officers could not place him into custody. Officers continued to instruct the man to stop resisting and to put his hands behind his back. The officers were then forced to escort the man to the ground where he continued to resist. Eventually, officers were able to pull the man's hands behind his back and handcuff him.

#15

On 11/08/2024, at approximately 7:55 a.m., Durham officers were dispatched to the West Edge Parking lot, 259 Mast Road, for a 9-1-1 caller reporting a "hostage situation" at an apartment at the Lodges apartment complex. The reporting party said he was hearing voices and potentially someone being "water boarded." When officers arrived, they found a twenty-two-year-old man standing in the parking lot near a bus stop. The man approached one of the officers' police cruisers before the officer was out of the vehicle, opened the rear door, and rushed into the back seat of the cruiser. The officer went to the back and escorted the man out of the vehicle. The man had blood on his shirt, was bleeding from his hand, and started to act aggressively. The man began to tense his muscles and appeared like he may fight. Two officers removed their issued Taser's from their holsters, pointed the Tasers at the man, and threatened to use them on the suspect. The man then immediately complied with their commands. He was handcuffed and detained without further incident. Based on statements given to officers, it was believed that the man was having a mental health crisis. He was transported to the hospital for a mental health evaluation. At the hospital, the man refused to exit the police cruiser. Soft hand control was used to escort him into the hospital. In the hospital, the man tensed his muscles, stood on his tip-toes, and began yelling loudly about "not taking the officer's gun." The officer pushed the man against a

wall to gain control of him and awaited security response to assist him. He was taken into custody by the hospital for an evaluation.

#16

On 12/2/2024, at approximately 2:30 p.m., Durham officers were dispatched to a reported domestic violence assault in progress, inside a residence. Officers arrived and learned that an adult female had assaulted a male. While the female was being taken into custody, she began to resist arrest. Officers used soft hand control to get control of her arms. The woman flailed her arms and legs and continue to resist arrest. She was eventually taken into custody and handcuffed.


### Conclusion

After reviewing all relevant data from previous years, I conclude that in 2024, there is no developing pattern to suggest that any officer is using force greater than what is reasonable and necessary to affect the arrest or detention of violently resisting persons. There is no data that suggests any Durham officer is acting in an aggressive manner. The evidence over the years is compelling and proves that Durham officers use an extreme amount of restraint and professionalism when under duress, when provoked, and when threatened with harm. I believe it is a credit to our instructors, hiring process, field training program, as well as adherence to sound policy and procedures under the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation process that allows our success to continue.

**Response to Resistance Analysis Reviewed By:**

Deputy Chief Holmstock: 

Date: 1/21/2025

Chief Kelley: 

Date: 1/21/2025