

2024 Annual Report

Response to Resistance and Aggression



Austin Independent School District Police Department
May 2025

Prepared by the AISD PD
Professional Standards Unit

This annual report reviews the Austin Independent School District Police Department's (Austin I.S.D. PD) Use of Force, or Response to Resistance and Aggression (R2RA) during calendar year (CY) 2024. Police may properly respond to an individual's resistance when effecting arrests or in the protection of others, and at times use necessary restraint to control a person who may harm themselves. The Department uses applicable case law, industry best practices, and acceptable standards in the development of its R2RA Directive and associated procedures.

Austin I.S.D. Police Department Directive 3.01 requires that the Professional Standards Lieutenant prepare an annual analysis for the Chief of Police on all Response to Resistance incidents. The Austin I.S.D. Police Department prepares this report to better understand the conditions under which officers apply restraint or force, and to inform improvements to training and Directives when necessary. This report does not replace the ongoing monitoring process conducted throughout the year to identify concerns or patterns among staff. Preparation of an annual Response to Resistance Report is not a requirement for police departments but is considered Best Practice among Law Enforcement Agencies.

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

A police officer's duty is to protect the life and property of persons in their jurisdiction. It is the policy of the Austin Independent School District Police Department that officers use only the minimum amount of force reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control and to ensure the safety of all individuals involved.

The preservation of life—including the life of the officer and others—is the Department's highest priority. In other words, the level of force used must be proportionate to the threat encountered and should never exceed what is necessary to safely resolve the situation.

When an officer responds to an incident and force is used to control a situation, Austin I.S.D. Police Directives require that the event be documented as a Response to Resistance / Aggression (R2RA) report. This report includes—among other data—a description of the type of resistance or aggression encountered, the type of force used by the officer (e.g., hands, chemical agents, Conducted Energy Devices [Taser], less-lethal munitions, handgun, etc.), any injuries sustained by the citizen and/or officer, and the justification and extent of the force used

Further, Department Directives require that the supervisor of the involved officer respond to the scene and review the incident. The R2RA report is then forwarded and reviewed at each level of the officer's chain of command, up to and including the Chief of Police.

The Department voluntarily implemented collection of Response to Resistance data in an effort to better understand the conditions under which officers use some level of restraint, and to assist supervisors in reviewing all Response to Resistance events. The Department also utilizes Response to Resistance data to inform the development of training and policies aimed at improving outcomes

DEFINITIONS

See Definitions section below for a better understanding of the R2RA terminology.

Aggression: Hostile, physically threatening, or violent actions or behaviors towards another.

Aggravated Physical Aggression: Hostile or violent actions toward another involving the use of weapons, or with the intent or result of inflicting bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death.

Assaultive: Behavior intended to cause bodily injury to another

Bodily Injury: Physical pain, illness or any impairment of physical condition

Combatant: A person engaged in, or who is reasonably believed about to become engaged in a physical fight or disturbance

Deadly Force: Force that is intended or known by the actor to cause, or in the manner of its use is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. The mere display of a firearm by an officer (without discharge of the firearm) does not constitute Deadly Force.

Defensive Resistance: The use of physical force to resist arrest, such as pushing or pulling away, running, or other physical acts not intended or likely to cause injury, with the intent to avoid being detained or taken into custody.

Force: The use of any weapon, instrument, device, or physical power used to control or restrain a person, or to overcome resistance.

Hard Empty Hand Control: Techniques such as leg/foot and hand strikes

Less Lethal Force: An R2RA in which the officer uses an intermediate weapon such as pepper / OC spray, Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser), or Less Lethal Impact Munitions (bean bag shotgun), which is not intended or likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

Muscling (technique through physical strength): to using the least amount of effort necessary by relying on mechanics, leverage, timing, positioning, or optimal positioning to overcome resistance with little physical strength.

Passive/Non Compliance Resistance: resistance without the use of force that is intended to impair the officer's ability to complete a lawful objective. Examples: "going limp", physically or verbally refusing to comply with lawful orders.

Resistance: Any physical act or failure to act undertaken by a subject against an employee that could reasonably interfere with or defeat a lawful attempt by the employee to gain control of the subject.

R2RA- Response to Resistance and Aggression

R2RD- Response to Resistance Display—a firearm is displayed in response to resistance incident

Serious Bodily Injury: Bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of or causes death, serious permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ

Soft Empty Hand Control (aka: “Hands On”): Physical techniques with minimal likelihood of causing injury (touch pressure and joint locks).

Threats to Life: Physical and / or verbal behavior that is intended or has the effect of placing another in fear of serious bodily injury or death

Verbal Threats: Verbal statements that convey a threat to cause bodily injury or physical harm to another

***Definition Sources:** Texas Penal Code, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Austin ISD Police Department Directives

KEY FINDINGS IN THE 2024 RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE REPORT*

- **This report finds that most R2RA officer contacts in Calendar Year (CY) 2024 were comparable to the level of physical intervention (muscling and soft hand control) that might be used by a teacher, counselor, or other school staff member to break up or prevent a fight, or to prevent a student from harming themselves or others.**

In the majority of these incidents, subjects were either actively engaged in—or perceived to be on the verge of engaging in—a fight, physical disturbance, or other behavior that posed a risk of injury to themselves or others. In response, officers used muscling or soft hand control to separate the individuals involved. The Department defines this level of physical contact as a Use of Force, or "Response to Resistance and Aggression" (R2RA)—a definition that exceeds industry standards and aligns with Best Practices for identifying training needs and enabling early intervention. While most law enforcement agencies report only those uses of force that result in injury or are classified as serious, this Department reports **all** incidents involving any level of physical force or display of a firearm by an officer. We over report in comparison to industry standards.

In CY 2024 the number of Calls for Service (CFS) increased moderately compared to 2023. In 2024, AISD Police handled 38,414 total calls for service, up 13.3% from 33,896 in 2023. The cause for this increase may be partially attributed to an increase in the number of sworn officer positions created by the passing of House Bill 3 in the 88th Texas Legislative session. The passage of this law required all public school campuses in the state to have an armed personnel

on-site. In response, Austin ISD elected to increase the staffing of its Police Department Officers to meet this mandate, expanding the number of sworn positions from 82 to 100 during school hours.

Although only a small fraction of these new positions were filled during 2024, the larger authorized staffing level may partly explain an increase in Calls for Service (CFS) during the year

- **In CY 2024, only 81 out of 38,414 (0.21%) of all police Calls for Service resulted in an R2RA incident in which force was used against a person(s) by AISD Police.** This represents a minor increase (.05%) in the number of R2RA incidents from 2023, in spite of the increased number of staffing and Calls for Service.
- **Of the 81 R2RA incidents reported in Calendar Year 2024, 55 (63%) involved officers using the lowest level of physical force.** These instances primarily included open-hand techniques and muscling methods to separate individuals engaged in a fight or to physically restrain a person from assaulting another.
- **Force was used against 55 individuals in CY 2024.** Nineteen (19) of those subjects (23%) were non-students over the age of 18. These incidents include individuals experiencing a mental health crisis which created a danger to the public and themselves.
- **In CY 2024 the most frequent subject action resulting in a Use of Force (R2RA) by an officer was Passive Non-Compliance (64%), followed by Assaultive Behavior (42%), and Perceived or Confirmed Firearm or Other Weapon (16.4%).** It should be noted that some subjects displayed multiple behaviors / actions that led to an R2RA/R2RD by the officer.
- **The method of force used most often by officers responding to resistance was “Hands On”, or Empty Hand Control, which was used in 55% of all documented Responses to Resistance incidents.** Two (2) R2RA incidents involved the use of a Conducted Energy Device (Taser) by an officer(s). The display of Firearms / Threat of Deadly Force was used eleven (11) times by officers within all contacts while detaining or placing persons in custody for felonious or suspected violent felonious crimes, and / or suspicion that a subject was armed with a firearm or other weapon. There were no incidents of officers discharging their firearm.

NATURE OF CALLS

A breakdown of the nature of the service calls shows that restraint was used most often on Calls for Service (officers called by public or school / district staff), in 63 out of 81 restraint incidents. It should be noted that some police contacts may involve elements of more than one type of activity, such as a Suspicious Circumstances call that results in a Pedestrian Stop.

Ambush	0
Call for Service*	63
Civil Disorder	8
Custody / Court Hearing	0
Custody / Transport	2
Custody / Booking	2
Pedestrian Stop	1
Pre-planned Operation	0
Public flag-down	0
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Vehicle Stop	2
Welfare Check	0

*i.e. Disorderly Conduct-Fighting/Active Disturbance

SUBJECT DEMOGRAPHICS

The Use of Force (R2RA) report captures identifying data about the subject(s) on whom force was used, to include gender, age, race and ethnicity.

Gender

Male	45
Female	33
Gender Unknown*	3

*Instances where the suspect or subject of the force was unknown and could not be identified by the officer, such as an unknown suspect that evaded or escaped custody after the officer's use or display of force.

Race / Ethnicity

Caucasian – Non Hispanic	5	(6%)
African American – Non Hispanic	28	(35%)
Hispanic	47	(58%)
Native American	0	(0 %)
Asian	1	(1%)
Other	0	(0%)

<u>Age</u>	
10 or under	1
11-14	34
15-17	24
18-21	4
22-25	3
26-30	1
31-35	4
36-40	5
41-45	1
46-50	0
51-55	0
56-60	0
61-65	1
65-99	0
Age Unknown*	3

*Instances where the suspect or subject of the force was unknown and could not be identified by the officer, such as an unknown suspect that evaded or escaped custody after the officer's use or display of force.

REASONS FOR USE OF FORCE

The most often cited reasons for officers using any level of restraint or force was Defense of Another, followed by Separating Combatants. Other reasons why a restraint option was used included: Necessary to Affect an Arrest, Necessary to Defend the Officer as well as others, and Resisting Arrest. It should be noted that in some instances, officers reported more than one reason for using force in the same incident. For example, the officer used force to separate two students engaged in a fight (Separating Combatants). The officer then had to restrain one of the combatants from re-engaging / assaulting the other student (Defense of Another), and the student resisted the officer (Resisting Arrest).

Defense of Another	26
Separate Combatants	17
Necessary to Affect Arrest	14
Necessary to Defend Officer	9
Resisting Arrest	8

*These incidents had additional contacts that had multiple suspects

LEVEL OF RESISTANCE

Passive/ Non-Compliance	35
Assaultive Behavior/Fights	23
Aggravated Physical Aggression	11
Perceived Firearm	6
Threat to Life	4
Perceived Other Weapon	2
Perceived Sharp Weapon	0
Confirmed Firearm	2
Confirmed Sharp Weapon	3
Confirmed Other Weapon	2

* Some Incidents involved multiple subjects using multiple levels of resistance.

NUMBER OF SUSPECTS THAT RESISTED OR ASSAULTED OFFICER(S)

In 7 incidents, there was more than one person who resisted or fought with officers, and 74 incidents in which officers encountered resistance from a single subject.

One suspect	74
Two suspects	4
Three	1
More than three	2

LEVEL OF CONTROL GENERATED BEYOND VERBAL DIRECTION

Empty hand control was employed in 75 of the 81 instances reported. Tasers were used in two incidents, with the officer using the Taser to control a suspect. The display of a firearm (threat of Deadly Force) was used in 14 of the incidents in which force was used. (Note: Some incidents involved the use of multiple types of force. Values indicate all instances of individual force types across all R2RA incidents).

Muscling Techniques	9
Handcuffed (Routine)	28
Hands-On/Muscling	38
Improvised Weapons	0
Hard Empty Hand	0
Less-Lethal Impact Munitions	0
OC / Pepper Spray	0
Pain Compliance	0

Pressure Points	0
Restraints (other than handcuffs)	2
Simple Restraint	0
Taser (Actual Use)	2
Taser (Display Only)	0
Firearm (Actual Use)	0
Firearm (Display Only)	11

NATURE OF SUBJECTS' INJURIES

13 of the 62 individuals upon whom force was used sustained injury. Note that some individuals may have sustained or reported more than one type of injury.

Subject Injured	6
Subject rendered unconscious	0
Subject Required Hospitalization	0

Nature of injury:

Abrasion / Laceration	0
Apparent Minor Injury	3
Complaint of Pain	0
Other Minor Injury	0
Medical/EMS Treated at scene	4
Not Indicated	0

NATURE OF OFFICER INJURIES

During CY 2024, no officers reported being injured as the result of an R2RA incident. This represents a 100% decrease from 2023, in which 10 R2RA incidents resulted in an officer being injured.

EARLY INTERVENTION WARNING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Since CY 2021, the Austin I.S.D. Police Department has used the industry recognized IAPro / Blue Team platform for electronic reporting and monitoring of Use of Force (R2RA) incidents, Supervisor-Level complaints and Internal Affairs Investigations.

The Early Intervention (EI) system incorporates a Warning feature that is activated when an officer exceeds a designated threshold of Response to Resistance/Arrest (R2RA) incidents, citizen complaints, or Internal Affairs investigations within a defined time period. The Austin I.S.D. Police Department has set the warning threshold for individual officers at three R2RA incidents or three (3) complaints in a twelve (12) month period. When an officer is the subject of three (3) of these incidents in any combination in a twelve (12) month period, the Blue Team / IAPro system automatically generates an Alert notifying the Department's Professional Standards Unit. This notification is forwarded up the chain of command to include the Chief of Police.

A review of the individual incidents that triggered the Alert is conducted by the Professional Standards Bureau Commander, who looks for trends or indicators that the officer may have a need for additional Training, Corrective / Disciplinary action, or other Intervention.

As noted earlier in this report, to meet Best Practices standards and promote transparency, the Austin ISD Police Department intentionally includes a broad range of physical interactions by its officers in its classification of an event as a Response to Resistance and Aggression (R2RA), commonly referred to as "Use of Force".

In CY 2024, Austin ISD Police officer actions triggered thirty-five (35) Early Intervention Alerts. Each of those alerts were investigated by the Professional Standards Bureau Commander, with the following outcomes:

Early Intervention Warnings Triggered	35
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Upon review, no intervention was deemed necessary for those events.

Due to elevated activity levels and/or high call volume, these interactions were deemed necessary to protect oneself or others from injury in which most consisted of separation of combatants.

DUTY TO INTERVENE

Texas Law requires any Law Enforcement officer to intervene if they witness another officer or civilian using unreasonable or unlawful force or restraint. The same law requires the intervening officer to report the incident to the supervisor of the officer using the excessive force. Austin ISD Police Department Directive extends the Duty to Intervene to include *all* employees, sworn or civilian. The Directive requires civilian employees who intervene in, or witness, a Duty to Intervene incident to report the incident directly to the Chief of Police or the Chief's designee. Failure by any employee to report such an incident may result in disciplinary action and could subject the employee to potential civil and/or criminal liability, as provided by law (TX Code Crim. Pro Art 2B.0251 -2024).

In 2024, there were no reports of incidents involving Duty to Intervene.

TRAINING

Annually, including Calendar Year (CY) 2024, all Austin Independent School District Police Department officers receive training in all areas of law enforcement, exceeding the state-mandated requirement of 40 hours per biennium. In addition, all newly hired officers complete 20 hours of state-mandated School-Based Law Enforcement training, which includes instruction on verbal de-escalation techniques, emotional intelligence, child and adolescent brain development, and strategies for interacting with individuals with developmental disabilities. Newly hired officers are also required to complete a Department-mandated 40-hour Mental Health Officer Specialist Course, and most participate in a multi-week 'Mini Academy,' which provides additional training on Departmental Directives and other Department-specific topics.

In CY 2024, Austin I.S.D. Officers received the following training relevant to the response to or mitigation of resistance, and / or topics intended to train officers in redirecting and de-escalation in order to avoid a resistance encounter.

School Based Law Enforcement Training TCOLE #4064	20 hours
Crisis Intervention Training TCOLE #1850	40 hours
Weapons Qualifications and Force Continuum Training	8 hours
Mental Health Refresher for Previously Trained Officers	8 hours
TCOLE- New Supervisor Course (First Line Supervisors)	24 hours
Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)	16 hours
Conducted Energy Weapon (Taser) – New User / Re-certification	8 / 4 hours

Newly hired officers and those needing additional training for Peace Officer License advancement also received the following training:

De-Escalation	4 hours
Adolescent-Development	4 hours
Mental Illness and Crisis Intervention	4 hours
Mental Health and Behavioral and Health Needs...	4 hours
Restorative Justice	4 hours
Mental Health	40 hours
Crisis Intervention for new hires	40 hours
Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigations	16 hours
Finding Wellness – Building a Healthier Life	4 hours
Bias Training	8 hours

CONCLUSION

The Department's Response to Resistance and Aggression (R2RA) Directive / Policy was revised in 2020 to be more accountable and in line with law enforcement best practices. The use of impact batons as well as choke holds are prohibited by this department as a standard practice.

The Department's primary consideration is the safety and security of its staff, students, and the broader campus community, including both the safety of individuals upon whom force is used and the safety of its officers. The Austin Independent School District Police Department collects data on all resistance contacts in order to better understand the department's response to levels of resistance, and to determine if changes in policy, reporting, or training are needed. Reports generated from this information are utilized to promote transparency, build public trust, and enhance the Department's service to our community.

Submitted by: Lt Angelica Covington, Professional Standards / Support Services January 8, 2026

COMMAND REVIEW

Any actions to be taken: _____


Wayne Sneed, Chief of Police


Date