

*2021 Annual Report*  
*Response to Resistance and Aggression*



Austin Independent School District Police Department  
August 2022

Prepared by the AISD PD  
Professional Standards Unit

This annual report reviews the Austin Independent School District Police Department's Use of Force, or Response to Resistance and Aggression (R2RA) during calendar year 2021. Police may properly respond to an individual's resistance when effecting arrests, protection of others, and at times use necessary restraint to control a person who may harm themselves.

AISD Police Department Directive 3.01 requires that the Professional Standards Unit prepare an annual analysis for the Chief of Police on all Response to Resistance incidents. AISD PD prepares this report in order to better understand the conditions under which officers apply a level of restraint and to make improvements to training and Directives when necessary. Preparation of an annual Response to Resistance Report is not a requirement for police departments but is a common practice among recognized agencies. The AISD Police Department is recognized by the Texas Police Chief's Association as meeting best practices.

**In 2021, the Austin Independent School District Police responded to 45,131 calls for service. Forty-three of those contacts involved one or more individuals who presented resistance or assaultive behavior requiring a level of response to the individual's resistance by police officers. That is .095% of all police contacts which resulted in a level of physical response by police. Out of the 43 incidents requiring a level of physical response by police, 33 resulted in the least amount of physical force used by an officer in restraining an individual. Furthermore, 27 of the 43 incidents involved non –students over the age of 18.**

This report recognizes that most of the officer contacts were minimal in nature which amounted to the same force used by a teacher, counselor, or any school official for the purposes of preventing a student and others from hurting themselves, each other, or someone else. In 32 of these incidents, students were actively engaged in physical conduct that was placing themselves, or others in danger. The documentation is only required as a best practice for the purposes of identifying training needs. While most agencies report force options resulting in injury or serious in nature, this Department reports any and all contacts.

### **Key findings in the 2021 Response to Resistance Report**

- **The number of Calls for Service (CFS) increased significantly from 2020 to 2021. In 2021, AISD Police reported 45,131 total calls for service, compared to 34,149 in 2020. This represents an increase of 10,982 calls for service (28.4%).** Upon initial consideration, it seems possible that this increase is at least partially due to the fact that AISD schools were closed for the majority of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the 2021 CFS numbers are also significantly higher than those in pre-COVID 2018 and 2019, which were consistent with those of 2020.
- **In 2021, only .095% of all contacts where police were involved resulted in the use of restraint against a person by AISD Police. This represents a 47% decrease in use of restraint from 2020, in spite of the increase in numbers of Calls for Service.**
- In 2021 the most frequent subject action resulting in a restraint by an officer was Active Aggression (24), followed by Passive Resistance.
- The most often used method of force for officers responding to resistance was Empty Hand Control. Empty Hand Control was used in 34 out of 43, or 79% of the documented Responses to Resistance incidents. Three incidents involved display of

Taser with no deployment. The threat or display of deadly force was also used 3 times within all contacts while placing persons in custody for felonious or suspected felonious crimes.

- Force was used against 82 individuals. Many incidents involved the use of force against more than one subject.

### **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 which is reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control, while protecting the life of the officer and others. The amount of force used should reflect the level necessary to bring a situation under control. When an officer responds to an incident and when force is used to control a situation, AISD PD policy requires that the event be documented as a Response to Resistance Contact form, to include a description of the type of force used (i.e., hands, chemical weapon, Tasers (conductive energy devices), less lethal munitions, handgun, etc.). Furthermore, the supervisor of the officer involved must respond to the scene as per Department Directive, review the incident, and forward their review up to 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 improve training and policy.

### **Nature of Call**

A breakdown of the nature of the service calls shows that restraint was used most often on Public Order Crimes, 19 out of 43 restraint incidents.

City Ordinance Violations	0
Education Code Violations	1
Health and Safety Code	0
Property Offenses	5
Persons Offenses	11
Public Order Crimes	19
Traffic Code	0
Substance Abuse	0
Alcoholic Beverage Code	0
Family Code	2
Other	5
Public Admin	0

**The use of force report captures identifying data about the subject of the report to include gender, age, race and ethnicity.**

**Gender of Subject**

Male	58
Female	24

**Race and Ethnicity of Subject**

Caucasian	20	(24.4 %)
African American	28	(34.1 %)
Hispanic	34	(41.4 %)
Native American	0	(0 %)
Asian	0	(0 %)
Other	0	(0 %)

**Age of Subject**

Under 11	1	(officer assisted with 9 yoa child in crisis who threatened officer with a knife)
11-14	21	
15-17	37	
18-21	3	
22-25	2	
26-30	3	
31-35	4	
36-40	5	
41-45	4	
46-50	1	
51-55	1	
56-60	0	
61-65	0	

**Reasons for Use of Force**

The most often cited reason for using a level of restraint was to Separate Combatants. Other reasons why a restraint option was used included: to Affect an Arrest, Necessary to Defend Officer, Defense of Another, Resisting Arrest, and Protection of Property.

Separate Combatants	40
Defense of Another	21
Necessary to Affect Arrest	19
Necessary to Defend Officer	11

Resisting Arrest	6
Protection of Property	5

### **Nature of Subject's Injuries**

8 of the 43 documented cases in which restraint was used resulted in injury to the subject / subjects (as minor as complain of pain). 4 required medical attention.

Subject Injured	8
Subject rendered unconscious	0
Nature of injury:	
None	0
Minor	8
Medical Attention needed	4
Not Indicated	0

### **Level of Resistance**

**(Some Incidents involved multiple subjects using varying levels of resistance)**

Defensive Resistance	55
Aggravated Physical Aggression	24
Assaultive	23
Passive Resistance	22
Threats to Life	4
Verbal Threats	4
Confirmed Sharp Weapon	1
Not Indicated	6

### **Number of suspects that resisted or assaulted officer.**

In 19 incidents, there was more than one person who resisted or fought with officers and 24 incidents in which officers encountered resistance from a single subject.

One suspect	24
Two suspects	16
Three	2
More than three	1

### **Level of control generated beyond verbal directions**

Empty hand control was employed in 35 of the 43 instances reported. Display of a Taser was used in 3 incidents without deployment. The display, or threat, of deadly force was used in 18 of the incidents in which force was used.

#### **Empty Hand Control**

Muscling Techniques	32
Joint locks	1
Pressure Points	1
Hand Strikes	1
Foot Strikes	0
Not Indicated	0

#### **Intermediate Weapons**

Chemical irritant	2
Taser	3 (non-deployment)
Student subject	0
Non student subject	3
Impact weapon	0
Specialty Impact Munitions	0

#### **Deadly Force**

Displayed	3
Discharged	0

### **Early Intervention Warning**

In 2021, AISD Police implemented the use of IAPro / Blue Team reporting for Response to Resistance and Aggression (R2RA) incidents. The system includes an early warning system that triggers when any individual officer is involved in a given number of R2RA reports, notifying the officer's chain of command and initiating a review. Review of each EI Warning were conducted, with the following results:

Early Intervention Warnings Triggered	2
Interventions	0
No intervention necessary	2

### **Duty to Intervene**

By statute and Department Directive all employees, civilian or sworn, are obligated by Department Directives to intervene and report any unnecessary or unlawful use of force or restraint by any officer to the Chief of Police. In 2021, there were no reports of incidents involving Duty to Intervene.

### **Officer Injuries**

Officers sustained a total of 7 injuries in 2021 as a result of a Response to Resistance / Aggression incident. This is a significant increase from 2020, when no officers were injured.

Minor Injury (unspecified)	3
Abrasion / Laceration	2
Contamination – Body Fluids	1
Bone Fracture	1

### **Training**

Annually (including 2021) Austin Independent School District Police Officers each receive 40 hours of training during the department’s summer training academy, far exceeding the state mandate of 40 hours of training every biennium. Additionally, newly-hired officers received 20 hours of state mandated School-Based Law Enforcement training , which included topics such as de-escalation, emotional intelligence, and interacting with individuals with developmental disabilities. Newly hired officers also received a Department mandated 40-hour Mental Health Course, and most completed a 4 week “Mini Academy”, in which they received additional instruction in Departmental Directives, Traffic Stops, Building Searches, Mental Health Response for SROs, and other Department-specific training.

In the first part of 2021, AISD Officers continued to be limited in the amount of training received due to lingering effects of the COVID Pandemic. However, officers did receive the following training relevant to the mitigation of resistance, or topics intended to train officers in redirecting and de-escalation in order to avoid a resistance encounter.

Weapons Qualifications and Force Continuum Training	8 hours
Mental Health Refresher for Previously Trained Officers	8 hours
TCOLE- New Supervisor Course (First Line Supervisor)	24 hours
Department Supervisor Training for new supervisors	4 hours

New hires/certification requirements additional 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

### Accountability

AISD Police has implemented IA Pro/ Blue Team software for the purpose of tracking all Response to Resistance contacts for real time evaluation as well as early warning signs of possible police misconduct.

### 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 banned for use by this department as a standard practice.

The Department's primary consideration is public and officer safety to include the individual being restrained. 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 called for. Reports made from this information are used to increase transparency and to enhance our service to the community.

Submitted by: Lt Zac Gorbet, Professional Standards

August 15, 2022

### COMMAND REVIEW

Any actions to be taken:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wayne Sneed, Chief of Police

08.22.22  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date