

Louisiana Law Enforcement Accountability Database (LLEAD)

Report: Racial Disparities in Louisiana State Police Use of Force (2022–2024)

December 2025

Summary

This report analyzes Louisiana State Police (LSP) use-of-force incidents from 2022–2024 and identifies significant, statewide racial disparities. Over this three-year period, Black residents were the subject of 60.5% of all LSP use-of-force incidents despite representing only 31% of Louisiana’s population, while White residents, who represent 61% of the population, were subject of 22.9% of incidents. When compared to their share of the state’s population, Black residents experienced force nearly twice as often as expected, reflecting a $5.3\times$ disparity compared to White residents. These disparities persist across every LSP troop, each of which shows Black residents as the overwhelming subjects of force. However, high rates of incidents coded as “Unknown race” in some troops (10–20%) limit the precision of the analysis.

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1. Executive Summary

In January 2025, after a three-year investigation, the U.S. Department of Justice released a report concluding that the Louisiana State Police engaged in a “pattern or practice” of excessive force, including unjustified Taser usage,

escalation of minor incidents, and force used on people who posed no threat.¹ Investigators also found long-standing failures in supervision and chronic underreporting of force.

The federal investigation, launched in 2022 after the killing of Ronald Greene and several other incidents of alleged unlawful force and racial discrimination, initially examined both excessive force and racially discriminatory policing.² The investigation's findings only addressed excessive force. In May 2025, under a new administration, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division rescinded these findings, in step with a national rollback of federal police accountability measures.

This report analyzes all Louisiana State Police use-of-force incidents reported by the agency between 2022 and 2024 and integrated into the Louisiana Law Enforcement Accountability Database (LLEAD). These years coincide with the DOJ investigation and provide a rare statewide view of force practices during a period of heightened oversight.

Across the three-year period, Black residents were consistently the majority of individuals subjected to force. White residents, who make up more than half the state's population, represented less than one-quarter of incidents. These disparities appear in every trooper across Louisiana, indicating structural rather than localized patterns.

In 2025, the Louisiana Legislature enacted Act 426 (originally introduced as *Shantel Arnold's Law*³), requiring statewide reporting of use-of-force incidents that result in serious injury. This analysis serves as a baseline for evaluating use-of-force practices before those reporting requirements take effect.

2. Key Findings – Distribution Analysis

2.1 Use of Force by Race (2022–2024)

This chart shows the distribution of all Louisiana State Police use-of-force incidents from 2022–2024 by the race of the civilian involved. Black residents were the subject of the majority of force incidents (902 cases, or 60.5% of all incidents), representing a substantially larger share than any other racial group. White residents were the subject of 22.9% of incidents, while Hispanic (4.0%), Asian (0.8%), and American Indian or Alaska Native residents (0.1%) accounted for relatively few cases. Incidents coded as “Unknown” race comprise a notable 11.7% of the total. Overall, the visualization highlights a stark racial imbalance in who is subjected to LSP use of force.

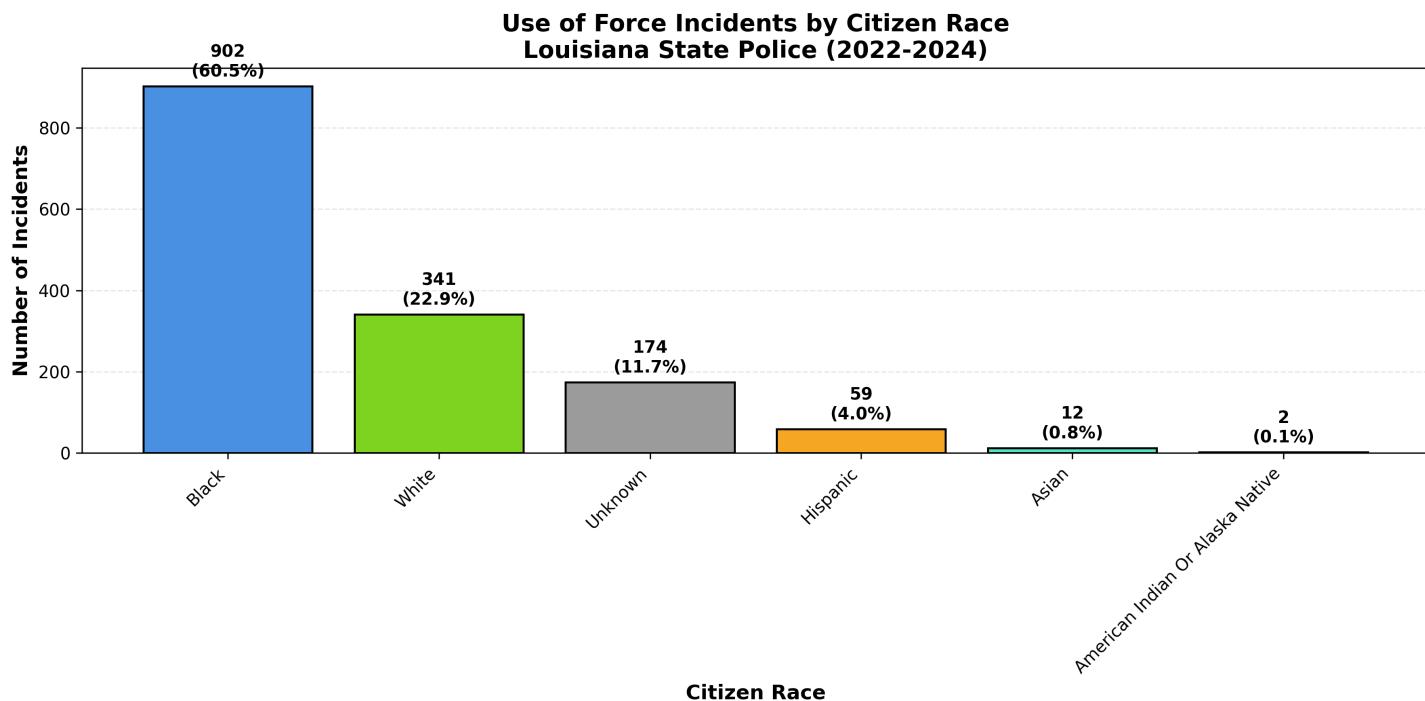
¹ NBC News. 2025. “Louisiana State Police Engaged in Pattern of Excessive Force for Years, Scathing Report Finds.” January 16. Accessed October 30, 2025. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/louisiana-state-police-engaged-pattern-excessive-force-years-scathing-rcna188163>

² American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana. 2021. “ACLU of Louisiana Sends Second Demand Letter to the Department of Justice.” September 10. Accessed October 30, 2025. <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-louisiana-sends-second-demand-letter-department-justice/>

³ Richard A. Webster, “Four Years After Cop Was Filmed Slamming Black Woman to the Ground, Louisiana Passes Accountability Law,” *ProPublica*, July 23, 2025.

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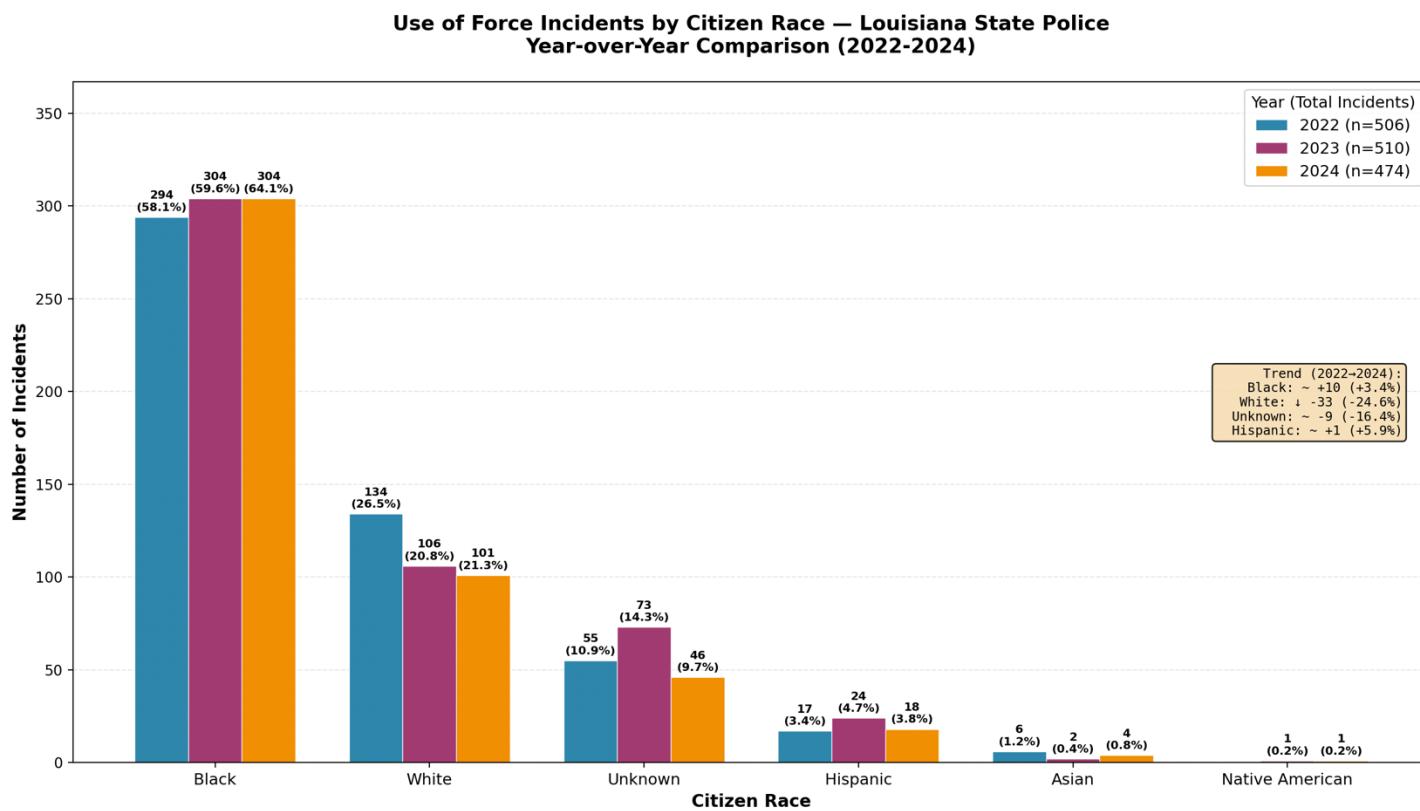


Incident Counts by Citizen Race

Race	Incident Count	Percentage
Black	902	60.54%
White	341	22.89%
Unknown	174	11.68%
Hispanic	59	3.96%
Asian	12	0.81%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0.13%
Total	1,490	100.00%

2.2 Use of Force by Race and Year

This chart compares Louisiana State Police use-of-force incidents by citizen race across 2022, 2023, and 2024. The number of incidents involving Black residents remains both high and stable across all three years, rising slightly from 294 in 2022 to 304 in both 2023 and 2024, while incidents involving White residents steadily decline over the same period. “Unknown” race incidents fluctuate but peak in 2023, and incidents involving Hispanic remain low overall with only minor variation year to year. Overall, the trend lines show consistent racial patterns rather than meaningful shifts, with disparities persisting across all three years.



3. Key Findings – Population-Normalized Disparities

Population-normalized analysis compares how often a group experiences use of force relative to its share of the driving-age population (16+). A disparity ratio above 1.0 indicates over-representation; values below 1.0 indicate under-representation.

3.1 Statewide Racial Disparities in Use of Force Relative to Population (2022–2024)

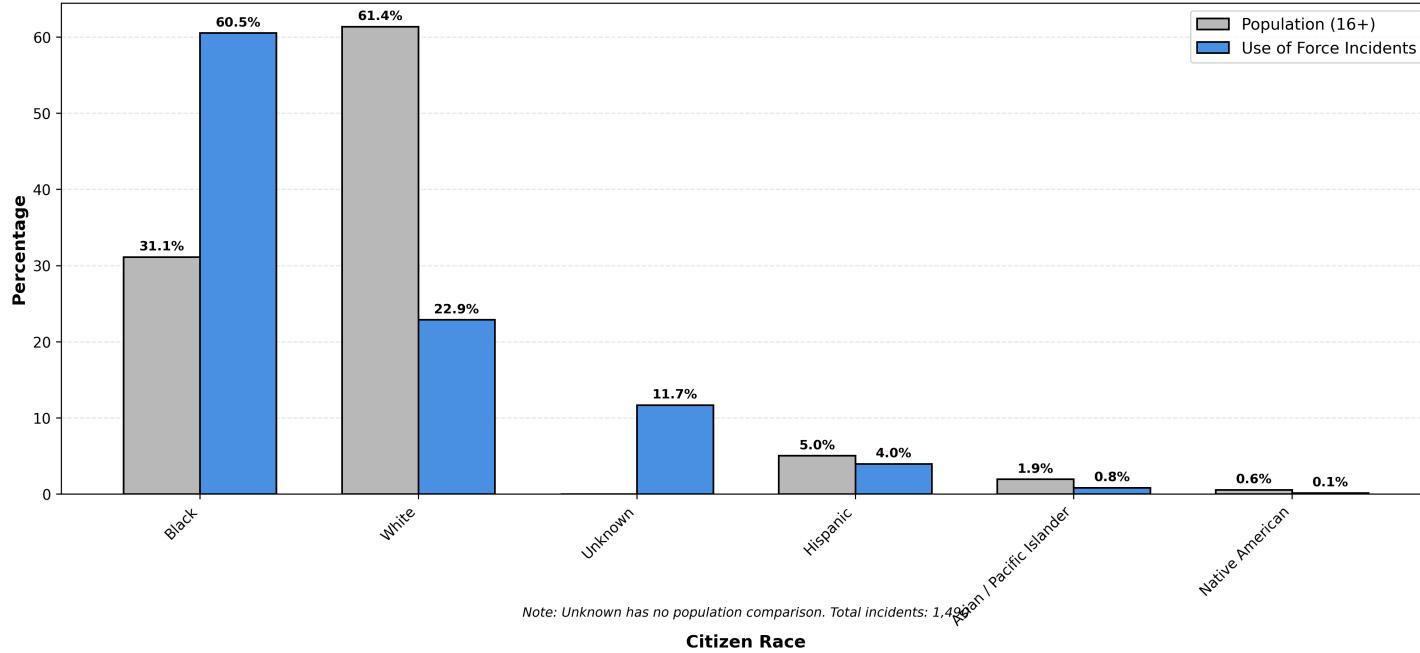
This chart compares Louisiana’s population demographics to the racial distribution of Louisiana State Police use-of-force incidents from 2022–2024. Black residents make up 31.1% of the driving-age population but were the subject of 60.5% of all incidents, resulting in a disparity ratio of 1.95×, which is nearly twice what would be expected based on population share. White residents show the opposite pattern: they comprise 61.4% of the

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population but were subject of 22.9% of incidents, reflecting a disparity ratio of 0.37×. Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American residents all appear at lower-than-expected rates, while the large share of “Unknown” race incidents limits the precision of the analysis but does not alter the broader pattern of racial imbalance.

**Use of Force Incidents vs Population Demographics
Louisiana State Police (2022-2024)**

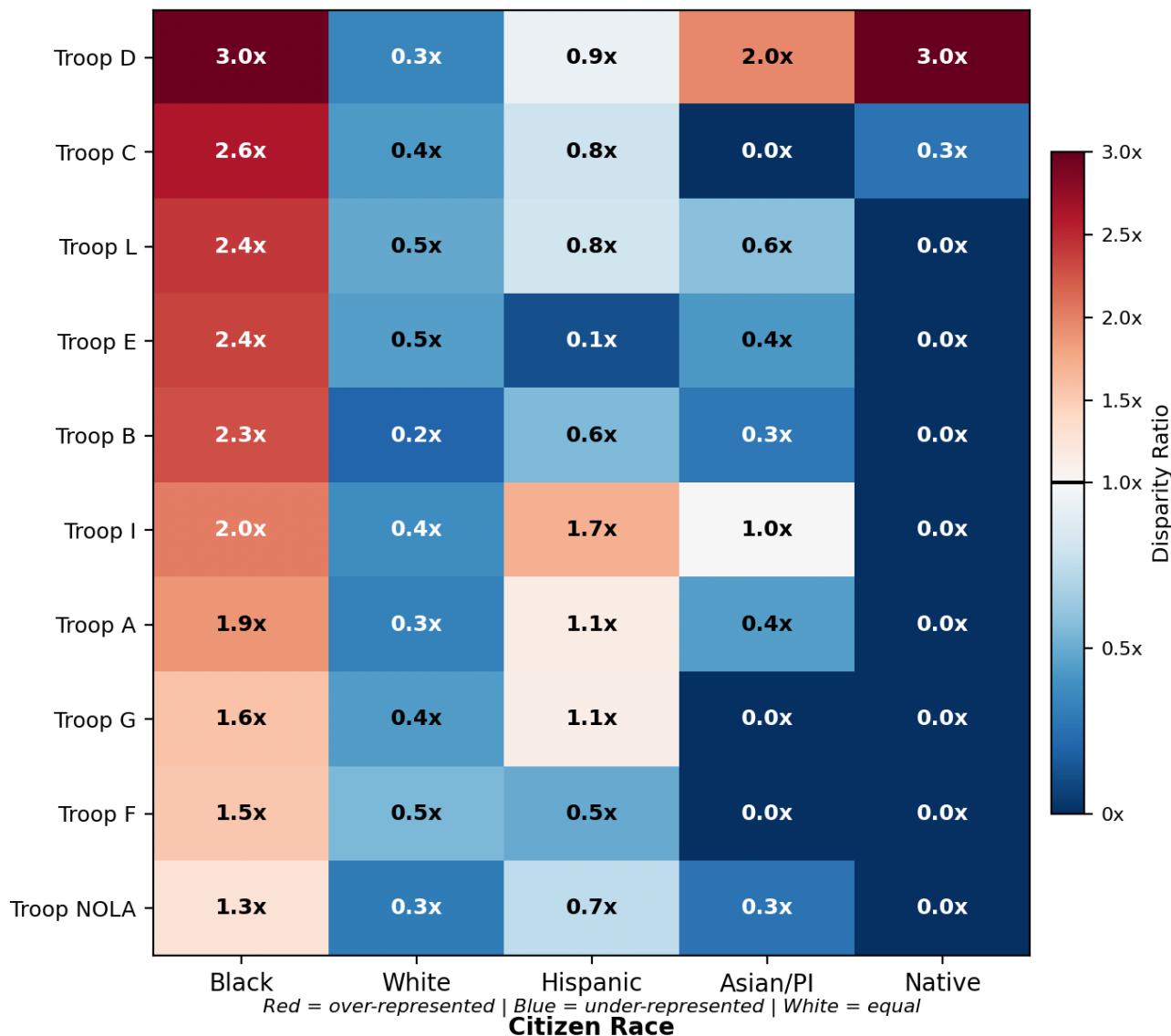


Race	Population %	UoF Incidents %	Disparity
Black	31.1%	60.5%	1.95×
White	61.4%	22.9%	0.37×
Hispanic	5.0%	4.0%	0.79×
Asian / Pacific Islander	1.9%	0.8%	0.42×
Native American	0.6%	0.1%	0.24×
Unknown	0.0%	11.7%	N/A

3.2 Troop-Level Disparity Analysis

This chart shows how often each racial group appears in use-of-force incidents compared to their share of the local population within each LSP troop. The numbers in each box represent a disparity ratio, where values above 1.0 indicate a group appears more often than expected based on population share, and values below 1.0 indicate under-representation. Black residents are over-represented in every troop, often by two to three times their population share with the strongest disparities in Troops D, C, L, E, and B. White residents are consistently under-represented across all troops, while Hispanic representation varies by region, with slight over-representation in Troops I, A, and G. In Troop D, Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American residents also show extreme over-representation despite very small population sizes, though across most other troops these groups appear in very small numbers or not at all. Overall, the chart shows that Louisiana State Police use of force is disproportionately directed against Black residents across all regions, even when normalized for local population demographics.

Disparity Ratio by Troop and Race (UoF % ÷ Population %)
Louisiana State Police 2022-2024



4. Conclusion: What the Data Suggests

Louisiana State Police use-of-force data from 2022–2024 shows consistent racial disparities across the state. Black residents accounted for more than 60% of all individuals subjected to force, despite representing less than one-third of the population. White residents, who make up more than half of the state, represented less than one-quarter of incidents.

These disparities appear in every troop, across all regions of Louisiana. No troop shows proportional use-of-force distribution across racial groups. In the highest-disparity troops (D, C, and L), Black residents experienced force more than 2.4-3× **more often** than expected based on population. Compared to White residents, who are consistently represented below their population share, this reflects an overall 5.3× statewide racial disparity.

Data quality concerns further complicate the picture. The high rate of “Unknown race” entries, sometimes exceeding 15-20% in a troop, suggests inconsistent reporting practices. Missing race data makes it more difficult to measure the full extent of racial disparities and raises questions about transparency.

Taken together, these findings show that racial disparities in LSP’s use-of-force practices are widespread and enduring. These patterns align with issues raised during the DOJ’s civil rights investigation, even though the federal government declined to issue findings of racially biased policing and later withdrew its report. As Louisiana implements statewide use-of-force reporting requirements under Louisiana Act 426, this analysis provides an essential baseline for future accountability and transparency efforts.

5. Methodology

LSP use-of-force incident data from 2022–2024 was obtained through the Louisiana Department of Safety Public Records Center in October 2025. LSP reported 1,410 incidents. Because some incidents involved multiple citizens, counts were expanded to reflect each individual subjected to force, resulting in a total of 1,490 citizen-level records. Missing or blank race values were recoded as “Unknown.” In seven multi-citizen incidents where only one race was listed, that race value was assigned to all individuals for consistency.

Population data was collected from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2018–2022 5-Year Estimates. Totals reflect the driving-age population (16+) by race. Parish-level counts were aggregated to each LSP troop based on official jurisdiction maps; parishes split between troops were divided evenly.

Disparity ratios were calculated using:

Disparity = Incident Share ÷ Population Share

Ratios above 1.0 indicate over-representation; ratios below 1.0 indicate under-representation. “Unknown” entries are included in descriptive counts but excluded from disparity calculations.

6. References

1. U.S. Department of Justice, Use of Force Policy Guidance.
2. U.S. Census Bureau. 2025. “American Community Survey, 2018–2022 5-Year Estimates (ACS 5-year), Tables B01001B, B01001H, B01001I, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E (Louisiana parishes).” Retrieved via the U.S. Census Bureau API. Accessed November 2025.

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3. NBC News. 2025. “Louisiana State Police Engaged in Pattern of Excessive Force for Years, Scathing Report Finds.” January 16. Accessed October 30, 2025. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/louisiana-state-police-engaged-pattern-excessive-force-years-scathing-rcna188163>
4. American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana. 2021. “ACLU of Louisiana Sends Second Demand Letter to the Department of Justice.” September 10. Accessed October 30, 2025. <https://www.laaclu.org/press-releases/aclu-louisiana-sends-second-demand-letter-department-justice/>
5. Richard A. Webster, “Four Years After Cop Was Filmed Slamming Black Woman to the Ground, Louisiana Passes Accountability Law,” *ProPublica*, July 23, 2025.