

Louisiana Law Enforcement Accountability Database (LLEAD)

**Report: St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office Use of Force Incident Data (2022–2025)**

June 2026

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## Summary

This report provides a descriptive overview of use-of-force incidents reported by the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office (STPSO) from 2022 through 2025. Over this four-year period, STPSO documented 754 unique individuals subjected to force. The reported incidents took place in both street enforcement encounters, as well as in the St. Tammany Parish jail. The most common types of force used were hands-on techniques and verbal commands, which together accounted for more than three-quarters of all force applications. Most individuals subjected to force were male (77.5%) and between the ages of 18 and 44 (85.6%). Black residents were the subject of 46.2% of all use-of-force incidents despite representing just 12.2% of St. Tammany Parish’s population—a disparity ratio of 3.79, meaning Black residents were subjected to force at nearly four times the rate their population share would predict. White residents, who make up 73.8% of the parish population, accounted for 50.0% of force incidents, yielding a disparity ratio of 0.68, or roughly two-thirds of their expected share. Citizen injury rates declined over the reporting period. Annual volume was relatively stable from 2022 to 2024 (roughly 176-186 individuals per year) before rising to 212 in 2025, which is a modest but notable increase of about 17%. Because STPSO operates both patrol divisions and the parish jail, STPSO clarified that the data include force incidents from both settings. This means that some findings, particularly around volume and arrest rates, reflect a mix of street-level policing and jail operations that have not been separated. This report is limited to data provided by STPSO through a public records request; it does not include incidents that may have gone unreported.

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### 1. Executive Summary

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Office is the primary law enforcement agency for St. Tammany Parish, one of the most populous parishes in Louisiana with over 266,000 residents. STPSO is responsible for policing unincorporated areas of the parish and operating the parish jail. Like all law enforcement agencies in Louisiana, STPSO is now subject to statewide use-of-force reporting requirements under LA Rev Stat § 40:2554 (2025), which mandates standardized data collection on force incidents.

This analysis examines use-of-force data obtained from STPSO through a public records request. The dataset covers the period from January 2022 through December 2025 and includes information on the type of force used, the type of resistance exhibited by the citizen, whether the citizen was injured or hospitalized, and basic demographic information about both the citizen and the officer involved.

A critical feature of this dataset is that it includes force incidents from both STPSO’s law enforcement operations (traffic stops, calls for service, warrant execution) and the St. Tammany Parish jail, which STPSO also operates. The data provided by STPSO does not include a field that reliably identifies which setting an incident occurred in. As a result, this report analyzes all incidents together. Where this distinction is especially relevant to interpreting a finding, we note it explicitly.

Understanding how and when force is used is essential for evaluating police accountability and community safety. This report presents the data descriptively, providing a factual baseline that policymakers, community members, and oversight bodies can use to assess STPSO’s use-of-force practices.

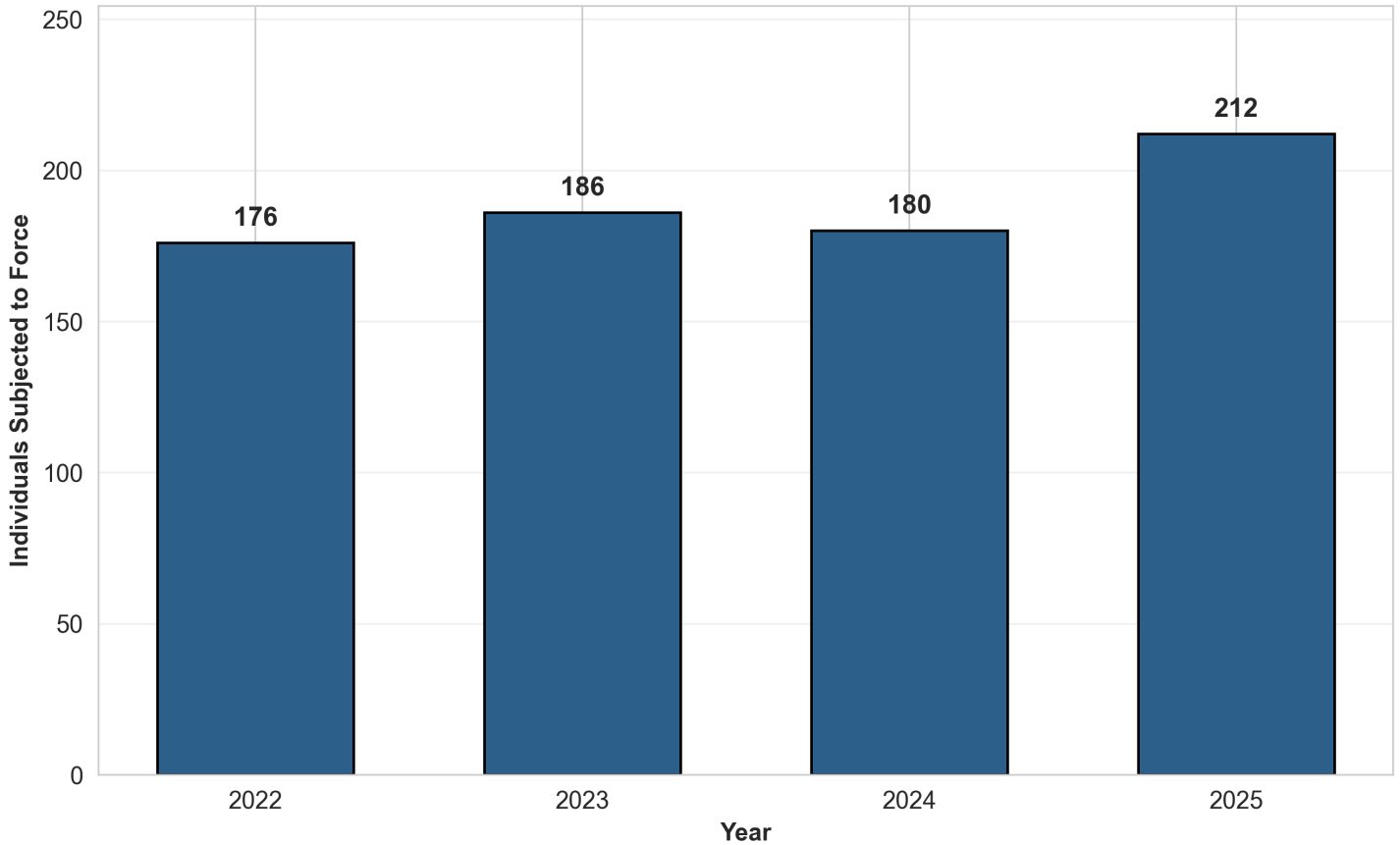
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### 2. Key Findings

#### 2.1 Overall Volume & Trends

STPSO reported 754 unique individuals subjected to force between 2022 and 2025. The annual volume was relatively stable from 2022 through 2024, ranging from 176 to 186 individuals per year. In 2025, that number rose to 212, an increase of about 17% over the prior three-year average.

**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office  
Individuals Subjected to Force by Year, 2022–2025**



Because the data includes force incidents from both law enforcement operations and the parish jail (see Executive Summary), these totals reflect both settings combined. An increase in volume could stem from changes in either setting, and this data does not identify which.

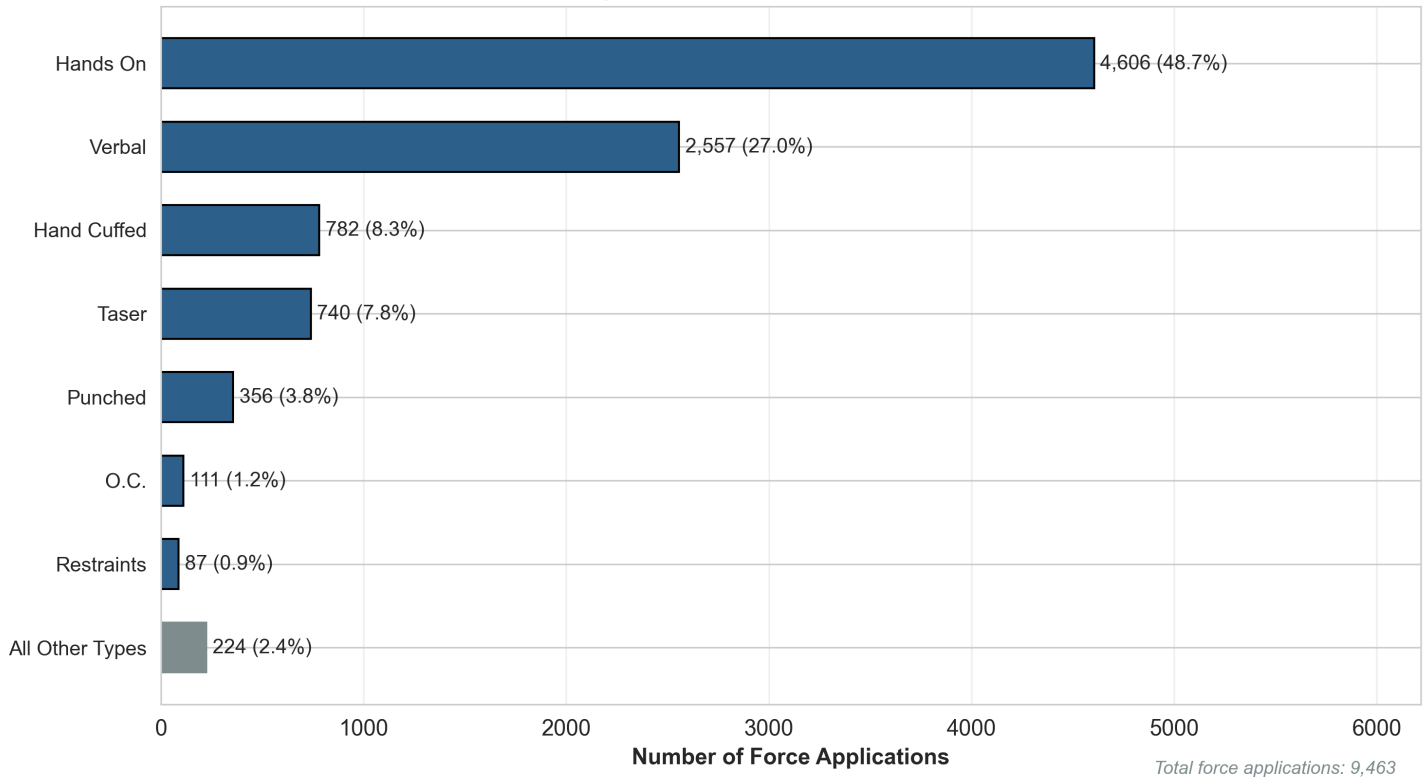
## 2.2 Types of Force Used

Each use-of-force incident can involve multiple types of force applied to the same individual. Across all incidents, STPSO officers recorded 9,462 individual force applications. The vast majority involved hands-on techniques (48.7%) and verbal commands (27.0%), which together accounted for more than three out of every four force applications. Handcuffing (8.3%) and Tasers (7.8%) were the next most common.

Higher-severity force types, such as punches, knee strikes, OC spray (pepper spray), K-9 deployment, and baton use, were relatively rare, collectively representing less than 7% of all force applications.

It is worth noting that “Hands On” is a broad category that can range from guiding a person’s arm to physically tackling them. The data does not distinguish between these levels of physical contact, which limits how precisely we can assess force severity from this field alone.

**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office  
Types of Force Used, 2022–2025**



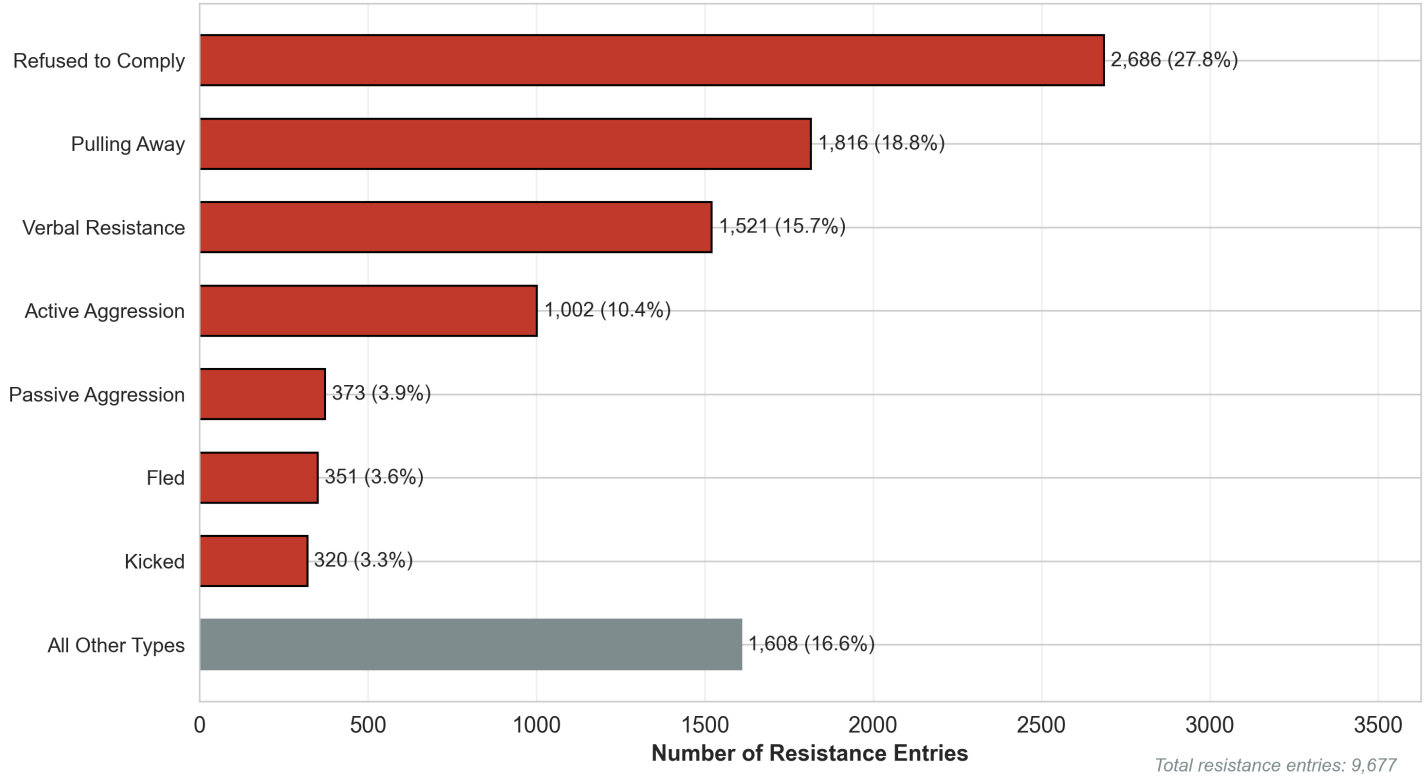
### 2.3 Types of Citizen Resistance Reported

Officers also documented the type of resistance exhibited by citizens during use-of-force incidents. Across all incidents, 9,676 resistance behaviors were recorded. The most frequently reported forms of resistance were refusal to comply (27.8%), pulling away (18.8%), and verbal resistance (15.7%). Together, these three passive or low-level resistance types accounted for more than 60% of all reported resistance.

Active aggression, which includes behaviors such as punching, kicking, biting, or attempting to disarm an officer, was reported in about 10% of resistance entries.

The high proportion of low-level resistance, such as refusal to comply, pulling away, verbal resistance, paired with the force types described in the previous section raises questions about whether force responses are proportional to the level of resistance encountered.

**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office  
Types of Citizen Resistance Reported, 2022–2025**



## 2.4 Who Was Subjected to Force: Demographics

### 2.4.1. Gender

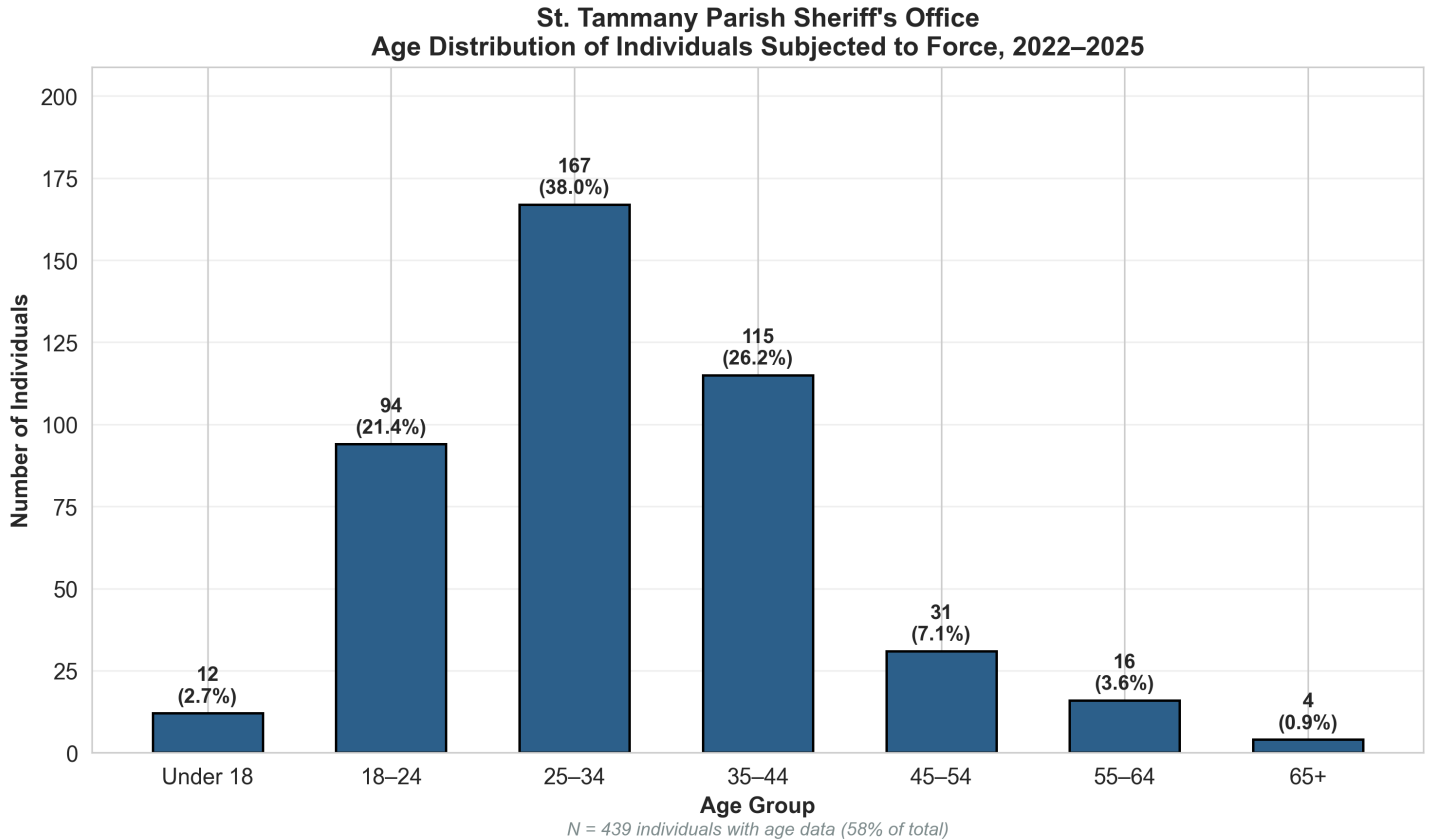
A large majority of individuals subjected to force were male (77.5%). Women accounted for 17.8% of cases. This gender split remained consistent across all four years.

Gender	Count	Percentage
Male	584	77.5%
Female	134	17.8%
Unknown	1	0.1%

### 2.4.2. Age

Among the 439 individuals for whom age data was available, the median age was 31 years old. Nearly 86% of individuals were between 18 and 44 years old, with the 25–34 age group representing the largest share (38.6%). Twelve individuals (2.7%) were minors (under the age of 18).

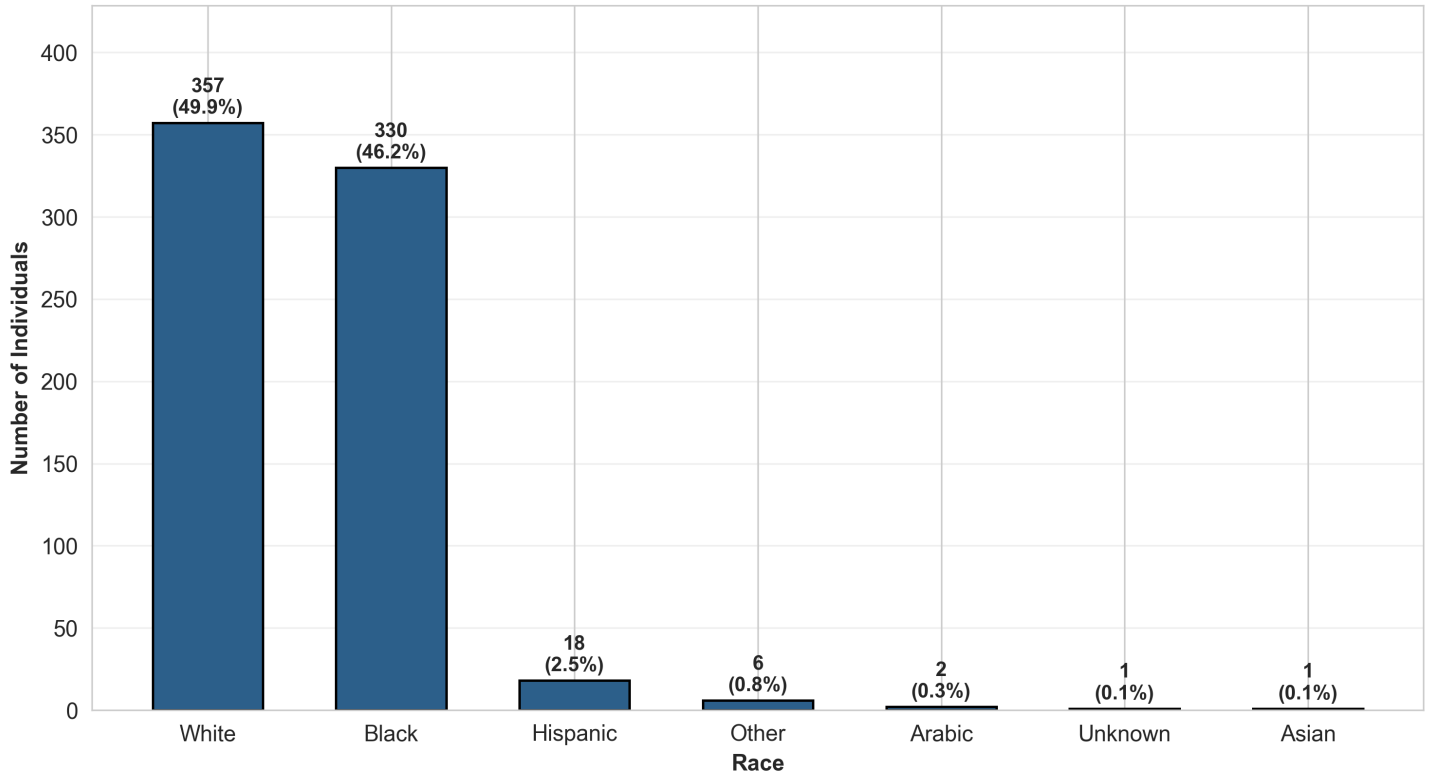
Age data was missing for approximately 42% of individuals in the dataset, a significant gap that limits the completeness of this demographic picture.



### 2.4.3. Race

Among the 715 individuals with race data recorded, White residents accounted for 49.9% of individuals subjected to force, while Black residents accounted for 46.2%. Hispanic residents made up 2.5%, with all other racial groups representing less than 2% combined. Race data was missing for 39 individuals (5.2% of the total).

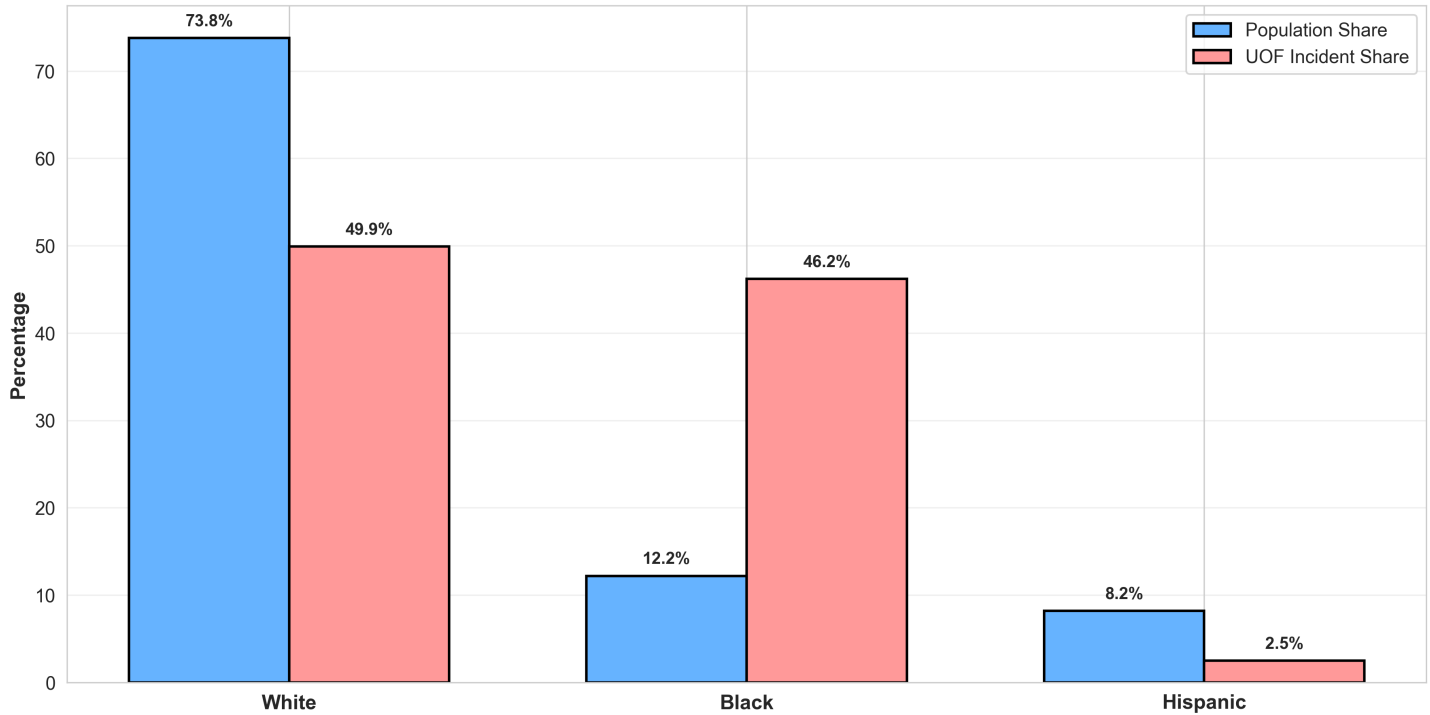
**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office  
Race of Individuals Subjected to Force, 2022–2025**



These raw numbers alone do not tell us whether any group is over or under-represented in use-of-force incidents. To answer that question, we compare these figures to the parish’s population.

To put these numbers in context, the chart below compares each group’s share of use-of-force incidents to its share of the parish population, based on U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Black residents make up 12.2% of St. Tammany Parish’s population but accounted for 46.2% of individuals subjected to force, a share nearly four times higher than their population share. White residents, who make up 73.8% of the parish, accounted for 49.9% of force incidents, a share below their population share. Hispanic residents (8.2% of the parish) accounted for 2.5% of force incidents.

**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office  
Population vs. Use of Force Incident Share by Race (2022-2025)  
Parish Population: 2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates**



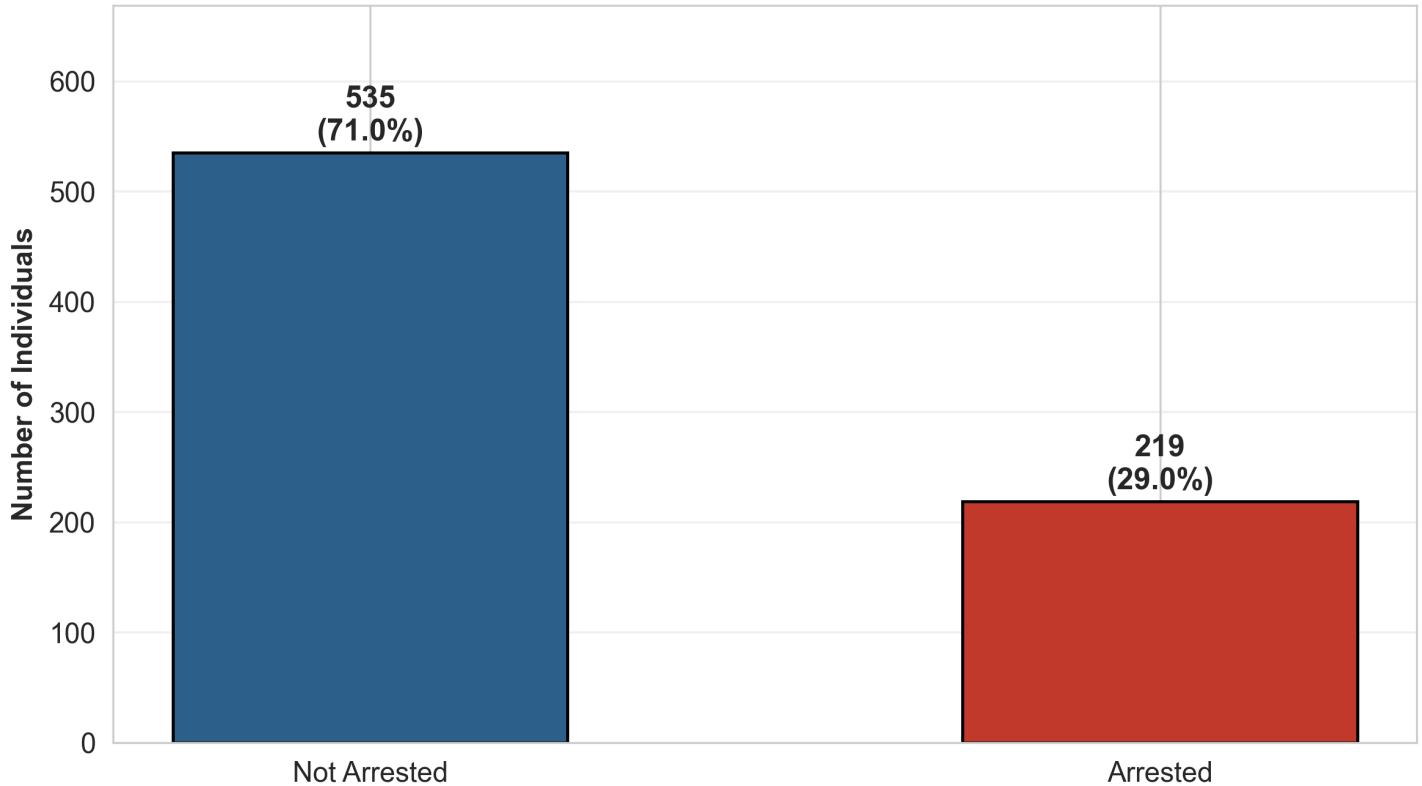
## 2.5 Force Incident Outcomes

Most use-of-force encounters did not result in an arrest; however, it is unclear how many of these incidents occurred when civilians were already in custody. Of the 754 individuals subjected to force, 535 (71%) were demarcated as “not arrested.” 219 individuals (29%) were arrested following a force incident.

These numbers should be interpreted with significant caution. As noted in Section 2.2, the dataset combines force incidents from both street-level policing and the parish jail. For individuals who were already in custody at the time force was used (i.e., jail incidents), “not arrested” is the expected outcome, not a meaningful indicator of how the encounter was resolved.

Because we cannot separate jail incidents from street incidents, we cannot determine what share of the “not arrested” group reflects jail encounters versus street encounters where force was used but no arrest followed. As a result, neither the overall arrest rate nor the year-over-year trends shown below can be meaningfully interpreted as indicators of how street-level force encounters are resolved.

**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office  
Arrest Outcomes in Use-of-Force Encounters, 2022–2025**



The number of individuals arrested following a force incident remained relatively stable, though 2024 saw a lower arrest rate (20.6%) compared to 2022 (29%) and 2023 (32.3%). In 2025, the arrest rate rose to 33.5%.

Year	Total	Arrested	Arrest Rate
2022	176	51	29.0%
2023	186	60	32.3%
2024	180	37	20.6%
2025	212	71	33.5%

We include these figures for completeness and transparency, but we caution against drawing conclusions from them without knowing how many incidents occurred in each setting.

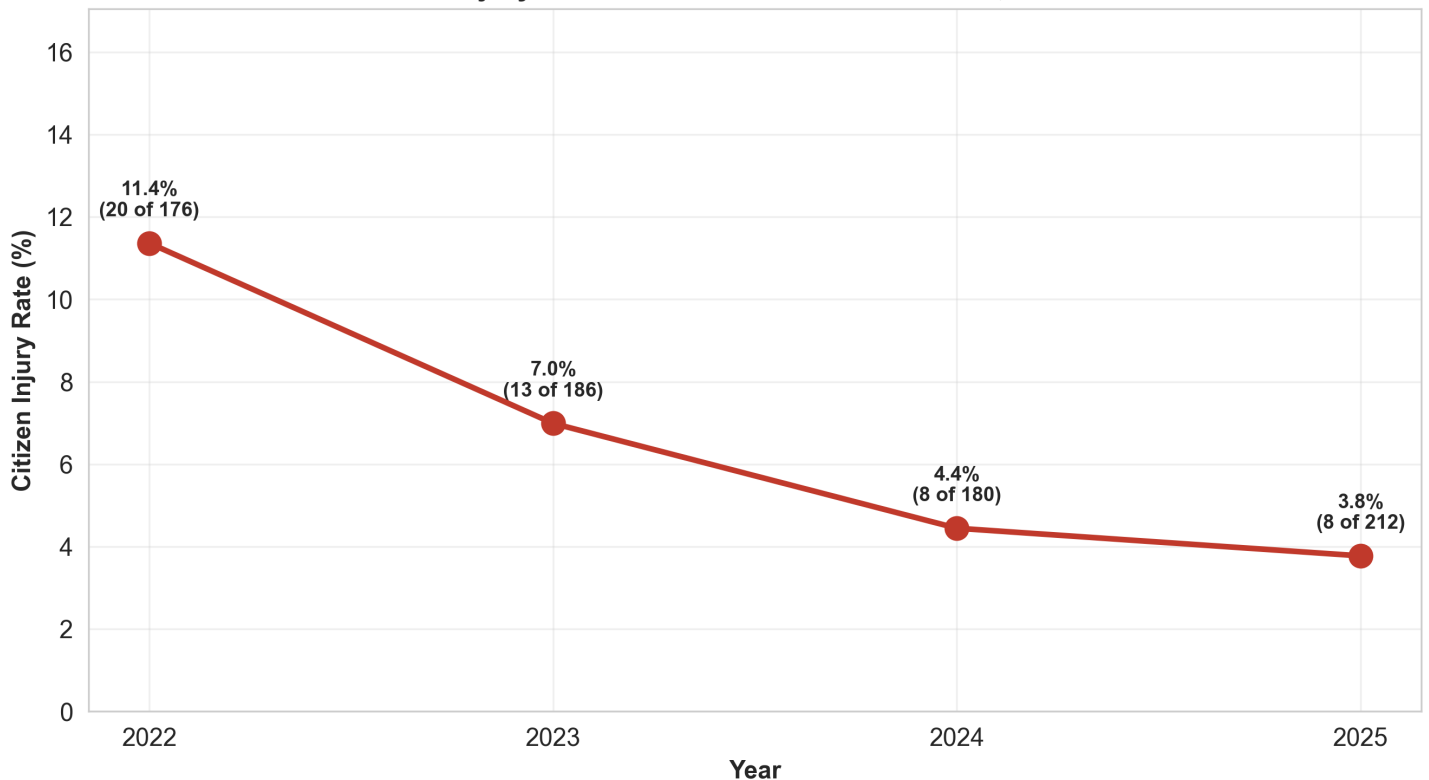
## 2.6 Citizen Injuries & Hospitalizations

Across the full reporting period, 49 individuals (6.5%) were documented as having been injured during a use-of-force encounter. A larger number (109 individuals (14.5%)) were recorded as having been taken to a hospital, though hospitalization can occur for reasons beyond force-related injuries (e.g., medical evaluations following Taser deployment, pre-existing conditions, or mental health assessments).

Outcome	Count	Percentage
Injured	49	6.5%
Not Injured	705	93.5%
Hospitalized	109	14.5%
Not Hospitalized	645	85.5%

Injury rates declined steadily over the reporting period, from 11.4% in 2022 to 3.8% in 2025. This could reflect changes in the types of force being used, improvements in de-escalation practices, or differences in how injuries are documented.

**St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office  
Citizen Injury Rate in Use-of-Force Encounters, 2022–2025**



### 3. Conclusion: What the Data Suggests

This summary of St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office use-of-force data from 2022 through 2025 reveals several patterns worth noting.

**Force is predominantly low-level but frequent.** The vast majority of force applications involved hands-on techniques and verbal commands. Higher-severity force, such as Tasers, strikes, OC spray, K-9, made up a

small fraction of incidents. At the same time, STPSO averaged roughly 180 to 210 individuals subjected to force per year, a volume that merits ongoing monitoring.

**Black residents are subjected to force far out of proportion to their population.** Black residents make up about one in eight people in St. Tammany Parish but were the subject of nearly half of all use-of-force incidents—a disparity ratio of 3.79. This pattern held across every year from 2022 through 2025, with Black residents equaling or outnumbering White residents as subjects of force in 2023 and 2025 despite being outnumbered more than six to one in the parish population.

**The data mixes jail and street incidents, limiting what we can conclude.** Because STPSO operates both patrol divisions and the parish jail, and because the data does not distinguish between the two settings, findings like arrest rates and overall volume reflect a combination of street-level policing and jail operations. For example, the low overall arrest rate (29%) is likely driven in part by jail incidents where the individual was already in custody. Without the ability to separate these settings, readers should be cautious about interpreting aggregate patterns as reflective of either setting alone.

**Injury rates are declining.** Citizen injury rates dropped from 11.4% in 2022 to 3.8% in 2025. While the reasons for this decline are unclear from the data alone, it is a positive trend that warrants continued tracking.

**2025 saw a moderate increase in volume.** The number of individuals subjected to force rose from roughly 176–186 per year in 2022–2024 to 212 in 2025, an increase of about 17%. Whether this reflects a genuine change in force usage, differences in the types of encounters officers faced, or shifts in reporting practices is not clear from the data alone.

**Data limitations.** This analysis relies on agency-reported data. We cannot independently verify the completeness or accuracy of these records. Age data was missing for approximately 42% of individuals, and race data was missing for about 5%. The “Hands On” force category is broad and does not distinguish between lower- and higher-intensity physical contact.

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## 4. Methodology

**1. Data Source:** Use-of-force records were obtained from the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office through a public records request. Two files were provided: one covering January 2022 through December 2024, and one covering January through December 2025.

**2. Data Preparation:** The two files were merged into a single dataset after standardizing column names across the two formats, yielding 9,921 rows. Each row in the raw data represents a single force-type or resistance-type entry per citizen per incident in a cross-product structure (one row per officer × resistance type × force type combination), meaning one encounter can produce many rows.

**3. Citizen-level Deduplication:** The raw data does not include a unique citizen identifier. Some incidents involved multiple citizens under the same Internal Affairs (IA) case number. To construct a citizen-centric dataset, we grouped the data by the combination of IA case number, incident date, citizen gender, citizen race,

and citizen age. This key was validated against the full dataset: it produces zero conflicts in outcome fields (arrest and injury status), confirming it correctly distinguishes individual citizens. Where rows were missing a date but shared an IA number with rows that had exactly one unique date, the date was recovered from the sibling rows. This process yielded 780 unique citizen records, of which 754 fell within the 2022–2025 analysis period.

**4. Counting Methodology:** Force type and resistance type counts reflect the total number of individual applications recorded across all incidents (9,462 force applications and 9,676 resistance entries), not unique individuals. Demographic and outcome counts (race, gender, age, arrest, injury) are based on the 754 unique citizen records in 2022–2025.

**5. Population Data:** Parish population figures used in the companion report's disparity analysis come from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2018–2022 5-Year Estimates, retrieved via the Census API. St. Tammany Parish total population: 266,168. Racial breakdown: White 207,322 (77.9%), Black 32,362 (12.2%), Hispanic 16,212 (6.1%).

**6. Jail and enforcement incidents:** STPSO operates both law enforcement patrol divisions and the St. Tammany Parish jail. The use-of-force data provided includes incidents from both settings. The agency did not provide a field identifying which setting an incident occurred in. As a result, all analyses in this report treat the data as a single combined pool. This is a significant limitation: findings related to arrest outcomes are affected by this limitation.

**7. Data Limitations:** Age data was unavailable for approximately 42% of records, and race data was missing for about 5%. All data is self-reported by STPSO and has not been independently verified. The dataset does not include contextual information about the circumstances of each encounter (e.g., type of call, location, time of day). A small number of records (21 rows across 3 IA case numbers) lacked dates and could not be assigned one through sibling matching; these were excluded from the year-level analysis.

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## 5. References

1. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018–2022 5-Year Estimates, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Retrieved via Census API, February 2026.
2. Louisiana legislation requiring standardized use-of-force reporting by law enforcement agencies: LA Rev Stat § 40:2554 (2025)
3. St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, Use-of-Force Incident Data 2022-2025. Obtained via STPSO Public Records Center Portal.

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*This report was produced by Innocence & Justice Louisiana as part of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Accountability Database (LLEAD). For more information, visit [llead.co](<https://llead.co>).*

