Use of Force

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

October 18, 2023
Police Commission

USE OF FORCE & POLICING

According to the National Institute of Justice, there is no universally agreed-upon definition of use of force and no universal set of rules that governs when and how much use of force officers should use.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police defines use of force as the "amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject."

The U.S. Supreme Court, in Graham v. Connor, established that those evaluating whether a use of force was reasonable should consider only the information known to the officer who applied the force at the time of the incident.

SFPD & USE OF FORCE

The San Francisco Police Department's highest priority is safeguarding the life, dignity and liberty of all persons. Officers shall demonstrate this principle in their daily interactions with the community they are sworn to protect and serve. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission with respect and minimal reliance on the use of force by using rapport-building communication, crisis intervention, and de-escalation tactics before resorting to force, whenever feasible.

The Department General Order 5.01, "USE OF FORCE POLICY AND PROPER CONTROL OF A PERSON," builds upon the Supreme Court's broad principles in Graham v. Connor (1989) 490 U.S. 386 and is more restrictive than the constitutional standard and state law. The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics requires all sworn law enforcement officers to carry out their duties with courtesy, respect, professionalism, and to never employ unnecessary force. These are key factors in maintaining legitimacy with the community and safeguarding the public's trust.

SFPD DGO 5.01 USE OF FORCE POLICY

5.01.04 CONSIDERATIONS GOVERNING
ALL USES OF FORCE

A. USE OF FORCE MUST BE FOR A LAWFUL PURPOSE - Officers may use objectively reasonable force options in the performance of their duties, in the following circumstances:

    1. To effect a lawful arrest, detention, or search.
    2. To overcome resistance or to prevent escape.
    3. To prevent the commission of a public offense.
    4. In defense of others or in self-defense.
    5. To gain compliance with a lawful order.
    6. To prevent a person from injuring themself. However, an officer is prohibited from using lethal force against a person who presents only a danger to themself and does not pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to another person or officer.
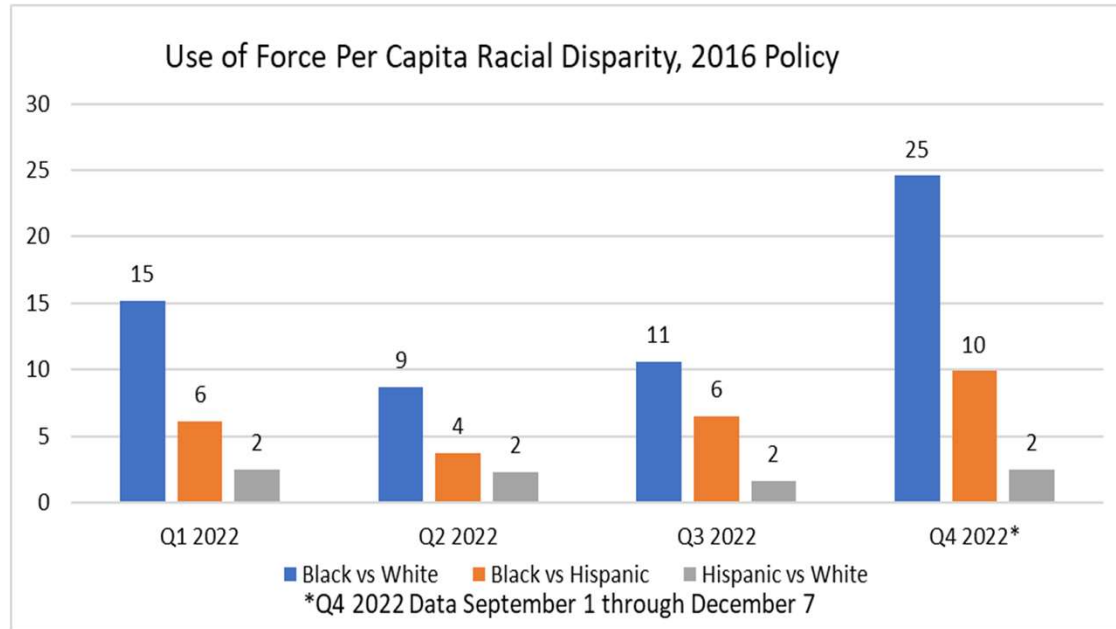
USE OF FORCE PER CAPITA IN RACIAL DISPARITY, 2016 POLICY

Use of Force Per Capita Racial Disparity, 2016 Policy

UOF	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022*
Asian	36	46	13	4
Black	141	185	164	136
Hispanic	72	154	79	43
Other	5	54	8	12
White	74	170	123	44

ACS 2021 Pop. Data	
Asian	298232
Black	42642
Hispanic	133241
Other	52768
White	339050

Use of Force Per Capita Racial Disparity, 2022 Policy
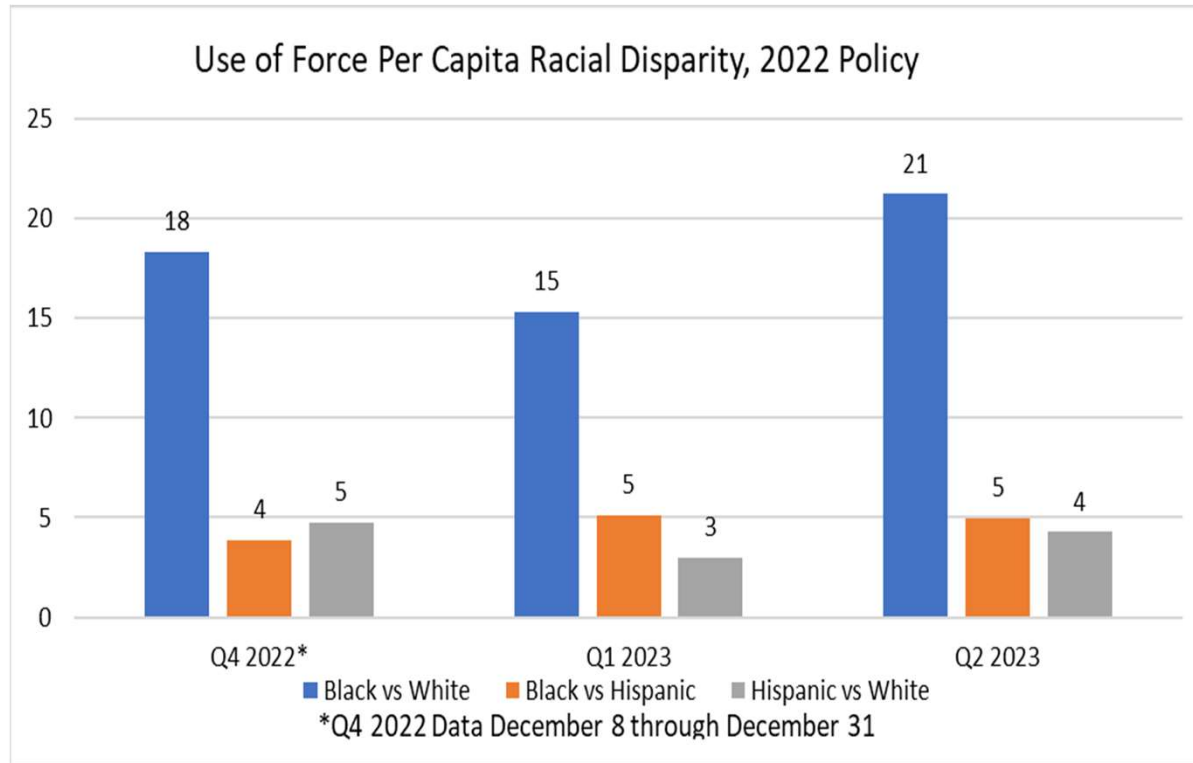
UOF	Q4 2022*	Q1 2023	Q2 2023
Asian	4	14	66
Black	53	243	259
Hispanic	43	148	163
Other	7	20	15
White	23	126	97

ACS 2021 Pop. Data	
Asian	298232
Black	42642
Hispanic	133241
Other	52768
White	339050

USE OF FORCE & SPECIFIC GROUPS

Distinct Count of Homeless Individuals by by Quarter January 1 through June 30, 2023		
Subject Indicator Code: Homeless	Q1 2023	Q2 2023
Yes	77	67
Distinct Count of Individuals:	77	67

Distinct Count of Juvenile Individuals by Quarter January 1 through June 30, 2023		
Subject Age Group	Q1 2023	Q2 2023
Under 18	25	22
Distinct Count of Individuals:	25	22

COMMITMENT TO REDUCE DISPARITIES

- Benchmark Dashboard
  - ✓ Expanded Stop Data Collection and analysis with new technology

- Diversity Efforts with Recruitment
  - ✓ Diversity Strategic Plan

- Sojourn Trips
  - ✓ Educational civil rights tours for newly graduated recruits and key Department leadership

- Policy Changes
  - ✓ Revision of DGOs 5.01 / 5.17 / 11.07
  - ✓ Ongoing assessment (Tier I)

- Chief's Advisory Forums
  - ✓ Public to have input regarding police practices in their respective communities

- Training
  - ✓ BiasSync 2-year study (began in 2021)

Understanding Disparities

Year	Institution	Topic(s)
2017	Center for Policing Equity	Stop & UOF Disparity Analysis
2017	Center for Data Science & Public Policy, U. Chicago	EIS Threshold Efficiency Analysis
2018	California Policy Lab, UC Berkeley & UC Los Angeles	Foot Beat Effects on Crime
2019	Cambridge University, UK	CRI and Body Worn Camera Analysis
2019	Palo Alto University	5150 Stop Analysis & Phone Application Development
2019	Palo Alto University	Pre/Post CIT Course Survey and analysis
2020	SPARQ, Stanford University	Community Engagement Metrics and Analysis
2020	Cal Policy Lab, UC Berkeley & UC Davis	Pedestrian Stop & Search Training – Effects and Analysis
2020	University of California, San Francisco & UC Berkeley	Analysis of police engagements with homeless youth
2021	Police Equity (PE)	Stop & UOF Disparity Analysis

Academic Institutions & Partnerships
- Stanford University
- University of Chicago
- University of California, Berkeley
- Palo Alto University
- University of California, San Francisco
- Center for Policing Equity (CPE)
  - Continued engagement with new MOU

Questions?