

Office of Internal Oversight
Critical Incident Review Team



Deadly Force Statistical Analysis 2010 – 2011
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
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Introduction

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department recognizes it has an obligation to the community to document, analyze, and publicly report data on police use-of-force incidents. The Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) Deadly Force Statistical Analysis reflects the Department's willingness and responsibility to be transparent and accountable. In an effort to build community trust and enhance its police service, LVMPD has taken a number of steps to place police use-of-force events in sharper focus.

This report contains summary data intended to track, evaluate, and respond with improvements in police training and practices as it relates to the use of force. The body of this report identifies demographics, categorizes interactions, and describes the circumstances surrounding the incidents, as well as the collective profiles of the individuals involved. Such information has tremendous value by informing the agency of emerging trends and identifying training needs.

The purpose of this analysis is to further refine police responses to potential violent conflicts in the hopes of preventing harm to both citizens and officers alike. It is a process of seeking continuous improvement in a critical area. Assessing all the factors surrounding a deadly force encounter is an important step in guaranteeing that when an officer has resorted to the use of deadly force, tremendous restraint has been shown and the sanctity of human life has been fully respected.

Each deadly force incident can result from a unique set of circumstances. With this context in mind, the Department has conducted a thorough review and analysis after each officer-involved shooting or deadly force incident. The end goal is to identify areas in both individual and agency performance which can be improved upon. Furthermore, adherence to a process that continually monitors and evaluates the use of deadly force, and supports openness and communication will only garner support from the community.

Executive Summary

This is the first annual analysis generated by the Office of Internal Oversight. The *Executive Summary* is intended to highlight the most significant findings, trends, patterns, or concerns that have been documented in the body of the report.

The number of Officer-Involved Shootings (OISs) directed at a person (person-type) decreased from 25 in 2010 to 18 in 2011. There were, however, 12 fatal OISs in 2011—a historical high. The lethality rate was 67 percent.

A comparison of OISs among area commands shows a high concentration of OISs in Northwest Area Command (NWAC) during the past two years. Eleven of the forty-three total OISs (26%) have occurred within its boundaries.

The fatality rate for indoor OISs is 66 percent higher than for outdoor OISs during 2010 and 2011. The average indoor and outdoor separation distances are 10 feet and 37 feet, respectively. The high OIS lethality in 2011 may be due in part to a larger share of indoor OISs. Only 20 percent of 2010 OISs occurred indoors. The indoor share grew to 44 percent in 2011. The early identification of an incident as a possible barricaded subject may be critical in intercepting circumstances where officers have positioned themselves indoors, and in close proximity to an armed subject.

The fatality rate associated with multiple-officer OISs was 68 percent greater than single-officer OISs in 2010 and 72 percent greater in 2011. Anecdotally, LVMPD officers today are responding to incidents better as a team. As the number of officers at a scene increases, the potential number of firearms deployed becomes a greater area of concern—one that should be managed by first-line supervisors.

Officers directly involved in OISs were significantly younger and less tenured in 2010 compared with 2011. Most of the reduction associated with each of these two measures can be attributed to the direct involvement of five SWAT officers in two of the OISs that occurred during 2011.

Significantly, more shots were fired per officer and per incident in 2011 compared with 2010. The high OIS lethality in 2011 may be due in part to the increased number of rounds being fired at subjects:

- Up 24 percent per officer (4.7 in 2011 vs. 3.8 in 2010)
- Up 25 percent per incident (7.0 in 2011 vs. 5.6 in 2010)

A small number of the 2010 and 2011 OISs involved the use of low lethality devices. Subjects were generally killed in these OISs when low lethality options failed. Further analysis of the deployment, successful use, or failure of low lethality options outside of OIS incidents may be of value in identifying training and equipment needs.

Based on local demographics, a disproportionate share of OIS subjects in 2010 and 2011 were African Americans. This fact should be considered in context with police allocation of resources to areas within LVMPD's jurisdiction, police and citizen interactions, and demographics of high-crime areas. To this, subject demographics, particularly race and ethnicity, is an area LVMPD should be aware of and continue to discuss as it relates to fairness in constitutional policing.

Based on their criminal backgrounds and behaviors, OIS subjects were potentially more threatening in 2011 than 2010.

- 12 of 18 (67%) 2011 subjects had prior violent criminal convictions
- 8 of 25 (32%) 2010 subjects had prior violent criminal convictions

Overall, OIS subjects were less mentally stable in 2011 compared to 2010.

- 6 of 18 (33%) 2011 subjects were suicidal or appeared to exhibit suicidal tendencies
- 4 of 25 (16%) 2010 subjects were suicidal or appeared to exhibit suicidal tendencies

A greater number of encounters with mentally unstable subjects may be a contributing factor for the high lethality level associated with 2011 OISs. In addition, this data places greater importance on LVMPD's training and response protocols for addressing people in mental crisis.

OIS subjects were more likely to carry firearms and use them against the police in 2011 compared with 2010. The aggressive, life-threatening behavior OIS subjects exhibited when confronted by the police may be a contributing factor for the high lethality level experienced in 2011.

- 12 of 18 (67%) subjects possessed firearms in 2011
- 14 of 25 (56%) subjects possessed firearms in 2010

- 5 of 18 (28%) subjects instigated an OIS in 2011 by shooting at the police
- 4 of 25 (16%) subjects instigated an OIS in 2010 by shooting at the police

Conversely, the share of unarmed OIS subjects decreased from 24 percent in 2010 (6 of 25) to 17 percent in 2011 (3 of 18). With this said, the shooting of any unarmed subject is cause for the most discerning examination of decision-making, tactics, training, and policy in a particular review.

Preface

Numerous factors contribute to the number of person-type Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents occurring in any given year. Specifically, regarding the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the most significant group of factors for much of the past 10 to 12 years has been closely related to population growth. A greatly expanded population base, the increased servicing demands that go along with it, as well as the additional police officers employed to service more residents, combined to create many more opportunities for OIS incidents.

Approximately 375,000 residents have been added to the Department's service area since 2000, an increase of 35 percent. In turn, these new residents have contributed, in part, to a 51 percent increase in service demand as measured by calls for service and a 39 percent increase in commissioned police officer staffing in the 10 years since 2001. There have also been large increases to the population bases in other Clark County jurisdictions such as Henderson and North Las Vegas. Most of the residents of these suburban communities frequent the Department's service area on a regular basis.

Interestingly, the growth experienced during the past 10 years has not adversely affected the number of crimes being reported. The annual number of reported violent crimes (homicides, robberies, gun assaults, and sexual assaults) dropped from 5,848 in 2001 to 4,795 in 2011, a decrease of 18 percent. Likewise, the annual number of property crimes (burglaries, auto burglaries, and auto thefts) declined from 30,067 in 2001 to 26,755 in 2011, a decrease of 11 percent.

The impact of population growth becomes clear when OIS statistics for the years 2001 and 2011 are adjusted to account for it. In 2001, there were 17 person-type OISs, one less than in 2011. LVMPD's resident population was 1.13 million in 2001, roughly 312,000 less than in 2011, the most recent year for which estimates are available. Based on this information, the OIS rate was 1.5 per 100,000 residents in 2001. In 2011, even with one more OIS than recorded during 2001, the per capita rate dropped by 17 percent, from 1.50 to 1.24 per 100,000 residents.

In spite of its prominence as a key factor that has influenced the numbers of past OISs, population growth alone does not always adequately explain year-to-year OIS counts and long-term trends. For instance, the minor spike in OIS activity during the past three years (2009 – 2011) cannot be linked with population growth, which has been all but absent in recent years [see *Figure 1*]. Recognizing that only so much can be explained by growth, the following chapter highlights other factors contributing to recent OIS levels and trends.

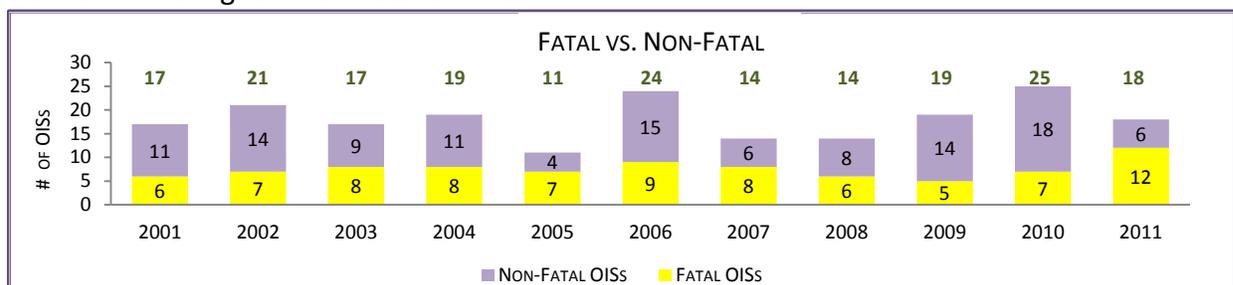


Figure 1

Overview

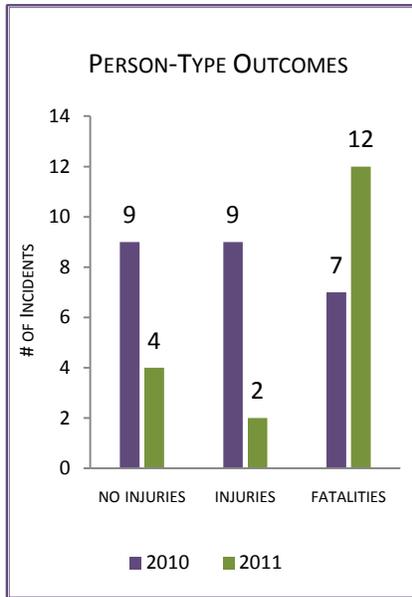


Figure 2

There were 18 person-type Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) incidents in 2011, a 28 percent decrease from 2010. Two of these incidents, which occurred approximately 12 hours apart, were tied to one event involving the same subject, but different police personnel. Person-type OISs are defined as those incidents during which police officers intentionally discharge their weapons at a person. For the purposes of statistical analysis, a single subject has been linked to each of these two incidents. In other words, this person is counted twice in 2011 statistics.

Of the 18 subjects associated with OIS incidents for 2011, two were injured and 12 killed. The 12 deaths represent a 71 percent increase over the seven that occurred the previous year [see *Figure 2*] and represent the Department's highest annual total of recorded fatalities.

Times and Days of OIS Incidents

Most of the person-type OISs for 2010 and 2011 occurred during the latter half of the day, peaking between 6:00 PM and midnight. Approximately 35 percent of the combined incidents for these years took place during those six evening hours.

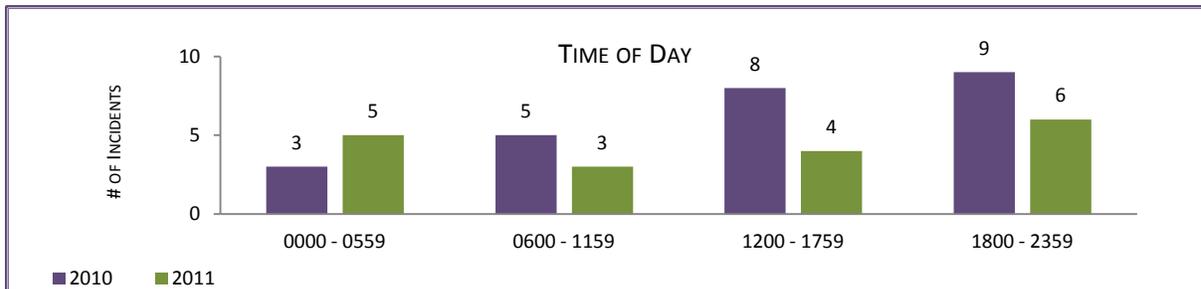


Figure 3

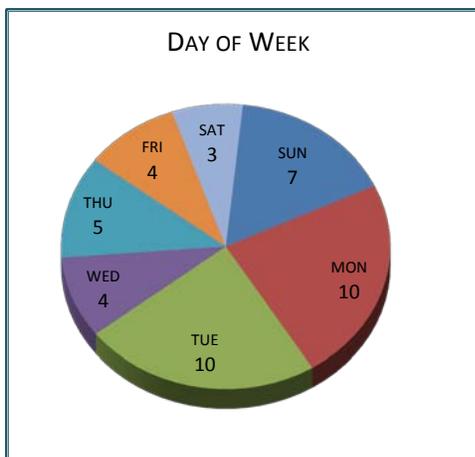


Figure 4

In 2011 specifically, activity levels were highest during evening hours (6:00 PM until midnight) with six OISs, and lowest during morning hours (6:00 AM until noon) with three OISs [see *Figure 3*].

During the last two years, the occurrences of person-type OIS incidents have peaked on Mondays and Tuesdays. Nearly 47 percent of the 43 combined incidents for 2010 and 2011 took place on one of these two days. Conversely, OIS levels were lowest on Saturdays, which registered only three incidents [see *Figure 4*].

Time Intervals between Person-Type OIS Incidents

Half of the person-type OIS incidents for 2011 occurred within 15 days of one another (9 of 18). During the prior year, an even greater share (64%) of incidents was associated with that same short interval timeframe.

For 2011, the shortest interval between OIS incidents was less than a day (4/3/11 to 4/4/11); while the longest interval stretched to 58 days (9/9/11 to 11/6/11) [see *Figure 5*].

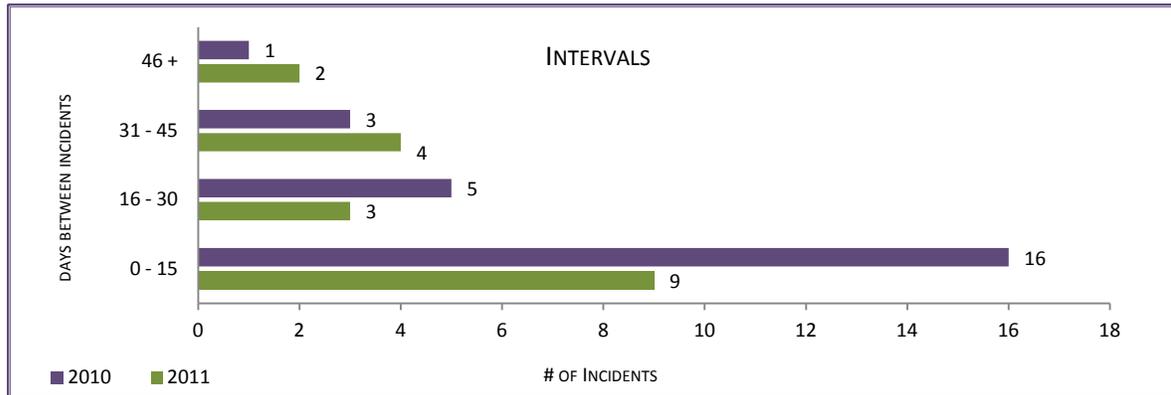


Figure 5

Locations of OIS Incidents

Area commands, of which there are eight, represent the most expansive level of police geography for the Department. A third of person-type OIS incidents occurred within Northwest Area Command (NWAC) during 2011 (6 of 18). No other area command accounted for more than three OISs that same year. NWAC has also experienced the highest number of combined OIS incidents for the past two years (11 of 43).

The concentration of OISs in NWAC is atypical, considering the area's suburban nature and historically low crime rate. Neighboring Enterprise Area Command (EAC), which closely resembles NWAC in terms of size and population, recorded only five OISs for the same two-year period. The relatively high 26 percent share of OISs in NWAC contrasts with their much lower share of violent crimes and homicides, 12 percent and 9 percent respectively. The two patrol sectors within NWAC, Victor and X-ray, totaled six and five OIS incidents, respectively.

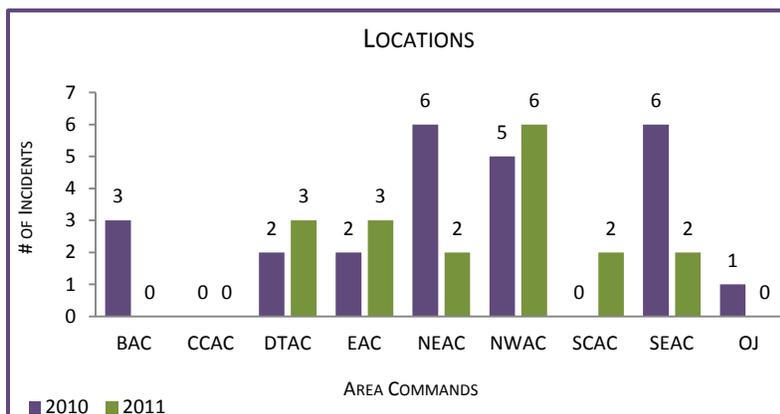


Figure 6

With eight incidents apiece, both Northeast Area Command (NEAC) and Southeast Area Command (SEAC) are one tier down from NWAC in terms of two-year activity levels. Convention Center Area Command (CCAC) is the only area that has not experienced an OIS incident during the past two years [see *Figure 6*].

Types of Dispatched Events

The "400" codes assigned to dispatched events loosely identify the types of situations police officers may encounter when responding to calls for service. *Figure 7* highlights the six most common types of calls for service associated with OIS incidents during 2010 and 2011.

The wide diversity of circumstances preceding OIS incidents is demonstrated by the fact that 17 distinct "400" codes have been associated with the last two years of OIS statistical data. It is notable that of the 43 OIS incidents, only six (14%) began as officer-initiated activities (traffic stop or person stop).

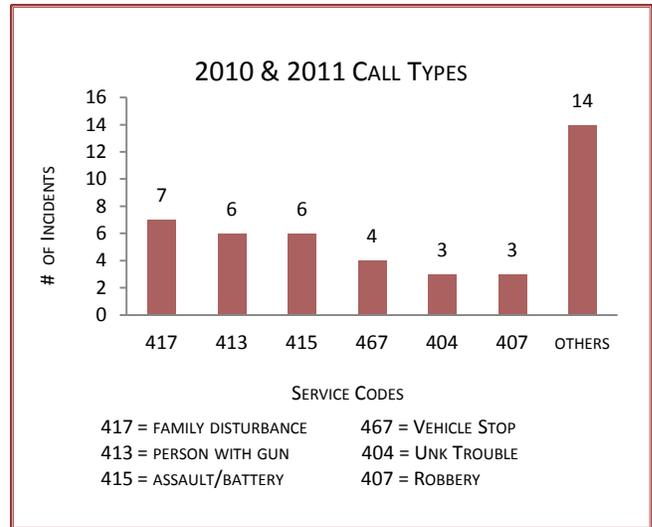


Figure 7

Setting and Outcome of OIS Incidents

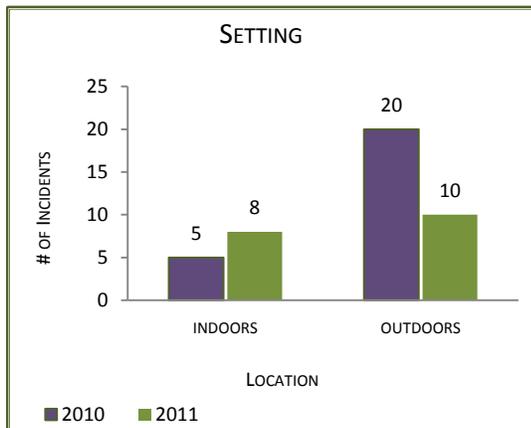


Figure 8

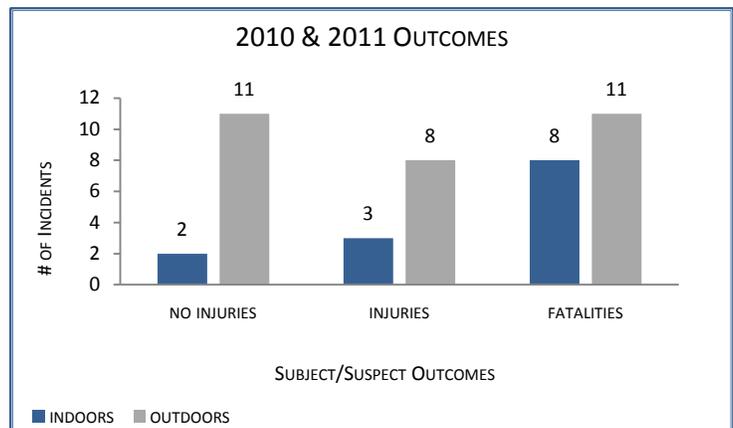


Figure 9

In the past two years, the majority of OIS incidents have occurred outdoors (70%) versus indoors (30%). However, there is a substantial difference in setting-based activity rates between 2010 and 2011 [see *Figure 8*]. The share of OIS incidents located outdoors dropped from 80 percent in 2010 (20 of 25) to 56 percent in 2011 (10 of 18).

It appears the setting of OIS incidents is a determining factor with regard to the degree of outcome lethality. The fatality rates associated with indoor and outdoor OIS incidents for 2010 and 2011 were 61.5 percent and 37 percent, respectively [see *Figure 9*]. Although limited in scope, the correlation analysis of setting with outcomes noted here clearly indicates the subject of an OIS is much more likely to be shot and killed if the incident occurs indoors rather than outdoors. One factor no doubt contributing to the more deadly nature of indoor encounters is the short distance between officers and subjects. Distance between officer and subject averaged 10 feet (indoor) and 37 feet (outdoor) during the past two years.

Environmental Factors

Natural or artificial lighting conditions categorized as “good” have been associated with slightly more than half of all OIS incidents for the past two years (23 of 43). Incidents where good lighting conditions were experienced dropped from 60 percent in 2010 (15 of 25) to 44 percent in 2011 (8 of 18) [see *Figure 10*].

Relying on data for the past two years, lighting conditions appear to be inconsequential as a determining factor with respect to the degree of outcome lethality. Combined subject fatality rates for 2010 and 2011 OIS incidents range from a low of 35 percent with good lighting conditions (8 of 23) to a high of 63 percent with fair lighting conditions (5 of 8). The subject fatality rate for low light OIS incidents is 50 percent (6 of 12), which falls midway between the two extremes.



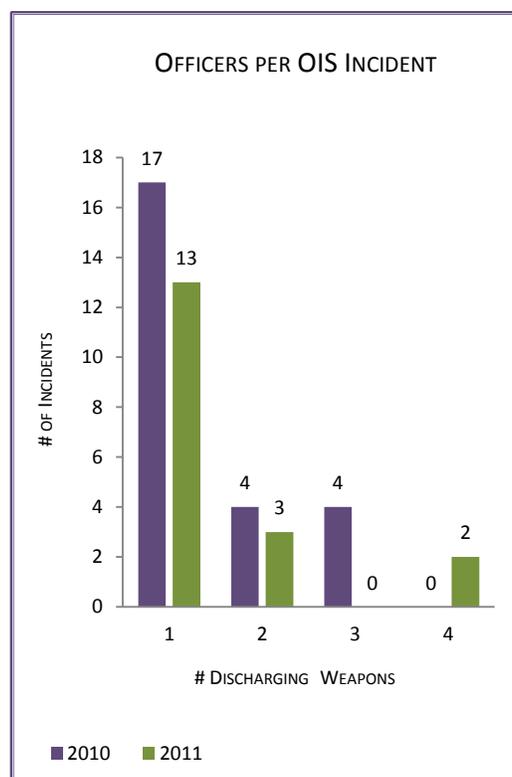
Figure 10

Police Presence

Twelve (12) of the 64 police officers who discharged their weapons during the past two years have also done so in deadly force incidents prior to 2010. Three of 12 officers have discharged their weapons in at least three separate OIS incidents.

The majority of OIS incidents involve a single police officer who has discharged his or her weapon (30 of 43 occurrences over a two-year period). The rate of single officer firearm discharges has been relatively consistent [see *Figure 11*] during each of the past two years, 68 percent in 2010, and 72 percent in 2011.

Within the past two years, there have been no events where more than four officers discharged their weapons. As would be expected, the likelihood of a subject being shot and killed is substantially greater in incidents directly involving multiple officers. During the past two years, the subject fatality rates for single officer discharges and multiple officer discharges were 37 percent and 62 percent, respectively.



On-Scene Supervisors

Police supervisors were on-scene at OIS incidents prior to deadly force being used 33 percent of the time during the past two years (14 of 43). The presence of supervisors increased from 24 percent in 2010 (6 of 25) to 44 percent in 2011 (8 of 18). Having supervisors on-scene did not reduce the lethality of outcomes for involved subjects. The rate for fatal outcomes in 2010 and 2011 was slightly higher when supervisors were present (50 percent) than when they were not (41 percent).

Caution is advised before drawing conclusions regarding the value of supervisors to manage as well as defuse potentially volatile situations. The scope of this study does not extend beyond an examination of incidents that rise to the level of OISs.

Time On-Scene Prior to Initial Shot Fired

An enormous difference exists between 2010 and 2011 regarding time on-scene at OIS incidents by police officers before initial shots are fired. The average time until the initial discharge of weapons increased nearly eight times, from 6.8 minutes in 2010 to 54.1 minutes in 2011.

Much of that increase can be explained by a single anomalous hostage incident extending approximately 13 hours before the subject was shot and killed. However, even when this long-duration incident, along with two others that lasted approximately 1.5 hours apiece, are excluded from consideration, the average time interval of 9.4 minutes for 2011 remains 38 percent longer than what occurred in the prior year.

Initial shots were fired by police officers within five full minutes of arriving on-scene in approximately 60 percent of the OIS incidents that occurred during the past two years (26 of 43). *Figure 12* summarizes some of the time related aspects of encounters with subjects prior to officers employing deadly force in firearms discharges.

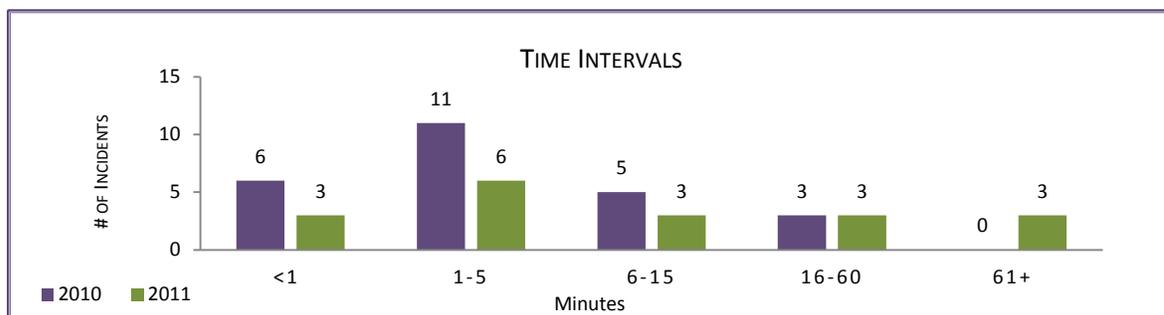


Figure 12

Based on what has occurred during the past two years, the data on short-interval discharges (those under six minutes) appears to be inconclusive with respect to its role as a determining factor in the overall degree of outcome lethality. The fatality rates associated with short-interval discharges were 24 percent in 2010 (4 of 17) and 56 percent in 2011 (5 of 9). In both cases, these fatality rates are lower than the corresponding rates for longer-interval discharges (those exceeding five full minutes in length).

Officer Age / Race / Ethnicity / Gender

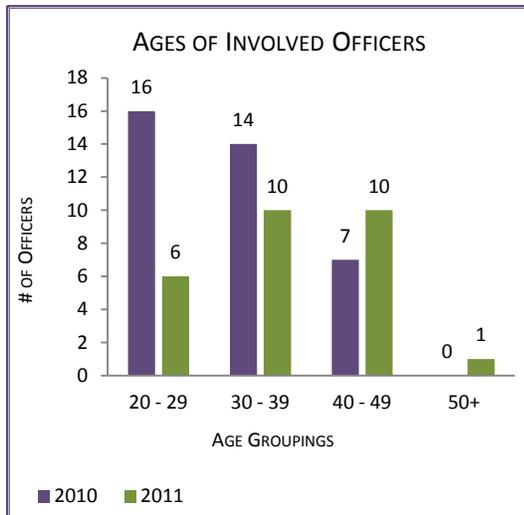


Figure 13

On average, the ages of police officers who discharged their weapons during OISs were slightly higher in 2011 (36.4) than 2010 (33.7) due primarily to the direct involvement of five SWAT officers, all over 40 years of age, in a pair of 2011 incidents. In terms of gender, only one of the 64 officers was female. The number of younger officers, those 20 to 29 years of age, was much higher in 2010 (43%) than 2011 (22%).

Conversely, on the higher side of the age spectrum, ages 40 and above, the share of directly involved officers was more than twice as large in 2011 (41%) as compared to 2010 (19%) [see *Figure 13*]. The phrase “directly involved officers” is used throughout this report in reference to officers who discharged their weapons during OISs.

In terms of race and ethnicity, the majority of police officers who discharged their weapons in OIS incidents during each of the past two years are categorized as “white.” However, there are significant differences in the size of the “white” officer share attributed to each year, 89 percent in 2010 (33 of 37) and 59 percent in 2011 (16 of 27).

The lower share of “white” officers in 2011 resulted from a significant increase in the number of Hispanic officers, nine instead of the three reported during the prior year. The race and ethnicity based aspects of 2010 and 2011 OIS incidents, as they apply to the officers who discharged their weapons, are reflected in *Figure 14*.

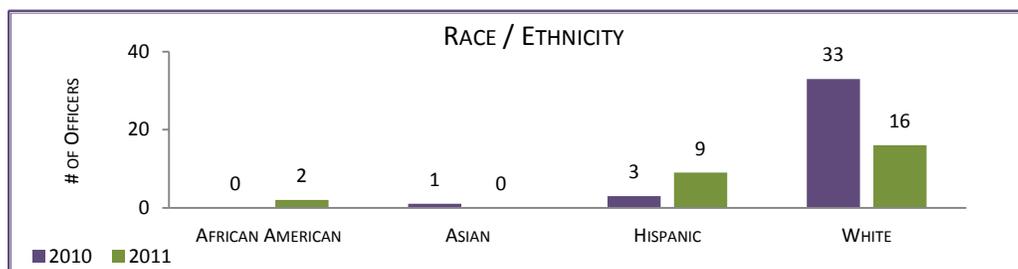


Figure 14

The distribution by race and ethnicity of the 64 police officers directly involved with 2010 and 2011 OIS incidents breaks down as follows: three percent African American, two percent Asian, 19 percent Hispanic and 76 percent “white.” The two categories where these shares differ most significantly from the Department’s overall commissioned police officer demographic profile are African Americans and Hispanics. A smaller than expected share of African Americans officers were involved in OIS incidents, while just the opposite was the case with respect to Hispanic officers. The distribution of all commissioned police officers as of 2010 by race and ethnicity is as follows: seven percent African American, three percent Asian, 11 percent Hispanic and 78 percent “white.”

Officer Tenure

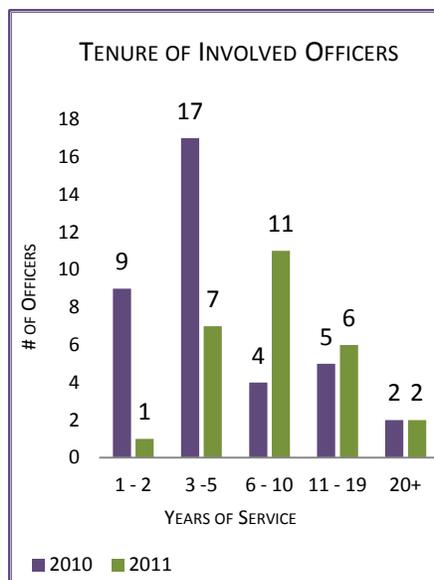


Figure 15

The tenure patterns of police officers directly involved in OIS incidents tend to mirror those associated with age. Officers were generally younger and less seasoned in 2010 than in 2011.

On average, the tenure (length of employment) of those officers who discharged their weapons was approximately 50 percent higher in 2011 than 2010, 9.2 years compared to 6.1 years, respectively. Slightly more than half of the tenure increase is directly attributable to the direct involvement of five SWAT offices, all employed 13 years or longer, in a pair of 2011 OISs. Only 30 percent of officers with five or fewer years of service were involved in OIS firearm discharge incidents during 2011 (8 of 27). This starkly contrasts with the 70 percent share recorded for the prior year (26 of 37) [see *Figure 15*].

Officer Duty Assignments

More than 70 percent of the police officers who became directly involved in OIS incidents during 2010 and 2011 were assigned to area commands and performing patrol-type duties at the time (47 of 64). Other than the area commands, no other bureau accounted for more than five OIS involved officers in the two years combined. Duty assignment for 2010 and 2011 are summarized in *Figure 16*.

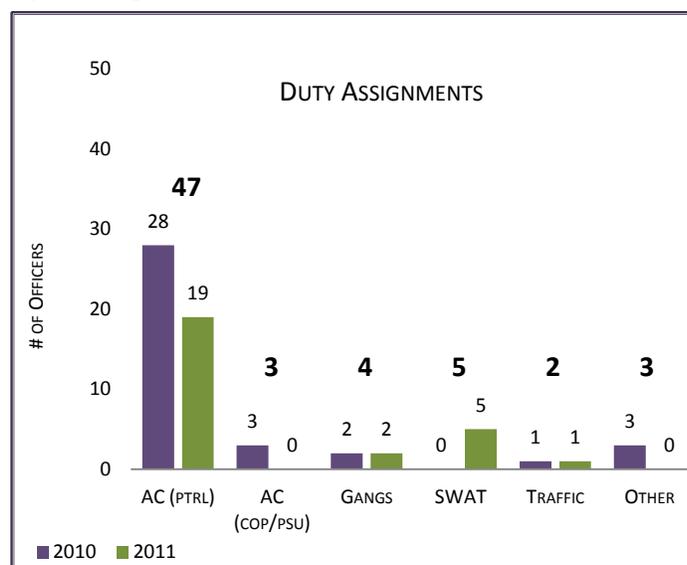


Figure 16

Although not identified as such, one of the three officers included in the “other” column was off-duty, at home, in another jurisdiction when the incident transpired.

Classifications of Officers (Rank)

As would be expected, the vast majority of police officers who became directly involved in OIS incidents during 2010 and 2011 were “PO IIs” at the time. PO IIs are officers with more than a year of service time beyond Field Training. The level of “PO II” involvement in OISs approached 90 percent in each of the two years. Sergeants, five of whom discharged their weapons in either 2010 or 2011, represent the next largest rank-based classification group. The remaining two officers directly involved in OIS incidents, both of whom discharged their weapons during 2010, were classified as PO I at the time, with a year or less of service time beyond Field Training.

Firearms Employed by Officers

The basic mix of firearms discharged by the police officers directly involved in person-type OIS incidents has remained consistent for the past two years. Comparison shares between 2010 and 2011 narrowly ranged between 85 to 86 percent for handguns and 14 to 15 percent for long guns (rifles and shotguns) utilized by the police during OIS incidents [See *Figure 17*].

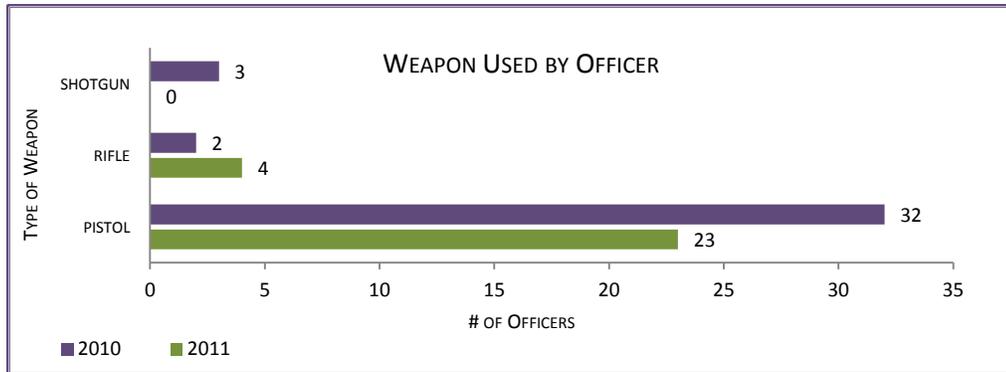


Figure 17

Officer Shots Fired Summary

The 27 police officers directly involved in person-type OIS incidents during 2011 fired a total of 126 rounds, which equates to an average of 4.7 rounds per officer and 7.0 rounds per incident. Each of these two performance measures rose by approximately 25 percent from 2010 to 2011. Also notable, the actual number of shots fired in 2011 during individual incidents ranged from a high of 44 to a low of one, which occurred six times.

The average number of shots fired per officer during 2011 drops from 4.7 to a more representative 3.6 when the single most anomalous incident, one in which four officers fired a total of 44 rounds during a running gun battle, is excluded from the computation. A similar reduction can also be obtained for 2010 by applying the same technique to omit the most atypical OIS incident from that year’s shooting statistics, one in which three officers fired a combined 37 rounds. The quantity-related aspects of shots fired by the police during OIS incidents for the past two years are reflected in *Figure 18*.

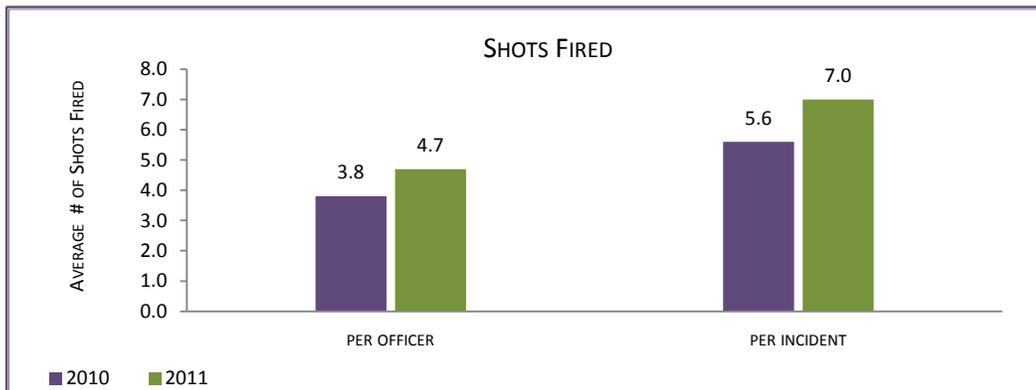


Figure 18

Distances of Initial Shots Fired

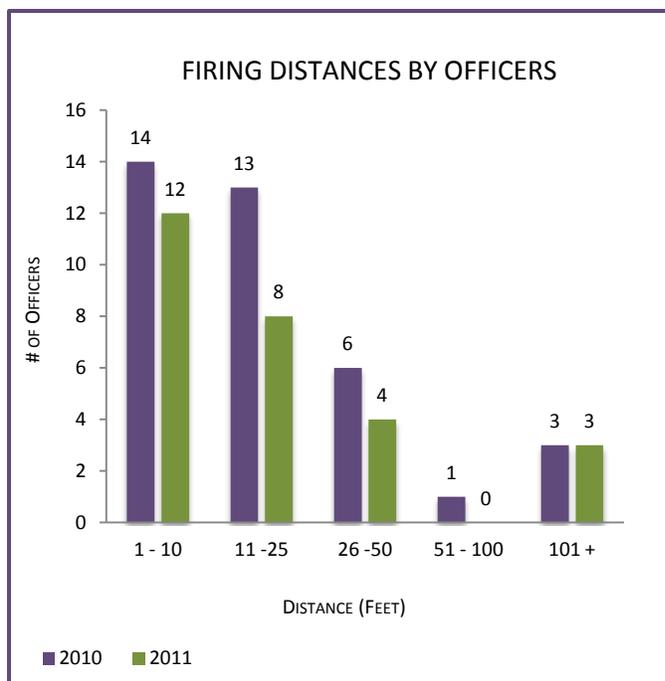


Figure 19

There are few significant year-to-year differences in the distances of initial shots fired by each of the 64 police officers directly involved in OIS incidents during the past two years [see *Figure 19*]. A modestly higher share of officers fired from a distance of 10 feet or less in 2011 (12 of 27) as compared to 2010 (14 of 37).

Also notable, the actual distances of initial shots fired during 2011 by all 27 officers ranged from a high of 165 feet to a low of one foot, and averaged 27.1 feet. The average amount of separation drops to a more representative 21.8 feet when the single most anomalous firing distance, in this case 165 feet, is excluded from computation.

Targeted Strikes

Fifty-three (53) rounds fired by the 27 police officers involved in person-type OIS incidents during 2011 struck targeted subjects. From a performance measurement perspective, the 53 rounds equate to an average of 2.0 strikes per officer and 2.9 strikes per incident [see *Figure 20*]. These indicators rose significantly from 2010 to 2011; 33 percent for strikes per officer and 26 percent for strikes per incident.

Also notable, the actual number of shots fired in 2011 that struck targeted subjects ranged from a high of 11 to a low of one (which occurred four times). In only two of the 18 incidents that occurred during 2011 was a subject struck by more than five rounds.

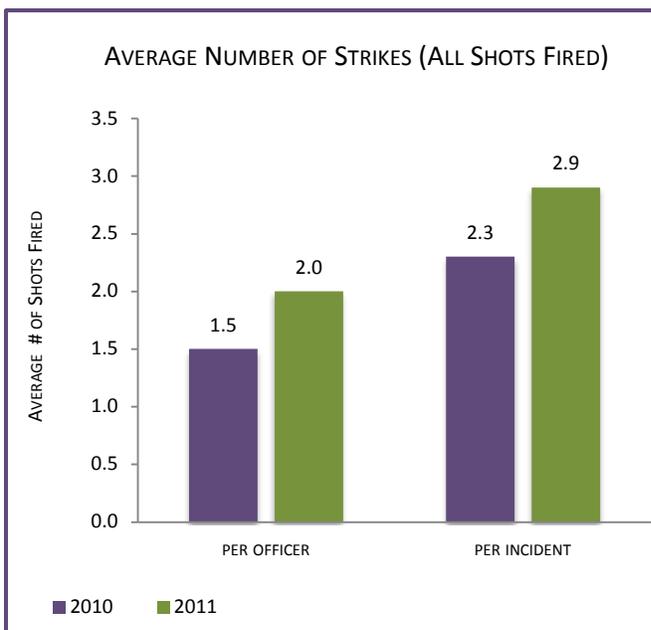


Figure 20

Accuracy of Officers' Shots Summary



Overall, collective shooting accuracy improved slightly last year for the police officers who discharged their firearms during OIS incidents. Forty-two (42) percent of all rounds fired struck intended targets in 2011 (53 of 126) compared to 41 percent in 2010 (57 of 140).

It is noteworthy in incidents involving fatalities that the 43 percent accuracy rate associated with 2011 was significantly lower than the 57 percent rate recorded for 2010 [see *Figure 21*].

As would be expected, shooting accuracy is, to a large degree, dependent on distances to target. Officer-Involved Shooting statistics for the past two years support the closeness of that relationship [see *Figure 22*]. The accuracy of shots fired by police officers from distances of seven yards (21 feet) or less to targeted subjects was 49 percent in 2011 (34 of 70) and a nearly identical 48 percent in 2010 (48 of 99).

Accuracy rates dropped considerably for shots fired from beyond 21 feet. Annual rates at those longer distances were 34 percent for 2011 (19 of 56) and 22 percent (9 of 41) for 2010.

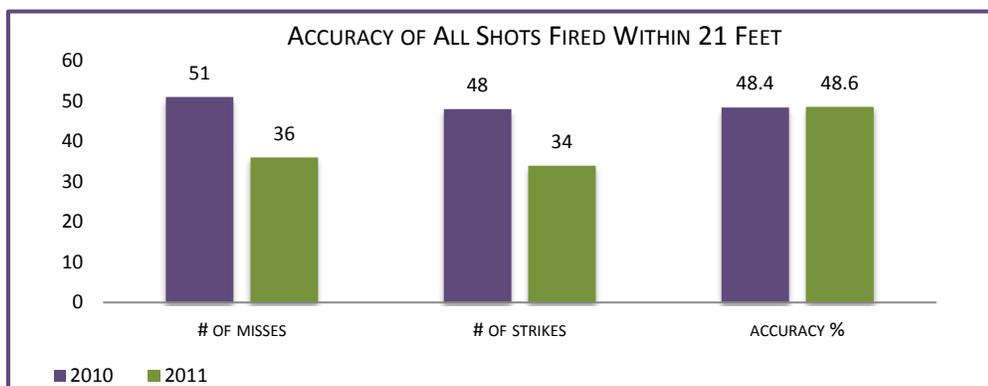


Figure 22

Aspects of OIS Incidents / Foot Pursuits

Only two (2) foot pursuits, both of which involved Gang officers, occurred during the 18 person-type OIS incidents in 2011 (11%). Foot pursuits were much more likely to have been associated with OIS incidents from the prior year. Interestingly, all eight of the 2010 OIS foot pursuits occurred during the first six months of that year. No foot pursuits were tied to OIS incidents during an eighteen-month time span that stretched from June 2010 to November 2011.

It is notable that the lethality levels associated with subject outcomes for the ten 2010 and 2011 OIS incidents with foot pursuits are considerably lower than all other OIS incidents within that same two-year period. Six of the ten subjects involved were uninjured. Only two subjects were shot and killed. The rates associated with these outcomes should be viewed cautiously because they are based on such a limited number of occurrences.

Aspects of OIS Incidents / Low Lethality Force

The utilization of low lethality force in the form of Electronic Control Devices (ECDs) and drag stabilized “beanbag” shotgun rounds occurred in conjunction with six of 43 person-type OIS incidents during 2010 and 2011 (14%). All but one incident took place in 2011.

A single type of low lethality weapon was used in four of the five 2011 incidents, with ECDs and shotguns each chosen twice. Both weapons, the ECD and the shotgun, were relied on in the only 2010 incident and one of the five 2011 incidents.

It is notable that the lethality levels associated with subject outcomes for the six 2010 and 2011 OIS incidents involving the two identified low lethality weapons are considerably higher than all other OIS incidents within the past two years. Five of the six subjects involved with these incidents were shot and killed after attempts were made to subdue them by less deadly means (83 percent). As previously stated with regard to foot pursuit data, lethality rates, high or low, should be viewed with caution when based on a limited number of occurrences.

Subject Demographics (Age and Race/Ethnicity)

On average, the ages of the 43 subjects associated with person-type OIS incidents were 16 percent higher in 2011 than 2010, 35.1 years compared to 30.2 years, respectively. The actual ages of individual OIS subjects for 2011 ranged from a high of 54 to a low of 17. Six of 18 subjects were over 40 years of age in 2011 (33%). In terms of race and ethnicity, the majority of subjects associated with 2011 OIS incidents were identified as Hispanic. Forty-two of the forty-three subjects were male.

The share of Hispanic subjects rose from 20 percent in 2010 (5 of 25) to 56 percent in 2011 (10 of 18). The higher group share of Hispanic subjects was offset by year-to-year declines of a similar, if not greater, magnitude for African American and “white” subjects. The share of “white” subjects dropped from 48 percent in 2010 (12 of 25) to 17 percent in 2011 (3 of 18) [see *Figures 23A/23B*].

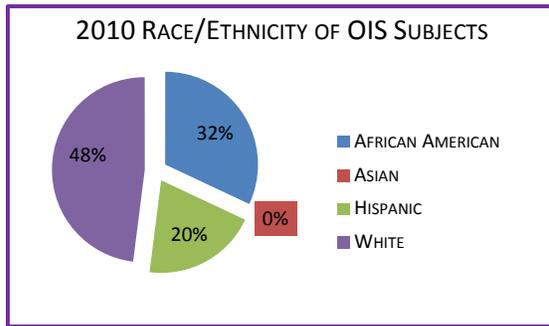


Figure 23A

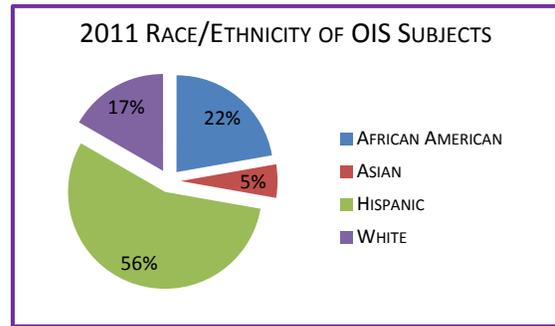


Figure 23B

The distribution of the 43 subjects associated with 2010 and 2011 OIS incidents by race and ethnicity breaks down as follows: 28 percent African American, 2 percent Asian, 35 percent Hispanic, and 35 percent “white.” These shares differ significantly from the overall demographic pattern in Clark County. The distribution of countywide population in 2010 by race and ethnicity is as follows: 9 percent African American, 7 percent Asian, 28 percent Hispanic, and 54 percent “white.”

Based on the two most recent years of statistical information, race and ethnicity of subjects do not appear to be determining factors in the severity of OIS outcomes. Eighty (80) percent of “white” subjects were injured or killed during the forty-three OIS incidents that occurred during 2010 and 2011 (12 of 15) [see *Figure 24*]. The comparable rate for all other subjects (African American, Asian, and Hispanic) is 64 percent (18 of 28). The lowest group rate for injured or killed subjects belonged to African Americans (42 percent).

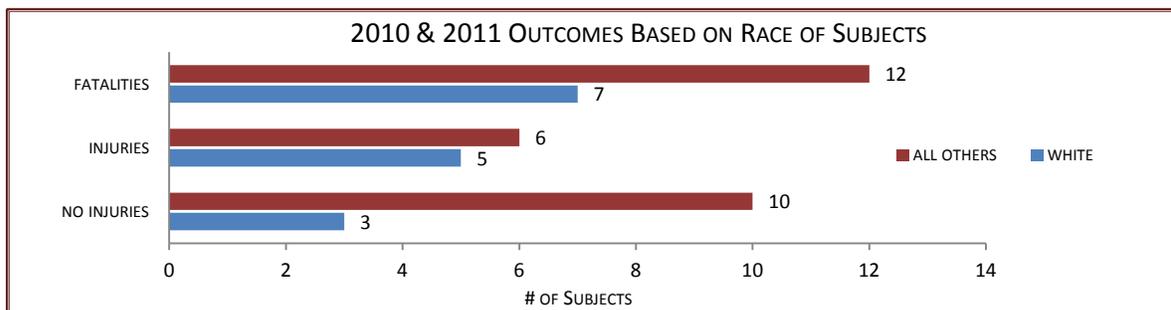


Figure 24

Criminal Backgrounds of Subjects

Eighty-four percent of the 43 subjects associated with 2010 and 2011 OIS incidents have been previously arrested (36 of 43). Of those subjects with arrest records, more than half were convicted of violent crimes sometime during their lives (20 of 36) [see *Figure 25*]. With regard to officer safety concerns, it is particularly relevant to note that 12 of the 18 subjects involved in 2011 OIS incidents had previous violent crime convictions (67 percent).

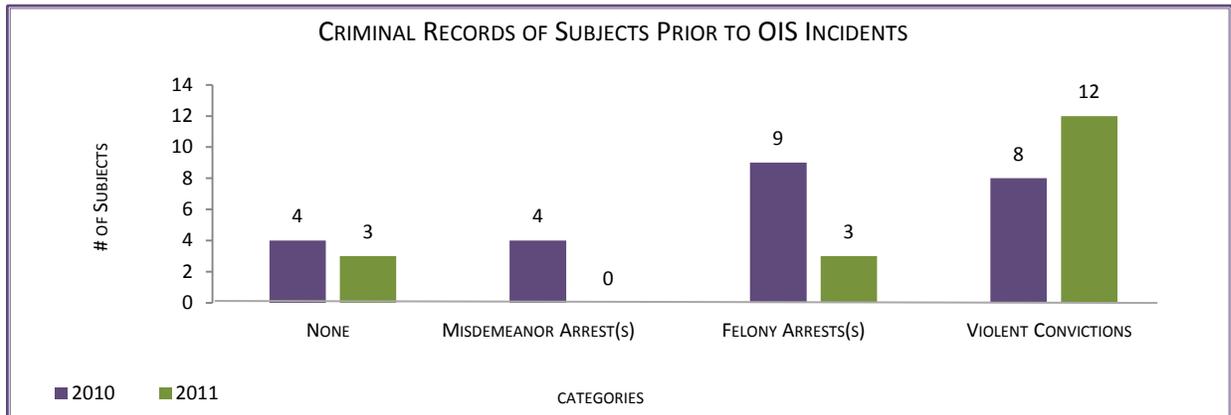


Figure 25

Condition of Subjects (Drugs & Alcohol)

Approximately 75 percent of OIS subjects during 2010 and 2011 were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their deadly force encounters with the police (32 of 43). Most of the 23 subjects compromised by drugs had consumed one or more of the following: methamphetamines, marijuana, or debilitatingly large amounts of prescription drugs.

Based on numbers alone, alcohol appears to be somewhat less of a factor than drugs as a substance adversely affecting subjects' state of being (15 of 43). However, in six of the 15 instances of subjects under the influence of alcohol, drugs were also present [see *Figure 26*]. To this, there is less than absolute accuracy associated with these statistics since drug and alcohol determinations were based on observation, self-admission, and for fatalities only, toxicological testing during autopsies.

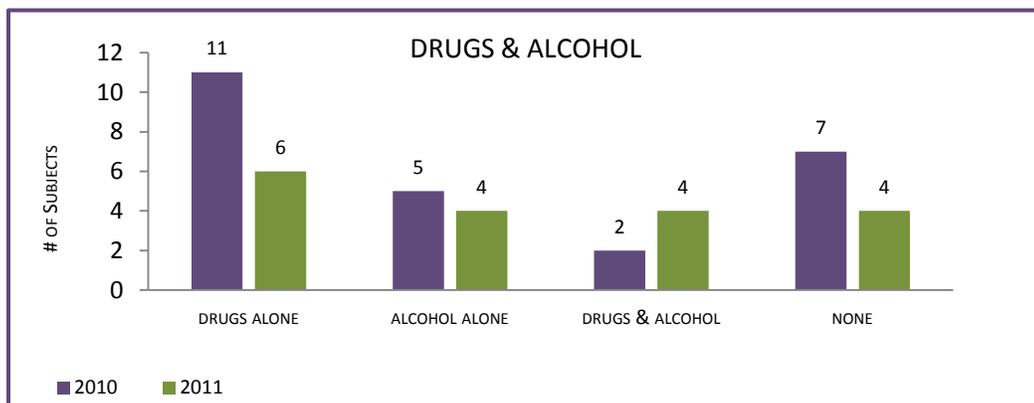
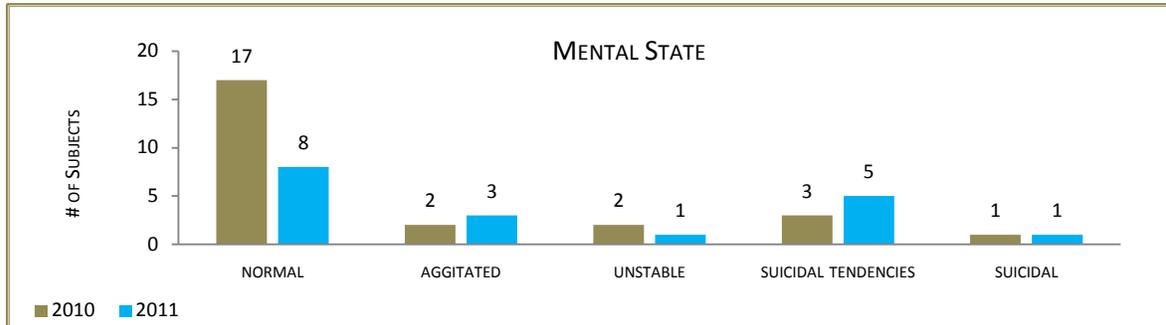


Figure 26

Mental State of Subjects



A certain amount of subjectivity is required in order to classify the mental state of OIS subjects at the time of their deadly force encounters with the police. Determinations regarding mental state are largely based on the observations of on-scene officers, along with pertinent information obtained during follow-up investigations.

In spite of what might be expected, considering the violent nature of encounters typically associated with OIS incidents, the majority of the subjects for the past two years appeared to present themselves in a relatively normal manner (25 of 43)[see *Figure 27*].

However, the share of subjects classified as “normal” decreased from 68 percent in 2010 to 44 percent in 2011. Conversely, the shares of subjects classified as exhibiting suicidal tendencies or distinct suicidal behavior rose from 16 percent in 2010 (4 of 25) to 33 percent in 2011 (6 of 18). Five of the 10 suicide inclined subjects encountered during 2010 and 2011 conveyed distinct “suicide-by-cop” sentiments.



Figure 28

Weapons Employed by Subjects

Nearly 80 percent of the subjects associated with OIS incidents that occurred during the past two years were in possession of weapons (34 of 43). Firearms, primarily pistols, predominated as the weapons of choice for armed subjects [see *Figure 28*].

The share of subjects possessing firearms rose from 56 percent in 2010 (14 of 25) to 67 percent in 2011 (12 of 18). Conversely, the share of unarmed subjects decreased from 24 percent in 2010 (6 of 25) to 17 percent in 2011 (3 of 18).

Subject Shooting Summary

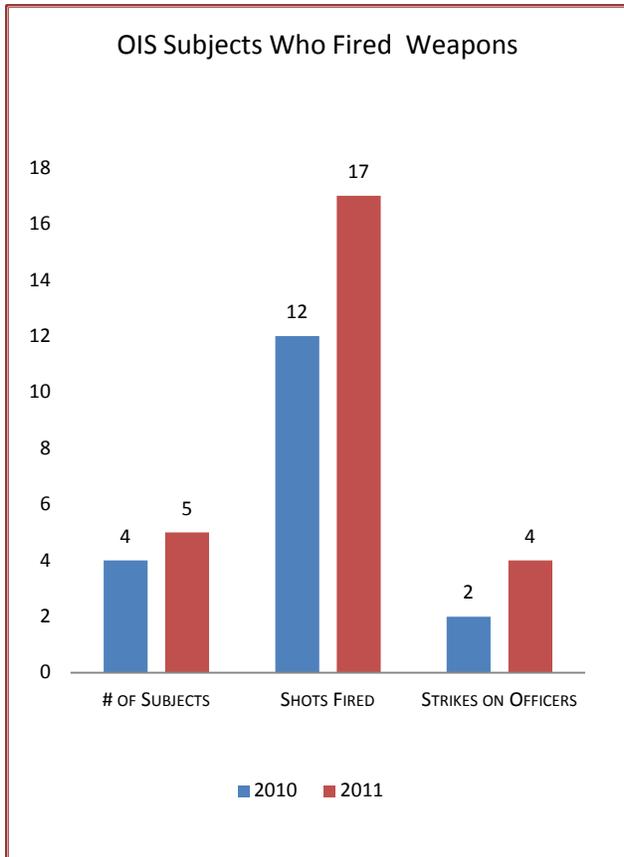
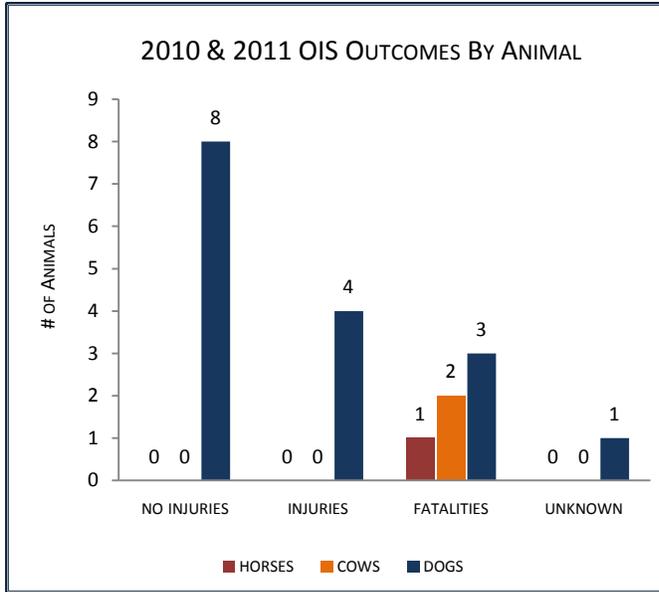


Figure 29

The share of subjects who discharged a firearm at police officers during OIS incidents increased from 16 percent in 2010 (4 of 25) to 28 percent in 2011 (5 of 18). Nine subjects, in nine separate OIS incidents, fired 29 rounds in 2010 and 2011. Two police officers, one in 2010 and the other in 2011, were struck and wounded by six of the rounds fired by OIS subjects [see *Figure 29*]. The overall subject based accuracy rate for firearms discharges was 21 percent for the past two years (6 of 29).

It is relevant to note that shots were fired by subjects prior to the actual occurrence of the OISs in two other incidents, both during 2010. In one case, an undirected shot was fired by a subject well prior to any direct interaction with officers. In the other case, an unknown number of shots were reportedly fired at officers after they arrived on-scene. The actual OIS, which was initiated by a gun threat rather than shots being fired, occurred minutes later.

Animal-Type OISs



There were nine animal-type Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents in 2011, a 125 percent increase over the 2010 level. Two of these nine incidents necessitated the humane shooting of injured livestock in rural areas of Clark County by resident officers.

Of the 14 animals associated with 2011 OIS incidents, four were injured and four others killed because of police intervention. Dogs accounted for nearly 80 percent of all involved animals (11 of 14). The outcomes associated with animal-type OIS incidents for 2010 and 2011 are collectively summarized in *Figure 30*.

Animal-Related Information

As mentioned previously, aggressive dogs initiated the vast majority of animal-type OIS incidents that occurred during the past two years. Combined statistics for 2010 and 2011 indicate that 16 dogs were involved in 11 of the 13 total incidents (85 percent). Further, officers found themselves confronted by pairs of dogs in five of the 11 canine incidents (45 percent).

With respect to breed, nine of the 16 dogs were identified as Pit Bulls (56 percent). No other breed accounted for more than two dogs. It is also notable that dogs were the only animals that threatened officers. In three separate incidents, all of which occurred in 2010, officers were bit by attacking dogs. In two other instances, officers took action after observing dogs attacking persons or their pets. In the remaining six dog-related incidents, officers discharged their weapons to ward off the imminent threat of attack. *Figure 31* provides a simple breakdown of the types of situations encountered by police officers before deciding to discharge their firearms.

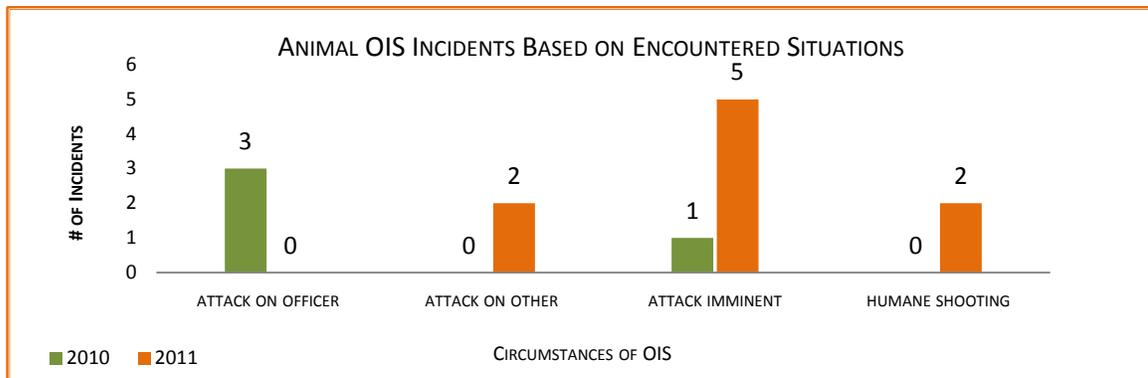


Figure 31

Officer-Related Information

Each of the 13 animal-type OIS incidents that occurred during 2010 and 2011 resulted in the direct involvement of a single police officer. Pertinent information about these officers is provided in the following collective profile. In terms of race and gender, the majority of the 13 officers were “white” (7 of 13) and exclusively male. On average, they were 35.6 years old and had been employed by the Department for 8.9 years at the time of the OISs. With one exception, all the officers were line-level commissioned employees, either a PO I or a PO II. Twenty-six shots were fired, an average of two per officer per incident. Nearly seventy (70) percent of the shots fired hit intended targets (18 of 26). Three of the involved officers (23%), incurred minor injuries as the result of dog bites.

Unintentional Discharge Incidents

The unintentional discharge of a firearm is characteristically accidental in nature, removed from deadly force situations and immediately identifiable as inadvertent. There were six unintentional discharge incidents in 2011, a 100 percent increase over the 2010 level. Combined statistics for 2010 and 2011 indicate that one shot was fired in each incident, and only one of the police officers was injured. During this timeframe, additional persons (police officers only) were present in two of the nine incidents, both of which occurred during 2011. As already alluded to, no more than one police officer was directly involved in each of the nine unintentional discharge incidents that occurred during the past two years.

Pertinent information about those officers is provided in the following collective profile. At least eight of the nine male officers were “white.” On average, they were 35.6 years old and had been employed by the Department for 6.9 years at the time of the incidents. Eight of the nine officers were line-level commissioned (PO I or a PO II) employees. One of these nine officers was struck and superficially wounded by an unintentionally fired round. In terms of the types of weapons involved, there were five pistols, three shotguns, and one rifle.

Circumstances regarding the unintentional discharges recorded during 2010 and 2011 varied. The most common reoccurring situation, which accounted for four of the nine unintentional discharges, involved officers handling their authorized weapons when off-duty at home.

Of the five on-duty officers who unintentionally discharged a firearm, only one was in a public place. In that instance, a specialized “Shok-Lok” shotgun round was inadvertently fired when the SWAT officer slung the weapon over his shoulder prior to his team serving a search warrant. Three of the other on-duty incidents occurred when either clearing or transferring weapons in the parking areas of the officers’ work assignments. The remaining on-duty incident took place at a firing range cleaning table. The breakdown of unintentional discharges by year and duty status of the nine involved officers is reflected in *Figure 32*.

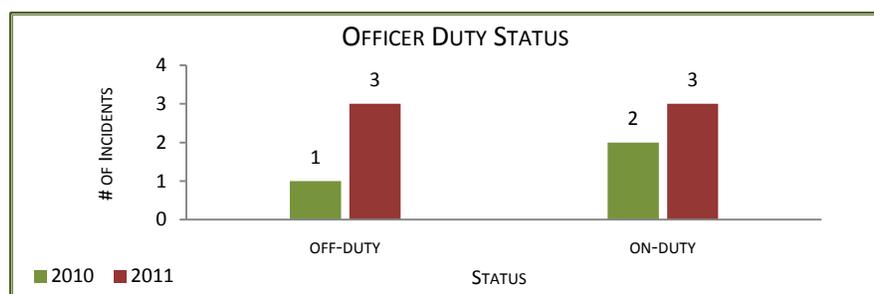


Figure 32

Low Lethal Deadly Force Events

There were six deadly force events other than OIS incidents that occurred in the past two years, two in 2010 and four in 2011. In four of the six events, police officers utilized the Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) to disable vehicles they were following. By policy, the PIT maneuver is considered a deadly force when performed on high center of gravity vehicles, or in all cases at speeds of 40 mph or above. Regarding the other two deadly force incidents, one involved a low speed vehicle ramming at less than 10 miles per hour and the other included a long duration tasing of a subject with Electronic Control Devices (ECDs).

The subjects associated with three of the events were assaultive, firing on trailing police cars during two vehicle pursuits and backing into an officer in another instance. Subjects were generally resistant and/or attempting to flee from the police in the other three non-OIS deadly force events.

In terms of lethality, the six events resulted in one death (tased subject), and minor injuries to one or more subjects in each of the four deadly force PIT incidents. The only injuries sustained by a police officer occurred in 2011 when a subject backed his vehicle into a plainclothes narcotics detective, momentarily pinning him against the driver's door of his vehicle.