



**Seattle Office of  
Inspector General**

# **2023 Use of Force Assessment**

**Presentation to Seattle City Council Public Safety Committee**

**April 5, 2024**

# Methodology

- Monitoring functions transitioned from Seattle Police Monitor to OIG in 2023.
- Methodology:
  - OIG reviewed past monitoring methodologies to inform OIG assessments.
  - OIG will continue to develop new approaches and metrics to address emerging issues in SPD.
  - OIG prioritizes ongoing collaboration with SPD to find effective ways to assess the department and increase transparency.
  - OIG has developed processes to provide real-time feedback to SPD regarding force investigation and review.

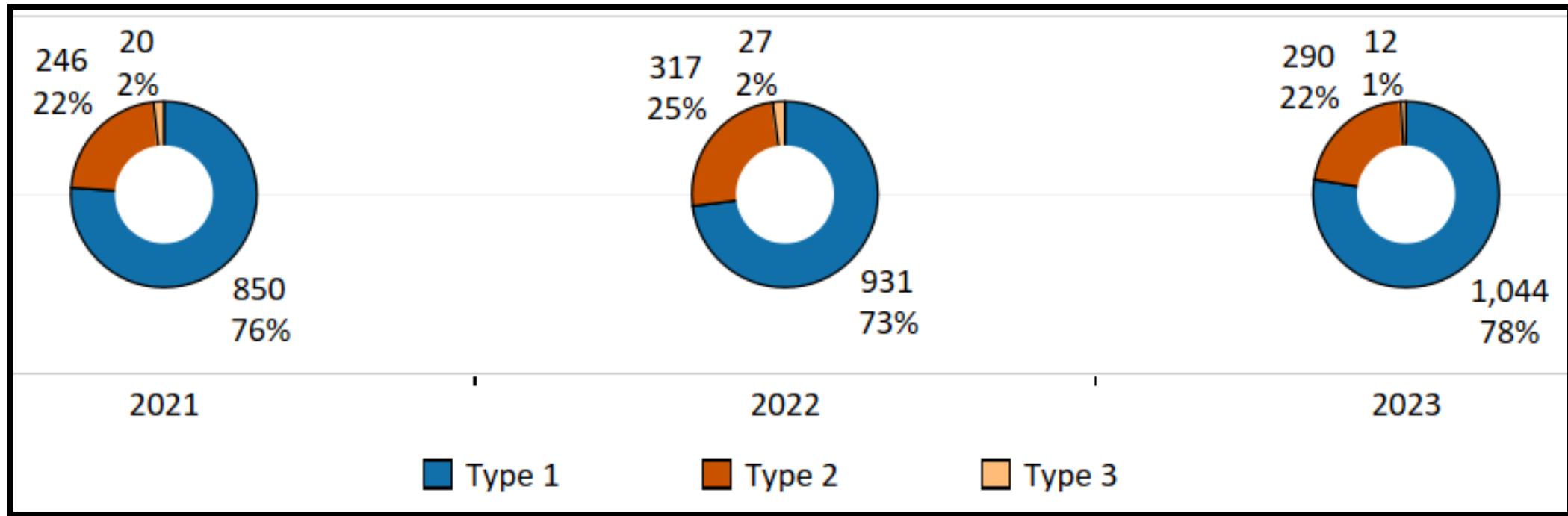
# Use of Force Assessment

- Assessment areas:
  - SPD Use of Force Data
  - Force Review Board
  - Crowd Management
- Assessment goals:
  - Consistent, regular training
  - Proper supervision, investigation, documentation
  - Incidents of out of policy force or bias are appropriately addressed
  - Proper and consistent data collection, analysis, and reporting
  - Consistent improvement of crowd management policies

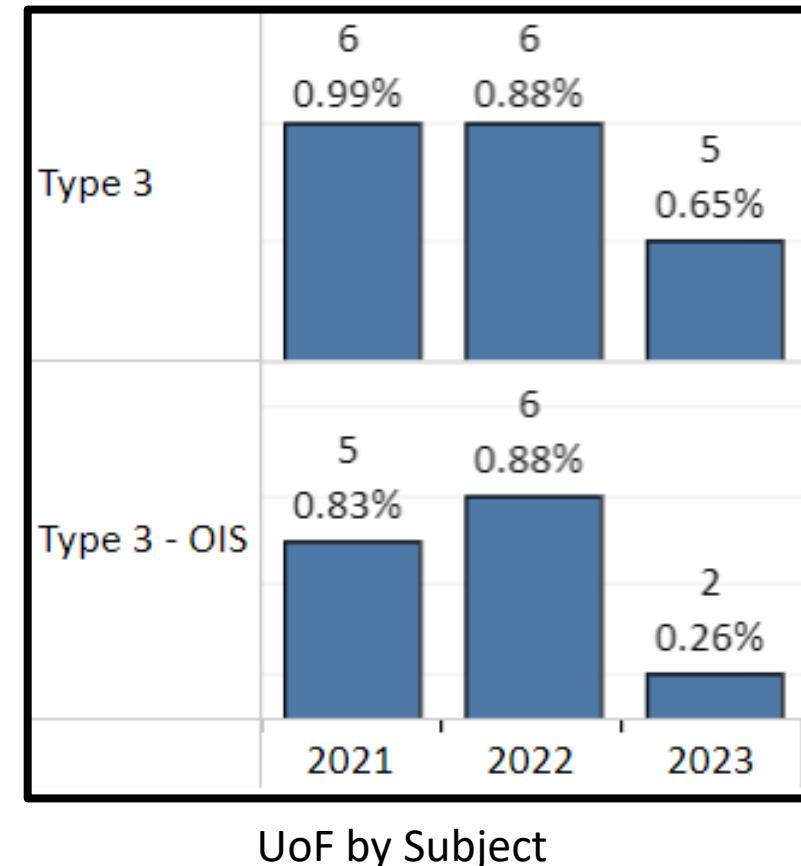
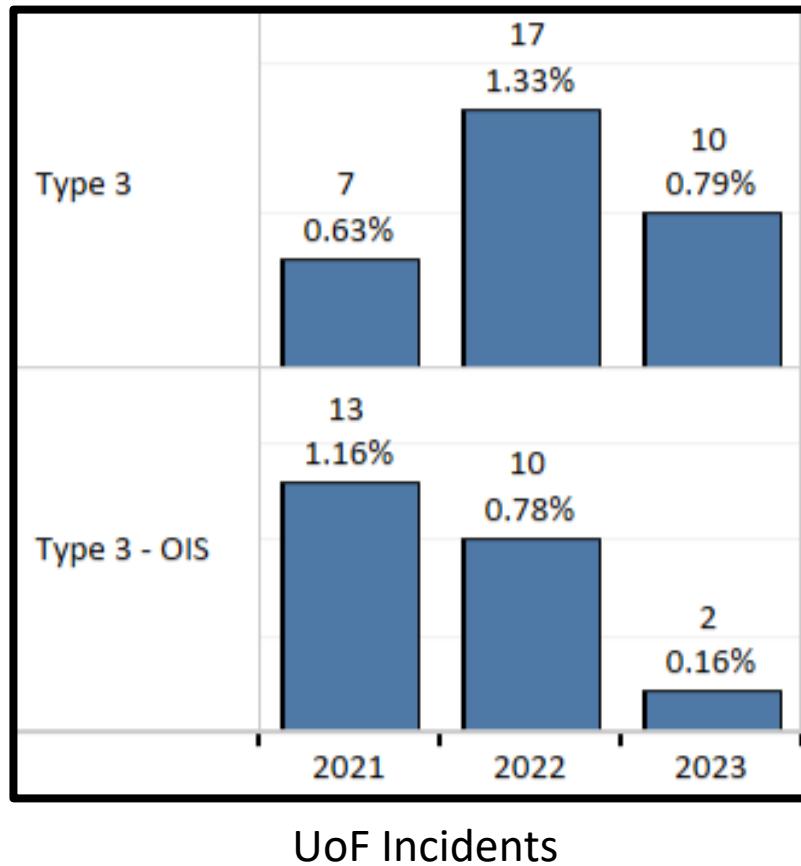
# UoF Data Main Findings

- 3,686 uses of force occurred between 2021 and 2023.
  - 2021 had the **lowest** record of uses of force (1,116) since 2015. 2022 and 2023 had the second (1,257) and third (1,323) **lowest** uses of force, respectively.
  - 2021 had the **lowest** uses of force Type I (850) and Type II (246) since 2015.
  - 2023 had the **lowest** uses of force in Officer Involved Shootings (OIS) (2) since 2015.
- Unknown and not specified race:
  - Unknown race for subjects of force was 20.94% (406) between 2021 to 2023.
  - Unknown race for subjects with complaints of pain **increased** from 2021 (11.23%, 84) to 2023 (23.17%, 186).
  - Unknown race of civilians subject to pointing of a firearm **increased** from 2021(11.48%, 28) to 2023 (28.28%, 97).
- Behavioral crisis:
  - 2021 had the **lowest** rate (1.35%) of use of force since 2016.
  - 2022 and 2023 years had **no** Type III and no Type III OIS use of force for the first time since 2015.
  - 2021 had the **lowest** percentage of Type II force (66.67%) since 2015.

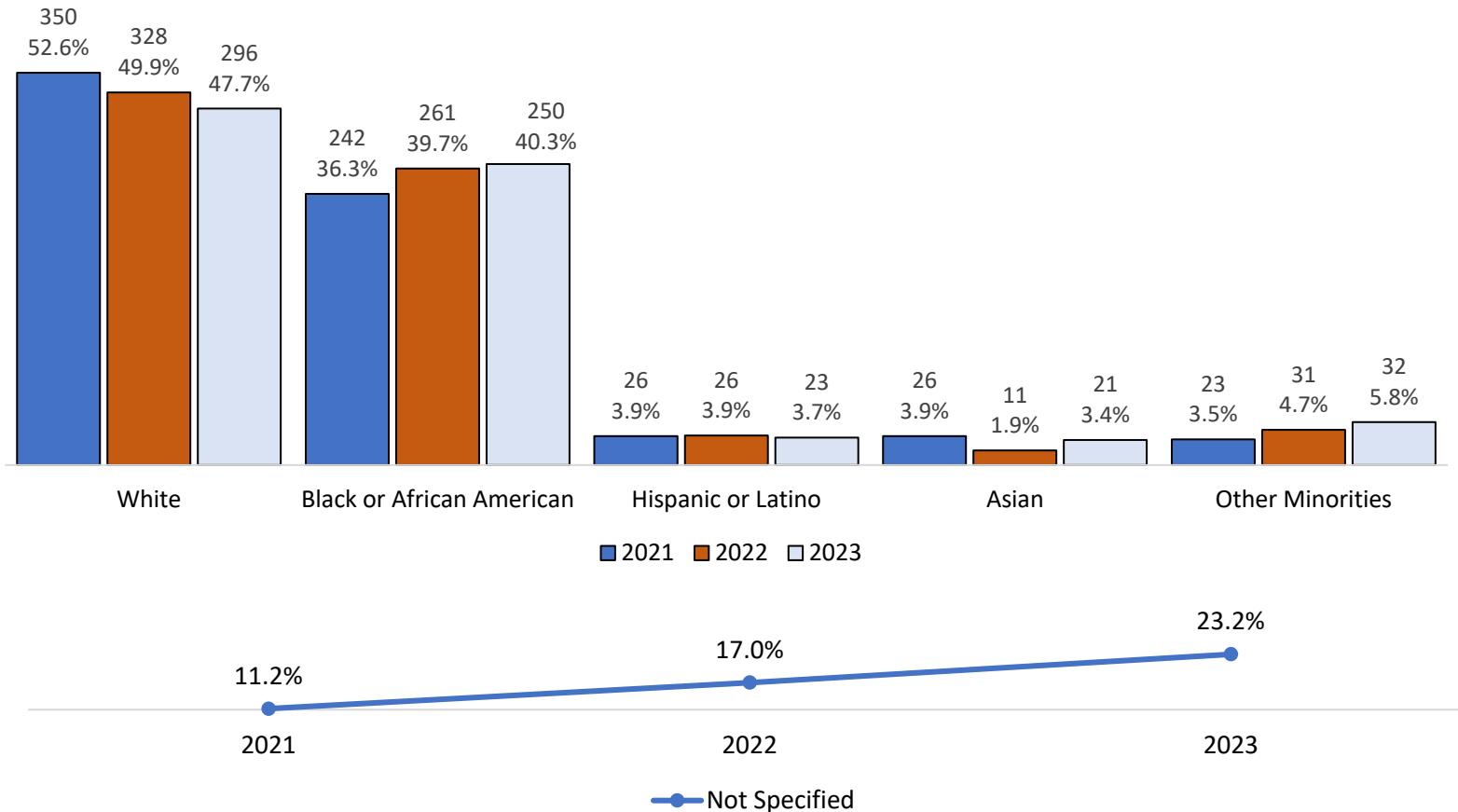
# SPD Force Levels by Year



# SPD Force Level III by Year

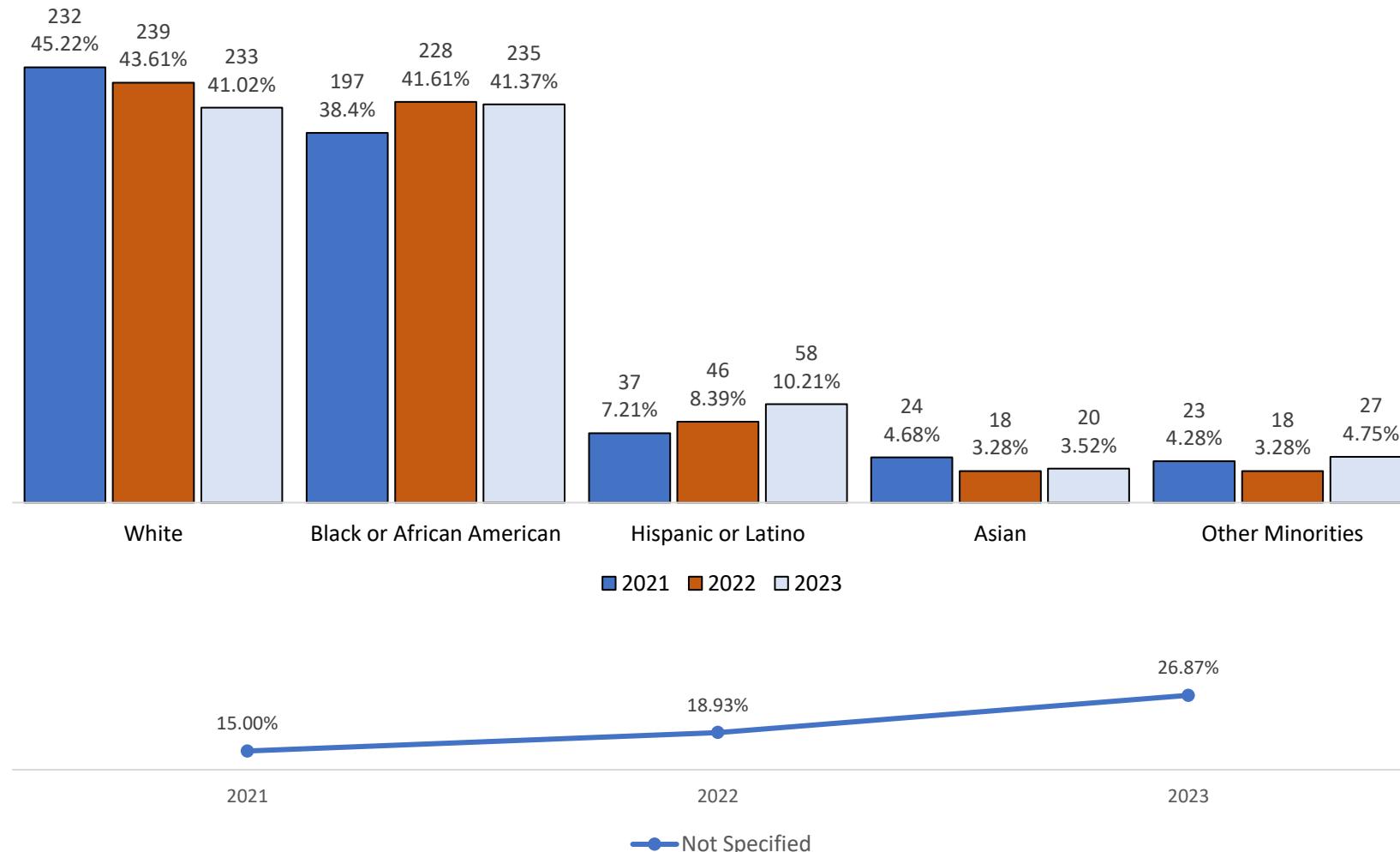


# Injury or Complaint of Pain by known Race of Subject



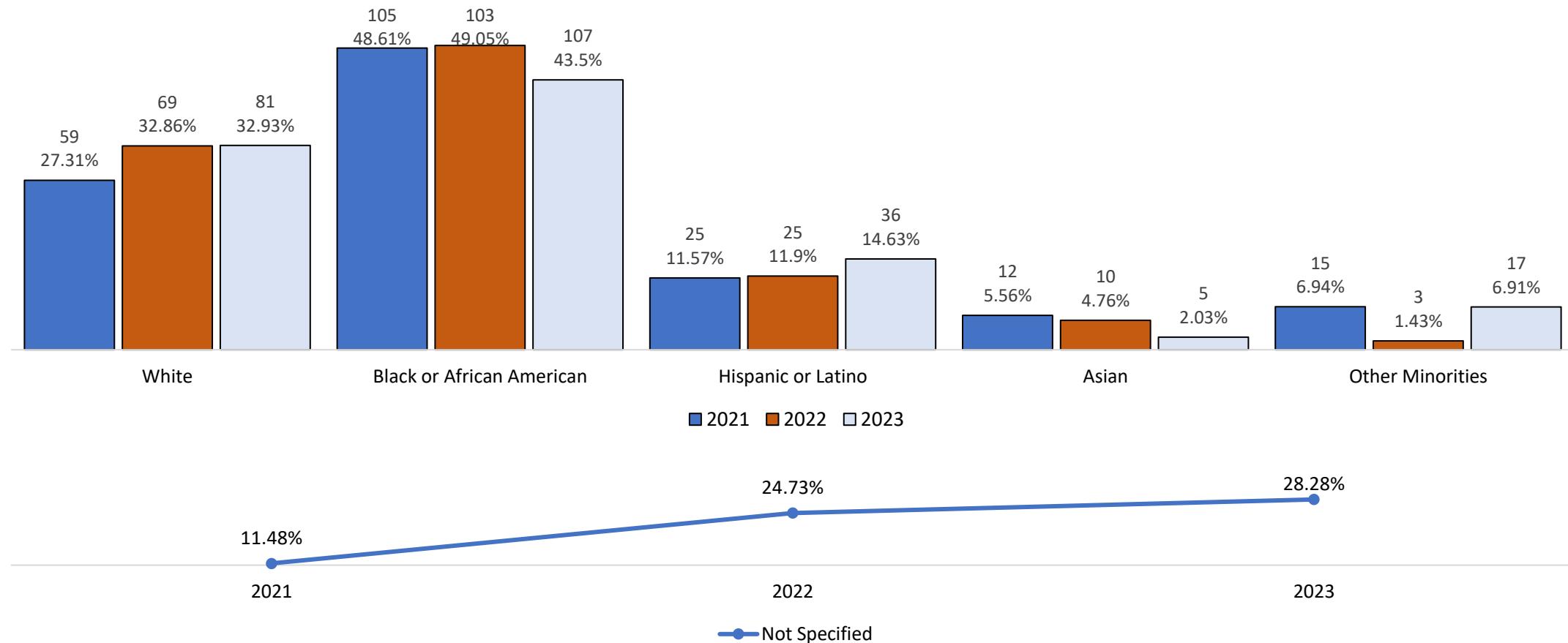
- Rates of injury or complaints of pain for white, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and two or more races decreased from 2021 to 2023.
- Rates for Black individuals increased by 3.98%.
- Rates for individuals with unknown or not specified race increased by 11.94% in the same period.

# Race of Subjects of Use of Force: Type I and Type II Combined



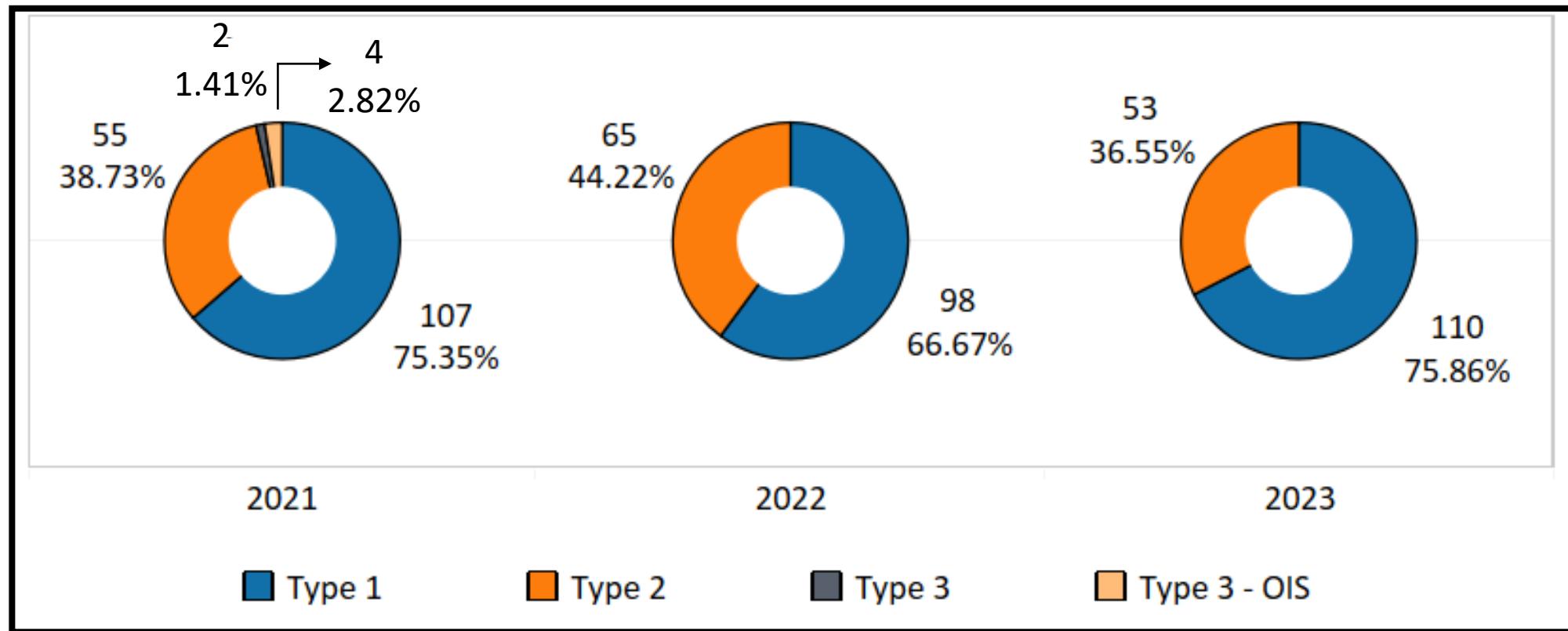
- The counts of Type I and Type II subjects of force remained steady for white and Asian populations.
- The counts of force against Black, Hispanic/Latino, and other minorities increased.

# Pointing of Lethal Firearms by Race of Subject



Black subjects are still most likely to be subject to pointing of a firearm, despite not being subjects of force as frequently as white or unknown race persons.

# Type of Use of Force in Behavioral Crisis



No Type III uses of force were reported in 2022 and 2023, marking the first years with no Type III force in crisis incidents since consistent data collection began in 2015.

# Force Review Board Assessment

## FRB Meeting Observation

- Assessment areas:
  - Facilitation
  - Case Presentation
  - Board Discussion  
i.e., investigation & review, tactics, de-escalation
  - Board Processes  
Referrals, OPA investigations
- Evaluation & feedback
  - Debrief with FRB leadership
  - Formal reports
  - OIG annual report summary

## Interviews with FRB Stakeholders

- Interviews with 13 FRB stakeholders
  - Facilitation
  - Selection, Participation & Training
  - Board Discussion
  - Board Processes
  - FRB Purpose, Impact, & Effectiveness

# Crowd Management

- The SER Panel issued **36 crowd management recommendations** to SPD. Chief Diaz issued a formal response in July 2023.
  - 32 accepted; 4 deferred to other departments
- **Communication:** Improving internal and external communications.
  - SPD implemented LRAD, POET (2020).
- **Tactics:** Limiting force through review and clarification of crowd control policies and trainings.
  - SPD's updated Crowd Management policy includes guidance on crowd dispersal versus targeted removal of individuals.
- **Community legitimacy:** Closing the gap between structural and perceived legitimacy by emphasizing *normative* compliance over *instrumental* compliance.
  - SPD implemented Outward Mindset (2020), Before the Badge (2022).

# Questions?