

Phoenix Police Department

Tactical Review Committee

Mid-Year Report

2017



Police Chief Jeri L. Williams

2017 Mid-Year Report

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MISSION STATEMENT

***To Serve, protect and reduce crime in Phoenix while treating everyone with
dignity and respect.***

TRC 2017 Mid-Year Report



A Message from the Tactical Review Committee Chair

Purpose of the Tactical Review Committee and the Mid-Year Report

The Tactical Review Committee (TRC) is tasked with reviewing critical incidents involving Phoenix Police personnel to include Officer-Involved Shootings (OIS). The purpose of the TRC is not to determine if the incident was within policy or justified under Arizona Revised Statutes, but to identify any potential training that could benefit the Department's employees.

The role of the committee is primarily restricted to the identification of training needs for individuals and the Department as a whole. The committee may also make suggestions regarding amendments to policy.

In reviewing use of force incidents, the TRC will take into account the totality of the circumstances involved in the incident and decide if the training need is sufficient to justify immediate intervention to:

- Department Training Needs
- Policy Revision Suggestions

As a result of the reviews completed to the mid-year point of 2017, this report has been created as an effective tool to increase legitimacy with those we serve, as well as address identified trends internally through the development and implementation of training.

Through this process, we continue to grow as an organization and demonstrate our continued efforts to lead the way in the field of law enforcement, while being transparent with the community we serve.

**T.J. Martin, Assistant Chief
Phoenix Police Department**

Tactical Review Committee

**T. J. Martin, Assistant Chief
*Strategic and Tactical Services
Division***

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*Community Affairs Division***

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*Legal Unit***

**Louis A. Tovar, Commander
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**Paula T. Veach, Commander
*Professional Standards Bureau***

**Brian J. Issitt, Lieutenant
*Advanced Training***

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**Jayson F. Johnson, Lieutenant
*Special Assignments Unit***

**Sean A. Mattson, President
*Phoenix Police Sergeants and
Lieutenants Association***

**Kenneth K. Crane, President
*Phoenix Law Enforcement
Association***

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Current Trends

The Tactical Review Committee's examination of the first half of 2017 has been an important step forward in enhancing the training and development of Phoenix Police Officers, as we move into the second half of the year. The main priority of this TRC Mid-Year Report is to identify trends and patterns that are being observed in the field during Officer-Involved Shootings (OIS) and allowing those identified items to assist in the evolution of our departmental training and development.

An OIS is defined as any Phoenix Police officer's use of force with a handgun, shotgun, or rifle, where the firearm discharge was intentional, excluding animals and objects.

From January 1 through June 30, 2017, sworn personnel from the Phoenix Police Department were involved in ten (10) Officer-Involved Shootings (OIS). From a statistical perspective, the following information was found to be of interest for topical training points:

- Six of the 10 OIS incidents were driven by calls for service from the community, of which, three were related to Domestic Violence.
- Of the 10 OIS incidents, 13 officers were involved. Six of the officers involved in these OIS incidents were from the Patrol Division, while the other officers were from specialty details (four from the Special Assignments Unit and three from Neighborhood Enforcement Teams).
- Of the OIS Incidents, handguns were deployed by officers eight times with an average engagement of 5.2 yards. Rifles were utilized five times with engagements that averaged 26.3 yards.
- The average length of time from initial contact with the subject to the OIS occurring was five minutes, up from one minute in 2016.
- In each of the ten incidents, the subjects involved had criminal histories ranging from felony and misdemeanor arrests, to other criminal activity.
- The largest contributing factors to the OIS incidents, through the mid-point of 2017, were subjects being engaged in aggravated assaults/homicides or being impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- As compared to the first and second quarters of 2016, in 2017 there has been a 16.7% decrease (12 to 10) in OIS incidents that the Phoenix Police Department has been involved in.

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TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Additional information was also gathered during Tactical Review Sub-Committee Meetings and Incident Debriefings with involved officers. The following are significant trends that were identified through the first half of 2017 and how they are being addressed for the second half of the year:

- **Involved Officers are requesting more reality-based squad level training. Due to the average contact time between officer/s and subject/s being five minutes before an incident occurs, it is important to provide officers training under condensed time frames, to prepare them mentally and allow them to move through their options effectively from de-escalation techniques, less-than-lethal strategies, to the use of deadly force, while working in a team environment. It is also paramount to reiterate to the Patrol Division the importance of waiting for back-up before arriving at calls for service.**
- **Officers continue to deal with occupied vehicles, which become threats to them as the vehicles are driven towards them. Training is being created to address how to deal with occupied vehicles, safe body placements when dealing with subject/s in these vehicles, as well as how to tactically box stationary vehicles in place to gain an advantage and stop the vehicle from being able to egress, if the situation is warranted.**
- **Equipment issues were identified with the Chevy Tahoe and the auto-locking function of the passenger doors. The issue has been taken up with Fleet Management and any Tahoe within the fleet will soon have the auto-locking function disengaged for greater officer safety precautions.**
- **Communications between responding officers, supervisors, and radio continues to be an issue, as identified by involved employees. During critical incidents, concerns have been raised that officers arriving first on scene are not effectively communicating pertinent information to other entities to allow for a more effective response. This identified trend is currently being addressed through in-service training during scenarios meant to elevate stress levels, where communication is vital to complete the training successfully.**
- **Continued training will focus on de-escalation and less-than-lethal strategies. While there could be a variety of reasons behind the lengthened time frame between contact with the subject and OIS from 2016 to 2017, the use of strategies and techniques to resolve the incident peacefully is of most importance to the Phoenix Police Department in the pursuit of preservation of life.**

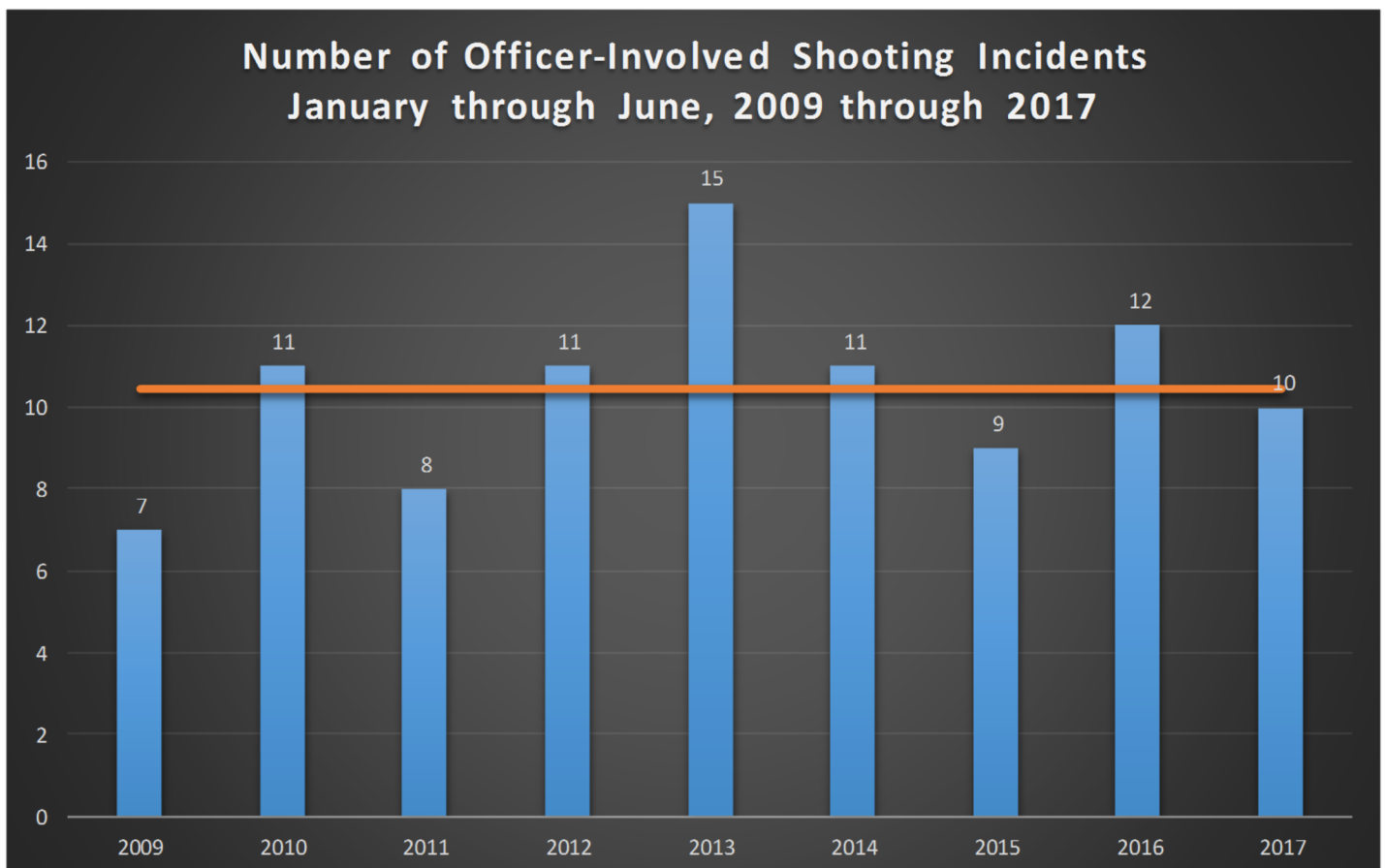
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STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

During the first half (January 1-June 30) of 2017, police officers from the Phoenix Police Department were involved in ten critical incidents involving the use of deadly force, known as Officer-Involved Shootings (OIS).

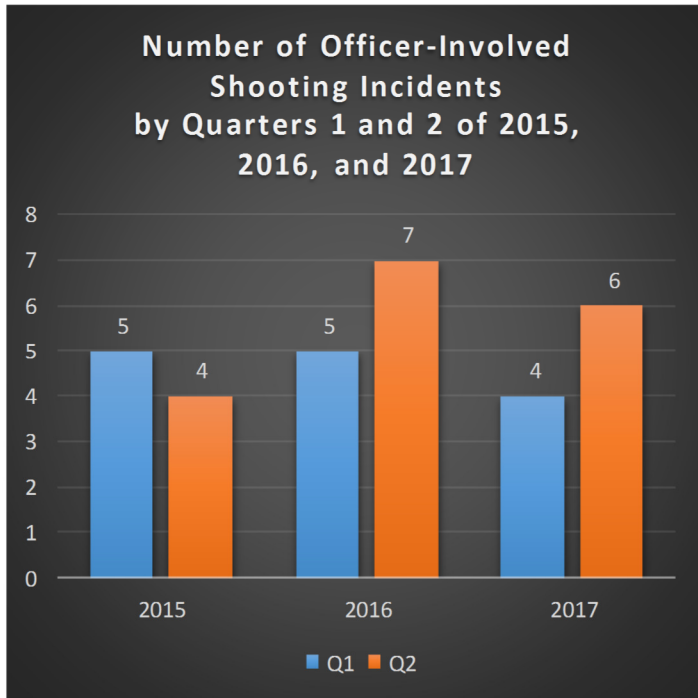
The data and analysis found in the statistical snapshot stems from the combined effort of members from the Professional Standards Bureau, Crime Analysis and Research Unit (CARU), and the Training Bureau.

General Incident-Based Statistics

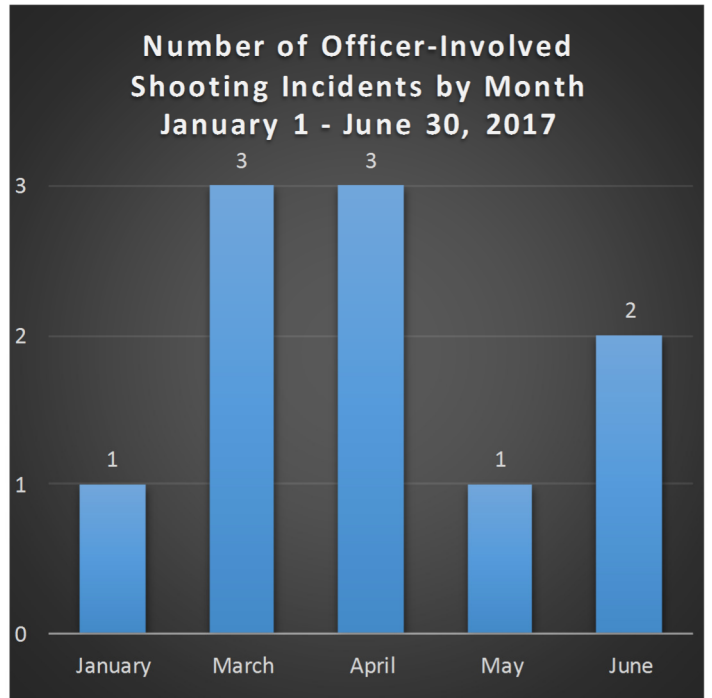


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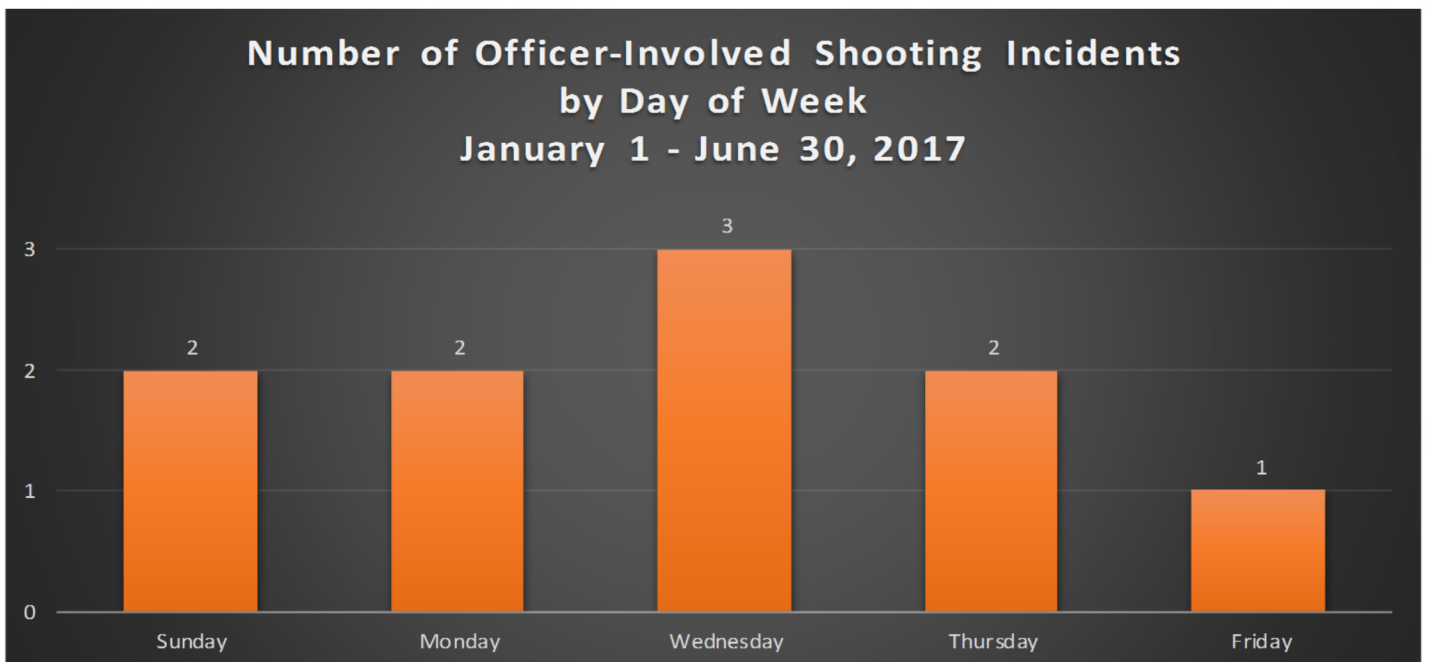
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2017 data is through 6/30/2017.



There were no OIS incidents in February 2017.

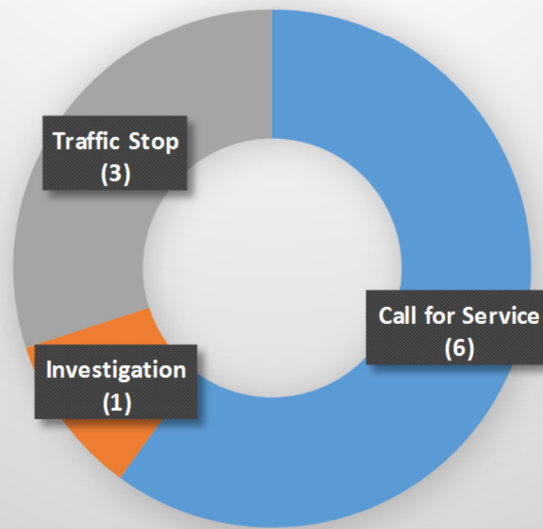


There were no OIS incidents on a Tuesday or a Saturday in the first 6 months of 2017.

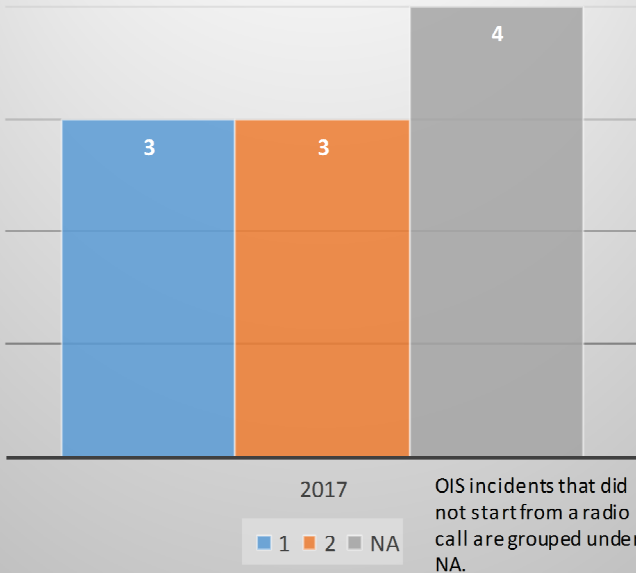
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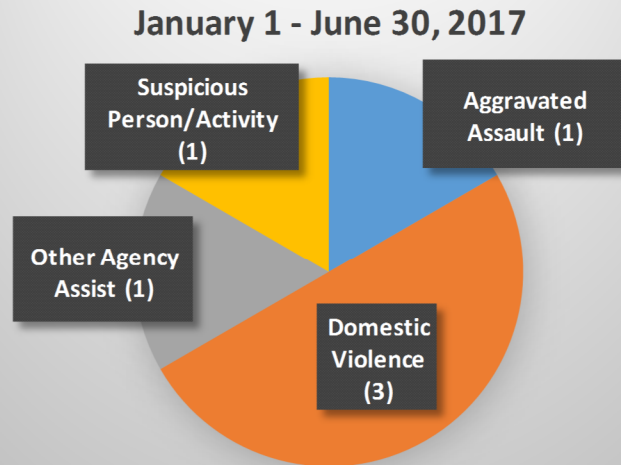
Initial Contacts that Preceded OIS Incident January 1 - June 30, 2017



Priority of Initial Radio Call January 1 - June 30, 2017



Initial Call Type for OIS Incidents that Originated from a Call for Service January 1 - June 30, 2017

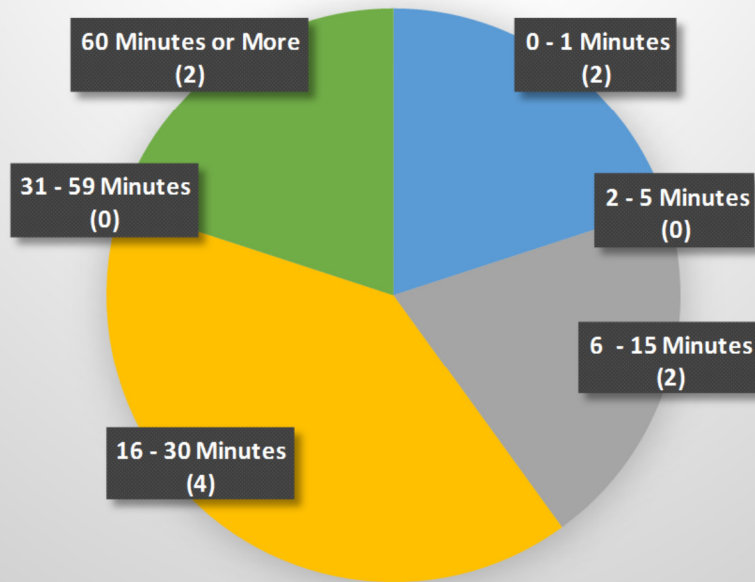


Four officer-involved shootings during this time period were not initiated by a call for service.

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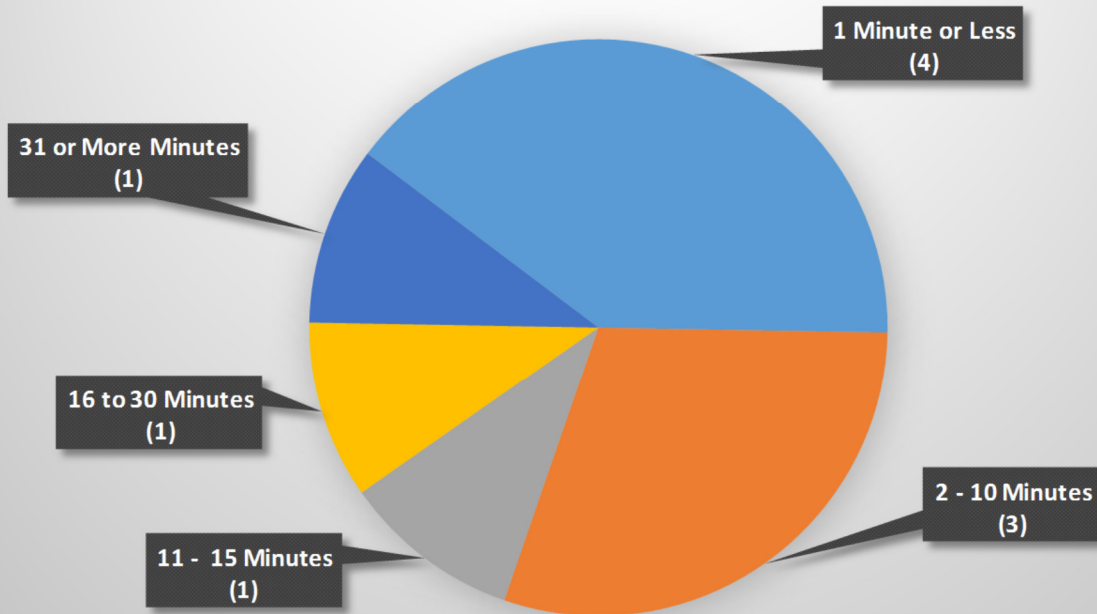
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Arrival Time to OIS Time
January 1 - June 30, 2017



Data is rounded to full minutes.

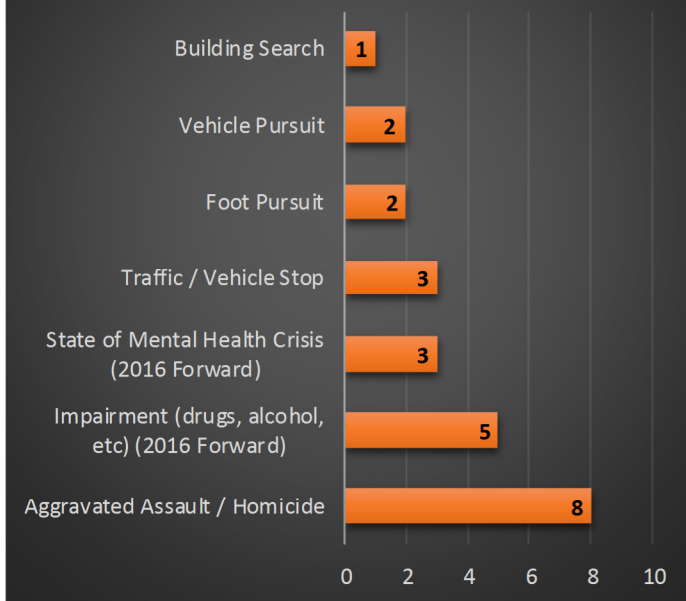
Subject Contact Time to OIS Time
January 1 - June 30, 2017



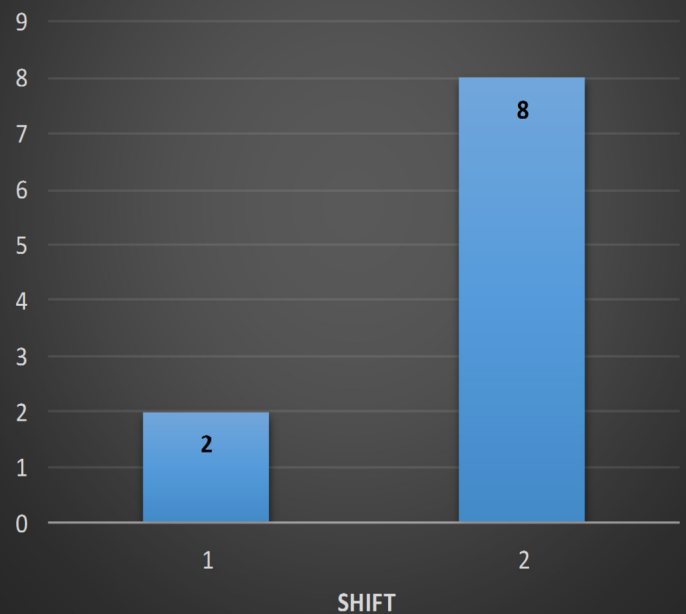
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Factors Contributing to the OIS Incident January 1 - June 30, 2017

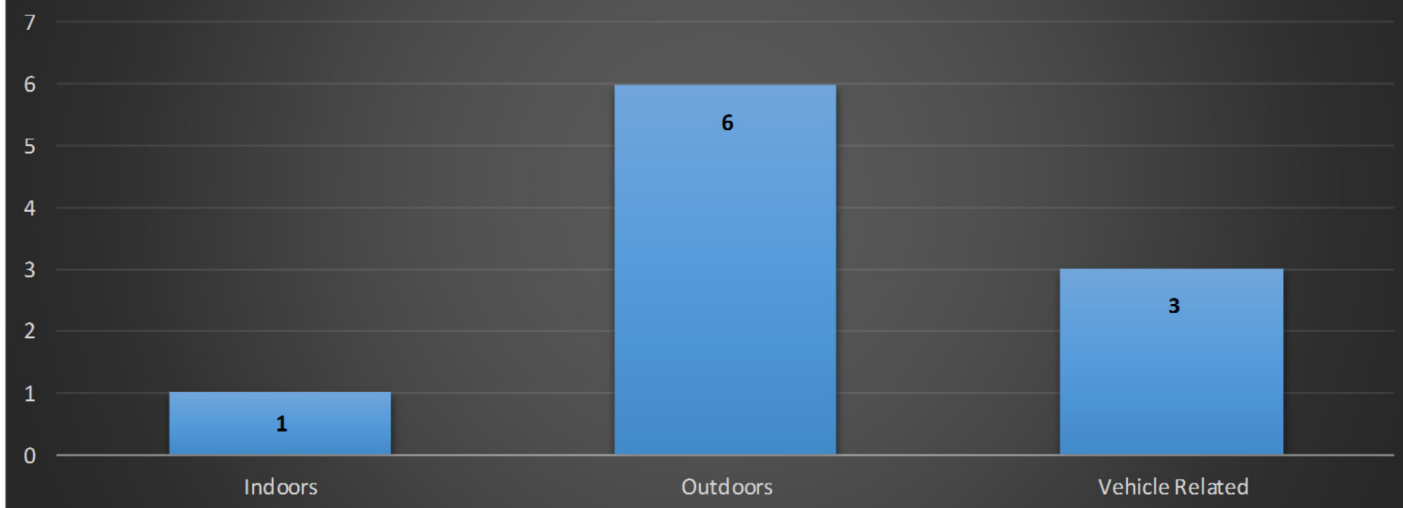


Number of Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents by Work Shift January 1 - June 30, 2017



There can be more than one contributing factor per incident, therefore the count of contributing factors will exceed the number of incidents in the time period.

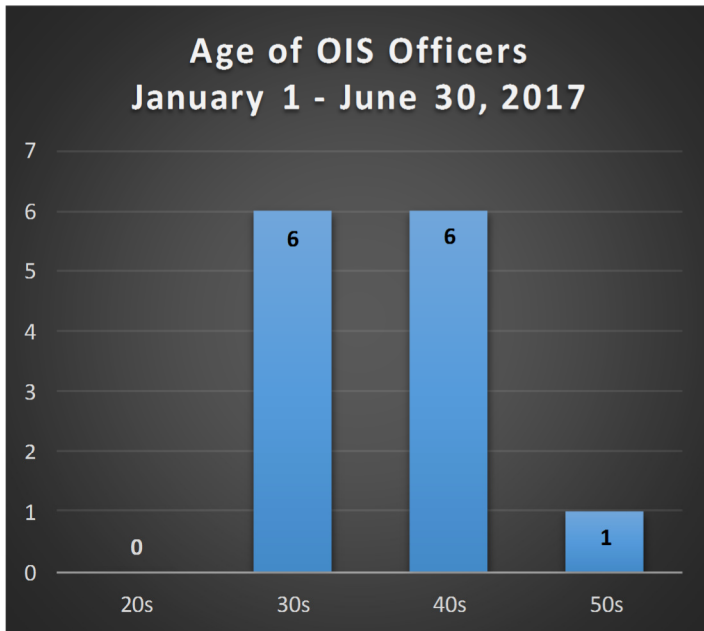
Setting of OIS Incidents January 1 - June 30, 2017



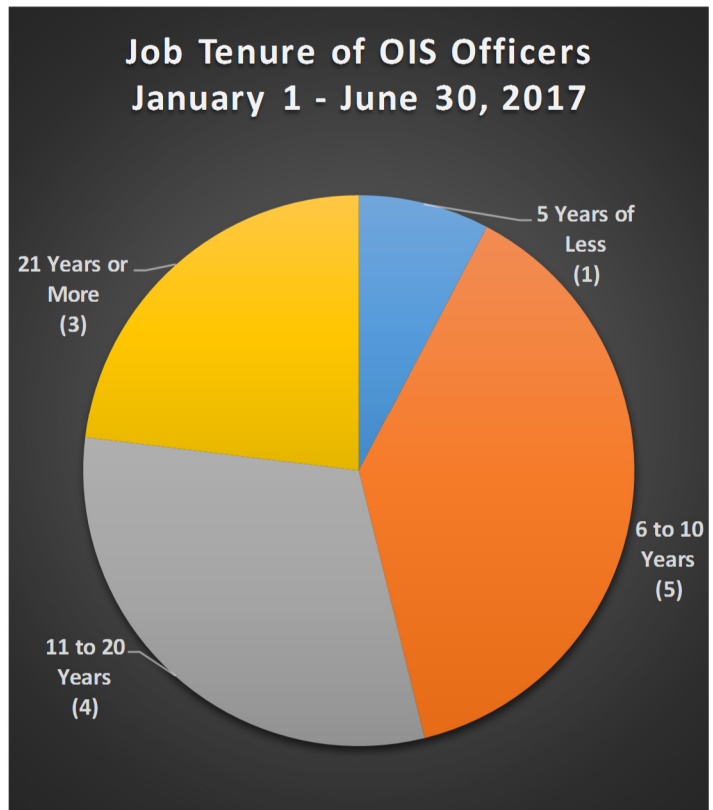
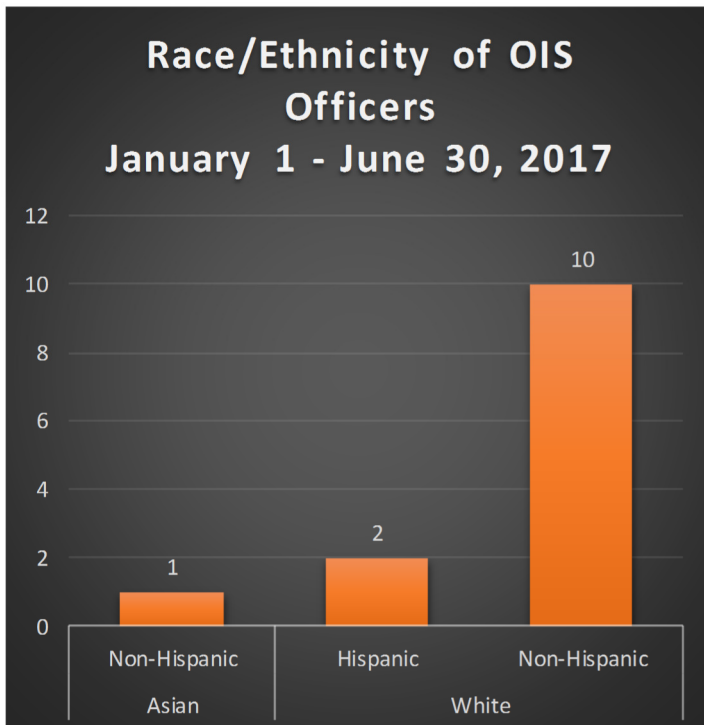
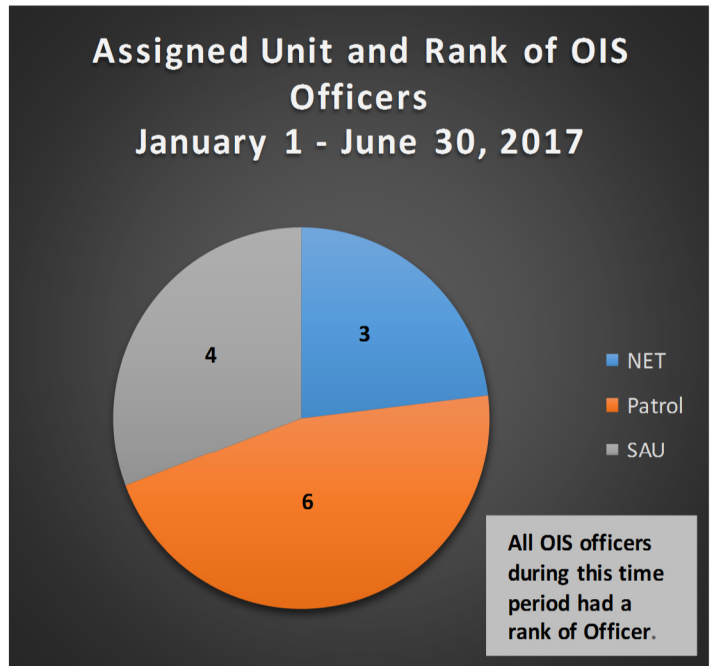
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Specific Officer-Involved Statistics



The 13 officers involved in OIS in Quarters 1 and 2 of 2017 were male.

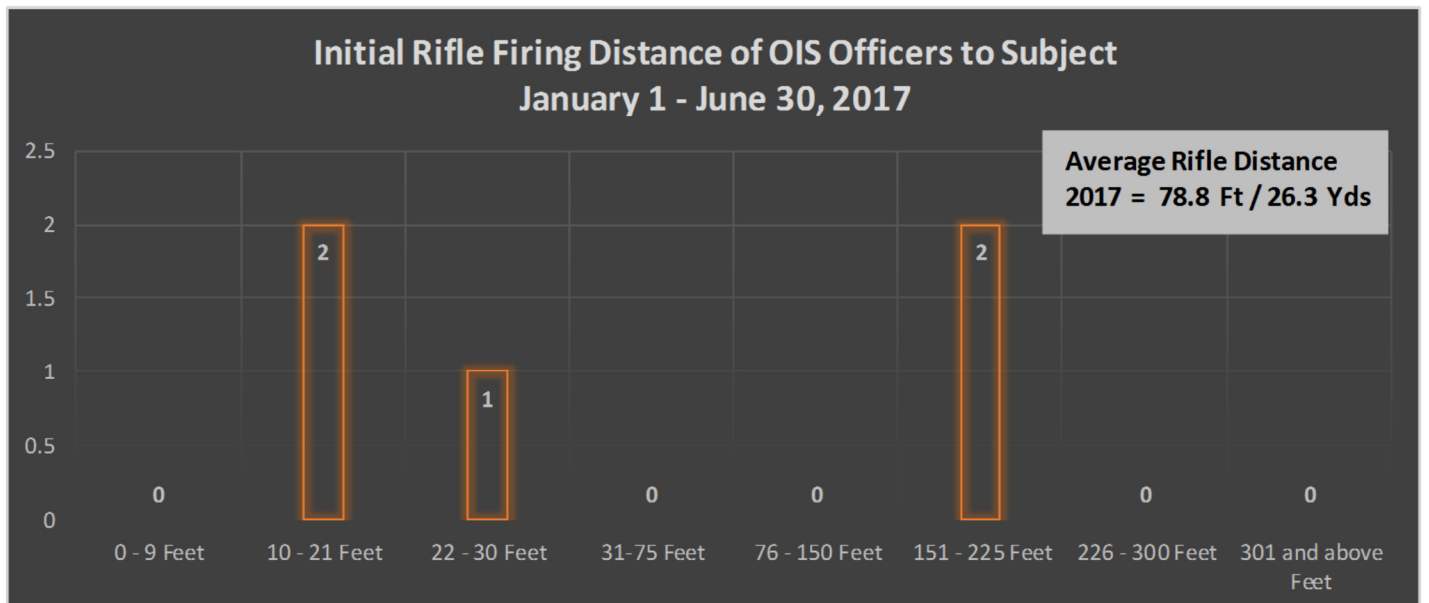
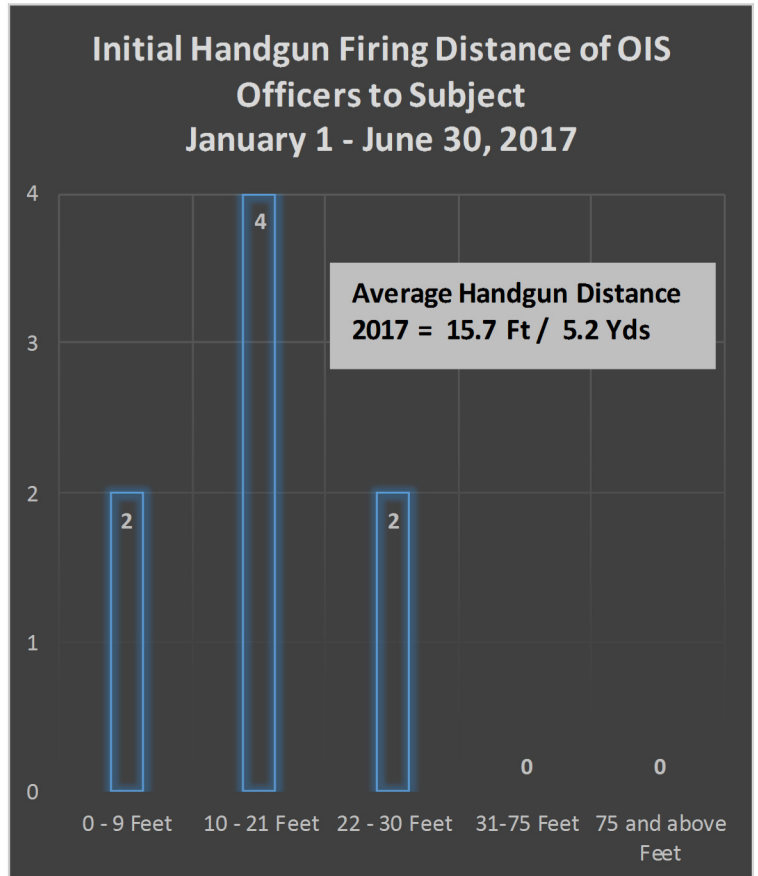
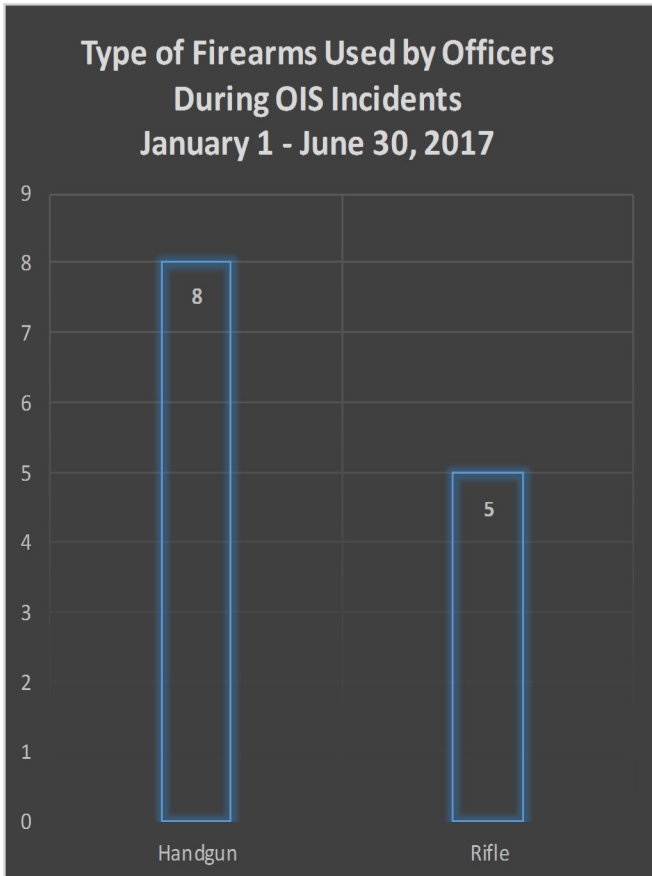


Data collection for race and ethnicity changed in 2016. Hispanic is now tracked under ethnicity. This is in alignment with the US Census categories and with data fields in the new records management system (RMS).

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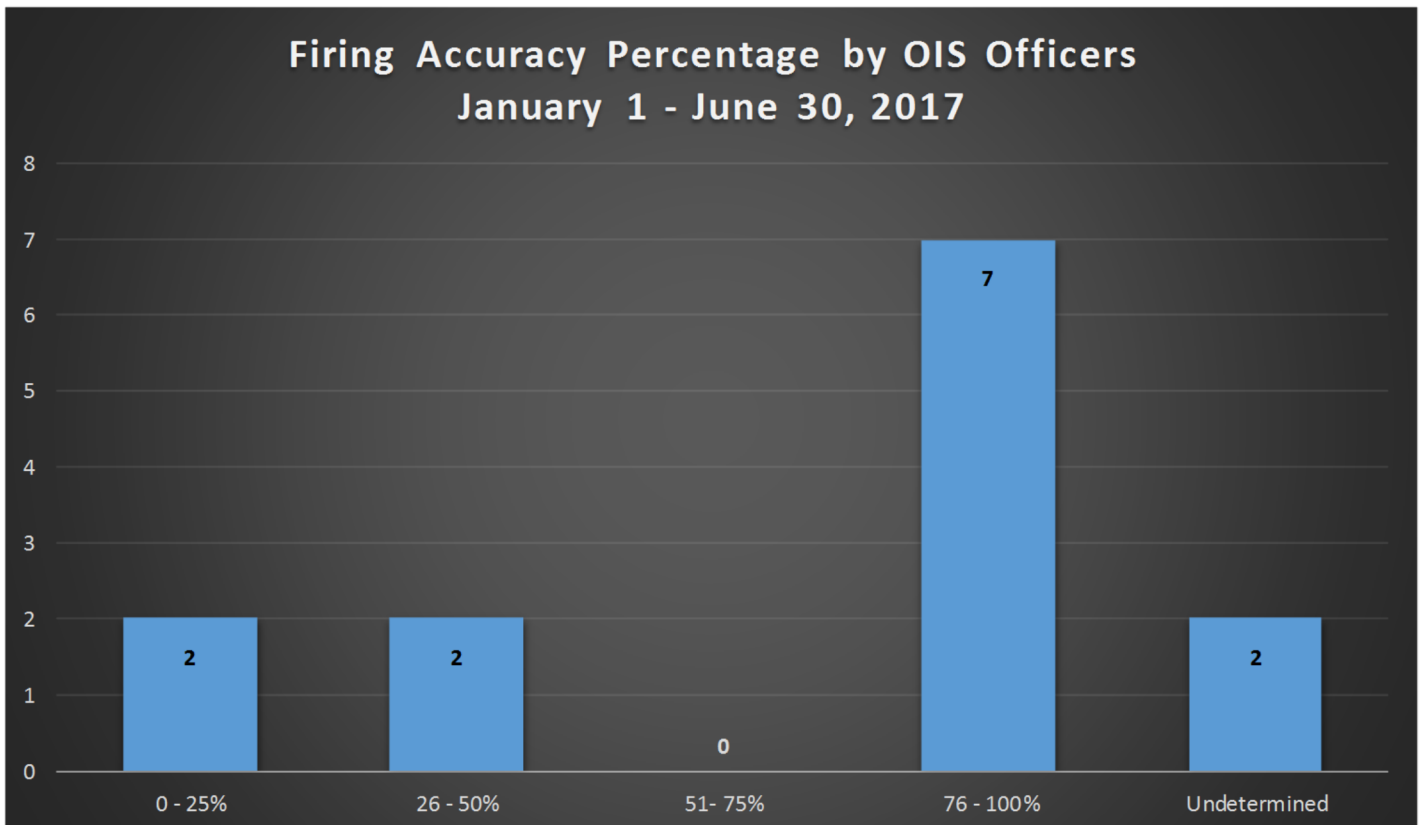
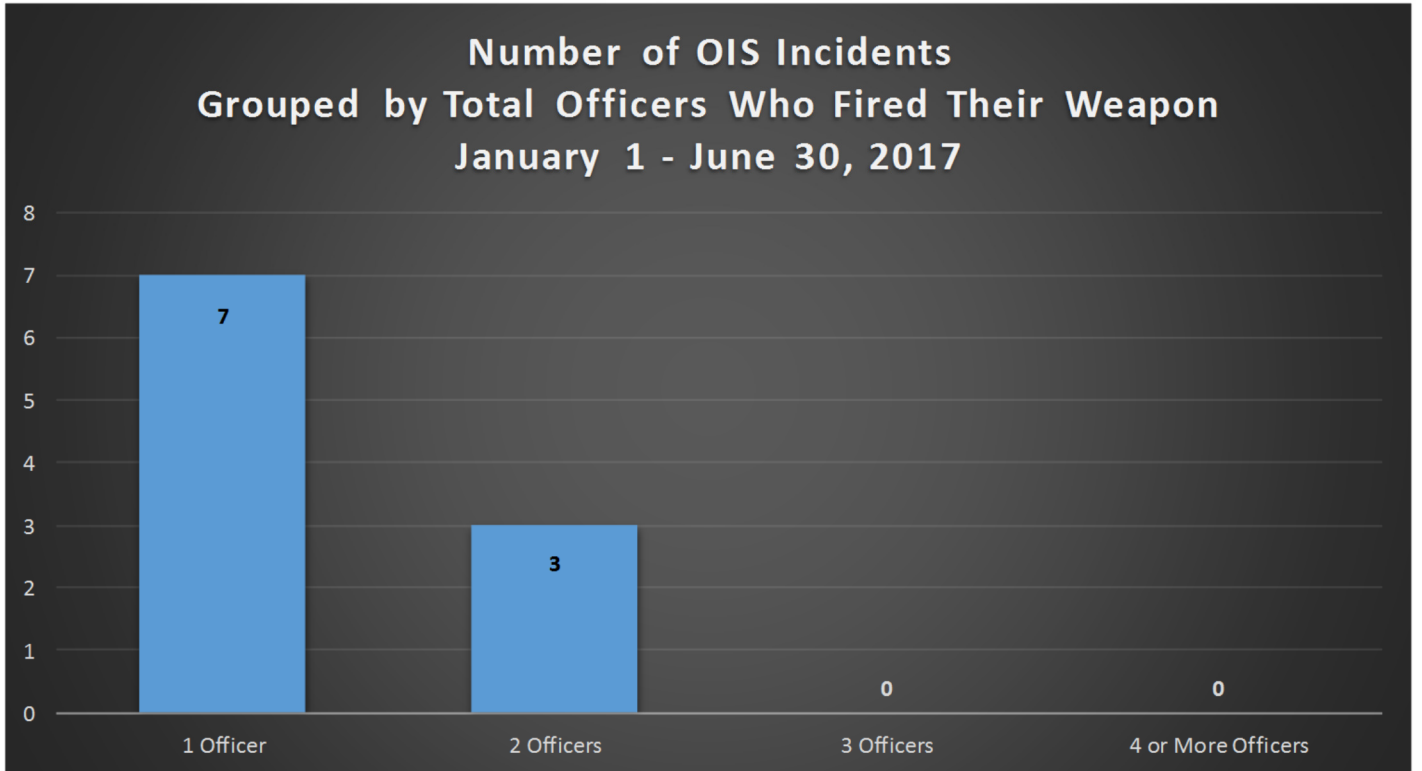
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Weapon Statistics



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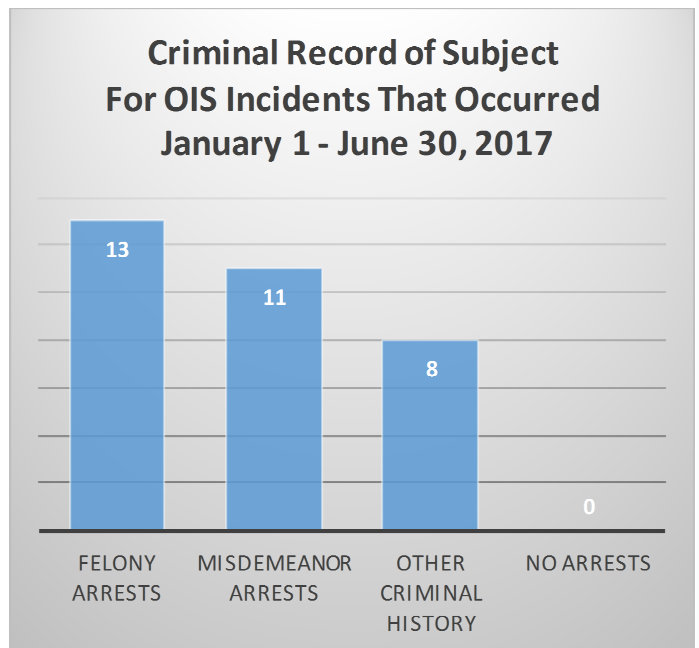
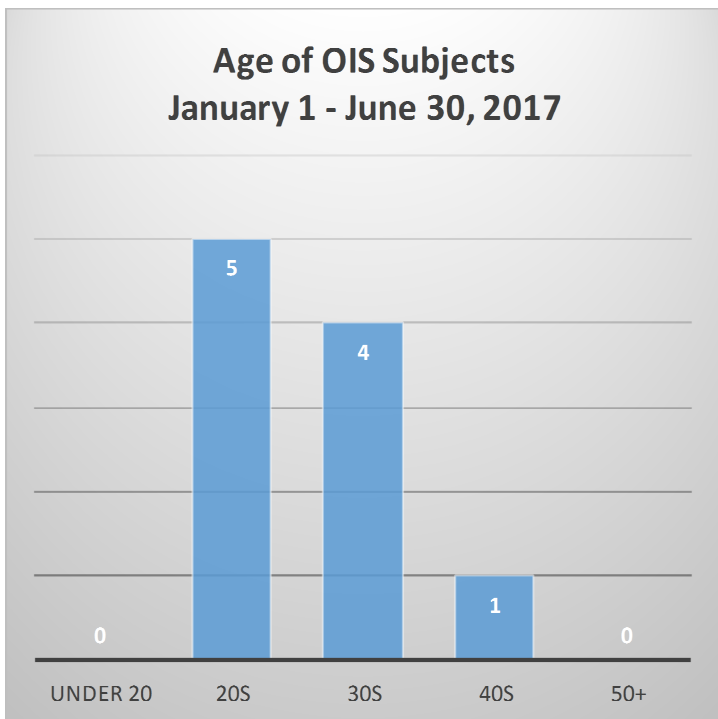
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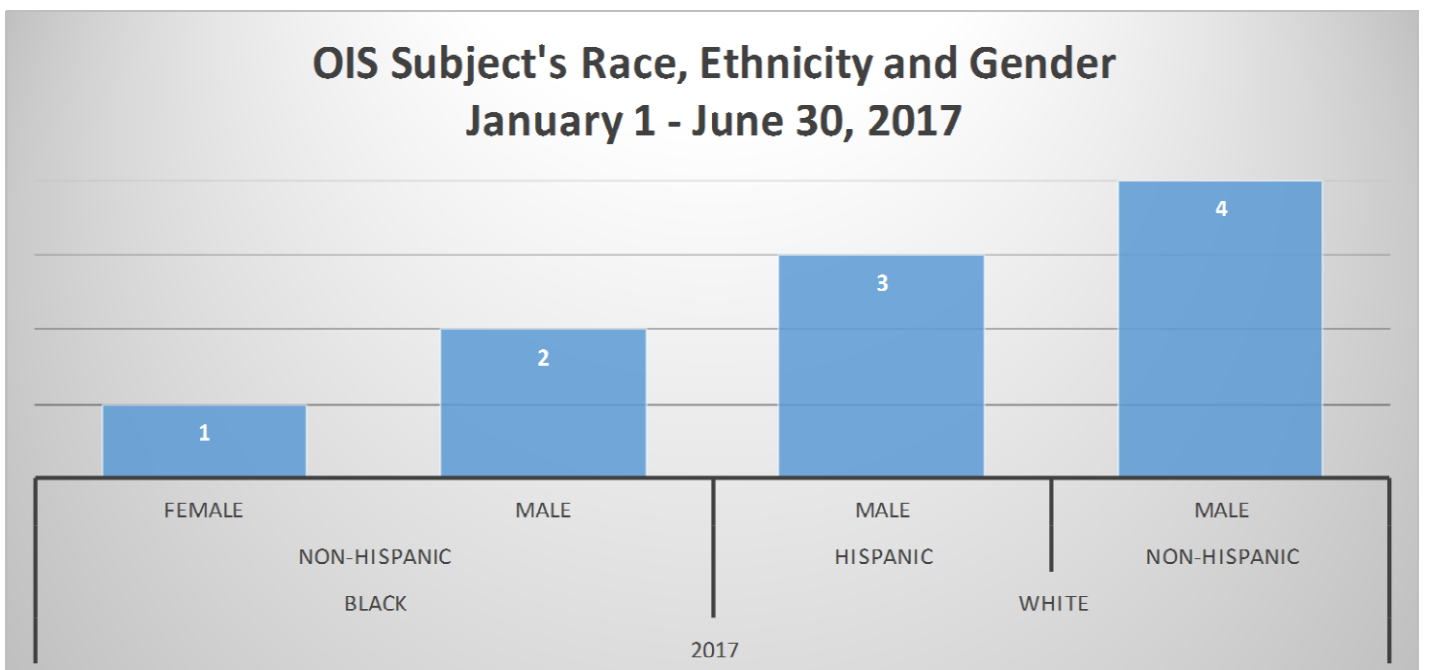
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Specific Subject-Involved Statistics



More than one category may apply to each subject, therefore the

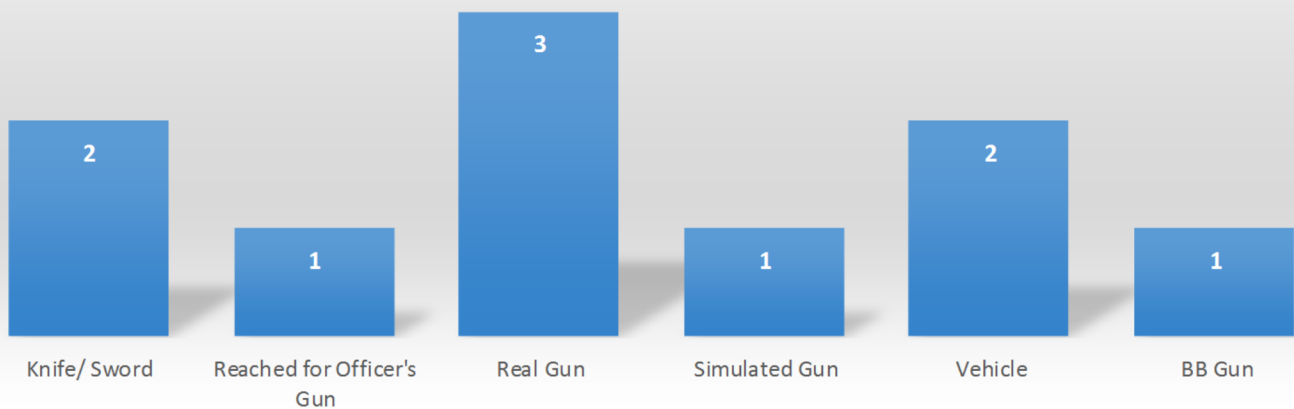


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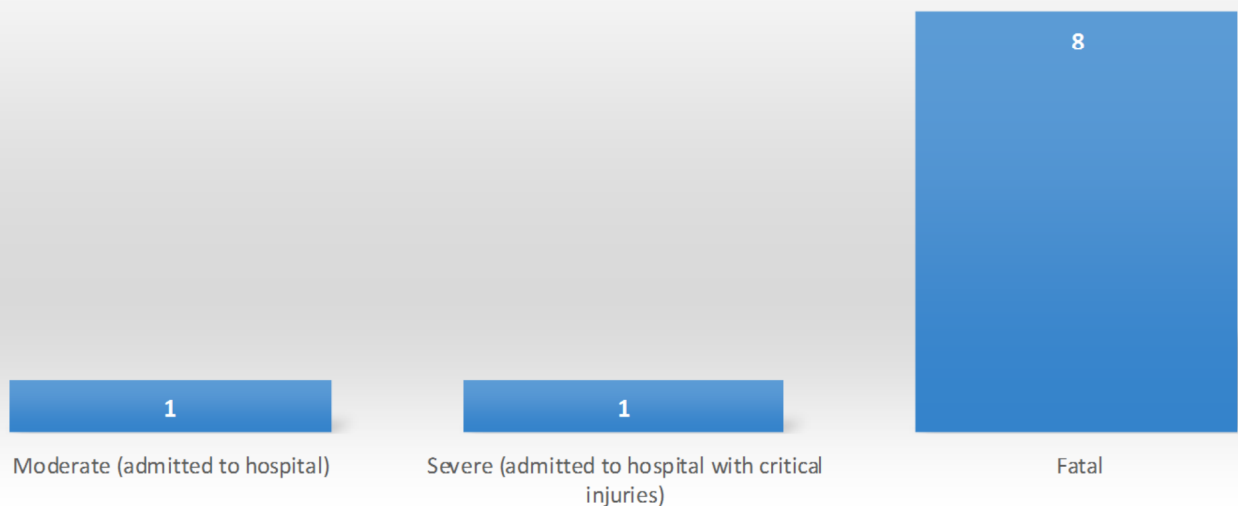
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**Type of Weapon Used by Subject
During Officer-Involved Shooting
January 1 - June 30, 2017**



In the "Reached for Officer's Gun" category, the subject actually took possession of the officer's handgun and fired one round subsequently striking himself in the leg.

**Subject Injuries Resulting from OIS
January 1 - June 30, 2017**

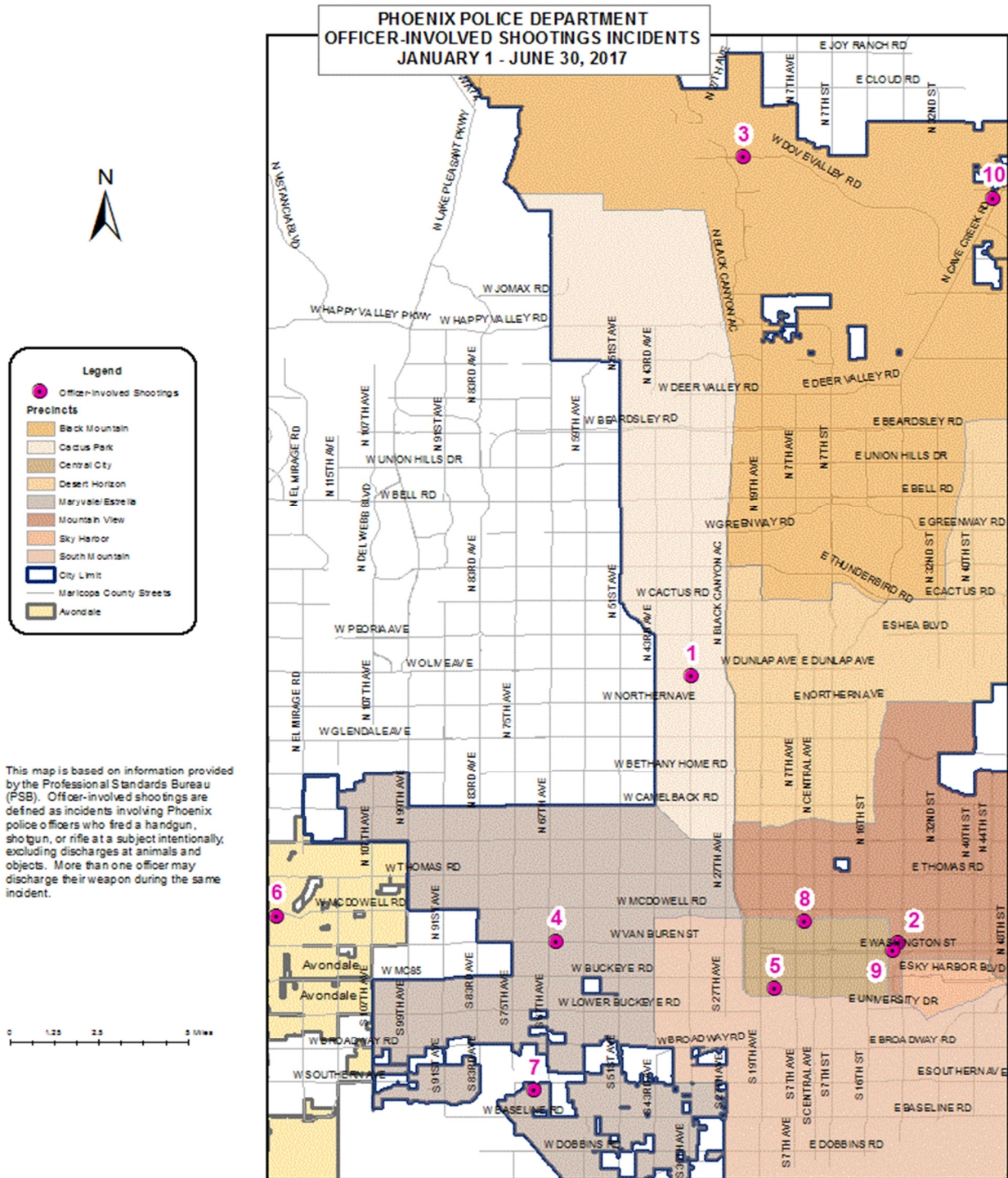


The categories of Superficial, Fatal/Self Inflicted, Minor, None and Unknown had a count of zero.

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Officer-Involved Shooting Incident Locations



Crime Analysis and Research Unit
jaf Created 8/21/2017
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Officer-Involved Shooting Overviews

1. **January 9, 2017 — 3400 West Tangerine Lane**

- Number of Officers Involved: 2
- Weapon Used by Subject: Simulated Firearm
- Injuries Sustained by Subject: Fatal

Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle leaving a subjected drug house. Upon attempting to take one subject into custody, the subject broke free from officers and a foot pursuit ensued. During the foot pursuit, the subject made comments that he would shoot the officers in pursuit of him, while reaching into his waistband. As the officers caught up to the subject, he pulled his arm from his waistband with a clinched hand, simulating a shooting stance. A plain clothes detective, who had joined the foot pursuit, dove for cover while firing his weapon. The uniformed officer, who initiated the foot pursuit, saw both the subject and detective fall to the ground. The subject continued moving without any regard for the commands being given by the uniformed officer. Fearing the subject was a continuing threat and believing he had a gun, the officer gave commands for him to surrender, but when the subject would not comply the officer fired one round. The subject was struck in the thigh. After taking the subject into custody, a tourniquet was applied and CPR was initiated. Despite the life saving efforts, the subject was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

2. **March 2, 2017 — 2300 East Van Buren Street**

- Number of Officers Involved: 1
- Weapon Used by Subject: Handgun
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Fatal

Officers responded to a call to assist Adult Probation with the arrest of a probationer. Upon arrival, one officer observed the subject on the second floor landing of the complex. Upon contact, the subject, fled on foot along the second floor walkway, until he pulled a gun from his waistband and pointed it at the pursuing officers. One officer fired his duty weapon ending the threat. Officers administered CPR until the fire department could respond; however, the subject was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

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3. March 15, 2017 — 2300 West Dove Valley Road

- Number of Officers Involved: 2
- Weapon Used by Subject: Handgun
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Fatal

During a homicide investigation, investigators developed information identifying the subject who had shot the victim and later made statements to family members that he was going to get into an armed confrontation with the police. Detectives from the Fugitive Apprehension Investigative Detail (FAID) later located the subject in Glendale; however, the subject fled. After fleeing from the police, the subject committed other felonies, but was finally located by the Air Unit driving a yellow Corvette taken earlier during an armed robbery. The subject drove erratically in and out of traffic at high rates of speed and sometimes into oncoming traffic. Members from the Special Assignments Unit (SAU) were able to conduct a vehicle interdiction, at which time the subject pointed a gun at the officers attempting to apprehend him. Officers fired shots at the subject, subsequently ending the threat they faced. The subject was pronounced deceased at the scene.

4. March 23, 2017 — 6500 West Van Buren Street

- Number of Officers Involved: 1
- Weapon Used by Subject: Knife
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Fatal

Officers responded to a domestic violence call for service. The complainant advised her adult son was inside their mobile home acting erratically and she wanted him removed. Upon contacting the subject inside the residence, the subject moved from the family room to the bedroom. When asked by officers to move back to the family room, the subject retreated to the kitchen area, where he opened a drawer and began rummaging through utensils. The subject then raised an object believed to be a knife, over his shoulder in a stabbing motion. As one officer retreated he fell backwards. The second officer believed the officer who fell backwards had been stabbed. The subject continued advancing on the officer who had fallen backwards a second time. Fearing for the other officer's safety, the second officer fired his handgun to end the threat. First aid was rendered on scene by the officers, until the fire department arrived. The subject was transported and pronounced deceased at the hospital. It was later learned the subject had an outstanding warrant for a parole violation and had made previous statements to his family that he was not going to go back to prison and would pull a knife on the officers to cause a confrontation.

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5. April 9, 2017 — 1637 South 15th Drive

- Number of Officers Involved: 1
- Weapon Used by Subject: Took Possession of Officer's Duty Weapon
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Non-Life-Threatening Injuries

Officers responded to a suspicious person call for service. The caller indicated an unknown male had been going in and out of a vacant house at that address for the past two days. When officers contacted the subject, a records check revealed that the subject had an outstanding warrant for a probation violation. As officers tried to take the subject into custody, he violently resisted arrest and began assaulting the officers. At one point, the subject was able to grab one officer's gun, partially removing it from the holster. The subject was able to fire one round with the officer's gun, which went through the officer's pants and struck the subject in the leg. The subject was able to get to his feet and turned toward the other officer with his hands in a two-handed shooting stance. At this time, fearing the subject still had the first officer's duty weapon, the second officer fired one round, which did not strike the subject. After a short foot pursuit, the subject was taken into custody and transported for non-life threatening injuries.

6. April 12, 2017 — 13000 West Rancho Santa Fe Boulevard (Avondale)

- Number of Officers Involved: 1
- Weapon Used by Subject: Vehicle
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Fatal

A motor officer attempted to stop the subject's vehicle for speeding, but the driver failed to yield prompting a tactical surveillance. After approximately one hour, the subject drove his vehicle to 13000 West Rancho Santa Fe Boulevard in Avondale, where he parked in front of a group of open businesses. Members from the Special Assignments Unit (SAU) attempted to box in the subject vehicle within its parked position. The subject tried to maneuver his vehicle to escape, but was blocked by a pillar of the building. While the subject was trying to escape, the SAU officer exited his vehicle and approached the rear of the subject vehicle. The subject looked back at the SAU officer and then reversed his vehicle towards him. The officer, fearing for his safety and the pedestrians that were standing behind him fired rounds from his rifle at the subject, which struck him and stopped his actions. Officers provided medical aid to the subject; however, he was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

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7. April 19, 2017 — 7000 West Alta Vista Road

- Number of Officers Involved: 2
- Weapon Used by Subject: Knife
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Severe Injuries

Officers responded to a domestic violence radio call. The subject had been drinking and arguing with his family. The verbal altercation, led to the subject breaking a table within the home. The incident started to turn violent when the subject threatened to kill his stepfather and to cut his mother's throat with a large kitchen knife. As officers arrived on scene, the stepfather was running down the street, while being chased by the subject who was holding a large kitchen knife over his head. The subject turned his focus towards the officers, while running at them in a full sprint, screaming at them. After ignoring their commands to drop the knife, the officers fired their duty weapons at the subject stopping the threat. The subject was transported to the hospital with severe injuries for further medical attention.

8. May 15, 2017 — 1125 North 3rd Avenue

- Number of Officers Involved: 1
- Weapon Used by Subject: Handgun
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Fatal

Officers located a homicide subject from earlier in the day at the Japanese Gardens, just west of Hance Park. Partial containment was established by Patrol, the Fugitive Apprehension Investigative Detail (FAID) and the Special Assignments Unit (SAU). Attempts were made to negotiate with the subject, but she was unresponsive and continued to remain seated and move a revolver from her mouth to her body. Evacuations of the park were underway, when she stood and began to walk into the unsecured park. Officers repeated commands for her to stop, but she continued to walk northbound towards the park. Fearing for the innocent civilians inside the park, the officer fired one round from his rifle at the subject, which stopped her actions. The subject was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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9. June 23, 2017 — North 22nd Street and East Washington Street

- Number of Officers Involved: 1
- Weapon Used by Subject: Vehicle
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Fatal

Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) officers were in the area of North 28th Street and East Monroe Street, when they observed a suspicious vehicle in the area. The officers initially attempted to stop the vehicle, but it fled from them at a high rate of speed. While circulating the area, officers relocated the vehicle a short time later and the subject again attempted to flee. While attempting to do so, the subject lost control of the vehicle and collided with a chain link fence. The subject then placed the vehicle in reverse and accelerated abruptly striking a tree. Officers attempted to approach on foot, as the subject was attempting to dislodge the vehicle from beneath the tree. While the officers approached on foot, an additional officer attempted to block the vehicle resulting in a minor collision and injuring the officer driving. The subject's vehicle was now pointing in the direction of the officers on foot and as the subject continued attempting to accelerate, one officer fired his weapon at the driver of the subject vehicle fearing the subject was going to run the officers over. The rounds ended the threat the two officers perceived they were facing. The subject was pronounced deceased at the scene.

10. June 25, 2017 — 4450 East Rancho Caliente Drive

- Number of Officers Involved: 1
- Weapon Used by Subject: Rifle
- Injuries Sustained by the Subject: Fatal

Officers responded to a domestic violence emergency radio call for service. When officers arrived, the subject was in his front yard with a rifle. The subject pointed his rifle in the air and fired a shot in the direction of the police helicopter. One officer fired one round from his patrol rifle, which struck a tree that the subject was standing behind. The officer intentionally did this to get the subject's attention off of the police helicopter, as the officer did not have a clear shot at the subject. The subject then moved positions and pointed his weapon at the officers across the street. The officer fired his patrol rifle again at the subject, ending the threat. The subject was pronounced deceased at the scene.

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Brian J. Issitt, Lieutenant
Advanced Training Detail, TRC Sub-Committee Chair

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