

2011 Response to Resistance Dataset  
Austin Police Department



August 2012  
Austin Police Department: Planning Unit

## Background

This document summarizes the key data points related to response to resistance reporting. Department policy (General Order 200) states that:

*it is the policy of this department that officers use only that amount of objectively reasonable force which appears necessary under the circumstances to successfully accomplish the legitimate law enforcement purpose in accordance with this policy.*

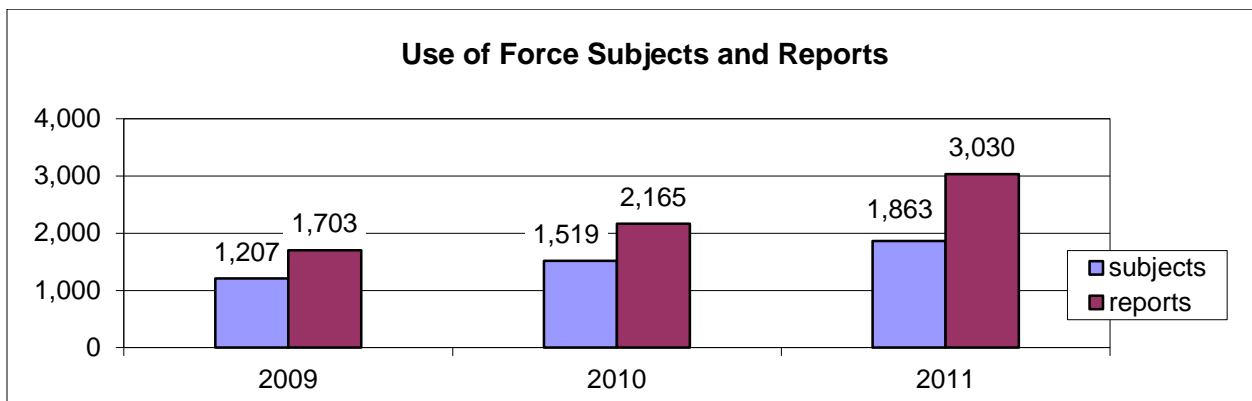
and response to resistance (use of force) is defined by the same policy as:

*Any physical contact with a subject by an officer using the body or any object, device, or weapon, not including unresisted escorting or handcuffing a subject...Any complaint by a subject that an officer caused pain or injury shall be treated as a response to resistance force incident, except complaints of minor discomfort from unresisted handcuffing.*

When officers encounter these situations, policy requires the primary reporting officer to write the initial incident report and the supervisor to review the report. In addition, the department's Force Review Board reviews all Level 1 and Level 2 incidents to assess the quality and timeliness of the reporting, investigation, and chain-of-command review.

## Number of Use of Force Reports and Subjects

During 2011, there were 3,030 response to resistance reports (unique use of force events) and 1,863 subjects (those who received force).



To provide context, we also track the total number of police contacts (611,841 in 2011) and total arrests (58,538 in 2011). Of the total police contacts, .3% involved resistance/force. And of total arrests, 3.2% involved resistance/force.

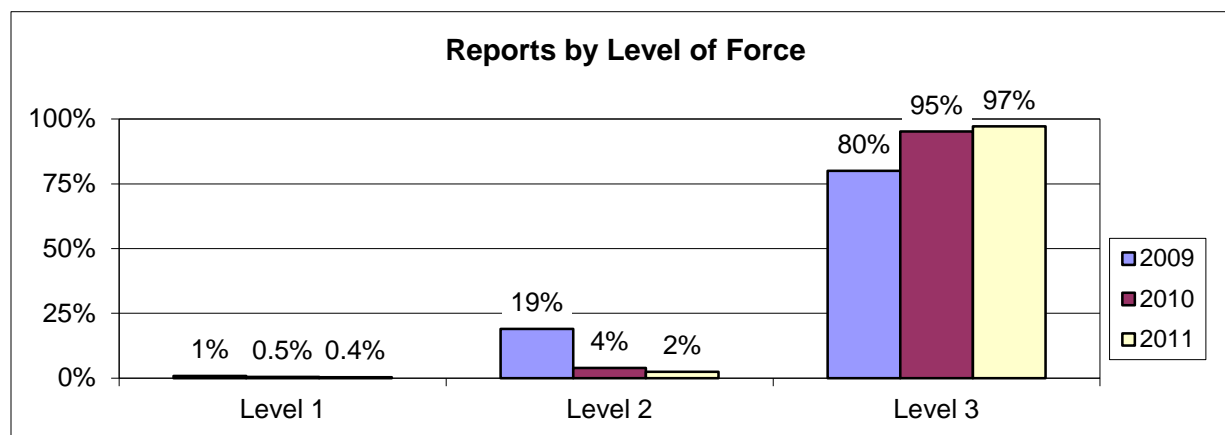
	2009	2010	2011
use of force reports	1,703	2,165	3,030
subjects who had force used	1,207	1,519	1,863
total contacts	649,660	620,578	611,841
total arrests	69,130	64,004	58,538
subjects receiving force as % of total contacts	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
subjects receiving force as % of total arrests	1.7%	2.4%	3.2%

## Reports by Level of Force Used

Three force levels are used for reporting, investigation, and review purposes:

Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• force resulting in death</li> <li>• intentional firearm discharge at a person</li> <li>• force that causes serious bodily injury (e.g., impact weapon strike to the head)</li> </ul>
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of impact weapons</li> <li>• the deployment of a police canine resulting in a bite</li> <li>• any strike to the head with any weaponless technique</li> </ul>
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of Taser</li> <li>• use of baton for non-striking purposes</li> <li>• weaponless techniques</li> <li>• force resulting in injury or a complaint of pain beyond the temporary discomfort of un-resisted handcuffing</li> </ul>

During 2011, as in prior years, use of force reports were concentrated in Level 3, the least severe level.



## Use of Force Subjects and Race/Ethnicity

Most use of force incidents occur when an officer attempts to make an arrest. In 2011, there were 1,863 subjects involved in a use of force incident, which is 3.2% of the 58,538 total subjects arrested citywide. The table below shows the distribution of force and arrests by race/ethnicity.

	White			Black			Hispanic		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2011	23,727	617	2.6%	14,519	529	3.6%	19,512	698	3.6%
2010	25,695	526	2.0%	15,565	410	2.6%	21,853	560	2.6%
2009	27,123	387	1.4%	17,590	349	2.0%	23,737	461	1.9%

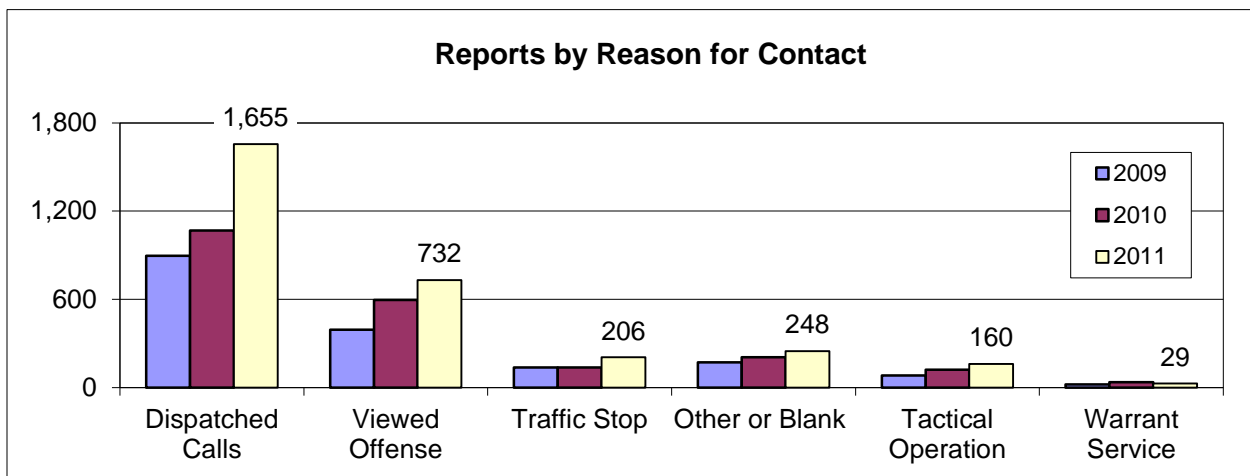
  

	Other*			Total		
	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests	Arrests	Force Used	% of Arrests
2011	780	19	2.4%	58,538	1,863	3.2%
2010	891	23	2.6%	64,004	1,519	2.4%
2009	680	10	1.5%	69,130	1,207	1.7%

\* Other includes Asian, Indian, Middle Eastern, and subjects where the race was not known.

## Reports by Reason for Contact

In 2011 – as in prior years – most response to resistance reports (55%) resulted from dispatched calls for service. The other large category of response to resistance reports resulted from viewed offenses – contacts made when the officer observed and responded to an offense in progress. In 2011 these represented 24% of reports (see chart and table below).



<b>Reports by Reason for Contact</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>% of 2009 Reports</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>% of 2010 Reports</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% of 2011 Reports</b>
Dispatched Calls	897	53%	1,068	49%	1,655	55%
Viewed Offense	393	23%	596	28%	732	24%
Traffic Stop	138	8%	138	6%	206	7%
Other or Blank	171	10%	206	10%	248	8%
Tactical Operation	83	5%	121	6%	160	5%
Warrant Service	21	1%	36	2%	29	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>100%</b>

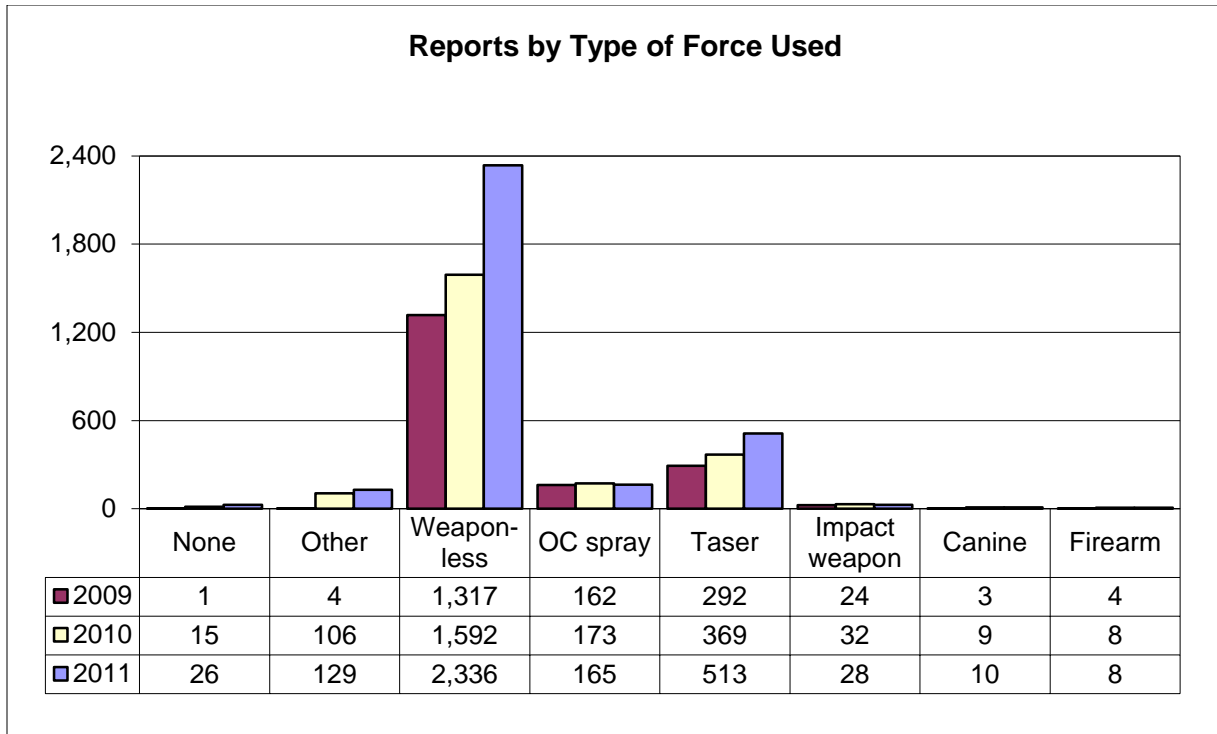
## Reports by Type of Force Used

During a response to resistance incident, an officer may need to use more than one type of force. Further, more than one officer may use force to control the situation. As a result, one incident may result in more than one use of force report and each report may include more than one type of force. Thus, the types of force used can be more than the total use of force reports filed.

These are the different types of use of force, ordered from the lowest to the highest level of force.

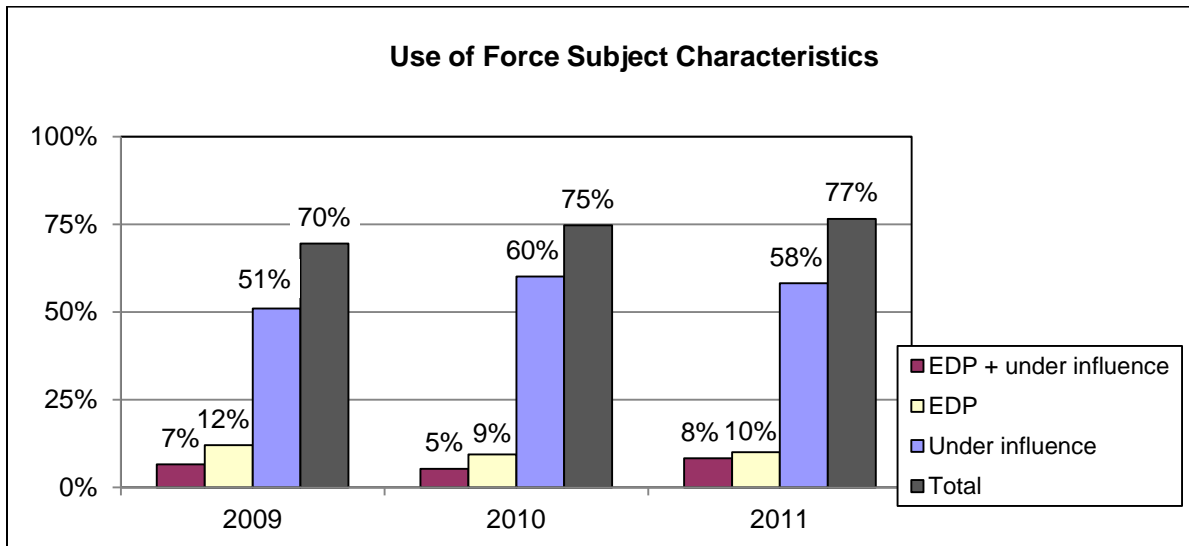
- None: subject complained of pain but no force was used during the incident
- Other: verbal commands or action that isn't categorized in any specific use of force category
- Weaponless: includes soft-hand control (e.g., joint locks, pressure points, and escort hold) and hard-hand control (e.g., hand and leg strike)
- OC spray: chemical weapon known as "pepper spray"
- Conductive energy device (Taser): a less-lethal device using electronic muscular disruption technology that briefly causes loss of voluntary muscle control; includes drive stun and prongs
- Impact weapon: a weapon or object that is used to strike, such as a nightstick
- Canine: use of a dog in an arrest situation where dog bite occurs
- Firearm: both intentional and unintentional firearm discharge toward an individual

The following chart shows the number of times each type of force was used. In 2011, as in prior years, the most frequent type of force used was "weaponless." Weaponless techniques, as shown in the previous list, are considered to be the lowest level of force used in response to a subject's resistance.



### Reports by Subject Characteristics

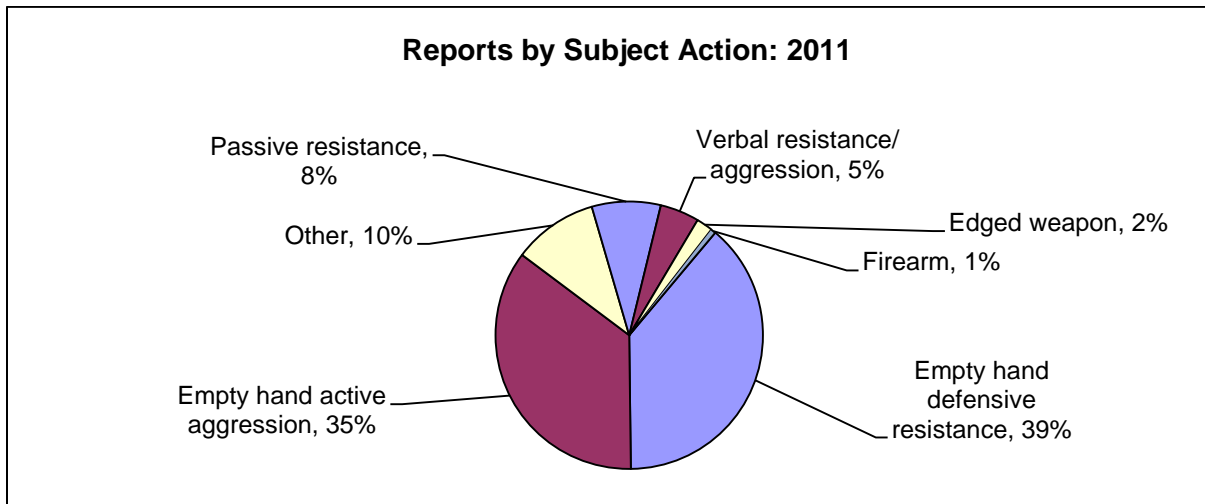
In 58% of the use of force reports in 2011, officers noted that the subject was suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the incident occurred. An additional 10% were suspected as being emotionally disturbed, and 8% were suspected of being emotionally disturbed *and* being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



## Reports by Subject Action

During 2011, empty hand resistance and empty hand aggression were the most frequent subject actions resulting in a use of force by an officer. For subjects who displayed more than one type of resistance, only the most serious subject resistance is included in the following chart and table. Below, subject actions are defined and listed from least to most serious.

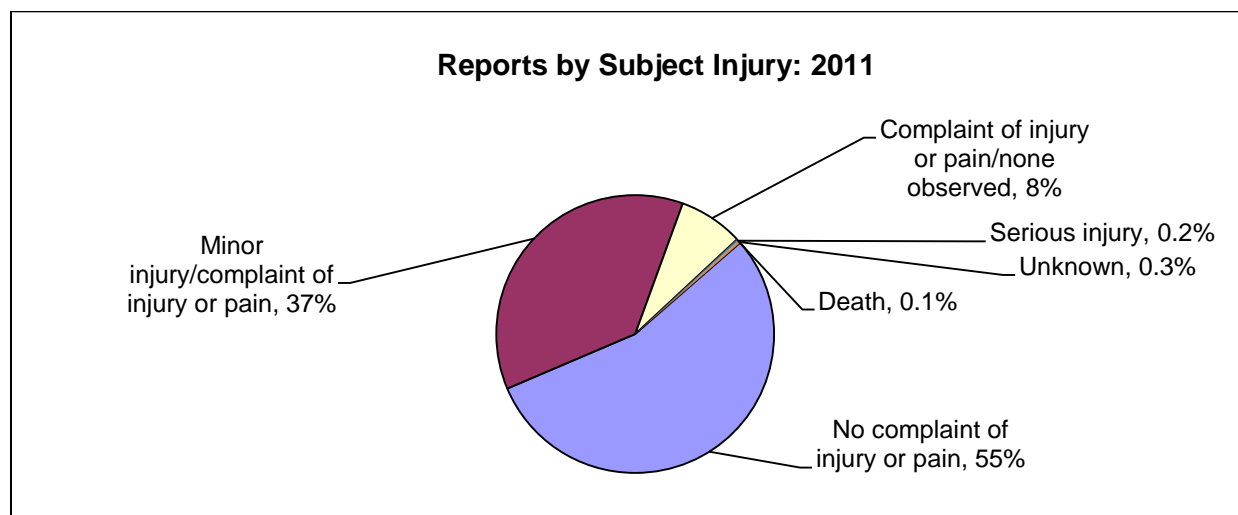
- Passive resistance: physical resistance less than defensive/aggressive resisting (e.g., going limp).
- Other: any other resistance by the subject to hinder arrest or control. Included in this category are incidents where the subject would not comply with the arrest, and a weaponless technique such as soft-hand control or a take-down was necessary to make the arrest.
- Verbal resistance/aggression: verbal statements resisting police control, indicating refusal to cooperate, and threats which constitute actions requiring force.
- Empty hand defensive resistance: physical resistance by the subject such as pulling and pushing away to prevent the police officer's control.
- Empty hand active aggression: physical assaults by the subject on the police such as kicks, punches, slaps, grabs, and head butts.
- Edged weapon: use or attempted use of a knife or similar weapon.
- Firearm: use or attempted use of a firearm.



Reports by Subject Action	2009	% of 2009 Reports	2010	% of 2010 Reports	2011	% of 2011 Reports
Empty hand defensive resistance	398	33%	563	37%	721	39%
Empty hand active aggression	432	36%	523	34%	660	35%
Other	168	14%	185	12%	191	10%
Passive resistance	110	9%	122	8%	155	8%
Verbal resistance/ aggression	58	5%	87	6%	88	5%
Edged weapon	27	2%	31	2%	37	2%
Firearm	14	1%	8	1%	11	1%
Total	1,207	100%	1,519	100%	1,863	100%

## Reports by Subject Injury

In 2011, as in previous years, the most frequent category of subject injury was “no complaint of injury or pain” (55% of subjects).

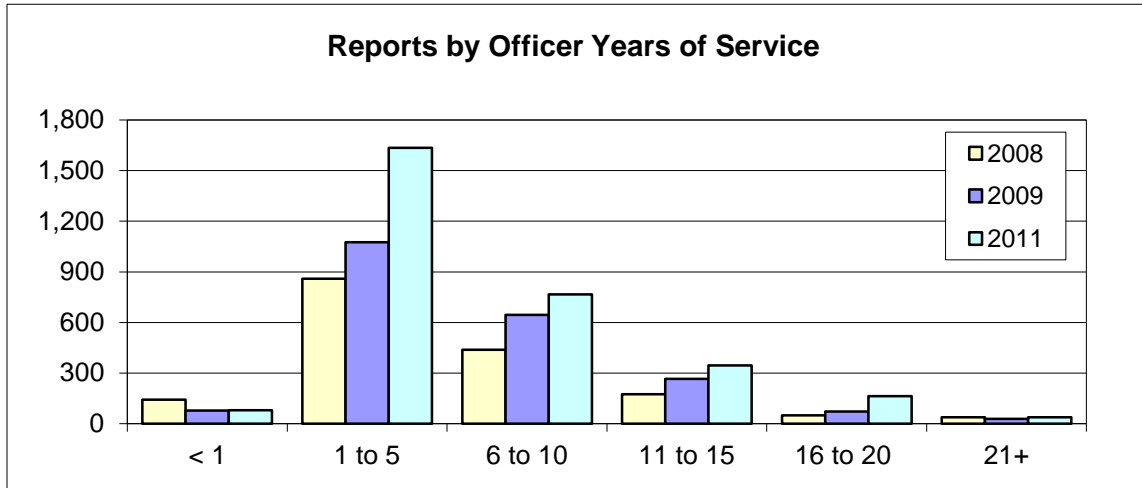


Reports by Subject Injury	2009	% of 2009 Reports	2010	% of 2010 Reports	2011	% of 2011 Reports
No complaint of injury or pain	688	57%	824	54%	1,024	55%
Minor injury/complaint of injury or pain	430	36%	576	38%	689	37%
Complaint of injury or pain/none observed	77	6%	110	7%	140	8%
Death	2	0.2%	4	0.3%	2	0.1%
Serious injury	4	0%	5	0%	3	0.2%
Unknown	6	0%	0	0%	5	0.3%
Total	1,207	100%	1,519	100%	1,863	100%



## Reports by Officer Years of Experience

In 2011, as in prior years, officers with 1-5 years of service submitted the majority (54%) of response to resistance reports followed by officers with 6-10 years of service (25%).



Reports by Officer Years of Service	2009	% of 2009 Reports	2010	% of 2010 Reports	2011	% of 2011 Reports
< 1	143	7%	78	3%	80	3%
1 to 5	859	40%	1,076	36%	1,636	54%
6 to 10	438	20%	645	21%	767	25%
11 to 15	175	8%	266	9%	346	11%
16 to 20	50	2%	72	2%	163	5%
21+	38	2%	28	1%	38	1%
Total	1,703	100%	2,165	100%	3,030	100%