

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a Seattle Police uniform. The image shows a dark blue jacket with a yellow-trimmed shoulder patch that reads "SEATTLE" and "POLICE". A gold-colored rank insignia (two stars) is visible on the shoulder. A gold-colored badge is pinned to the chest, with "SEATTLE" and "POLICE" visible. The text "THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

# THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

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## { METHODOLOGY }



- WE USED A QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH APPROACH
- THE SURVEY WAS 20 QUESTIONS AND INCLUDED SKIP LOGIC, SO THE OFFICER'S ANSWERS WERE BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE TOPIC
- THE SURVEY WAS ADMINISTERED USING QUALTRICS
- WE SENT THE SURVEY TO THE SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ASKED FOR THEM TO SEND THE LINK OUT TO THEIR ENTIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT.





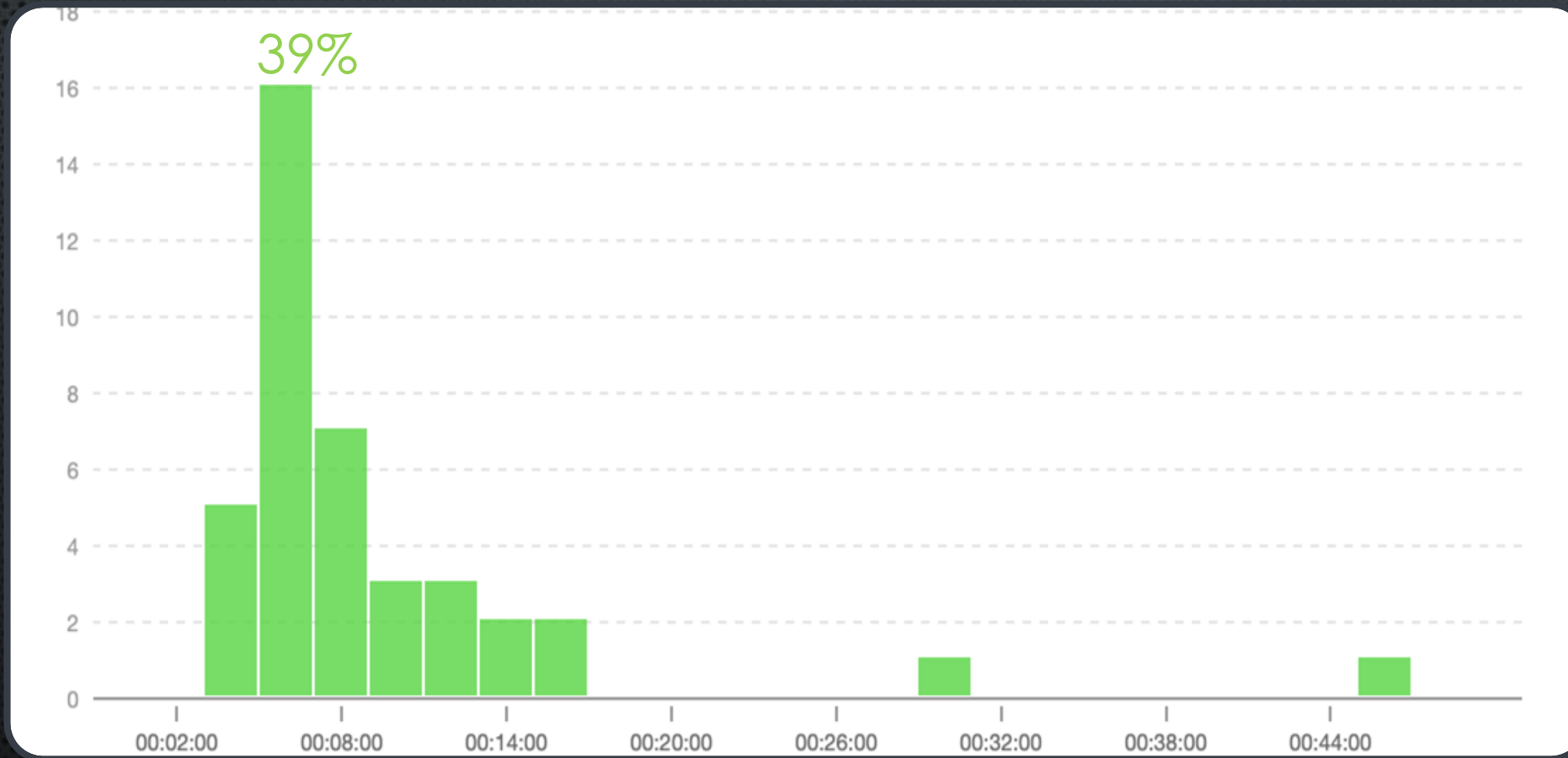
# The Survey Itself

- 20 QUESTIONS
- SENT TO THE SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT ASKING ALL THEIR OFFICERS TO PARTICIPATE
- WE ENDED UP WITH 41 RESPONSES, IT WAS UNKNOWN TO US ON HOW MANY OFFICERS IT WAS SENT TO
- IN THE CONSENT FORM BEFORE THEY PROCEED WITH THE SURVEY, WE SAID THAT IT WOULD TAKE AN ESTIMATED 6 MINUTES TO COMPLETE IT.
- THE SURVEY WAS 18 AND OLDER
- SHORTEST TIME IT TOOK SOMEONE WAS 4 MINUTES MEANWHILE THE LONGEST WAS 44 MINUTES.



WE ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD TAKE THEM AROUND 6 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

IT TOOK A MAJORITY OF THEM EXACTLY 6 MINUTES.



QUICKEST: 3 MINUTES

LONGEST: 46 MINUTES

AVERAGE: 6 MINUTES

# Issues Encountered When the Survey was Sent Out

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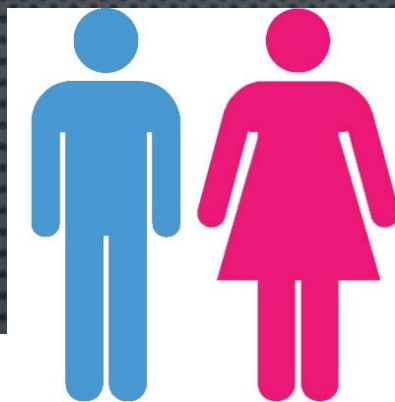
- WE HAD A HARD TIME RECEIVING RESPONSES BACK ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE SURVEY HAD BEEN RECEIVED.
- WE WERE ONLY RECEIVING DAY TO DAY RESPONSES FROM THE OFFICERS SENDING OUT OUR SURVEY.
- DUE TO COVID-19 THE DEPARTMENT WAS VERY BUSY AND FLOODING IN WITH EMAILS, SO MANY OFFICERS COULD HAVE LOST OUR SURVEY WITHIN THEIR EMAILS COMING IN.
- SOME OFFICERS DIDN'T FINISH THE SURVEY DUE TO SOME QUESTIONS BEING "UNANSWERABLE."



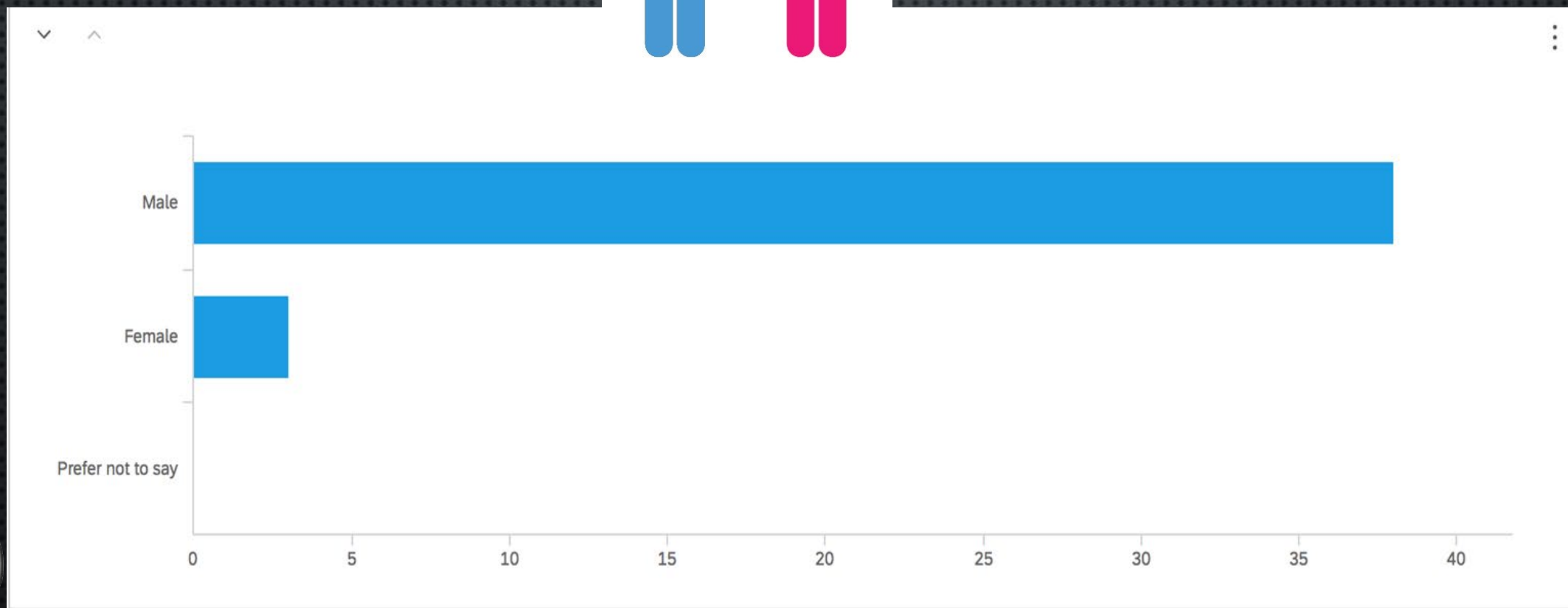


# Demographics

Male: 92.68%  
38 officers



Female: 7.3%  
3 officers





# Ethnicity of the Seattle Police Department



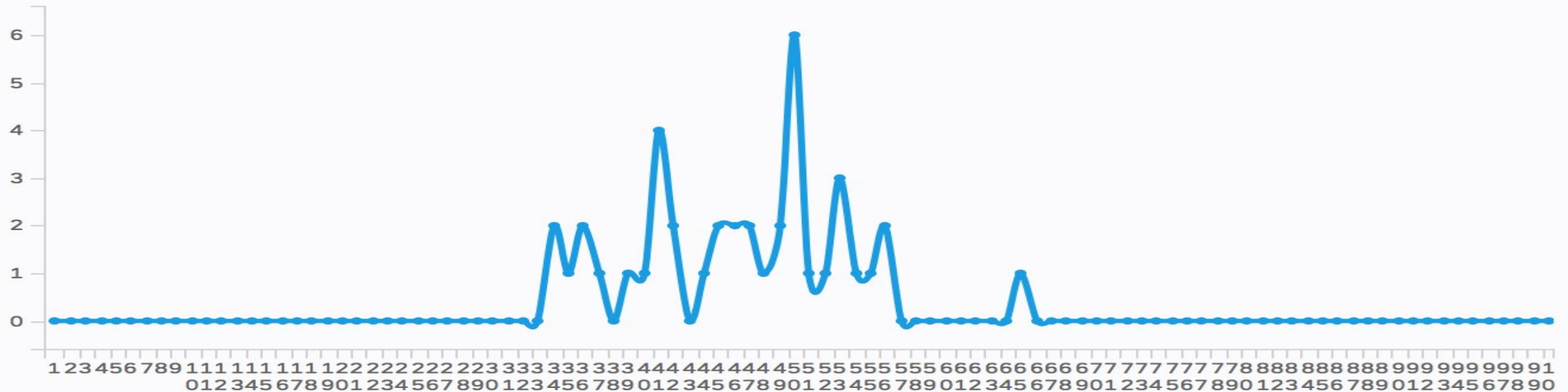
1	African American	9.76%	4
2	Latino	2.44%	1
3	White	78.05%	32
4	Asian	0.00%	0
5	Native American	2.44%	1
6	Other	7.32%	3

# What are the ages of the Seattle Police Force?



- ❑ THE YOUNGEST OFFICER IS 34 YEARS OLD
- ❑ THE OLDEST OFFICER IS 65 YEARS OLD
- ❑ AVERAGE AGE IS 51 YEARS OLD
- ❑ 6 OFFICERS ARE 50 YEARS OLD

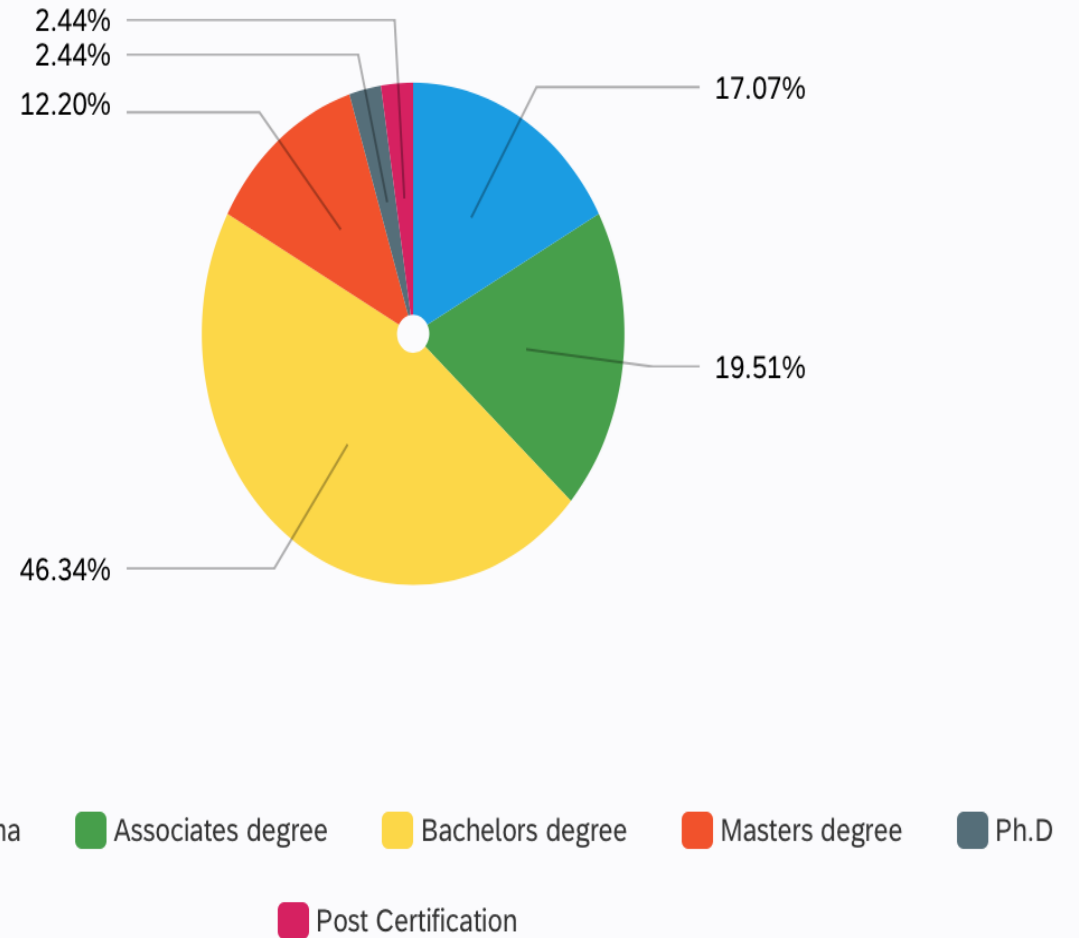
INTERESTING FACTS:  
THIS DEPARTMENT DOES NOT APPEAR  
TO HAVE VERY MANY YOUNG, NEW  
OFFICERS ON THE FORCE.





# Education Achievement

- NEARLY HALF OF OFFICERS SURVEYED HAS ACHIEVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE.
- 2.4 % HAVE POST CERTIFICATION
- 2.4 % HAVE A PH.D DEGREE
- 19% HAVE AN ASSOCIATES





# Literature Review



THERE HAVE BEEN STUDIES DONE ON THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE. VARIOUS STUDIES INVOLVED FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO DEADLY FORCE AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL ESTIMATES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE.

1. ORGANIZATIONAL FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO POLICE DEADLY FORCE LIABILITY

2. INDIVIDUAL AND SITUATIONAL DETERMINANTS OF THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

3. PROGRESS TOWARDS NATIONAL ESTIMATES OF POLICE USE OF FORCE

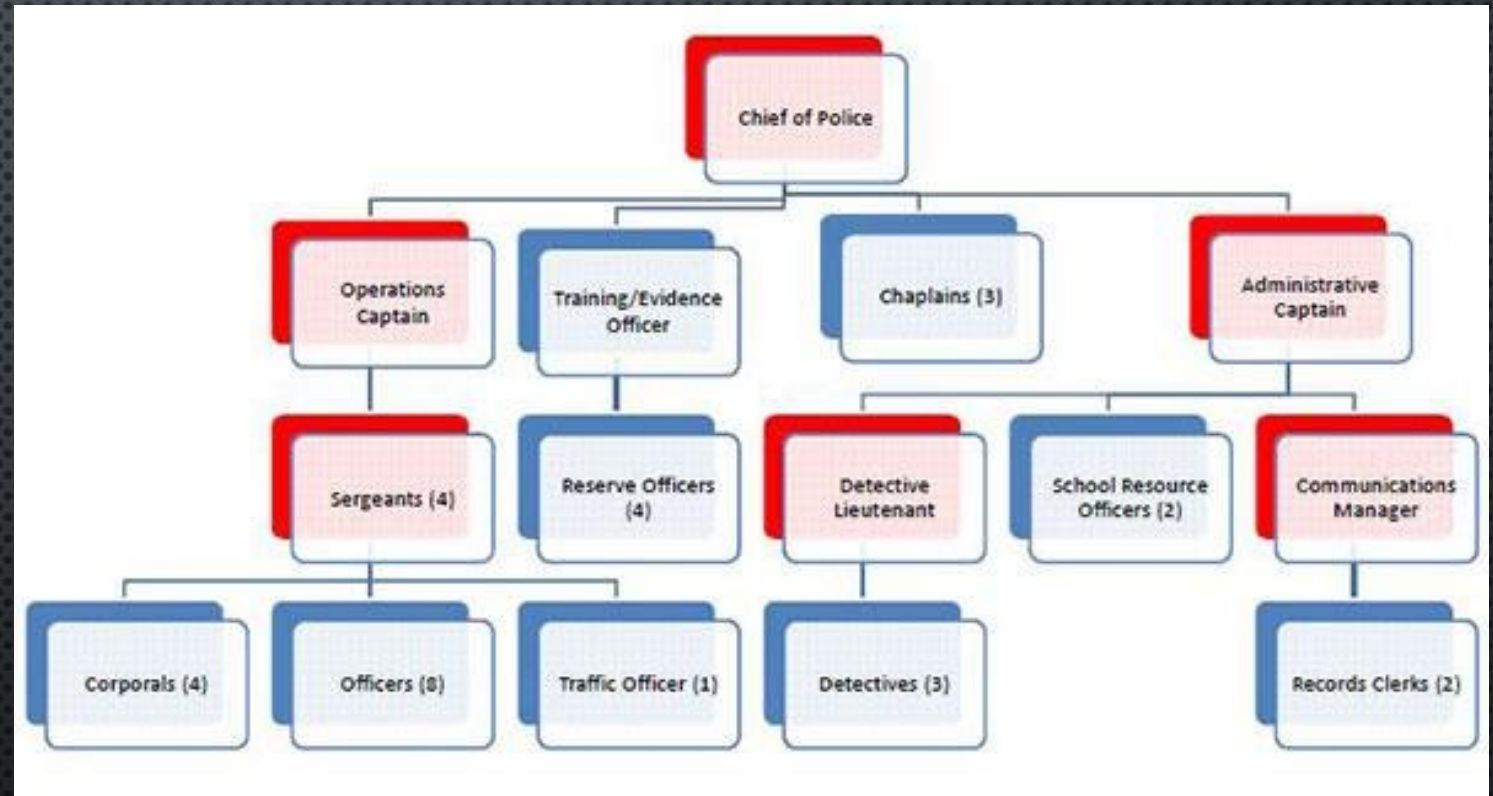
4. A PHENOMENOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE POLICE OFFICERS LIVED EXPERIENCE OF THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE



# ORGANIZATIONAL FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO POLICE DEADLY FORCE LIABILITY



This study focused specifically on police firearm use in deadly force situations, highlighting how managerial disorganization and administrative breakdown impacts departmental decision-making. Failure to train, policies, customs, and practices that caused constitutional violations and injury.



**Organizational leadership within the specific unit is critical in each police unit. Breakdown of leadership results in corruption of the unit and can be detrimental in the way officers are trained and equipped to handle threatening situations.**



# Individual & Situational Determinants Of The Use Of Deadly Force

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## FACTORS

- ☐ AGE
- ☐ TRAINING RECEIVED
- ☐ POOR MARKSMANSHIP
- ☐ POOR INDIVIDUAL JUDGEMENTS



## NON - FACTORS

- ☐ OFFICERS INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS
- ☐ RACE
- ☐ GENDER

STUDYING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE IS A COMPLEX ISSUE BECAUSE OF THE RARITY OF OBSERVED HIGH-RISK ENCOUNTERS. THIS STUDY SHOWS POLICE SHOOTING BEHAVIORS IN BOTH LIFE AND NON-LIFE-THREATENING SITUATIONS IN A SIMULATED ENVIRONMENT.



# A Phenomenological Psychological Study Of The Police Officers Lived Experience Of The Use Of Deadly Force



There are many psychological impacts that are left on police officers who have had to encounter a situation where they may have or had to use deadly force. They are required to make a potentially life or death decision in a matter of seconds. They have to act quickly while the situation is developing. There are so many factors that are taking place mentally, emotionally, and physically.





# Progress Towards National Estimates Of Police Use Of Force



Efforts to accumulate national estimates have been a struggle due to many roadblocks. There have been a poor and inconsistent measurement of force, small and unrepresentative samples, low survey responses, and disparate reporting of rates of force. Data varies from state to state.





Force which a reasonable person would consider likely to cause death or serious bodily harm. Its use may be justified only under conditions of extreme necessity, when all lesser means have failed or cannot reasonably be employed.

When necessary to protect oneself who reasonably believes himself or herself to be in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm.

A civil rights violation wherein officers exercise undue or excessive force against a civilian. This includes, but is not limited too, physical or verbal harassment, physical or mental injury, property damage, and death.

None of these are correct

This is the correct answer



# Q4: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE Definition “DEADLY FORCE” MEANS?

Correct answer: 31  
“When necessary to protect oneself....” : 6  
None of these: 4

41 total



0 5 10 15 20 25 30

Number of Officers

# Who Selected The Correct Definition Of “Deadly Force”?

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## MALES

- 29 SELECTED THE CORRECT DEFINITION
- 5 SELECTED THE 2ND OPTION
- 4 SELECTED “NONE OF THE ABOVE”



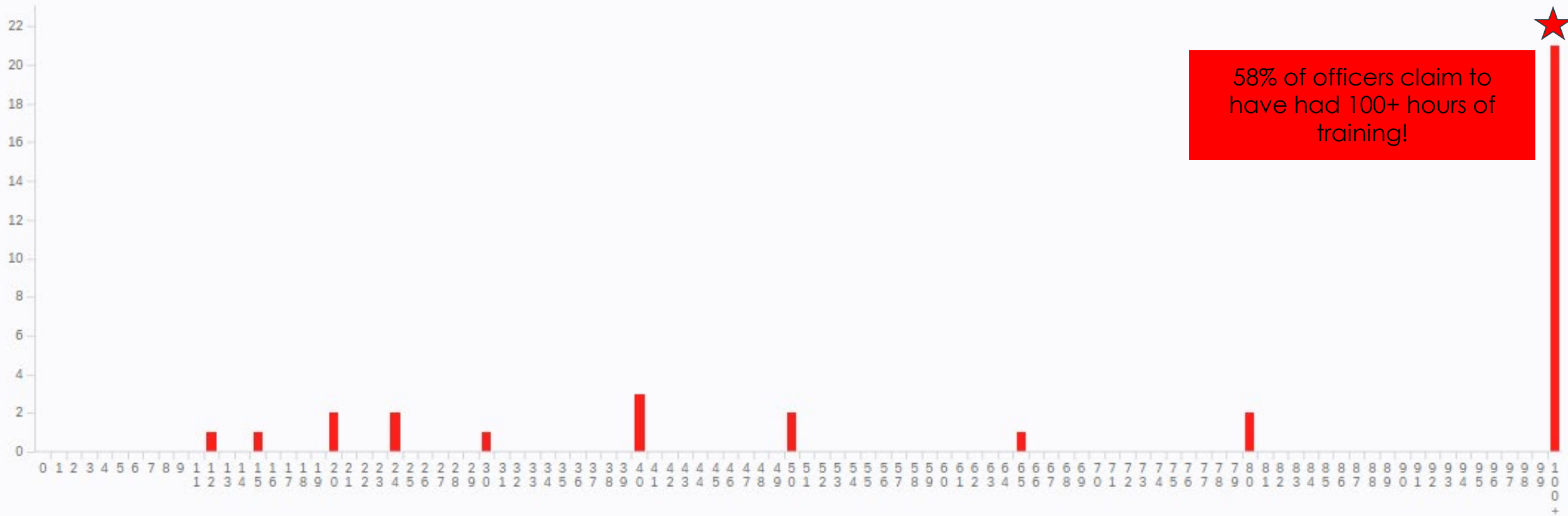
## FEMALES : 3 FEMALES TOTAL

- 2 SELECTED THE CORRECT DEFINITION
- 1 SELECTED OPTION 2



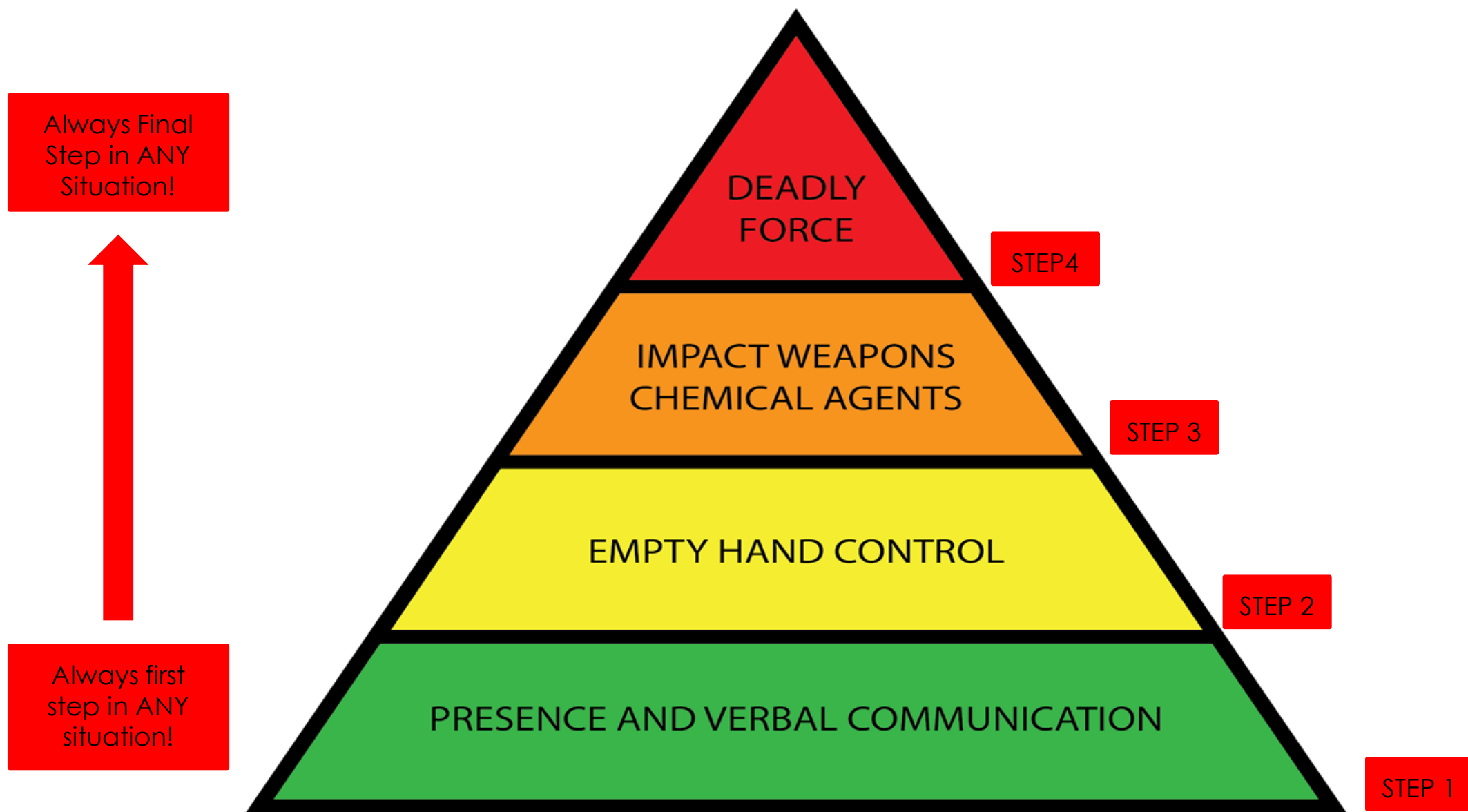


# Q5 - About How Many Hours Do You Estimate You Have Been Trained On Deadly Force?



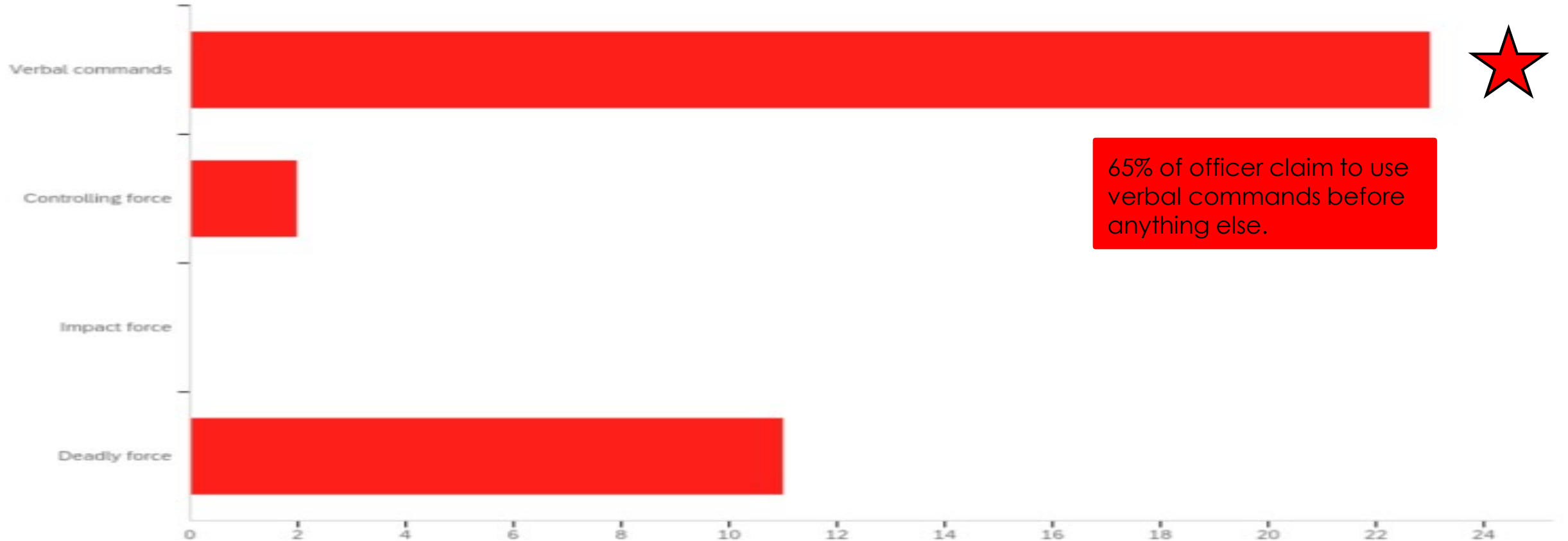


# CONTINUUM OF FORCE PYRAMID



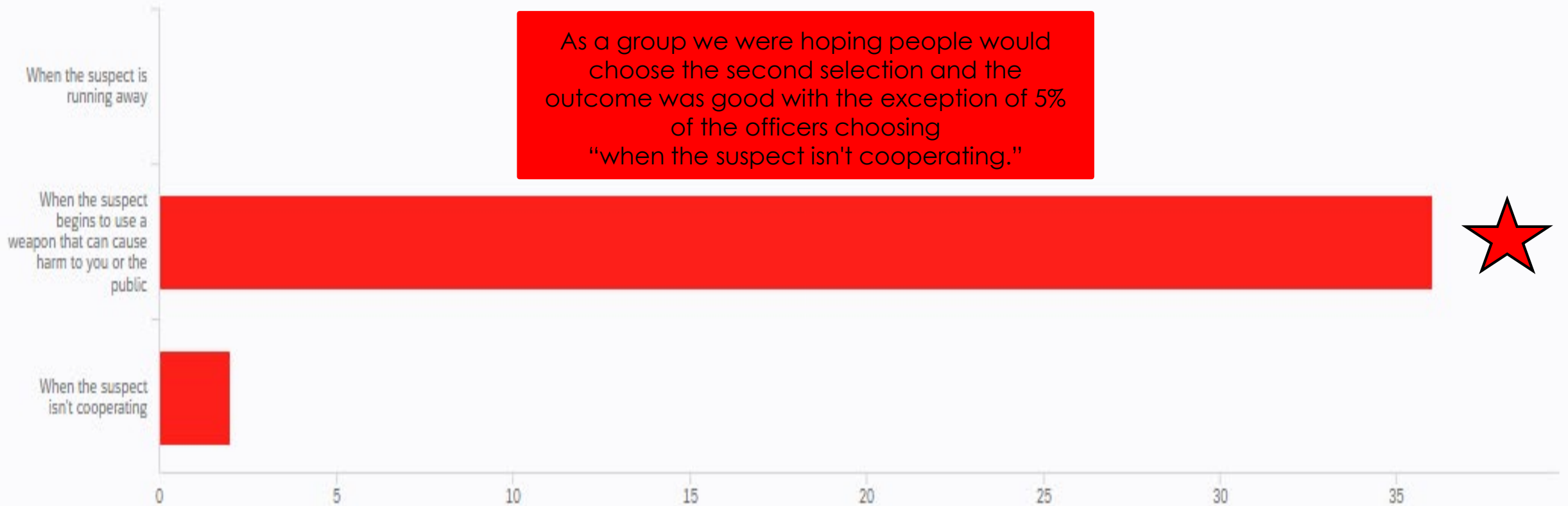


## Q6 - When Someone's Life Is At Risk What Is The First Action You Take?





# Q7 - At What Point In An Altercation Does An Officer Have The Right To Use Deadly Force?





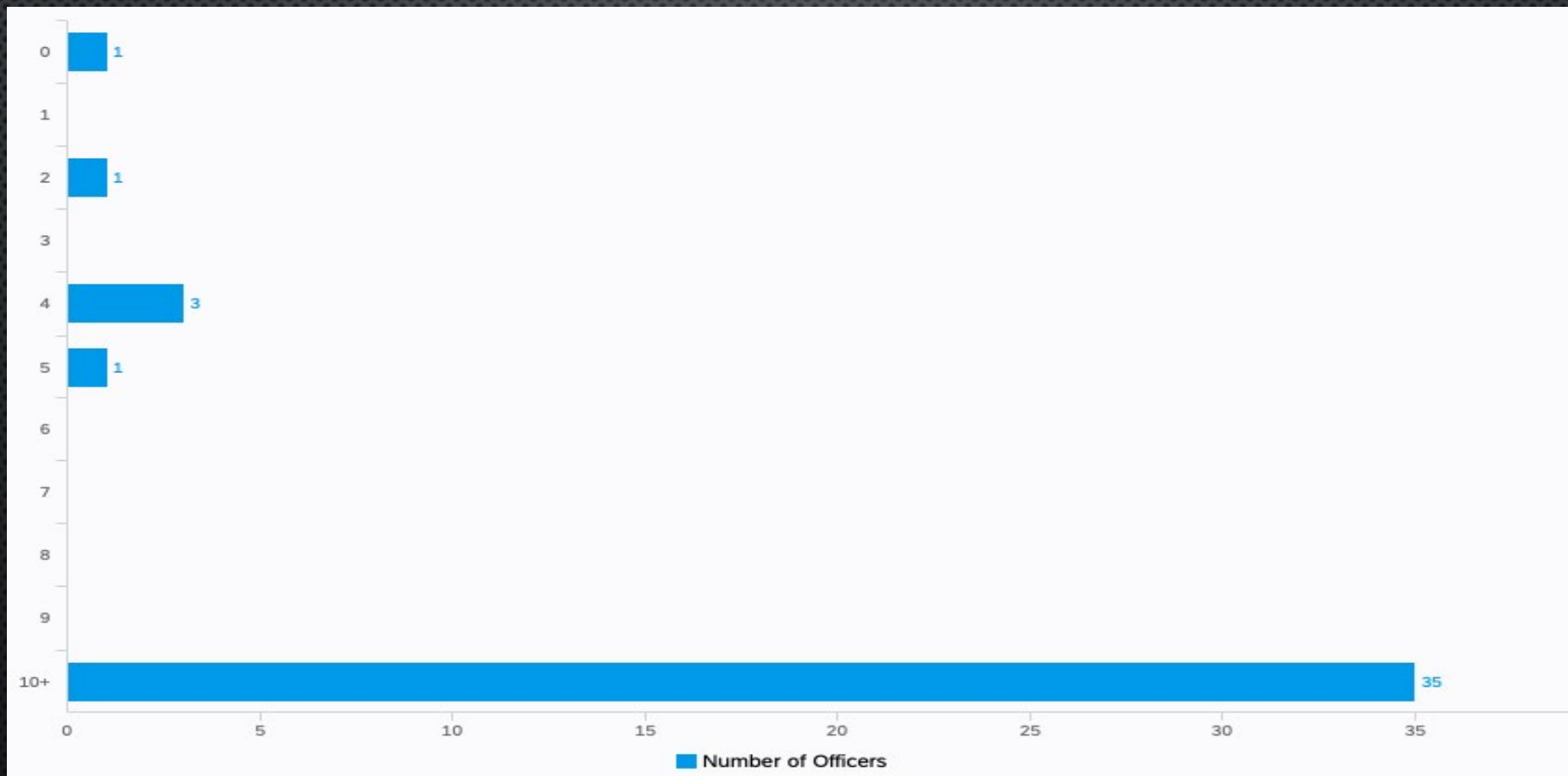
## What Did We Hope To Get Out Of Questions 5-7?

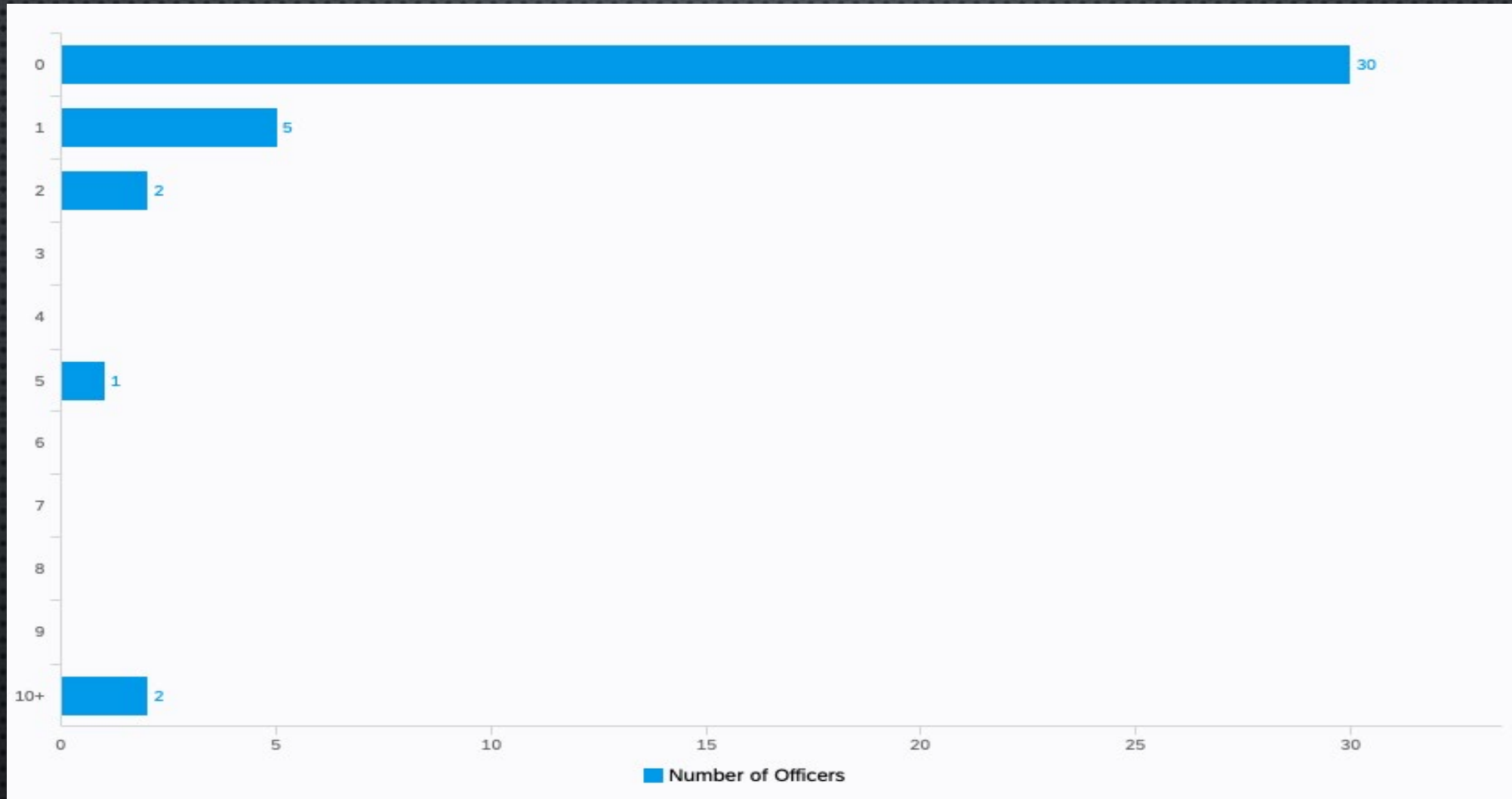
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- WE HOPED TO SEE THE OUTCOME OF THESE OFFICER'S 100+ HOURS OF TRAINING.
- WE WANTED TO SEE IF THEY TRULY KNEW WHAT STEPS THEY SHOULD TAKE WHEN HEADS UP WITH A LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION.
- WANTED TO SEE IF OFFICERS FOLLOWED THE CONTINUUM OF FORCE WHEN HEAD TO HEAD IN A SITUATION.
- IF MORE OFFICERS NEEDED MORE TRAINING OR A REFRESHMENT ON WHAT TO DO WHEN IN A SITUATION THAT CAN LEAD TO A BIGGER ALTERCATION.



# Q11: How Many Times Have You Needed To Pull Your Firearm?





Q12: How Many Times Have You  
Discharged Your Weapon?

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# **Q11 And Q12: Continued.. What Did The 3 Females Select?**

## **Q11: PULLING FIREARM**

- **WHAT DID THE 3 FEMALES SELECT?**
- **1 SELECTED “0”**
- **2 SELECTED “10+”**

## **Q12: DISCHARGING FIREARM**

- **ALL 3 SELECTED “0”**



# What Were The Two Profiles Of The Officers Who Discharged Their Firearm 10+ Times?

## OFFICER 1



- **MALE**
- **WHITE**
- **AGE: 36**
- **MASTER DEGREE**
- **BEEN ON THE FORCE FOR 11 YEARS**
- **Q4: SELECTED THE CORRECT DEFINITION OF "DEADLY FORCE"**
- **Q5: 100+ HOURS OF TRAINING ON DEADLY FORCE**

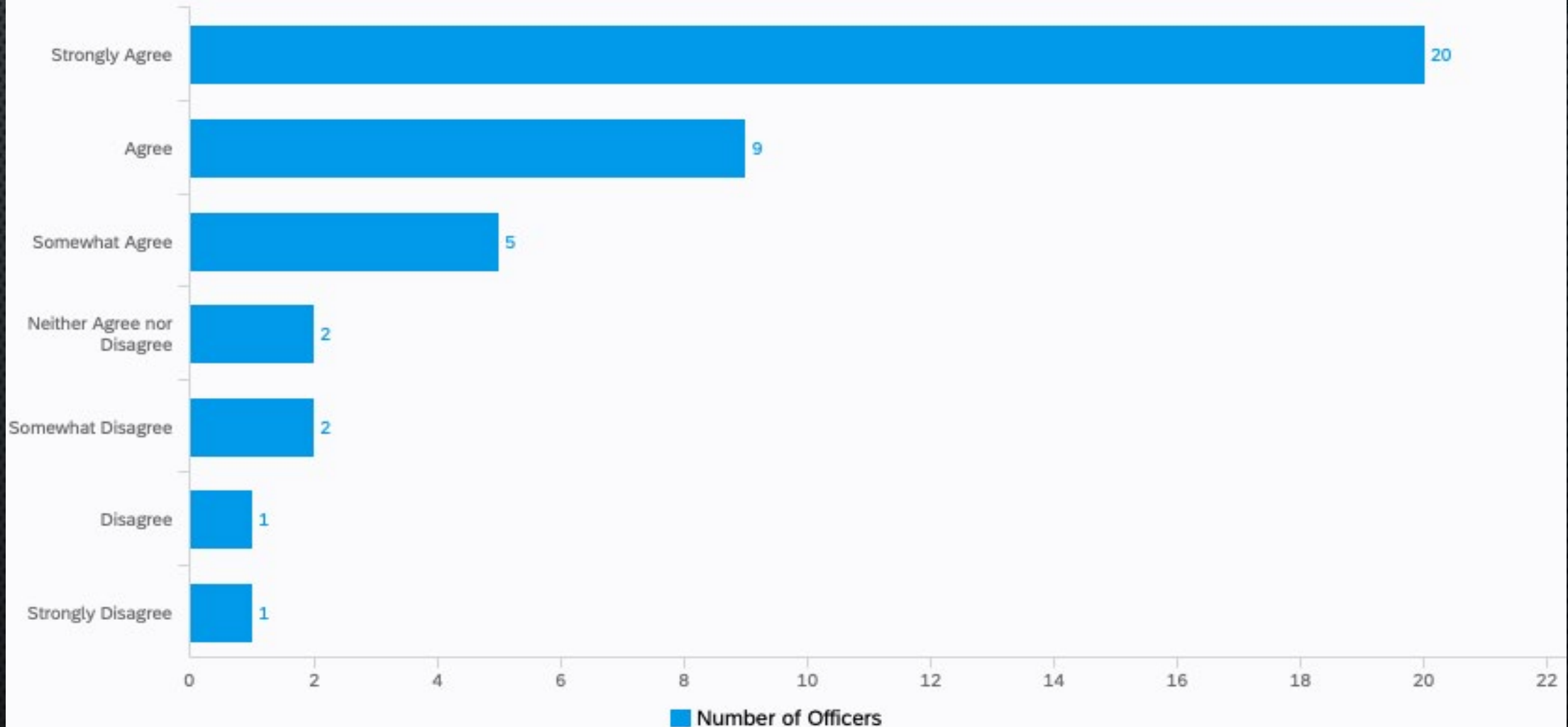
## OFFICER 2

- **MALE**
- **WHITE**
- **AGE: 46**
- **MASTERS DEGREE**
- **BEEN ON THE FORCE FOR 17 YEARS**
- **Q4: SELECTED THE CORRECT DEFINITION OF "DEADLY FORCE"**
- **Q5: 100+ HOURS OF TRAINING ON DEADLY FORCE**





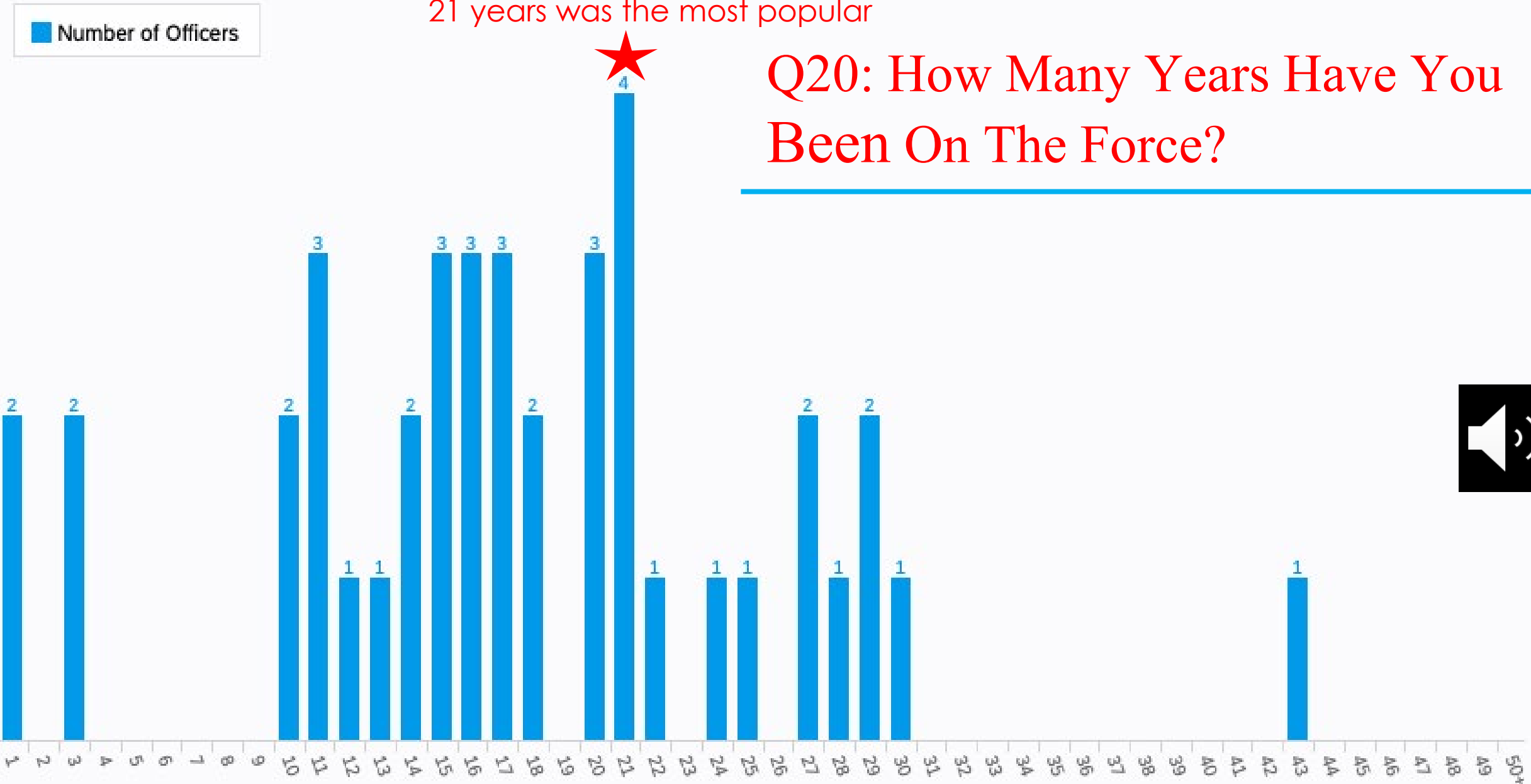
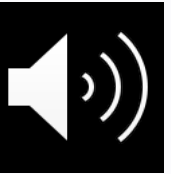
**Q13:**  
**Public Scrutiny Of Deadly Force By Police Has Endangered Police Officers Because  
They Question When It Is Okay To Defend Themselves?**



21 years was the most popular



## Q20: How Many Years Have You Been On The Force?





# The Difference Between The Officers Who Have Served On The Force From The Shortest To The Longest

## Officer 1: 1 year

- Male
- White
- Age: 40
- Bachelor's degree
- Selected the correct definition of "deadly force"
- Q5: 40 hours of training on deadly force
- Q11: pulled firearms 10+ times
- Q12: discharged firearm 5 times

## Officer 2: 1 year

- Male
- White
- Age: 34
- Bachelor's degree
- Selected the correct definition of "deadly force"
- Q5: 20 hours of training on "deadly force"
- Q11: pulled firearm 0 times
- Q12: discharged 0 times

## Officer 3: 43 year

- Male
- White
- Age: 65
- Masters Degree
- Selected the correct definition of "deadly force"
- 5: 100+ hours of training on deadly force
- Q11: pulled firearm 10+ times
- Q12: discharged 0 times

# Conclusions based on the Seattle Police Department

- ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE OFFICERS KNEW THE DEFINITION OF “DEADLY FORCE” THERE WERE STILL A HANDFUL WHO DIDN’T
- THERE WERE FAR LESS FEMALES THEN MALES
- THERE ARE ONLY A FEW NEW OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT, MOST HAVE BEEN ON THE FORCE FOR AN AVERAGE OF 20 YEARS!
- THERE ARE NOT VERY MANY YOUNG OFFICERS EITHER, THE YOUNGEST WAS 34
- EVEN THOUGH THE OFFICERS HAVE PULLED THEIR FIREARMS MANY TIMES, THEY RARELY DISCHARGE IT

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*The End*