



Subject Behaviour Officer Response Report 2024

Presented to: Lethbridge Police Service Executive

Author: Sergeant Travis Evenson and Robyn Kereliuk, Training Technician

LPS Training Unit

Contents

Reporting	3
Purpose of Report	3
Training and Use of Force Model	4
De-escalation and Use of Force Framework	4
Comparison between 2023 & 2024	5
<i>Comparison to other police agency</i>	5
Category I & II	6
Perceived Conditions and Factors	7
<i>Considerations</i>	7
<i>2023 Comparison</i>	7
Officer perception of behavior	8
Use of Force Location and Time	9
When Force Was Used	10
Police Units Involved	10
Type of Force Applied	11
Overview of Use of Force Breakdown	12
Type of Force Applied	13
<i>Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)</i>	13
<i>Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) and Baton</i>	13
<i>K9</i>	13
Firearms & Less Lethal	14
<i>Tactical</i>	15
Assault Peace Officer	15
Officer, Subject and Third-Party Injuries	16
Techniques	17
Conclusion	18

Reporting

Police Officers and Level 1 Community Peace Offices have the lawful authority to use force and the LPS Training Unit is responsible for all training on use of force. This training is completed during Cadet and In-Service training and includes techniques and application of force as outlined by LPS policy and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services.

Lethbridge Police Service (LPS) completes an analysis and review of all Subject Behavior Officer Response (SBOR) reports to determine any trends or patterns that may impact training needs, equipment requirements, and any changes to LPS policy or procedures.

LPS provides these statistics to the Executive Team, Lethbridge Police Commission and Province of Alberta.

Lethbridge Police Service policy requires a report to be completed when force is used as outlined in policy:

- Any use of force other than cooperative handcuffing and escort techniques
- Any incident involving the use of force that results in injury to the officer, subject or bystander that requires medical intervention beyond assessment
- Any tactical display of a firearm or Conductive Energy Weapon (CEW).
- Unintentional discharge of a firearm or CEW
- Any use of force that requires notification under section 46.1(1) of the Police Act to the Director of Law Enforcement.

Upon completion by the involved officer, the report is reviewed by:

- The officer's Sergeant (Immediate Supervisor)
- The officer's Staff Sergeant
- Member of the Training Unit
- Training Unit Sergeant
- Staff Sergeant of Support Services Section
- Divisional Inspector (if required)

Purpose of Report

- Training: To evaluate current training and identify any issues or trends that can be remediated through training
- Analysis: To collect the data, identify trends and identify training needs or officer safety concerns
- Review: To ensure the member's actions are reasonable and congruent with their training, the attributes of the situation, LPS policy and the provincial 'use of force' model.

Training and Use of Force Model

In 2024, 99.4% of calls for service were resolved by officers without any use of force. Members are trained in verbal communication, use of force techniques, incident assessment, threat identification, disengagement and de-escalation.

The Training Unit emphasizes the importance of instructor development by continually sending instructors on courses which allows for instructors to be updated on new techniques and training trends. Commitment to training is one of the reasons for the low percentage of use of force used by officers.

In 2024, the Training Unit offered 28 hours of in-service training which included 24 hours of practical training and 4 hours of qualification time:

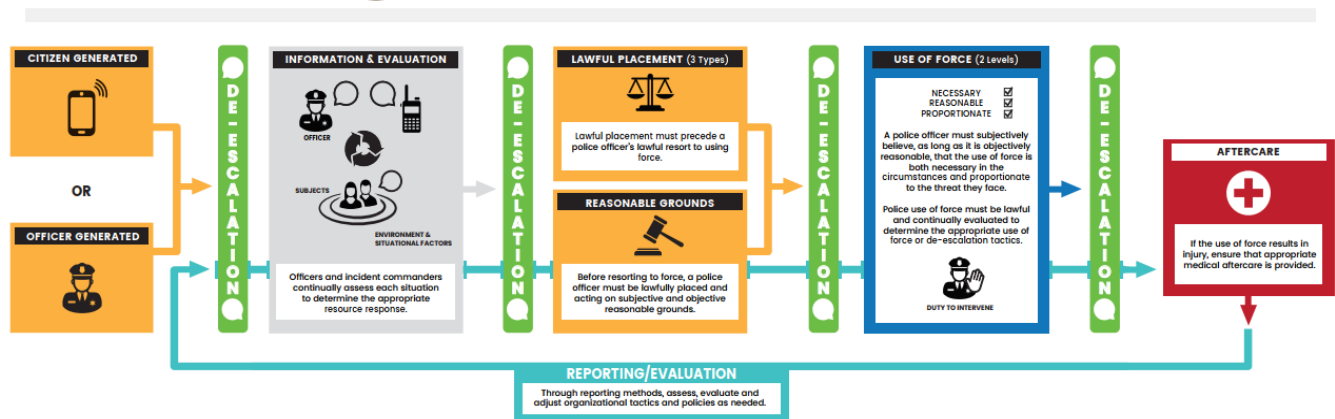
- Two three-hour training modules
- Two nine-hour training days
- Two two-hour firearm and less lethal qualification

De-Escalation & Use of Force Framework

LPS use of force training uses the De-Escalation & Use of Force Framework which replaced the Reasonable Officer Response (ROR) Training Aid in 2024. It was created in consultation with all police agencies in Alberta. This framework utilizes de-escalation while continuously assessing officer, subject and environmental factors. Use of force is to be lawful and continually assessed to determine the appropriate force or de-escalation tactics. The framework also encompassed duty of care for any subject injured during apprehension.



DE-ESCALATION & USE OF FORCE FRAMEWORK



DE-ESCALATION
A range of verbal and non-verbal strategies and tactics used to lower the intensity of potentially volatile situations with the aim to reduce the necessity or level of force required to successfully resolve an incident. De-escalation will be continually reassessed throughout an incident and used when reasonably feasible.

USE OF FORCE
Under Section 25 of the Criminal Code, police officers are authorized to use necessary, reasonable and proportionate force when acting on reasonable grounds and with lawful placement.

Previous models, Reasonable Officer Response (ROR) were outdated, not consistent with evolving law, problematic for officers required to testify in court, not integrated with de-escalation, and inconsistent. Goals of rebuilding this model were:

- To be consistent with the current law and police Use of Force in Canada;
- Make it easier to digest and understandable both inside and outside policing;
- For it to be defensible in court

Prior Year Comparison

Number of:	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comparison 2023-2024	Average 2021-2024
SBOR Reports	177	165	183	195	+12 (6.6%) increase	180
Calls for Service	36,143	36,779	37,882	31,879	-6,003(15.8%) decrease	35,670

These numbers and percentages only represent calls for service and does not represent the actual number of times officers interact with the public without any recorded events which would be much higher than the calls for service.

Comparison to other police agencies

Lethbridge Police Service received data from Medicine Hat Police Service. Medicine Hat is used as a comparable as it has a similar sized population to Lethbridge.

Agency	SBOR reports	Calls for service	Use of Force vs. Calls for service	Criteria
Medicine Hat Police Service	150	33,006	0.5%	Dispatched calls for service On-view calls for service Walk in calls for service Online reports
Lethbridge Police Service	195	31,879	0.6%	Dispatched calls for service All calls created by an officer on scene Walk in calls for service

Category I & II

All Use of Force events are separated into either a category I or category II event depending on the level of force the officer is required to apply in the event.

Occurrences	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comparison 2023-2024	Average 2021-2024
Category I	102	100	100	100	No change	100.5
Category II	75	65	83	95	+12 (14.5%) increase	79.5

Category I includes:

- Drawing and low ready firearm (not pointed)
- Drawing, low ready, pointing Less Lethal
- Empty hand “hard” techniques (if no injury or complaint of injury)
- Application of a hobble (no strikes)
- Application of spit mask (no strikes, pressure points or joint locks)
- CEW Warning Arc

Category II includes:

- Any force resulting in injury to subject, officer or third party
- Pointing firearms at a person or vehicle
- Discharge of firearms
- Canine Apprehension
- Less Lethal Weapon deployment: Conductive Energy Weapon (CEW), OC (Oleoresin capsicum), Baton, Less Lethal (LLP) Sock & Arwen, Canine
- Use of empty hand hard techniques or above (hands on control/strikes)
- Use of restraint chair/shield
- Any Use of Force incident where notification pursuant to section 46.1(1) of the Police Act is required

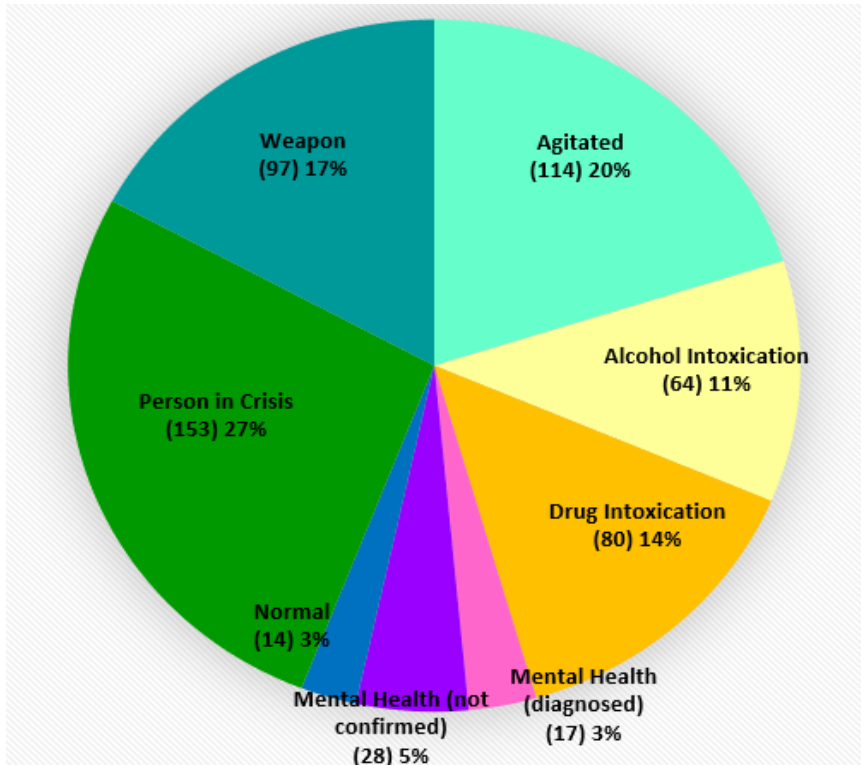
Occurrence types



Overall, occurrences involving use of force are serious in nature. Assaults alone (all types) account for 38% of occurrences.

Information provided prior to attending a scene and perceived conditions and factors are key in determining appropriate force. This information is continually changing based on the dynamics of the situation.

Perceived Conditions and Factors

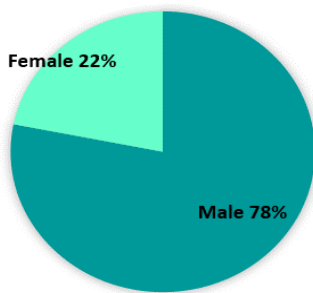


In 2024, 80% of subjects were perceived to be agitated, intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol, having a mental health condition or being in a state of crisis

17% of subjects had access to weapon(s) or weapons were reported to dispatch and were considered prior to attending call

3% of the subjects encountered were perceived to be in a normal mental state.

PACT unit has 4 members to effectively assist with identifying subjects experiencing mental health issues and crisis



Considerations

Only 3% of subjects are perceived to be in a “normal” state of mind. It is important for officers to respond accordingly to perception based on information received. This perception can change once contact with the subjects occurs.

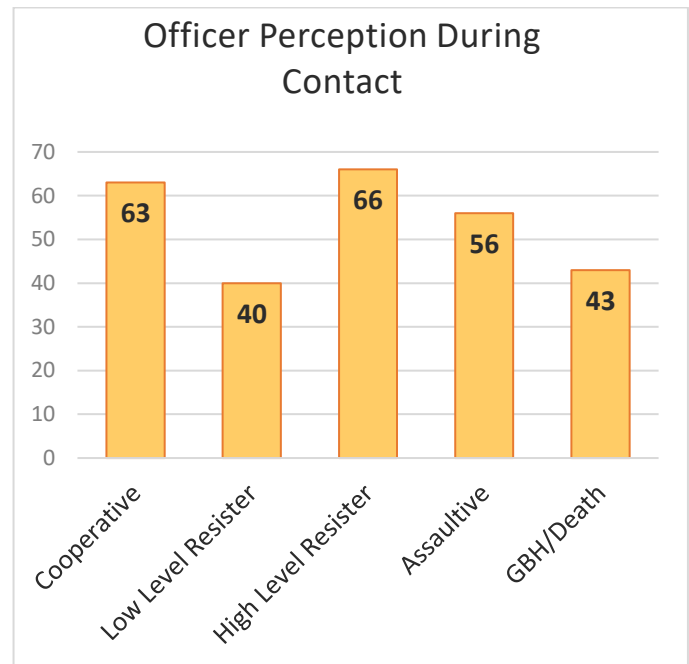
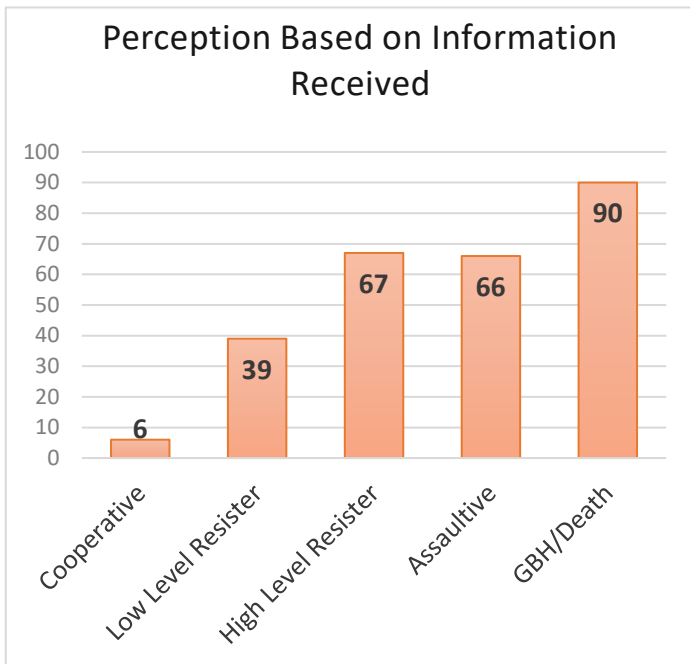
More than one of these factors is often present with each occurrence/subject. For example, a subject can have a weapon and be intoxicated by alcohol and/or drugs.

Majority of subjects are male, 78%.

2023 Perceived Conditions Comparison

- 78% of subjects were perceived to be agitated, intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol, having a mental health condition or being in a state of crisis.
- 15% were agitated
- 26% were intoxicated by alcohol and/or drugs
- 3% normal mental state
- 11% were confirmed or perceived to have a mental illness
- 26% were perceived to be in a state of crisis
- 19% weapons were considered

Officer perception of behavior



In 2024, officers perceived 83% of subjects to be a high-level resister, assaultive, or GBH/Death **based on information received**. Only 17% of subjects were perceived to be cooperative or a low-level resister.

This is based on information officers receive prior to contact with the subject (i.e. information provided by dispatch or known history of subject). Initial information received through dispatch must be taken seriously and correct use of force must be used for the situation

Once officers arrive at the scene the perception of subject being high level resister, assaultive or GBH/Death is reduced to 62%, while 38% are perceived to be cooperative or low-level resister.

Once on scene, officers must adapt to situations that are dynamic and unpredictable. Officers continually assess the situation and use de-escalation training once at the scene

Cooperative Subject: The subject complies with verbal commands or other direction.

Low Level Resister: The subject engages in non-assaultive defensive resistance such as dead-weight position, tensing, bracing or holding onto fixed objects, in an attempt to evade being taken into custody

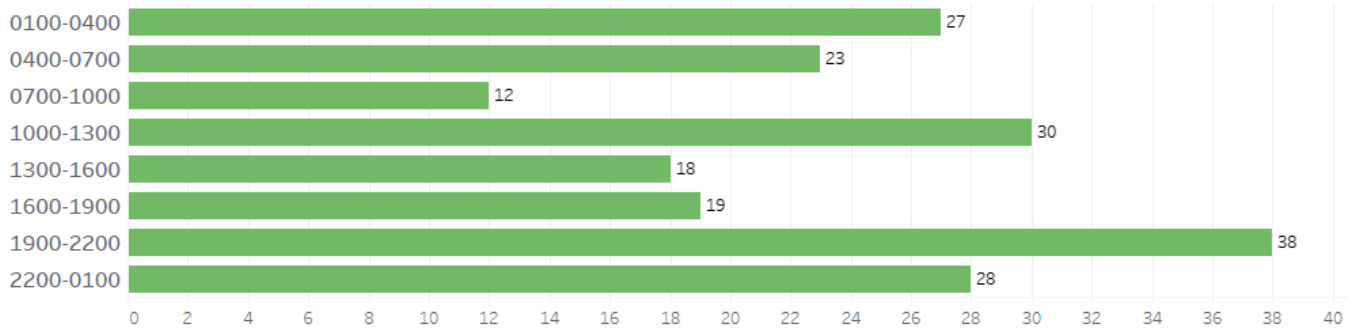
High Level Resister: The subject uses aggressive movements such as twisting, pushing away, pulling or flailing in an attempt to evade being taken into custody. Due to the dynamic movement involved, injury to the police officer or peace officer, subject or others is a real possibility

Assaultive Subject: The subject acts in a way which reasonably leads the police officer or peace officer to believe that they or any other person will be assaulted. These actions may include aggressive posturing, punching, kicking, biting and spitting

Grievous Bodily Harm or Death: The subject acts in a way which leads the police officer or peace officer to reasonably believe that grievous bodily harm or death is imminent to the officer or any other person. These actions may include the use of firearms or weapons of opportunity

Use of Force Location and Time

Time of Day



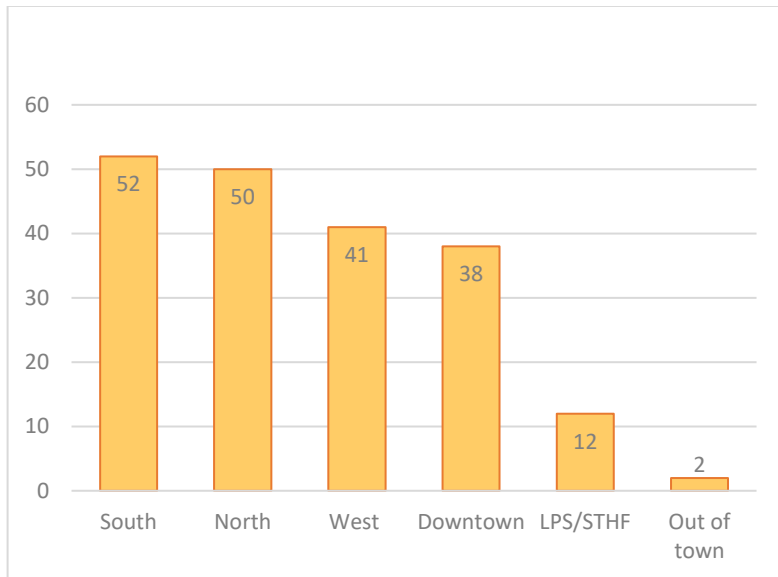
Time of Day:

In 2024, the percentage of force over a twenty-four-hour period equates to the following:

0700-1900 – 79 (41%). Slight decrease from 43% in 2023.

1900-0700 – 116 (59%). Slight increase from 57% in 2023.

Location:



Comparison between 2023 & 2024 locations:

2023

South 35%
 North 27%
 West 14%
 Downtown 17%
 STHF (cells) 6.5%
 Out of Town 0.5%

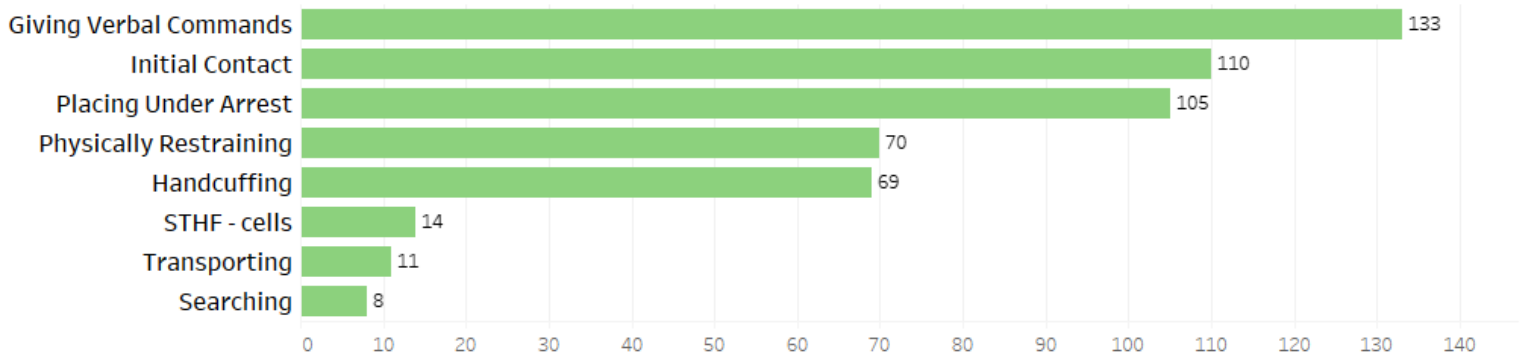
2024

South 27%
 North 26%
 West 21%
 Downtown 19%
 STHF (cells) 6%
 Out of Town 1%

When Force Was Used

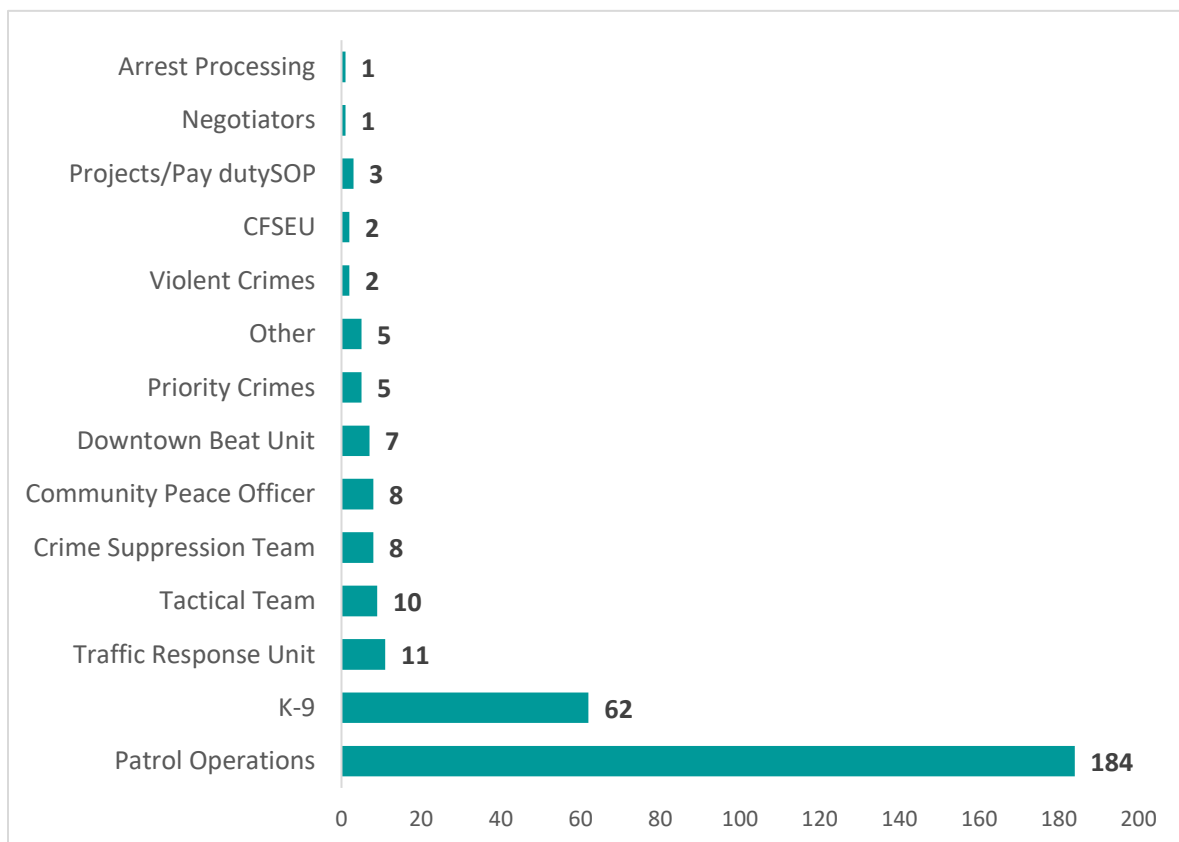
In 2024, the situations where force occurred most was during initial contact, giving verbal commands and when placing subjects under arrest (67%) which is consistent with 2023.

Categories where force was used can be applied more than once per occurrence. For example, in one occurrence force can occur at initial contact and handcuffing.



Police Units Involved

In relation to police units, 80% of the occurrences requiring officers to use force involved areas of the service that are considered “first responders” which includes patrols and K9. Behind patrol operations (60%), the top 3 units responding were K-9 (20%), Traffic Response Unit (3%) and the Tactical Team (3%). The remaining occurrences (14%) involved specialty and other units.



Type of Force Applied

This information represents the use of force options used in the officer response. Members are trained to utilize various use of force options in a dynamic situation.

One use of force option may not work and another option is necessary to control an assaultive or high-level resister. Conversely, a lethal or less lethal option may not be needed once officers arrive at the scene and a lower level of force or de-escalation may be more appropriate for a low-level resister or cooperative subject.

These numbers represent **total uses**. **100%** of firearms uses were low ready & pointed **ONLY**. There were no firearms discharged at a subject in 2024.

Of the Less Lethal (Arwen and LLP Sock), 91% were low ready/pointed while only 9% were deployed.

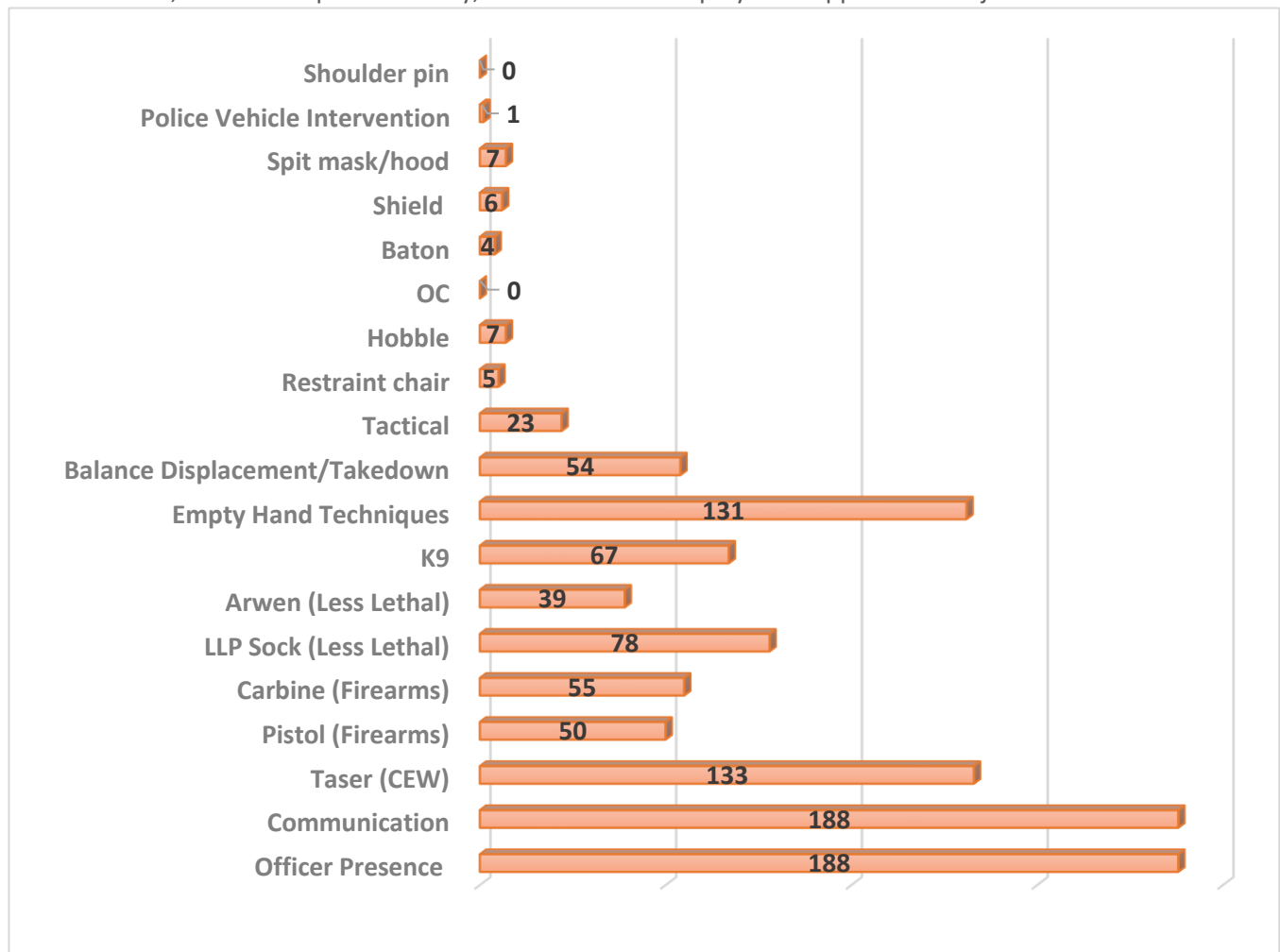
Of the CEW uses, 80% were drawn/pointed, 20% were deployed.

Of the K9 uses, 80% are K9 presence only, while 20% were deployed to apprehend subjects.

+ More than one option can be used in a single situation

+ More than one force option may have been deployed.

Multiple officers may mean multiple use of force options



Overview of Use of Force Breakdown

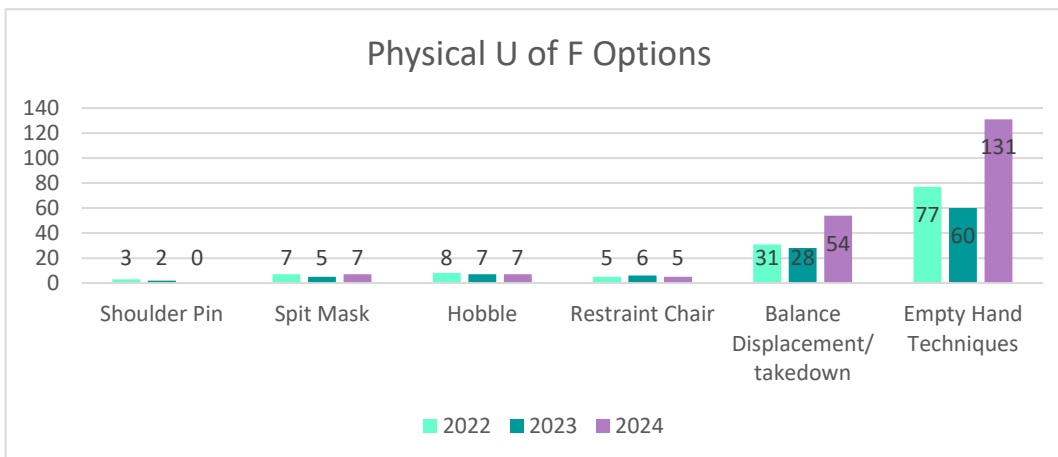
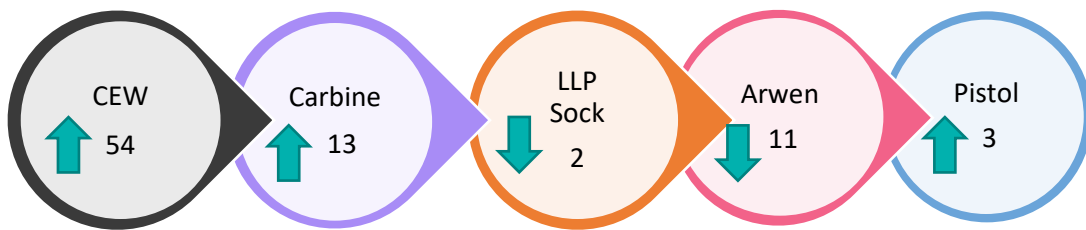
Type of Force	Drawn	Low Ready	Pointed	Deployed on Subject	Deployed on Window	Total
Carbine	n/a	38	17	0	0	55
Pistol	n/a	30	20	0	0	50
LLP Sock	n/a	47	26	5	0	78
Arwen	n/a	21	12	4	2	39
CEW	55	n/a	52	26	n/a	133
OC	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	0
Baton	4	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	4

In comparison to 2023, total uses increased or decreased as follows:

Most common types of physical control used were balance displacement/takedown, holding technique and joint manipulation.

There were small changes in LLP sock, Arwen, pistol, carbine use as noted below.

For CEW, the majority of the increase was drawn and pointed (40), while the remaining increase was 14 deployments.



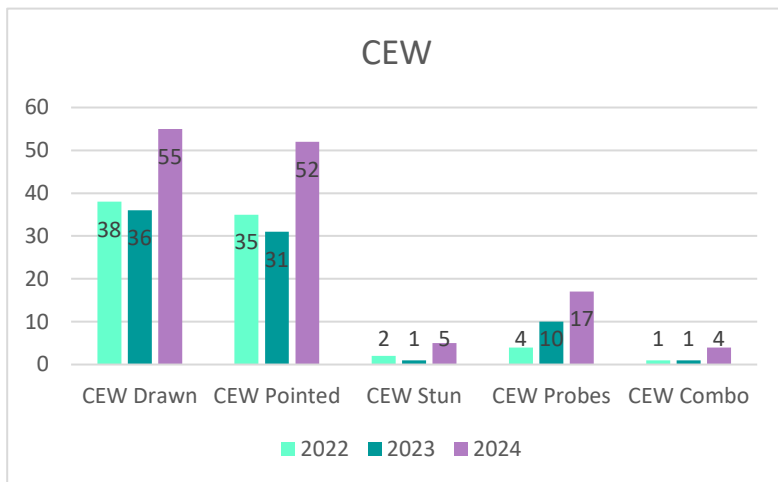
Although use of force options increased in some categories, subject injuries remained low, consistent with previous years and total calls for service. See page 17 for more details.

Type of Force Applied

Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)

CEW: Total for all uses: 133

- ❖ Drawn: 55
- ❖ Pointed: 48
- ❖ Warning Arc: 4
- ❖ Stun (push): 5
- ❖ Probe: 17
- ❖ Combination: probe/push: 4



The CEW was deployed 26 times in 18 occurrences in 2024. 12 deployments were effective, 6 were ineffective (files 24006150, 24002075, 24012187 & 24006656) and the following were partially ineffective (4) but ultimately effective (4):

- 24003288 stun and probes ineffective, combination effective
- 24025503 stun ineffective, probes and combination effective
- 24013469 probes ineffective, combination effective

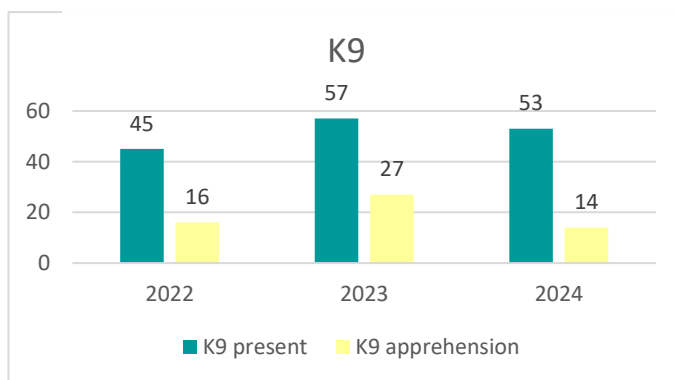
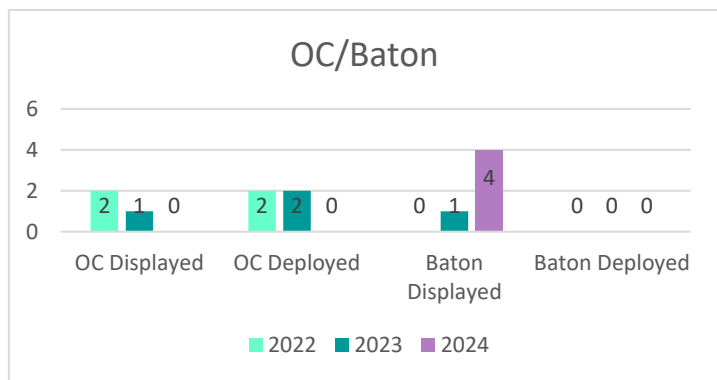
Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) & Baton

OC: OC was not displayed or deployed in 2024.

Baton: The baton was drawn four times in 2024.
The baton was not deployed in 2024.

K9

K9 were displayed 53 times, and deployed to apprehend subject 14 times. Of these deployments, 13 were effective and one was ineffective (24006150).



Less Lethal

Less Lethal: Numbers include Arwen and LLP Sock at Low Ready, Pointed and Deployed (total is 117)

- ❖ Arwen: Low ready (21), Pointed (12), Deployed (6)
- ❖ LLP Sock: Low ready (47), Pointed (26), Deployed (5)

Less Lethal Arwen:

The Arwen was low ready or pointed 33 times. It was deployed 6 times, including twice effectively at a window, three times effectively at a subject and once ineffectively at a subject (24006461). Tactical Arwen use detailed in Tactical section.

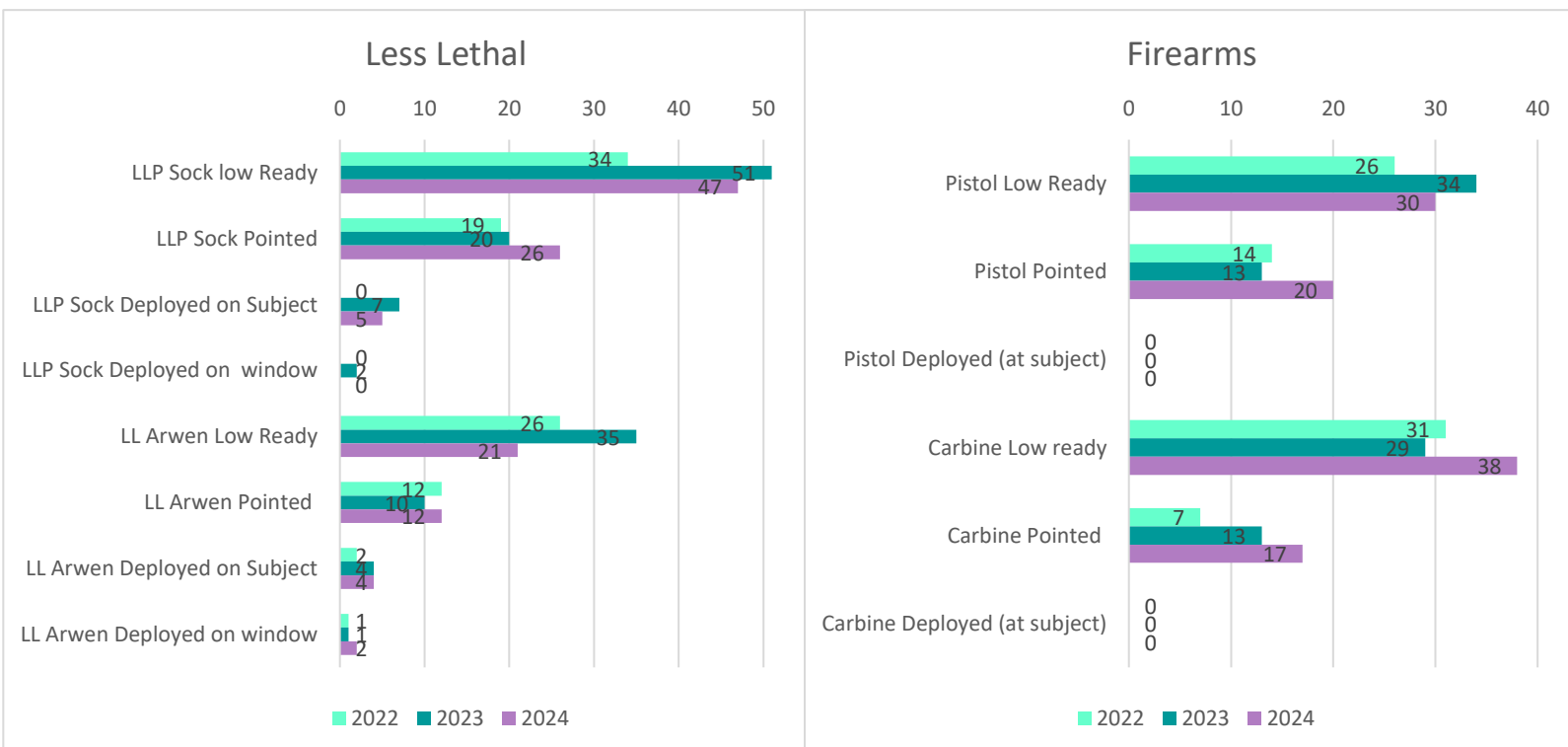
Less Lethal Projectile (LLP) Sock round:

The LLP sock round continues to be a very effective less lethal option. In 2024, the LLP sock round was low ready or pointed 73 times. The LLP Sock was deployed 5 times at a subject, no deployments to break a window. All deployments were effective except one (24022626).

Firearms

Firearms 2024: Numbers include Carbine and Pistol at Low Ready and Pointed (total is 105). There were no firearms deployments at a subject in 2024.

- ❖ Carbine: Low ready (38), Pointed (17)
- ❖ Pistol: Low ready (30), Pointed (20)



Tactical

Tactical Munitions: (Includes OC Muzzle Blast, Vapor, Tri Chamber, NFDD, OC/CS Stinger balls, Pepperball)

In 2024, the Tactical Team was deployed on 18 occurrences, however not all incidents required a use of force report. These occurrences are typically serious in nature and involved multiple officers and use of force options. In 5 of the Tactical Team deployments they were utilized for additional support for protests and security.

Tactical use of force options were used 23 times in 2024 as follows:

- ❖ OC gas/CS gas (tactical chemical munition): 3
- ❖ Noise Flash Diversionary Devices (NFDD): 3
- ❖ Tactical Arwen: 4 (1 deployed to clear room, 1 to disable security cameras, 1 break window, 1 at subject)
- ❖ Pepperball: 13 (deployed 4 times effectively). Pepperball used by Tactical members in Tactical and non-tactical occurrences.

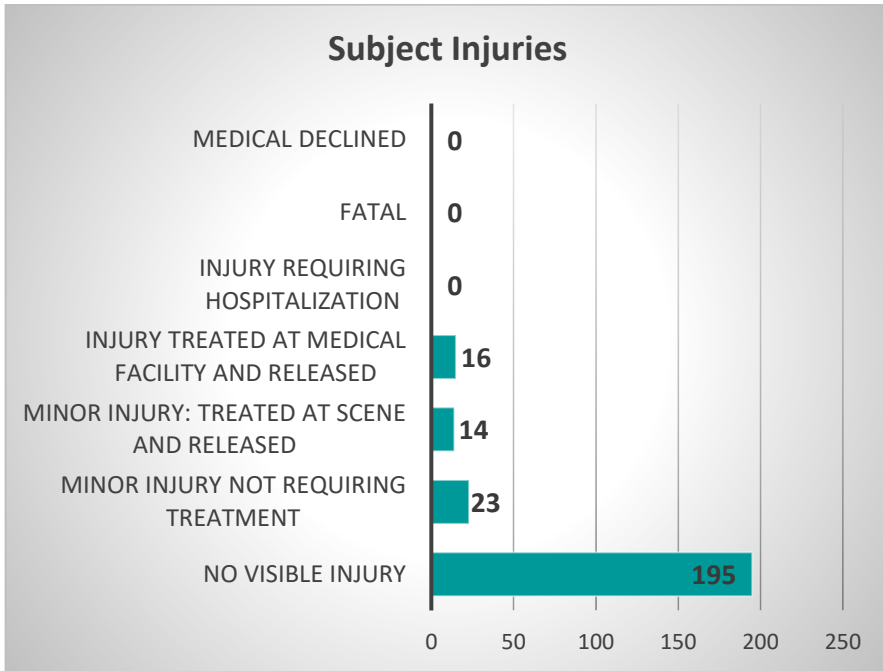
Assault Peace Officer

In 2024 there were 35 occurrences where officers were assaulted by subjects. Of these incidents, 9 occurred during first contact, 20 occurred during subject arrest, 5 occurred while the subject was attempting to flee and one occurred in custody in LPS cells.

Officers were assaulted during arrest by way of: grabbing at officer, lunging/striking with body, spitting, kicking, punching, using vehicle, ramming with vehicle, wielding/advancing with knives/machete, flailing arms, hitting with object, charging, striking, running at officer with weapon.

When assault occurred	2021	2022	2023	2024
First contact	8	3	10	9
During Arrest	25	18	10	20
Attempting to flee	5	2	4	5
Other	0	0	1	1
Total	38	23	25	35

Officer, Subject and Third-Party Injuries



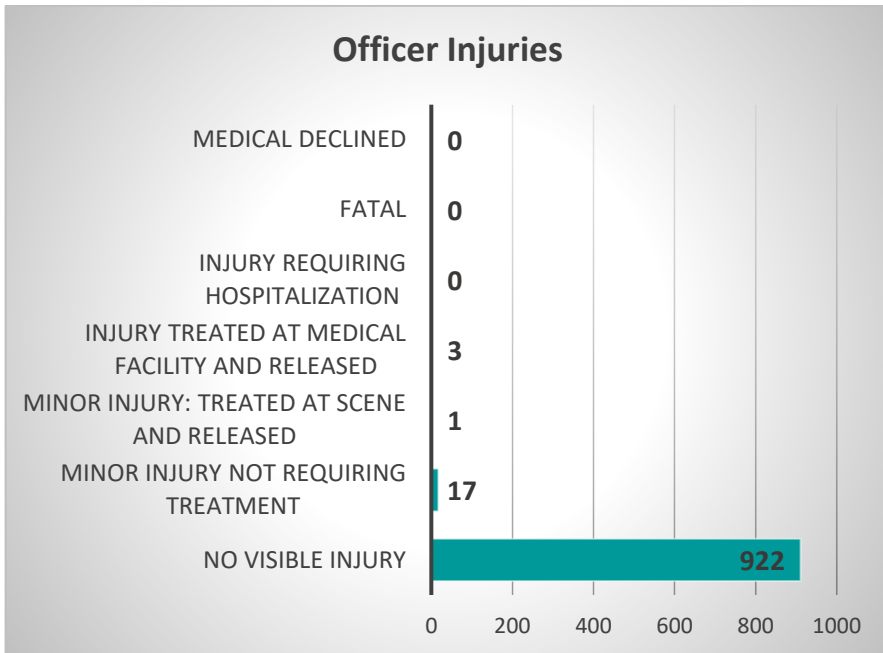
Subject Injuries

In 2024, 248 subjects were documented in 195 use of force reports. Of those subjects, there were no hospitalizations or fatalities.

While comparing injuries (53 subjects) to calls for service (31,879), the percentage of injured subjects was 0.17%.

Third Party Injuries

There was one Third-Party Injury due to use of force reports in 2024. It was a minor injury not requiring treatment where an EMS member was kicked.

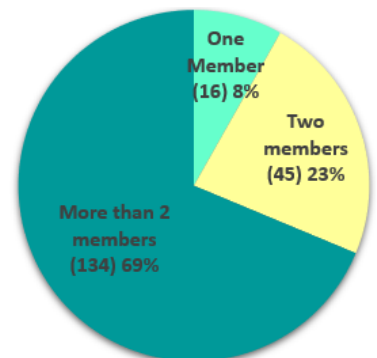


Officer Injuries:

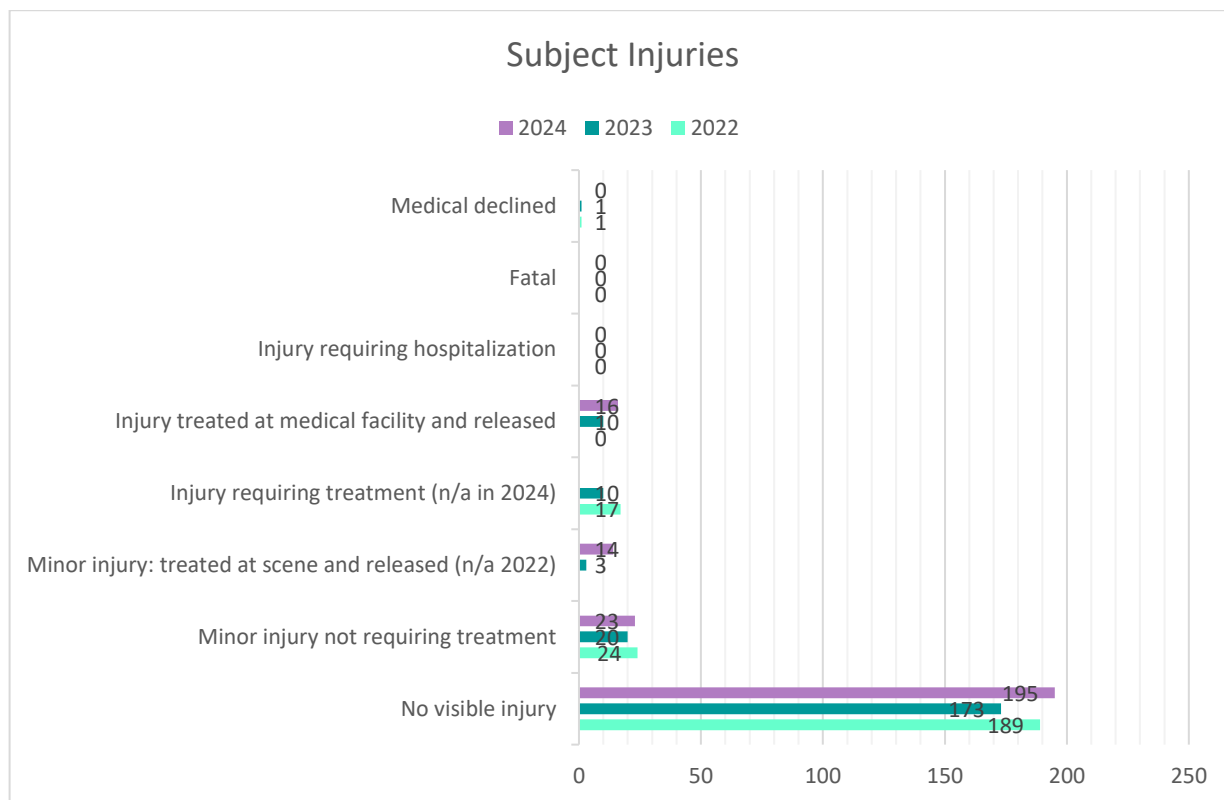
In 2024, 943 officers were documented in 195 use of force reports.

While comparing injuries (21 officers) to calls for service (31,879), the percentage of injured officers was 0.07%.

It is important to note that each use of force report can include multiple officers. Due to the serious nature of these reports, 69 % of reports involved more than 2 members. This has decreased slightly from 2023 when 74% of reports required more than 2 members.



When comparing use of force options to subject injuries, the number of subject injuries remains minimal over a three-year comparison: 41 injuries in 2022, 43 injuries in 2023 and 53 injuries in 2024.



Techniques

Police defensive techniques and firearms:

The Training Unit continues to utilize control tactics training as a method of gaining subject compliance. In 2024, in-service training included a three-hour module on control tactics including Gracie Survival Tactics Punch Block Series, Drop and draw edged weapon defense, weapon retention and vehicle extractions. In-service training also included review of multiple officer response to an assaultive subject, review of arm manipulation control tactics for assaultive or resisting subjects.

Two full training days were scenario based and included two and three officer building clearing and counter ambush training, shield and ram breaches and advanced firearms drills. In-service training also included CEW recertification, and qualifications for pistol, carbine, and LLP supersock.

Professional Standards Unit investigations

In 2024, there were 2 allegations of inappropriate use of force:

- Both allegations of inappropriate use of force are currently under investigation.

Conclusion

The Training Unit utilizes De-Escalation and Use of Force Framework to assist in providing a professional and defensible use of force framework. This is premised on basing the use of force on the standard of “necessary, reasonable and proportionate”.

The Police Service recognizes the need for highly trained and responsive officers. Moving forward, the Training Unit will continue to provide training to meet and exceed provincial training standards and training needs identified through patterns or trends.

99.4% of the calls for service were resolved by officers without any use of force. An analysis of a three-year trend in use of force application has identified a significant increase in the number of empty hand and takedown techniques being applied by officers. It can be noted that while the application of these particular techniques is increasing the total number of use of force events is remaining relatively consistent. One possible reasoning for this is the continued expansion of the Gracie Survival Tactics program with LPS officers. Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) is a revolutionary defensive tactics system based on Gracie Jiu-Jitsu that incorporates time-tested techniques into an easy-to-learn system designed to help officers verbally and physically de-escalate while humanely prevailing resistant and/or aggressive subjects. The lack of increase in subject and officer injuries over the past several years supports that while officers are applying more empty hand and takedown techniques the proper application of these techniques is safely de-escalating and resolving use of force events.

It can also be noted that the number of CEW events (both displayed and utilized) has increased in 2024. Again, the CEW is an effective, non-lethal tool that officer can utilize to safely subdue a subject while preventing injury to both the subject and officer. Continued advances in technology and training have broadened the tools and tactics available to officers to safely resolve use of force events.

Throughout the year the Training Unit uses scenario-based training from actual situations, use of force reports and calls to enhance member’s skill set and build self-confidence. The Training Unit uses these tools to build on use of force techniques, incident assessment, situational awareness, threat identification, disengagement and de-escalation.