



2024 ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT

Police Service Board

PREAMBLE

- 1.1 WHEREAS subsection 37 (1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, ("CSPA")* provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by Section 10 of the CSPA;
- 1.2 AND WHEREAS subsection 38 (2) of the CSPA provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing;
- 1.3 AND WHEREAS the *Criminal Code of Canada*, other legislation and case law address the use of force by police and other authorized persons;
- 1.4 AND WHEREAS O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons under the CSPA prescribes requirements in relation to the use of force, including use of approved weapons, training, the use/technical specifications for handguns and reporting;
- 1.5 AND WHEREAS O. Reg. 87/24: Training prescribes use of force training and requalification requirements, including weapons training;
- 1.6 AND WHEREAS Part AI-012 of the Policing Standards Manual (2000), a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix A, contains guidelines directing the Board, the Chief and Members relative to the use of force.

NOW THEREFORE THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM POLICE SERVICE BOARD ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 "Act" or "CSPA" means the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*, and amendments thereto;
- 2.2 "Board" means the Regional Municipality of Durham Police Service Board;
- 2.3 "Chief" means the Chief of the Durham Regional Police Service;
- 2.4 "Member" means a member of the Durham Regional Police Service;
- 2.5 "Ministry" means the Ministry of the Solicitor General; and
- 2.6 "Service" means the Durham Regional Police Service.

DIRECTION TO THE CHIEF

USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

- The Chief of Police shall ensure that Members use approved use of force options as set out in the O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons, the O. Reg. 87/24: Training, the Ministry of the Solicitor General Guidelines, the Ontario Use of Force Model and Appendix A, as amended from time to time.
- The Chief shall ensure the ongoing review and evaluation of local use of force procedures, training and reporting.

DOCUMENTARY PROCEDURES

- The Chief shall establish written procedures to ensure compliance with O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons under the CSPA.
- The written procedures referenced above shall be in accordance with the use of force reporting guidelines described in Appendix A and the said O. Reg. 391/23.

MEMBERSHIP AND TRAINING

- The Chief shall ensure that all Members receive at a minimum, prescribed adequate training, refresher training and re-qualification training in accordance with Appendix A and O. Reg. 87/24: Training, in respect of the use of force and related equipment provided by the Board including but not limited to officer safety, communication, physical control, handcuffing, impact weapons, aerosol weapons, conducted energy weapons and firearms.
- The Chief shall maintain training records on the use of force and the use of firearms in respect of each Member, which records shall be maintained in each Member's personnel file and shall contain at least the following information:
 - a) the date, nature and success of required training undertaken by the Member;
 - b) the date or dates before which Members are to complete required training;
 - c) a copy of written notification given to Members who have failed to complete any aspect of required training within the required time; and
 - d) where requalification is required, a document signed by the qualified trainer that the officer has demonstrated safety and proficiency required to continue to use the specific use of force option which is the subject of the training.

FIREARMS

- The Chief shall ensure that all reports on investigations of death or injury resulting from the discharge of a firearm made pursuant to Section 9 of O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons are submitted to the Board within thirty (30) days of such incident occurring.
- The Chief shall immediately cause an investigation and file a report to the Board where a member, by the discharge of a firearm in the performance of his or her duty, kills or injures another person.
- The Chief shall ensure that all instances of the Chief's discharge of a firearm in the course of their duties shall be reported back to the Board pursuant to Section 9 (5) of O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons within thirty (30) days of such incident occurring.
- The Board, upon receiving a report on the investigation into an injury or death caused by the discharge of a Member's firearm, will:
 - a) review the report and make further inquiries as necessary; and
 - b) file a copy with the Solicitor General, including any additional inquiries of the Board.
- The Board, upon being notified that the Chief of Police has discharged a firearm in the performance of their duty, will cause an investigation into the circumstances and file a report on the investigation with the Solicitor General.

EQUIPMENT

The Chief shall ensure that Members do not use a weapon other than a firearm, with the exception of those used on another Member of a training exercise in accordance with procedures, unless:

- a) that type of weapon has been approved for use by the Solicitor General;
 - b) the weapon conforms to technical standards established by the Solicitor General; and
 - c) the weapon is used in accordance with standards established by the Solicitor General.
- The Chief shall ensure that every police officer is issued and carries a handgun that meets the technical specifications set out in O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons.
- The Chief shall be authorized to issue a conducted energy weapon to police officers who are:
 - a) front-line officers and supervisors;
 - b) Members of Tactical/Hostage Rescue Teams;
 - c) Members of Preliminary Perimeter Control and Containment Teams; and
 - d) other classes of officers as deemed appropriate.

- The Chief shall ensure that every police officer is issued oleoresin capicum aerosol spray and a baton.
- The Chief shall report to the Board annually each year, confirming that all old equipment was turned in to the Service, and on the disposition of such equipment.
- The Chief shall ensure,
 - a) that accurate records are maintained disclosing all equipment issued to each Member;
 - b) that old equipment is relinquished to the Service when no longer used by the Member; and
 - c) that a written procedure is implemented for the disposition of old equipment no longer used by the Members.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

- The Chief shall develop and maintain a policy to ensure that incidents of serious injury or death are reported as required to the Special Investigations Unit, which procedure shall include:
 - a) The appointment of a Member from time to time to act as liaison between the Service and the Special Investigations Unit; and
 - b) Service requirements for making reports to the Special Investigations Unit, including the time for making the report, the contents of the report and procedures for regular follow-up, if applicable.

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION

The Chief of Police shall not fail to comply with all requirements of the Equipment and Use of Force Regulation.

Further, without limiting the scope of the foregoing, the Chief of Police will not fail to:

1. Ensure that force options used by members of the Durham Regional Police Service meet all requirements and standards established by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. (O. Reg 391/23 CSPA)
2. Ensure training every 12 months for members required to use force on other persons and for those authorized to carry force option weapons. (O. Reg 87/24 CSPA)
3. Immediately cause an investigation and file a report to the Board where a member, by the discharge of a firearm in the performance of his or her duty, kills or injures another person.
4. Promptly inform the Board when the Chief discharges a firearm in the performance of the Chief's duties.
5. Ensure the ongoing review and evaluation of local use of force procedures, training and reporting.
6. Provide a copy of the Service's annual Use of Force report to the Board

INTERPRETATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Durham Regional Police Service (DRP) referenced the provisions of [Regulation 926](#) of the *Police Services Act* (until revocation on April 1, 2024 and replaced with O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons under the CSPA) for dealing with the issuance of equipment pertaining to use of force, deployment, training, and reporting to both the Board and any other Ministry official, as required.

Every police officer, including the Chief of Police shall use only approved and issued use of force equipment. They shall prove their competency in the legal requirements, exercise of judgment, officer safety, theories relating to the use of force, and practical proficiency. They shall meet the prescribed timelines, which includes re-certification once every twelve months.

Every member shall provide the appropriate reports when, in the execution of their duties other than training, they draw a handgun in the presence of a member of the public (excluding a member of the police force who is on-duty), points a firearm at a person or discharges a firearm, uses a weapon other than a firearm on another person, or applies physical force on any person that results in an injury requiring medical attention. The Chief shall ensure that all required reporting provisions are met in a timely and comprehensive fashion.

BACKGROUND

The Criminal Code of Canada authorizes police officers in the province of Ontario to use force, while engaged in the lawful execution of their duty. Under Section 25 officers are permitted to use as much force as necessary if they act on reasonable grounds.

Now revoked *Regulation 926 of the Police Services Act*, specifically outlined the types of firearms and weapons that police officers are permitted to carry and includes mandatory training qualifications in use of force and firearms. *O. Reg. 391/23: Use of Force and Weapons - CSPA* now replaces the older provisions of the PSA, however the PSA was in force until April 2024. The new regulations further address reporting requirements when officers apply force or draw their firearms. As of January 1, 2020, under the Anti-Racism Act, police services are now required to collect data on the perceived race of those subjects involved in use of force incidents. Police Services in Ontario are mandated to complete province-wide standardized Use of Force Reports electronically, for the collection by the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

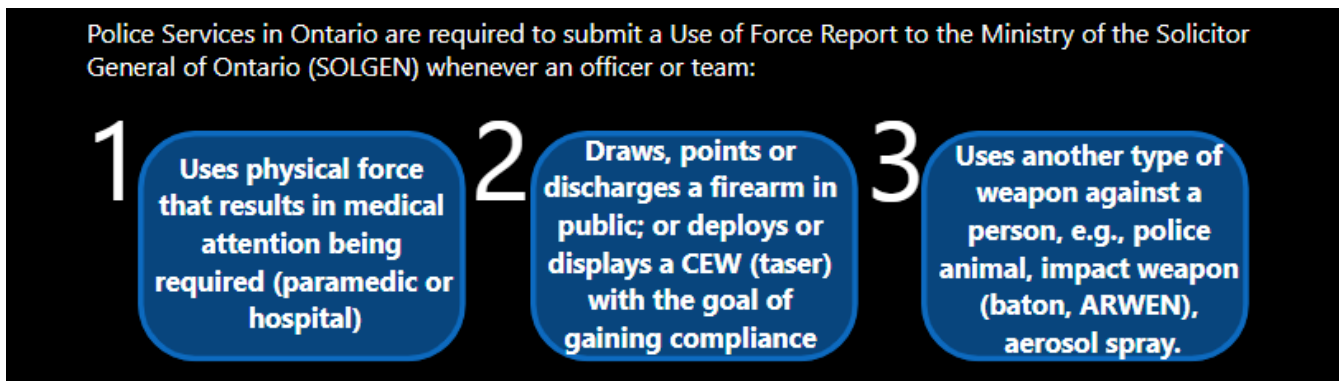
MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Durham Regional Police Directive LT-05-002(21) specifies when an officer shall submit a Use of Force Report as required by the *Ontario Police Services Act (replaced by the Community Safety and Policing Act for 2024)*, *Regulation 926* Section 14.5(1). DRP Directive LT-05-002 (21), section 21.1.3. and Section 38. states:

Reporting Use of Force

1. Members, whenever they use **reportable force** on a person, shall record the full particulars in their memo book and GO report or supplementary report. Members are required to complete and submit, prior to reporting off duty, Use of Force Report (DRP92) to their supervisor. Supervisors shall coordinate and supervise the preparation of the report and GO ensuring compliance with related directives. Once reviewed, the report is submitted to the Education and Training Centre for review and submission to the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Reportable use of force is defined as when a member:
 - (a) draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public;
 - (b) points a firearm at a person;
 - (c) discharges a firearm;
 - (d) uses a weapon on another person;

- (e) draws and displays a conducted energy weapon to a person with the intention of achieving compliance;
- (f) points a conducted energy weapon at a person;
- (g) discharges a conducted energy weapon; or
- (h) uses force on another person, including through the use of a horse or a dog, that results in an injury requiring the services of a physician, nurse or paramedic, and the member is aware that the injury required such services before the member goes off duty.



A single call for service/occurrence may involve more than one UOF incident.

One UOF incident may involve one or multiple UOF subjects and include one or multiple officer UOF reports. Under some circumstances, a report may be submitted on behalf of a team (e.g., warrant execution by the Tactical Support Unit) as noted above.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS / USE OF FORCE AND THE CHIEF

Ontario Policing Standards (OPS) AI-012 Use of Force Guidelines and the Use of Force and Weapons Regulation (Ontario Regulation 391/23 CSPA), outlines standards regarding training, equipment, qualifications and re-qualifications. (OPS revoked on April 1st, 2024)

This regulation prohibits a member of a police service from using force on another person unless the member has successfully completed the prescribed training course. Use of force requalification is mandatory for every member who uses or may be required to use force or carry a weapon. The use of force training courses taught by DRP meet the requirements set by the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General and in some instances exceed the standards. Each member is required to pass the requalification course every twelve months.

In the performance of the Chief's duties, the Chief did not discharge his firearm in 2024. The Chief has also attended and maintained his use of force qualifications. (*Broadest Policy Provision 4.*)

ANNUAL USE OF FORCE TRAINING

The annual use of force / practical skills curriculum for sworn officers, also known as block training, is a program that includes requalification on the Service's handgun, shotgun, CEW, ASP baton, and OC spray. It is complimented by a review and reassessment of firearm principles and techniques, defensive tactics (including empty-hand techniques and ground/physical-control measures), judgmental assessment (including de-escalation), tourniquet application, breaching and immediate rapid deployment scenario-based simulations for active threats. Block training was a three-day, intensive program that recently changed to a four-day program for 2025.

Under provisions of the now in force **CSPA (Community Safety and Policing Act)** which came into effect April 1st, 2024, members of the Durham Regional Police also began receiving training in the concepts of manual breaching, utilizing tools as specified within the Act.

Auxiliary and Special Constables participate in their own annual block training programming which is specific to their scope of responsibilities as outlined in the CSPA standards. These includes participation in judgmental scenarios that are specifically tailored to their working environments and available force options. Block training for these members is a single day, annually.

DRP ensures training every 12 months for members required to use force on other persons and for those authorized to carry force option weapons. (*Broadest Policy Provision – 2.*)

ANNUAL USE OF FORCE TRAINING (OPPITA)

In 2024, DRP adopted mandatory training on the new Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid, which replaced the previous version of the Ontario Use of Force Model.

The ideal goal of any police interaction with the public is that it be cooperative, respectful, and peaceful. This Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid outlines the general principles that govern police interactions with the public, including the use of force on those occasions when an application of force is required.

The Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid is captured by a framework document and a graphic. Together they are designed to assist police officers (and the public) to understand why and in what manner an officer may respond during an interaction. This document is subject to change based on evolving academic research, best practices and recommendations.

This Training Aid stresses that, in any interaction with the public, an officer should continually monitor themselves, the subject, situation, assess the circumstances as they develop, and engage in a relational approach with the subject and other members of the public if appropriate. A relational approach to public-police interactions emphasizes fairness, respect, empathy, and voluntary subject cooperation, without the use of force, whenever feasible. However, on occasion police officers may find themselves in a situation where the use of force may be necessary.

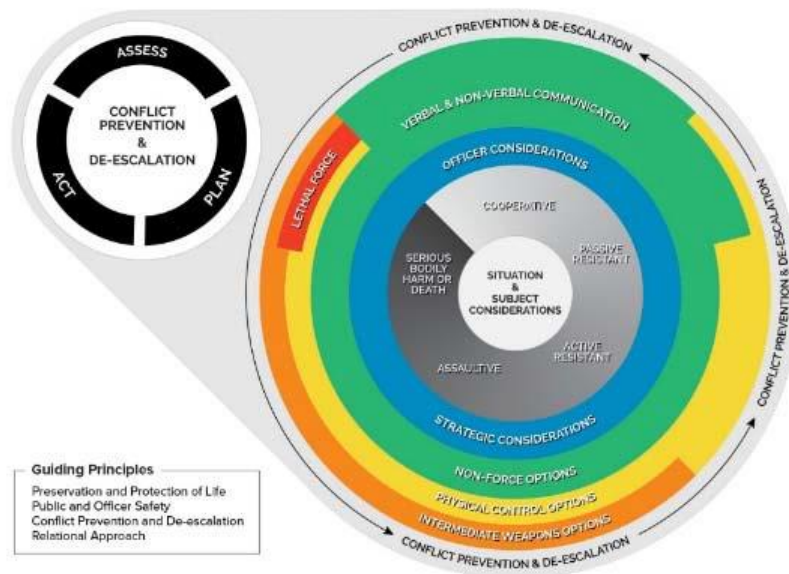
Any use of force by police is governed by the legal principles of necessity, proportionality, and reasonableness.

A relational approach to public-police interactions values fairness, impartiality, respect, and empathy, and seeks to achieve peaceful outcomes and voluntary subject cooperation without the use of force. In the event that force becomes necessary (i.e., to ensure public safety/protect life), using a proportional amount, if viable, to manage the situation, is expected.

Ultimately, the goal of any police interaction with the public is cooperative, respectful, and peaceful outcomes, recognizing that this goal may be impacted by a variety of factors such as the availability of time, resources, an immediate need for police action, and the behaviour of the people involved.

In 2024, all sworn members of the Service received this critical training.

Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid (2023)



The officer continuously assesses the interactions and selects the most reasonable option(s) relative to the subject and circumstances given available resources and time.



DE-ESCALATION & CRITICAL DECISION-MAKING

DRP members are provided with use of force training, beginning during the Constables in Training Program (CIT). During this time, members are introduced to the Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid, use of force options and de-escalation training. CIT's receive further training at the Ontario Police College, again, with an emphasis on communication and de-escalation. Durham Regional Police members receive ongoing use of force training through the Annual In-Service Training. This training is mandatory for all members, with themes of de-escalation and communication as the foundation for the curriculum. Members also receive information in relation to police inquests and lessons learned in the application of force. All DRP members are provided with a decision-making model, which they receive as part of the Incident Command Training Program. This training provides members with the ability to process decisions based upon the current situation, risk effectiveness and acceptability, with respect to legal authorities, civil liability and moral acceptability. This model ensures members have a consistent decision-making process to accompany them during all duties including use of force incidents.

EQUIPMENT AND USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

The DRP Education and Training Centre (ETC) – Use of Force (UOF) unit is responsible for the issuance and maintenance of all use of force options, weapons and devices as specified in this Regulation. Each member of the UOF Unit has been certified by the Ontario Police College to provide education and training to all uniform, special constable and auxiliary members in appropriate use of force programming for their role. Directives, policies and curriculums are in place, in accordance with provincially mandated Adequacy Standards for use of force options.

In compliance with the O. Reg 391/23 of the CSPA, the DRPS use of force options consist of:

- Glock 22 (transitioning to G17- 9mm) handgun with 3 magazines of 45 rounds (51 with 9mm)
- Tactical, expandable baton;
- Oleoresin capsicum spray (OC or pepper spray);
- Handcuffs; and,
- TASER X2 Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) with two cartridges.

Other options available to members, based on qualifications and position include:

- Remington 870, 12-gauge shotgun with six shells of 00 buckshot.
- Colt C8A2 patrol rifle, with four magazines and 112 rounds of ammunition.

All force options used by members of the DRP meet all requirements and standards established by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. (*Broadest Policy Provision 1.*)

DIRECTIVES RELATED TO EQUIPMENT AND USE OF FORCE

Directives that address equipment and use of force include, but are not limited to:

- LT-05-002 Police Use of Force
- AO-19-003 Police Uniforms Equipment Dress and Appearance
- AO-19-006 Conducted Energy Weapons
- AO-19-012 Uniform and Equipment Issue and Return
- AO-19-005 Lead Control Program

A reporting structure, mandated by the Ministry, is in place for whenever a member uses force in a situation as specified under the CSPA. The use of force reporting system is used as an internal mechanism to identify force options chosen during an encounter or incident, their appropriateness in the specified situation, and ultimately to inform educational programming; individual training deficiencies or systemic trends may be gleaned from analysis of this documentation. All members who are currently issued use of force options or are required to carry them in accordance with their duties, are requalified or refreshed annually in accordance with Adequacy Standards within the CSPA from the provincial government.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Sworn Qualifications	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Sworn Members Requalified During Block Training	891	926	967
Sworn Members Newly Qualified on the Patrol Rifle	54	52	73
Number of Sworn Rifle Requalified Members	179	197	227
Total Sworn Member Qualifications in CEW-X2	739	854	796

DRP ensures training every 12 months for members required to use force on other persons and for those authorized to carry force option weapons. *(Broadest Policy Provision – 2.)*

Every year a small number of members are unable to participate in use of force training due to medical restrictions. In accordance with 9.3 of the Police Use of Force Directive LT-05-002, those members are not deployed to positions that require use of force capabilities until their medical conditions allow them to receive the required use of force training. Of all those members who participate annually in use of force training, there is generally a small percentage, typically in the firearms requalification, that are required to make alternative attempts to achieve the training standard. They are afforded that opportunity to do so as soon as possible, usually the same day. During the reporting period all active-duty members were able to achieve the training standard at first attempt or following remedial opportunities.

STATISTICAL DATA AND ANALYSIS

The data used to prepare this report is compiled from DRP Use of Force Reports submitted to the Ministry in 2024. The Ministry mandated the collection of Race Based Data in 2020, and therefore analysis of these metrics is composed of data from 2020 and 2024.

As of January 1, 2023, the current DRP Use of Force Report was replaced with the new Ministry of the Solicitor General Use of Force Report (DRP92) and now formulates the baseline for statistics moving forward.

The new report captures statistics in the following areas:

- Perceived race of a person by the officer;
- Total number of use of force incidents;
- Breakdown of types of calls for service;
- Injuries to involved persons and officers;
- Number of incidents and types of weapons carried / used by an involved person;
- Officer assignments at time of incident;
- Number of Police present at time of incident; and
- Number of people involved per incident.

It should be noted that multiple categories of the Use of Force report allow for more than one option to be selected; for example, *Type of Incident* and *Type of Force Used*. For this reason, the total of all category entries may exceed the number of actual Use of Force reports.

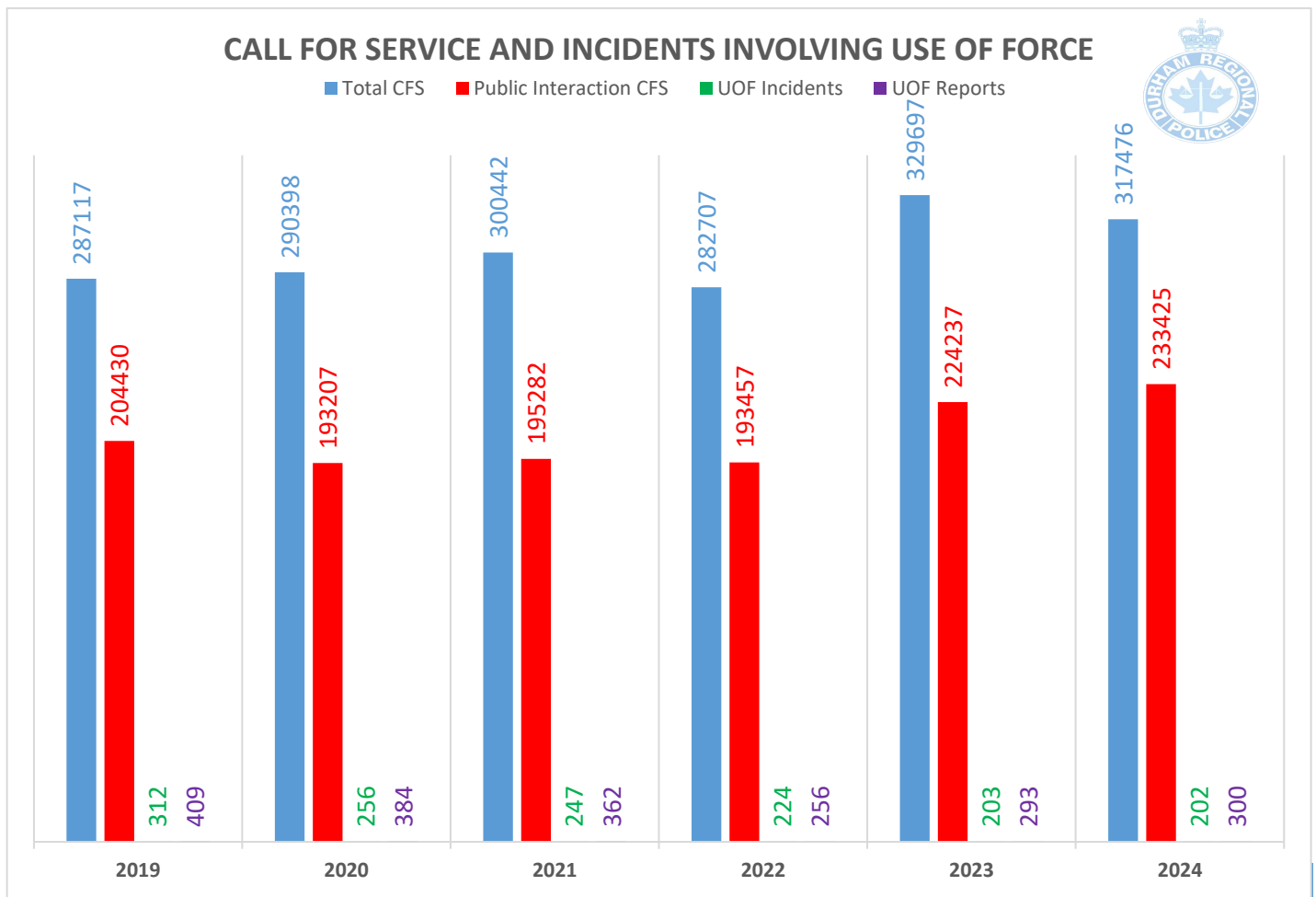
UOF INCIDENTS VS. TOTAL INTERACTIONS – MEASUREMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS

In 2024, members of the Durham Regional Police had **317,476** calls for service. Out of these, **233,425** involved interactions with members of the public. These included traffic stops, citizen-generated calls for service and officer-initiated contacts. Out of the total number of calls for service, **202** individual incidents resulted in police using force, or 0.064% of all calls for service and 0.087% of all police interactions involved mandatory use of force reporting. There was a total of 246 subjects involved in the 202 incidents which resulted in **300** Use of Force Reports being generated by officers. A use of force incident is an occurrence, event or interaction with the public that generates mandatory use of force reporting. A single incident with one subject could generate two or more reports if multiple officers applied force at the same incident. Additionally, an incident that involves multiple subjects could also generate multiple Use of Force Reports. In 2024, Durham Regional Police recorded a 1.00% increase in incidents along with an increase in the number of calls for service that

involved interactions with the public. In 2024, total police interactions increased by 9,188 calls, representing a 4.02% increase from the previous year.

For comparison purposes to the previous year, 329,697 calls for service (224,237 calls for service involving interactions with the public) resulted in 203 individual use of force incidents; or 0.90% of all police interactions involved mandatory use of force reporting within 293 submitted reports. In 2022, 256 Use of Force Reports were generated by police officers. The number of Use of force incidents and reports stayed relatively consistent between 2023 and 2024 but have declined since 2019. One explanation for the decline in the use of force incidents can be attributed to the continued focus on de-escalation training and enhanced intervention strategies when responding to “Person(s) in Crisis” call types.

These statistics continue to speak to the professional, strategic and purposeful manner in which our officers engage the members of our community on a daily basis, as well as their commitment to making the Region of Durham the safest community to live, work and play. It is also a testament to the training provided to our officers and the transferability of our training techniques from the classroom to the street.

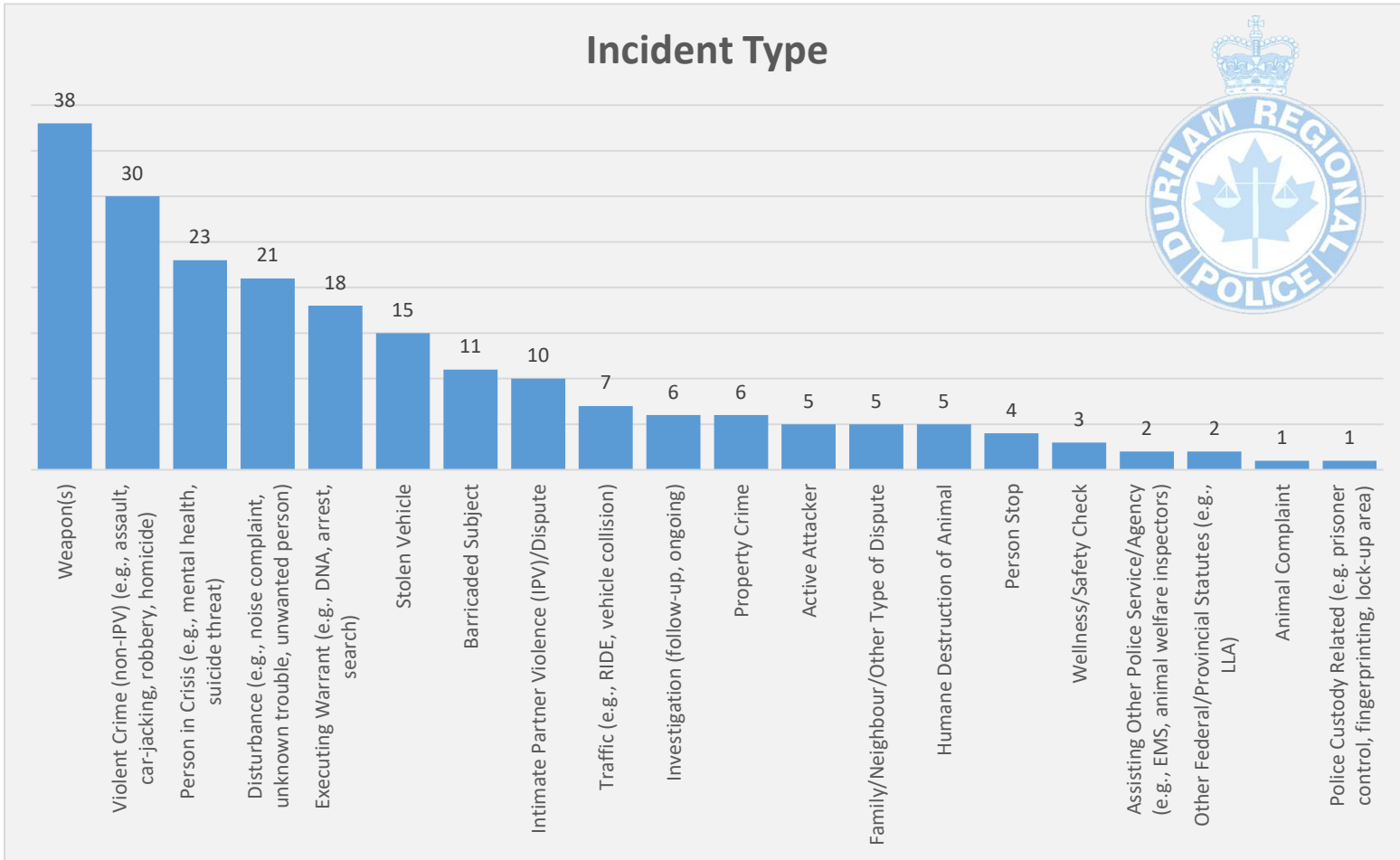




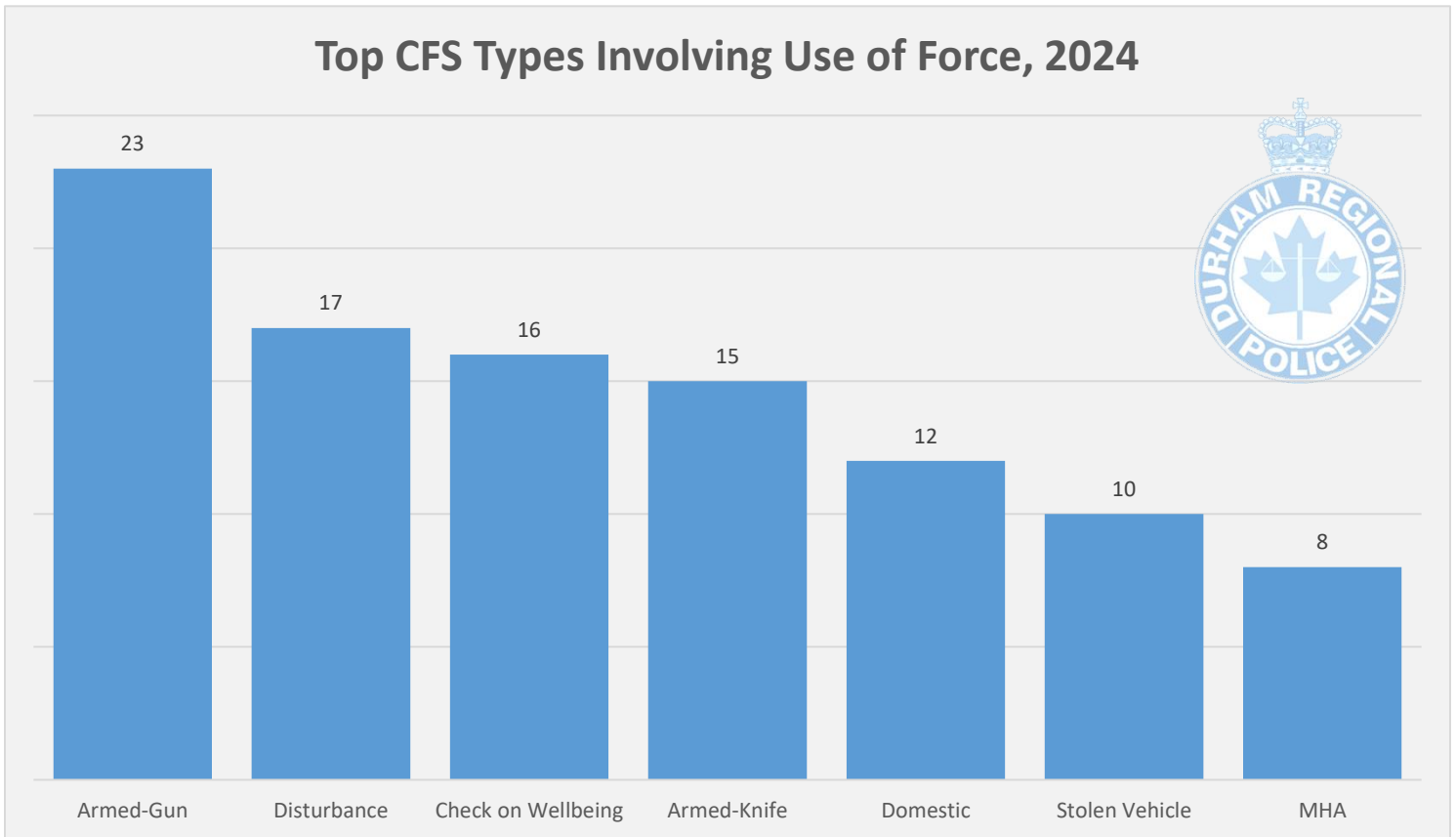
USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS STATISTICS

Quarter	1 st 2022	1 st 2023	1 st 2024	2 nd 2022	2 nd 2023	2 nd 2024	3 rd 2022	3 rd 2023	3 rd 2024	4 th 2022	4 th 2023	4 th 2024	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Number of Incidents	61	52	51	67	65	53	59	46	50	37	40	48	224	203	202
Number of Reports	90	68	75	92	83	77	41	69	72	33	73	76	256	293	300



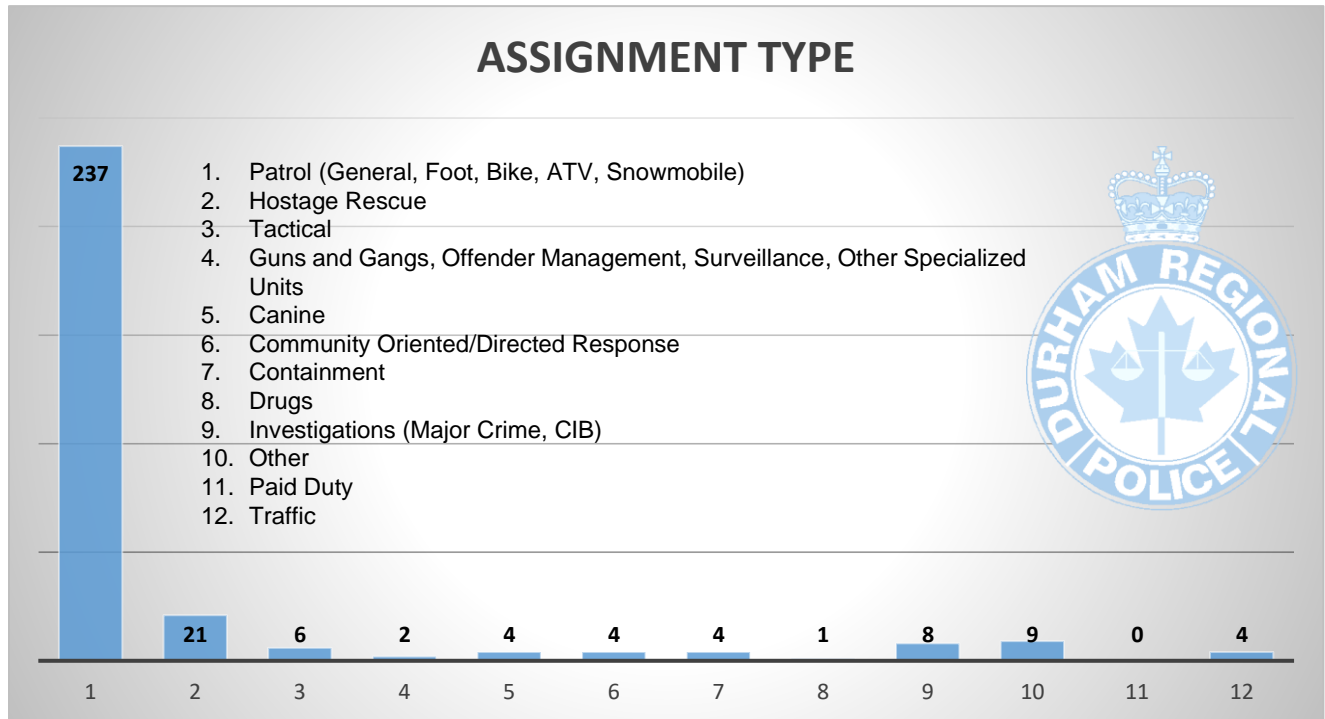


Top CFS Types Involving Use of Force, 2024



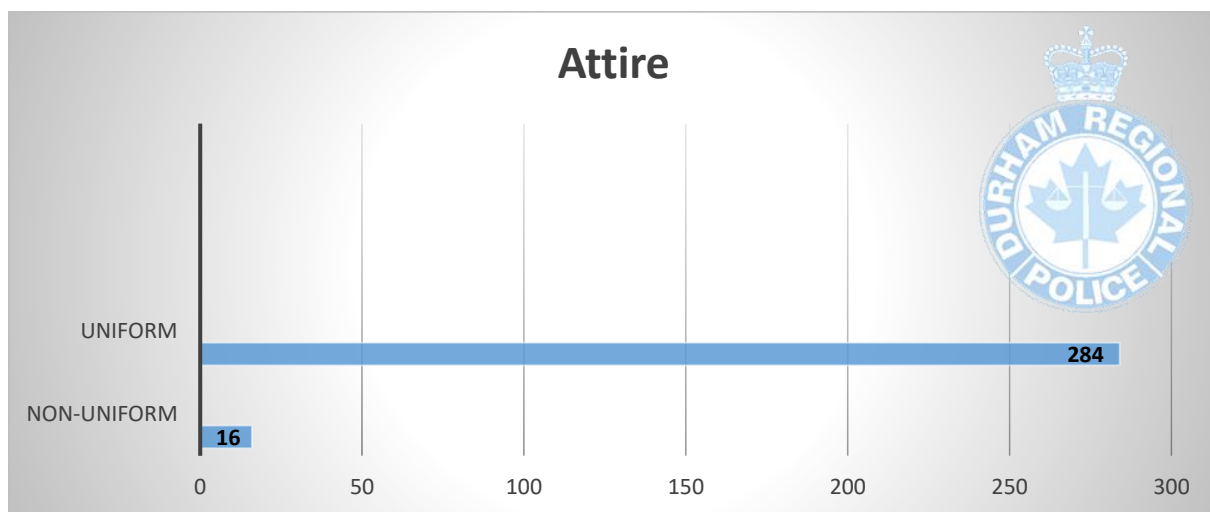
This chart shows a breakdown of the top seven calls for service (CFS) types resulting in officer force deployment – these are consistently the top calls involved in force incidents. The calls were predominantly public-generated and are calls requiring officers to intervene in emotionally charged and/or volatile situations involving persons behaving in an erratic manner that involves or implies violence, typically fuelled by alcohol and/or drugs (e.g., methamphetamine, crack cocaine and opioids).

ASSIGNMENT TYPE



UNIFORM OFFICER VS. PLAIN CLOTHES OFFICERS

In 2024, 94.7% of all Use of Force Reports were submitted by frontline uniformed officers (includes Tactical Support Unit and Regional Support Units). The remaining 5.3% of reports came from Plain Clothes Officers in specialized units. The majority of use of force incidents continue to be encountered by frontline uniformed officers.

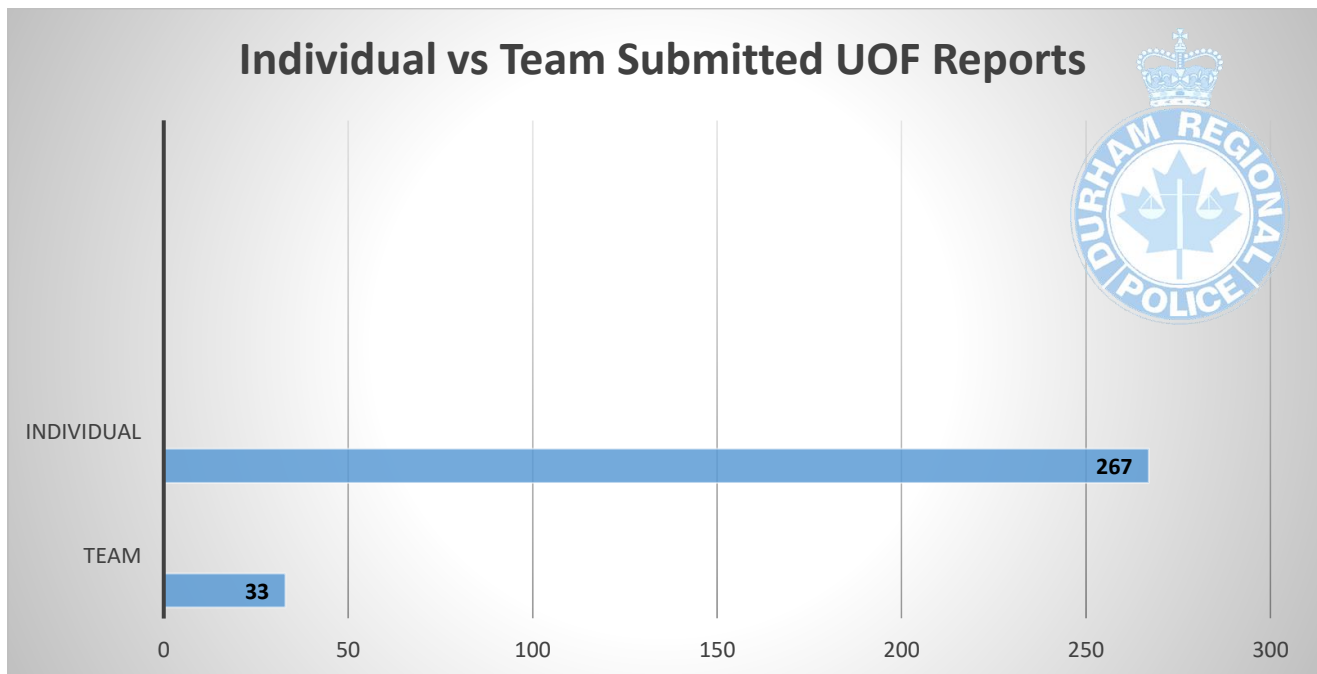


INDIVIDUAL VS. TEAM SUBMITTED REPORTS

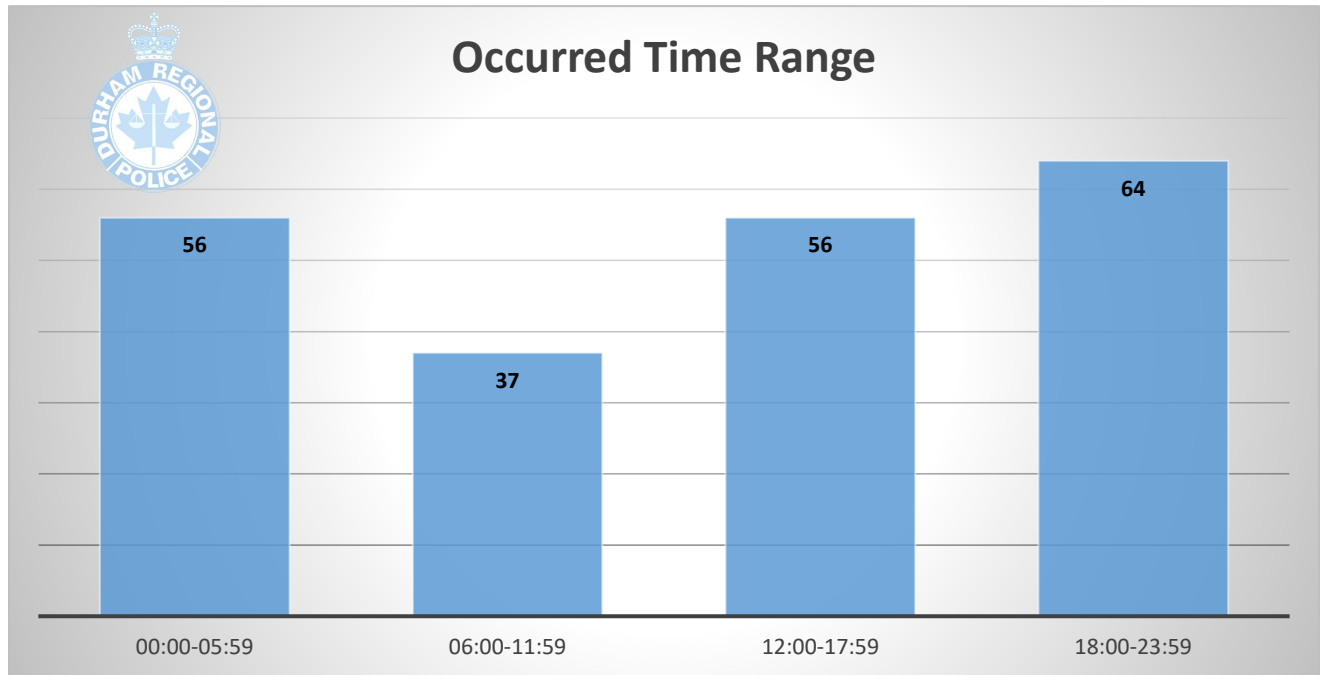
Use of Force Reports are broken into two classifications: Individual Reports and Team Reports. Individual Report refers to the submission of a Use of Force Report by an individual officer and may include reports prepared by an immediate supervisor in cases where the officer is incapable of submitting a report.

Each officer who administers force meeting the CSPA threshold guidelines must submit an individual report, unless they qualify as a member of a team. A *'Team Report'* is completed by a leader of a specialist team, such as the Tactical Support Unit, in place of individual reporting by each member. Therefore, one incident (call for service) can result in multiple Use of Force Reports being submitted. Out of the 300 identified encounters resulting in submission of Use of Force Reports, 33 were Team Reports.

In 2024, 89.0% of police-involved use of force interactions that met the threshold for reporting involved individual officers as opposed to 11.0% that were submitted as a result of a team interaction. In many cases, individual officers would have been in the company of other officers, however, were the only member that used force. Team reports would reflect specialty units, such as the Tactical Support Unit.



NIGHTTIME VS. DAYTIME



In 2024, 56.3% of use of force incidents occurred during the nighttime hours between 6:00pm and 6:00am. This is slightly higher than 2023 where 52.7% of use of force incidents occurred at nighttime.

LOCATION TYPE

Location Type	TOTAL 2024
Residential Building	90
Open Space	74
Non-Residential Building	24
Motor Vehicle	11
Public Transportation	11
Motor Vehicle / Open Space	2
Open Space / Public Transportation	1

In 2024, 42.2% of police interactions requiring use of force occurred exclusively within a residential building (based on 202 interactions identified within the 300 submissions of Use of Force Reports). 34.7% of encounters occurred exclusively in 'open spaces', followed by non-residential buildings (0.8%), and motor vehicles (5.2%).

Residential Building – private dwelling, community-based including shelter or Residential Treatment Centre.

Non-Residential - business premises, police facility, place of worship, public institution

Open Space – park, field, parking lot, driveway, yard, road, and sidewalk

Motor Vehicle – personal vehicle, police vehicle, prisoner transport vehicle

Public Transportation – station, bus, subway, train, streetcar.

REASONS FOR USE OF FORCE

Reasons for Use of Force	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Unintentional	6	1	0
Destroy an Animal	11	4	4
Effect Arrest	183	235	236
Prevent An Offence	89	136	130
Prevent Escape	77	114	99
Protect Public	158	166	155
Protect Self	194	247	247
Protect Other Officers	12	205	219
Protect Subjects		75	73
Other			10

Stats between 2022 and 2023 display large variances due to new reporting structure.

The majority of officers utilized force for the purposes of protecting themselves while effecting arrests. Under the new reporting guidelines, 73 reports (out of the 300) reflected that force was used for the purpose of protecting the involved subject(s). It should be noted that officers are able to fill out multiple reasons for the use of any demonstrated force on the Use of Force Report.

Subject Actions	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Serious Bodily Harm or Death	58	60
Assaultive	29	38
Active Resistance	23	13
Passive Resistance	9	13

Under ‘Subject Actions’, out of the 266 reports involving a subject, 22.6% of officers used force as a result of a subject demonstrating actions that could have resulted in ‘Serious Bodily Harm or Death’, 14.3% of subjects demonstrated ‘Assaultive’ Behavior, 5.8% demonstrated ‘Active Resistant’ behavior, and 5.8% demonstrated ‘Passive Resistant’ behavior.

DE-ESCALATION

Under the provisions of the Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid (2023), members are trained in the use of verbal and non-verbal strategies intended to prevent conflict or reduce the intensity of a situation without the application of force and, if force is necessary, reducing the amount of force if viable.

Officer Issued Directions to Comply	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Yes	252	237
No	25	30

Out of 266 reports involving a subject, officers issued directions to comply 237 times (89.1%) and did not 29 identified times. Out of 239 incidents that identified whether subject compliance was met or not, 157 reports (66%) stated that the subject complied (66%), while 82 reports did not.

Officer Attempted De-escalation	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Yes	201	180
No	75	86

In 2024, 67.7% of officers attempted de-escalation of the subject during the incident, while 32.3% did not. With regard to why de-escalation was not attempted, 51.2% (43) reported that there was an 'Imminent Threat', 31.0% (26) indicated that 'Action Was Required Immediately', and the remaining 17.9% (15) reported that de-escalation was achieved by presence of other officers.

De-escalation Techniques Employed	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Communication	196	174
Teamwork	141	108
Distance	111	75
Use of Cover	95	48
Containment	85	60
Repositioning	78	50
Time	77	-
Other	3	1

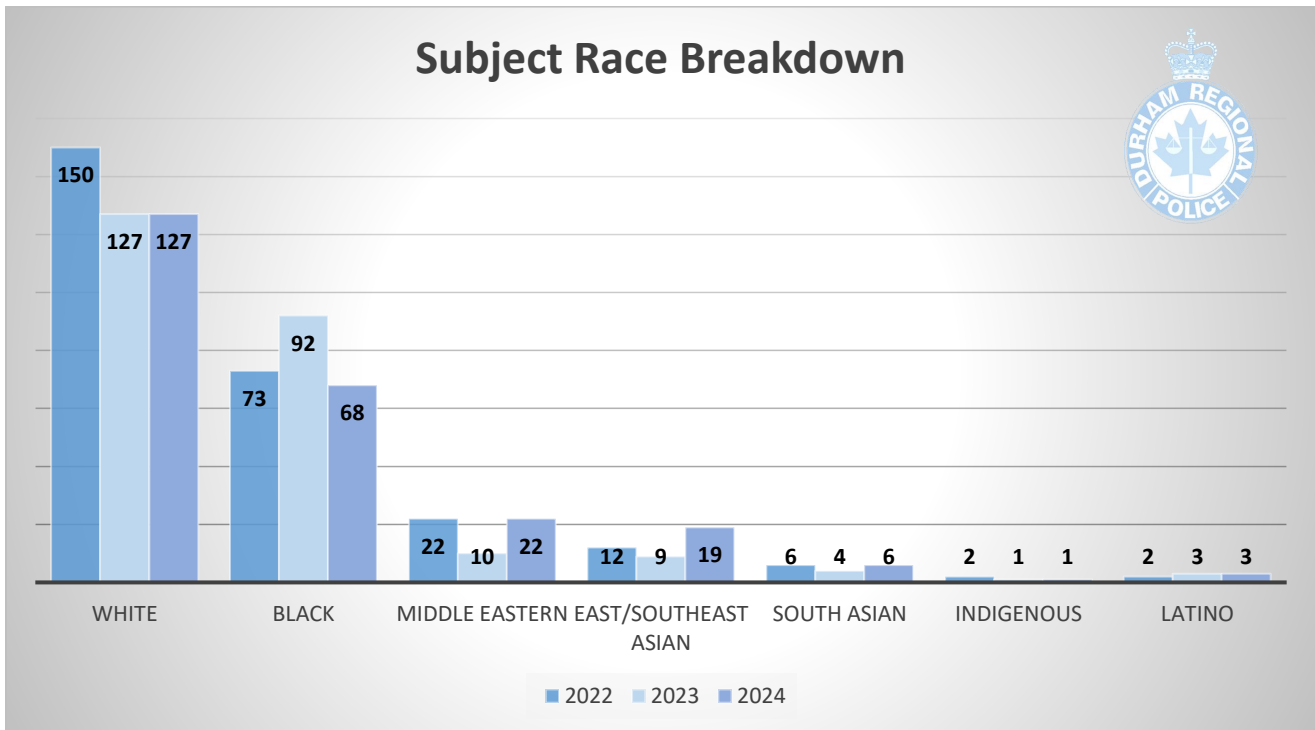
Under the cognitive process applied by officers to circumstances related to the subject situation and impacted by perceived/actual risk, officers utilised a variety of different methods and strategies to de-escalate the encounters and situations they became involved in. Officers can utilise numerous strategies during a singular incident. The most commonly used strategy was the officer's ability to communicate as per their applicable training (First Contact Approach, Relational Approach, Directive Approach, or Consistent Verbal/Non-Verbal Approach).

PERCEIVED SUBJECT RACE

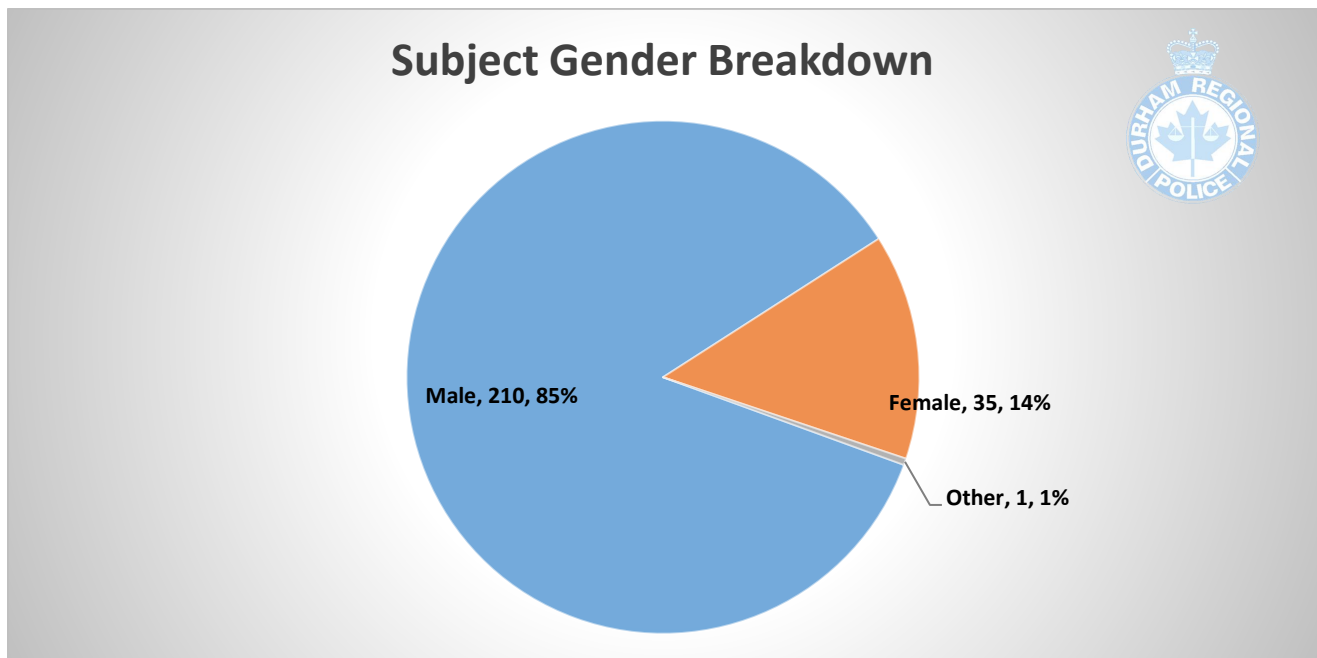
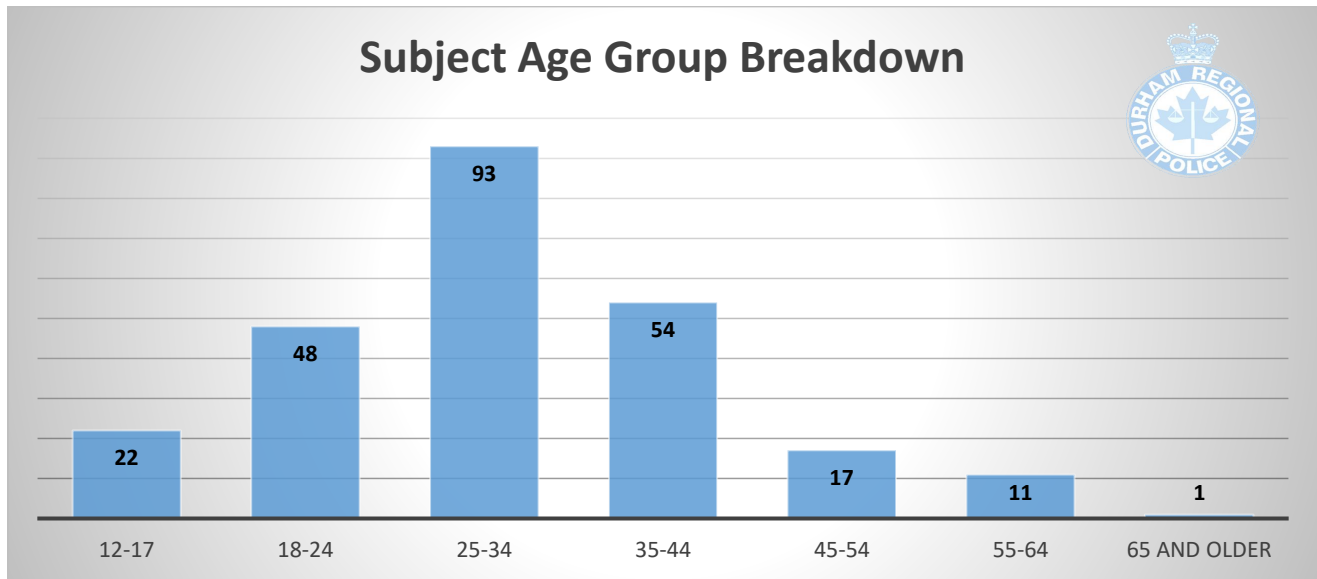
In 2020, the Ministry of The Solicitor General implemented a new use of force report. The goal was to capture statistics on use of force across the province through electronic submission of the use of force reports.

One of the changes to the report was an identified need to capture statistics regarding race involved in use of force encounters. The statistics are based on the "perceived subject race", from the officer's observations. The following were identified by the Ministry as the race categories: Black, East/Southeast Asian, Indigenous, Latino, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and White.

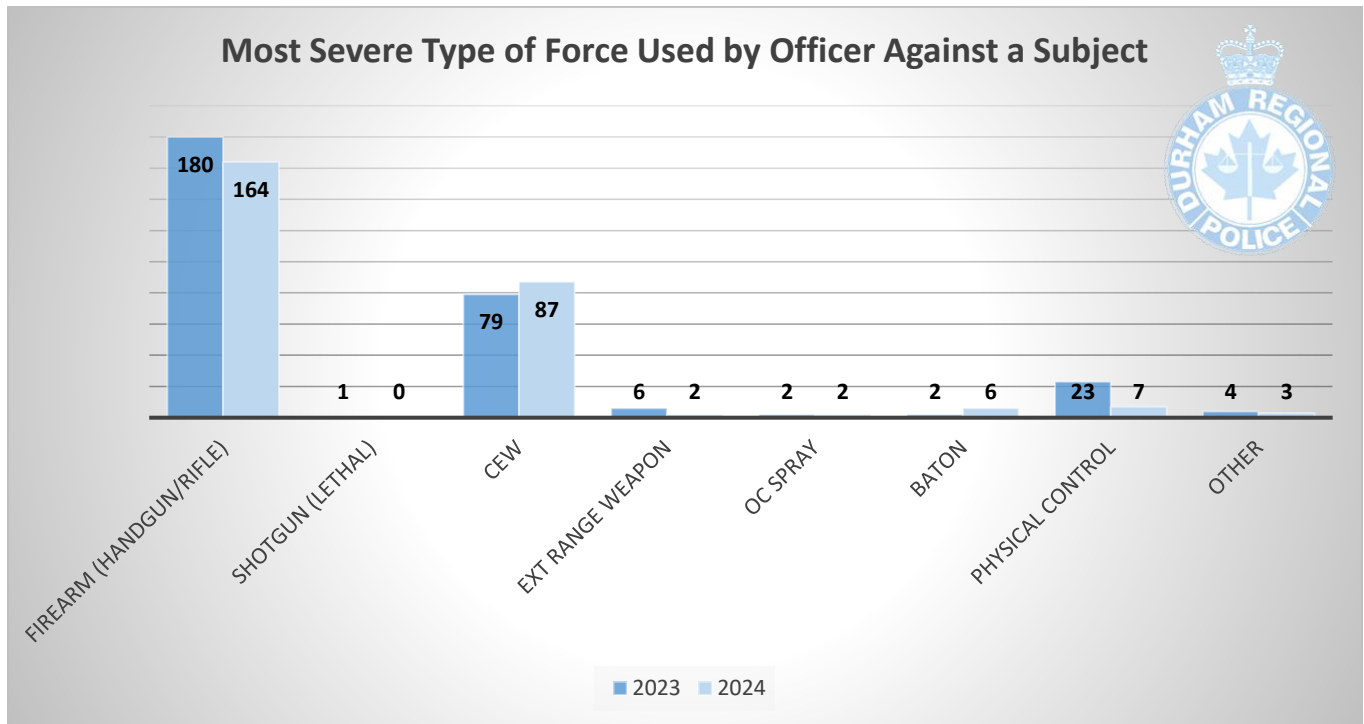
In 2024, Durham Regional Police officers encountered 246 subjects in 186 reported incidents of use of force. The following charts reflect the findings of the data for the 2024 reports.



SUBJECT AGE GROUP BREAKDOWN



TYPE OF FORCE USED (SUBJECT ENCOUNTER)

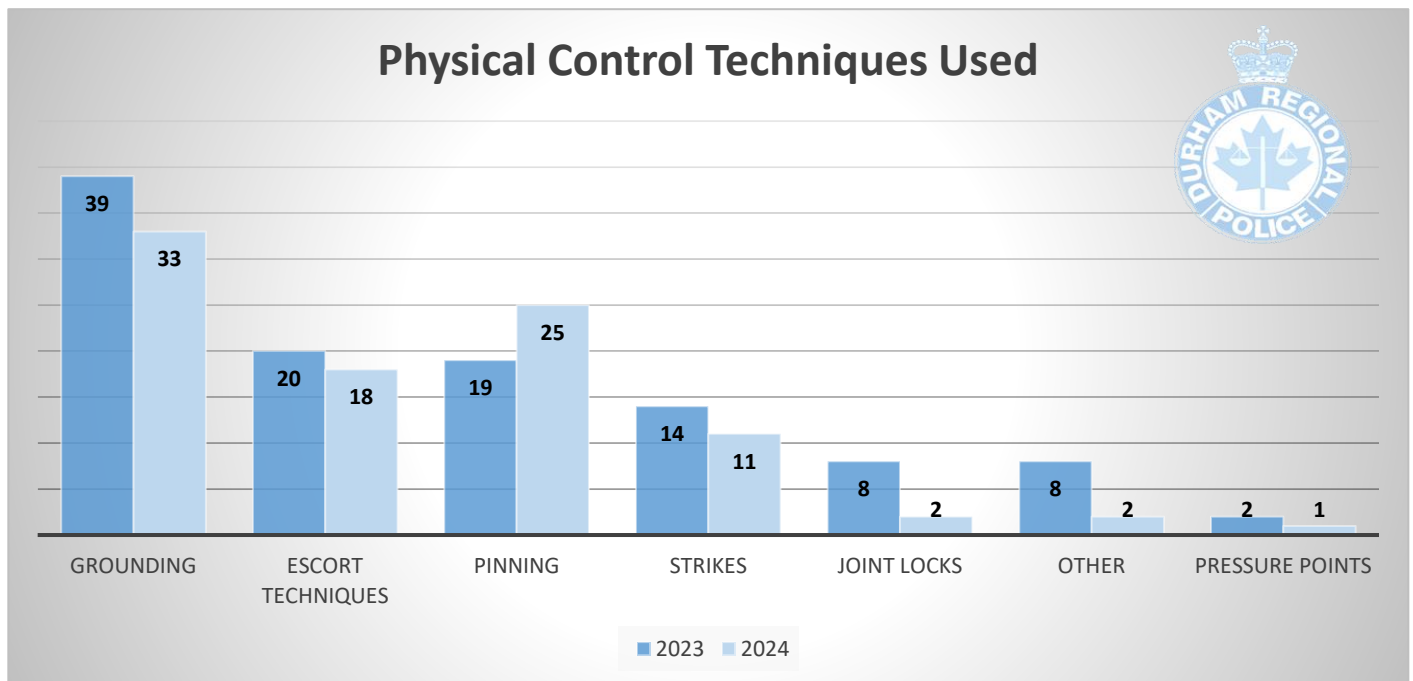


The most severe type of force officers used against was extrapolated from the total number of UOF reports that reported utilisation of the noted use of force options against a subject. A firearm was displayed or pointed in 60.5% of subject interactions, CEW (Taser) was utilised in 32.1% of interactions, physical control techniques were employed in 2.6% of interactions. Baton (2.2%), extended range weapons (ARWEN and less-lethal options; 0.73%), and OC (0.73%) accounted for the most underutilised options that officers employed. Officers may have opted to transition between a variety of use of force methods. The **above graph displays only the most severe form of force** that the officer opted to use against a subject. **The following sections describe any form of force use**, which explains why the totals below may not sum to the frequencies described above.

PHYSICAL CONTROL TECHNIQUES

The use of 'Physical Control Techniques' can be broken down into soft and hard techniques. Soft techniques are used to control a subject who exhibits behaviour ranging from passive resistant to serious bodily harm or death. They include techniques such as joint locks and manipulation, restraint techniques during handcuffing, and grounding techniques that are used to bring a subject to the ground. Hard techniques are those that involve striking a subject and can include punches, kicks, elbows, and knee strikes. The goal in using these and other use of force options is always to stop a threat or potential threat as quickly as possible with minimal injury to all involved parties.

The use of physical control techniques alone in the absence of a subject injury or other use of force option do not require a Use of Force Report to be submitted.



In 2024, officers reported 92 instances of using physical force to control subjects, of which multiple could occur during a single interaction. Physical "hard" techniques were utilized in 69 instances (75.0%). Physical "soft" techniques accounted for the remaining 23 usages (25.0%). Of those who responded, 45 reports (81.8%) indicated that this method did assist in controlling the subject's behaviour, while 10 reports (18.2%) indicated it did not.

AEROSOL WEAPON

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray has been an approved use of force option of the Durham Regional Police Service since 1994. OC spray is 100% organically based and is classified as an inflammatory agent designed to psychologically and physically impair a subject with no long-lasting effects. The degree of effectiveness varies greatly and ranges from mild discomfort to total incapacitation. These factors are dependent on the subject's mindset and physical condition.

Factors such as intoxication by alcohol or drugs, excited delirium or mental health illness may also reduce its effectiveness. Police officers using OC spray also have to be aware of cross-contamination (officers being affected by the OC back-spray), de-contamination (the need to flush the affected areas of the subject), and the ability of a subject to overcome the effects if they close or cover their eyes to decrease exposure.

In 2024, there were 4 reported deployments of OC spray by police officers in the course of their duties, which were reported to be 75% effective. In 2023 OC was used 2 times with 50% effectiveness.

IMPACT WEAPON

The Impact Weapon, or ASP baton, may be used when a subject displays a minimum of assaultive behaviour. Sworn officers are issued with an expandable metal baton. These tools are used to strike major muscle groups, where large bundles of nerves respond by causing temporary muscle dysfunction. This eliminates or reduces a subject's ability to use their hands and feet in an assaultive manner. The pain that results will also assist in achieving compliance. When a subject is holding onto an object to resist, the Impact Weapon may be used to pry the subject loose. This is referred to as a soft application.

In 2024, the Impact Weapon was used 5 times in a soft application, and 2 times in a hard application. It was effective each time. For comparison purposes, there were 2 uses of the Impact Weapon in 2023. It is anticipated that the Impact Weapon usage will remain low as other options, such as the CEW, are proving to be more effective.

CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPON (CEW)

In 2015, all front-line police officers within the Service received CEW training to be able to carry the CEW as a use of force option. CEW's are intended for use on subjects exhibiting behaviour that ranges from Assaultive to Serious Bodily Harm or Death. The CEW may also be used when taking into account the totality of circumstances, the officer believes there is an imminent need to control a subject.

The CEW can be used in three different ways as well as one alternative way (should it fail):

1. Drawn and Displayed with the Intention of Achieving Compliance

The CEW is drawn in the presence of a subject and is either sparked or the laser light is pointed at them. This type of application can be used towards subjects exhibiting resistant behaviour. This is utilized in attempts to gain subject compliance and de-escalate situations.

2. Pointed

The CEW is drawn and pointed at the subject with the intention of discharging the probes, however the subject complies with the directions provided before the CEW is discharged.

3. Discharged - Dart Probe

The CEW utilizes a cartridge that contains 2 probes. When fired, the 2 probes travel to the intended target, tethered by 2 insulated wires designed to deliver an electrical charge that affects both the sensory and motor neurons of the central nervous system. This type of deployment is very effective resulting in neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI). A larger probe spread will often result in greater effectiveness. A failed deployment may be the result of one or more probes missing the target, thick or heavy clothing, small probe spread or device malfunction.

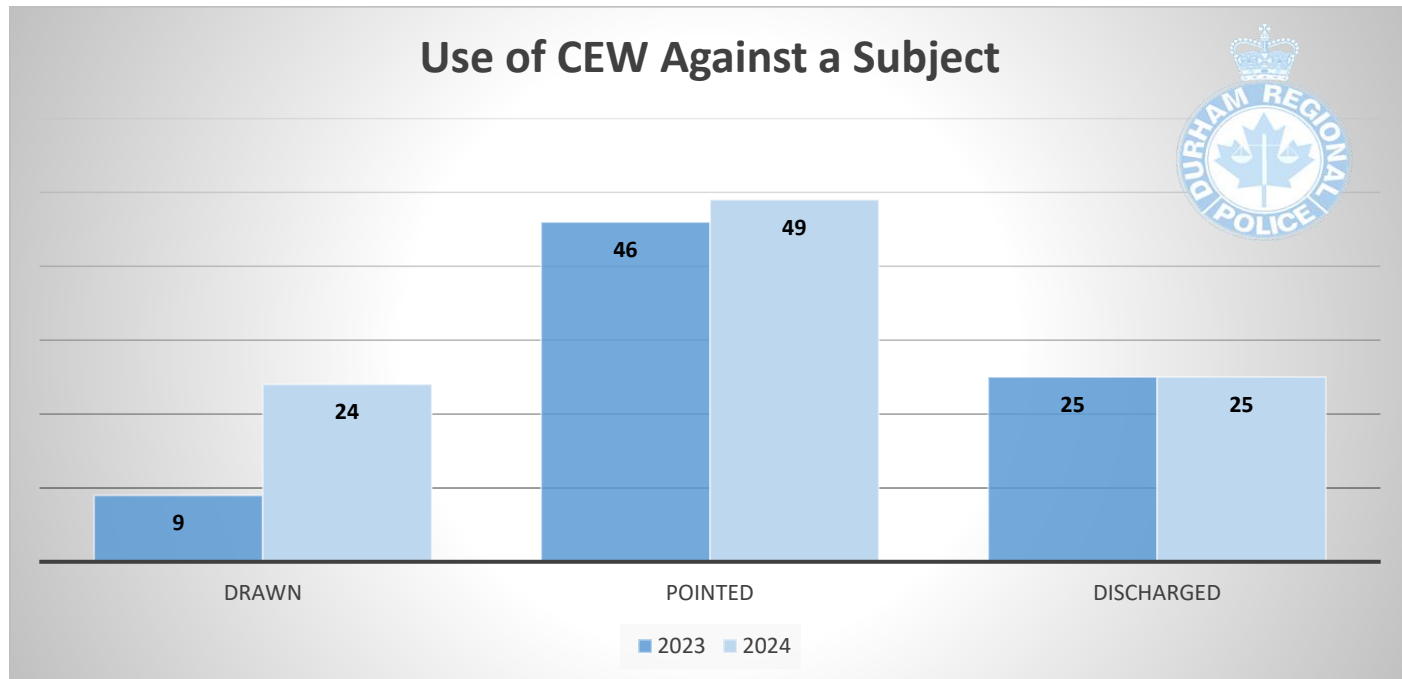
Drive-Stun – Alternative Method if Initial Discharge Fails

The drive-stun involves direct contact between the CEW and subject. Due to the short distance between the contacts on the CEW, the drive-stun relies primarily on pain compliance as it only targets the sensory neurons. As with any technique that relies on pain compliance, the drive-stun may be ineffective on subjects that are intoxicated by drugs or alcohol, emotionally disturbed, suffering from excited delirium, or simply impervious to pain.

Annual CEW In-Service Training incorporates enhanced academic and practical scenario training supplemented by material from the Ontario Police College and Master CEW working committee. Training also addresses common and uncommon deployment issues identified in CEW reports.

CEW Usage

In 2024, the CEW was discharged 25 times in relation to 98 highlighted instances where a CEW was identified as the Intermediate Weapon utilised against a subject. This is consistent with 2023, where the CEW was also discharged 25 times. The statistics show that in the majority of incidents, subjects comply when the CEW has been drawn and displayed with the intention of achieving compliance, and/or pointed at the subject.



Police officers continue to undergo training in the utilization of the Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW), which is recognized as an effective, less-lethal use of force option. The presence and display of the CEW have demonstrated efficacy in de-escalating high-risk situations. In 2024, officers reported 98 instances where a CEW was reported as a use of force option against a subject. Of the 98 instances, 73 were deployed in a demonstrative mode (drawn or pointed), meaning it was displayed to the subject.

Separately, there were 2 cases where a CEW was deployed to protect the officer/other officers. Of the 27 instances of CEW usage (whether against a subject or animal), 19 were deployed in probe mode, 5 in drive-stun mode, and 3 in 3-point contact.

FIREARM

In 2024, there were 142 Use of Force report submissions (54.4% of reports involving subjects) where police officers drew their handgun at a subject during the course of their duties. The reporting criteria in these instances require a police officer to submit a Use of Force report when a handgun is drawn in the presence of the public.

Police officers reported 110 instances where a handgun was pointed at a subject, 32 where it was exclusively drawn, and zero where it was discharged at a subject. The drawing and/or pointing of a handgun in 142 reports indicate that it did assist in controlling of the subject's behaviour in 123 instances (86.7% of handgun displayed instances), and in 19 cases, it did not.

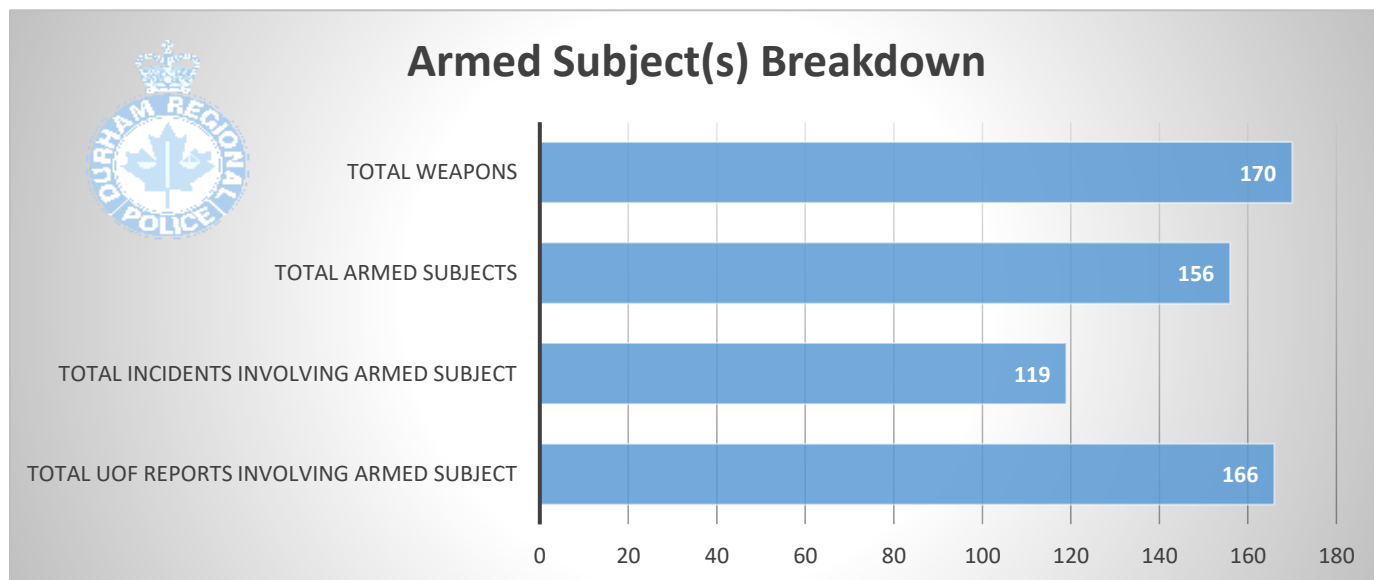
There were 41 instances in which officers pointed a patrol rifle at a subject, and zero in which an officer pointed a shotgun during the course of their duties. The pointing of the patrol rifle did assist in controlling the subject's behaviour in 38 instances or 92.7% of the time.

Note that 19 uses of the handgun and the rifle were reported by the same officer. This indicates that among the 164 uses of a firearm in 2024, 123 involved exclusive use of the handgun, 22 involved exclusive use of the rifle, and 19 instances involved either transitioning from the rifle to the handgun, or vice versa throughout the incident.

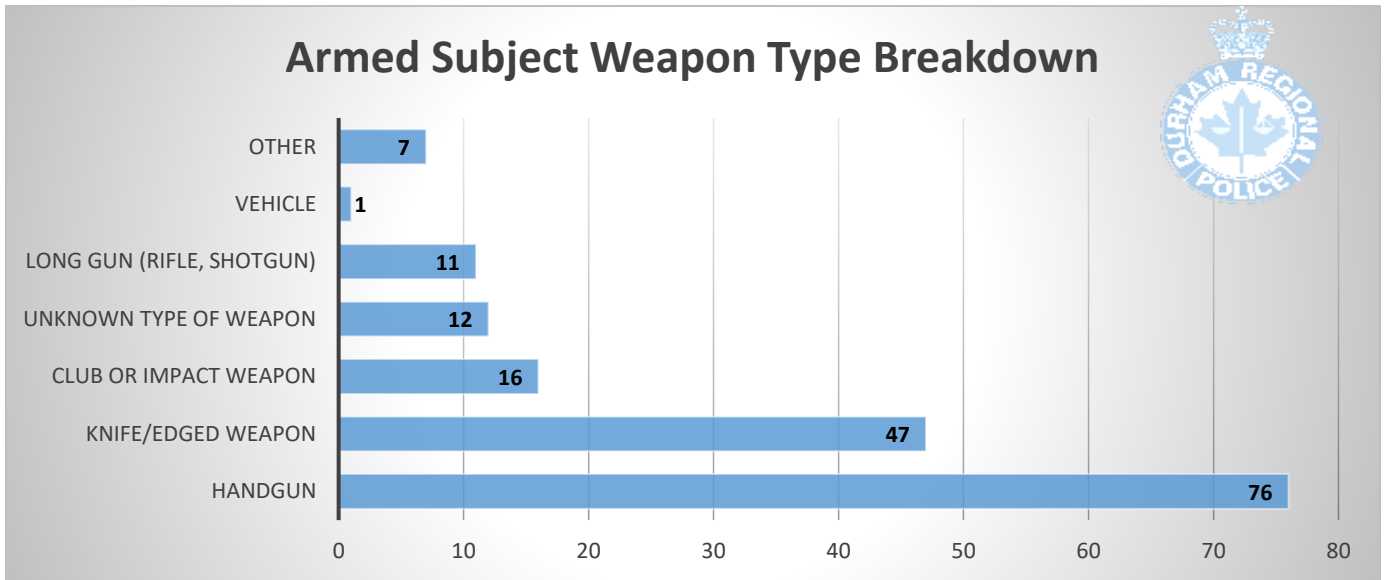
Separately, there were 4 occurrences of police officers discharging their firearm in 2024. All 4 of those reported incidents involved police officers discharging their firearm to end the suffering of a critically wounded animal. In addition, there were 22 reports of a handgun being drawn in instances where there was no interaction with the subject.

ARMED SUBJECT BREAKDOWN

Use of Force reporting captures data concerning weapon use by subjects during interactions with police officers when force is used.



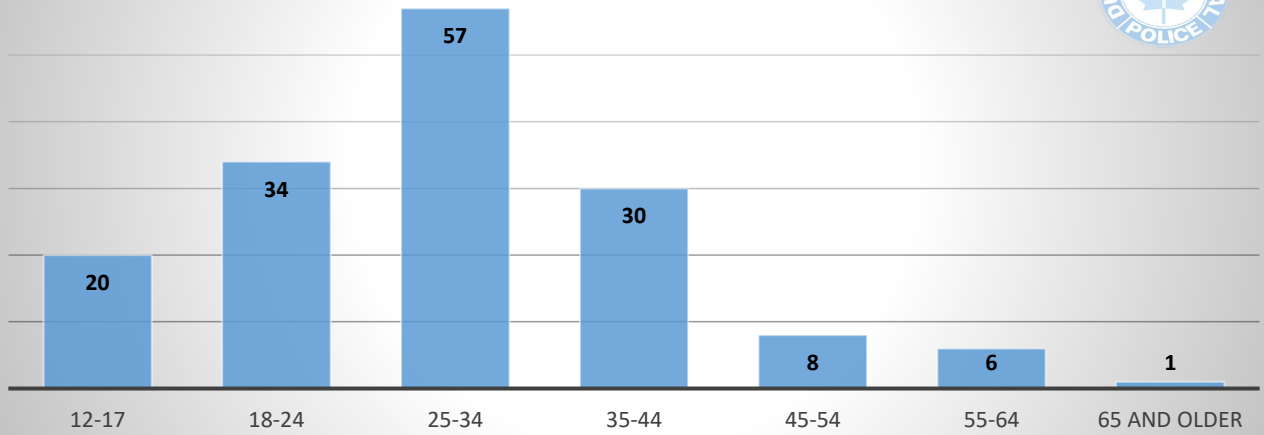
2024 identified 166 Use of Force reports that indicated the involvement of an 'Armed Subject' during 119 incidents. Out of these incidents, a total of 156 armed subjects were identified, and a further 170 weapons were involved.



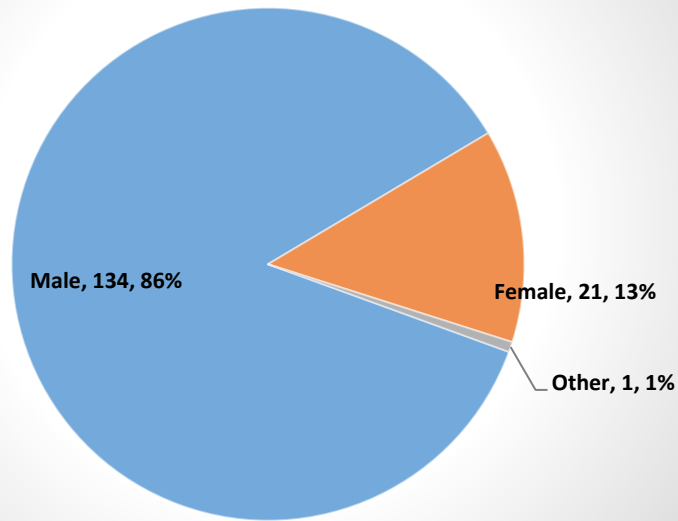
Across all weapons that were identified that preceded the use of force incident, 76 (44.7%) were handguns, 47 (27.7%) were knife/edged weapons, 16 (9.4%) were club or impact weapons, 12 (7.1%) were unknown at the time, 11 (6.5%) were long guns (rifles/shotguns), 1 was a vehicle (0.6%), and 7 (4.1%) were some other type of weapon.

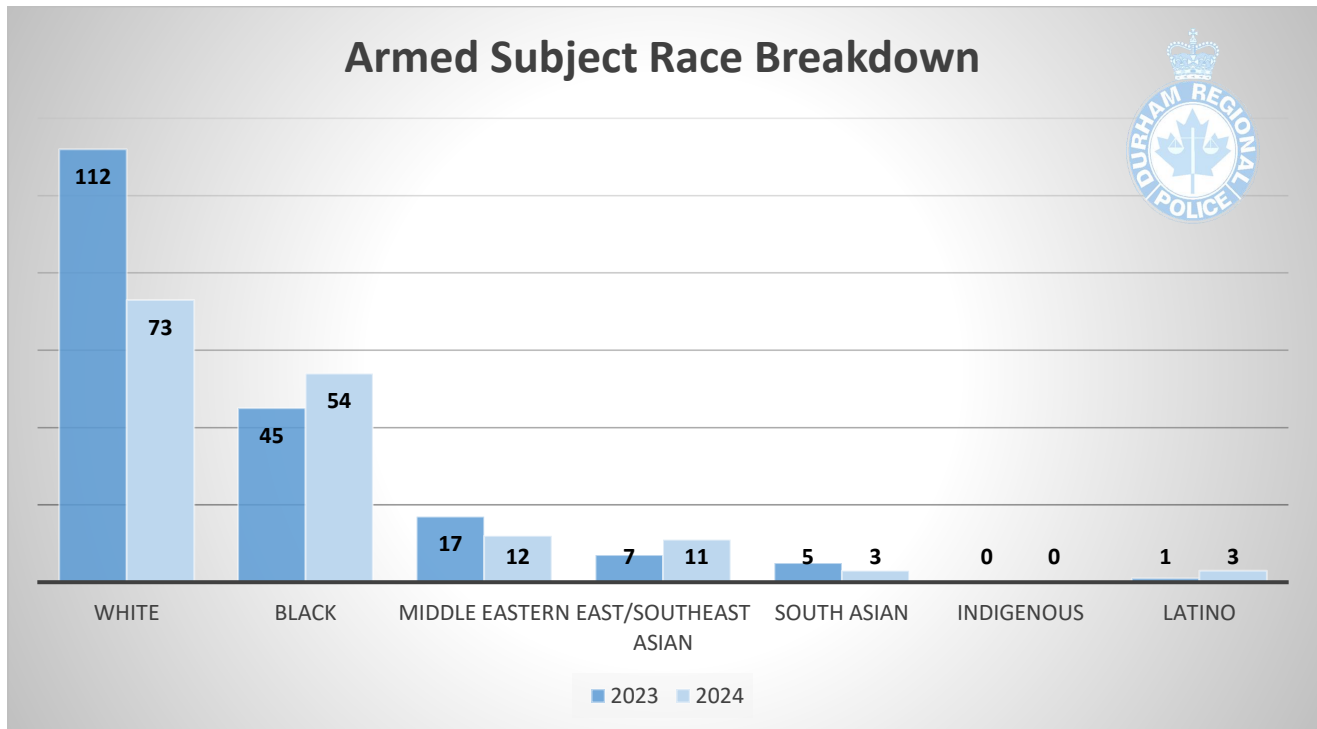
Out of these incidents and interactions, officers identified that 39.4% of weapons were on the person (or concealed), 36.9% were accessible (e.g., within reach), and 24.1% were in the subject's hand.

Armed Subject Age Group Breakdown



Armed Subject Gender Breakdown





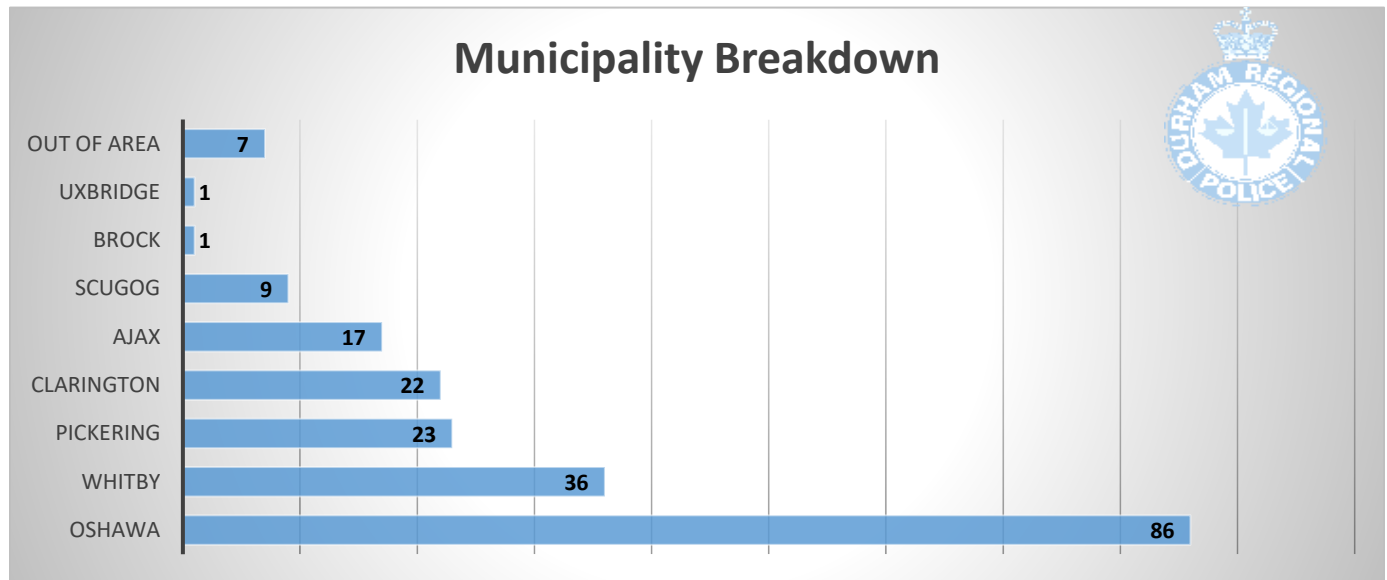
In many of the calls for service, police officers received information that a subject was armed and were able to plan and act accordingly to diffuse the situation safely, however, police officers also responded to many incidents with limited information, only to encounter an armed subject on arrival. For these reasons, police officers always need to remain vigilant and cautious, for their own safety and the safety of others, during any community interaction.

The number of armed subjects police officers encountered in 2024 declined from 2023. In 2023, there were 189 reports from 130 incidents that involved 181 subjects armed with 189 weapons. In 2024, there were 166 reports from 119 incidents that involved 156 subjects armed with 170 weapons.

One trend that remains constant is the encounter of armed subjects at mental health related calls. 23 Use of Force reports were submitted in relation to mental health calls in 2023. But for 2024, 17 UOF incidents had a final call type 'Check on Wellbeing', 11 had 'MHA', and 3 had 'Suicide Attempt/Threat'. These incidents are particularly challenging in that police are tasked with trying to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation while trying to extend help to a person in crisis. De-escalation tactics have varied effectiveness depending on the situation, but they do not eliminate the use of force when it is justified and necessary. Annual In-Service Training has evolved to address

these concerns and incorporates specific use of force skills training as well as judgment and de-escalation scenarios to deal with the increasing number of mental health calls for service.

BREAKDOWN OF INCIDENTS BY MUNICIPALITY



Based on the 202 total incidents, 42.6% of those incidents occurred in Oshawa, followed by Whitby with 17.8%, Pickering with 11.4%, Clarington with 10.9%, Ajax with 8.4%, and areas policed by North Division with 5.4%.

OFFICER INJURIES

In 2024, there were 10 incidents where officers were injured in use of force interactions with subjects. Out of those 10 incidents, 16 officers in total were injured. This accounts for 4.95% of total interactions with the public in which force was used where an officer was injured.

Officer Injury Treatment	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Total Officers Injured	20	16
Medical Attention by Personnel at Scene	3	0
Medical Attention at Medical Facility	7	5
No Treatment Required/Unknown	10	11

Officers injuries were minor in nature and officers were able to return to work.cy

SUBJECT INJURIES

In 2024, there were 19 incidents where subjects were injured in use of force interactions with police. Out of those 19 incidents, 19 subjects in total were injured. This accounts for 10.50% of total use of force incidents where a subject was involved (186).

Subject Injury Treatment	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2024
Total Subject Injuries	19	19
Medical Attention by Personnel at Scene	3	4
Medical Attention at Medical Facility	9	10
No Treatment Required/Unknown	6	5

POLICE SERVICE DOGS

Police Service Dogs play a vital role in police operations, offering support in various tasks, including tracking, searches, and apprehensions. In 2024, there were 3 incidents involving police dog bites during suspect apprehensions. Despite their deployment for multiple purposes, incidents resulting in dog bites or damaged suspect clothing remain infrequent, representing 1.5% of all reported use of force incidents in 2024.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

In 2024, The Education and Training Centre - Use of Force Unit was staffed by one Sergeant and ten Constables. In 2024, the Sergeant role was executed by the full-time sergeant as assigned, augmented with an acting sergeant to support operations in the absence of the confirmed Sergeant. The unit received a much-needed expansion leading into 2025.

All DRP 'Use of Force Instructors' are certified by the Ontario Police College and Ministry. Their responsibilities include the ongoing evaluation of training techniques, qualification, and re-qualification on all approved force options by all members, safety principles, lesson-planning and delivering constructive feedback for learners.

The unit stays current on contemporary trends in policing, analyzes internal statistical data, consults external agencies for best practices and reviews legal decisions relating to the application of force; all information and factors are assessed yearly during the process of developing block training, while concurrently comparing the curriculum to current objectives and standards as was set out by the Policing Standards Manual, and now CSPA, and the academic direction of the Education and Training Centre. New updates that address changes to Ministry Standards are immediately incorporated.

Use of Force Reports are analyzed by the unit for compliance, content completeness, and for legal and curriculum review purposes within the Education and Training Centre. Once approved, they are electronically submitted to the Ministry for review. These statistics are captured on both a quarterly and annual basis and serve to assist the unit in directing required training based on analytics and trends.

The design and delivery of any new Use of Force training is subject to an internal review on an annual basis. In identifying trends, the objective is to provide officers with the knowledge, skills and abilities to appropriately deal with situations they may encounter during the course of their duties, with a focus on a peaceful resolution. (*Broadest Policy Provision - 5.*)

LOCAL IMPACT

This report is intended to give a better understanding to the community we serve to illustrate what constitutes the reporting of the use of force, the trends that affect police decision making in relation to using force, understanding the legal requirements; and what training is undertaken by Durham Regional Police to ensure that our interactions with the community is grounded in principles to resolve matters as peacefully as possible under the circumstances.

CONCLUSION

The data presented in this report offers a comprehensive overview of use of force incidents and the type of force used by DRP officers in 2024. It emphasises the multifaceted nature of police interactions and the dynamic challenges faced by police officers in maintaining public safety while adhering to legal and ethical standards.

This report displays Durham Regional Police's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in our policing practices. Durham Regional Police has become a leader in collaborating with the Ministry of the Solicitor General to improve upon the validity of data utilized to build this report. By leveraging data-driven insights and prioritizing community engagement, we remain committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity, focusing on equitable practices, eliminating bias, and focusing on de-escalation.

Durham Regional Police is in compliance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act*, Durham Regional Police Use of Force Directive LT-05-002 and the *Anti-Racism Act*.



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