



WATERLOO REGIONAL
POLICE SERVICES
BOARD

Report: 2024-043

Subject: 2023 Quarterly Use of Force Statistical Report – Q4 and Annual Summary

From: Professional Development and Respect in the Workplace Division
Training and Education Branch

To: The Chair and Members of the Waterloo Regional Police Services Board

Date: February 21st, 2024

Recommendation

For information only.

Summary

This report provides a statistical summary of interactions with Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) officers and the public where intervention with an individual or individuals met the requirements for the completion of a “Use of Force Report” by regulation or procedure. This report presents the Q4 2023 Use of Force incidents. To align Use of Force reporting with WRPS’s Race-Based Data Collection Strategy (RBDCS), race will be centered in the analyses related to the annual data.

Reporting requirements are outlined in the Police Services Act (PSA), Reg. 926. Additional requirements have been introduced by the Ministry of the Solicitor General on January 1, 2023 when the Modernized Use of Force Report was released. WRPS meets and significantly expands upon reporting requirements in its Use of Force Procedure, criteria for both are set out in Appendix A. This is done in an effort to better capture incidents in which intervention techniques were required in order to evaluate these incidents and determine if there is need for further individual or Service-wide training. The combined total of incidents for which a report is required is herein referred to as “reportable incidents”.

A reportable incident may generate several Modernized Use of Force Reports as multiple officers respond, and any officer that uses force must file a report. Further, as officers transition from one use of force option to another in response to changes in a subjects profiled behaviour this will further generate an additional use of force ‘report’ (e.g., transition from a firearm to a CEW will result in a firearms ‘report’ and a CEW ‘report’ being generated for this incident). However, in the case of firearms and CEWs, if a firearm or CEW (e.g., pistol) is drawn and then pointed at a Subject of interest, only

one Modernized Use of Force Report will be created, labeled as “Firearm/CEW Pointed”. Modernized reporting now requires officers to submit an individual report when use of force options are discharged or when use of force results in an injury within a team response. Appendix C contains a summary of all incidents which necessitated a Modernized Use of Force report including those where a subject was not located. In these cases, where subject race may still be identified through Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) information, from callers, or from information stored within a police data base (Niche).

Overview of Q4 Use of Force Incidents

During the fourth quarter of 2023, including incidents involving the humane dispatch of animals, 99 reportable incidents occurred which resulted in 174 Use of Force Reports. For this report, data was pulled on January 23rd, 2024. Any Modernized Use of Force reports approved and filed for Q4 after this date were not included in this report.

Each report was reviewed and the actions of the reporting officer were analyzed by the platoon Staff Sergeant, the Divisional or Branch/Unit Inspector, and then members of the Training and Education Branch. From this review, officers were found to be utilizing good judgment and de-escalation techniques when required and intervention methods were found to be in compliance with regulation and procedure.

There were 84,775 police occurrences and 3,733 arrests during the fourth quarter. This is a significant decrease from Q2 and Q3, where there were 101,108 and 97,431 occurrences respectively. However, this number is similar to the number of occurrences in Q1, and the number of occurrences reported quarterly in 2022. While the number of occurrences dropped from Q3 to Q4, there was an increase in the number of Reportable Use of Force Incidents (91 in Q3 vs. 99 in Q4) and Modernized Use of Force Reports (154 in Q3 vs. 174 in Q4). Regardless of these changes, the proportion of occurrences involving use of force did not change: in Q4, as with all other quarters in 2023, force options were employed in 0.1% of all police occurrences.

Officers discharged their firearms twice in Q4 2023. In both cases, subjects were transported to the hospital immediately afterward. There were no fatalities. These were the only two major injuries in Q4. There were an additional 4 minor injuries sustained by subjects, as well as one minor injury sustained by an officer.

The Training and Education Branch will continue to monitor submissions of Use of Force Reports to ensure the accuracy of our statistics. De-escalation training will remain a cornerstone feature of our intervention training.

Report

1. Police Response

Officer intervention is governed in the Province of Ontario by the **Ontario Use of Force Model (2004)**¹. Appendix B provides a copy of the Model and some discussion. This model is the foundation of intervention training provided to officers and officers are tested on it annually. While this model is referred to as the **Use of Force Model**, it governs all interventions with members of our community and includes officer responses which are present in all interactions, specifically Officer Presence and Communication. These elements form the foundation of de-escalation.

While de-escalation has been the cornerstone for police interaction for some time, the WRPS has increased the ongoing emphasis on this element in annual In-Service Training and associated intervention scenarios.

¹ In 2023, a new Use of Force model was approved titled the **Ontario Public-Police Interaction Training Aid**. This model has an increased emphasis on de-escalation and conflict prevention. By the end of 2024, all officers at WRPS will have been trained on the new model.

Table 1. Summary of 2023 Modernized Use of Force Reports and *Reportable Incidents*.

Modernized Use of Force Reports and Incidents compared to Occurrences and Arrests								
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
CAD Occurrences	284,782	303,809	323,730	372,165	88,600	101,397	97,393	84,775
Arrests	12,437	14,587	14,746	15,421	3,634	4,102	3,952	3,733
Modernized Use of Force Reports	412	441	559	707	180	199	154	174
Individual	309	317	413	547	138	142	125	142
Team (Special Response)	72	94	111	137	34	53	27	23
Animals	31	30	35	21	6	4	2	9
Reportable Use of Force Incidents	301	307	374	417	105	122	91	99
Individual	200	199	250	314	78	83	76	77
Team (Special Response)	68	93	111	137	34	53	27	23
Animals	33	30	35	21	6	4	2	9

¹ Data provided by WRPS Strategic Services Branch, Planning and Project Management.

² Since some incidents require the attendance of more than one officer and each officer must submit their own Modernized Use of Force report, there are more reports than there are incidents.

³ Team reports represent specialized teams which submit one Modernized Use of Force report for one coordinated incident (e.g. The Emergency Response Team). An incident involving a Team Report may also result in the submission of Individual Reports.

In comparison to Q3 2023, Q4 2023 saw a 12% decrease in the number of police occurrences, and a 4.5% decrease in the number of arrests.

The number of Modernized Use of Force Reports submitted by officers in Q4 increased by 13% (154 in Q3 vs. 174 in Q4), driven by an increase in Individual Reports. There was a 21% decrease in the number of Teams Reports (29 in Q3 vs. 23 in Q4). There was also an increase in the number of Animal Reports, which reflect the humane dispatch of animals.

Q4 Modernized Use of Force Report Analysis

During the 84,775 police interactions that occurred in Q4 2023, *reportable incidents* occurred 99 times, and members completed 174 Modernized Use of Force Reports. Of these, 165 reports were related to interactions with the public (9 were related to the humane dispatch of animals). Of these 165 reports, 54 (33%) were related to Weapons calls, and 19 (12%) to Person in Crisis. All other call types each represented less than 10% of Modernized Use of Force Reports (Figure 1).

When comparing Q4 to Q3, we see an increase in the number of Intimate Partner Violence calls represented in Use of Force reports, although this jump is comparable to Q2 2023. There was also an increase in the number of Wellness/Safety Check calls represented in Use of Force reports. These calls typically represent a Citizen-Generated Call for Service due to concern for a person's well-being. In Q4 2023, the Wellness/Safety checks represented in Use of Force incidents often involved the Subject being perceived to be in possession of a weapon.

Figure 2 displays a percentage breakdown regarding how Use of Force incidents were generated in 2022 and 2023. In both years, Use of Force incidents mostly resulted from Citizen Calls for Service. However, this proportion was lower in 2023 as compared to 2022. In 2023 a slightly higher proportion of Use of Force incidents were generated from Officer-Initiated interactions or as a result from a Warrant execution. The increase in the latter category can largely be attributed to the atypically high number of warrants executed in Q2.

Figure 1: Number of Use of Force Reports by Incident Type and Quarter

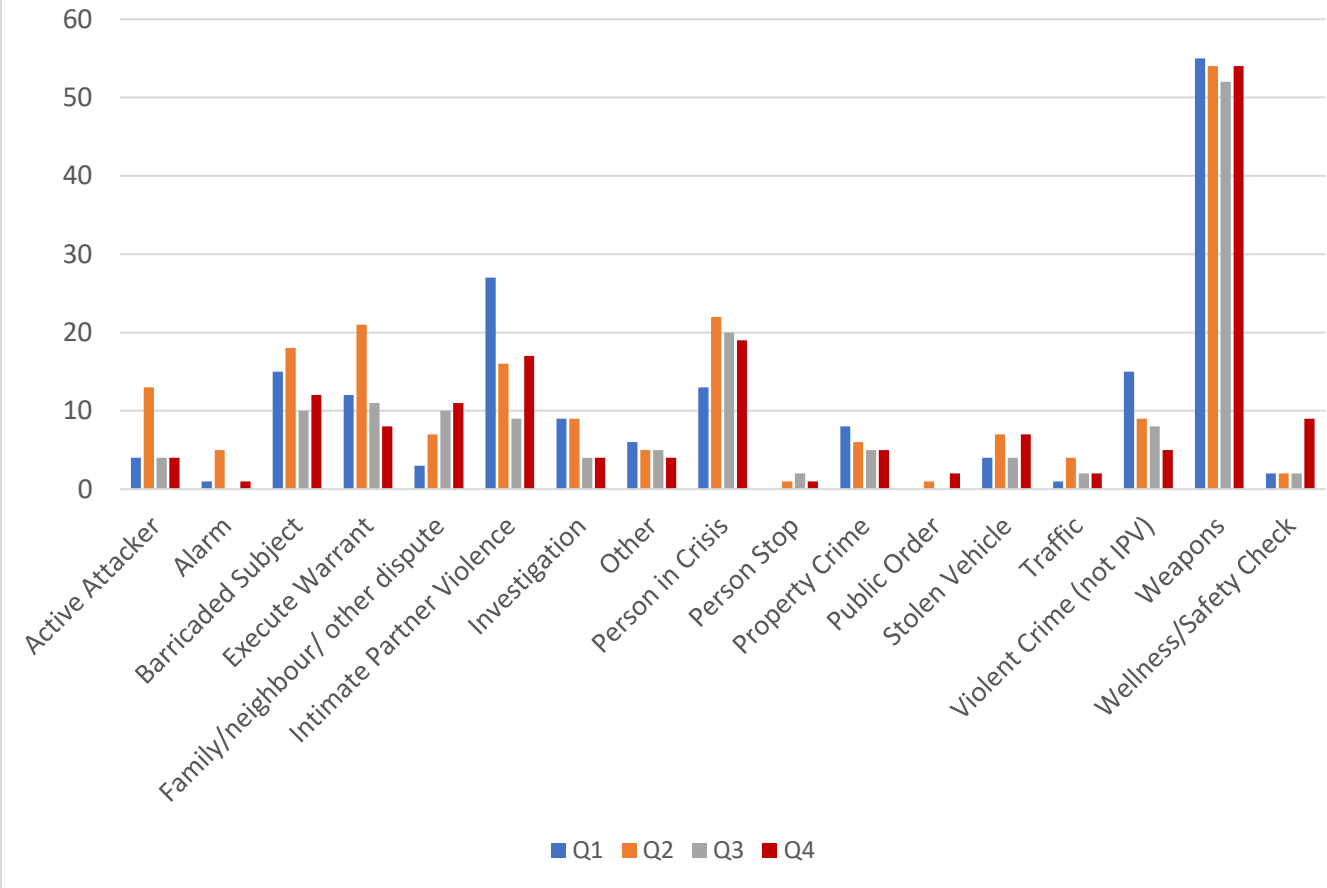
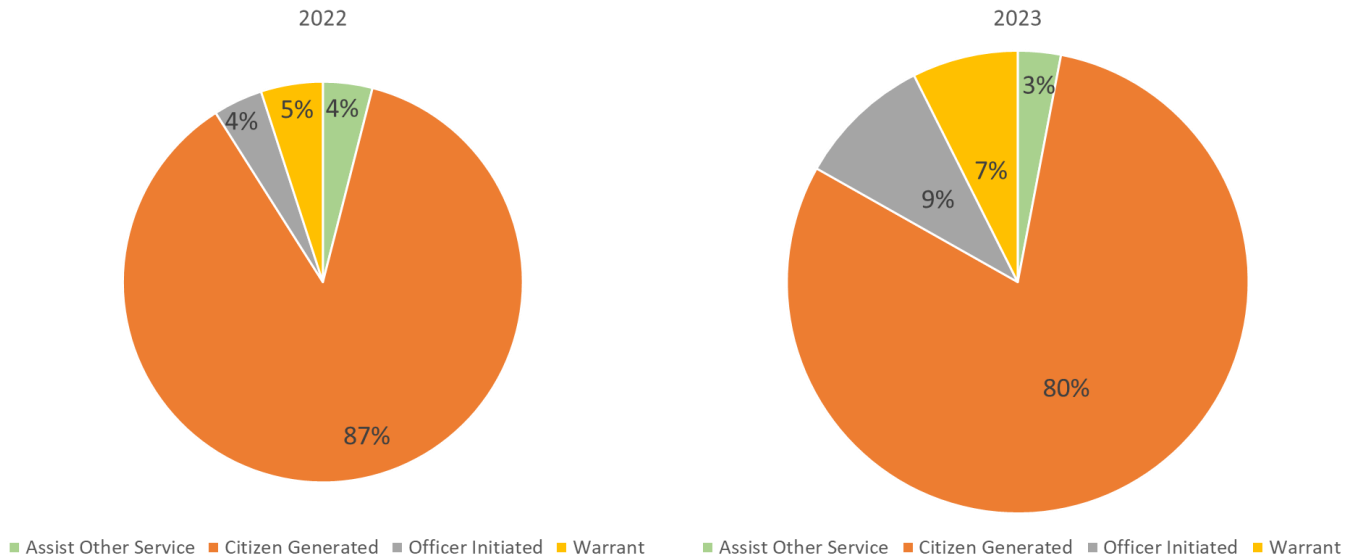


Figure 2: How Reportable Incidents were Initiated in 2022 and 2023



Use of Force Options

Table 2. provides a summary of the reported application of each individual use of force option. The humane destruction of an animal are not included in these numbers.

Frequency of Use of Force Options								
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Handgun								
Drawn	36	50	59	47	15	6	10	16
Pointed	74	53	81	120	45	27	25	23
Discharged	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2
Rifles								
Drawn	33	39	60	86	15	21	14	36
Pointed	45	21	34	35	7	9	8	11
Discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)								
	1	3	2	8	5	2	0	1
Baton								
	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	0
Physical Control								
	89	57	73	198	70	63	25	40
Canine								
	6	2	5	10	1	7	2	0

Table 3. Includes Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) statistics.

Frequency of CEW Options								
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Options								
Drawn only	106	99	111	48	17	7	9	15
Pointed only	105	112	121	134	30	43	23	38
Arc Displayed	3	6	7	7	2	2	2	1
Deployed probes	2	31	41	62	10	26	19	7
Three Point Contact	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
Drive Stun	16	8	14	17	7	6	0	4
Total	259	256	294	270	66	86	53	65

a. Firearms

Handguns drawn reports increased from 10 (Q3) to 16 (Q4). While this is an increase, this number is close to the average number of handgun drawn reports per quarter in 2022, and so is not atypical. There were 23 handgun pointed reports in Q4, compared to 25 in Q2.

Carbine rifles drawn reports increased from 14 in Q3 to 36 in Q4. This represents a 165% increase. Carbine rifles pointed reports remained about the same (9 in Q3 vs. 11 in Q4). The increase in the carbine rifles drawn reports is reflective of the high-risk calls officers are attending. Additionally, there were instances in Q4 where the Emergency Response Team (ERT) was called to respond to violent calls without a planned team expedition. This is uncommon, and resulted in the completion of multiple individual reports. When ERT is deployed as a planned team expedition – as in previous quarters - this would result in one Team Report capturing all firearms drawn (but not discharged). The unexpected deployment of ERT may explain the increase in reports for Q4, although this trend will need to be monitored further.

b. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)

OC was deployed once in Q4 2023. The limited use of OC is directly related to the CEW being preferred as an intermediate use of force option.

c. Baton

The baton was not used in the fourth quarter of 2023. The limited use of the baton is a continuing trend observed since 2020, as the CEW has been preferred as a more effective intermediate use of force option.

d. Physical Control

There was an increase in the number of Physical Control reports between Q3 and Q4, jumping from 25 in Q3 to 40 in Q4. This represented a 60% increase. The number of physical control reports in Q4 is lower than numbers reported in Q1 and Q2; Q3 seemed to be anomalously low in terms of physical control tactics. There has been a notable increase in reports involving Physical Control between 2022 and 2023. This is at least in part due to the Modernized Use of Force Report introduced in January 2023, which expanded the fields related to reporting physical control options.

e. Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)

The CEW is frequently used as a means to de-escalate a situation and often negates the need to use other force options. It also creates safe and advantageous space away from a violent or potentially deadly subject. There continues to be a strong emphasis in training to use CEWs as the primary, intermediate, use of force option. Additionally, CEWs are often used in combination with more lethal use of force options to aid in de-escalation in a way that is safer for both Subjects and Officers. The effects of training are evident in that the number of overall CEW reports in 2023 are significantly higher than in previous years.

There was a slight increase in the number of CEW reports between Q3 and Q4, from 53 to 65. In Q4, there were 15 CEW drawn reports (vs. 9 in Q3), 38 CEW pointed reports (vs. 23 in Q3), and 4 drive stun reports (vs. 0 in Q3). However, the number of probes discharged decreased from 19 in Q3 to 7 in Q4. The decrease in the number of CEWs discharged may indicate that officers are effectively able to use CEWs to de-escalate situations without needing to deploy a probe. Overall in 2023, there were 134 CEW pointed reports but only 62 discharged probe reports.

f. Canine

There were 0 instances of canine force in the fourth quarter of 2023. Overall, a higher number of canine force reports were submitted in 2023 as compared to previous years. The increase in canine reports is related to the overall increased activity of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) seen in Q2.

2. Injuries During Intervention

Table 4. Summary of injuries resulting from officers' intervention.

Injuries Reported in Modernized Use of Force Reports								
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Annual Statistics	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Officer (minor)	8	12	4	10	5	4	0	1
Officer (serious)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Subject (minor)	38	20	26	46	9	20	13	4
Subject (serious)	2	1	1	3	1	0	0	2

There were two major injuries to Subjects, both reflecting gunshot wounds due to an officer discharging their handgun. These were the only two major injuries in the quarter.

There were an additional 4 minor injuries to Subjects in Q4, a 69% decrease. There was also one minor injury sustained by an Officer. Minor injuries refer to any injury where a Subject was treated by medical staff, but not admitted to the hospital. This would include abrasions, puncture wounds, or stitches. The increase in minor injuries seen in 2023, as compared to previous years, is related to the increase in CEW use; the successful deployment of CEW probes will almost always result in a minor injury. Indeed, almost half (21 of 46) of all minor Subject injuries in 2023 were related to CEW probe removal.

3. Officer Perception of Subject Race

Beginning on January 1, 2020, officer perception of subject race became a reportable category in Use of Force Reports. The collection and analysis of this data is required by the Ontario Anti-Racism Act (2017), the Ontario Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism (2018), and is consistent with WRPS' commitment to transparency. Race-based data related to Use of Force is integrated into the comprehensive WRPS Race-Based Data Collection Strategy, and presented in the current report. The 2023 perceived race numbers are significantly higher than prior years. This is due to a change in reporting procedure. Prior to 2023, the Use of Force report only allowed a maximum of 3 race perceptions to be recorded per occurrence. In 2023, there was no limit to the number of subjects that could be reported.

Table 5. This table displays the perceived race of subjects in the Use of Force incidents since January 1st 2020 when the collection of this data began.

Perceived Race of Subject in Use of Force Reports												
	2020		2021		2022		2023		2023		2023	
	Annual Statistics		Annual Statistics		Annual Statistics		Annual Statistics		Q3		Q4	
Black	51	17%	38	11%	75	18%	132	18%	36	19%	19	15%
East/Southeast Asian	8	3%	4	1%	10	2%	19	3%	5	3%	5	4%
Indigenous	5	2%	7	2%	4	1%	4	1%	0	0%	2	1%
Latino	8	3%	5	1%	9	2%	18	2%	9	5%	1	1%
Middle Eastern	26	8%	14	4%	35	8%	57	8%	13	7%	5	4%
South Asian	8	3%	15	4%	0	0%	16	2%	3	1%	5	4%
White	200	65%	256	76%	295	69%	509	67%	125	65%	94	72%
Undetermined*												
Missing**												
Total	306		339		428		755		191		131	

Each incident that necessitates the submission of a Use of Force report is evaluated on a case-by-case basis (Appendix C). **Figure 1** on page 5 illustrates the type of occurrences in the fourth quarter of 2023 attended by patrol officers which resulted in the generation of a *Use of Force Report*. As stated previously, it is important to understand that several Use of Force Reports may be generated by one *reportable incident*.

Disproportion

To meet the minimum requirements of Ontario's Anti-Racism Act (2017), and the Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism (Anti-Racism Data Standards), the proportion of racialized person subjects involved in reportable use of force incidents has been compared to local resident population demographics obtained from 2021 Census data.² Ratio values > 1.5 were used as the cut-off to identify over-representation (Lamberth, 1996; Police Foundation, 2003; Withrow et al., 2008). Caution is needed in the interpretation of patterns based on small numbers because the addition or subtraction of a few cases can drastically impact ratios.

² The boundaries of the Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) do not align with the boundaries of the Region of Waterloo. The CMA boundaries exclude the Township of Wellesley.

Based on the proportion of racialized individuals in the local resident population provided in the 2021 Census data, Black (ratio of 3.72) and Middle Eastern (ratio of 2.75) individuals were overrepresented in 2023 Modernized Use of Force Reports (Table 6). This replicates the pattern observed since 2020, where Black and Middle Eastern individuals were overrepresented in Use of Force Reports.



Table 6. Disproportion ratios for each Perceived Race Category from the years 2020 to 2023.

Disproportion Ratios for Use of Force Reports, 2020 to 2023								
	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Police Incident Representation	Disproportion Ratio	Police Incident Representation	Disproportion Ratio	Police Incident Representation	Disproportion Ratio	Police Incident Representation	Disproportion Ratio
Black	17%	3.62	11%	2.34	18%	3.83	17.5%	3.72
East/Southeast Asian	3%	0.44	1%	0.15	2%	0.29	2.5%	0.37
Indigenous	2%	1.18	2%	1.18	1%	0.59	0.5%	0.31
Latino	3%	1.36	1%	0.45	2%	0.91	2.4%	1.09
Middle Eastern	8%	2.67	4%	1.33	8%	2.67	7.5%	2.50
South Asian	3%	0.31	4%	0.41	0%	0.00	2.1%	0.22
White	65%	0.90	76%	1.06	69%	0.96	67.4%	0.94

All disproportion ratios are calculated by comparing the percentage representation in Use of Force Reports to the percent representation in local resident population for Waterloo region based on the 2021 Census. According to the Census, the percent representations for each race category in Waterloo region are as follows: Black – 4.7%; East/Southeast Asian – 6.8%; Indigenous – 1.7%; Latino – 2.2%; Middle Eastern – 3.0%; South Asian – 9.7%; White – 72.0%.



Enforcement-Action Benchmarking

To better understand the drivers underpinning observed racial disproportion, WRPS has engaged in a multiple benchmark strategy. Academic literature has identified four drivers of disparity; Institutional and Cultural Practices, Officer Bias, a Person's Choices and Actions, and Social and Demographic Factors. The multiple benchmark strategy will continue to be used in order to clarify how the Institutional and Cultural Practices of police services contribute to racialized group representation in Use of Force incidents, with the goal of creating a safer community for all. While the Ontario Data Standards offers many ways to assess racial disparity, WRPS has selected Enforcement Action benchmarking because such analyses make visible disparate outcomes at different decision-making points across the interaction. What we are asking with this analysis is, within Use of Force incidents, are racialized groups receiving equal treatment? To answer this question, the proportion of racialized individuals within a subset of interactions is compared to the proportion of White individuals, as outlined by the Data Standards (2018). Ultimately, this form of analyses flags areas of potential concern for further investigation, for the purpose of informing solutions that reduce racial disproportionalities and disparities (Foster & Jacobs, 2022).

When considering all Use of Force data, none of the Enforcement Action benchmarking ratios exceeded the 1.5 cut-off for overrepresentation (Withrow et al., 2008). However, we next turn to intersectional analyses in order to consider representation at different decision-making points related to the interaction.



Table 7. Enforcement Action Benchmark ratios for each Perceived Race Category from the years 2020 to 2023.

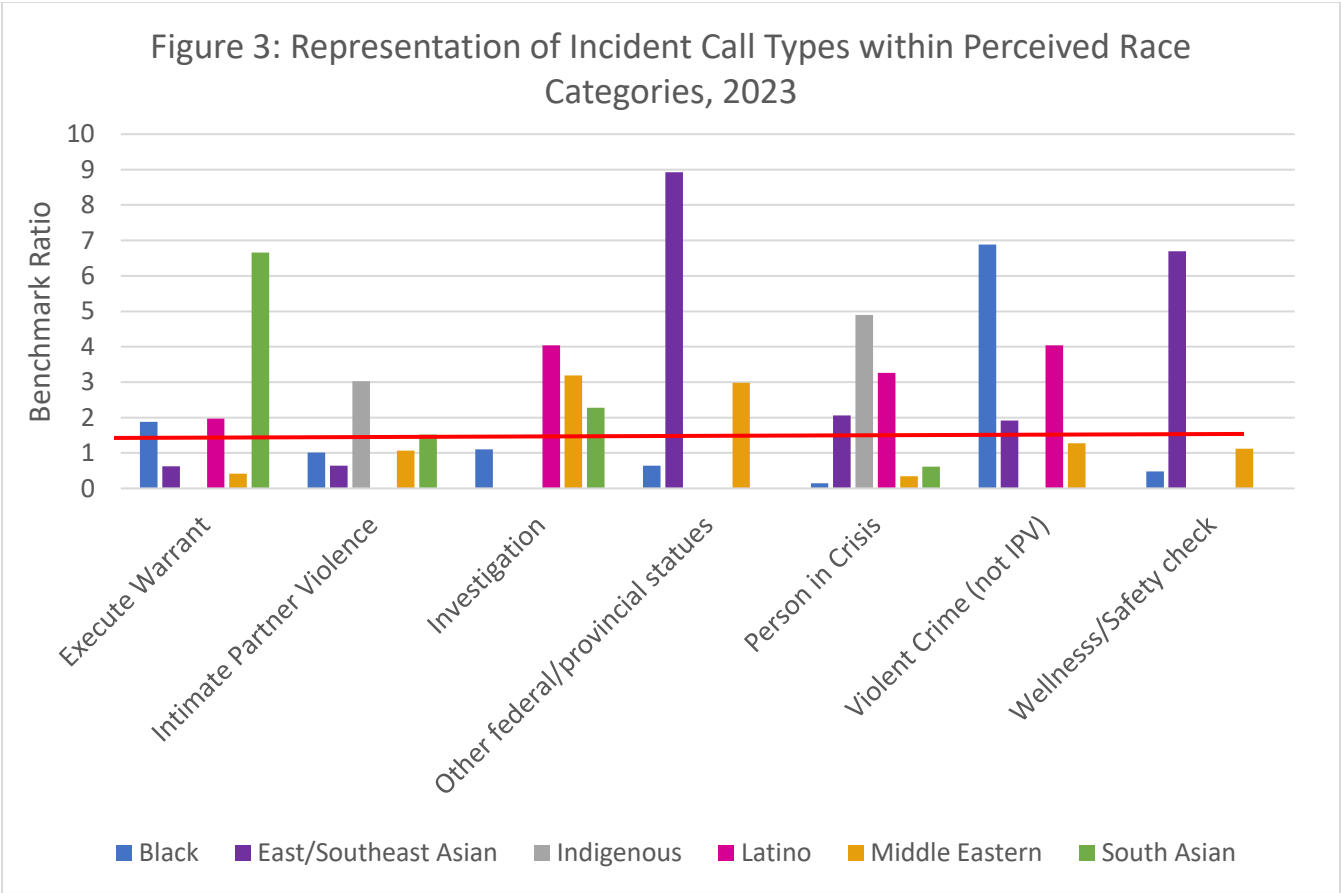
	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Police Incident Representation	Benchmark Ratio	Police Incident Representation	Benchmark Ratio	Police Incident Representation	Benchmark Ratio	Police Incident Representation	Benchmark Ratio
Black	17%	0.26	11%	0.14	18%	0.26	17.5%	0.26
East Asian/ South east Asian	3%	0.05	1%	0.01	2%	0.03	2.5%	0.04
Indigenous	2%	0.03	2%	0.03	1%	0.01	0.53%	0.01
Latino	3%	0.05	1%	0.01	2%	0.03	2.4%	0.04
Middle Eastern	8%	0.12	4%	0.05	8%	0.12	7.5%	0.11
South Asian	3%	0.05	4%	0.05	0%	0.00	2.1%	0.03
White	65%		76%		69%		67.4%	

All benchmark ratios were calculated by comparing the percentage representation of racialized groups in Use of Force Reports to the percent representation of White individuals within the same dataset (as recommended by the Ontario Data Standards, 2018).

Incident Types

First, we examine the representation of racialized individuals by incident type, for all Use of Force reports submitted in 2023. Figure 3 shows benchmark ratios for selected incident types. Only incident types where overrepresentation was observed were included within the graph. For all other incident types, benchmark ratios did not exceed the 1.5 critical cut-off.

In comparison to White individuals, Black individuals were overrepresented in Execute Warrant and Violent Crime (not IPV) incident types. East/Southeast Asian were overrepresented in Person in Crisis, Violent Crime (not IPV), Wellness/Safety Checks, and Other federal/provincial statues incident types. Indigenous individuals were overrepresented in Intimate Partner Violence and Person in Crisis incident types. Latino individuals were overrepresented in Intimate Partner Violence, Person in Crisis, and Violent Crime (not IPV) incident types. Middle Eastern individuals were overrepresented in Intimate Partner Violence and Person in Crisis incident types. South Asian individuals were overrepresented in Intimate Partner Violence and Person in Crisis incident types. Finally, South Asian individuals were overrepresented in Execute Warrant, Intimate Partner Violence, and Investigation incident types.



Contextual Factors and Subject Behaviour

The Modernized Use of Force report captures additional contextual factors that may influence officers’ deployment of force tactics, as aligned with the Ontario Use of Force Model (see Appendix B). Note, that an Officer can selected as many contextual factors as appropriate on the form, thus the percentages in Table 8 will not sum to 100.

Table 8. Officer Provided Contextual Factors in Use of Force by Perceived Race Category. Where benchmark ratios indicate overrepresentation (ratio > 1.5), the cell has been highlighted in red. Note: The contextual factors included in this table were used consistently by officers (i.e., were factors in at least 10 incidents). Contextual factors used less than that were not included in the analyses.

Perceived Race	Active Resistant	Assaultive	SBDH	Nature of Call	Weapon	Prevent Offence	Protect Public	Protect Officers
Black	87%	11%	92%	65%	93%	99%	83%	90%
East/Southeast Asian	84%	11%	84%	53%	95%	95%	74%	79%
Indigenous	75%	25%	75%	75%	100%	100%	100%	75%
Latino	67%	44%	78%	67%	72%	100%	72%	89%
Middle Eastern	87%	16%	77%	54%	88%	91%	81%	81%
South Asian	94%	19%	100%	63%	94%	100%	94%	100%
White	81%	20%	85%	60%	85%	95%	72%	81%

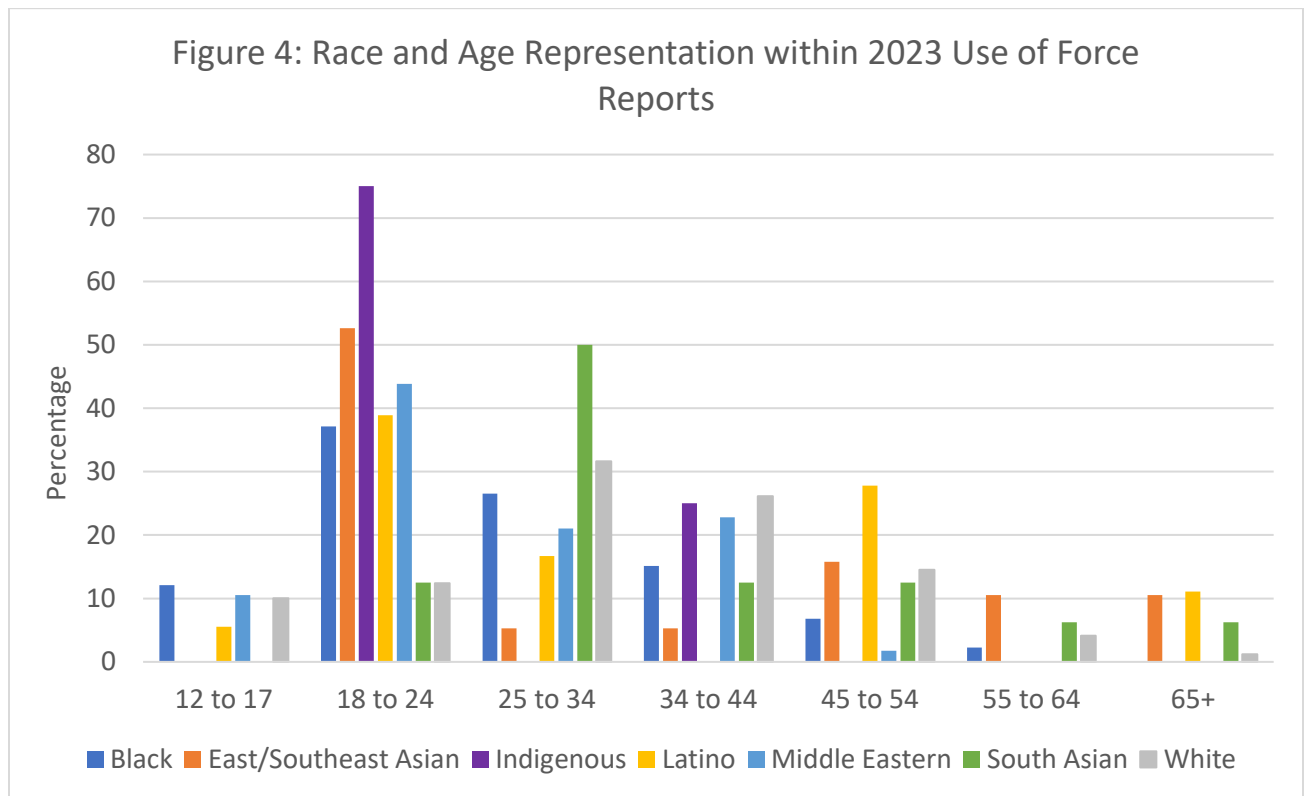
There was only one example of a benchmark ratio exceeding the cut-off for overrepresentation. Latino individuals were 2.2 times more likely than White individuals to be considered “Assaultive”.

Intersectionality of Person Characteristics

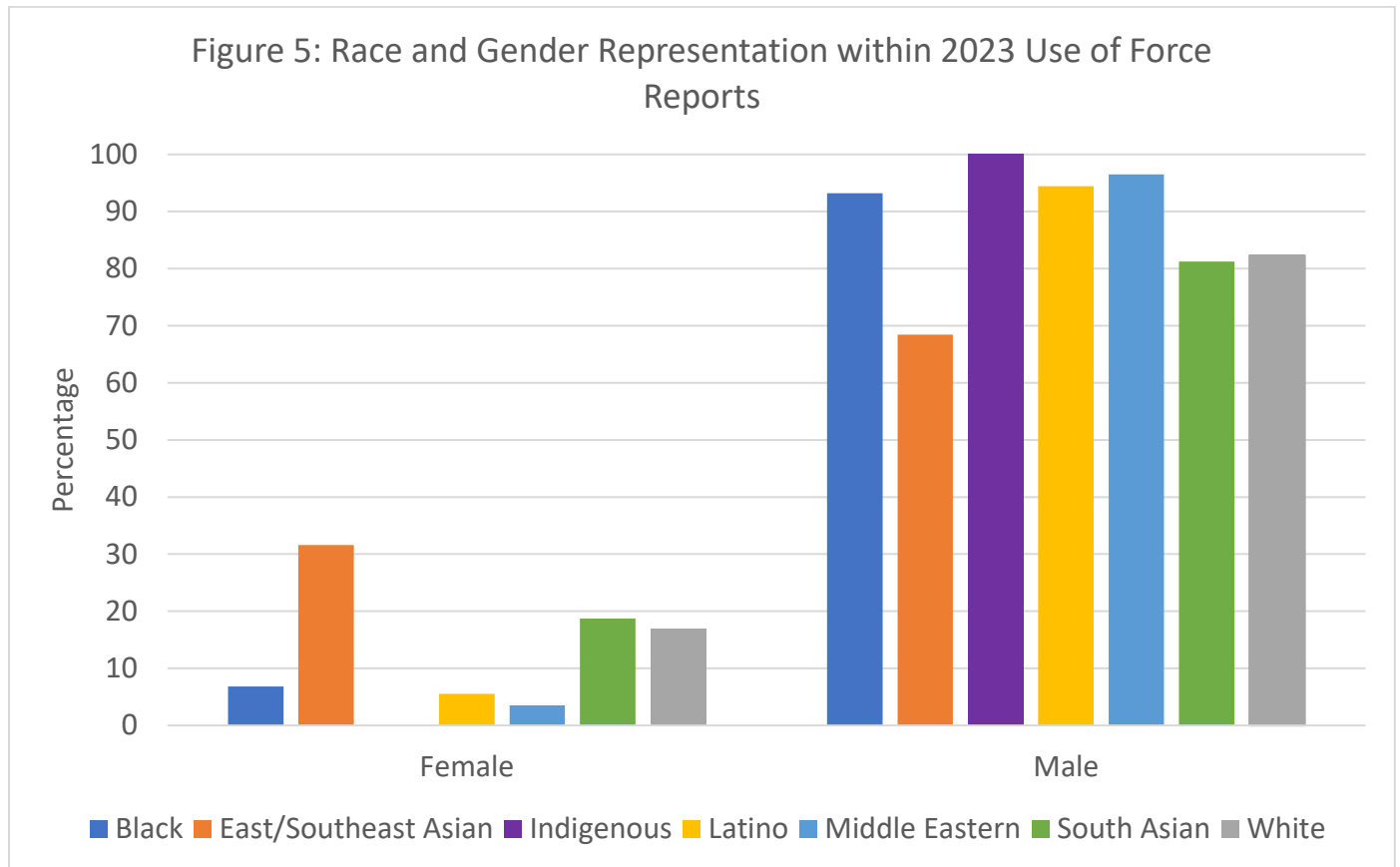
The Modernized Use of Force Report allows officers to collect information on Perceived Age and Perceived Gender, alongside Perceived Race. By investigating the intersection between person characteristics, we are able to gain a more nuanced understanding of representation within Use of Force incidents.

We start by looking at Race and Age. Figure 4 depicts the percent representation of each age group for each Perceived Race group (e.g., what percentage of White individuals were aged 18 to 24?) We see overrepresentation in two distinct age ranges: 18-24, and 65+. Black, East/Southeast Asian, Latino, and Middle Eastern individuals aged 18 to 24 years of age were overrepresented as compared to White individuals. Similarly, South Asian 25-34 year olds, Latino 45-54 year olds, and East/Southeast Asian 55-64 year olds were overrepresented in Use of Force reports as compared to

their White counterparts. Finally, East/Southeast Asian, Latino, and South Asian 65+ year olds were overrepresents as compared to White counterparts.



Next, we turn to the intersection between Gender and Race. Across Use of Force reports, the majority involved men (644, 86%) as compared to women (107, 14%). Enforcement Action benchmarking revealed that East/Southeast Asian women were overrepresented as compared to White women. Benchmark ratios for men did not exceed the 1.5 cut-off threshold for overrepresentation.



4. Analysis and Future Action

The “Modernized Use of Force Report” remains a valuable tool in analysing officers’ actions during “reportable incidents” relative to legislative or procedural requirements.

While aggregate analysis is important and illuminating, it remains crucial for individual encounters to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. **Appendix C** provides a catalogue of 2023 Q4 reportable incidents in chronological order. Each row represents a police-generated occurrence and lists (a) the subjects’ perceived race (where OR is shown this indicates discrepancy of perceived race by different responding officers) (b) how the occurrence was generated (c) the type of incident (d) the subjects’ behaviour as profiled by the officer (see Appendix B) and (e) the officer response based on this behaviour.

Summary & Future Directions

Overall, in 2023, we saw an increase in the number of Use of Force Reports and reportable incidents. Additionally, we observed disproportions related to the representation of Black and Middle Eastern individuals within Use of Force incidents, a pattern that has remained consistent since 2020. By digging further into the data, we find that Black individuals are over-represented in Use of Force incidents related to Warrants, and Violent Crime (IPV), while Middle Eastern individuals are over-represented in Use of Force incidents related to Investigations and Other federal/provincial statutes.

The Modernized Use of Force Report in 2023 has expanded reporting on the contextual factors, allowing for richer enforcement action benchmarking analyses. While it is valuable to look for patterns across racialized categories, it is still essential to examine individual encounters on a case-by-case basis (See Appendix C). Information at the encounter-level will allow for a better understanding of differences experienced across racial categories. This nuanced work in furthering our understanding is to be done in collaboration with the community. WRPS recently hosted its first race-based data community engagement event, and more are planned for the rest of 2024.

A number of initiatives directly connected to the Use of Force reporting are currently underway. These include the following:

1. Building on the 2023 In-Service Training related to race-based data collection, 2024 will see further member engagement to ensure that all WRPS members are aware of the importance of race-based data collection.
2. In January, WRPS hosted its first race-based data community engagement event. Throughout 2024, WRPS will continue to host community engagement events to solicit feedback. The community engagement events will help in the eventual recruitment of a Community Action Panel, a group of community members who will meet regularly with members of the Race-Based Data Collection Strategy team to find actionable solutions to concerns, where possible.
3. In 2024, all WRPS members will be trained on the new **Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid (2023)**, which serves as a replacement to the **Ontario Use of Force Model (2004)**. This new model will be a cornerstone of training, and includes conflict prevention and de-escalation as embedded within all stages of the interaction.

Strategic Business Plan

Consistent with our values of continuous improvement and accountability, our Service is committed to striving to achieve excellence in every aspect of policing. Effective intervention by WRPS officers is a testament to how the Training and Education Branch

is offering the tools and training to facilitate a high standard of public service and to support a safe community.

Financial and/or Risk Implications

Nil

Attachments

- Appendix A: Use of Force Report Requirement
- Appendix B: Use of Force Framework
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Appendix A

Use of Force Report Requirement

Police Services Act, R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 926 states:

14.5(1) A member of a police force shall submit a report whenever the member,

- a) draws 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;
- b) uses a weapon other than a firearm on another person; or
- c) uses physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention.

WRPS Use of Force Procedure, Q. Use of Force Reporting – Members. In addition to what is stated in the Police Services Act, the Service requires members to submit reports for the following:

- 1) Drawing a firearm in the presence of a member of the public, excluding a member of the Service.
- 2) Deploying a CEW on another person:
 - a. As demonstrated force presence (i.e., overt display of the CEW with the intent to achieve compliance); and
 - b. In cartridge/probe mode, three-point contact, and drive/push stun mode;
- 3) A police canine has inflicted injury on another person
- 4) This includes use of the ARWEN (Anti-Riot Weapon Enfield) by SRU

Officers are exempt from reporting use of force if performed in a training exercise, target practice at an authorized range or ordinary weapon maintenance in accordance with service procedures.

Appendix B

Use of Force Framework

The Ontario Use of Force Model is a graphical representation of the various elements involved in the process by which a police officer assesses a situation and acts in a reasonable manner to ensure officer and public safety. The Model assists officers and the public to understand why and in what manner an officer may respond with force.

Use of Force Reports have been received from officers dealing with subjects they have profiled as:

- Active Resistant
- Assaultive; and
- Serious Bodily Harm or Death

Use of Force Options available to officers' fall into the following categories:

Physical Control:

- Soft (joint manipulation)
- Hard (Strikes, i.e. punches/kicks)

Intermediate Weapons:

- Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)
- Baton
- CEW
- Arwen (SRU)

Lethal Force:

- Pistol
- Carbine

Ontario Use of Force Model (2004)



The officer continuously assesses the situation and selects the most reasonable option relative to those circumstances as perceived at that point in time.



Active Resistant: The subject uses non-assaultive physical action to resist, or while resisting an officer's lawful direction. Examples would include pulling away to prevent or escape control, or overt movements such as walking toward, or away from an officer. Running away is another example of active resistant.



Assaultive: The subject attempts to apply, or applies force to any person; attempts or threatens by an act or gesture, to apply force to another person, if he/she has, or causes that person to believe upon reasonable grounds that he/she has, present ability to effect his/her purpose.



Serious Bodily Harm or Death: The subject exhibits actions that the officer reasonably believes are intended to, or likely to cause serious bodily harm or death to any person.

Appendix C

Occurrence	Group Composition	Report Type	Subject Perceived Race	Incident Type	Subject Behaviour	Subject Weapon	Officer Response ³
1	Individual	Individual	White	Weapons/Active Attacker	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapon;	Knife/edged weapon; Vehicle	Physical control; CEW discharged; Handgun Pointed
2	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Handgun discharged;
3	Individual	Individual	Black	Weapons; Family/neighbor/other dispute	SBHD; Access to Weapon	Knife/Edged Weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed; Handgun pointed; Handgun discharged;
4	Individual	Individual	White	Stolen Vehicle	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapon;	Unknown type of weapon	CEW pointed;
5	Individual	Individual	White	Public Order	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Access to weapon;	Aerosol	CEW pointed;
6	Individual	Team	White	Weapons	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapons	Long Gun	Physical control; Extended Range Weapon Drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
7	Individual	Individual	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of Call; Physical		OC used;

³ Note that in the cases of handgun and CEW reports, only the highest level is reported in this table. For example, if an officer draws, then points their CEW, that will be documented as “CEW pointed” in this table. When reading the table, one can assume that the lower levels are embedded within the higher level (e.g., if “CEW pointed” is written, one can assume that a CEW was both drawn *and* pointed in this incident).

					size, strength, or other abilities;		
8	Individual	Individual	White	Wellness/Safety check	SBHD; Access to weapon;	Handgun	Physical control; Handgun pointed;
9	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Rifle discharged;
10	Individual	Individual	White	Person Stop/Weapons	Active Resistant; BHD; Access to Weapons;	Handgun; Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed; Handgun pointed;
11	Individual	Team	White	Execute Warrant	SBHD; Nature of call; Past History; Access to weapon	Knife/edged weapon	Extended Range weapon drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
12	Individual	Team	White	Intimate Partner Violence	SBDH; Nature of Call; Access to weapon	Knife/edged weapon	ERW drawn; Handgun drawn; Rifle drawn;
13	Individual	Individual	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Passive Resistant; Active Resistant; Assaultive;		Physical control; CEW pointed
14	Individual	Individual	White	Traffic	Active Resistant; Assaultive;		Physical control; CEW pointed;
15	Individual	Individual	South Asian	Intimate Partner Violence;	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons	Knife/Edged Weapon	Physical control; Handgun drawn; Rifle drawn;
16	Individual	Team	East/Southeast Asian	Execute Warrant	SBHD; Nature of call; Access to weapons;	Handgun; Long gun; Unknown type of weapon	ERW drawn; Handgun drawn; Rifle pointed;
17	Group (3)	Individual and Team	Black	Weapons	Access to weapons;	Handgun; Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; Handgun drawn; Rifle drawn;
18	Individual	Individual	East/Southeast Asian	Wellness/Safety Check	Passive Resistant; SBHD; Access to Weapons;	Vehicle	Physical control; CEW discharged;

19	Individual	Individual	South Asian or East/Southeast Asian	Investigation/Person in Crisis	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon; Unknown type of weapon;	Physical control; CEW pointed;
20	Group (2)	Individual	White	Assisting Other Service	SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History; Access to Weapon;	Handgun	Physical force; CEW pointed; Handgun pointed;
21	Individual	Individual and Team	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Passive Resistant; Access to Weapons;	Knife/edged weapon;	CEW pointed; ERW drawn; Handgun drawn; Rifle pointed;
22	Individual	Individual	White	Barricaded Subject	SBHD; Nature of call; Access to Weapons;	Handgun; Knife/edged weapon; Long gun; Vehicle	CEW pointed; Handgun pointed;
23	Individual	Individual	White	Stolen Vehicle	Active Resistant; SBHD;		Physical control; CEW Drive stun;
24	Individual	Individual	White	Stolen Vehicle	SBHD;		Handgun discharged;
25	Individual	Individual	White	Weapons	Passive resistant; SBHD; Nature of call; Access to weapons;	Long gun	Physical Control; CEW drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
26	Individual	Team	White	Violent Crime (not IPV)	SBHD; Nature of call; Access to weapons;	Handgun	Physical control; Rifle drawn;
27	Individual	Team	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Active Resistant; SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Handgun; Knife/Edged Weapon;	CEW discharged; ERW pointed; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
28	Individual	Individual	White	Family/neighbor/other dispute or Weapons	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW drawn; Rifle drawn;
29	Individual	Team	White	Investigation or Execute Warrant;	SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History; Physical Size, Strength, or Ability; Access to Weapon	Handgun	Physical control; CEW pointed; ERW drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;

30	Group (2)	Individual and Team	White	Weapons	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapons	Handgun	Physical control; CEW pointed; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
31	Group (2)	Individual	White	Weapons	SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History; Access to weapons;	Knife/Edged Weapon	Physical control; Rifle drawn;
32	Individual	Individual	White	Weapons	Assaultive; Access to weapons;	Club or impact weapon; Knife/edged weapon;	Physical control; CEW discharged;
33	Individual	Individual	Black	Family/neighbor/other dispute	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History; Physical Size, Strength, or Ability;		Physical control; CEW discharged;
34	Individual	Individual	White	Property Crime	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Unknown type of weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed;
35	Group (2)	Individual and Team	Black	Barricaded Subject	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Handgun	Physical control; CEW pointed; ERW drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle drawn;
36	Individual	Individual	White	Intimate Partner Violence	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Handgun pointed
37	Individual	Individual	White	Intimate Partner Violence	SBHD; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed;
38	Individual	Individual	White	Person in Crisis	Passive Resistant; Assaultive;		Physical Control; ARC display;
39	Individual	Individual	White	Person in Crisis	Assaultive;		Physical control; CEW drawn;
40	Group (3)	Team	Black; White;	Execute Warrant	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Handgun	Physical control; CEW pointed; ERW drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;

41	Individual	Team	Indigenous	Barricaded Subject/Person in Crisis	Passive resistant; Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Handgun	Physical Control; CEW pointed; ERW drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
42	Individual	Individual	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Assaultive;		CEW pointed;
43	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Rifle discharged;
44	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Handgun discharged;
45	Individual	Individual	Black	Weapons	SBHD; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Rifle pointed;
46	Individual	Individual	Latino	Person in Crisis	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon;	Physical control; Handgun pointed;
47	Individual	Individual and Team		Family/neighbor/other dispute			Handgun drawn;
48	Individual	Individual	White	Family/neighbor/other dispute	SBDH; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW drawn;
49	Individual	Team	White	Family/neighbor/other dispute or Barricaded Subject	Passive Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Access to Weapon;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed; ERW drawn;
50	Individual	Individual	White	Person in Crisis or Wellness/Safety Check	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapon;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; Rifle pointed;
51	Individual	Individual	White	Person in Crisis	Assaultive; SBHD; Access to weapon;	Knife/edged weapon	CEW pointed;
52	Individual	Team	White	Execute Warrant	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapon;	Handgun	Physical control; ERW drawn; Handgun drawn; Rifle drawn;
53	Group (3)	Individual and Team	Middle Eastern	Weapons	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Handgun pointed
54	Individual	Individual	White	Weapons or Family/neighbor/other dispute	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW drawn; Handgun pointed;

55	Group (2)	Team	South Asian	Execute Warrant	SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History; Access to Weapons;	Handgun; Knife/edged weapon; Long gun;	Physical control; CEW pointed; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
56	Individual	Team	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Active Resistant; SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History;		ERW drawn;
57	Individual	Individual	Black	Investigation	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of call; Physical Size, Strength, or Ability; Access to weapon;	Unknown type of weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed;
58	Individual	Individual		Weapons			Rifle drawn;
59	Individual	Individual	White	Wellness/Safety Check	Passive resistant; SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Unknown type of weapon	CEW pointed;
60	Individual	Individual	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Assaultive;		Physical control; CEW discharged;
61	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Rifle discharged;
62	Individual	Individual	Black	Active Attacker or Weapons	Active Resistant; SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapons;	Handgun	Physical control; CEW pointed; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
63	Individual	Individual	White	Alarm	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Unknown type of weapon	Physical control; Rifle drawn;
64	Individual	Individual	White	Weapons	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Handgun	Physical control; Handgun drawn; Rifle pointed;
65	Individual	Individual	White	Person in Crisis	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Access to weapons;	Club or impact weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed;

66	Individual	Individual	White	Property Crime	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapons;	Unknown type of weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed;
67	Individual	Team	White	Stolen Vehicle	SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History;		CEW drawn;
68	Individual	Team	Black	Weapons or Violent Crime (not IPV) or Wellness/Safety check	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to Weapons;	Handgun	Handgun drawn; Rifle drawn;
69	Individual	Team	White	Weapons	SBHD; Nature of call; Access to weapons;	Handgun	Physical control; CEW pointed; ERW drawn; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
70	Individual	Individual		Weapons			Rifle drawn;
71	Individual	Individual	White	Stolen Vehicle	SBHD; Nature of call;		Physical control; CEW pointed;
72	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Handgun discharged;
73	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Handgun discharged;
74	Individual	Team		Barricaded Subject			Rifle drawn;
75	Individual	Individual	East/Southeast Asian	Traffic	SBHD; Access to Weapon;	Vehicle	Handgun pointed;
76	Individual	Individual		Violent Crime (not IPV)			Rifle drawn;
77	Individual	Team	White	Barricaded Subject	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History; Access to weapons;	Aerosol; Knife/Edged weapon;	CEW drawn; ERW drawn; Rifle drawn;
78	Animal	Individual		Humane Destruction of Animal			Handgun discharged;
79	Individual	Individual	White	Person in Crisis	SBHD; Nature of Call; Past History; Access to weapons;	Knife/Edged Weapon	Physical control; CEW drawn; Handgun drawn;

80	Individual	Individual	Middle Eastern	Family/neighbor/other dispute	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; Rifle pointed
81	Individual	Individual	White	Barricaded Subject	SBHD; Nature of Call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW pointed
82	Individual	Individual	East/Southeast Asian	Wellness/Safety Check	SBHD; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	CEW pointed;
83	Individual	Individual		Weapons			CEW drawn; Handgun drawn;
84	Individual	Individual	White	Person in Crisis	Active Resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of Call; Physical Size, Strength, or Ability; Access to weapon;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; Drive stun;
85	Individual	Individual		Weapons			Rifle drawn;
86	Individual	Individual	White	Violent Crime (not IPV)	Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of Call; Physical Size, Strength, or Ability; Access to weapon;	Knife/edged weapon	Physical control; CEW discharged; Drive stun;
87	Individual	Individual	White	Stolen Vehicle	Active Resistant; SBHD;		Physical control; Drive stun;
88	Individual	Individual	White	Stolen Vehicle	Nature of Call		Physical Control; Handgun drawn;
89	Individual	Individual		Weapons			Rifle drawn;
90	Individual	Individual	White	Intimate Partner Violence	Assaultive; SBHD;	Club or impact weapon	CEW discharged;
91	Individual	Individual		Weapons			Rifle drawn;
92	Individual	Team	White	Execute Warrant	Nature of call;	Knife/edged weapon; Long gun;	ERW pointed; Rifle pointed;
93	Individual	Individual	White	Weapons	SBHD; Nature of call; Access to weapons;	Knife/edged weapon	Rifle pointed;

94	Individual	Individual	White	Other federal/provincial statues	Active resistant; Nature of call;	Unknown type of weapon	Physical control; CEW drawn;
95	Group (2)	Individual and Team	White	Barricaded subject	Passive resistant; Active resistant; Assaultive; SBHD; Nature of call;	Knife/edged weapon	CEW pointed; ERW pointed; Handgun pointed; Rifle pointed;
96	Individual	Team	White	Barricaded subject	SBHD;	Handgun	ERW pointed; Rifle pointed;
97	Individual	Individual	White	Wellness/Safety Check	Active Resistant; Nature of call;		CEW drawn;
98	Individual	Individual		Investigation			Rifle drawn;
99	Individual	Team		Execute Warrant			Handgun drawn; Rifle drawn;