



LONDON POLICE SERVICE

REPORT TO THE LONDON POLICE SERVICE BOARD

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 16, 2025

BOARD REPORT #: 2507CR01

MEETING: Open

TO: Chair and Members of the London Police Service Board

FROM: Treena MacSween, Deputy Chief

SUBJECT: **2024 Annual Use of Force Statistical Report**

PURPOSE: Update / Information Purposes Only

1. RECOMMENDATION:

That the London Police Service Board receives this report for its information in compliance with Board policy.

2. SUMMARY:

This report provides a comprehensive summary of the instances and details of force used by members of the London Police Service from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. It is submitted to the Board in accordance with the Board's Use of Force Policy LPSB-078, addressing legislative requirements and the obligations under the Anti-Racism Act.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

There was an increase in of 50 Use of Force Reports from 2023 to 2024. An analysis of the data revealed that this increase is largely attributed to improved officer access to Conducted Energy Weapons, the increase in deployment of the Canine Unit and an increase in interactions where officers believed subjects had possession/access to a weapon.

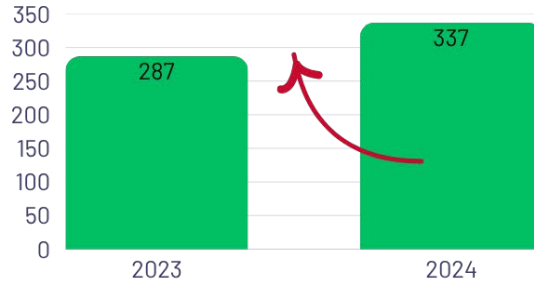
De-escalation is crucial in Use of Force encounters. Data indicates that de-escalation was attempted in most incidents.

Race Based Data is collected in Use of Force Reports, analysis is conducted on this data to identify and understand potential issues relating to the Use of Force.



2024 USE OF FORCE STATISTICAL REPORT

USE OF FORCE REPORTS



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS



CEW EXPANSION PROGRAM

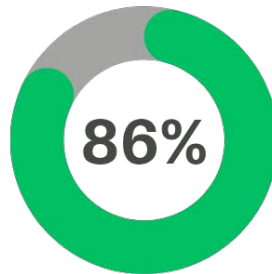


INCREASED BELIEF SUBJECT HAD A WEAPON



CANINE DELPLOYMENT AND ARREST

DE-ESCALATION



RACE BASED DATA

χ^2

No evidence of racial disparity related to firearm use of force decisions and CEW discharge

4. BACKGROUND:

Police officers are authorized to use a range of force options to protect life, preserve the peace, prevent crimes, maintain order, and apprehend suspects. Section 25 of the Criminal Code of Canada grants officers the authority to use reasonable force as necessary while carrying out their lawful duties. On April 1st, 2024, the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) came into effect, making 2024 a transition year for legislation.

January 1st, 2024 – March 31st, 2024 - Regulation 926 of the Police Services Act outlined the types of weapons officers were permitted to carry and mandatory training requirements. The authority to collect Use of Force information is found in the Policing Standards Manual (AI-012), the Police Services Act (O. Reg. 926 s. 14.5), and London Police Service Procedure (Part 1 Chapter B: Use of Force).

April 1st, 2024 – current – CSPA Ontario Regulation 391/23 outlines the types of weapons officers are permitted to carry and mandatory training requirements. The authority to collect Use of Force information is found in the CSPA (O. Reg. 391/23 s. 13(1)), and London Police Service Procedure (Administrative and Infrastructure - AI 001.01 Use of Force).

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

A member of a police force shall submit a report to the chief of police whenever the 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.

**** Recall from 2023 Annual Use of Force Statistical Report** - Effective January 1, 2023, the Ministry of the Solicitor General launched the Modernized Use of Force Report. Sections e), f) and h) were new mandatory reporting requirements for the Modernized Use of Force Report. As such, comparisons to Annual Use of Statistical Reports predating 2023 are limited.

Reporting Compliance - Anti-Racism Act

Effective January 1, 2020, the Anti-Racism Act mandated police services in Ontario to collect data on the perceived race of individuals, when a police member uses force. The data standards for the identification and monitoring of systemic racism, also known as Ontario's Anti-Racism Data Standards, were established to help identify and monitor systemic racism and racial disparities within the public sector. The legislation outlines the obligations of the police service and sets out the legally required information. The standardized Use of Force Reports are electronically submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General for centralized collection.

When completing a Use of Force Report, officers are required to select and categorize the perceived race of the individual involved, choosing from seven distinct racial categories defined

by the Ministry; Black, East/Southeast Asian, Indigenous, Latino, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and White.

Use of Force Review and Reporting

All Use of Force Reports are reviewed by the Supervisor of the submitting officer before being forwarded for auditing by the Sergeant, Practical Skills Unit, Training and Professional Development Branch. These reports are audited for content and submitted to the Solicitor General in accordance with legislative requirements. This process allows for the critical review of information gathered from all Use of Force Reports for the purpose of monitoring and addressing potential biases, trends, or training needs, while upholding the privacy and protection of the individuals involved.

The Ministry also reviews Use of Force Reports for compliance. This additional layer of oversight ensures a thorough and independent review of the information submitted, reinforcing accountability and adherence to legislative standards.

The data contained in the Use of Force Reports was analyzed with the assistance of the Business Analytics Unit. Please note that the 2023 totals in some charts in this year's report differ slightly from those published in the 2023 Annual Use of Force Statistical Report. This variance is a result of refinements in the data retrieval process by the Business Analytics Unit from the Modernized Use of Force Report. As part of ongoing data quality checks, these updates ensure the information presented is as accurate and consistent as possible.

5. TERMINOLOGY:

Throughout this report terminology will be used such as "Count of Use of Force Reports", "Count of Occurrence Number", and "Count of Unique Subjects". This terminology is used to ensure clarity because multiple Use of Force Reports can be submitted on a single incident. This also means a single individual (subject) can have multiple Use of Force Reports submitted relating to a single occurrence.

Count of Use of Force Reports: This refers to the total number of reports submitted by police officers whenever they use force in an incident. Each report details the circumstances and actions taken during the Use of Force incident.

Count of Occurrence Number: This represents the total number of distinct incidents or occurrences where force was used. Multiple Use of Force Reports can be submitted for a single occurrence if multiple officers were involved.

Count of Unique Subjects: This indicates the total number of individual subjects involved in Use of Force incidents. A single subject can be identified in multiple Use of Force Reports if multiple reports were submitted for the same incident. Multiple subjects can also be added to a single Use of Force Report.

Types of Reports

Officers can submit an individual and/or team report.

- a) Team Reports - Team reports may be submitted to document the coordinated efforts of multiple officers engaged in similar actions.

Before 2023, team reports were primarily used by members of the Emergency Response Unit and the Public Order Unit to record collective Use of Force incidents, such as when an entire team displayed their firearms.

In 2023, the use of team reports was expanded to include Patrol members, allowing them to document unified actions, such as collectively drawing their firearms.

- b) Individual Reports - Individual Use of Force Reports are completed by members of the service who have used force individually. This includes individual officers on teams, that use force beyond drawing, displaying, and pointing a firearm or conducted energy weapon.

Example:

The following example is a 2024 Use of Force reporting requirement where one occurrence required two (2) Use of Force Reports. Police were detailed to a residence for a mental health call where the caller advised that the occupant stated he had a gun and would shoot the caller. Members of LPS Emergency Response Unit attended and set up containment and started negotiations with the subject to de-escalate the situation. For their safety, handguns and long guns were drawn. The subject continued to communicate he had a gun and a bomb and would kill the officers. The subject exited the residence with a metal pole and refused to follow the commands of the officers. A conducted energy weapon (CEW – also known as a Taser) was deployed and the subject was taken into custody. For this incident, two Use of Force Reports were completed for this one occurrence. One Team Report for the drawn and pointed firearms, and one Individual Report for the officer that deployed the CEW. Since two Use of Force Reports were completed, the subject would have been identified once in each report. Analysis of all the reports is conducted to identify unique subjects and distinct occurrences identified within all reports.

6. USE OF FORCE TRAINING:

De-Escalation Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid (2023)

In 2023 the Ministry of the Solicitor General's Public Safety Division introduced the Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid to replace the 2004 Ontario Use of Force Model. This training aid prioritizes cooperative police-public interactions grounded in de-escalation strategies and procedural justice principles. The London Police Service Training and Professional Development Branch adopted this practice upon its introduction and remains committed to its continued application in all dealings that require the Use of Force.

The ideal goal of any police interaction with the public is that it be cooperative, respectful, and peaceful. The 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 (see Appendix A). 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.

Conflict prevention and de-escalation is emphasized throughout the Training Aid. De-escalation is the use of verbal and nonverbal strategies intended to prevent conflict or reduce the intensity of a situation without the application of force.

Any Use of Force by police is governed by the legal principles of necessity, proportionality, and reasonableness.

It is important to note there are many situations where a Use of Force Report is required however physical contact/force on the subject never occurs. For example, the displaying of a weapon (ie CEW, firearm) can be a method of de-escalation where no actual physical contact with the subject occurs but the submission of a Use of Force report by the involved officers is required.

Example:

Officers responded to a weapons call where a male victim advised he had been stabbed, and the subject was still in the residence with the knife. Numerous officers “stacked” at the door with an institutional shield, lethal (handgun) and less lethal Use of Force (CEW). As officers approached the residence the subject exited and immediately surrendered. Officers arrested the subject without issue. In this case a Use of Force report was completed identifying a CEW and handgun were drawn and displayed however the physical contact with the subject was limited to handcuffing.

2024 Use of Force Training

The Practical Skills Unit teaches de-escalation techniques which emphasize communication skills, rapport building, and emotional intelligence in practical scenarios. All Use of Force training provided by the London Police Service incorporates de-escalation techniques. When deciding the level of force appropriate in various circumstances, members shall consider de-escalation tactics including disengagement.

The Practical Skills Unit utilizes real life scenario-based training for all officers which requires them to demonstrate the de-escalation techniques taught. These training scenarios are incorporated into Firearms, CEW, and Use of Force training.

In 2024 the LPS Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST) assisted the Training and Professional Development Branch by providing training to all LPS members on mental health and de-escalation strategies for persons in crisis.

New User – Conducted Energy Weapon Expansion Plan

In March 2023, a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) expansion plan was submitted and later approved. The goal of the plan was for all sworn operational members to be fully trained as CEW operators by the end of 2024, reflecting the growing recognition that CEWs are a valuable less-lethal Use of Force option.

CEWs are widely acknowledged to reduce injuries to both the public and police officers. Importantly, the mere presence of a CEW—when drawn or in display mode—often helps de-escalate tense situations, enabling officers to resolve conflicts without physical engagement, thereby enhancing safety and preserving public trust.

In 2023, 93 new users completed CEW training, with most sessions taking place in the fall. An additional 56 new users were trained in 2024. In total, this represents a 45% increase in the number of officers qualified to carry and use a CEW in 2024 compared to 2023.

The deployment of additional CEWs enhances our operational capabilities by expanding the availability of a less-lethal intervention option that can effectively defuse volatile situations. Equally important, de-escalation training is a core component of CEW training, equipping

officers with verbal, tactical, and situational awareness skills designed to reduce conflict and reinforce safer outcomes for both officers and the public.

Training – Race-Based Data and Use of Force Reports

The collection and analysis of race-based data is crucial for identifying and understanding potential issues relating to the Use of Force. Accurate data helps us identify trends, monitor disparities, and implement effective strategies to promote fairness and accountability. It is important to acknowledge the potential for inaccuracies in capturing race-based data through Use of Force Reports as individuals are not required to self-identify for data collection purposes and an officer's perception of the subject's race is subjective. These factors could contribute to either an over or under-representation of certain racial groups in police Use of Force data. Strategies such as encouraging self-identification supports more accurate and consistent reporting.

LPS members receive training on diversity and bias on an ongoing basis. To ensure a foundation of cultural competency is established early in the career of LPS members, all new recruits spend a full day with the Community Services Unit visiting various community organizations with a focus on diversity.

7. 2024 ANNUAL USE OF FORCE STATISTICAL REPORT DATA SUMMARY:

This section provides a detailed analysis of Use of Force Reports submitted in 2024, with comparative insights drawn from previous years. The data indicates an increase in Use of Force Reports, distinct occurrences, and subjects involved in Use of Force incidents. A thorough evaluation revealed that this increase is largely attributed to improved officer access to CEW's, the increase in deployment of the Canine Unit and an increase in interactions where the officers believed subjects had possession/access to a handgun.

Additionally, operational changes such as increased staffing levels, reduced response times, and improved officer availability may have led to more frequent interactions with subjects and subsequent Use of Force interactions.

Use of Force Reports / Subjects / Occurrences

A total of 365 reports were submitted in 2024, including those related to the humane dispatch of animals and "no interaction" incidents. This reflects a 15% increase over the number of reports submitted in 2023 and accounts for less than 1% of all public-police interactions.

Table #1 provides a 5-year comparison for total Use of Force Reports after removing no interaction reports.

Table #1

Total Use of Force Reports

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Use of Force Reports (combined human and animal subjects)	274	299	246	312	359

A no interaction report is a report in which there was no subject identified within the Use of Force Report.

Example:

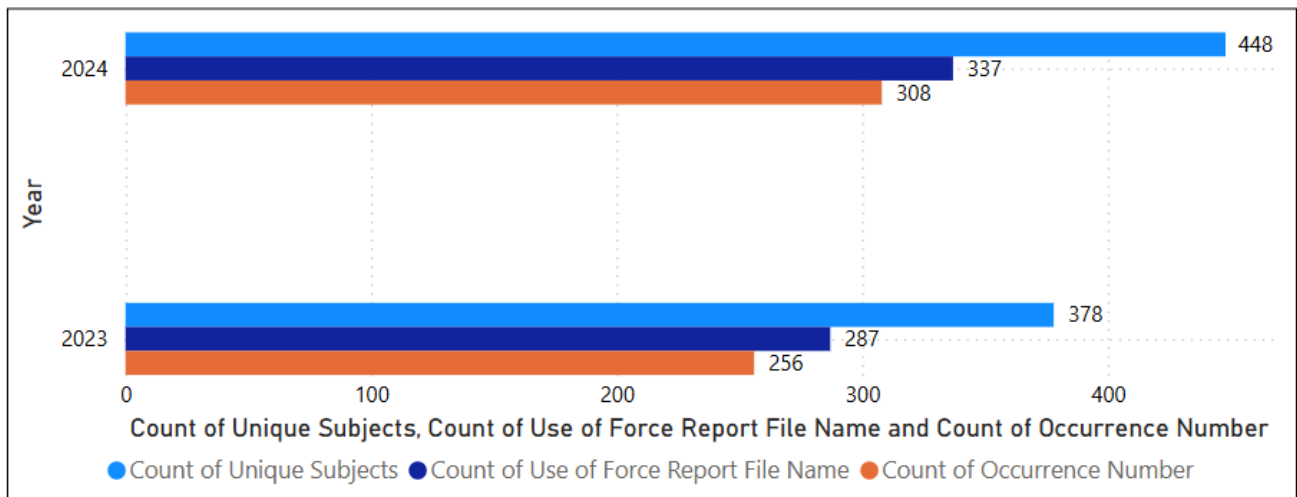
A no interaction report identified in 2024 involved a call where a victim reported being threatened by a group of males with a firearm. The victim fled to a nearby school to seek assistance. Responding officers attended the area and conducted a search of the parking lot with their service pistols drawn and held in a tucked position. Although no suspects were located and therefore no direct subject interaction occurred, a Use of Force Report was required due to the officers drawing their firearms while actively searching for the suspects.

In total there were six (6) no interaction reports for 2024. Each of these reports involved situations where an officer drew their handgun in the presence of a member of the public, but no identifiable subject was located or engaged. As a result, these six (6) reports are not represented in any of the charts or figures that follow in this report.

Figure #1 provides a comparison between 2023 and 2024 for three key metrics related to Use of Force Reports: Unique Subjects, Distinct Occurrences, and Total Use of Force Reports.

Figure #1

Unique Subjects / Distinct Occurrences / Total Use of Force Reports



Note: Historically, the occurrence number was not included as a data element. Modifications to the data capture process have made it possible to count reports and distinct occurrences beginning in 2023.

As shown in Figure #1 there was an increase across all 3 metrics from 2023 to 2024. This consistency suggests that the rise is not solely a result of reporting practices.

- Increase in Use of Force Reports (not including animal interactions): 50 reports
- Increase in Distinct Occurrences involving Use of Force Reports: 52 occurrences
- Increase in Unique Subjects where force was used or displayed that required a Use of Force Report: 70 unique subjects

Use of Force Incidents Vs Total Interactions

In 2024, London Police Service officers responded to 67938 dispatched calls for service. Of these, there were 308 distinct occurrences involving 448 unique subjects that led to the display or application of force, representing less than 1% (0.45%) of all public-police interactions.

Table #2 provides a 5-year comparison for categories related to police and public interactions.

Table #2

Use of Force Incidents and Police / Public Interactions

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dispatched Calls for Service	80724	79581	73769	70988	67938
Mental Health Apprehensions	1614	1711	1612	1482	1525
Number of Distinct Occurrences with Interaction with Human Subjects - Use of Force Reports				256	308
Percent of Dispatch Calls for Service with Use of Force				0.36	0.45
Total Animal Only Use of Force Reports	39	34	27	25	22
Total Calls for Service	105257	106757	95002	92970	89775
Total Team Use of Force Reports	66	105	66	150	160
Total Use of Force Reports (combined human and animal subjects)	274	299	246	312	359
Total Use of Force Reports (excluding animal reports)	235	265	219	287	337

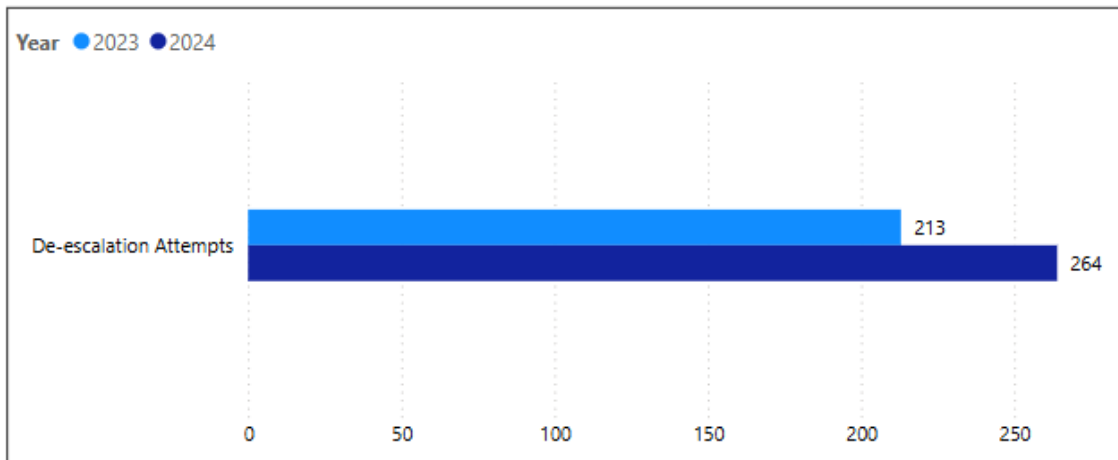
De-escalation

As mentioned earlier all LPS Use of Force training incorporates de-escalation techniques. Often de-escalation is one of the first approaches in a Use of Force incident. De-escalation can be used before or in conjunction with the application of Use of Force options. In total de-escalation was used in 86% of distinct occurrences that involved Use of Force Reports. This is in line with 2023 where de-escalation attempts were used in 83% of distinct occurrences with a Use of Force Report.

Figure #2 provides a comparison of distinct occurrences with de-escalation attempts in 2023 to 2024.

Figure #2

De-escalation Attempts in Use of Force Occurrences



There are situations when de-escalation is not an option because the incident requires immediate action.

Example:

In the fall of 2024, a stolen vehicle was observed being operated within the City of London. The occupants intentionally evaded police, abandoned the vehicle, and fled on foot. A canine officer located the vehicle and tracked the suspects through backyards and over fences. As the officer and Police Service Dog entered one of the backyards, a suspect attempted to flee by jumping another fence. The Police Service Dog apprehended the suspect immediately. Due to the suspect's active attempt to evade police, there was no opportunity to engage in de-escalation prior to the apprehension.

Use of Force Reports – Use of Force options

Police officers are authorized to use a variety of force options to protect life, preserve the peace, prevent crimes, maintain order, and apprehend suspects. These options include Intermediate Weapons, Firearms, Less Lethal Firearms, Physical Force, and “Other” which includes the use of canine units. The selection of the appropriate Use of Force option is governed by the principles of necessity, proportionality, and reasonableness, ensuring that officers apply the least amount of force required to safely manage a situation. If the Use of Force incident dictates that an officer must utilize more than one Use of Force option, all options deployed by the officer must be selected on a single Use of Force Report.

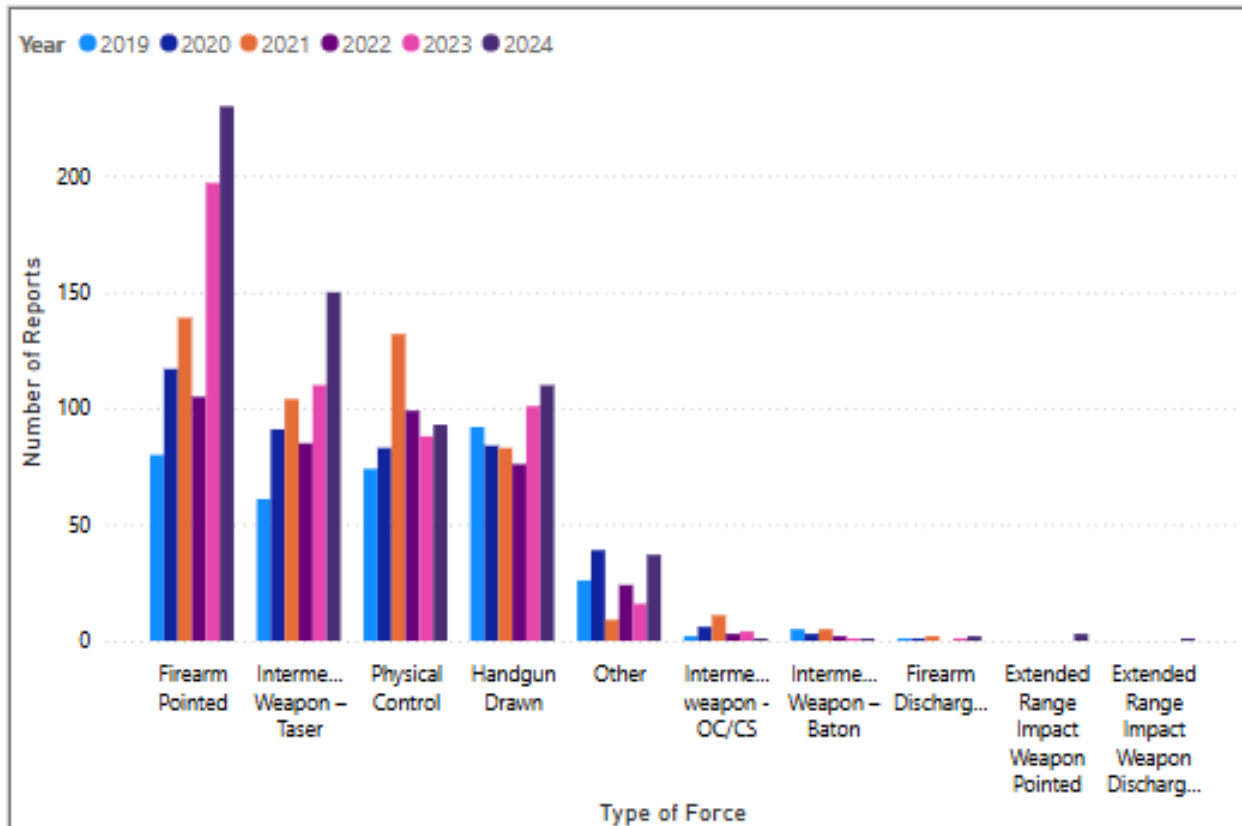
Example:

Officers attended a local business after receiving reports that a male had been stabbed multiple times by a stranger. Information received while enroute to the call was that the suspect had fled the scene with the weapon. The subject was identified and located in a residence the following day. The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) attended the residence and located the suspect who refused to comply with directions and demonstrated assaultive behaviour. A CEW was deployed but was not effective. The suspect began running in the opposite direction at which time other members of ERU grounded the suspect using the institutional shield. The suspect continued to fight and resist while on the ground. The CEW was deployed gaining compliance and the suspect was arrested.

In this investigation two Use of Force Reports were submitted for one suspect. The Use of Force options selected on the two reports were Rifle, CEW, physical force, other (Institutional Shield). At the time of arrest the suspect was located with weapons on his person.

Figure #3 provides a 5-year comparison for the type of Use of Force selected on all Use of Force Reports submitted.

Figure #3
Type of Force Used



Analysis of the Increase

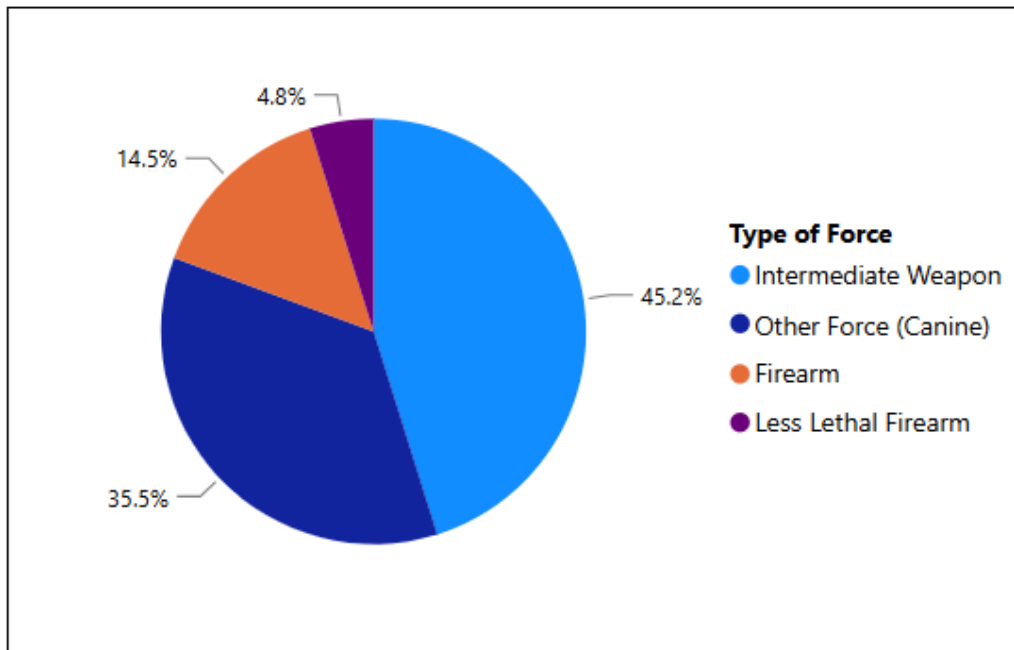
As identified earlier, there was an increase in Use of Force Reports, distinct occurrences involving Use of Force and unique subjects where force was used. To analyze the overall increase, an assessment was completed using Use of Force Reports and the Use of Force options selected on the reports.

When reviewing the Use of Force options, the most significant increase reported in Use of Force Reports was in the selection of Intermediate Weapons. This was followed by Other Force (Canine), Firearm, and Less Lethal Firearm. Conversely, there was a decrease in the Physical Force option requiring a Use of Force Report, with a 2% difference from 2023 to 2024.

Figure #4 shows a breakdown of the type of force selected in Use of Force Reports and the percentage each force option contributed to the overall increase in Use of Force Reports from 2023 to 2024.

Figure #4

Use of Force Options Attributed to Increase



Intermediate Weapons

As observed in Figure #4, the greatest increase in the Use of Force option selected was in the category of Intermediate Weapons. Intermediate Weapons include CEW, Baton and Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray. Within in the Intermediate Weapons category, CEW accounted for 100% of the increase.

Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)

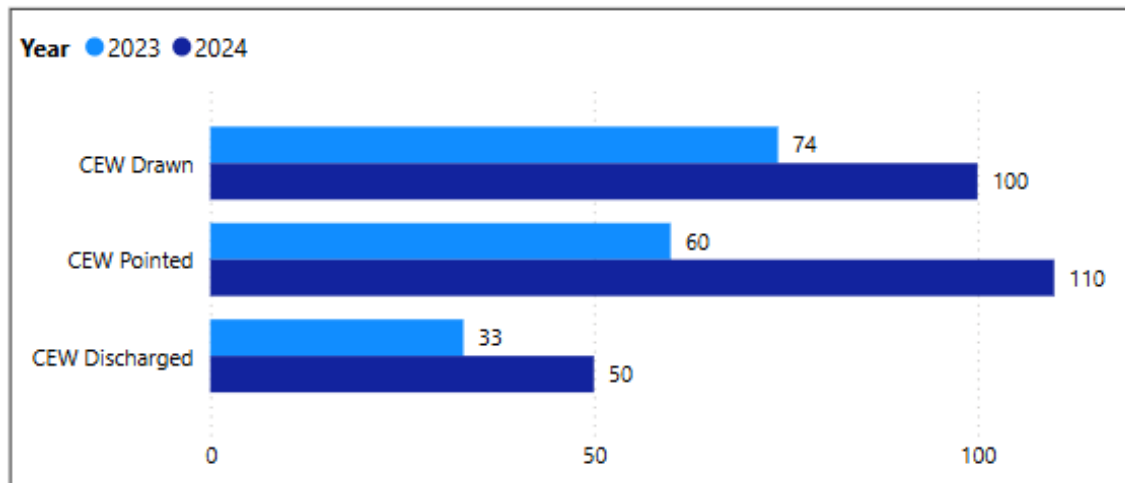
The Use of Force Report provides three options for an officer to select for the manner the CEW was used.

- i. Drawn and Displayed with the Intention of Achieving Compliance – The CEW is removed from the holster and displayed in a manner that is visible to the subject but is not pointed at the subject.
- ii. Pointed – The CEW is removed from the holster and pointed at the subject.
- iii. Discharged – The CEW is removed from the holster and discharged at the subject.

Figure #5 outlines the manner the CEW was used in Use of Force Reports.

Figure #5

CEW Deployment – Drawn – Displayed / Pointed / Discharged



When an officer completes a Use of Force Report in relation to the use of the CEW, they can select one, two, or all three of the above categories. Each of the actions are to be selected based on the distinct circumstances and decisions made by the officer.

In total there were 110 Use of Force Reports with a CEW selection in 2023 and 150 Use of Force Reports in 2024. In 2023, the CEW was discharged in 7.7% of all unique subject interactions, and in 2024, it was used in 10.2% of all unique subject interactions. The low discharge rate confirms the CEW is an effective tool for de-escalating subject behaviour.

The increase in Use of Force Reports from 2023 to 2024 where a CEW was reported can be attributed to the higher number of officers qualified to carry and use the CEW in 2024. This demonstrates that accessibility played a significant role in the increase of Use of Force Reports.

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray & Baton

Intermediate weapons also include OC spray (also known as pepper spray) and the collapsible baton. OC spray was used on 1 occasion in 2024, down from 4 in 2023. The collapsible baton was used on 1 occasion in 2023 and in 2024. Therefore, OC and collapsible baton had zero effect on the overall increase in Use of Force Reports.

Other Force

The Use of Force option “Other” contributed to the second largest increase in 2024. “Other” Force attributed 35.5% to the overall increase in Use of Force Reports. An “Other” Use of Force option refers to the use of a canine or a weapon of opportunity. “Other” Use of Force options identified in 2023 and 2024 included canine, pepperball gun, chemical deployment and the institutional shield.

Within the “Other” category canine contributed to 83.3% of the increase in this category with 32 Use of Force Reports submitted in 2024 compared to 12 in 2023. The institutional shield was used 3 times as a Use of Force option in 2024 compared to 2 times in 2023, the pepperball gun was used 3 times in 2024 compared to 0 times in 2023. There were no Use of Force Reports for chemical deployment in 2024, compared to 2 Use of Force Reports in 2023.

In 2024 the Canine Unit responded to more calls, initiated more deployments and made more arrests than in 2023. This shows that the increased deployment of this speciality unit had a direct effect on the overall increase in Use of Force Reports.

Table #3 provides a comparison for canine deployment from 2023 to 2024.

Table #3

K9 Deployment

K9	2023	2024	% increase 2024 from 2023
Calls	1799	2012	11.8
Deployments	496	627	26.4
Arrests	716	921	28.6

Note: A canine deployment differs from responding to a call in that a deployment refers to when a handler utilizes the dog and the dog performs a trained tactic. Source: Canine Unit.

Firearm

The selection of the Firearm category for Use of Force Reports contributed to 14.5% of the increase in Use of Force reports

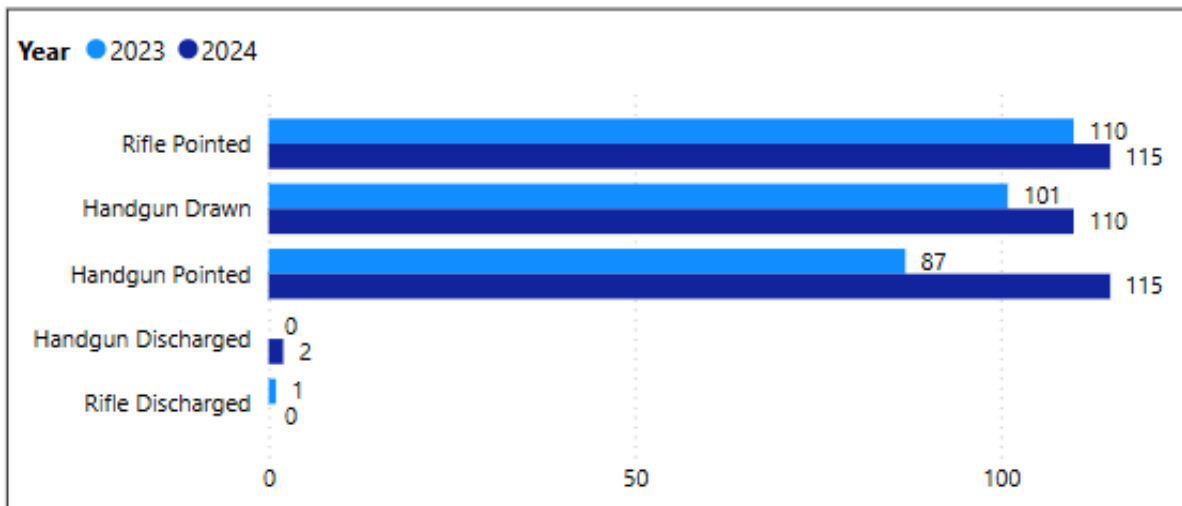
A police officer may point a firearm at a person when that person demonstrates behaviour that the officer believes may result in grievous bodily harm or death to the officer or to someone else.

The Firearm category is broken down further into Rifle and Handgun. The increase in the Firearm category is largely attributed to handgun deployment.

Figure #6 compares the number of reports in 2023 and 2024 where a handgun and/or rifle was selected.

Figure #6

Use of Force Report - Firearm



When an officer completes a Use of Force Report for the use of a handgun, they can select one, two or all of the three above categories outlined in Figure #6. If an officer uses a rifle, they can select Rifle Pointed or Rifle Discharged or both. Each of the actions are selected based on distinct circumstances and decisions made by the officer.

Less Lethal Firearm

The deployment of a Less Lethal Firearm contributed to 4.8% of the overall increase in Use of Force Reports. In total there were 3 reports where a Less Lethal Firearm was used. There were no reports of a Less Lethal Firearm used in 2023.

A less lethal firearm is a firearm designed to fire specialized projectiles meant to minimize the risk of death. Eg. An Anti-Riot Weapon Enfield (ARWEN) is designed to fire large rubber and foam baton rounds.

Use of Force Incidents – How Received

Officers can become involved with the public in four different ways:

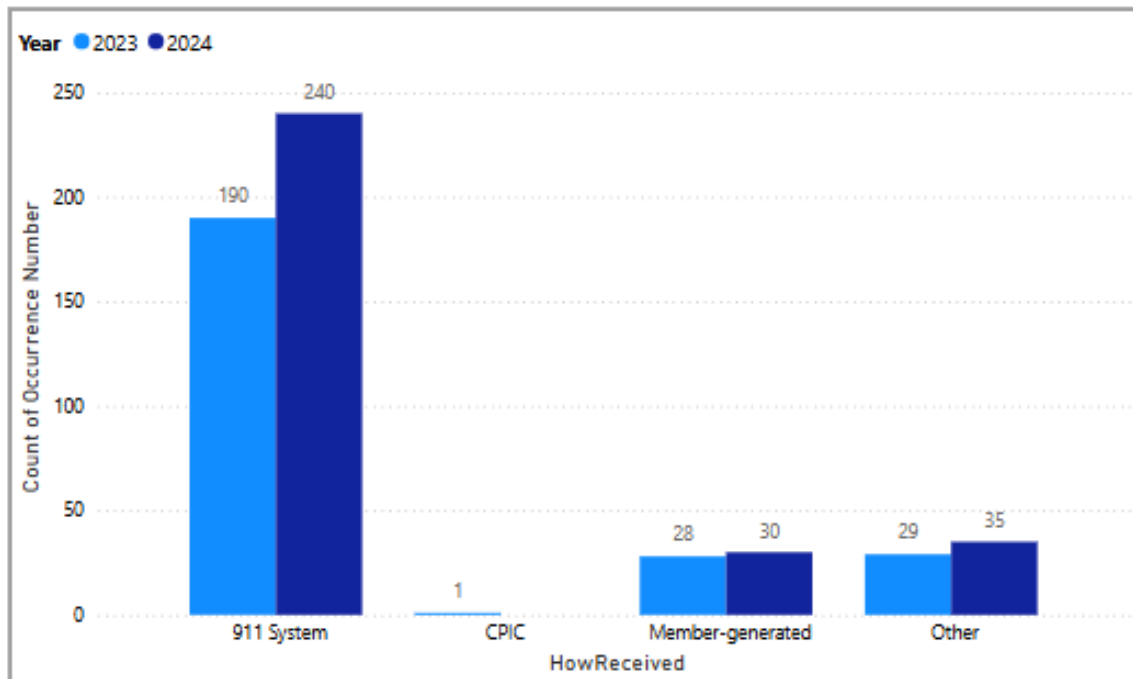
- 911 System (officers are dispatched to calls for service by a citizen contacting 911)
- Member-generated (initiated by an officer)
- Other (officers dispatched to calls for service by a method other than 911)
- CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre).

In 2024, 88.7% of the Use of Force Reports submitted were related to occurrences that were in response to 911 calls.

Figure #7 exhibits how London Police officers initially became involved in a Use of Force incident that required a report.

Figure #7

Use of Force Reports – How Received



Note: This data is collected utilizing the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) record for each occurrence. This figure does not include the Use of Force Reports where a warrant was executed. Investigations that involve warrant execution are typically initiated well before any Use of Force incident, making the 'how received' data less applicable to the Use of Force Report.

Only 6.6% of the Use of Force Reports that were submitted in 2024 pertained to incidents that were initiated by LPS Officers.

Example:

The following is an occurrence that resulted in a Use of Force incident initiated by an officer. While on patrol in a marked cruiser, an officer observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. The officer attempted a traffic stop, but the driver failed to stop and intentionally fled the area. The officer successfully deployed a GPS dart—also known as a StarChase device—which attaches to the fleeing vehicle and allows it to be tracked remotely. Once the dart was deployed, the officer discontinued the pursuit. The vehicle was later tracked to a residence, where a K9 unit confirmed the driver had entered the home. When officers attended the residence, the accused refused to surrender, became angry and belligerent, and adopted a combative stance with clenched fists. The accused then attempted to retrieve a shiny object from his pocket. A Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) was deployed to ensure the safety of both officers and the accused. The investigation revealed that the accused was a prohibited driver and was impaired by alcohol at the time of the incident.

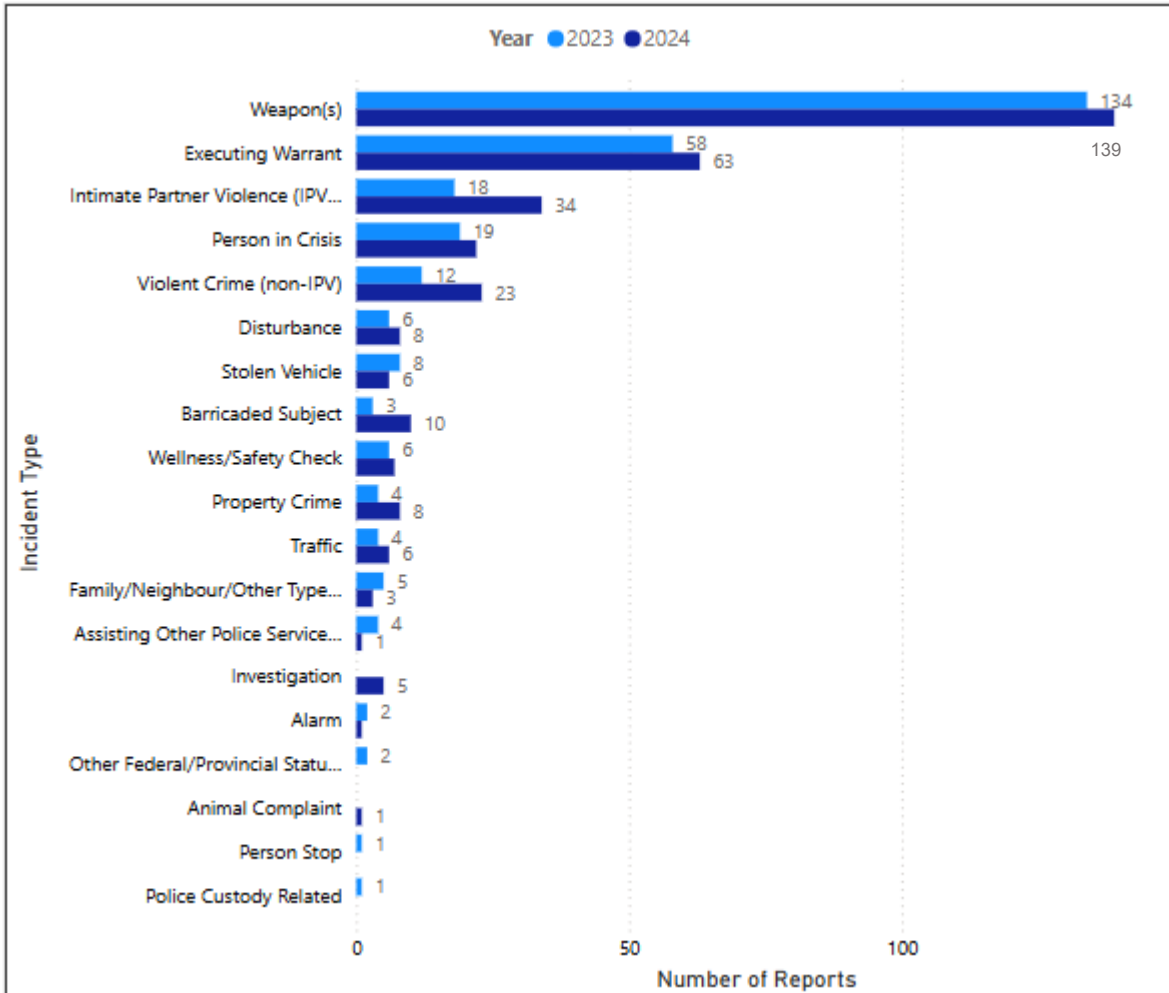
Use of Force Reports - Incident Type

Officers must select an Incident Type on a Use of Force Report. Officer can only select one Incident Type. The most significant increase for Incident Type when reviewing the increase in Use of Force Reports from 2023 to 2024 includes Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Barricaded Subject and Violent Offences (non-IPV).

Figure #8 shows the comparison between 2023 and 2024, and the incident types selected on the Use of Force Reports.

Figure #8

Use of Force Reports – Incident Type



There was a difference in incident type response when reviewing the three Use of Force Options that contributed the most to the overall increase in Use of Force Reports.

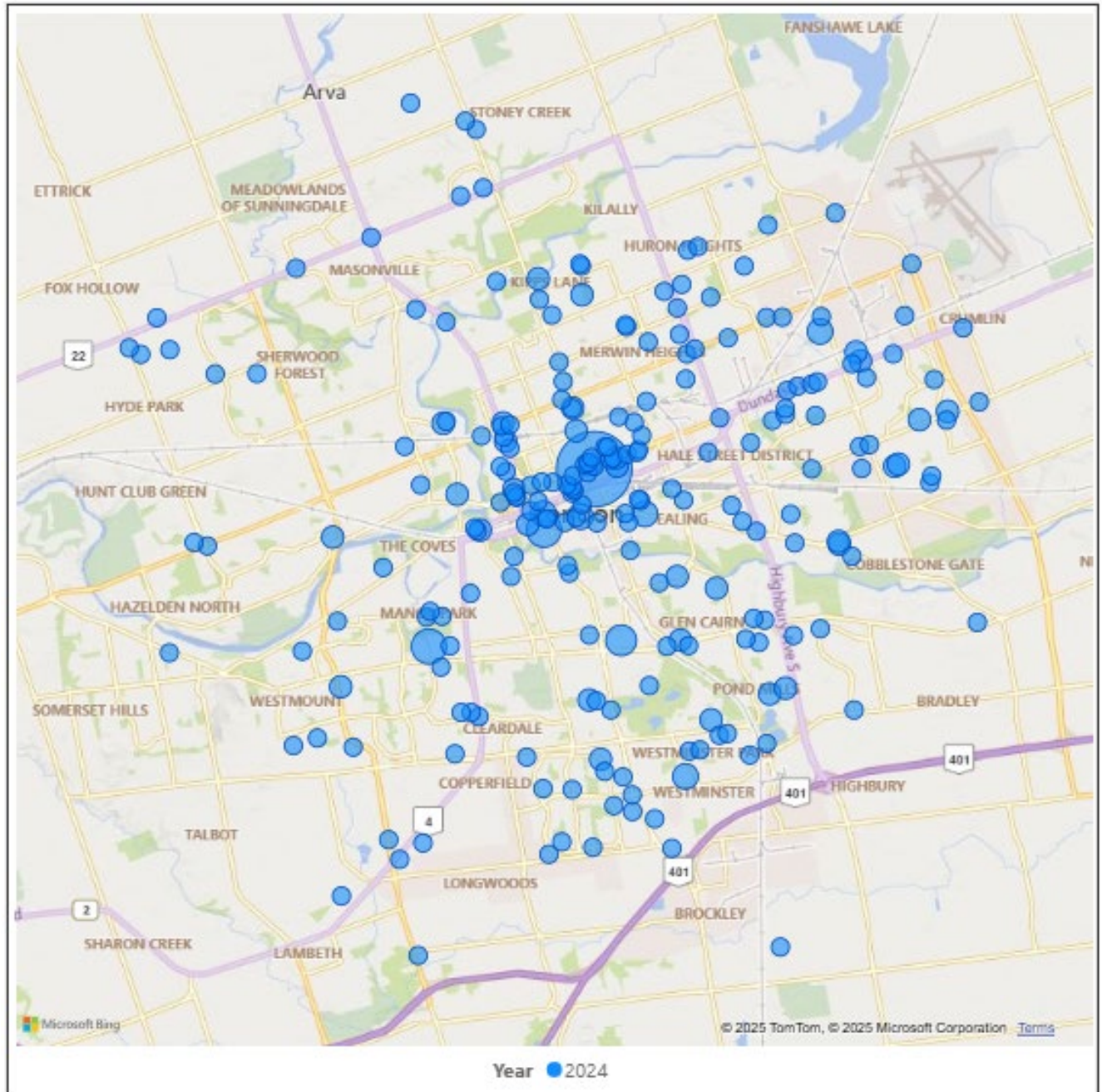
- CEW's were most utilized in the incident type of Weapons (34%), IPV (15%), and Person in Crisis (14%) in 2024.
- Handguns were most utilized in the incident type of Weapons (60%) and Executing Warrants (16%)
- Where a Use of Force Report was required, Police Service Dogs were most utilized in the incident type of Executing Warrants (20%), IPV (17%), Stolen Vehicle (17%) and Violent Crime (13%)

Geographic Locations

Data shows that officers working in the downtown core are more likely to be involved in Use of Force incidents than the outlying areas of the City.

Figure #9 exhibits the geographic coordinates across the City of London where Use of Force incidents occurred in 2024.

Figure #9
Use of Force Reports – Geographic Location



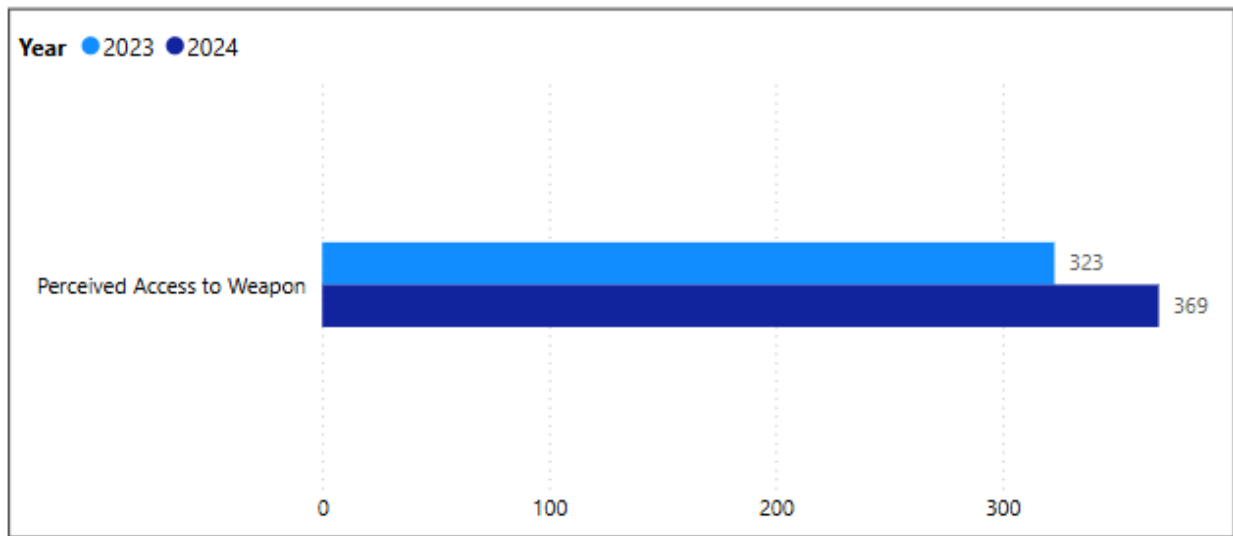
Use of Force Subjects

Of the Use of Force Reports submitted in 2024 there were 448 unique subjects identified.

Of the 448 unique subjects in 2024, officers believed 82% of the subjects they interacted with had possession or access to a weapon during the Use of Force interaction.

Figure #10 shows a comparison between 2023 and 2024, where officers believed the subject had possession or access to a weapon.

Figure #10
Possession or Access to Weapons

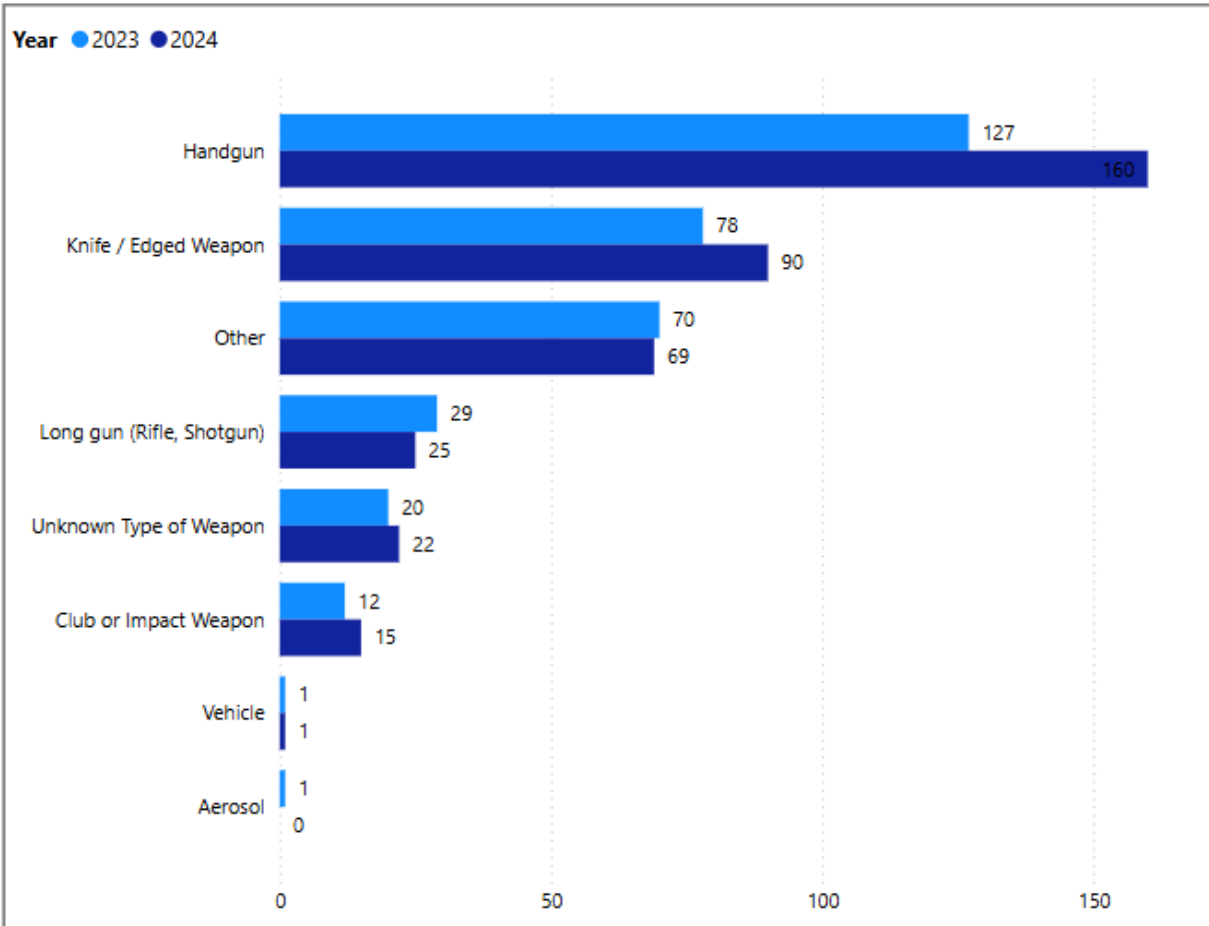


A further assessment on the category of “Perceived Access to Weapon” revealed that officers believed that 160 unique subjects were in possession of or had access to a handgun in 2024 compared to 127 unique subjects in 2023.

Figure #11 identifies the types of weapons officers believed unique subjects possessed.

Figure #11

Subject – Type of Weapon



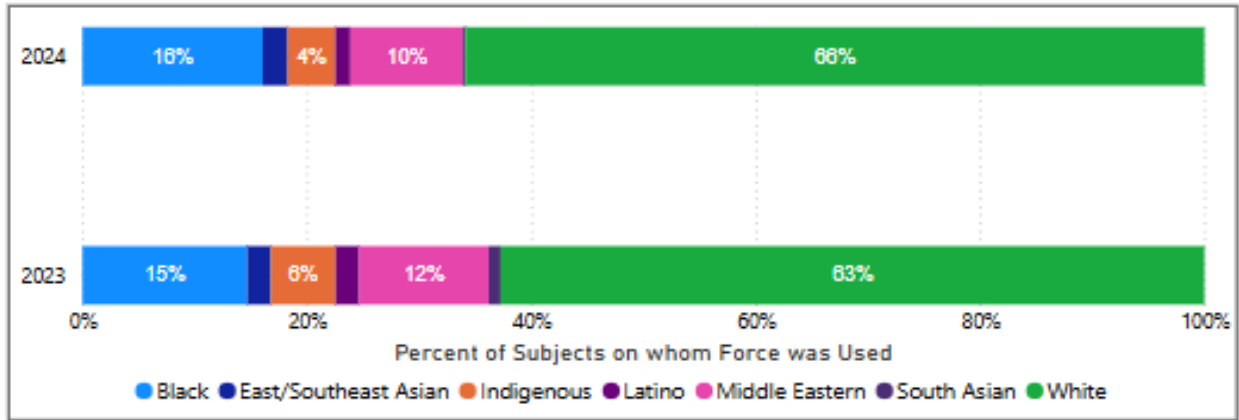
Subjects - Perceived Race

In compliance with the Anti-Racism Act, officers are required to identify the perceived race of the subject on the Use of Force Report. Of the 448 unique subjects, officers perceived 153 to be of a visible minority. 160

Figure #12 exhibits the perception of the subject’s race determined at the time the decision was made to use force. This is based on the officer’s perception at the time and does not necessarily conform to the way the person self-identifies.

Figure #12

Use of Force Reports – Perception of Subject’s Race



Perceived race data shows that the majority of the individuals on whom force was used in 2024 (66%) were perceived as White.

Table #4 provides a statistical range from the 2021 Census regarding visible minority rates for the City of London.

Table #4

Estimated Visible Minority Rates – City of London (2021)

Category	Rate	Range
White	71.3	71.0-71.6
South Asian	6.5	6.3-6.7
Middle Eastern	6.6	6.2-7.0
Latin American	3.0	2.8-3.2
Indigenous Identity	2.6	2.5-2.7
East/Southeast Asian	6.9	6.5-7.4
Black	4.2	4.0-4.4

It’s important to note that the subjects of Use of Force are not limited to residents of the City of London as they may interact with the London Police but reside outside of the City.

Table #5 exhibits a breakdown using the LPS records management system to identify the addresses of perceived visible minority subjects identified on Use of Force Reports.

Table #5

Use of Force Reports – Address of Visible Minority

Year	2023		2024	
Address	#	%	#	%
Could not be Determined	9	6.3%	5	3.3%
London	99	69.2%	108	70.6%
NFA	15	10.5%	26	17.0%
Out of Town	20	14.0%	14	9.2%
Total	143	100.0%	153	100.0%

The data from the Use of Force Reports was used to analyze whether race perception may have played a role in decisions to point a firearm or to discharge the CEW. A chi-square test is a statistical method used to determine whether there is a meaningful difference between two or more groups in how often something happens. A chi-square¹ analysis was conducted to determine if officers were more likely to point a rifle or handgun or discharge a CEW at an individual who is perceived as a visible minority compared to an individual who is perceived as White.

The test compares the number of times the identified Use of Force options were used on people perceived as visible minorities versus those perceived as white and checked whether the difference is large enough to be unlikely due to chance.

Table #6 provides the chi-square and probability values (p-value) for 9 statistical tests.

¹ The Chi-square test is a statistical method used to analyze categorical data and determine if there is a significant association or difference between variables. It provides valuable insights into the relationships between categorical variables and helps researchers draw conclusions based on observed data. It is commonly used in fields such as social sciences, biology, marketing, and healthcare. The interpretation of the Chi-square test results involves assessing the p-value. If the p-value is less than the predetermined significance level (e.g., 0.05), it indicates that there is evidence of an association or difference between the variables. Source www.decodingdatascience.com/chi-square-test-learn/

Table #6

Race Perception – Firearm Pointed and CEW Discharged

Use of Force	Chi- Squared	P-Value
1. Rifle 2023	1.147	0.284
2. Rifle 2024	0.461	0.497
3. Rifle 2023/2024	0.084	0.772
4. Handgun 2023	0.243	0.622
5. Handgun 2024	0.534	0.465
6. Handgun 2023/2024	0.584	0.445
7. CEW 2023	1.268	0.26
8. CEW 2024	0.179	0.672
9. CEW 2023/2024	0.184	0.668

In the analysis of 2023, 2024, and of the years combined, the results showed no statistically significant difference (all p-values were above 0.05) in any of the three Use of Force options that were examined. This suggests that there is no evidence of racial disparity in these specific Use of Force decisions based on the available data.

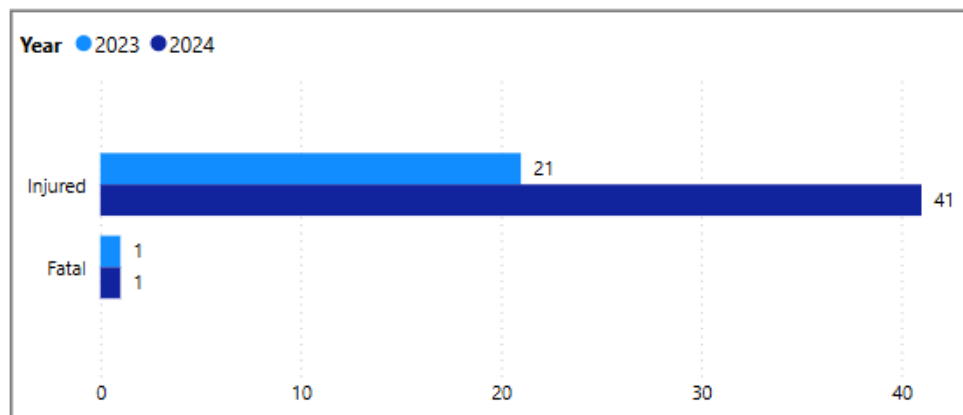
Subjects - Injuries

9.2% of the subjects on whom force was applied in 2024 experienced some level of injury.

Figure #13 identifies the injuries related to unique subjects in 2023 and 2024.

Figure #13

Subject Injuries



Note: Fatal injuries are not included in the injured category.

The increase in canine response and deployment contributed to an increase in subject injuries. 24 (58.5%) of the unique subjects injured were involved in a canine Use of Force interaction.

Police Service Dogs play a critical role in law enforcement operations, assisting in tracking, searches, and suspect apprehensions. While canine contributed substantially to the increase in Use of Force Reports and the increase in subject injuries, overall, their involvement remains relatively low. Canine as a Use of Force option was only selected on 32 of the total Use of Force Reports for 2024. As a result, the likelihood of a dog bite occurring during a Use of Force incident remains low.

Of the injuries reported to unique subjects, 9 individuals—representing 21.9% of all injured—were associated with frontline patrol incidents. This marks a decrease from 38.1% in 2023. The expanded availability of CEWs, primarily to frontline officers, did not lead to an increase in subject injuries documented in Use of Force Reports.

One subject was killed after police responded to an Intimate Partner Violence occurrence, where the individual had stabbed two other occupants in the residence. In an effort to preserve the life of the victim (who subsequently succumbed to her injuries), protect the safety of the other occupants, and ensure their own safety, two officers used lethal force by discharging their firearms.

Factors Influencing Use of Force

Before using force, officers must consider various reasons and factors. Many of these considerations are outlined in the Use of Force Report, where officers can select multiple reasons on a single report.

Example

Multiple factors contributed to a Use of Force incident in 2024 involving a suicidal male who was observed jumping in front of vehicles at a busy intersection in the city. Police responded and determined it was necessary to apprehend the individual for his own safety and the safety of others. The male took a fighting stance and attempted to assault the attending officers. One officer pointed a CEW at the male. After additional officers arrived, the male was safely apprehended without further incident. Officers cited several reasons for the Use of Force in this occurrence, including effecting an arrest, protecting other officers, protecting themselves, and protecting the subject.

Figure #14 provides the total number of Use of Force Reports and the reasons cited within the reports for using force. There were two "other" selections for 2024 which included effect apprehension and protect Emergency Medical Services workers.

Figure #14

Reasons Influencing Use of Force

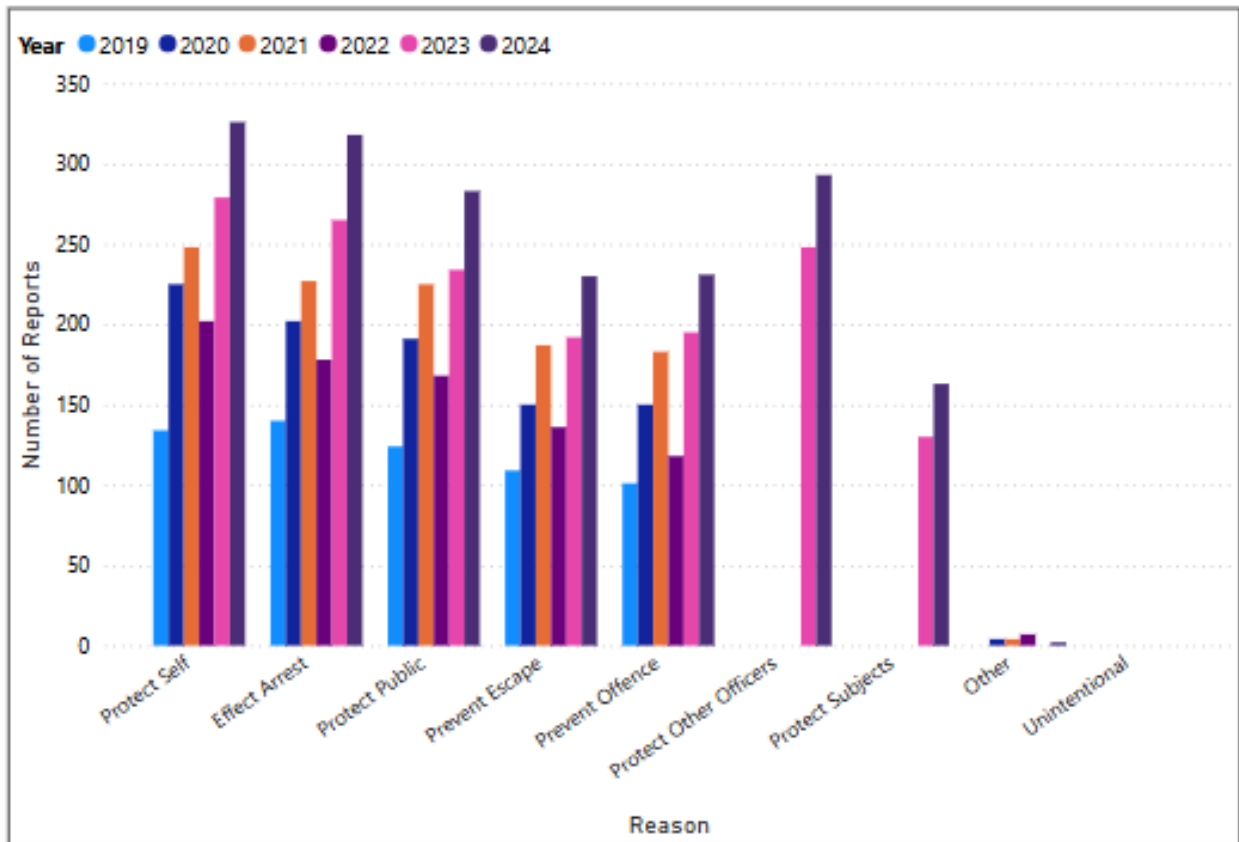
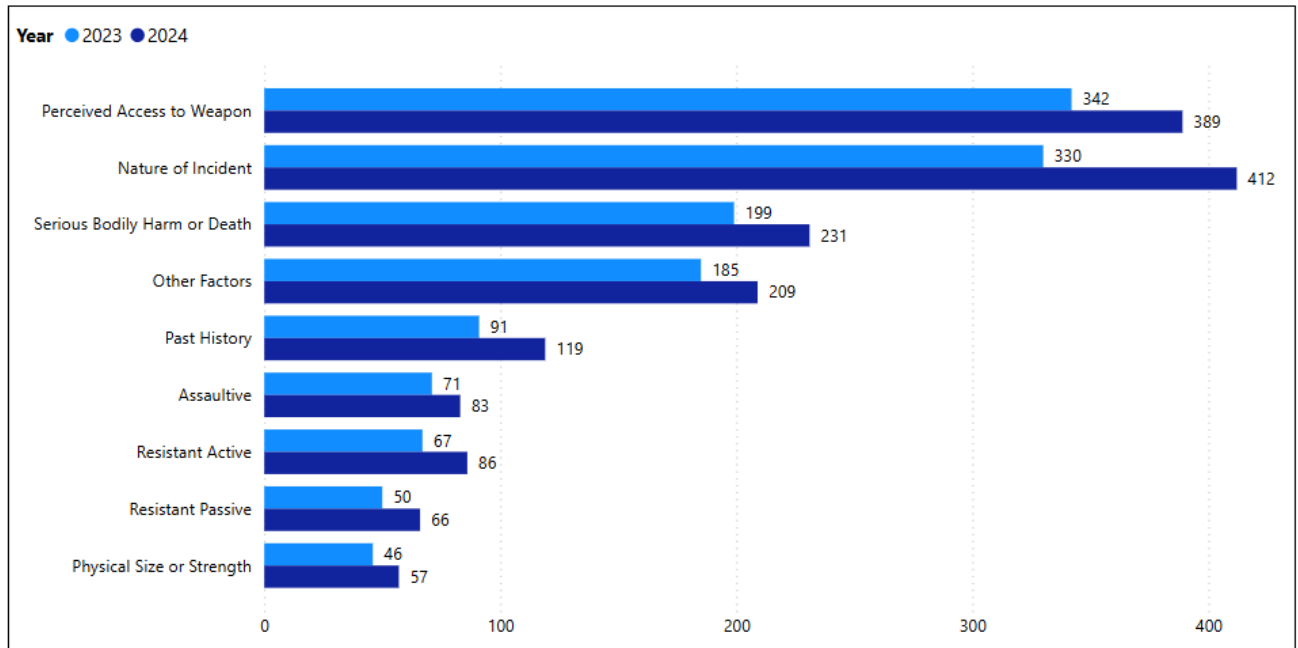


Figure #15 exhibits the factors selected on Use of Force Reports that influence Use of Force decisions by LPS officers. An officer has the option to select multiple factors on the report. Therefore, the number of factors influencing the decision could be larger than the total number of reports submitted.

Figure #15

Factors Influencing Use of Force



Use of Force Reports – Officers

Use of Force Reports are required for all officers that use force that meets the mandatory reporting requirements regardless of where they are assigned. The following charts reference an officer’s assignment and experience.

Figure #16 exhibits the number of Use of Force Reports by report type and assignment type. Each assignment type can have either individual reports or team reports.

Figure #16
Officer Assignment

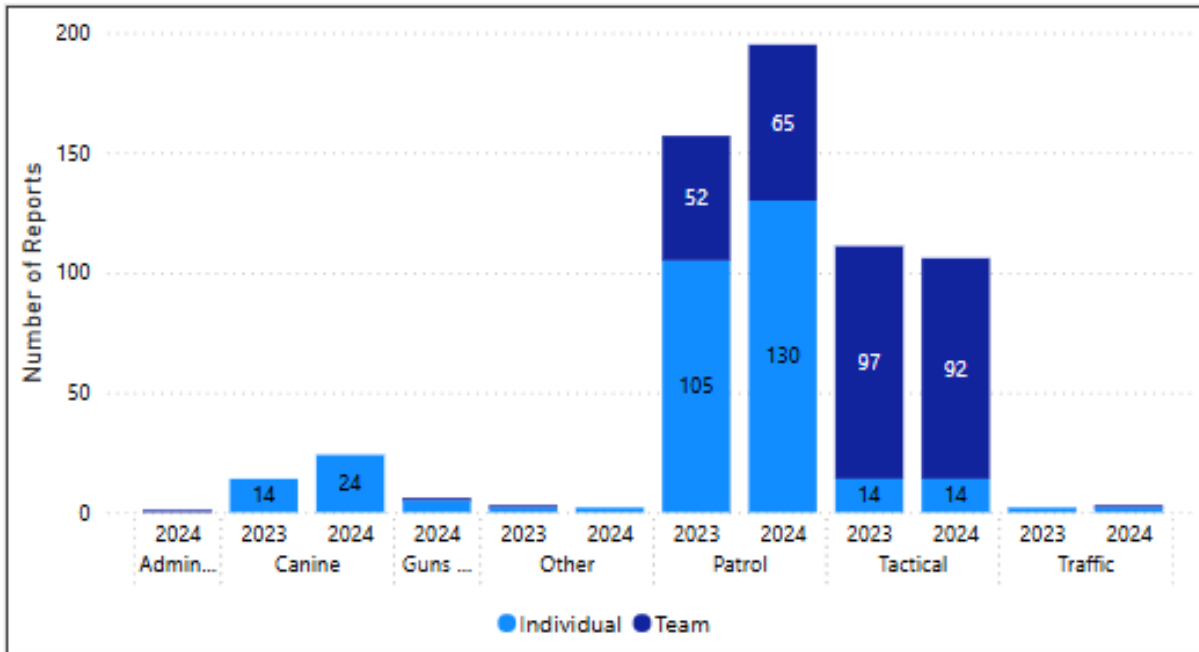
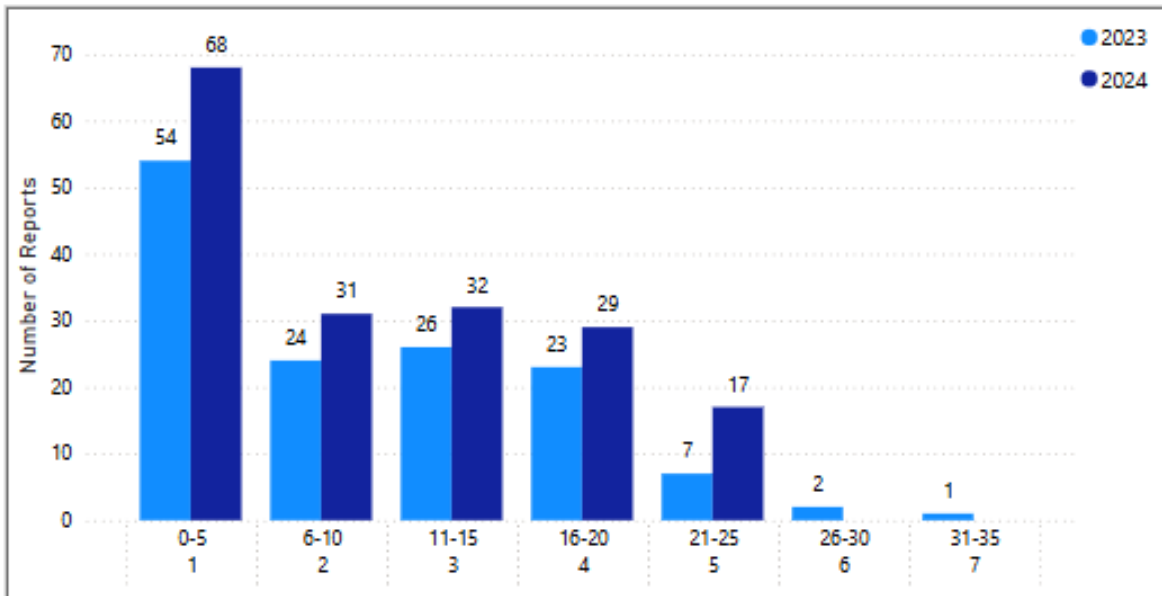


Figure #17 presents a breakdown of the total years of service of the officers who filed individual Use of Force Reports. Officers with 0-5 years of service are typically assigned to uniform patrol which correlates to the high number of Use of Force Reports submitted by patrol. As complement grows, this trend will continue.

Figure #17

Reporting Officers' Total Years of Service



Note: This information is not gathered for team reports.

8. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

London Police Service (LPS):

As previously mentioned, the Supervisor for any officer required to submit a Use of Force Report must be notified and provided with a copy of the Use of Force Report. The Supervisor must review the Use of Force Report and related occurrence for accuracy and any Use of Force concerns. Once satisfied the Supervisor will forward the report to the Sergeant Practical Skills and Training Unit. If any concerns exist, the supervisor will notify the Sergeant Practical Skills and Training for follow up. The Sergeant Practical Skills and Training Unit will audit the Use of Force Report and related occurrence to ensure the Use of Force Report is completed fully and determine if the Use of Force in alignment with Section 25 of the Criminal Code, the Ontario Public-Police Interactive Training Aide and was proportionate, necessary and reasonable given the circumstances.

Any Use of Force that is deemed concerning will be brought to the attention of the Inspector in charge of Training and Professional Development Branch to determine if further training is required or if an internal investigation should be recommended to the Chief.

LPS procedure dictates that incidents involving Use of Force that result in serious injury or death are subject to an immediate internal review.

Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA):

LECA is a civilian police oversight agency in Ontario that is responsible for receiving, managing and overseeing public complaints about misconduct of police officers. This agency accepts and manages complaints about Use of Force incidents from members of the public.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU):

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is a civilian law enforcement agency independent of the police that is responsible for investigating incidents involving the police that have resulted in death, serious injury, or allegations of sexual assault. Police Services are required to notify the SIU for any injury that meets their mandate. The London Police understands the importance of transparency and accountability in these investigations and is committed to fully cooperating with the SIU.

9. CONCLUSION:

This report offers a detailed analysis of Use of Force incidents and the types of force applied by the LPS throughout 2024. It reflects the complexity of police encounters and the often unpredictable circumstances officers navigate on a daily basis.

It is important to note that the proportion of Use of Force Reports relative to total dispatched calls for service remains low at 0.45%. This indicates that vast majority of public-police interactions do not involve the Use of Force. Furthermore, de-escalation techniques were employed in 86% of all distinct occurrences involving Use of Force Reports in 2024. This demonstrates the continued emphasis on de-escalation as a foundational principle in police interactions. It is worth repeating, the requirement to submit a Use of Force Report does not always indicate the application of physical contact between an officer and a member of the public.

It is acknowledged that the number of Use of Force Reports increased from 2023 to 2024. This report has examined the contributing factors and determined that the rise is primarily due to broader access to Use of Force options — particularly Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) — and increased involvement of specialty units such as the Canine Unit. This increase can be attributed to evolving operational practices and improved access to less-lethal options. In 2024, there was also an increase in incidents where officers believed subjects had access to firearms and/or edged weapons. In these high-risk, dynamic situations, the deployment of CEWs and/or the Canine Unit often serves as an effective means of de-escalation.

The London Police Service remains dedicated to professionalism and the safety of the public, ensuring that all Use of Force incidents are thoroughly reviewed and monitored for accountability and continuous improvement. The Training and Professional Development Branch will maintain oversight of reported Use of Force incidents and monitor national trends to incorporate relevant insights and best practices. Ongoing efforts will ensure that policies, training, and practices reflect our commitment to fairness, accountability, and community trust.

PREPARED BY: Angela Johnson, Inspector – Training and Professional Development Branch

ATTACHMENTS: Appendix A – Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid (2023)
Appendix B – 2021 Statistics Canada Census and O. Reg. 267/18 of the Anti-racism Act Comparison Chart

Appendix A – Ontario Public – Police Interactions Training Aid (2023)

Conflict Prevention

The pre-emptive use of verbal and non-verbal strategies with people in situations with a potential to escalate (speeding ticket, neighbour dispute)

De-escalation

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/it visible

Assess-Plan-Act

A cognitive process applied by the officer to circumstances related to the subject/situation and impacted by perceived/actual risk, available time, and resources. This process is continuous, allowing for reassessment based on changing information.

Situation & Subject Considerations

Some factors impacting an officer's perception and decision-making of the subject and situation are: weather conditions, indoors/outdoors, number of officers/subjects, perceived subject ability (cognitive ability, skill, size, weapon), cultural awareness, gender identity.

Subject Behaviors

Cooperative: Subject complies with a lawful request

Passive Resistant: Subject refuses a lawful request, verbally and/or physically by standing still, sitting, laying down

Active Resistant: Subject pulling/pushing away, walking away, running away

Assaultive: Threatens/attempts/strikes the officer, kick, punch, spit, headbutt (no weapon)

Serious Bodily Harm or Death: The use of any weapon or technique reasonably likely to cause serious bodily harm or death

Ontario Public-Police Interactions Training Aid (2023)

Guiding Principles

- Preservation and Protection of Life Public and Officer Safety
- Conflict Prevention and De-escalation
- Relational Approach

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

Officer & Strategic Considerations

Factors impacting perception and decision-making, including ICEN, ICLEAR, NRA, PDL, personal experience, skills/ability, stress, injuries, specialty units, available time

Verbal & Non-Verbal Communication

First Contact Approach: Hello, my name is
Relational Approach: I can see you are struggling, I'm here to help you.
Directive Approach: Police, don't move!
Consistent Verbal/Non-Verbal Approach: facial and body expressions consistent with message, applies to both subject and officer

Non-Force Options

Increasing available time to delay/eliminate the need for force may be done using:
 Distance, Physical Presence, Isolation, Containment, Evacuation, Cover, Concealment, Reposition, Teamwork, Disengagement

Physical Control Options

Soft: controlling an arm/wrist, pressure points, barrier assist
Hard: strikes/grounding techniques

Intermediate Weapons Options

Pepper Spray, Expandable Baton, Conducted Energy Weapon, Less Lethal Shotgun, ARWEN, Shields, Canine, Horses, any other approved weapon

Lethal Force

Use of any weapon/technique reasonably likely to cause serious bodily harm or death

This Training Aid is not prescriptive and does not replace the law. An officer's actions must be lawful, necessary, reasonable and proportional.

Ontario

Appendix B

2021 Statistics Canada Census	O. Reg. 267/18
Arab	Middle Eastern e.g., Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g., Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.
Black	Black e.g., Caribbean origins, Central and West African origins, Southern and East African origins
Chinese	East/Southeast Asian
Filipino	East/Southeast Asian
Indigenous	Indigenous
Japanese	East/Southeast Asian
Korean	East/Southeast Asian
Latin American	Latino e.g., Latin American, Hispanic descent
Multiple Visible Minorities	Indicate most appropriate
Not a Visible Minority and Not Indigenous	White
South Asian	South Asian e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean, etc.
Southeast Asian	East/Southeast Asian
Visible Minority not Included Elsewhere	Indicate most appropriate
West Asian	