

# Conducted Energy Weapons, 2019 (Revised<sup>1</sup>)

Data reported to the Director of Police Services, as required by [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards](#) (BCPPS) on the use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs)

## 2019 BCPPS CEW Data\*, by Police Agency<sup>2</sup>

	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC
Total # of CEWs	30	5	99	9	37	6	10	23	7	84	375	27	15	1,694	2,421
Total # of certified officers	36	24	190	18	124	19	29	73	4	68	250	71	60	1,928	2,894
Displays <sup>3</sup> (no discharge)	12	1	11	1	7	3	1	7	0	7	275	43	3	233	604
To EDP subject <sup>4</sup>	3	1	5	1	4	2	1	2	0	2	85	15	1	103	225
<b>Discharges</b>															
Discharges (# of subjects)	7	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	65	14	0	199	289
Probes	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	44	4	0	170	222
Contact stuns	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	4	0	22	45
C.Stun+probes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	0	7	22
Discharges per certified officer	0.19	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.20	0.00	0.10	0.10
Effective discharge cases	6	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	10	0	155	224
1 Cycle cases <sup>5</sup>	4	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	44	6	0	118	176
2 Cycle cases	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	6	0	60	82
3+ Cycle cases	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	21	31
<b>Subject Characteristics (for Discharges)</b>															
Male	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	63	13	0	187	273
Female	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	12	16
Under 18 years of age	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	8
18 – 69 years of age	7	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	64	14	0	192	281
70 years of age and older	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under inf. alcohol and/or drugs	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	32	9	0	130	177
Emotionally disturbed <sup>4</sup>	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	33	8	0	104	152
Armed with weapon(s)	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	38	7	0	115	165
<b>Injuries (for Discharges)</b>															
Probes broke skin	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	41	7	0	132	185
Subjects with non-trivial injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	14	29
Deaths proximal to discharge <sup>6</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Officers with non-trivial injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	8

\*CEW discharges and displays may be attributed to a different police agency from where the involved officer was employed in some cases, such as incidents involving seconded police officers, integrated emergency response teams, or requests for assistance from other police agencies.

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## ENDNOTES

1. This report replaces the previous version of *Conducted Energy Weapons, 2019*, originally prepared in November 2020. The revised report now includes breakdowns of CEW displays by perceived emotional state. In addition, there were updates to CEW display figures for some agencies, as well as the corresponding adjustment to BC's total CEW displays. Finally, the CEW discharge section has been reorganized to improve clarity and consistency with previous reports.
2. Abbotsford Police Department (AB), Central Saanich Police Service (CS), Delta Police Department (DE), Nelson Police Department (NE), New Westminster Police Department (NW), Oak Bay Police Department (OB), Port Moody Police Department (PM), Saanich Police Department (SA), Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STP), Metro Vancouver Transit Police (TP), Vancouver Police Department (VA), Victoria Police Department (VI), and West Vancouver Police Department (WV).
3. Displays are counted by the number of officers who displayed their CEW (without discharge) per subject of the force option in an incident. For example, if two officers displayed their CEW at one subject in an incident, it would be counted as two displays.
4. EDP figures are based on whether the subject was perceived by the officer to be, and recorded by the officer as, an emotionally disturbed person (EDP). As counts of EDP subjects are reflective of an officer's perception and records, they may not be completely reflective of the actual number of EDP subjects. The term "emotionally disturbed person" in the police records management system is defined as "a subject who appears to be mentally unstable and who might pose a threat to an investigator, him/herself, or others."
5. The sum of case counts may differ from the total discharges, because while total discharges are counted by number of subjects, case counts are counted by number of officers who discharged their CEW per subject of the force option in an incident. The number of cycles used in a CEW discharge does not impact the count. For example, if two officers discharged their CEW at one subject, the subject count would be one, whereas the case count would be two.
6. The term "proximal to" does not mean "caused by," and counts include all deaths in police incidents where a CEW was discharged, regardless of the cause of death. One of the Independent Investigations Office's (IIO's) investigations into the RCMP's two proximal-death incidents listed above has concluded, and the IIO report noted that after a CEW discharge to the subject was ineffective, there was a police firearm discharge where two rounds struck the subject. The remaining RCMP proximal-death incident is still under investigation by the IIO.

## DEFINITIONS

**Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW):** a weapon designed to use a conducted electrical current in order to incapacitate a person (probe mode) or to generate compliance through pain (contact stun mode).

**CEW Display:** the act of pointing, aiming, or showing the CEW at or to a person without discharge.

**CEW Discharge:** the act of firing a CEW in any mode against a person.

**CEW Contact Stun (C.Stun) Mode:** the act of firing a CEW by directly applying the muzzle to a person.

**CEW Probe Mode:** the act of firing a CEW (fitted with a cartridge) at a person from a distance. The CEW transmits electrical pulses through the wires and into a person's body.

**Non-Trivial Injury:** an injury which necessitates medical attention for a condition likely to interfere with the health or comfort of the person and is more than merely transient or trifling in nature. Examples of non-trivial injuries include lacerations, broken bones/fractures, concussions, etc.