

Conducted Energy Weapons, 2020

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)

2020 BCPPS CEW Data*, by Police Agency¹

	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC
Total # of CEWs	26	5	84	12	34	6	10	23	14	81	395	78	15	2,210	2,993
Total # of certified officers	61	23	197	18	84	20	31	111	7	95	313	51	49	1,207	2,267
Displays															
Displays ² (no discharge)	12	0	16	8	15	0	6	15	2	14	366	82	6	257	799
To EDP subject ³	3	0	8	7	7	0	2	4	1	5	110	20	2	108	277
Discharges															
Discharges (# of subjects)	5	0	2	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	63	16	1	250	344
Probes	4	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	48	6	0	229	295
Contact stuns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	11	6	0	13	31
C.Stun+probes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	8	18
Discharges per certified officer	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.20	0.31	0.02	0.21	0.15
Effective discharge cases	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	53	13	0	191	264
1 Cycle cases ⁴	4	0	2	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	38	11	0	228	289
2 Cycle cases	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	13	4	1	30	51
3+ Cycle cases	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	2	0	7	26
Subject Characteristics (for Discharges)															
Male	5	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	57	14	1	236	321
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	13	22
Non-Binary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Under 18 years of age	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
18 – 69 years of age	5	0	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	63	16	1	246	339
70 years of age and older	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Under inf. alcohol and/or drugs	4	0	2	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	36	8	1	183	239
Emotionally disturbed ³	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	34	6	0	141	191
Armed with weapon(s)	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	41	8	1	144	203
Injuries (for Discharges)															
Probes broke skin	3	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	41	6	0	186	241
Subjects with non-trivial injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	0	12	34
Deaths proximal to discharge ⁵	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Officers with non-trivial injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Rates of CEW Use (Displays and Discharges)⁶															
Per 1,000 general occurrence reports	0.50	0.00	0.67	1.45	1.04	0.00	0.89	0.57	0.80	0.99	3.91	2.68	0.69	0.42	0.75

*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. 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'at'imx Tribal Police Service (STP), Metro Vancouver Transit Police (TP), Vancouver Police Department (VA), Victoria Police Department (VI), and West Vancouver Police Department (WV).
2. 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.
3. 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."
4. 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.
5. 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. The proximal-death incident listed for DE above was investigated by the Independent Investigations Office and found to be caused by self-inflicted injuries.
6. Total CEW use represents all discharges and displays reported by the agency. General occurrence reports are typically written when officers are involved in an operational policing response to an incident.

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.