

INTRODUCTION

Each year, Policing and Security Branch (PSB) collects summary data from police agencies in BC on intermediate weapons and their use, in keeping with the reporting requirements detailed in *BC Provincial Policing Standard (BCPPS) 1.7.2 Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force*. This includes the use of extended range impact weapons (ERIW), oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, batons, and conducted energy weapons (CEWs). PSB collects additional detailed information regarding police use of CEWs, pursuant to the associated BCPPS. This additional CEW information is included in its own section in this report. PSB also collects summary data on the use of police service dogs (PSDs). PSDs are intermediate weapons but also considered a specialized force option. PSD Apprehensions by bite are a reportable use of force under BCPPS 1.7.2, but not a PSD apprehension by display. Due to this and the nature of PSDs and their role in operations, PSD counts are not included in the total intermediate weapons and are addressed in their own section in this report.

Data about displays and the perceived emotional state of subjects has been collected and reported for CEW discharges only since 2013. In 2019, this was expanded to include other intermediate weapons displays in 2019. Furthermore, PSB began collection of data on officers' perceptions of subjects as an emotionally disturbed person (EDP). 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". EDP figures are based on whether the subject was perceived by the officer to be, and recorded by the officer as, an EDP, they may not be completely reflective of the actual number of EDP subjects. As of October 23, 2022, the term "person in crisis" has replaced "emotionally disturbed persons" within the RCMP reporting system.

The 2020 data request introduced new questions about general occurrence (GO) reports recorded by police agencies. Specifically, to provide additional context for the use-of-force data. A GO report is typically written when officers are involved in an operational policing response to an incident. This report presents intermediate weapon use data in relation to GO report data for 2020 to 2023. To ensure alignment with BCPPS 1.7.2, the 2023 data request introduced questions regarding discharges on specialty munitions and improvised weapons (or weapons of opportunity).

Intermediate weapon use may be attributed to a different police agency from where the involved officer was employed. Examples of this may be incidents involving seconded police officers, integrated emergency response teams, or requests for assistance from other police agencies.

In addition to public reporting, PSB uses use of force information collected from police agencies to monitor compliance with provincial policing standards and identify priorities for further study, standards, or training. The information is also used by police agencies to inform local training and policies. Due to other competing priorities the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police (STP) Service 2023 information was unavailable at the time this report was produced and is not included.

DEFINITIONS

Intermediate Weapon (IW): a device intended or designed to be used as a weapon, but for which the normal use is not intended or likely to cause serious injury or death. Impact weapons, aerosols, and conducted energy weapons fall within this category. Intermediate weapons may also be referred to as less-lethal weapons.

Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIW): a type of intermediate weapon that fires less-lethal rounds from an extended range (e.g., a beanbag shotgun).

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray: an aerosol spray composed partly of oleoresin capsicum that is designed to temporarily disable the subject by causing irritation to and of the eyes, nose, throat, and skin.

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).

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, with a goal of causing Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation.

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Contact Stun (CS) Mode: the act of firing a CEW by directly applying the muzzle to a person. This can be done on its own, or in combination with the deployment of probes. Unlike Probe Mode, the goal of Contact Stuns is pain compliance.

Baton: approved models of expandable/collapsible and straight batons are fabricated from metal or other rigid material and are available in lengths of between 12 to 36 inches (30 to 100 cm).

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

Discharge/Application: the act of firing or applying a weapon in any mode against a subject.

Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP): whether the subject was perceived by the officer to be and recorded by the officer as an EDP. 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/her/themself, or others." As of October 23, 2022, the term "person in crisis" has replaced "emotionally disturbed persons" within the RCMP reporting system.

GO Report: General Occurrence report, as defined by the respective reporting agencies. General Occurrence reports are typically written when officers are involved in an operational policing response to an incident.

Injury: non-trivial injuries which are nonlife-threatening but necessitate 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 such as, lacerations, broken bones/fractures, concussions, etc.

A complete list of intermediate weapons approved for operational use in BC is available in Appendix A for [BCPPS 1.2.2 Intermediate Weapons](#). PSDs are not included in BCPPS 1.2.2 as they are governed under [BCPPS 1.4.1](#).

INTERMEDIATE WEAPONS ANALYSIS SUMMARY

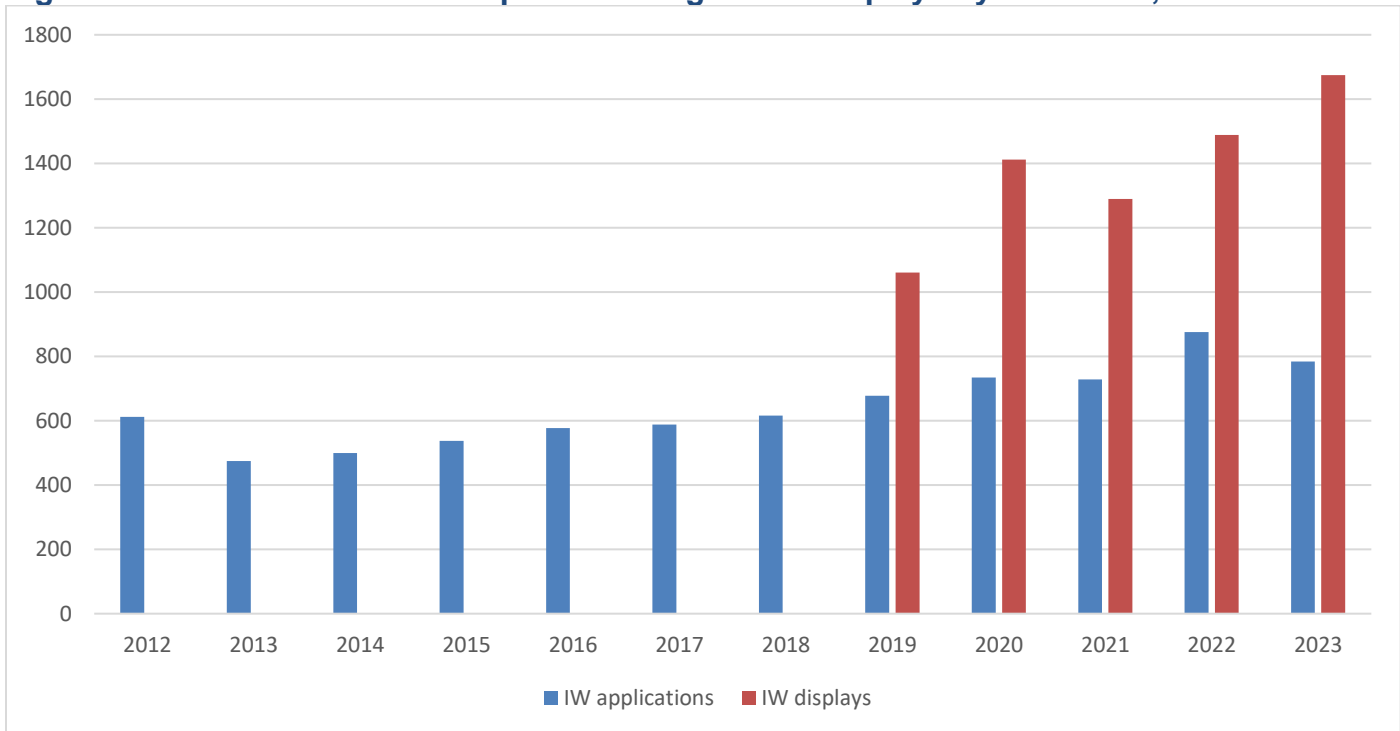
- The majority of incidents that police respond to are resolved without the use of intermediate weapons. Across all BC police agencies in 2023, the rate of intermediate weapon (excluding PSDs) use per 1,000 GO reports was 1.83, a 1% increase from 2022 ([Table 1](#)).
- The year 2022 marked a new high for IW discharges/applications but this count did lower slightly in 2023. Patterns vary by intermediate weapon:
 - ERIW discharges have been steadily increasing since 2015, declined slightly in 2021 but rising to a record high discharge (183) in 2023 ([Table 2](#) and [Figure 2](#)).
 - Baton applications are used least frequently and are decreasing year by year. Baton applications decreased by 27% from the previous year and reached a record low count (36) in 2023 ([Table 3](#) and [Figure 2](#)).
 - OC spray discharges are one of the regularly used intervention options, but the data suggests it is being used generally less year over year. In 2023, OC Spray discharges reached a low of 187 in 2023, a 14% decrease from the previous year ([Table 4](#) and [Figure 2](#)).
 - CEW discharges are the most used intervention option in 2023. Their application use has increased each year since 2012, except in 2023 which had fewer discharges (377) than in 2022 ([Table 5](#) and [Figure 2](#)).
 - PSD Apprehensions by bite is a regularly used intervention option. The year of 2023 marked a lower number of uses with 217 PSD apprehensions by bite, a 23% decrease from the previous year ([Table 11](#) and [Figure 2](#)).
 - Specialty munitions and improvised weapons discharges, collected for the first time in 2023, came to a total of 228 uses, with improvised weapons accounting for 66% (151) of this total.
- Intermediate weapon displays are used roughly twice as often as a discharge or application ([Table 1](#)). As display data has only been collected since 2019, trends are difficult to determine but the total number of IW displays are increasing each year, except in 2021 where there was a decline. This is driven by an increase in CEW and ERIW displays as Baton and OC spray displays decreased ([Figure 4](#)).

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

- In 2023, most displays were from CEWs (57%), followed by ERIWs (42%), then OC Sprays (0.8%) and Batons (0.6%). The CEW proportion has remained steady since 2019 (57%) and the ERIWs proportion has slowly increased year over year (from 36% in 2019 to 42% in 2023) whereas the Baton and OC Spray proportions are decreasing ([Table 6](#)).
- In 2023, the total proportion of intermediate weapon discharged/applied to EDP subjects was 41%, a decrease from 2022 (44%). The use of these weapons on EDP subjects are stable from year to year, except for CEW discharges. CEW discharges to EDP subjects appeared to be trending upward except for a dip in 2023 ([Figure 3](#) and [Figure 5](#)).

TOTAL INTERMEDIATE WEAPON USE

Figure 1: Total Intermediate Weapon Discharges and Displays by BC Police, 2012-2023



Note 1: Total IW use includes applications and displays of ERIWs, OC spray, batons, and CEWs. In order to maintain comparability to previous years, the newly collect specialty munitions and improvised weapon uses and PSD apprehensions are not included in Figure 1. IW display data was collected from 2019 onwards.

Table 1: Total Intermediate Weapon Use per General Occurrence (GO) Report (2019-2023)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
GO Reports in BC	1,357,302	1,375,212	1,300,697	1,341,920
Total IW use	2,146	2,018	2,365	2,458
<i>IW applications/discharges</i>	<i>734</i>	<i>728</i>	<i>876</i>	<i>783</i>
<i>IW displays</i>	<i>1,412</i>	<i>1,290</i>	<i>1,489</i>	<i>1,675</i>
Rate of IW use per 1,000 GO Reports	1.58	1.47	1.82	1.83
<i>IW applications/discharges per 1,000 GOs</i>	<i>0.54</i>	<i>0.53</i>	<i>0.67</i>	<i>0.58</i>
<i>IW displays per 1,000 Gos</i>	<i>1.04</i>	<i>0.94</i>	<i>1.14</i>	<i>1.25</i>

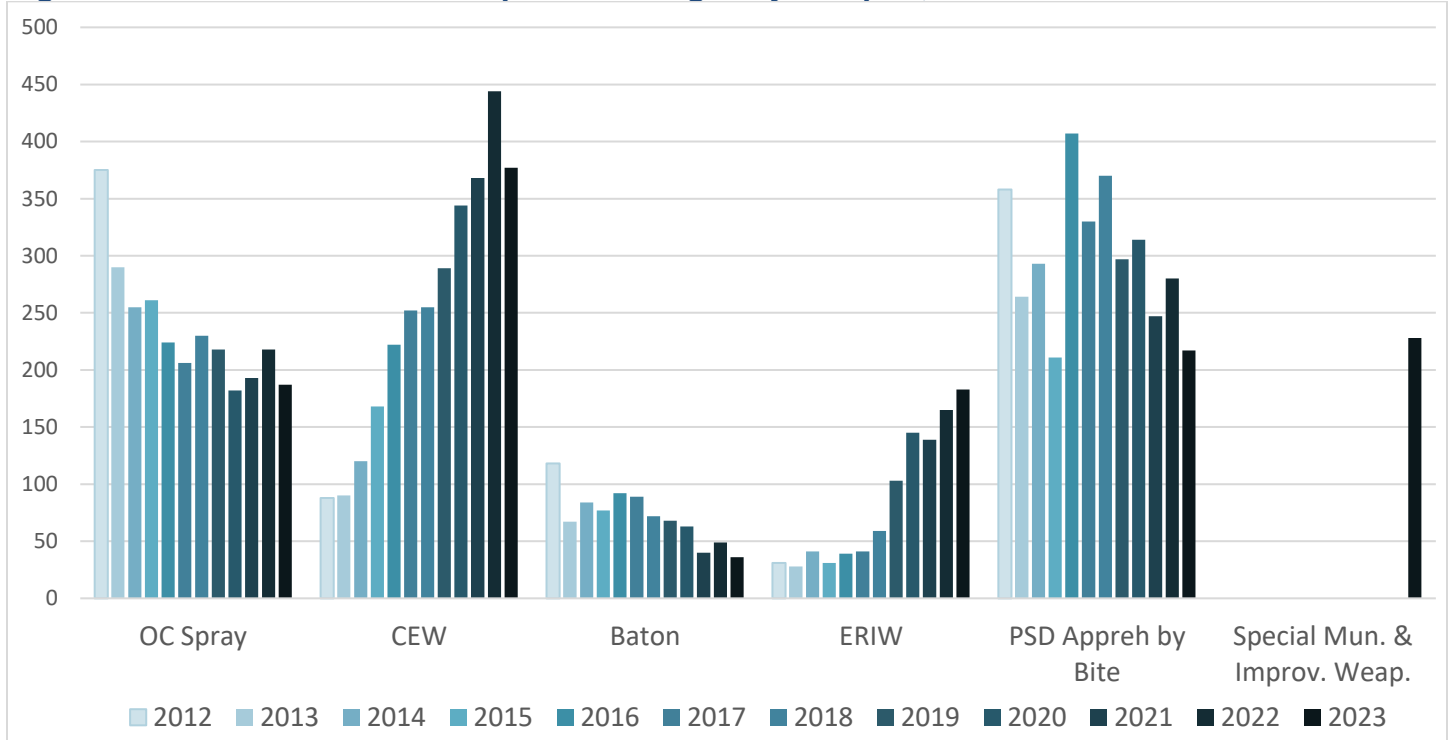
Note 2: Total IW use includes both applications and displays of ERIWs, OC spray, batons, and CEWs. Specialty munitions, improvised weapons and PSD apprehensions have not been included in Table 1. See the subsequent PSD section in this report.

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Note 3: Rates are rounded to the nearest 0.01, which may affect calculations.

INTERMEDIATE WEAPON DISCHARGES AND APPLICATIONS

Figure 2: Total Intermediate Weapon Discharges by Weapon, 2012-2023



Note 4: Collection of Specialty Munitions and improvised weapons (or weapons of opportunity) applications began in 2023.

Table 2: ERIW Discharges by Police Agency (Number of Subjects), 2012–2023

Police Agency	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Abbotsford	2	2	8	2	10	7	10	14	40	36	51	58
Central Saanich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Delta	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	6
Nelson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
New Westminster	3	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	5	4	2	1
Oak Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Port Moody	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Saanich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	1
Stl'atl'imx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transit Police	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Vancouver	20	19	24	24	19	23	27	67	65	54	62	62
Victoria	0	0	2	3	5	7	5	12	15	14	8	14
West Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RCMP	4	6	5	2	5	1	11	10	18	26	35	34
Total for BC	31	28	41	31	39	41	59	103	145	139	165	183

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Table 3: Baton Applications by Police Agency (Number of Subjects), 2012–2023

Police Agency	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Abbotsford	3	3	1	2	4	7	5	4	7	6	6	3
Central Saanich	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	1
Nelson	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Westminster	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Oak Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Moody	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Saanich	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Stl'atl'imx	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Transit Police	2	0	2	0	1	3	7	3	1	0	2	3
Vancouver	50	24	47	37	39	48	35	43	41	12	27	13
Victoria	8	0	4	3	16	4	4	0	6	2	1	2
West Vancouver	0	2	0	1	0	5	6	2	0	5	0	1
RCMP	48	35	27	28	29	22	11	15	4	0	13	11
Total for BC	118	67	84	77	92	89	72	68	63	28	49	36

Table 4: OC Spray Discharges by Police Agency (Number of Subjects), 2012–2023

Police Agency	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Abbotsford	13	5	5	12	8	9	13	21	28	33	31	44
Central Saanich	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Delta	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0
Nelson	2	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
New Westminster	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	4	1
Oak Bay	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Port Moody	0	2	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Saanich	3	1	3	1	0	1	3	0	1	3	0	3
Stl'atl'imx	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Transit Police	2	4	2	1	0	3	4	4	1	2	3	1
Vancouver	39	30	21	40	48	52	39	49	27	35	37	17
Victoria	22	8	14	11	23	12	22	18	17	13	8	18
West Vancouver	2	0	0	3	1	5	3	2	2	1	2	4
RCMP	290	238	205	193	141	119	141	120	102	102	132	99
Total for BC	375	290	255	261	224	206	230	218	182	193	218	187

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Figure 3: Intermediate Weapon Discharges to EDP Subjects, 2019–2023

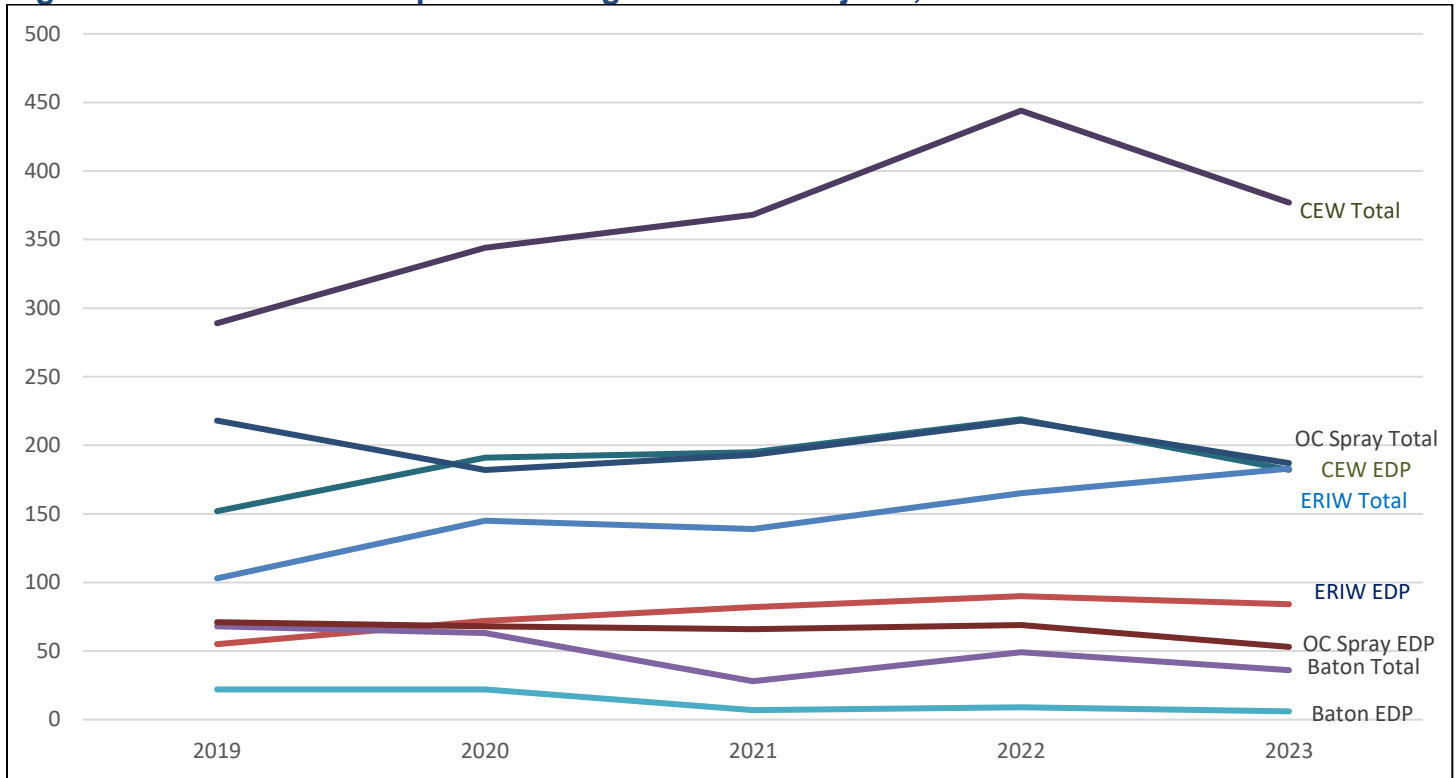
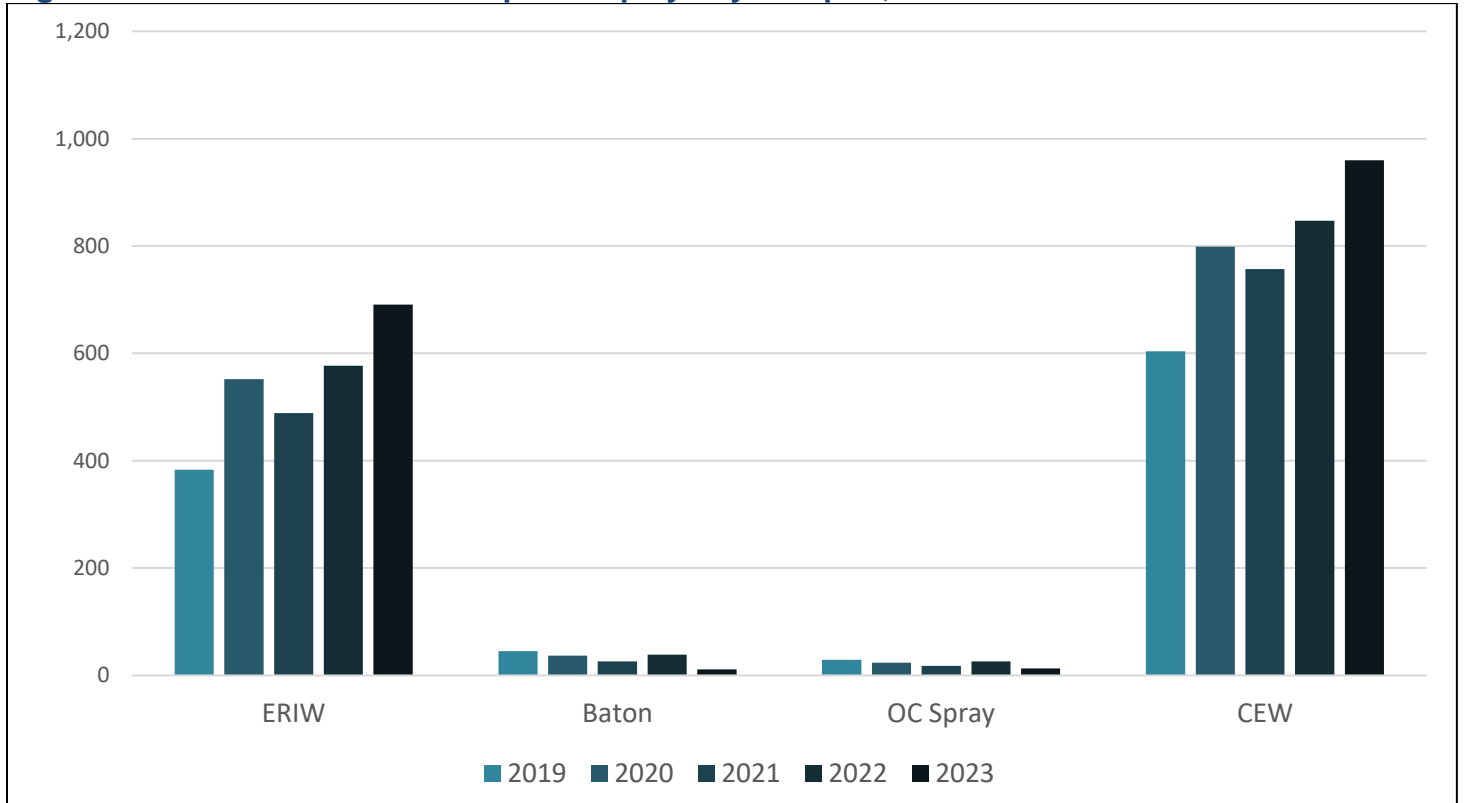


Table 5: Intermediate Weapon Discharges by EDP Subjects, 2019–2023

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baton	Total	68	63	28	49	36
	EDP	22	22	7	9	6
	Non-EDP	46	41	21	40	30
OC Spray	Total	218	182	193	218	187
	EDP	71	68	66	69	53
	Non-EDP	147	114	127	149	134
ERIW	Total	103	145	139	165	183
	EDP	55	72	82	90	84
	Non-EDP	48	73	57	75	99
CEW	Total	289	344	368	444	377
	EDP	152	191	195	219	182
	Non-EDP	137	153	173	225	195
IW Total	Total	678	734	728	876	783
	EDP	300	353	350	387	325
	Non-EDP	378	381	378	489	458

INTERMEDIATE WEAPON DISPLAYS

Figure 4: Total Intermediate Weapon Displays by Weapon, 2019–2023



Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

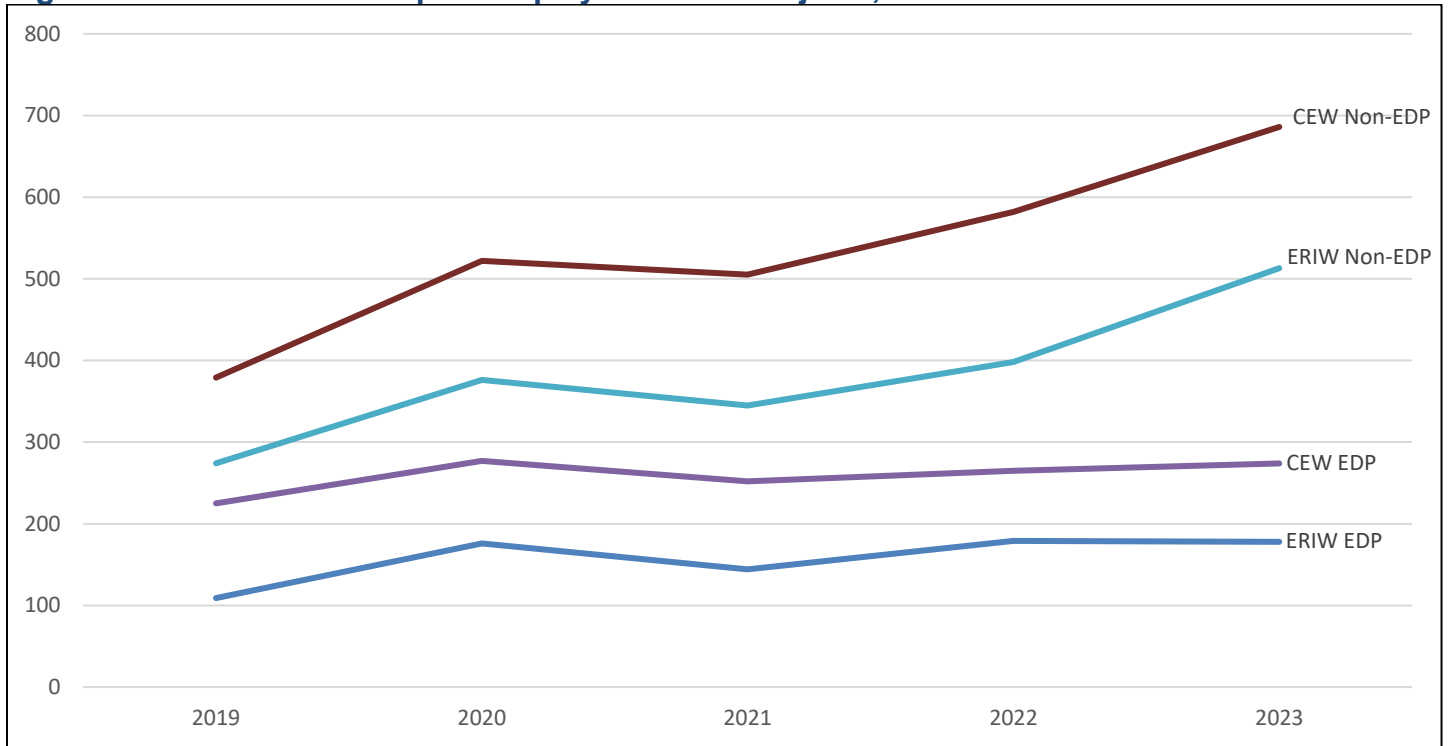
Table 6: Displays by Intermediate Weapon and Police Agency (2019–2023)

		Police Agency*														BC Total
		AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	
2019	ERIW	32	0	11	0	10	2	2	4	0	0	272	24	5	21	383
	Baton	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	28	2	0	6	45
	OC Spray	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	10	0	7	29
	CEW	12	1	11	1	7	3	1	7	0	7	275	43	3	233	604
	TOTAL	49	1	24	1	17	5	5	14	0	10	581	79	8	267	1,061
2020	ERIW	49	2	13	0	19	0	0	11	0	0	403	23	5	27	552
	Baton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	27	3	2	3	37
	OC Spray	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	6	1	5	24
	CEW	12	0	16	8	15	0	6	15	2	14	366	82	6	257	799
	TOTAL	62	2	31	8	36	0	6	28	2	15	802	114	14	292	1,412
2021	ERIW	40	1	13	1	13	0	0	9	0	0	390	6	8	8	489
	Baton	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	1	0	26
	OC Spray	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	4	0	6	18
	CEW	2	1	21	0	12	0	1	26	4	16	380	73	6	215	757
	TOTAL	48	2	34	1	25	0	3	35	4	16	793	85	15	229	1,290
2022	ERIW	82	1	16	0	11	0	4	25	0	0	389	26	0	23	577
	Baton	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	25	1	0	4	39
	OC Spray	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	5	4	0	3	26
	CEW	24	5	22	6	0	1	5	44	0	34	413	24	2	267	847
	TOTAL	116	6	38	6	11	1	9	80	0	36	832	55	2	297	1,489
2023	ERIW	101	1	18	0	7	0	2	22	0	26	443	30	0	41	691
	Baton	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	11
	OC Spray	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	5	13
	CEW	26	1	20	3	33	1	7	12	0	50	484	62	4	257	960
	TOTAL	132	2	38	3	41	1	9	34	0	78	935	95	4	303	1,675

*Police Agencies: Abbotsford (AB), Central Saanich (CS), Delta (DE), Nelson (NE), New Westminster (NW), Oak Bay (OB), Port Moody (PM), Saanich (SA), Stl'at'imx Tribal Police Service (STP), Transit Police (TP), Vancouver (VA), Victoria (VI), West Vancouver (WV) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Figure 5: Intermediate Weapon Displays to EDP Subjects, 2019–2023



Note: Batons and OC Sprays are not included in Figure 5 due to the low number of displays.

Table 7: Intermediate Weapon Displays by EDP Subjects, 2019–2023

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baton	Total	45	37	26	39	11
	EDP	17	8	8	17	6
	Non-EDP	28	29	18	22	5
OC Spray	Total	29	24	18	26	13
	EDP	9	11	7	10	3
	Non-EDP	20	13	11	16	10
ERIW	Total	383	552	489	577	691
	EDP	109	176	144	179	178
	Non-EDP	274	376	345	398	513
CEW	Total	604	799	757	847	960
	EDP	225	277	252	265	274
	Non-EDP	379	522	505	582	686
IW Total	Total	1,061	1,412	1,290	1,489	1,675
	EDP	360	472	411	471	461
	Non-EDP	701	940	879	1,018	1,214

Conducted Energy Weapons

The use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) by police in British Columbia dates back as early as 2000. By 2007, all policing jurisdictions reported having CEWs introduced in their region. Early data suggest that CEW use grew in frequency during this period from 2000 to 2007. However, the use of CEWs decreased in the years following the death – and subsequent inquiry into the death – of Robert Dziekanski resulting from physical altercation in combination with multiple deployments of a CEW on October 14, 2007.

In the years following 2007, enhanced reporting requirements were introduced as part of a broader shift towards closer regulation of police use of CEWs by the Province, beginning in 2009 with the release of the first report of the Braidwood Commission of Inquiry.¹ Commissioner Braidwood concluded that CEWs were a useful tool for police and law enforcement officers in BC, but that their use should be restricted and governed. Commissioner Braidwood made 19 recommendations covering a range of issues including training, testing, medical assistance, data collection, and—importantly—a common threshold for deploying a CEW. The province accepted the findings, and began work to implement the recommendations without delay. A common threshold for police use of CEWs was immediately issued to police agencies in 2009, and later formalized in the [BCPPS](#) in 2012.

CEWs are included within the broader category of Intermediate Weapons – device intended or designed to be used as a weapon, but for which the use is not intended or likely to cause serious injury or death. Intermediate Weapons may also be referred to as less-lethal weapons. Approved Intermediate Weapons for policing in BC are described in [BCPPS 1.2.2 Intermediate Weapons](#) (revised effective: January 18, 2021), with specific approved CEW models further identified in [BCPPS 1.3.2 Approved CEW Models](#) (revised effective February 1, 2015).

The current threshold prohibits officers from deploying a CEW unless the subject is causing bodily harm or the subject's behaviour will imminently cause bodily harm. Officers are also required to consider lesser force options and crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques (see [BCPPS 1.3.1 Threshold and Circumstances of Use, effective February 1, 2015](#)). Both displays and operational discharges are reportable uses of force in BC per the CEW [BCPPS 1.3.3 Internal CEW Controls and Monitoring](#) (effective January 30, 2012) as well as under the broader [BCPPS 1.7.2 Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force](#) (effective February 27, 2020).

Each year since 2007, Policing and Security Branch (PSB) has collected summary data from police agencies in BC regarding their use of intermediate weapons, with a focus on CEWs. This data includes the number of CEW displays and discharges, as well as the type of discharge (e.g., Probe Mode vs. Contact Stun Mode). In 2012, PSB began collecting more detailed information from police agencies in BC about their use of CEWs, including information about the number of CEWs and certified CEW operators, subject characteristics, and injuries. Annual reports summarizing this data are available from 2013 onward on PSB's website under the heading [Police Use-of-Force Data](#).

The developments described above, among other factors over the past 20 years, have impacted trends in the use of CEWs by police in BC. This report presents a multi-year summary and trend analysis of tracked CEW indicators, based on aggregate data reported by police agencies to PSB.

Reporting

Aggregate data on the use CEWs by each policing agency in BC is reported to the Director of Police Services annually. Aggregate data are provided by each agency separately; variations in the availability of CEWs, and / or in their operational deployment in the field, may impact reported use counts (and associated ratios) across jurisdictions. CEW discharges and displays may also 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.

¹ *Restoring Public Confidence - Restricting the Use of Conducted Energy Weapons in British Columbia* (2009), available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/inquiries/braidwoodphase1report.pdf>

CEW ANALYSIS SUMMARY

- As is shown in [Table 8](#) and [Figure 6](#), in 2007 CEWs discharges were used roughly 3 times more frequently than a display. Furthermore, among reported discharges, contact stuns were as common as probe deployments and the number of CEW certified officers far outweighed the number of CEWs in stock.
- In the years that followed, total reported use fell to a record low of 237 deployments in 2011. Following the introduction of the BCPPS in 2012, counts of use, certified officers, and number of CEWs have all steadily increased year over year ([Table 8](#)).
- By 2019, the overall use of CEWs exceeded 2007 counts, however displays have become more common than discharges. This increase may be partially attributable to improved recordkeeping by police agencies in BC, subsequent to the implementation of the CEW BCPPS ([Table 8](#) and [Figure 6](#)).
- As said, the overall use of CEWs (discharges and displays) reported to PSB by police in BC is higher than in 2007 (see [Table 8](#) and [Figure 6](#)) and probe deployments have continued to increase ([Figure 7](#)). However, despite the increase in number of CEWs, overall discharges in 2023 (377) remained below the level of discharges observed in 2007 (640).
- The proportion of total CEW discharges involving Contact Stun (CS) Mode discharges also changed significantly in the years following 2007. CS Mode discharges are a pain compliance technique, and in 2007 over half (56%) of all CEW discharge incidents reported to PSB involved CS Mode (either as the sole mode or in combination with probes). By 2023, this proportion had fallen to 8% ([Table 8](#) and [Figure 7](#)), however in 2023, the CS+Probe mode reported the highest count of usage on record with 65 uses.
- The rate of CEW discharge incidents per CEW certified officer for BC overall remained relatively stable between 2013 and 2019, as had the rate of overall use ([Table 8](#)). This ratio increased in 2020 and a major contributing factor to that increase was the result of disruptions to CEW training associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent public health restrictions.
- In 2023, for the first time post-pandemic, the number of CEW certified officers surpassed the pre-pandemic figure reported in 2019. The number of CEWs within the RCMP increased significantly as their inventory was doubled with the addition of a new CEW model ([Table 8](#) and [Figure 8](#)), explaining the sharp increase to total CEWs in 2023.
- Reported CEW use per GO report decreased slightly in 2023 ([Table 8](#)), due to a lower number of uses and a greater number of GO reports reported in 2023.
- During the 2013-2023 reporting period, officer-reported effectiveness rates have ranged from 71% to 79% of yearly discharges, and an average of 10% of yearly discharges have resulted in non-trivial subject injuries ([Table 8](#)).
- The Independent Investigations Office (IIO), the body charged with investigating all cases of police-related death or serious harm across all police agencies in BC, has not classified a file as a CEW death since the 2017/2018 fiscal year (though CEWs may still have been involved in death files).²
- In 2023, RCMP had the highest volume of CEW deployments, most likely due to their jurisdictional size. The agencies with the highest rate of deployment rate per 1,000 GO is Vancouver with 4.86, followed by Transit with 4.20 and Victoria with 2.54. The police agencies with the highest rate of Deployment per CEW certified officer are Victoria with 0.15, followed by Abbotsford with 0.14 and Vancouver with 0.11 ([Table 10](#)).

² IIO (2023). Annual Report 2023-2024. P.23 <https://iiobc.ca/app/uploads/sites/472/2024/07/IIO-2023-2024-Annual-Report.pdf>

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Table 8: CEW Indicators in BC, 2007 to 2023

BC	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Displays	239	315	206	178	152	222	248	278	359	397	433	481	604	799	757	846	960
Discharges	640	309	157	88	85	88	90	120	168	222	252	255	289	344	368	445	377
<i>Probes</i>	283	137	77	51	62	67	68	94	147	184	184	188	222	295	286	381	281
<i>Contact Stuns (CS)</i>	293	135	60	34	18	16	19	22	15	28	32	29	45	31	47	42	32
<i>CS + Probes</i>	64	37	20	3	5	5	3	4	6	10	36	38	22	18	35	17	65
Total Reported Use	879	624	363	266	237	310	338	398	527	619	685	736	893	1,143	1,125	1,291	1,337
Effective Discharge % ³							76%	78%	72%	73%	78%	75%	74%	72%	79%	71%	78%
Subject Injury % ⁴							14%	8%	15%	8%	6%	0%	10%	10%	16%	14%	12%
CEWs	1,333	1,604	/	1,405	/	/	1,183	1,132	1,534	1,792	2,264	2,352	2,421	2,993	2,893	3,027	5,068
CEW Certified Officers	4,174	4,240	/	1,697	/	/	1,012	1,585	1,825	2,352	2,649	2,812	2,894	2,267	2,231	2,847	3,234
Use Per Officer⁵							0.33	0.25	0.29	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.31	0.50	0.50	0.45	0.40
Displays Per Officer							0.25	0.18	0.20	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.21	0.35	0.34	0.30	0.29
Discharges Per Officer							0.09	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.12
Use Per 1,000 GOs														0.84	0.82	0.99	0.97
Displays Per 1,000 GOs														0.59	0.55	0.65	0.69
Discharges Per 1,000 GOs														0.25	0.27	0.34	0.28

2007 - 2011	Death of Robert Dziekanski resulting from physical altercation in combination with multiple deployments of a CEW on October 14, 2007. Aggregate data was reported under the BCPC framework (pre-BCPPS).
2012	BCPPS 1.3.3 Internal CEW Controls and Monitoring came into effect January 30, 2012, concurrent to a series of amendments to the <i>Police Act</i> .
2013 - 2019	Expanded CEW aggregate survey implemented for 2013 onward.
2020 - 2023	A revised BCPPS 1.7.2 Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force came into effect February 27, 2020. PSB begins routine collection of General Occurrence (GO) counts for the purpose of ratio analyses.

³ This indicator is calculated by total effective discharges / (total effective discharges + total ineffective discharges).

⁴ Subject injury rates represent the percentage of discharges that resulted in a non-trivial injury. Non-trivial injuries are nonlife-threatening but necessitate 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, such as lacerations, broken bones, concussions, etc.

⁵ Officer refers to CEW certified officers only.

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Figure 6: Police CEW Usage Incidents by Type, 2007 to 2023

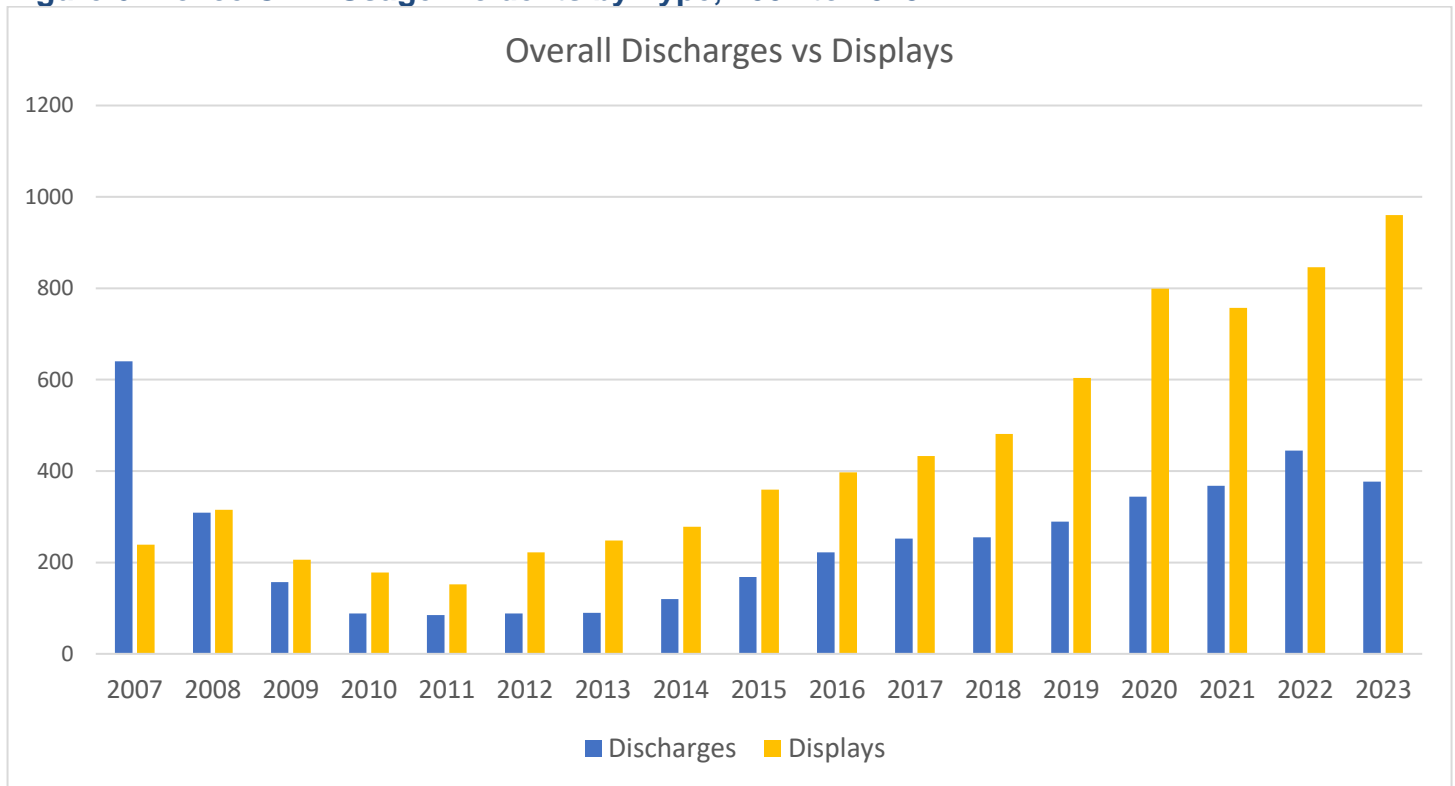
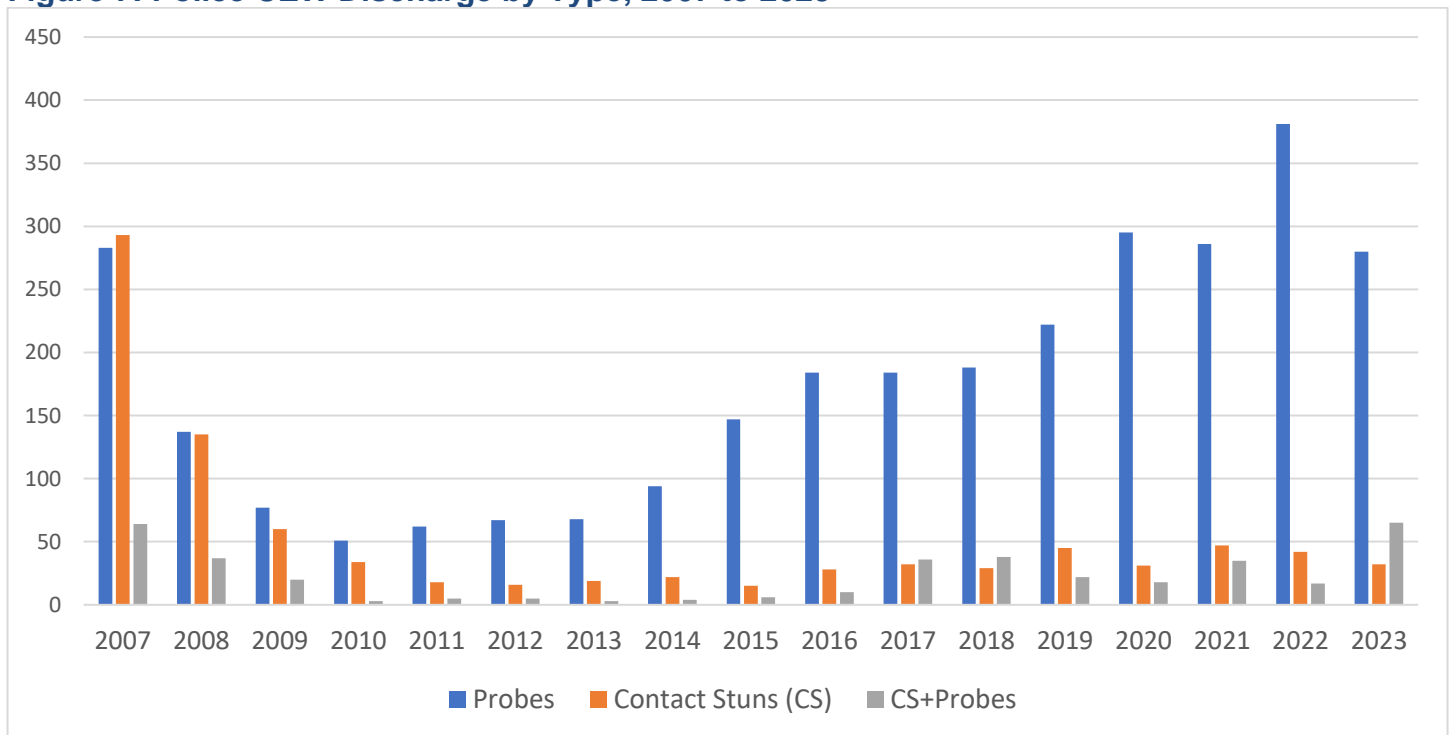


Figure 7: Police CEW Discharge by Type, 2007 to 2023



Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Figure 8: CEW Indicators in BC, 2007 to 2023



Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Table 9: CEW Discharge Incidents by Police Agency, 2007 to 2023

Police Agency	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Abbotsford Police Department	17	12	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	7	5	20	9	5
Central Saanich Police Service	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Delta Police Department	6	3	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	1
Nelson Police Department	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	4	1
New Westminster Police Department	36	13	12	4	3	2	7	2	3	3	3	2	1	3	1	3	1
Oak Bay Police Department	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Port Moody Police Department	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2
Saanich Police Department	21	2	0	4	0	2	2	0	3	3	1	3	1	2	3	5	4
Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	-
Transit Police (Metro Vancouver)	6	5	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	3	9	9
Vancouver Police Department	74	33	16	6	8	7	6	9	25	36	47	47	65	63	66	63	53
Victoria Police Department	76	30	7	4	5	3	6	4	5	6	7	11	14	16	26	21	22
West Vancouver Police Department	6	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	1
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	390	205	111	64	65	70	64	103	127	172	187	181	199	250	238	328	276
Total CEW Discharges	640	309	157	88	85	88	90	120	168	222	252	255	289	344	368	445	377

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Table 10: 2023 BCPPS CEW Data, by Police Agency⁶

	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC
Total # of CEWs	24	5	72	19	34	12	8	22	-	78	627	127	35	4,005	5,068
Total # of CEW certified officers	37	24	187	17	100	24	30	112	-	121	495	145	54	1,888	3,234
Deployments (Displays + Discharges)															
Total Deployments	31	1	21	4	34	3	9	16	-	59	537	84	5	533	1,337
Deployment per 1,000 GO reports	0.77	0.25	0.86	0.70	1.86	0.77	1.48	0.64	-	4.20	4.86	2.54	0.47	0.51	1.00
Deployment per certified officer	0.84	0.04	0.11	0.24	0.34	0.13	0.30	0.14	-	0.49	1.08	0.58	0.09	0.28	0.41
Displays															
Displays (no Discharge)	26	1	20	3	33	1	7	12	-	50	484	62	4	257	960
<i>To EDP subject⁷</i>	4	1	10	3	14	1	4	3	-	9	135	20	2	68	274
Display per 1,000 GO reports	0.64	0.25	0.82	0.53	1.81	0.26	1.15	0.48	-	3.56	4.38	1.87	0.38	0.25	0.72
Displays per certified officer	0.70	0.04	0.11	0.18	0.33	0.04	0.23	0.11	-	0.41	0.98	0.43	0.07	0.14	0.30
Discharges															
Discharges (# of subjects)	5	0	1	1	1	2	2	4	-	9	53	22	1	276	377
<i>Probes</i>	2	-	1	1	1	2	1	4	-	6	31	16	1	214	280
<i>Contact Stun</i>	2	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	10	4	0	16	32
<i>Contact Stun + Probes</i>	1	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	3	12	2	0	46	65
1 Cycle cases ⁸	4	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	7	31	16	0	229	294
2 Cycle cases	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	1	-	1	10	4	1	43	60
3+ Cycle cases	1	-	0	0	0	1	1	0	-	1	12	2	0	4	22
Effective discharge cases	5	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	-	6	42	15	0	225	333
Discharge per 1,000 GO reports	0.12	0.00	0.04	0.18	0.05	0.51	0.33	0.16	-	0.64	0.48	0.66	0.09	0.26	0.28
Discharges per certified officer	0.14	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.08	0.07	0.04	-	0.07	0.11	0.15	0.02	0.15	0.12

⁶Police Agencies: Abbotsford (AB), Central Saanich (CS), Delta (DE), Nelson (NE), New Westminster (NW), Oak Bay (OB), Port Moody (PM), Saanich (SA), Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service (STP), Transit Police (TP), Vancouver (VA), Victoria (VI), West Vancouver (WV) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

⁷ As counts of EDP subjects are reflective of an officer's perception and records, this figure should be used with caution.

⁸ 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.

Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC
Subject Characteristics (for Discharges)															
Male	5	-	1	1	1	2	2	4	-	8	44	20	1	256	345
Female	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	7	2	0	19	29
Non-Binary	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	2	0	0	0	2
Under 18 years of age	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	1	0	0	7	9
18 – 69 years of age	5	-	1	1	1	2	1	4	-	8	43	20	1	268	365
70 years of age and older	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	1	1
Under inf. alcohol and/or drugs	3	-	1	1	1	1	0	3	-	2	27	10	0	196	246
Emotionally disturbed person	2	-	1	1	1	2	1	4	-	3	27	14	1	125	182
Armed with weapon(s)	1	-	1	0	0	2	2	1	-	5	33	12	1	168	226
Injuries (for Discharges)															
Probes broke skin	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	3	-	0	22	9	0	205	245
Subjects with injury	0	-	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	0	18	2	0	24	46
Deaths proximal to ⁹ discharge	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Officers with injury	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	5	8	0	0	2	15

⁹ The term “proximal to” does not mean “caused by”; counts include all deaths in police incidents where a CEW was discharged, regardless of the cause of death.

Police Service Dogs

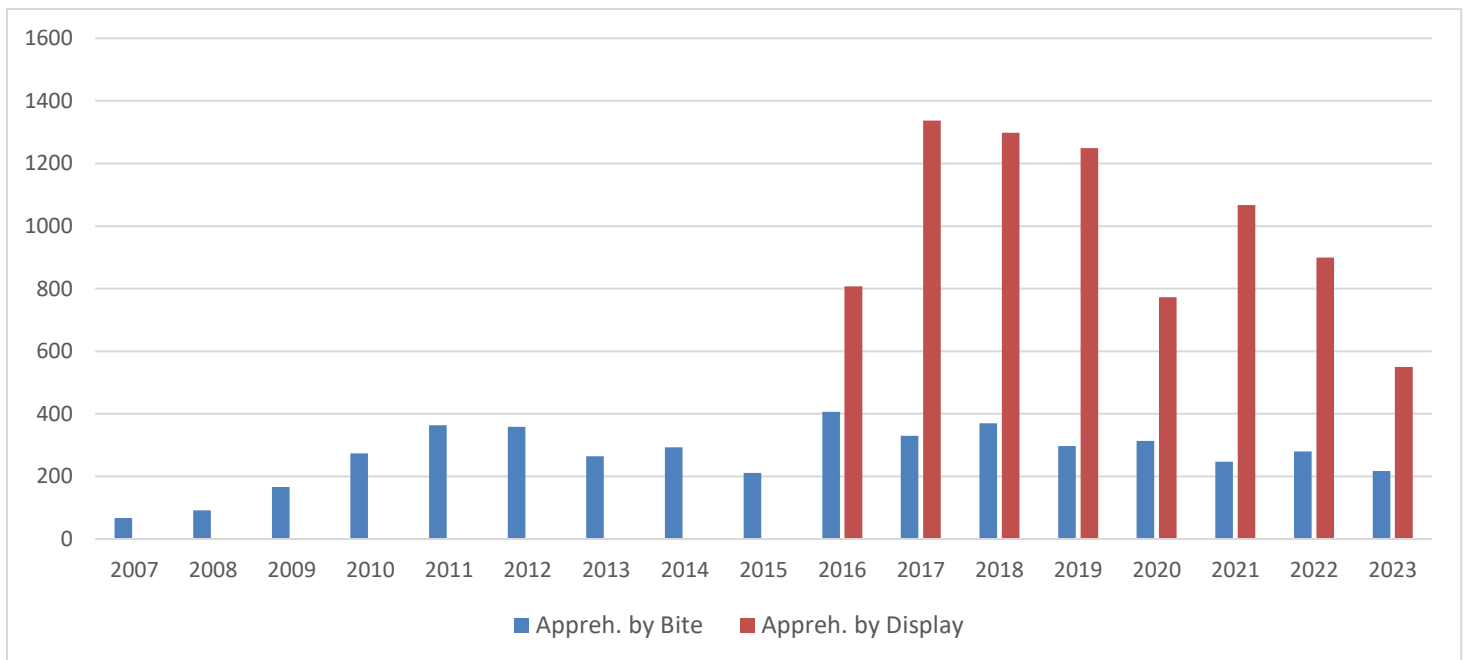
Data related to Police Service Dogs (PSDs) are reported annually to the Director of Police Services in relation to multiple [BCPPS](#). Police dog bites, both intentional and unintentional, are reportable uses of force under [1.7.2 Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force](#).

The BCPPS regarding PSDs, [1.4 Police Service Dogs](#), came into effect September 2015. Reporting requirements specific to PSDs are then detailed in [1.4.3 Reporting, Data and Review](#), including the number of persons located or found or apprehended or arrested using a PSD, as well as the number of authorized deployments per [1.4.1 General Requirements](#). Starting 2020, the Ministry also began requesting agencies GO counts, such that uses of force could be represented as a ratio of uses per 1,000 GO reports.

PSD ANALYSIS SUMMARY

- The following findings are apparent when the Transit Police's specialty detection dogs' sole activity was omitted as their data, unlike the other PSD teams, includes calls for service (CFS) and pro-active deployments in only one category. The operational use of PSDs appears to be steadily declining over time for most authorized use categories. In 2023:
 - PSD deployments decreased 35% from the number recorded in 2016 and decreased 4% from the previous year to a total of 6,942 ([Table 12](#) and [Figure 10](#)).
 - Locations/apprehensions/arrests decreased 25% from the count reported in 2016. The total number of Locations decreased 30% from the previous year and had the lowest count on record with 862 ([Table 11](#)).
- PSD Apprehensions by display have also been declining year over year since it's highest count in 2017 (1337), except for a low count in 2020 which was likely driven by impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, the number of PSD apprehensions by display decreased 39% from the previous year to 550 ([Table 11](#) and [Figure 9](#)).
- The number of apprehensions by bite decreased 22% in 2023 from the previous year to 217 ([Table 11](#) and [Figure 9](#)). The rate of apprehensions by bite has varied from 0.18 to 0.23 since 2019 and reached a record low rate in 2023 of 0.16 times per 1,000 GO reports.
- Since 2016, "Tracks/Searches for suspects" has been the most common deployment type for PSDs, accounting for an average of 59% of total deployments. In 2023, it accounted for 62% of total deployments ([Figure 11](#)).

Figure 9: PSD Apprehensions in BC, 2007-2023



Note: PSD apprehensions by display was collected from 2016 onwards.

Table 11: BC PSD Data, 2016-2023

BC Total	2016	2017 ¹⁰	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BCPPS 1.4.3								
2(a): Locations/Apprehensions/Arrests	3,211	2,783	2,368	1,703	1,581	1,376	1,240	820
2(b): Subjects Bitten ¹¹	404	326	373	291	315	260	282	221
2(c)(i): Non-Subject Civilians Bitten	9	10	5	9	6	9	2	5
2(c)(ii): Non-Subject Police Officers Bitten	14	6	7	10	9	4	7	2
BCPPS 1.4.1 2(d): Authorized Deployments¹²	10,717	8,333	9,427	9,178	7,909	10,329	11,825	12,271
1(a): Tracks/Searches for Suspects	5,727	5,587	5,055	5,101	5,015	4,669	4,131	4,317
1(b): Apprehensions	1,214	1,667	1,668	1,546	1,087	1,314	1,179	767
<i>Apprehensions by Bite¹³</i>	407	330	370	297	314	247	280	217
<i>Apprehensions by Display</i>	807	1,337	1,298	1,249	773	1,067	899	550
1(c): Tracks/Searches for Missing Persons	406	267	229	276	424	314	313	395
1(d): Searching for Drugs	412	363	348	357	218	175	106	97
1(e): Searching for Explosives/Firearms ¹⁴	582	449	267	376	149	*2,576	*4,812	*5,458

¹⁰ Some PSD teams were unable to provide deployment counts for select deployment categories in 2017 (1f, 1h, and 1i). The listed figures represent a partial count.

¹¹ The definition of “bite” used in collecting these statistics is the definition set out in the *BC Provincial Policing Standards*: “Bite - a police dog’s use of mouth and teeth to grab or hold a person’s body or clothes.” Unless otherwise indicated, the bite statistics in this report may include incidents which did not result in any injury to a person, as well as accidental bites to police officers. This definition may differ from the definition of “bite” used in other contexts.

¹² A deployment occurs when a police dog performs an operational task, and there can be more than one of type of authorized deployment associated with a single police incident.

¹³ These figures do not include unintentional/accidental bites.

¹⁴ Starting in 2021, Transit Police data reflect both calls for service and the number of proactive explosive sweeps when members of the public are present. Accordingly, reported numbers are higher than figures reported prior to 2021.



Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

1(f): Searching for Evidence	2,147	*1,241	1,529	1,162	867	1,175	1,157	960
1(g): Crowd Control	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
1(h): Community Relations/Other Events	227	*200	310	320	101	104	101	236
1(i): Other Uses Approved by Director	0	*1	19	40	48	2	26	38
Apprehension by Bite Rates								
per 1,000 GO reports	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.23	0.18	0.22	0.16
per Total Apprehensions - percentage	34%	20%	22%	19%	29%	19%	24%	28%

Table 12: 2023 PSD Data by Canine Service

	Transit ¹⁵	VPD	ICS ¹⁶	RCMP ¹⁷ & LMIPDS ¹⁸	BC Total
BCPPS 1.4.3					
2(a): Locations/Apprehensions/Arrests	N/A	173	44	603	820
2(b): Subjects Bitten	N/A	41	6	175	221
2(c)(i): Non-Subject Civilians Bitten	N/A	1	1	3	5
2(c)(ii): Non-Subject Police Officers Bitten	N/A	1	0	1	2
2(d): Authorized Deployments per s.1 of BCPPS 1.4.1					
1(a): Tracks/Searches for Suspects	N/A	173	102	4,042	4,317
1(b): Apprehensions	N/A	137	44	586	767
<i>Apprehensions by Bite</i>	N/A	41	6	170	217
<i>Apprehensions by Display</i>	N/A	96	38	416	550
1(c): Tracks/Searches for Missing Persons	N/A	0	2	393	395
1(d): Searching for Drugs	N/A	0	28	69	97
1(e): Searching for Explosives/Firearms	5,259 ¹⁹	3	11	185	5,458
1(f): Searching for Evidence	N/A	14	74	872	960
1(g): Crowd Control	N/A	0	0	3	3
1(h): Community Relations/Other Events	70	55	15	96	236
1(i): Other Uses Approved by Director ²⁰	N/A	0	0	38	38
Apprehension Rates					
Apprehension per 1,000 GO reports	N/A	1.24	0.76	0.51	0.57
Apprehension by Bite per 1,000 GO reports	N/A	0.37	0.10	0.15	0.16
Apprehension by Display per 1,000 GO reports	N/A	0.87	0.65	0.36	0.41

¹⁵ All of Transit Police's police service dogs are specialty detection only dogs.

¹⁶ Effective February 1, 2021, Saanich and Victoria PD formed an Integrated Canine Service (ICS) to serve Saanich, Victoria, and Esquimalt.

¹⁷ RCMP Police Dog Teams are stationed throughout North District, Southeast District, and Island District. Stl'at'imx Tribal Police Service, Central Saanich, Nelson, and Oak Bay PDs do not have a PSD unit.

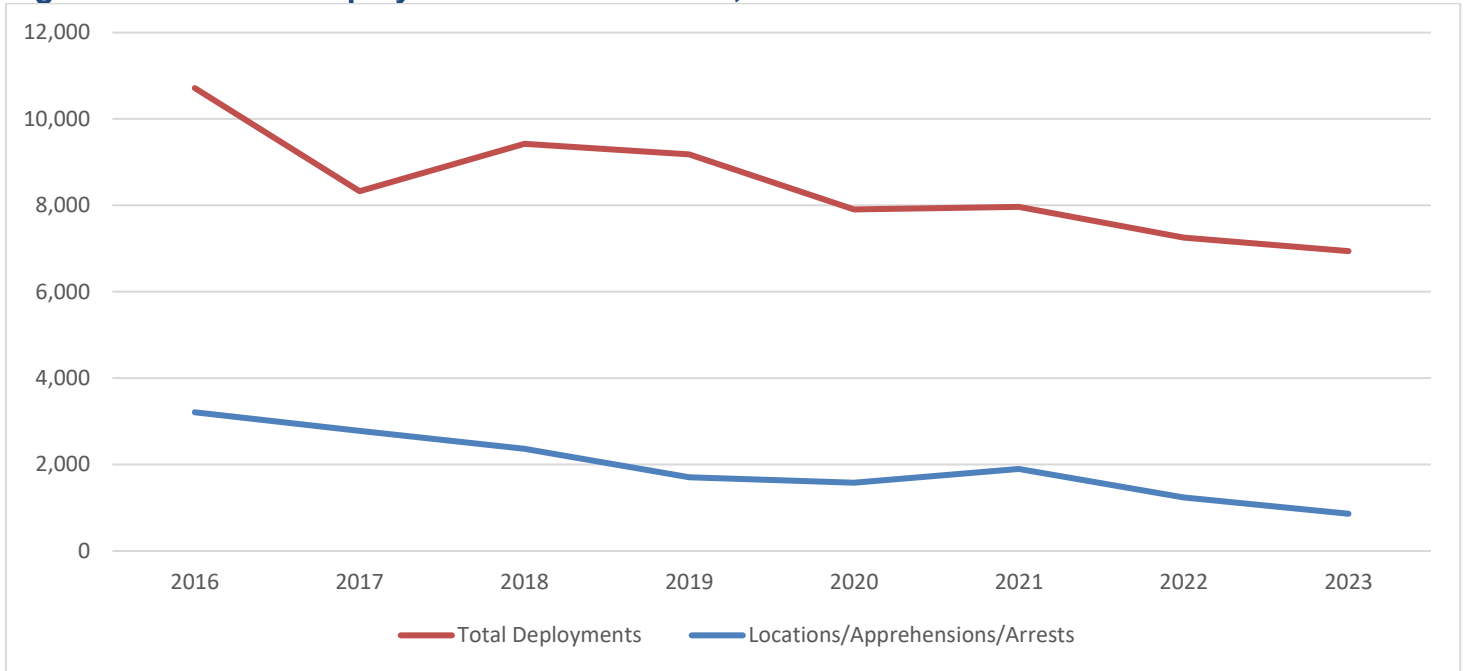
¹⁸ Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, and West Vancouver PDs fall under the RCMP Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Service (LMIPDS); these dogs receive the same training and cross jurisdictional boundaries.

¹⁹ As all of Transit Police's police service dogs are specialty detection only dogs, they do not have other deployment types, and the data reflects both calls for service and the number of proactive explosive sweeps when members of the general public are present. Accordingly, reported numbers are higher than figures reported prior to 2021.

²⁰ This category is intended to include other approved uses that may not clearly fall under existing deployment categories, such as building/compound search and human remains detection. While some deployments counted in this category could potentially fit under the classification for another deployment category, they may not necessarily be counted elsewhere.

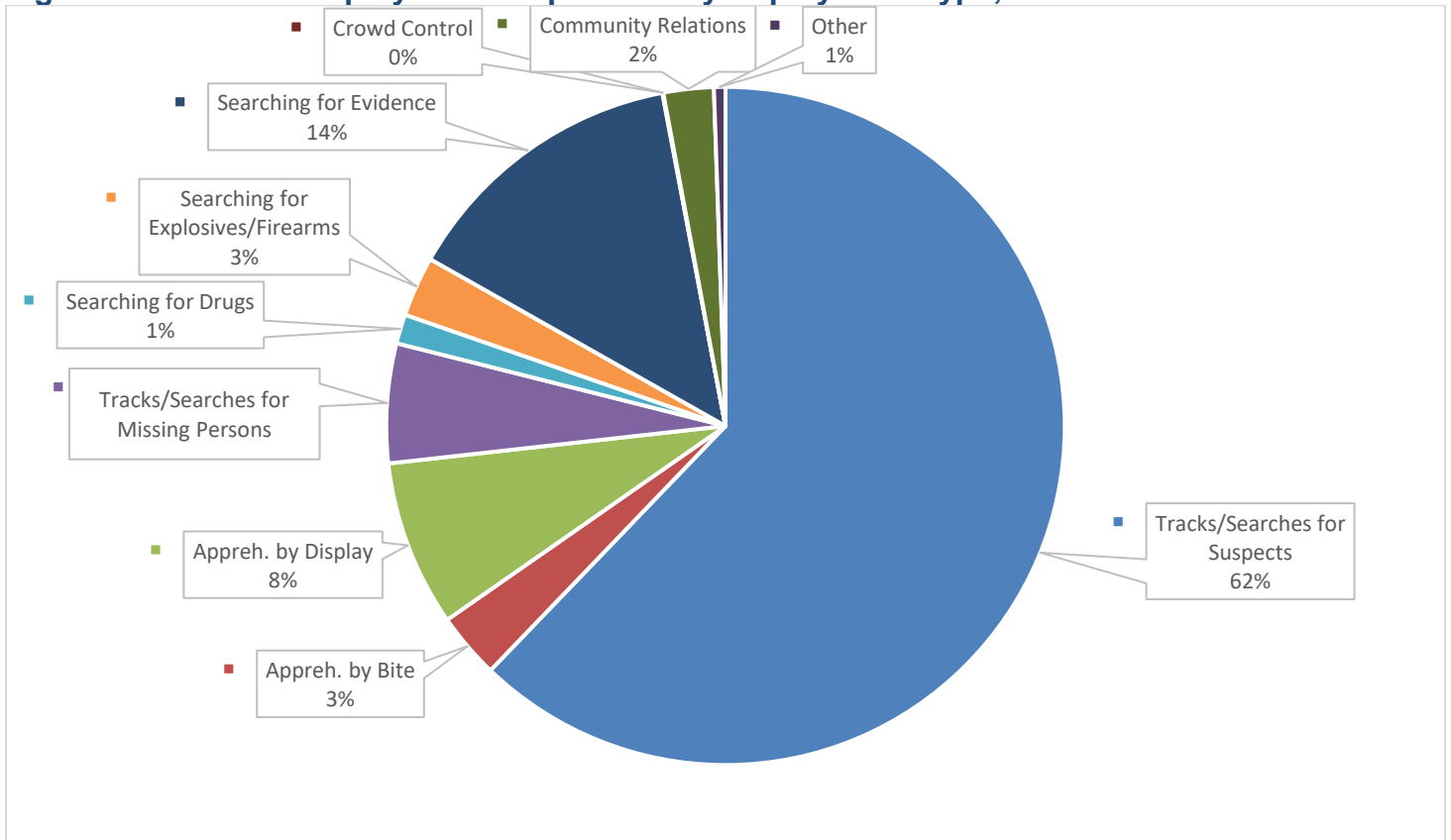
Intermediate Weapon Use of Force by BC Police, 2023

Figure 10: BC PSD Deployments and Locations, 2016-2023



Note: Transit Police specialty detection dogs' activities are omitted in figure 10.

Figure 11: BC PSD Deployment Proportions by Deployment Type, 2023



Note: Transit Police specialty detection dogs' activities are omitted in figure 11, as they exclusively operate in one category.