

BC Police Intermediate Weapon Use, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Policing and Security Branch (PSB) collects summary data from police agencies in British Columbia on the use of Intermediate Weapons (IW), 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 capicum (OC) spray, batons, conducted energy weapons (CEW), and police service dogs (PSD). PSB also collects additional information regarding CEW and PSD use, pursuant to BCPPS [1.3.3 Internal CEW Controls and Monitoring](#) and [1.4.3 Reporting, Data and Review](#). These expanded reporting requirements allow for analysis of CEW and PSD deployments beyond overall counts, including rates. Weapons of opportunity (WOO) are reported under BCPPS [1.7.2 Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force](#) but are not formally classified as Intermediate Weapons under BCPPS [1.2.2 Intermediate Weapons](#).

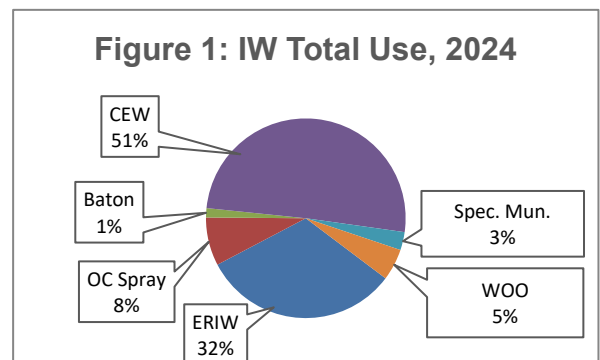
This report presents intermediate weapon use data from 2020 to 2024. Beginning in 2020, PSB's data request introduced questions about general occurrence (GO) reports, in order to provide additional context for the use-of-force data. In 2023, the data request was further expanded to include questions on specialty munitions (Spec. Mun.) and WOO.

As with previous reports, use-of-force information is collected and reported in aggregate by each police service in BC to the Director of Policing and Law Enforcement Services (Director). Variations in the availability of weapons, as well as differences in deployment practices, may affect reported counts across jurisdictions. The Surrey Police Service assumed policing jurisdiction in November 2024 and submitted data corresponding to that period. As this represents a partial reporting period, Surrey Police Service data have been excluded from this report, however review of their data shows nothing unusual or concerning.

Further detail about definitions, reporting requirements, and data considerations is provided in this report's [Key Definitions, Historical Context, and Data Qualifiers](#) section.

INTERMEDIATE WEAPONS (IW) – 2024 SNAPSHOT

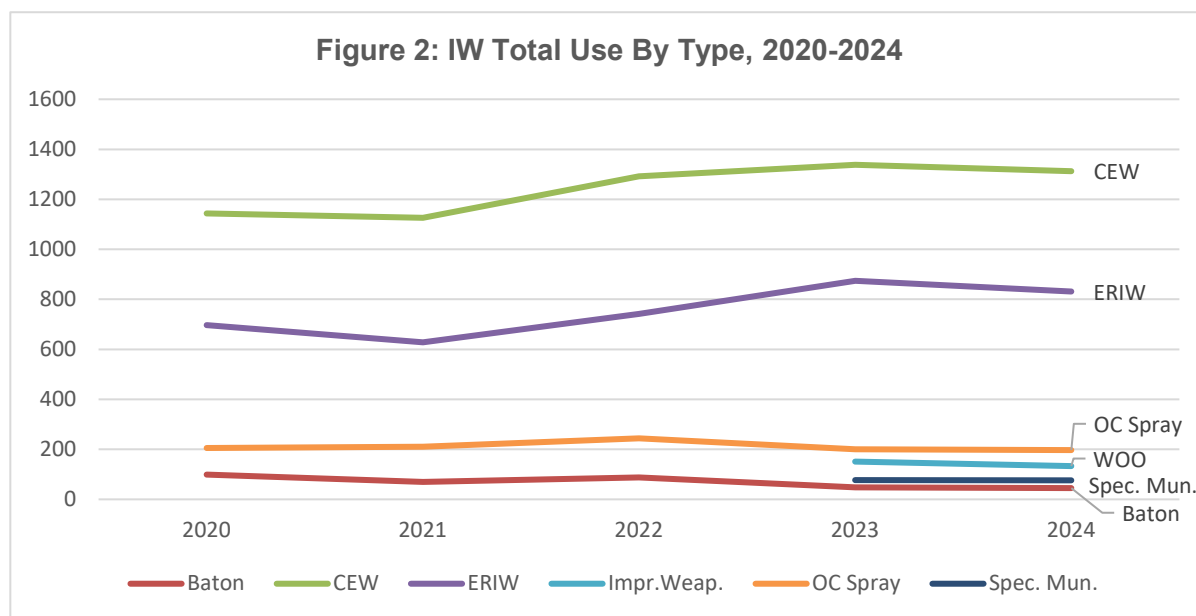
- In 2024, there were 2,594 IW incidents, comprising 968 discharges (37%) and 1,626 displays (63%).
- CEWs were the most frequently used IW, with 1,313 incidents (51%), followed by ERIWs at 831 incidents (32%) (Figure 1: IW Use).
- Specialty munitions (Spec.Mun.) and weapons of opportunity (WOO) were first reported in 2023; together they accounted for about 8% of all IW uses in 2024 (Figure 1: IW Use).
- Discharges and displays by weapon type in 2024 were:
 - CEWs: 396 discharges, 917 displays (70% displays)
 - ERIWs: 158 discharges, 673 displays (81% displays)
 - OC Spray: 181 discharges, 22 displays (89% discharges)
 - Batons: 23 discharges, 16 displays (59% discharges)
 - Spec.Mun. (76) and WOO (133) reported only as discharges.
- CEWs and ERIWs together accounted for more than four out of five IW incidents, with displays continuing to comprise the largest share of overall use. Batons and OC Spray remained relatively infrequent, and WOO and Spec.Mun. made up a small but notable portion.
- In 2024, 34% (332 of 967 discharges) of IW discharges involved subjects perceived as a person in crisis (PIC) or emotionally disturbed person (EDP). This reflects a lower proportion than in previous years. CEWs accounted for the largest share of IW use on PIC/EDP subjects, with 173 discharges (44% of CEW discharges) directed at PIC/EDP subjects.



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INTERMEDIATE WEAPONS (IW) – TREND SUMMARY

- The overall rate of IW use has remained steady at 2.00 per 1,000 GO reports in 2023 and 2024, following a general upward trend from 1.58 in 2020.
- IW display rates have consistently remained higher than discharge rates, increasing from 1.04 per 1,000 GO reports in 2020 to 1.25 in 2023 and 2024. IW discharges rates have increased from 0.54 per 1,000 GO reports in 2020 to 0.74 in 2024 ([Table 1](#)).
- Displays continue to make up the majority of IW use and comprised 66% in 2020, declining gradually to 62–63% in 2023–2024, indicating a narrowing gap between displays and discharges.
- CEWs remain the most frequently used IW each year, accounting for just over half of all IW uses annually (between 51% and 56% from 2020–2024).
- ERIWs are the second most common IW after CEWs, representing 29–34% of annual use. Their use peaked at 874 incidents in 2023 before declining slightly to 831 in 2024 (Figure 2 and Table 1).
- CEW and ERIW use are heavily weighted toward displays (roughly two-thirds of their total use each year).
- Batons and OC Spray are used far less frequently than CEWs and ERIWs, with both showing a steady downward trend since 2020.
 - Baton use is more evenly split between discharges and displays, though overall usage has declined sharply (from 99 in 2020 to 39 in 2024).
 - OC Spray remains mostly an application-based weapon, with over 89% of uses being discharges.



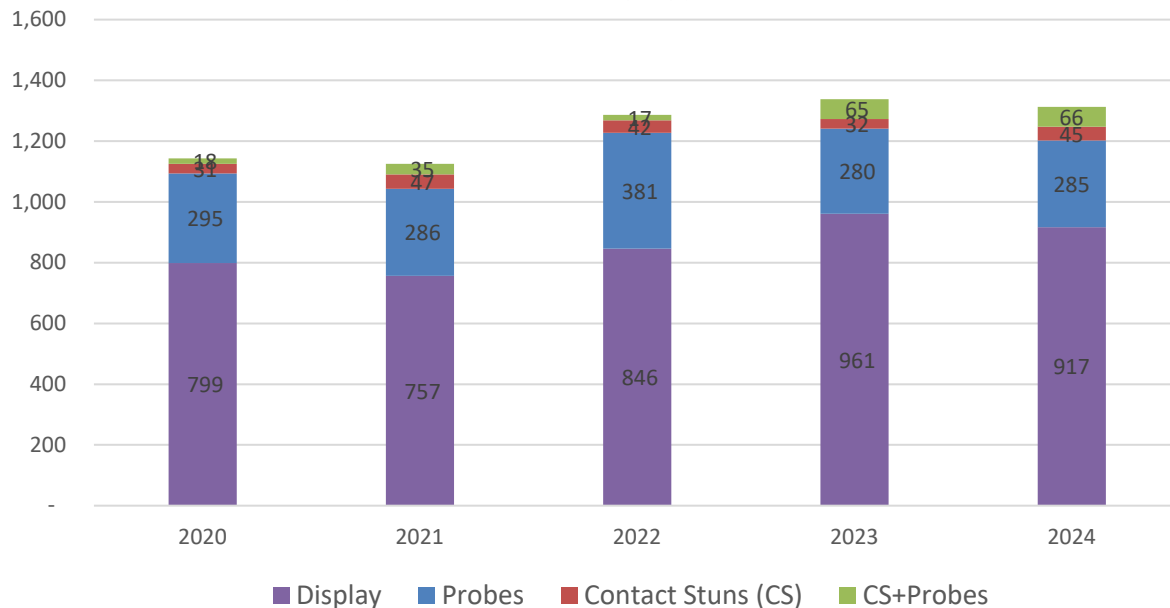
- The proportion of IW use involving PIC/EDP subjects has declined over time, from 48% in 2020 to 34% in 2024. CEW discharges to PIC/EDP subjects decreased gradually over this period, while ERIWs, OC Spray, batons, and Spec. Mun./WOO have shown stable or declining proportions.

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CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPONS

- There was a notable increase in number of CEW certified officers in 2024. This is following the RCMP's substantial increase in CEWs in 2023, indicating that more RCMP officers are being trained and certified for CEW use.
- CEW discharges involving Contact Stun (CS) Mode discharges (either as the sole mode or in combination with probes) has increased in recent years from 14% in 2020 to 28% in 2024.

Figure 3: CEW Use by Type, 2020-2024



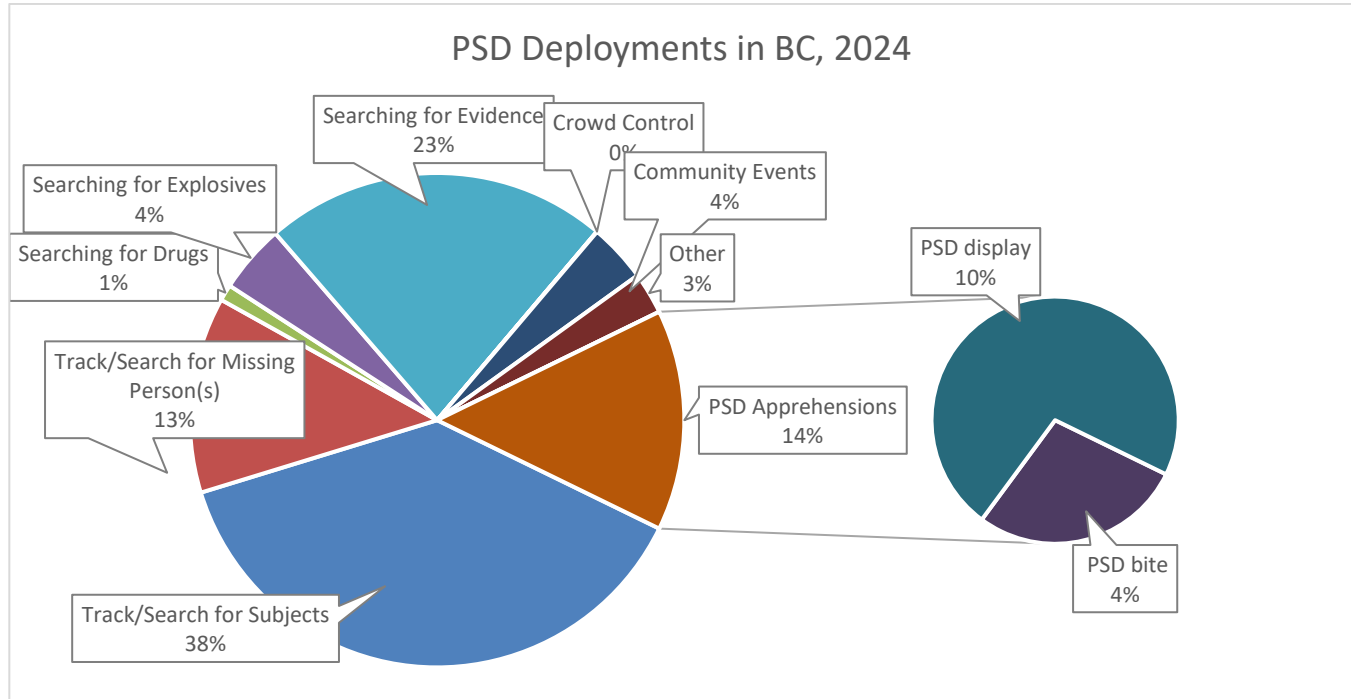
- The overall rate of CEW use per 1,000 GO reports has remained relatively stable since 2020, rising gradually from 0.84 in 2020 to 1.01 in 2024. This trend reflects increases in both displays and discharges, with the rate of displays increasing from 0.59 in 2020 to 0.71 in 2024, and the rate of discharges moving from 0.25 in 2020 to 0.30 in 2024 despite year-to-year fluctuations.
- The effectiveness of CEW deployments has remained consistently high over the five-year period, ranging between 70% and 77%. In 2024, the effectiveness rate was 75% which indicates CEWs remain a reliable intervention option.
- Subjects experiencing injury during CEW deployments has remained relatively low and stable over the five-year period, ranging from 10% to 17%. In 2024, 11% (45 out of 396) of subjects were injured.
- The Independent Investigations Office (IIO), the oversight body charged with investigating all cases of police-related death or serious harm in BC, have not classified a file as a CEW death since their 2017/2018 annual year (though CEWs may still have been involved in death files).¹
- CEW discharges involving subjects under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, accounted for roughly 60–69% of total discharges over the five-year period. In 2024, 61% of discharges involved impaired subjects, slightly down from 65% in 2023.
- CEW discharges involving PIC/EDP have gradually decreased as a proportion of total discharges, from 56% in 2020 to 44% in 2024, reflecting a downward trend in the relative involvement of PIC/EDP in CEW incidents.
- The proportion of CEW discharges involving subjects armed with a weapon has remained relatively stable, ranging from 59–62%, with 59% in 2024, consistent with prior years.

¹ Independent Investigations Office of British Columbia. (2025, August). 2024–2025 Annual Report. <https://iio.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/472/2025/08/IIO-2024-2025-Annual-Report.pdf>

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POLICE SERVICE DOGS SUMMARY

- In 2024, there were 97 PSD in BC, of which 15 were specialty detection dogs.
- Overall, PSDs assisted in locating or arresting 866 subjects in 2024. This refers to all instances where a PSD supported officers in locating or arresting a subject. PSD apprehensions reflect the PSD directly causing the subject's arrest through a bite or display.
- PSD apprehensions totaled 667 incidents, with 186 apprehensions by bite (28%) and 481 apprehensions by display (72%).
 - The overall PSD apprehension rate in 2024 was 0.58 per 1,000 GO reports, with a bite rate of 0.16 and a display rate of 0.42.
- PSD Apprehensions have been steadily declining since 2021. In 2024, total PSD apprehensions decreased 13% from the previous year and a 39% decrease from 2021. Naturally, the PSD apprehension rate has also declined consistently, from 0.91 per 1,000 GO reports in 2020 to 0.58 in 2024. This decrease was seen across both bite (0.16 occurrences per 1,000 GO Reports) and display (0.42 occurrences per 1,000 GO Reports) rates, with 2024 marking the lowest recorded rates.
- PSD deployments rose sharply, beginning in 2021, reaching 11,825 in 2022 before stabilizing at 11,977 in 2024. The increase reflects Transit Police reporting both proactive and operational explosive sweeps, whereas earlier years captured only operational searches.
- The operational deployment of PSDs appears to be steadily declining over time for PSD apprehensions and searching for drugs.
- *Tracks/searches for suspects* remains the most common operational deployment throughout the period, representing 38% of PSD uses in 2024.



Note: Transit Police specialty detection dogs' activities are omitted in Figure 4, as their reported activities fall exclusively under a single deployment category.



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DATA TABLES

Table 1: Intermediate Weapon (IW) Use per GO Report (2020-2024), excluding PSD

	2020	2021	2022	2023*	2024
GO Reports in BC	1,357,302	1,375,212	1,300,697	1,341,920	1,298,714
Total IW use	2,146	2,018	2,365	2,687*	2,594*
<i>IW discharges</i>	734	728	876	1,012	968
<i>IW displays</i>	1,412	1,290	1,489	1,675	1,626
Rate of IW use per 1,000 GO Reports	1.58	1.47	1.82	2.00	2.00
<i>IW discharges per 1,000 GO Reports</i>	0.54	0.53	0.67	0.75	0.74
<i>IW displays per 1,000 GO Reports</i>	1.04	0.94	1.14	1.25	1.25

*Specialty munitions and WOO counts included from 2023 onwards.

Note 1: Table 1 includes both discharges and displays of ERIWs, OC spray, batons, CEWs, specialty munitions, and WOO. PSD apprehensions (by bite and display) are excluded.

Note 2: Rates are rounded to the nearest 0.01, which may affect calculations.

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Table 2: IW Discharges by Police Service, 2020–2024

Year	Force Option	Police Service*														BC Total
		AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	
2020	ERIW	40	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	65	15	0	18	145
	OC Spray	28	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	27	17	2	102	182
	Baton	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	41	6	0	4	62
	CEW	5	0	2	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	63	16	1	250	344
	IW Total	80	0	6	1	9	0	0	5	2	3	196	54	3	374	733
2021	ERIW	36	0	0	2	4	0	1	2	0	0	54	14	0	26	139
	OC Spray	33	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	0	2	35	13	1	102	193
	Baton	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	12	2	5	12	40
	CEW	20	0	4	4	1	0	2	3	1	3	66	24	0	238	366
	IW Total	95	0	7	7	7	0	3	9	1	5	167	53	6	378	738
2022	ERIW	51	0	3	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	62	8	0	35	165
	OC Spray	31	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	37	8	2	132	218
	Baton	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	27	1	0	13	49
	CEW	9	1	1	4	3	0	1	5	0	9	63	21	0	328	445
	IW Total	97	1	5	4	9	0	1	9	0	14	189	38	2	508	877
2023	ERIW	58	1	6	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	62	14	0	34	183
	OC Spray	44	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	17	18	4	99	187
	Baton	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	13	2	1	11	37
	CEW	5	0	1	1	1	2	2	4	0	9	53	22	1	276	377
	Spec. Mun.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	8	0	57	77
	WOO	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	98	4	1	22	151
	IW Total	128	1	8	1	4	3	3	15	1	20	254	68	7	499	1,012
2024	ERIW	46	0	7	0	3	0	0	8	0	2	53	8	1	31	159
	OC Spray	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	38	13	1	81	181
	Baton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	2	5	23
	CEW	9	1	4	1	7	0	1	4	0	2	59	19	2	287	396
	Spec. Mun.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	6	0	52	76
	WOO	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	102	4	0	19	133
	IW Total	101	1	12	1	10	0	1	21	0	6	282	52	6	475	968

*Police Services: 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), Metro Vancouver Transit Police (TP), Vancouver (VA), Victoria (VI), West Vancouver (WV) Police Departments and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

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Table 3: IW Displays by Police Service, 2020–2024

Year	Force Option	Police Services*														
		AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC Total
2020	ERIW	49	2	13	0	19	0	0	11	0	0	403	23	5	27	552
	OC Spray	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	6	1	5	24
	Baton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	27	3	2	3	37
	CEW	12	0	16	8	15	0	6	15	2	14	366	82	6	257	799
	IW 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
	OC Spray	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	4	0	6	18
	Baton	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	1	4	30
	CEW	2	1	21	0	12	3	1	26	4	16	380	73	6	215	760
	IW Total	48	2	34	1	25	3	3	35	4	16	793	85	15	233	1,297
2022	ERIW	82	1	16	0	11	0	4	25	0	0	389	26	0	23	577
	OC Spray	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	5	4	0	3	26
	Baton	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	25	1	0	4	39
	CEW	24	5	22	6	0	1	5	44	0	34	413	24	2	267	847
	IW 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
	OC Spray	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	5	13
	Baton	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	11
	CEW	26	1	20	3	33	1	7	12	1	50	484	62	4	257	961
	IW Total	132	2	38	3	41	1	9	34	1	78	935	95	4	303	1,676
2024	ERIW	110	4	25	0	24	2	3	17	0	3	391	50	3	39	671
	OC Spray	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	4	0	4	22
	Baton	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	1	0	0	16
	CEW	23	1	23	5	34	1	6	31	2	12	422	86	9	262	917
	IW Total	143	5	48	5	58	3	10	49	2	16	829	141	12	305	1,626

*Police Services: 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), Metro Vancouver Transit Police (TP), Vancouver (VA), Victoria (VI), West Vancouver (WV) Police Departments and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

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Table 4: Intermediate Weapon Discharges by PIC/EDP Subjects, 2020–2024

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ERIW	Total Subjects	145	139	165	183	159
	PIC/EDP Subjects	72	82	90	84	70
	PIC/EDP %	50%	59%	55%	46%	44%
OC Spray	Total Subjects	182	193	218	187	181
	PIC/EDP Subjects	68	66	69	53	46
	PIC/EDP %	37%	34%	32%	28%	25%
Baton	Total Subjects	63	28	49	36	23
	PIC/EDP Subjects	22	7	9	6	9
	PIC/EDP %	35%	25%	18%	17%	39%
CEW	Total Subjects	344	368	444	377	396
	PIC/EDP Subjects	191	195	219	182	173
	PIC/EDP %	56%	53%	49%	48%	44%
Spec.Mun. & WOO	Total Subjects	n/a	n/a	n/a	228	209
	PIC/EDP Subjects	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	33
	PIC/EDP %	n/a	n/a	n/a	22%	16%
IW Total	Total Subjects	734	728	876	1,011	968
	PIC/EDP Subjects	353	350	387	375	332
	PIC/EDP %	48%	48%	44%	37%	34%

Table 5: Intermediate Weapon Displays by PIC/EDP Subjects, 2020–2024

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ERIW	Total Subjects	552	489	577	691	671
	PIC/EDP Subjects	176	144	179	177	180
	PIC/EDP %	32%	29%	31%	26%	27%
OC Spray	Total Subjects	24	18	26	13	22
	PIC/EDP Subjects	11	7	10	3	5
	PIC/EDP %	46%	39%	38%	23%	23%
Baton	Total Subjects	37	30	39	11	16
	PIC/EDP Subjects	8	8	17	6	4
	PIC/EDP %	22%	27%	44%	55%	25%
CEW	Total Subjects	799	760	847	961	917
	PIC/EDP Subjects	277	244	265	275	255
	PIC/EDP %	35%	32%	31%	29%	28%
IW Total	Total Subjects	1,412	1,297	1,489	1,676	1,626
	PIC/EDP Subjects	353	350	387	461	444
	PIC/EDP %	25%	27%	26%	28%	27%

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Table 5: CEW Use in BC by Police Service, 2024

	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC
Total # of CEWs	23	4	72	18	34	10	12	20	10	79	640	163	35	4,075	5,195
CEW-certified Officers	53	23	201	19	110	18	31	136	11	118	564	129	55	4,409	5,877
Deployments (Displays + Discharges)															
Total CEW Deployments	32	2	27	6	41	1	7	35	2	14	481	105	11	549	1,313
Displays															
Displays – Total Subjects	23	1	23	5	34	1	6	31	2	12	422	86	9	262	917
Displays – PIC/EDP Subjects	6	1	8	4	10	0	2	13	0	1	111	26	2	71	255
Discharges															
Discharges-Total Subjects	9	1	4	1	7	0	1	4	0	2	59	19	2	287	396
↳ Probes	2	1	2	1	6	0	1	4	0	2	44	17	2	203	285
↳ Contact Stun	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	27	45
↳ Contact Stun + Probes	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	57	66
1 Cycle cases	6	1	5	1	9	0	1	4	0	2	30	13	2	216	290
2 Cycle cases	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	0	56	79
3+ Cycle cases	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	4	0	15	30
Effective %	78%	100%	50%	0%	56%	-	100%	100%	-	100%	73%	79%	100%	76%	75%
Subject Characteristics (for Discharges)															
Male	8	1	4	1	6	0	1	4	0	2	52	18	2	259	358
Female	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	27	36
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	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	11
18 – 69 years of age	9	1	4	1	7	0	0	3	0	2	58	19	2	277	383
70 years of age and older	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unknown Gender / Age	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Under infl. alcohol / drugs	3	0	3	1	3	0	1	3	0	0	24	12	0	192	242
PIC/EDP Subjects	3	1	2	1	7	0	0	2	0	0	32	9	1	115	173
Armed with weapon(s)	1	0	1	1	6	0	0	4	0	1	38	17	2	164	235
Outcomes (for Discharges)															
Probes broke skin	1	0	2	0	4	0	1	3	0	1	36	11	2	205	266
Subjects with injury	2	1	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	3	16	2	14	45
Deaths proximal to ²	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Officers with injury	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	1	14
CEW Rates (per 1,000 GO Reports)															
GO Reports	42,401	3,814	20,591	6,325	18,464	3,676	5,487	24,432	2,226	13,524	108,396	33,387	9,147	1,006,844	1,298,714
CEW Use Rate	0.75	0.52	1.31	0.95	2.22	0.27	1.28	1.43	0.90	1.04	4.44	3.14	1.20	0.55	1.01
↳ CEW Display Rate	0.54	0.26	1.12	0.79	1.84	0.27	1.09	1.27	0.90	0.89	3.89	2.58	0.98	0.26	0.71
↳ CEW Discharge Rate	0.21	0.26	0.19	0.16	0.38	0.00	0.18	0.16	0.00	0.15	0.54	0.57	0.22	0.29	0.30

² The term “proximal to” CEW use should not be interpreted as death caused by the CEW.

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Table 6: CEW Use in BC, 2020-2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total # of CEWs	2,993	2,893	3,037	5,078	5,195
Total # of CEW certified officers	2,267	2,231	2,855	3,245	5,877
Deployments (Displays + Discharges)					
Total CEW Deployments	1,143	1,126	1,292	1,338	1,313
Displays					
Displays – Total Subjects	799	760	847	961	917
Displays – PIC/EDP subject	277	244	265	275	255
Discharges					
Discharges – Total Subjects	344	366	445	377	396
Probes	295	287	381	280	285
Contact Stun	31	47	42	32	45
Contact Stun + Probes	18	35	17	65	66
1 Cycle cases	289	281	342	294	290
2 Cycle cases	51	71	59	60	79
3+ Cycle cases	26	29	37	22	30
Effective %	72%	76%	70%	77%	75%
Subject Characteristics (for Discharges)					
Male	321	346	420	346	358
Female	22	32	23	29	36
Non-Binary	1	2	0	0	1
Under 18 years of age	2	7	8	9	11
18 – 69 years of age	339	370	430	365	383
70 years of age and older	3	1	1	1	1
Under infl. alcohol / drugs	239	220	269	245	242
PIC/EDP Subjects	191	195	219	182	173
Armed with weapon(s)	203	216	278	226	235
Injuries (for Discharges)					
Probes broke skin	241	251	287	245	266
Subjects with injury	34	61	63	46	45
Subject Deaths proximal to CEW	1	0	0	0	0
Officers with injury	6	12	12	15	14
CEW Rates (per 1,000 GO Reports)					
GO Reports	1,357,302	1,375,212	1,300,697	1,341,920	1,298,714
CEW Use Rate	0.84	0.82	0.99	1.00	1.01
↳ CEW Display Rate	0.59	0.55	0.65	0.72	0.71
↳ CEW Discharge Rate	0.25	0.27	0.34	0.28	0.30

BC Police Intermediate Weapon Use, 2024

Table 7: PSD Use in BC by Police Service, 2024

	RCMP	Transit	Vancouver	Victoria	BC Total
Number of PSD	75	0	16	6	97
Special detection PSD	6	7	0	2	15
Subjects located/arrested with PSD assistance	714	n/a	130	22	866
PSD BITES					
PSD Bites - Subject	139	n/a	45	2	186
PSD Bites - Civilian	2	0	1	0	3
PSD Bites - Officer	2	0	0	0	2
Total PSD Bites	143	0	46	2	191
PSD DEPLOYMENTS					
Track/Search for Subjects	1,670	n/a	Unknown	85	1,755
PSD Apprehensions	515	n/a	130	22	667
Apprehended by PSD bite	139	n/a	45	2	186
Apprehended by PSD display	376	n/a	85	20	481
Track/Search for Missing Person(s)	590	n/a	0	2	592
Searching for Drugs	36	n/a	0	13	49
Searching for Explosives	195	4,963	0	12	5,170
Searching for Evidence	999	n/a	17	24	1,040
Crowd Control	1	n/a	0	0	1
Community Events	56	58	40	23	177
Other	69	n/a	0	57	2,526
Total PSD Deployments	6,531	n/a	187	295	11,977
PSD APPREHENSION RATES PER 1,000 GO Reports					
GO Reports	1,006,844	13,524	108,396	33,387	1,162,151
PSD Apprehension Rate	0.51	n/a	1.20	0.66	0.58
Apprehension by Bite Rate	0.14	n/a	0.42	0.06	0.16
Apprehension by Display Rate	0.37	n/a	0.78	0.60	0.42

Note: Transit Police report only specialty detection dog deployments. These dogs are trained exclusively for explosive detection, and their activities are captured under the single category "Searching for Explosives." No other operational deployment types are reported for this team.

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Table 8: PSD Use in BC, 2020-2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of PSD	104	104	101	91	97
Special detection PSD	10	15	18	19	15
Subjects located/arrested with PSD assistance	1,581	1,376	1,240	820	866
PSD BITES					
PSD Bites - Subject	315	249	282	221	186
PSD Bites - Civilian	6	14	2	5	3
PSD Bites - Officer	9	6	7	2	2
Total PSD Bites	330	269	291	228	191
PSD DEPLOYMENTS					
Track/Search for Subject(s)	5,015	4,669	4,131	4,317	1,755
PSD Apprehensions	1,087	1,320	1,179	767	667
Apprehended by PSD bite	314	247	280	217	186
Apprehended by PSD display	773	1,073	899	550	481
Track/Search for Missing Person(s)	424	314	313	395	592
Searching for Drugs	218	175	106	97	49
Searching for Explosives	149	2,576	4,812	5,458	5,170
Searching for Evidence	867	1,175	1,157	960	1,040
Crowd Control	0	0	0	3	1
Community Events	101	104	101	236	177
Other	48	2	26	38	126
Total PSD Deployments	7,909	10,335	11,825	11,730	9,519
PSD APPREHENSION RATES (PER 1,000 GO Reports)					
GO Reports	1,200,194	1,211,565	1,150,081	1,189,490	1,148,627
PSD Apprehension Rate	0.91	1.09	1.03	0.64	0.58
Apprehension by Bite Rate	0.26	0.20	0.24	0.18	0.16
Apprehension by Display Rate	0.64	0.89	0.78	0.46	0.42

Note: Starting in 2021, Transit Police began reporting both calls for service and the number of proactive explosive sweeps conducted when members of the public were present. This change increased reported totals compared to pre-2021 reporting. These numbers are not directly comparable to other PSD teams, whose deployments are reported as operational tasks.



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KEY DEFINITIONS

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

Bite: 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.

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).

- **Contact Stun (CS) Mode:** Direct application of the CEW muzzle to a person. This may be done on its own, or in combination with probe deployment. The goal is pain compliance.
- **Probe Mode:** Firing probes attached to wires that deliver electrical pulses into a person’s body, with the goal of causing Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI).

Discharge: The act of firing or applying a weapon in any mode against a subject. This definition may differ from the definition of “discharge” used in other contexts.

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

Person in Crisis (PIC) / Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP): Refers to an individual who appears to be mentally unstable and may pose a risk to themselves, others, or responding officers. As of October 23, 2022, the RCMP has replaced the term “Emotionally Disturbed Person” with “Person in Crisis” in its reporting systems. This designation reflects the officer’s perception at the time of the incident and it was recorded in the police records management system.

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

General Occurrence (GO) Report: A report typically written when officers are involved in an operational policing response to an incident. GO counts are used to provide context and ratios for use-of-force reporting.

Injury: Non-trivial injuries that are not life-threatening but require medical attention for a condition likely to interfere with health or comfort and are more than transient or trifling in nature (e.g., lacerations, broken bones, concussions).

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 CEWs fall within this category. Intermediate weapons may also be referred to as “less-lethal weapons.”

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

Police Service Dogs (PSD): Dogs trained and authorized for use in policing, governed by BCPPS [1.4 Police Service Dogs](#). PSD deployments and outcomes (e.g., persons located, apprehended, or bitten) are reportable under this standard.

Specialty Munitions (Spec.Mun.): Munitions that require specialized training and certification by Officers and may include extended range impact munitions, impact rounds containing chemical agents, breaching munitions, Noise Flash Diversionary Devices, and munitions designed specifically for crowd dispersal.

Weapon of Opportunity (WOO): An ordinary object that in its regular use is not intended as a weapon, but in a specific encounter is at hand for improvised use as a weapon (e.g., flashlight, vehicle).



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A complete list of intermediate weapons approved for operational use in BC is available in Appendix A for [BCPPS 1.2.2 Intermediate Weapons](#) with specific approved CEW models further identified in [BCPPS 1.3.2 Approved CEW Models](#).

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The use of 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 between 2000 and 2007. However, the use of CEWs decreased in the years following Robert Dziekański's death and subsequent Braidwood Commission of Inquiry. 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 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.

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, PSB has collected summary data from police agencies in BC regarding their use of CEWs, including the number of 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 about CEW use, including the number of CEWs and certified CEW operators, subject characteristics, and injuries. Annual reports summarizing this data are available on PSB's website under the heading [Police Use-of-Force Data](#).

Data related to PSDs are reported annually to the Director 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, PSB also began requesting agencies GO counts, such that uses of force could be represented as a ratio of uses per 1,000 GO reports.

DATA QUALIFIERS

Use-of-force data is inherently complex to quantify due to the vast variability in incidents. Each event is unique, ranging from a single officer using one type of force on one subject to multiple officers engaging with multiple subjects, each potentially using different levels and types of force. This variability creates significant challenges in standardizing reporting and analysis, leading to differences in counting and classification.

Intermediate weapon use may also be attributed to a different police service from where the involved officer was employed. Examples of this include incidents involving seconded police officers, integrated emergency response teams, or requests for assistance from other police agencies. Variations in the availability of CEWs or PSD, and in their operational deployment in the field, may also impact reported use counts and ratios across jurisdictions.

Counting methods differ across force options and should be considered when interpreting the data.

Most use-of-force options, including CEW discharges and PSD apprehensions by bite or display, are counted by the number of subjects against whom the force was applied.

CEW effectiveness and cycle counts are tallied by the number of officers who applied force in relation to a subject. For CEWs, the number of cycles is recorded, but cycles do not increase the subject count. The sum of cycle cases may differ from the total discharges, because while total discharges are counted by number of subjects, cycle cases



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are counted by number of officers who discharged their CEW per subject of the force option in an incident. The number of cycles used does not impact the count in a CEW discharge.

PSD bite counts include both intentional and unintentional bites and may also include accidental bites to officers. PSD data are reported by authorized deployments, which represent operational tasks performed by a police service dog. Some deployments are classified under “other authorized uses,” which can include building or compound searches, containment and human remains detection, if they do not clearly fall under other categories. Not all deployments involve direct contact with a subject. “Subjects located/arrested with PSD assistance” refers to all instances where a PSD was a significant factor in locating or arresting a subject, while PSD apprehensions reflect the set of cases where the PSD directly made the apprehension through a bite or display. Starting in 2021, Transit Police began reporting both calls for service and the number of proactive explosive sweeps conducted when members of the public were present. This change increased reported totals compared to pre-2021 reporting. These numbers are not directly comparable to other PSD teams, whose deployments are reported as operational tasks.

RCMP Police Dog Teams are stationed throughout North District, Southeast District, and Island District. Police services such as Stl’atl’imx Tribal Police, Central Saanich, Nelson, and Oak Bay do not operate PSD units. Several municipal departments (Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, and West Vancouver) are served by the RCMP Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Service (LMIPDS), whose dogs receive the same training and cross-jurisdictional authority. In February 2021, Saanich and Victoria Police Departments formed the Integrated Canine Service, and in September 2022 West Vancouver Police transitioned to the LMIPDS.

Vancouver Police Department reported that factors contributed to fewer PSD deployments in 2022. They are not longer reporting unsuccessful deployment counts for “Track/Search for Subjects”, resulting in potential partial data from 2022-onwards in this category.

Since 2020, PSB has requested General Occurrence (GO) report counts from police services to enable calculation of use-of-force rates providing context for comparing use frequency across jurisdictions.

A single subject may be subject to multiple force options within an incident (e.g., a CEW discharge and a ERIW display). Each force option is counted separately by subject, which means it’s possible that the same individual may be counted more than once when summarizing the proportion of force options used.

Each incident is unique, therefore data should be interpreted with caution. Factors such as subject behaviour, officer response, situational dynamics, and reporting differences all influence the counts. These figures provide a summary of operational trends but do not capture all qualitative factors involved in each event.