



Conducted Energy Weapons, 2022

CEWs and BCPPS Reporting

Aggregate data on the use of Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) by each policing agency in BC is reported to the Director of Police Services annually. This is a requirement under [British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards](#) (BCPPS), both under [BCPPS 1.3.3 Internal CEW Controls and Monitoring](#) specific to aggregate CEW counts as well as under [BCPPS 1.7.2 Reporting and Investigation Following the Use of Force](#) regarding complete data on all use-of-force reports.

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.

Trends in CEW use over time at the provincial level are listed separately on the Ministry's [Crime, police, and police resource statistics](#) webpage.

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 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 (NMI).

CEW Contact Stun 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.

EDP: whether the subject was perceived by the officer to be, and recorded by the officer 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." 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.

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.

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2022 BCPPS CEW Data, by Police Agency ¹

| | AB | CS | DE | NE | NW | OB | PM | SA | STP | TP | VA | VI | WV | RCMP | BC |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------------|
| Total # of CEWs | 26 | 4 | 84 | 12 | 36 | 12 | 9 | 22 | 10 | 84 | 534 | 87 | 35 | 2,082 | 3,037 |
| CEWs per 1,000 GO reports | 0.71 | 1.02 | 3.35 | 2.13 | 2.17 | 3.01 | 1.54 | 0.90 | 4.84 | 5.49 | 5.17 | 2.49 | 3.18 | 2.06 | 2.33 |
| Total # of certified officers | 38 | 22 | 215 | 11 | 81 | 18 | 35 | 125 | 8 | 134 | 456 | 67 | 42 | 1,603 | 2,855 |
| Cert. officers per 1,000 GO reports | 1.03 | 5.60 | 8.58 | 1.96 | 4.87 | 4.52 | 6.00 | 5.11 | 3.87 | 8.76 | 4.41 | 1.92 | 3.82 | 1.58 | 2.19 |
| Deployments (Displays and Discharges) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Deployments | 33 | 6 | 23 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 49 | 0 | 43 | 476 | 44 | 2 | 595 | 1,291 |
| Deployments per 1,000 GO reports | 0.90 | 1.53 | 0.92 | 1.78 | 0.18 | 0.25 | 1.03 | 2.00 | 0.00 | 2.81 | 4.61 | 1.26 | 0.18 | 0.59 | 0.99 |
| Deployments per certified officer | 0.87 | 0.27 | 0.11 | 0.91 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.17 | 0.39 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 1.04 | 0.66 | 0.05 | 0.37 | 0.45 |
| Displays | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Displays (no Discharge) | 24 | 5 | 22 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 44 | 0 | 34 | 413 | 23 | 2 | 267 | 846 |
| <i>To EDP subject²</i> | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 0 | 8 | 101 | 6 | 0 | 107 | 265 |
| Display per 1,000 GO reports | 0.65 | 1.27 | 0.88 | 1.07 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.86 | 1.80 | 0.00 | 2.22 | 4.00 | 0.66 | 0.18 | 0.26 | 0.65 |
| Displays per certified officer | 0.63 | 0.23 | 0.10 | 0.55 | 0.00 | 0.06 | 0.14 | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.91 | 0.34 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.30 |
| Discharges | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Discharges (# of subjects) | 9 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 63 | 21 | 0 | 328 | 445 |
| <i>Probes</i> | 7 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 46 | 18 | 0 | 291 | 381 |
| <i>Contact Stun</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 33 | 42 |
| <i>Contact Stun + Probes</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 17 |
| 1 Cycle cases ³ | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 37 | 14 | 0 | 271 | 342 |
| 2 Cycle cases | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 39 | 59 |
| 3+ Cycle cases | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 37 |
| Effective discharge cases | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 49 | 18 | 0 | 248 | 336 |
| Discharge per 1,000 GO reports | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.04 | 0.71 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 0.17 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.59 | 0.61 | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 0.34 |
| Discharges per certified officer | 0.24 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.36 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.00 | 0.07 | 0.14 | 0.31 | 0.00 | 0.20 | 0.16 |

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| | AB | CS | DE | NE | NW | OB | PM | SA | STP | TP | VA | VI | WV | RCMP | BC |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|------|------------|
| Subject Characteristics (for Discharges) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 9 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 58 | 20 | 0 | 313 | 420 |
| Female | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 23 |
| Non-Binary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Under 18 years of age | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| 18 – 69 years of age | 9 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 59 | 20 | 0 | 321 | 430 |
| 70 years of age and older | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Under inf. alcohol and/or drugs | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 26 | 9 | 0 | 210 | 269 |
| Emotionally disturbed | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 35 | 10 | 0 | 157 | 219 |
| Armed with weapon(s) | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 43 | 12 | 0 | 204 | 277 |
| Injuries (for Discharges) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Probes broke skin | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 40 | 14 | 0 | 216 | 287 |
| Subjects with non-trivial injury ⁴ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 15 | 0 | 20 | 63 |
| Deaths proximal to discharge ⁵ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Officers with non-trivial injury | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 12 |

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 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Non-trivial injuries are injuries which 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. Examples of non-trivial injuries include lacerations, broken bones/fractures, concussions, etc.

⁵ 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.