

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Policing and Security Branch (PSB) collects summary data from police services in British Columbia on a range of use-of-force options, including both weapon displays and discharges. This report presents data for 2024, with analyses based on aggregate information reported to PSB by all BC police services. More detailed data and analyses of specific force options, including police service-specific data and multi-year trend analyses, are available in separate reports on [BC's crime, police, and police resource statistics web site](#).

The analyses in this report are based on aggregate use-of-force data reported to Policing and Security Branch (PSB) by all BC police services. The data in this report include police operational use of physical control techniques, firearms, intermediate weapons (IW) and police service dogs (PSD) apprehensions. IW include extended range impact weapons (ERIWs), oleoresin capicum (OC) spray, batons, conducted energy weapons (CEW) and specialty munitions (Spec.Mun.). Weapons of Opportunity (WOO) are reported under *BC Provincial Policing Standard (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](#). It's important to note that the method for counting displays and discharges/applications can vary between force options included in this report. Further details are available in this report's subsequent section, [Key Definitions and Data Qualifiers](#).

PSB continually revises its annual data request to provide additional context and align more closely with the reporting requirements detailed in As of 2019, PSB has collected data on officers' perceptions of subjects identified as Person in Crisis (PIC) or Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP). This refers to an individual who appears to be mentally unstable and may pose a threat 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 how it was recorded in the police records management system. As of 2020, PSB included new fields for general occurrence (GO) reports which are written when officers are involved in an operational policing response to an incident. As of 2023, the request was expanded to collect information on applications of Physical Control-Hard (PC-H) techniques, Physical Control-Soft (PC-S) techniques, 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.

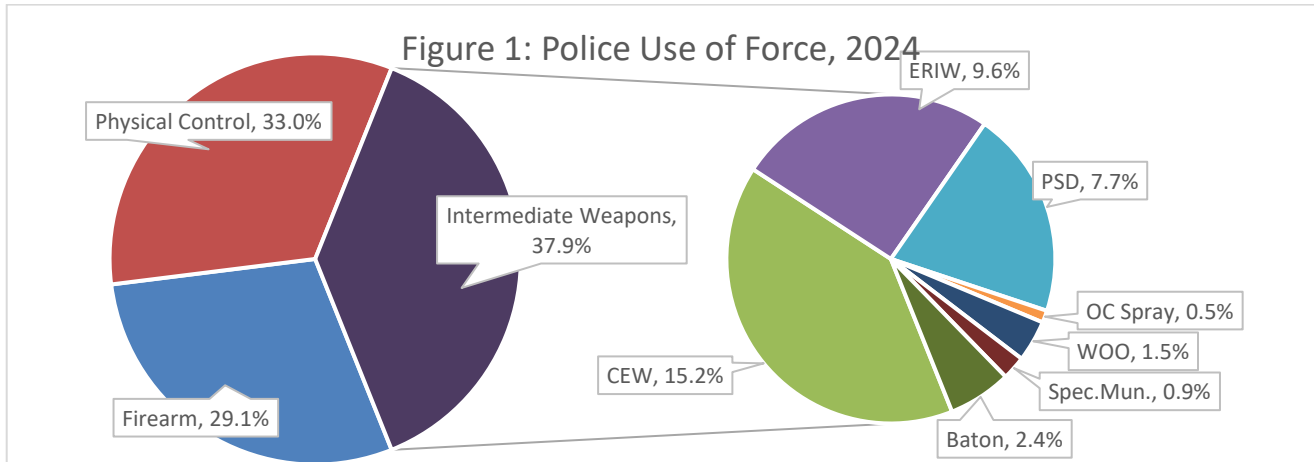
PSB uses the information collected from police services about police use of force to monitor compliance with provincial policing standards and identify priorities for further study, standards, or training. The information is also used by police services to inform local training and policies.

ANALYSIS SUMMARY

- GO reports decreased by 3% (from 1,344,001 in 2023 to 1,298,714 in 2024) but remains at relatively stable levels and consistent with previous years. The RCMP jurisdictions accounted for approximately 78% of all GO reports in 2024 ([Table 1](#)).
- Of the 1,298,714 GO reports recorded in 2024, 98,725 had a mental health component or mental health flag selected, representing 7.6% of all reports ([Table 2](#)). As the mental health flag entry is not mandatory and may vary between agencies, caution is advised when interpreting these figures and when comparing them to proportions of PIC/EDP subjects in use of force data.
- In 2024, PC-H was applied to 1,579 subjects, and PC-S was applied to 1,268 subjects. The PC-H applied rate was 1.22 per 1,000 GO reports, a slight increase from 2023 (1.16) but indicating stability year over year ([Table 3](#)).
- Subjects believed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs comprised approximately 49% of PC-H applications and 47% of PC-S applications. PIC/EDP subjects represented 25% of PC-H applications and 32% of PC-S applications. Across police services, PC-H effectiveness remained high, with several agencies reporting 90% or higher effectiveness rates ([Table 3](#)).

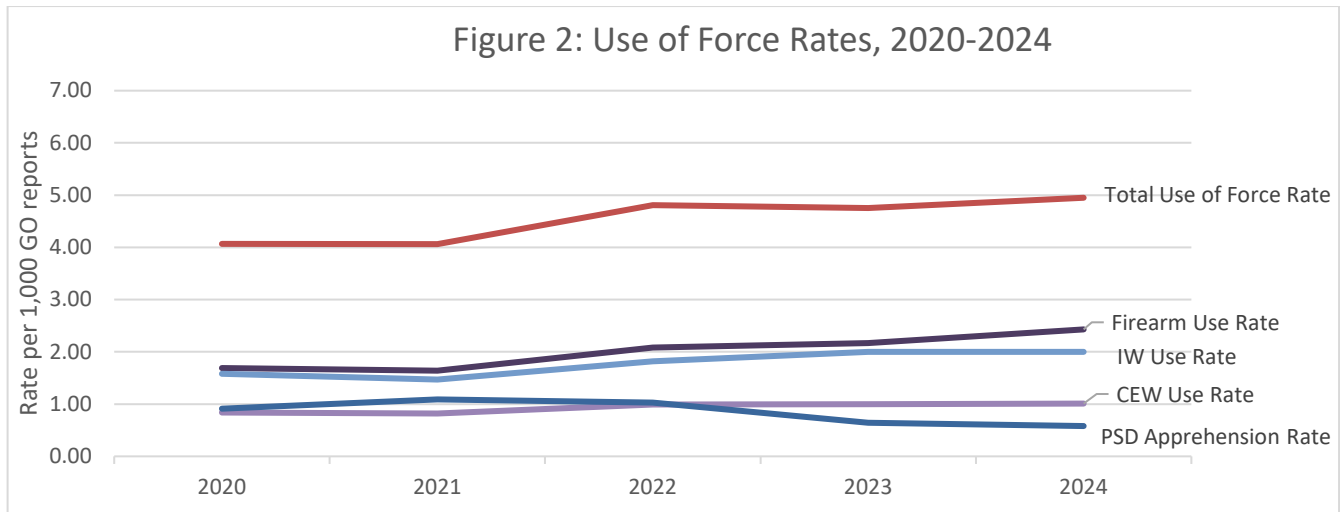
BC Police Use-of-Force, 2024

- In 2024, the most frequently used force options, counted by subjects, were Physical Control (2,847 subjects), Firearms (2,506 subjects), CEWs (1,313 subjects), and ERIWs (831 subjects).



Note: A single subject may experience multiple force options within an incident (e.g., a Physical Control-Soft technique and a CEW display). Each force option is counted separately by subject, which means the same individual may be counted more than once when summarizing the proportion of force options used.

- In 2024, 12 subjects were involved in firearm discharge incidents. A total of 2,494 subjects had a firearm displayed at them. PIC/EDP subjects accounted for 22% of all firearm uses of force, however, firearm display counts reflect display events rather than unique subjects and may overrepresent PIC/EDP involvement ([Table 4](#)). PIC/EDP subjects represented 33% of CEW uses, 31% of ERIW uses, and 25% of OC Spray uses.
- Over the past five years, the firearm use rate has shown a gradual upward trend, driven by increases in firearm displays. In 2024, firearm use increased to a rate of 2.43 per 1,000 GO reports, the highest in the five-year reporting period. Firearm discharges occurred at a rate of 0.008 per 1,000 GO reports, consistent with low discharge frequencies in prior years ([Table 5](#)). For more detailed information consult the Police Firearms Use in BC, 2024 report.



- The Use of Force discharge rate was 0.90 per 1,000 GO reports, compared with a display rate of 4.04. Overall Use of Force rates increased from 4.07 per 1,000 GO reports in 2020 to 4.94 in 2024, reflecting a gradual upward trend across the five-year reporting period ([Table 5](#)).
- In 2024, the most frequently used force options, excluding physical control techniques, were Firearms, CEWs, ERIWs, and PSDs. These were displayed substantially more often than applied as discharges. Less frequently used force options, such as OC spray, batons, Spec. Mun., and WOO, had similar or higher numbers of discharges compared with displays in 2024, again excluding physical control techniques ([Table 4](#)).

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DATA TABLES

Table 1: General Occurrence (GO) Reports by Police Service, 2020-2024

POLICE SERVICE *															
	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC Total
2020	34,318	4,105	26,678	6,193	17,363	4,158	6,722	29,721	2,488	15,151	109,712	36,501	10,211	1,053,981	1,357,302
2021	39,084	4,051	30,037	5,375	17,508	4,017	6,269	28,796	2,555	15,528	104,601	36,072	10,472	1,070,892	1,375,212
2022	36,746	3,929	25,056	5,621	16,626	3,985	5,831	24,458	2,065	15,297	103,305	34,929	11,002	1,011,847	1,300,697
2023	40,493	4,058	24,407	5,688	18,240	3,908	6,069	24,910	2,081	14,058	110,565	33,130	10,599	1,045,795	1,344,001
2024	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

*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 (STP), Metro Vancouver Transit Police (TP), Vancouver (VA), Victoria (VI), West Vancouver (WV) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Table 2: GO Reports with Mental Health Component by Police Service, 2020-2024

POLICE SERVICE *															
	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC Total
2020	3,572	85	1,476	883	661	56	658	631	59	871	13,192	1,004	427	69,446	93,021
2021	3,856	161	2,094	716	728	50	599	1,046	54	945	12,628	3,480	598	72,706	99,661
2022	4,233	162	1,712	828	466	46	647	944	88	878	11,820	2,817	531	69,104	94,276
2023	4,053	187	1,813	732	995	57	387	2,613	66	925	12,327	2,507	610	70,804	98,010
2024	3,772	77	1,826	661	940	52	746	2,539	5	802	11,827	6,113	461	68,904	98,725

Table 3: Physical Control Use by Police Service, 2024

POLICE SERVICE *															
	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC Total
Physical Control-Soft (PC-S)															
PC-S applied – Total Subjects	0	11	31	5	65	3	16	37	4	60	729	192	10	105	1,268
PC-S applied – Effective %	-	73%	74%	20%	69%	100%	75%	75%	75%	75%	69%	83%	70%	83%	73%
PC-S applied – PIC/EDP Subjects	0	3	10	4	35	1	6	12	0	23	229	58	2	20	403
PC-S applied – Subjects under influence of alcohol / drugs	0	5	18	5	39	1	10	26	4	35	312	73	5	68	601
Physical Control-Hard (PC-H)															
PC-H applied – Total Subjects	184	6	15	5	33	2	4	18	1	47	802	102	23	337	1,579
PC-H applied – Effective %	91%	100%	93%	80%	98%	100%	100%	84%	100%	85%	94%	87%	96%	86%	91%
PC-H applied – PIC/EDP Subjects	46	4	5	3	15	0	2	5	0	11	206	32	10	61	400
PC-H applied – Subjects under influence of alcohol / drugs	96	2	12	4	19	1	2	12	1	14	333	44	13	227	780
Rate per 1,000 GO Reports															
PC-H applied rate	4.34	1.58	0.73	0.79	1.79	0.54	0.73	0.74	3.48	7.40	3.06	2.51	0.33	1.22	4.34

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

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Table 4: Police Use of Force by Weapon, 2024

	Firearms	Intermediate Weapon (IW)						WOO	BC Total
		CEW	ERIW	PSD	OC Spray	Baton	Spec. Mun.		
Discharges – Total Subjects	12	396	158	186	181	23	76	133	1,165
Displays – Total Subjects	2,494	917	673	481	22	16	0	-	4,603
Total – Total Subjects	2,506	1,313	831	667	203	39	76	133	5,768
Involving PIC/EDP Subjects									
Discharges – PIC/EDP Subjects	3	173	73	n/a	46	9	22	11	337
Displays – PIC/EDP Subjects	550 ¹	255	181	n/a	5	4	0	0	995
Total – PIC/EDP Subjects	553	428	254	n/a	51	13	22	11	1,332
<i>PIC/EDP % of Total</i>	22%	33%	31%	n/a	25%	10%	29%	28%	23%

Note: Percentages are rounded to nearest whole number, which may affect calculations.

Table 5: Police Use of Force Rates Per 1,000 GO Reports in BC, 2020-2024

Involving All Subjects	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Use of Force Rate	4.07	4.06	4.81	4.75	4.94
Use of Force Discharge Rate	0.78	0.73	0.91	0.93	0.90
Use of Force Display Rate	3.29	3.34	3.90	3.82	4.04
Involving Physical Control-Hard					
PC-H Applied Rate	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.16	1.22
Involving Weapons					
Firearm Use Rate	1.69	1.64	2.08	2.17	2.43
Firearm Discharge Rate	0.006	0.009	0.015	0.013	0.008
Firearm Display Rate	1.69	1.63	2.06	2.16	2.42
IW Use Rate	1.58	1.47	1.82	2.00	2.00
IW Discharge Rate	0.54	0.53	0.67	0.75	0.74
IW Display Rate	1.04	0.94	1.14	1.25	1.25
CEW Use Rate	0.84	0.82	0.99	1.00	1.01
CEW Discharge Rate	0.25	0.27	0.34	0.28	0.30
CEW Display Rate	0.59	0.55	0.65	0.72	0.71
PSD Apprehension Rate	0.91	1.09	1.03	0.64	0.58
PSD Apprehension by Bite Rate	0.26	0.20	0.24	0.18	0.16
PSD Apprehension by Display Rate	0.64	0.89	0.78	0.46	0.42

Note 1: Rates are rounded to nearest 0.01, which may affect calculations.

Note 2: Rates for specific force options are drawn from the corresponding reports: Police Firearms Use in BC, 2024 and Police Intermediate Weapons Use in BC, 2024. These reports provide additional context, definitions, and multi-year trends for each option.

¹ For firearm displays involving PIC/EDP subjects, data were only available as total display events (i.e., total times an officer displayed a firearm) rather than by total subjects. As a result, the PIC/EDP firearm display count reflects display events rather than unique subjects and are over-represented, as total subjects are typically fewer than total display events.

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KEY DEFINITIONS

Effective: refers to whether the officer considered the force option effective in changing the subject's behaviour.

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 how it was recorded in the police records management system.

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”.

Mental Health Occurrence / Flag: A GO report flagged as involving mental health represents an incident where either the official “mental health study” flag was selected or, an agency-specific template was used to record mental health concerns. The number of flagged GO reports most likely underestimates the true prevalence of mental health-related incidents, as counting methods vary by police service and some relevant incidents may be captured elsewhere in records.

Physical control-Hard (PC-H): Physical techniques that are intended to impede a person's behaviour or to allow application of a control technique; and have a higher probability of causing injury. They may include empty hand strikes such as punches and kicks. Physical control techniques are applied directly and cannot be ‘displayed’.

Physical Control-Soft (PC-S): Soft techniques that are control oriented and have a lower probability of causing injury. They may include restraining techniques, joint locks and non-resistant handcuffing. Physical control techniques are applied directly and cannot be ‘displayed’.

DATA QUALIFIERS

Use-of-force data is inherently complex and difficult 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.

Use-of-force incidents may result in injuries and do appear in the provincial use-of-force database. While these provide important context, they may not reflect the full extent of injuries or how the injury occurred. For more comprehensive and independent assessments, refer to the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) or the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) for case file reports and findings regarding injury outcomes resulting from police use of force incidents.

Use of force may be attributed to a different police service 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 services.

Counting methods vary by force option:

- **Effective:** Counted by the number of times an officer's use of force option was considered effective. This percentage is calculated by officers' total effective applications / (total effective applications + total ineffective

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applications). The sum of effective counts may differ from the total force applied, as total applied is counted by number of subjects and not by the number of times.

- **Firearms:** Firearm displays are counted by the number of times an officer displayed a firearm to a subject without discharging it. Firearm discharges are counted by the number of firearm discharge incidents and not by the number of subjects or officers. Beginning in 2024, police services were asked to provide counts of the total number of subjects who had a firearm displayed toward them. Collecting subject-based counts allows for better comparability with other force options that are reported by subjects.
- **Physical Control-Soft:** Counted by the number of subjects applied to. In accordance with BCPPS 1.7.2, applications of Physical Control–Soft are not required to be reported unless they result in an injury to either the officer or the subject. As a result, data on PC-S may underrepresent the total number of applications that occurred. Physical control techniques are applied directly and are not typically ‘displayed’.
- **Physical Control-Hard:** Counted by the number of subjects applied to. In accordance with BCPPS 1.7.2, police services are required to report all applications of Physical Control–Hard, regardless of injury. Physical control techniques are applied directly and are not typically ‘displayed’.

A single subject may be subject to multiple force options within an incident (e.g., a Physical Control-Soft technique, a CEW discharge and a firearm display). Each force option is counted separately by subject, which means 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.