



SARNIA POLICE SERVICE

Open Agenda Information Report

To: Chair and Police Services Board Members

From: Deputy Chief Julie Craddock

Subject: 2022 Use of Force Annual Report

Date: October 12, 2023

Report Number: 23-10-006-0

SUMMARY:

As per the Board's Use of Force Policy No. AI-012, the 2022 annual use of force statistics are contained within this report. The statistical data is gathered from Use of Force reports submitted by members of the Sarnia Police Service between January 01, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

These statistics are used to develop policy and training programs in the area of use-of-force and de-escalation training.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie M. Craddock".

Julie M. Craddock
Deputy Chief of Police

:jc

BACKGROUND

The *Criminal Code of Canada* authorizes police officers in the province of Ontario to use force, while engaged in the lawful execution of their duty. Under Section 25, officers are permitted to use as much force as necessary if they act on reasonable grounds. Regulation 926 of the *Police Services Act*, specifically outlines the types of firearms and weapons that police officers are permitted to carry, and includes mandatory training qualifications in use of force and firearms.

The regulations further address reporting requirements when officers apply force or draw their firearms. As of January 1, 2020, under the *Anti-Racism Act*, police services are now required to collect data on the perceived race of those subjects involved in use of force incidents. The Ministry of the Solicitor General mandates police Services in Ontario to complete province-wide standardized Use of Force Reports electronically, for the collection.

The Use of Force Model (2004) is a guide for police officer and is provided by the Province of Ontario. The model is referred to in training and is designed to assist officers in assessing certain situations, behaviours and taking action based on their observations.

Ontario Use of Force Model (2004)



The officer continuously assesses the situation and selects the most reasonable option relative to those circumstances as perceived at that point in time.

MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

When an officer has displayed or applied reportable force or utilized a force option as defined by regulation, the officer must complete and submit an electronic Use of Force Report. Individual officers who are involved in the same incident must complete separate reports if they have applied reportable force. Emergency Response Units (ERT) and Public Order Units (if applicable) are permitted to complete and submit a single electronic Use of Force Report, detailing the teams' combined use of force.

A member shall submit a Use of Force Report when:

(a) a handgun is drawn in the presence of a member of the public, excluding a member of the police force who is on duty, points a firearm at a person or discharges a firearm. A member of the public includes a suspect or arrested person;

(b) a member uses a weapon other than a firearm on another person;

(c) a member uses physical force on another person, not in relation to training conducted by the Training and Education Bureau, that results in an injury requiring medical attention; and

(d) a member deploys a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) on a person or an animal or displays the CEW in the Demonstrated Force Presence Mode.

After completing the electronic Use of Force Report, the officer submits the report to their supervisor who is required to review and approve the report. The supervisor then forwards the electronic report to their commander. The report is then directed to the Training Bureau for review and submission to the Ministry.

This report focuses on mandatory use of force reporting and its associated data. In accordance with the Anti Racism Act, this report also looks at the intersectionality of the application of force and race.

TRAINING

De-escalation & Critical Decision-Making:

Sarnia Police Service members begin use of force training, as soon as they are hired as Cadets. During this time, members are introduced to the Ontario Use of Force Model, use of force options and de-escalation training. Cadets receive further training at the Ontario Police College, again, with an emphasis on communication and de-escalation.

Sarnia Police Service members receive ongoing use of force training through the Annual In-Service Training (IST). This training is mandatory for all members, with themes of de-

escalation and communication as the foundation for the curriculum. This training also includes judgement scenarios, police vehicle operations and academic material.

All sworn members have received mandatory training on the Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances (CIICC), which applies to a police officer attempting to collect identifying information about an individual from an individual.

Anti-Racism Training:

The Sarnia Police Service has developed a multi-session, anti-racism strategy, which was introduced in 2022. This program (Respect in the Workplace) is mandatory for all SPS employees. The course focuses on the Ontario Human Rights Code and includes topics such as:

- 1) Negative Power vs Positive Power, Respectful Leadership
- 2) Discrimination OHRC
- 3) Racism: Unconscious Bias, Micro Aggressions, Systemic racism, anti Racism
- 4) Diversity Equity and Inclusion

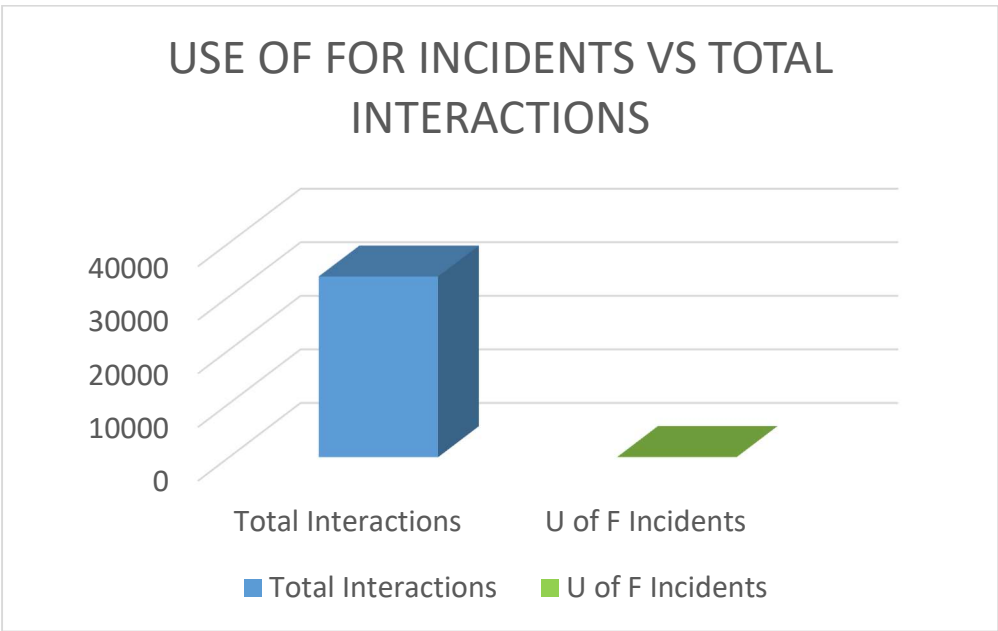
This training framework is aligned with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action (Professional Development and Training for Public Servants).

ANALYSIS

Use of Force Incidents VS. Total Interactions;

A use of force incident is an occurrence, event or interaction with a member of the public that meets the criteria of mandatory use of force reporting. A single incident with one subject could generate two or more reports if multiple officers applied force at the same incident. Additionally, an incident that involves multiple subjects could also generate multiple Use of Force Reports.

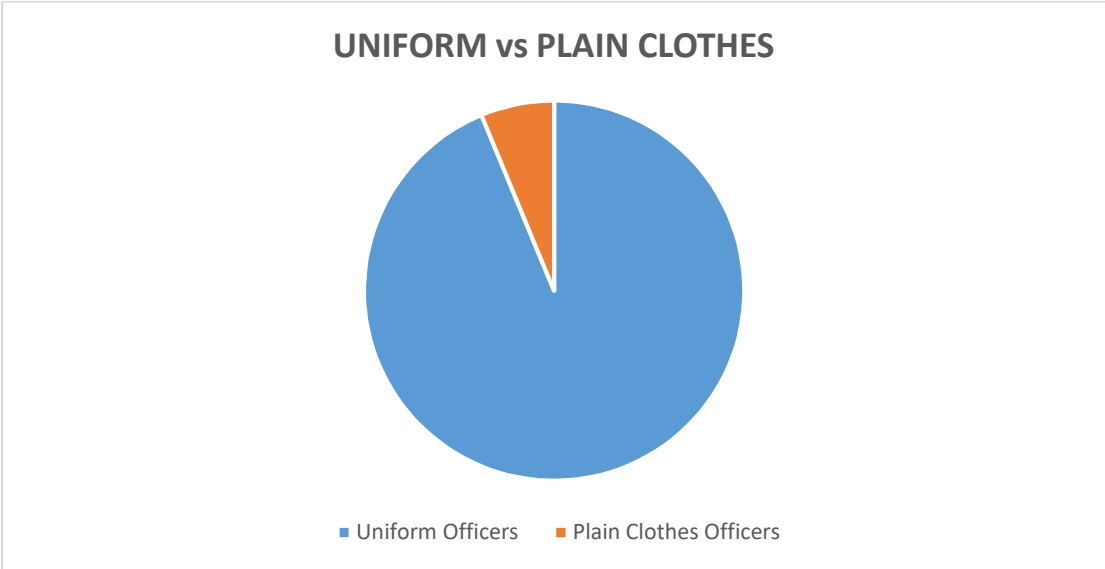
In 2022, members of the Sarnia Police Service had 33,721 interactions with members of the public (calls for service). Included in this are traffic stops, citizen-generated calls for service and officer-initiated contacts. Of these, 32 individual incidents resulted in a police use of force encounter. This result to a total of 0.094% of all police interactions involved mandatory use of force reporting.



Uniform Officer vs. Plain-Clothes Officer:

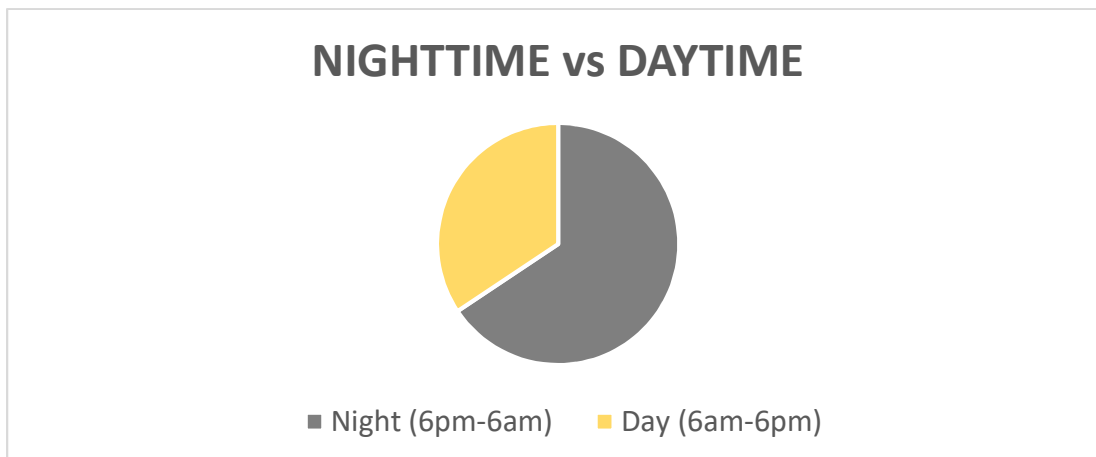
In 2022, frontline uniformed patrol officers (including Emergency Response Team (ERT) officers assigned to patrol functions) submitted 93.75% of all Use of Force Reports. The remaining 6.25% of reports came from plain-clothes officer assigned to specialized units.

Of the 32 reports, two involved officers euthanizing critically injured animals.



Nighttime vs. Daytime Incidents:

In 2022, 21 use of force incidents occurred between the hours of 6pm and 6am. This represents approximately 66% of use of force incidents occurring during dark or low light situations.



INTERACTIONS (CALL TYPES)

The use of force is designed to gain control of a subject using no more force than is reasonably necessary, having regard firstly to officer safety and secondly to minimizing harm to the subject.

The application of force does not correlate to the type of call, but rather the behaviour demonstrated by the subject. Call types that officer responded to that resulted in a use of force report being submitted were varied. Within these calls are both officer-initiated contacts and citizen-generated calls for service and assistance.

Call Type	Number of Reports	Percentage
Domestic	1	2.94%
Other Disturbance	5	14.70%
Suspicious Person	1	2.94%
Traffic Stop	2	5.88%
Weapons	12	35.52%
Mental Health Act	3	8.82%
Search Warrant	1	2.94%
Drugs	1	2.94%
Animal	2	5.88%
Warrant	4	11.76%

Assault	0	0%
Robbery	1	2.94%
Theft	1	2.94%

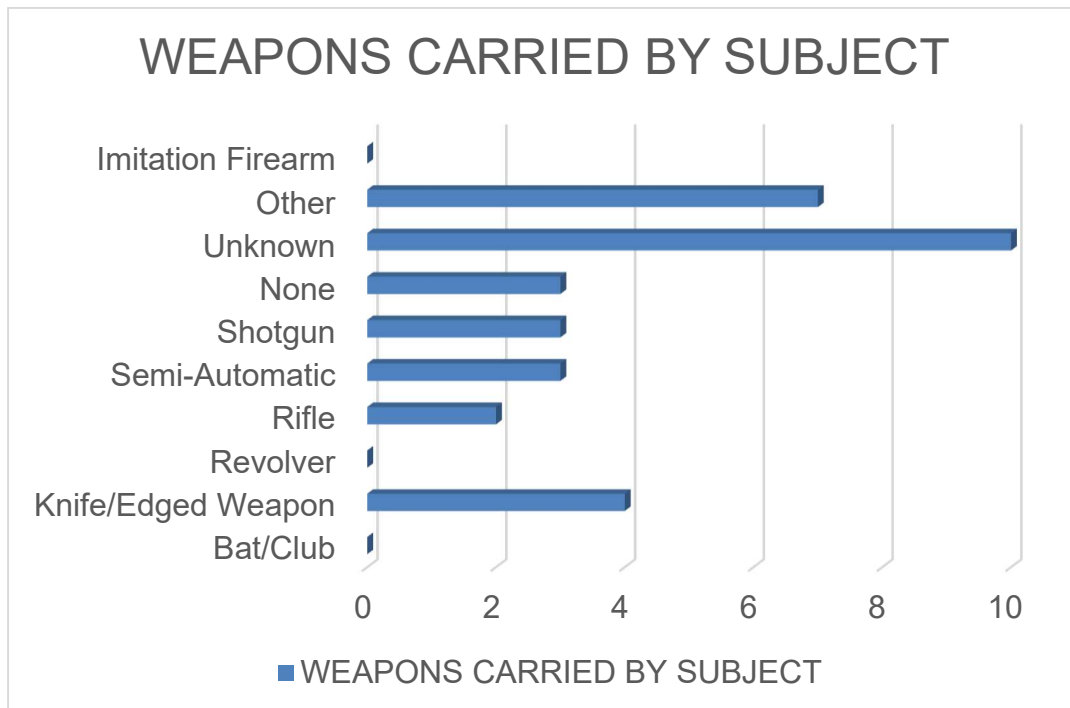
Weapons Call Types:

A member will draw their firearms when they reasonably believe it is necessary to protect himself, herself, or a member of the public against a threat of serious bodily harm or death. The majority of use of force incidents occur when officers respond to weapon-related incidents.

Incidents with Armed Subjects:

Of the 32 Use of Force Reports submitted in 2022, there was 35 individual subjects. Of these 19 subjects were armed with a weapon.

The most common weapons encountered in 2022 were edged weapons and firearms. The statistics indicate that in seven instances the weapon was visibly in the hand of the subject. In four cases, the weapon was within reach of the subject and in 10 cases (unknown), the weapon concealed on the subject.



*other included shovels, pistol and weapons of opportunity

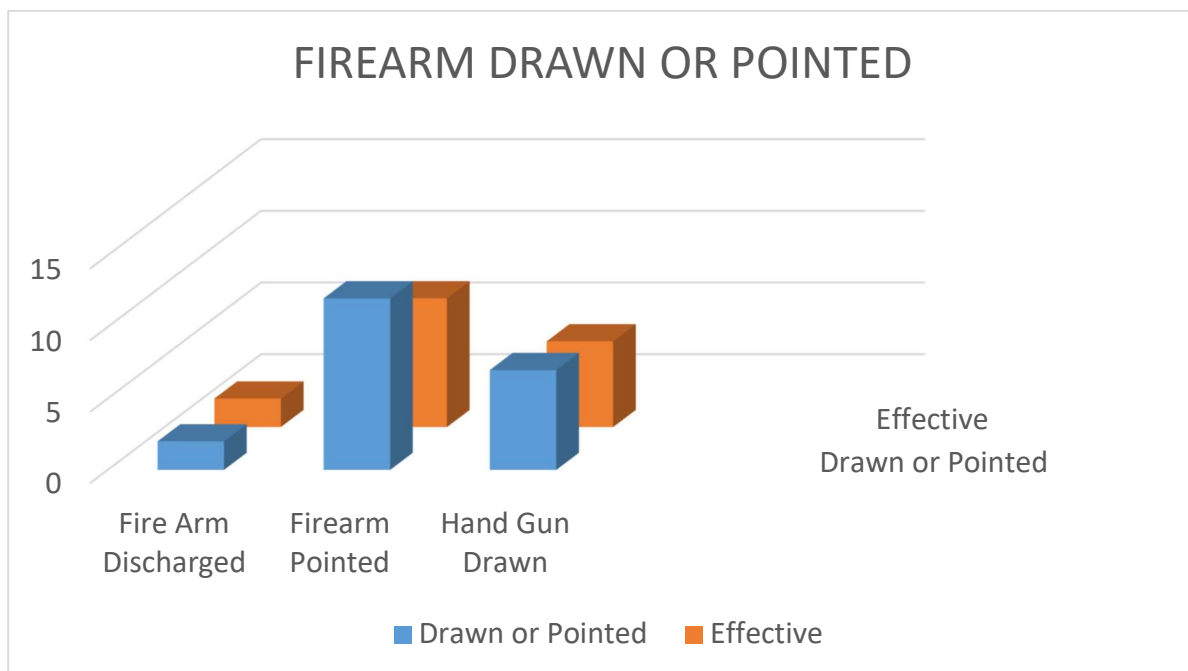
USE OF FORCE OPTIONS

Point or Discharge of Firearm and Dispatch of Injured animals:

Of the 32 Use of Force Reports in 2022, 12 were the result of officers who drew their firearm and pointed it at a subject. There were seven reports where the handgun was drawn but not pointed.

In two incidents, the officer was required to discharge their firearm to dispatch an injured animal.

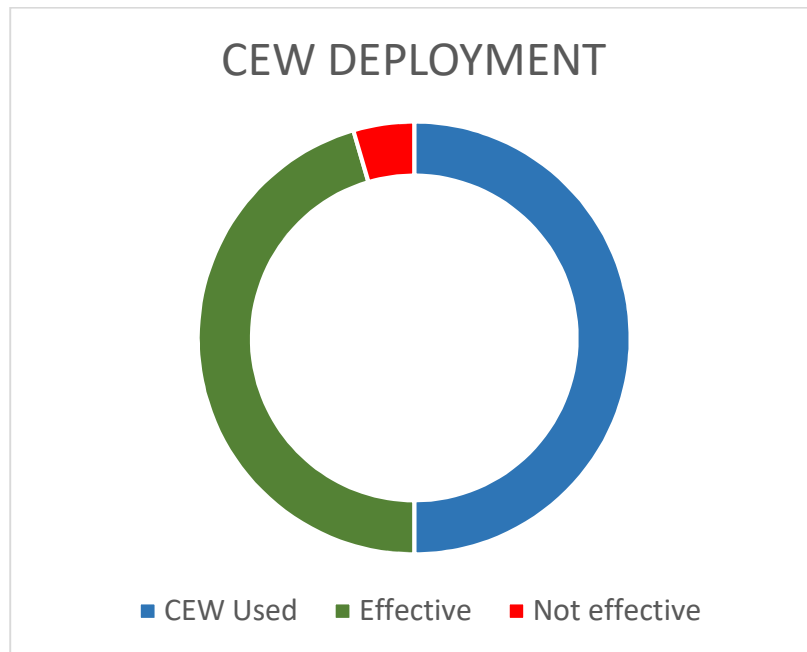
The below figure illustrates that officers were able to de-escalate potentially dangerous encounters effectively through tactical communications.



Intermediate Weapon-Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW):

Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW), or in our Service's case, the Taser X2, can be used in three modes based on a multitude of factors including, but not limited to, situational or environmental conditions and subject behaviours.

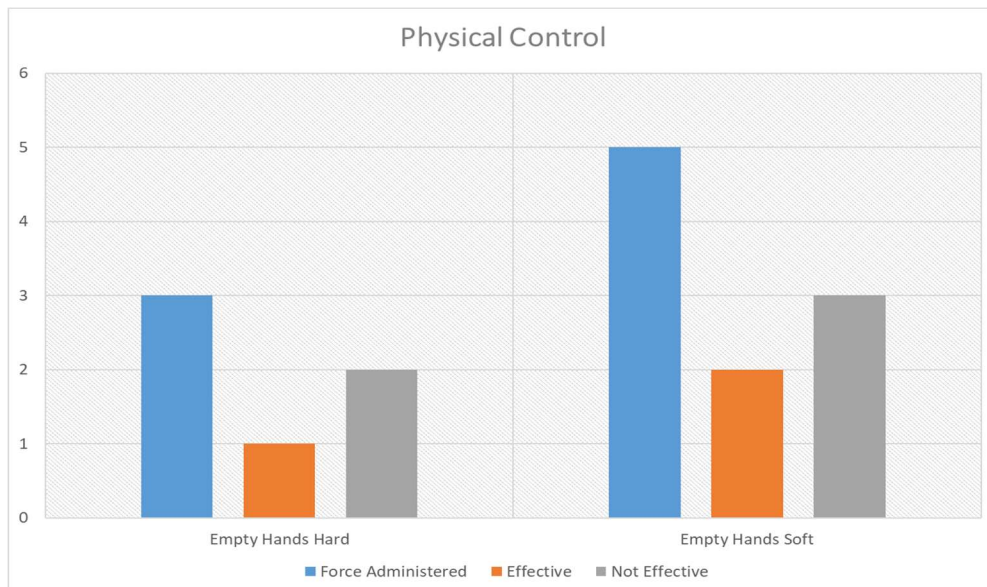
In 2022, CEW's were utilized in 11 instances, representing 35% of all Use of Force Reports. In 10 of these CEW deployments was effective. CEW training encourages probe deployment, even at close range and using the CEW in Drive Stun mode only as a final option.



Physical Control of a Subject:

Physical control refers to the application of physical force upon a subject. A Use of Force Reports is required if the subject requires medical attention because of the physical application of force.

Of the 32 Use of Force Reports submitted in 2022, eight were the result of physical control (hard/soft) being used. Of the eight reports submitted, three instances indicated that physical control was effective, leaving five instances where it was not effective.

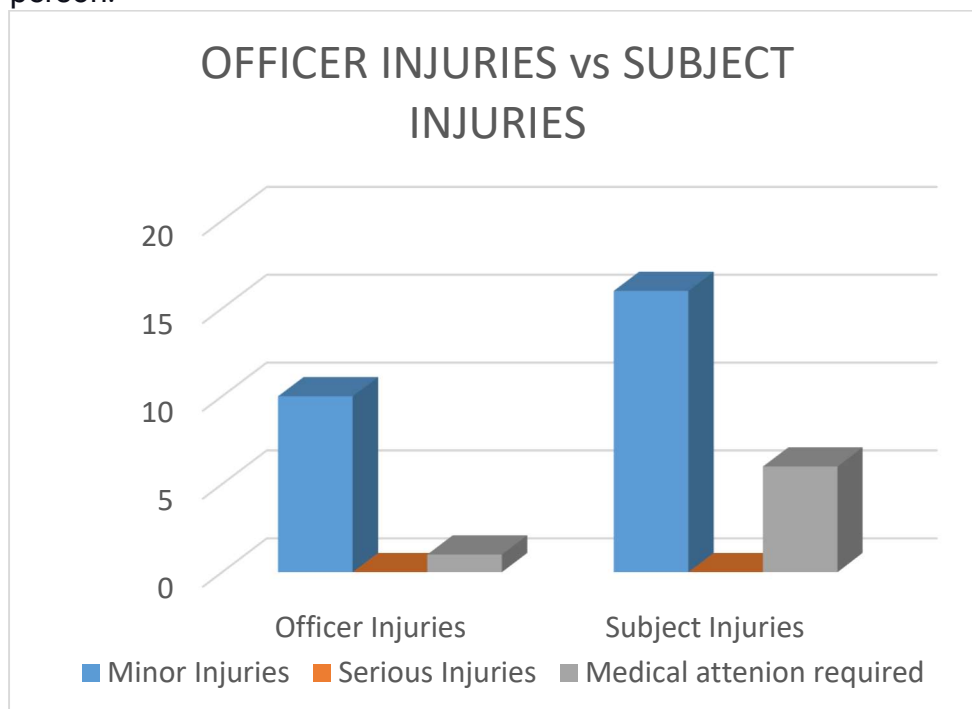


INJURIES DATA

Officer Injuries vs. Subject Injuries:

In 2022, 10 officers and 16 subjects received injuries during use of force incidents. All injuries reported were minor in nature and one officer and six subjects required medical attention.

Medical attention included the Lambton EMS removing the CEW (Taser) probes from a subject's person.



SUBJECT RACE DATA

Perceived Subject Race:

As of January 1, 2020, under the *Anti-Racism Act*, police services are required to collect data on the perceived race of those subjects involved in use of force incidents. The Ministry's Use of Force Reporting form contains a series of datasets that attempt to monitor and identify disparity in police use of force in relation to the seven race-based categories.

In 2022, Sarnia Police Service had 33,721 interactions with the public and only 32 (0.090%) included an application of force to 35 subjects. The use of force applied ranged from physical control, less lethal to lethal force (dispatch of an injured animal).

The demographic information will further assist Sarnia Police Service in addressing and preventing systemic racism in policies, strategies and practices.

In the Use of Force Reporting, officers must select the subject's perceived race from one of seven categories. Inaccuracies in capturing race-based information may exist as an involved subject may not self-identify for data collection purposes or an officer's perception may be incorrect.

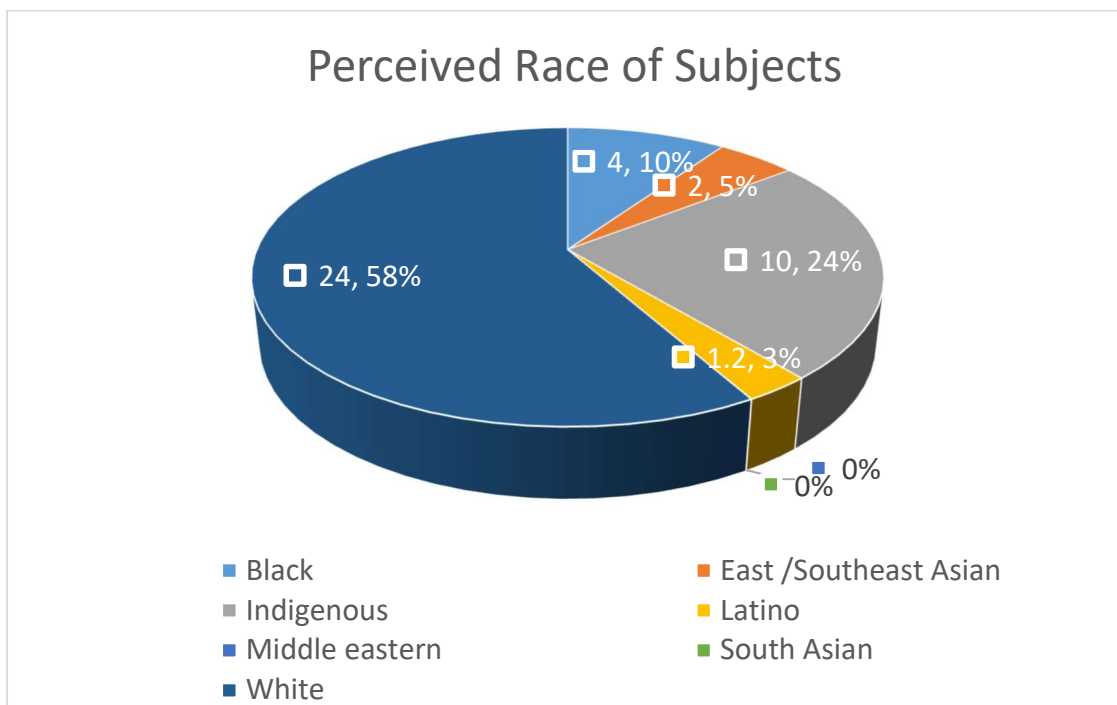
These circumstances may contribute to an over or under-representation of certain racial groups in police use of force. Groups are categorized by the Ministry and divided into seven groups:

- Black
- East/Southeast Asian
- Indigenous, Latino
- Middle Eastern
- South Asian
- White

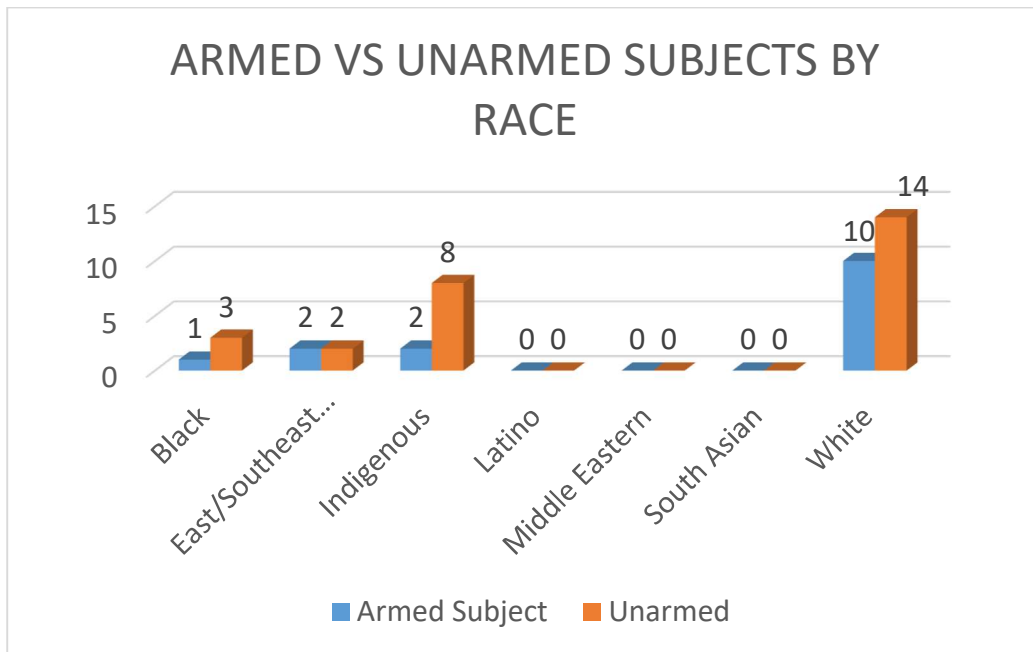
In 2022, Use of Force Reports were submitted with 35 unique subjects involved. The first chart illustrates the perceived race of these subjects. The second chart illustrates the number of armed versus unarmed subjects by race category.

The type of weapons carried by subjects were knives, handguns, rifles, motor vehicles and shovels.

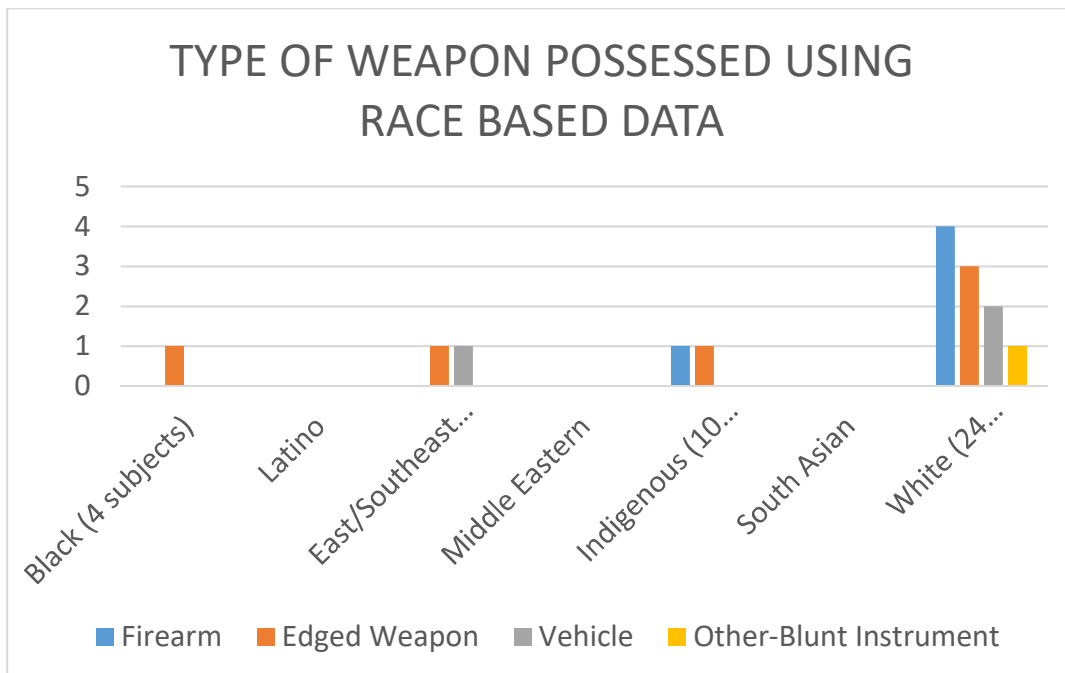
The third chart illustrates race based data and the type of weapon used.



Armed vs. Unarmed Subject By Race:



Race Based Data Collection and the Type of Weapon Used



Unarmed Subject Analysis:

In 2022, Sarnia Police officers used force on 20 unarmed subjects. A review of each incident involving the application of force on an unarmed subject revealed officers were justified in their application of force based on the specific situation.

Within the unarmed category, the application of force becomes subjective due to the multitude of situational factors. Each incident was reviewed to identify whether there was a race disparity in the application of force when the officer encountered similar circumstances. The review showed that no apparent race disparity was observed with respect to the application of force on unarmed subjects when considering the specific subject behaviour and/or information known about the call or subject.

Financial

There are no financial implications.

Conclusion

The data collected through the 2022 mandatory reporting requirements for Use of Force revealed that use of force incidents made up less than 1% of the total police interactions. Given the dynamic of police encounters, officers cannot eliminate the necessity to use force in some situations.

Our frontline officers are better equipped to handle high-risk situations and, unlike emergency response teams, are required to report the deployment of Use of Force individually. Many calls requiring use of force demonstrate how the de-escalation practices being taught are utilized throughout high-risk interactions. Officers are responding with less-lethal use of force options (CEW), and these statistics continue to trend upward (nine instances in 2021 vs. 11 instances in 2022). Also trending upwards are the number of armed subjects being encountered in a use of force interaction (15 instances in 2021 vs. 19 instances in 2022).

The Sarnia Police Service has invested in the addition of a second rapid response crisis team (MHEART) to respond to calls for service where an individual is experiencing a mental health crisis. In 2022, mental health calls resulted in three use of force incidents.

Timely and accurate data collected through mandatory use of force reporting is used to inform police training, explore new technologies and best practice and identify educational opportunities.