

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

22 January 2024 / 22 janvier 2024

Submitted by / Soumis par:

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SUBJECT: ANNUAL USE OF FORCE REPORT - 2022

OBJET: RAPPORT ANNUEL DE L'EMPLOI DE LA FORCE - 2022

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa prenne connaissance du
présent rapport à titre d'information.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is committed to transparency and accountability. This commitment includes annual reporting on incidents in which Ottawa Police Service (OPS) officers use force against a member of the public. The vast majority of calls for service (99.9%) are resolved with officer presence and communication. When force is displayed or used, officers are obligated to file a report about the incident. This document is a summary and analysis of Use of Force reports submitted by OPS officers in 2022.

OPS officers used force against one more individuals in 245 incidents in 2022, which represents average of 1.14 incidents per 1,000 dispatched calls. In almost three-quarters of these incidents, force was used in order to effect an arrest. The majority of Use of Force incidents involve displaying, rather than applying force. Less than half of

all Use of Force Reports (41%) involve direct action taken against an individual, such as deploying a conducted energy weapon (CEW) or using hand techniques.

Calls relating to mental health, such as apprehensions under the Mental Health Act, were the type of calls most frequently associated with Use of Force. These call types made up almost a quarter (22%) of Use of Force incidents in 2022. The second largest category (14%) was weapons-related calls, including assault with a weapon and robbery with a weapon. The third largest occurrence type was assault of a police officer (7%).

Most Use of Force incidents involve one individual, but in some cases there are multiple subjects. In 2022, there were 284 individuals involved in Use of Force incidents. The percentages of Use of Force incidents with racialized subjects decreased in 2022 compared to previous years. However, Black people were over-represented in Use of Force incidents at 3.1 times their share of Ottawa's resident population. Middle Eastern people are also over-represented at 1.7 times their share of the population. Indigenous people were not over-represented in 2022.

Use of Force incidents by police are often associated with the subject possessing a weapon. Of the 245 Use of Force incidents in 2022, 40 percent were incidents in which the subjects had, or were perceived to have, weapons.

Outcomes of Use of Force incidents can include injuries to subjects and/or officers. Of the 245 incidents in which officers used force in 2022, one resulted in a fatal injury to the subject, four incidents involved serious injuries to subjects, 42 involved minor injuries to subjects, and 19 involved minor injuries to OPS officers.

This report includes detailed analysis of the Use of Force incidents in 2022. The analytic approach to these incidents is based upon recommendations made by the External Review of Race Data in Use of Force Reporting by the Ottawa Police Service (Foster and Jacobs 2020).

BACKGROUND

Police officers have the authority to use force in the lawful execution of their duties. They also have a responsibility to use only the level of force reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control effectively and safely. The Police Services Act (PSA) sets out the requirements in relation to Use of Force, including approved weapons, training, reporting, and technical specifications for available Use of Force options.

The elimination of systemic racism and implicit bias is a priority for the OPS. In addition, the OPS has committed to improving the experiences of Black, Indigenous, racialized

people, and various equity-seeking groups in their encounters with OPS members and the criminal justice system more broadly. To this end, the OPS collects and reports on race and identity-based data (RIBD).

The collection, analysis, and reporting of RIBD is being done in compliance with Ontario's Anti-Racism Act (ARA), which requires law enforcement agencies to "identify and monitor racial disparities in order to eliminate systemic racism and advance racial equity." The Use of Force Report was revised in 2020 to include the question, "What race category best describes the subject(s)?" Police officers are required to select which of the seven racial categories best describes the individual (Black, East/Southeast Asian, Indigenous, Latino, Middle Eastern, South Asian, or White). This method of collecting one person's perception of the race of another person is an example in the ARA of 'Participant Observer Information'. Officers are not to ask the individual for their self-identified race since the intent of collecting and reporting RIBD is to address identify and address racial bias on the part of police.

This race data collection complies with human rights legislation such as Ontario's Human Rights Code, the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The OPS RIBD Strategy is being furthered developed with guidance from the Community Equity Council and in alignment with the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) RIBD Strategy. It is also informed the External Review of Race Data in Use of Force Reporting by the Ottawa Police Service (Foster and Jacobs 2020).

Use of Force reporting, as part of the RIBD Project, is guided by the following principles:

- We are committed to upholding individual and collective human rights.
- An intersectional approach to data is key; social and personal characteristics intersect and compound to shape people's experience and vulnerabilities.
- The collection, analysis, and reporting of RIBD should not result in the stigmatization or stereotyping of any community and must respect the sensitive nature of information collected as well as the privacy and dignity of individuals who come into contact with the police.
- Analysis and reporting of RIBD must be informed by community engagement and accompanied by plans for action.

One of the recommendations from the 2020 External Review of Race Data in Use of Force Reporting was that the OPS increase the data types/sources beyond what is required in order to deepen understanding of Use of Force Incidents, such as by including analysis of gender data on subjects involved in Use of Force incidents. The Ministry of the Solicitor General of Ontario (Ministry) has added additional reporting

requirements, including officer perceptions of age and gender, to the 2023 report template. However, given that 2022 reports did not include subject age and gender, there is insufficient data to provide analysis of these characteristics in this 2022 report.

DISCUSSION

The following discussion examines Use of Force incidents in detail. It begins with a summary of Use of Force reporting requirements, OPS training, and incident monitoring. This is followed by analysis of 2022 Use of Force Reports, beginning with the incidents in which OPS used force, including the number of occurrences by quarter, the occurrence types, the reason officers used force, and the type of force they used. This is followed by analysis of the subjects involved in Use of Force incidents, including breakdown of race categories and analysis of occurrence types and deployment of CEWs, by race category. The third section looks at triggers for Use of Force incidents, specifically possession of weapons. The fourth analysis section examines outcomes of Use of Force incidents, with particular attention to injuries to subjects. The discussion section ends with some comments on the 2022 illegal occupation of Ottawa's downtown core.

Use of Force reporting, Duty of Care, and OPS training

There are multiple principles and procedures guiding police interventions, decisions, and training. Particularly relevant to Use of Force are the reporting requirements to the Ministry of Solicitor General (Ministry), Duty of Care principles, and Use of Force training.

Reporting requirements

Police services in Ontario are required to submit a Use of Force Report (UFR) to the Ministry whenever an officer:

- draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public, points a firearm at a person or discharges a firearm;
- uses a weapon other than a firearm (including a conducted energy weapon/taser) on another person; or
- uses physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention.

The Professional Development Centre (PDC) is responsible for ensuring that all sworn members are trained and certified in Use of Force. This also includes monitoring qualification status, reviewing each UFR, and filing completed UFRs with the Ministry.

Prior to 2022, Use of Force reporting requirements mandated police to include a report whenever an officer 'demonstrated force' with a CEW, meaning the CEW was drawn and displayed, but not discharged. In 2022, the Ministry did not require officers to file a UFR for the display of a CEW. However, as an organization the OPS is committed to demonstrating transparency and to exceeding minimal reporting requirements. Thus, this report includes incidents in which OPS officers deployed a CEW as well as incidents in which a CEW was used to display force. From 2023 onward, the Ministry report will include both the display and deployment of CEWs.

Officer training

The PDC ensures that OPS officers receive training in crisis management and de-escalation, training which instructs officers on how to use the least amount of force required in any situation. All new recruits to the OPS receive extensive Use of Force training, with a strong focus on communication and de-escalation techniques. De-escalation strategies are designed to prevent, or at least lower, the amount of force required in a situation. Employing de-escalation strategies to peacefully resolve an incident is a fundamental goal of OPS Use of Force training.

OPS members participate in an annual full-day Use of Force requalification, which includes communication, de-escalation, and appropriate responses to people in crisis and mental health distress. Additionally, all OPS officers must complete annual firearms training in order to be allowed to carry a firearm. On-going training is designed to ensure officers can quickly assess situations, determine appropriate responses, evaluate whether physical methods are required, and prevent injuries to the subject, members of the public, and police officers.

Duty of Care

OPS officers are also trained in, and guided by, the principles of 'Duty of Care', which recognize that members are always to act in a manner that promotes the well-being of the community, individual members of the public, and other members of the Service. The concept of Duty of Care is reflected in the Police Services Act and entrenched in OPS policies and procedures.

Duty of Care principles recognize that all members of the public deserve to be treated with dignity and have their well-being supported. Victims of crime are owed the emotional support they need; they have the right to expect that their problems will be taken seriously and investigated in a competent manner. Suspects of offenses have the right to be treated in accordance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and to be cared for when they are in need.

Duty of Care also recognizes that members of the OPS may be impacted both physically and psychologically due to exposure to traumatic and emotionally damaging events. The OPS has several layers of support available to support member wellness.

Duty of Care exists in situations in which OPS members use force on a subject. Once the situation has de-escalated, and when it is safe to do so, OPS members will deliver various levels of medical intervention and request the assistance of trained medical personnel in order to ensure the prioritization of life.

Use of Force Incidents

In 2022, there were 333 UFRs for 270 incidents. Of these, 24 were incidents in which OPS members used their weapons on an animal, primarily to end the suffering of an animal involved in a motor vehicle accident. One incident was an unintentional discharge which resulted in no injuries. The analysis below focuses on 245 incidents in which OPS officers used force on human subjects.

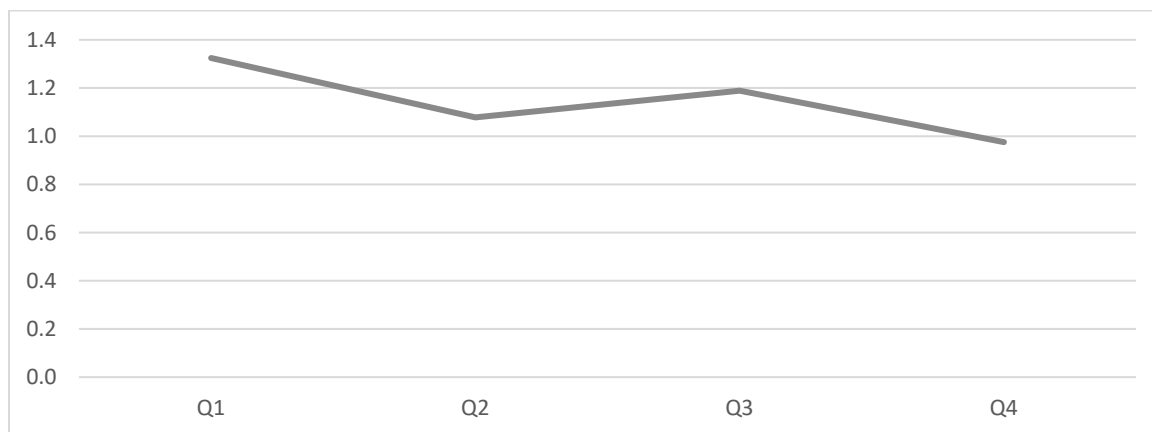
OPS officers were dispatched to almost 215,000 calls in 2022. About 5 percent of these calls resulted in either an arrest (8,747) or a Mental Health apprehension (2,064).

Officers used force on one or more individuals in a total of 245 incidents. This analysis section examines Use of Force incidence by quarter, occurrence type, reason for use of force, and type of force used.

Use of Force occurrences, by quarter

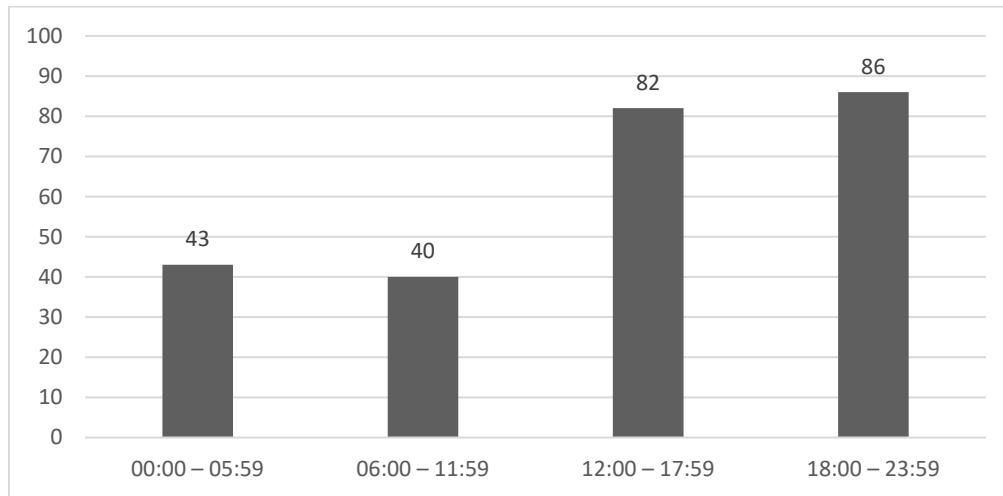
Overall, OPS Use of Force incidents are trending down. In 2020, OPS officers used force an average of 1.58 times per thousand dispatched calls. In 2021, there were 1.27 use of force incidents per thousand dispatched calls. In 2022, there was an average of 1.14 incidents per thousand dispatched calls. Within the year of 2022, the number of Use of Force incidents trended down (see Appendix A, Table 1A).

Figure 1: Use of Force Incidents per Thousand Dispatched Calls



Use of force incidents are most likely to occur in the latter part of the day (see Figure 2). Of the 245 incidents, 68 percent occurred between noon and midnight. The hours with the highest number of incidents were between 6 and 7 pm, and 10 and 11 pm (20 incidents each) (see Appendix A, Table 2A).

Figure 2: Time period of Use of Force incidents, n=245



Occurrence type

Use of Force incidents can be categorized by ‘occurrence type’, meaning the type of incident to which police officers responded, such as an assault, disturbance, or mental health call.

The most common occurrence types for incidents involving Use of Force were calls relating to mental health, such as apprehensions under the Mental Health Act, section 17 (see Table 1). These call types made up almost a quarter (22%, n=53) of final call types for Use of Force incidents in 2022. The second largest category (14%, n=35) was weapons-related calls, including assault with a weapon and robbery with a weapon. Notably, the third largest occurrence type was assault of a police officer (7%, n=17).

In 2022, the OPS responded to 1,367 incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV). Of the Use of Force occurrences in 2022, 11 were for IPV-related calls. In other words, OPS officers used force in less than 1 percent of IPV-related calls.

Table 1: Occurrence Type, 2022

Category of final call type	Number of incidents (total n=245)	Percentage of total incidents
Mental Health Act (MHA)	53	22%
Weapons (incl. assault with weapon, robbery with weapons, and other weapons calls)	35	14%
Assault peace officer	18	7%
Assault (incl. assault, aggravated assault, partner assault, sexual assault)	17	7%
Disturbance	17	7%
Robbery (incl. theft, break and enter)	16	7%
By law / Provincial statute violation	10	4%
Intimate Partner Violence (incl. partner assault, partner assault with a weapon, domestic disturbance)*	11	4%
Drugs (incl. possession, trafficking)	9	4%
Stolen vehicle	9	4%
Property mischief / possession of stolen property	8	3%
Dangerous / impaired driving / collision	7	3%
Warrant	7	3%
Firearms	6	2%
Breach	5	2%
Attempt murder	3	1%

Missing person	2	1%
Homicide	1	0%
Other (incl. suspicious person/circumstance, threats, pursuit, barricaded person, wanted person)	23	10%

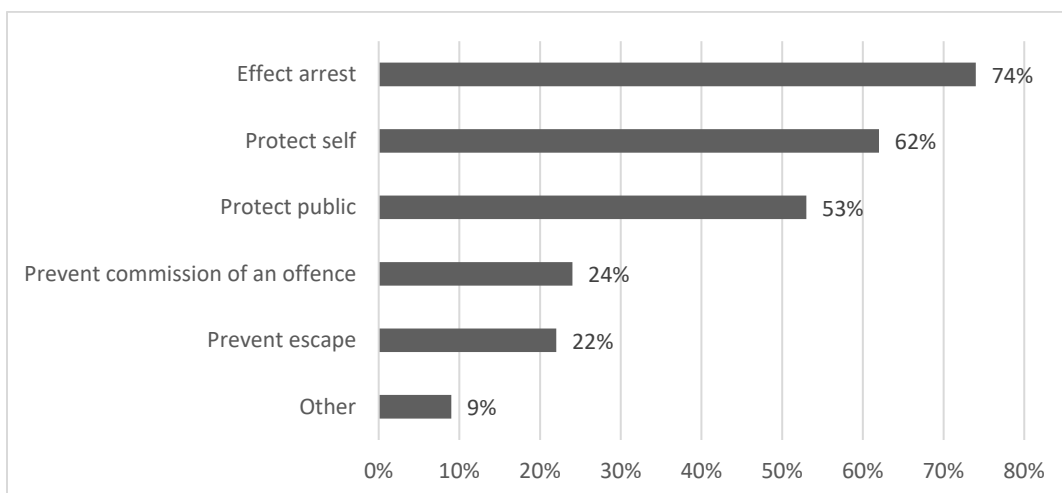
* Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) calls are dual-categorized, such that they are counted both as the type of occurrence (such as assault) and as IPV-related.

Reason for Use of force

When completing the UFR, OPS officers indicate the reasons they used force, such as to effect an arrest, prevent escape, or protect members of the public and/or themselves.¹ Officers can select multiple options, such that in 308 UFRs from 2022, there are 600 reasons provided. The most common reason was to effect an arrest (74% of incidents). In more than half of the incidents, protection of self and/or protection of members of the public were reasons that force was used (see Appendix A, Table 3A).

In 22 incidents, officers indicated 'other' for at least one of the reasons force was used. Most 'other' reasons related to the protection of an individual from self-harm. Other examples include protecting another officer or protecting involved parties from injury.

Figure 3: Reasons for Use of Force



¹ The UFR provides the following options for 'Reason for Use of Force': Accidental, Destroy an Animal, Effect Arrest, Prevent Commission of Offence, Prevent Escape, Protect Public, Protect Self, Other (specify). Note that 'Destroy Animal' has been removed from analysis of individuals against whom officers used force.

Type of force

OPS officers use the Ontario Use of Force model to continuously assess each situation and select the most reasonable option for a given point in time. Police officers have a responsibility to use only the level of force reasonably necessary to bring an incident under control effectively and safely. In a single incident, one or more officers may use one or more types of force. As such, while there were 245 incidents in 2022 in which force was used on a member of the public, a total of 481 types of force were reported in 333 reports.

Drawing, displaying, and pointing a firearm or CEW is recorded as type of force; such 'types of force' make up 69 percent of the 481 types of force recorded in 2022 UFRs. Only 29 percent of the types of force reported involve direct action taken against an individual, such as deploying a CEW or using empty hand techniques. When examined against the number of incidents, 59 percent of 245 incidents involved demonstration of force only, while 41 percent involved the application of force.

In 2022, the number of times every category of type of force was used decreased, with the exception of pepper spray (used in four situations compared to once in 2021) and 'other' force types (used in nine situations compared to once in 2021) (see Table 2). Other force types include sponged or rubber impact munitions, police dogs, PepperBalls (an extended range impact weapon), and distraction devices². Similar to 2021, handgun drawn and handgun pointed were the most frequent types of force used by officers (27% and 21% respectively in 2022; 34% and 17% in 2021).

² Distraction devices do not constitute Use of Force for the Ministry of the Solicitor General, however the OPS includes use of these devices in its annual reporting.

Table 2: Type of force used on subjects in 2022

Force Category	Type of Force	2021	2022	Change 2021-2022	Change 2021-2022
Aerosol Weapon	Aerosol (Pepper Spray)	1	4	+3	+300%
Physical Control	Soft empty hand	38	27	-11	-29%
	Hard empty hand	28	21	-7	-25%
	Sub-total physical control	66	48	-18	-27%
Impact Weapon (Baton)	Soft impact weapon	3	1	-2	-67%
	Hard impact weapon	1	3	+2	+200%
	Sub-total impact weapon	4	4	0	0
Firearm	Rifle pointed	35	22	-13	-37%
	Handgun drawn	212	134	-78	-37%
	Handgun pointed	108	101	-7	-6%
	Handgun discharged	1 ¹	3 ²	+2	+200%
	Sub-total firearms	356	260	-116	-27%
Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW)	CEW demonstrated force	118	76	-42	-36%
	CEW deployed	75	81	+6	+8%
	Sub-total CEW	193	157	-36	-19%
Other ³	Arwen, K9, Pepper ball, CS vapor, Distraction device	1	9	+8	+800%
TOTAL		619	483	-136	-22%

¹ Note, in previous Annual Reports, the number of firearm discharges included use of firearms to put down a wounded animal. This report includes only incidents involving people.

² In 2022, 3 officers discharged their firearms when responding to the same stabbing incident that killed two women and injured a third. This incident was investigated and cleared by the Special Investigations Unit.

³ Other weapon types: Arwen refers to a less-lethal weapon that fires plastic munition; K9 refers to police dog; PepperBall, OC vapour, distraction device.

Use of force subjects

Most Use of Force incidents involve one individual, but in some cases there are multiple subjects. In 2022, there were 284 individuals involved in Use of Force incidents with OPS officers. OPS officers are required to report on their perception of the subject's race when completing their Use of Force report.³ These data help ensure public accountability and help to promote fair and equitable service delivery.

To analyze the race data in UFRs, the percentage of the race groups of Use of Force subjects is compared with the percentage of race groups in city's population. A ratio of 1.0 times means the group's proportion of subjects in Use of Force incidents corresponds to its proportion in the general population. Consistent with previous Use of Force reports, race groups are described as having "disproportionately high incidences in Use of Force" when their proportion is above a ratio of 1.2 times.

³ As per the Ontario Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism, police services should collect race-based information "if there are observed unequal outcomes for Indigenous, Black, and racialized persons, persistent complaints of systemic racial barriers, and/or widespread public perception of systemic racial barriers or bias within the organization". Indirect collection of race-based data (based on observation) is authorized under Ontario's Anti-Racism Act.

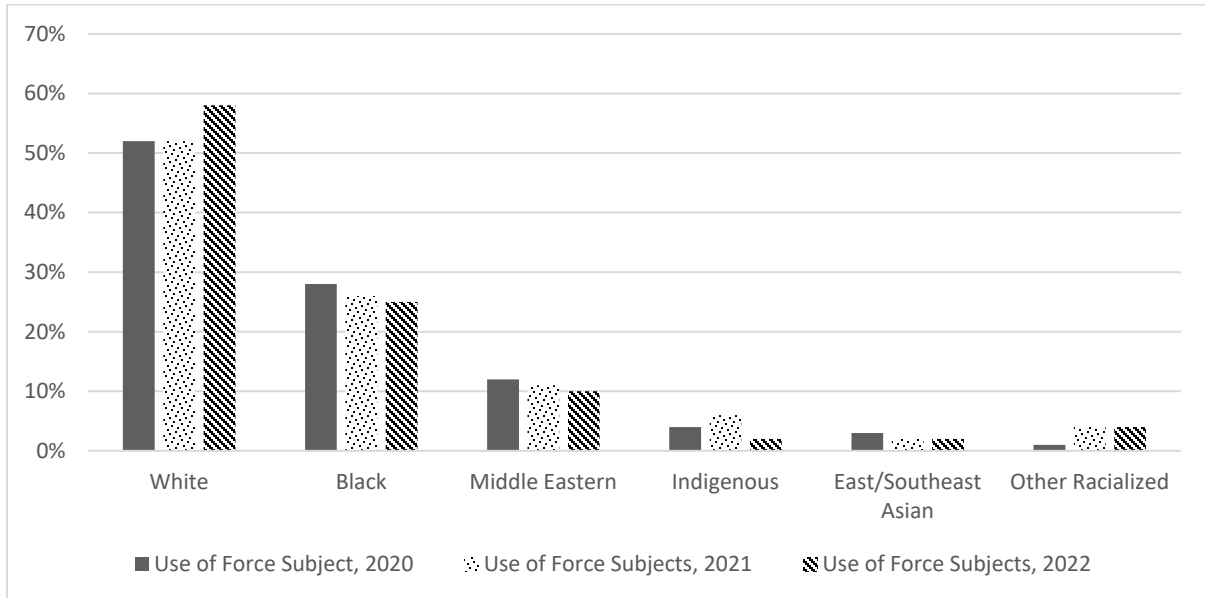
Table 3: Proportions of populations, by race, comparing Census data of residents to Use of Force subjects

Race Groups (total n=284)	Ottawa Resident Populations, 2021	Use of Force Subjects, 2022	Ratio of Share of Subjects to Share of Population
White (n=166)*	68%	58%	0.85
Black (n=70)	8%	25%	3.1
Middle Eastern (n=28)	6%	10%	1.7
Indigenous (n=5)	4%	2%	0.7
East/Southeast Asian (n=5)	8%	2%	0.3
Other Racialized (n=10)	7%	4%	0.6

*n refers to the number of Use of Force subjects in 2022

Two racialized groups are over-represented in Use of Force incidents. Black people were the most significantly over-represented at 3.1 times their share of Ottawa's resident population. Middle Eastern people are also over-represented; 1.7 times what we would expect. Indigenous people were over-represented in 2021 Use of Force incidents, but not in 2022.

Records of the OPS officer-perceived race have been collected and reported on since 2020. The figure below compares 2022 Use of Force subjects, by race, with the previous two years (see Appendix A, Table 4A).

Figure 4: Percentages of Use of Force subjects, by race, 2020-2022

In 2022, the percentages of OPS Use of Force incidents with racialized subjects decreased compared to previous years. The percentage of racialized subjects decreased from 48 percent in 2020 and 2021 to 42 percent in 2022. More specifically, the percentage of Black subjects decreased: 28 percent in 2020, 26 percent in 2021, and 25 percent in 2022. Similarly, the percentage of subjects perceived to be Middle Eastern decreased: 12 percent in 2020, 11 percent in 2021, and 10 percent in 2022.

Occurrence types, by subject race groups

The External Review of Race Data in Use of Force Reporting (Foster and Jacobs 2022) recommended not only examining the occurrence type of calls in which OPS officers used force, but also asking if there are patterns in the race data with regard to occurrence types in Use of Force incidents. The following figure shows comparison of the top five occurrence types, by the overall incidents, for White, Black, and other racialized subjects.

It is notable that mental health related calls make up 22 percent of the overall occurrence types for Use of Force incidents, and similarly 23 percent of Use of Force incidents involving White subjects. However, mental health calls are related to 9 percent of Black and 17 percent of calls involving other racialized individuals. The most common occurrence type in which OPS used force against a Black individual was in response to a weapons-related call (23%); the most common occurrence type for other racialized subjects was suspicious person or circumstance (20%).

Figure 5: Comparison of top 5 occurrence types by race groups

<p>Top 5 occurrence types overall (n=245):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Act (22%) • Weapons (14%) • Assault Police officer (7%) • Assault (7%) • Disturbance (7%) 	<p>Top 5 occurrence types for White subjects (n=166):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Act (23%) • Weapons (14%) • Robbery (8%) • Disturbance (7%) • Assault (5%)
<p>Top 5 occurrence types for Black subjects (n=70):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapons (23%) • Assault police officer (13%) • Disturbance (13%) • Mental Health Act (9%) • Stolen vehicle (7%) 	<p>Top 5 occurrence types for other racialized subjects (n=48):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspicious person/circumstance (20%) • Mental Health Act (17%) • Robbery (15%) • Assault (13%) • Weapons (9%)

A notable finding here is that for Black subjects, against whom there is a disproportional Use of Force, more than a third (36%) of their occurrence types were for the types of incidents most often associated with Use of Force (weapons calls and assault of a police officer). Another notable finding is that for White subjects, almost one quarter of their occurrence types (23%) were for incidents related to mental health.

Use of Conduct Energy Weapons, by subject race groups

OPS officers discharged their CEWs 82 times in 2022. Of the total number of times in which CEWs were discharged, 63 percent of the subjects were White, 17 percent were Black, and the remaining 20 percent were other racialized individuals (Indigenous, Latino, Middle Eastern, East / Southeast Asian, or South Asian) (see Table 4, column 2 below).

Comparing subject race categories of the those against whom CEWs were deployed with those involved in Use of Force incidents overall, we see that while White subjects were involved in 58 percent of incidents overall, they were more highly represented in incidents involving deployment of CEW. Inversely, Black subjects were involved in 25 percent of Use of Force incidents, but in 17 percent of incidents involving CEW deployment (see Table 4, column 3).

Table 4: Individuals subject to CEW deployment in 2022, n=82

Race group of subjects of CEW deployment	Percentage of subjects of CEW deployment (n=82)	Percentage of subjects of Use of Force (n=284)
White (n=51)	63%	58%
Black (n=14)	17%	25%
Other racialized groups (n=16)	20%	17%

Triggers for Use of Force incidents

Use of Force incidents are often associated with two types of triggers: the subject possessing a weapon and/or the subject's behaviour during the incident.⁴ Reports from 2022 OPS Use of Force incidents allow for an analysis and findings on both the possession of a weapon by the subject and the behaviour of the subject during the incident.

Possession of Weapons by Subject

Of the 245 OPS Use of Force incidents in 2022, 99 (40%) were incidents in which the subjects had, or were perceived to have, weapons. The most common weapon was a knife or other edged weapon, including axe and glass shards (see Table 5).

Table 5: Categories of weapons, by incidents, n=99

Category of weapon	Number of Incidents involving weapons (n=99)
Knife / edged weapon (incl. glass)	65
Firearm (incl. pistol, semi-automatic, rifle, BB gun)	14
Club / stick / pole	5
Other (incl. motor vehicle, syringe, rock)	16

⁴ The revised UFRs includes officer perception of subject behaviour, such as whether the subject is compliant or aggressive. The 2022 UFR does not include this data field and thus cannot be analyzed here. Analysis of triggers relating to subject behaviour will be included in future reporting.

Table 6 below provides race of subjects who possessed weapons. Note that while there were 99 Use of Force incidents in which subjects possessed weapons, there were 113 subjects involved in these incidents. Due to the structure of the 2022 UFRs, in incidents where there is more than one subject it is not clear which subject(s) were in possession of weapons. As such, the following analysis of subjects possessing weapons is approximate, not definitive. Beginning in 2023, the UFRs have been significantly revised, which will allow for more robust and accurate analysis in the coming years.

Table 6: Subjects possessing weapons, by race category, n=116

Race group of subjects possessing weapons	Percentage of subjects possessing weapons* (n=116)	Percentage of subjects by Race Category** (n=284)
White (n=73)	63%	44%
Black (n=28)	24%	40%
Other racialized groups (n=15)	13%	31%

* Percentage of subjects possessing weapons refers to the number of subjects in a race category who possessed weapons relative to the number of all subjects, against whom force was used and who possessed weapons

** Percentage of subjects by race category refers to percentage of subjects in a race category against whom force was used and who had a weapon(s) in their possession, relative to the number of subjects in that same race category against whom force was used.

When analyzing the perceived race categories of subjects possessing weapons, White subjects make up the majority of the 116 subjects who were armed with a weapon during the Use of Force incident (Table 6, column 2). They were almost two thirds (63%) of the armed individuals involved in Use of Force incidents. Among the White subjects who were armed, 66 percent had knives/edged weapons and 13 percent had firearms. Black subjects were roughly one quarter (24%) of the 116 armed subjects involved in Use of Force incidents; 48 percent of them were armed with knives/edged weapons, 33 percent with firearms.

Another way of analyzing the race categories of subjects possessing weapons is to look at the percentage of armed subjects against whom force was used relative to the same

race category of subjects against whom force was used (Table 6, column 3). This shows that a similar percentage of White and Black subjects against whom force was used were armed (44% of White subjects; 40% of Black subjects). Expressed another way, 56 percent of White subjects and 60 percent of Black subjects were not armed with a weapon during the incident in which OPS officers used force.

Given the relatively small numbers of individuals from other race categories involved in OPS Use of Force incidents who were armed with weapons, specific race category analysis of other groups (including Indigenous and Middle Eastern) is not included here. However, overall, the findings suggest that Black and other racialized subjects combined were more likely to be unarmed than armed (36% had weapons, 64% did not). This is slightly lower than for White subjects, for whom 44 percent had weapons and 56 percent did not. The revised UFRs includes officer perception of subject behaviour, such as whether the subject is compliant or aggressive. It is thus recommended that future analysis of Use of Force incidents include examination of behavioral triggers prompting use of force, including analysis by race categories.

Outcomes of Use of Force incidents

This final analysis section examines outcomes of OPS Use of Force incidents. As noted above, more than half of OPS Use of Force Reports are on drawing, displaying, and/or pointing of a firearm or CEW. OPS officers rarely discharge their firearm or CEW.

Outcomes of Use of Force incidents can include injuries to subjects and/or officers. Of the 245 incidents in which OPS officers used force in 2022, 47 (19%) resulted in injuries to the subjects. Of these, one resulted in a fatal injury to the subject, four incidents involved serious injuries to subjects, 42 involved minor injuries to subjects, and 28 involved minor injuries to OPS officers. Of the four incidents which with serious injuries to subjects, three involved self-inflicted injuries or injuries caused by other subjects.

With regard to the fatal injury, in June 2022, three OPS officers discharged their firearms when responding to the same stabbing incident that caused the death of a woman and her daughter and resulted in serious injuries to another young woman. This incident was investigated and cleared by the Special Investigations Unit.

Of the subjects who received minor injuries, 61 percent were White, 18 percent were Black and 20 percent were other racialized subjects (Latino, Middle Eastern, and South Asian). As indicated in Table 7, the percentage of White subjects who received minor injuries is comparable to their composition of Use of Force subjects overall, while the percentage of Black subjects with minor injuries is slightly lower.

Table 7: Race groups of subjects with minor injuries

Race group of subjects with minor injuries	Percentage of subjects with minor injuries (n=47)	Percentage of subjects of Use of Force (n=284)
White (n=27)	61%	58%
Black (n=8)	18%	25%
Other racialized groups (n=9)	20%	17%

2022 Illegal Occupation

Between January 28 and February 20, 2022, protestors occupied much of Ottawa's downtown core. This was an illegal, unprecedented event in the Nation's Capital. Residents were profoundly harmed by the incessant noise of horns honking and the fumes of idling trucks, as well as acts of intimidation and the widespread disregard of public safety.

Removal of this unlawful protest required assistance from multiple policing partners and the support of all levels of government. A methodical joint police operation was conducted between February 17 and 20, with integrated command led by the Ottawa Police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The professionalism of police officers throughout the operation was highly commendable.

This joint police operation resulted in 230 arrests, with 118 individuals criminally charged with more than 400 criminal counts. Hundreds of provincial offence notices were issued.

Due to the exceptional nature of this event and the joint operation, reporting on every individual interaction was not possible. However, Use of Force reporting by OPS officers from this operation indicate that our officers used various types of force, including empty hand techniques (hard and soft), impact weapons (hard and soft), the deployment of a distraction device to effect an arrest, as well as muzzle strikes with an extended range impact weapon to protect self. Reports indicate that no subjects (protestors) required medical attention due to injuries acquired by officer use of force. One OPS officer required medical attention for an injury sustained during the operation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix A – Data Tables

CONCLUSION

The vast majority of calls for service (99.9%) are resolved with officer presence and communication. OPS officers used force in only 1.14 incidents per 1,000 dispatched calls. Of the incidents in which officers used force, almost 60 percent were resolved with only the display of force, rather than its application. This demonstrates that officers are effectively resolving, with minimum forceful intervention, the vast majority of incidents to which they respond.

Calls relating to mental health are some of the most complex and challenging calls for police. It is not unexpected that these calls were most frequently associated with Use of Force incidents in 2022, comprising 22 percent of all incidents. The OPS is working closely with community partners, in particular the Guiding Council on Mental Health Responses, to identify effective responses to mental health calls.

Concerns about systemic racism and disproportionate engagement with racialized populations has prompted changes to the collection, analysis, and reporting of race data. Since 2020, the OPS has included race data in Use of Force reporting. While the proportion of racialized subjects involved in Use of Force incidents has trended down over the past three years, Black and Middle Eastern subjects remain disproportionately involved, relative to their share of Ottawa's resident population. However, when applying the race categories of subjects involved in Use of Force incidents as the benchmark (comparative) metric, deployment of CEW weapons and rates of injuries do not suggest that racialized individuals are more likely than White individuals to have CEWs deployed on them or to be injured during the Use of Force incident. White subjects were involved in 58 percent of Use of Force incidents and 63 percent of incidents in which CEWs were deployed. Inversely, racialized individuals were involved in 42 percent of Use of Force incidents and 37 percent of CEW deployment incidents.

Use of Force incidents by police are often associated with the subject possessing a weapon. Of the 245 OPS Use of Force incidents in 2022, 40 percent were incidents in which the subjects had, or were perceived to have, weapons.

Outcomes of Use of Force incidents can include injuries to subjects and/or officers. Of the 245 incidents in which OPS officers used force in 2022, 47 (19%) resulted in injuries to the subjects, four of which were serious, and one was fatal; 28 incidents resulted in

minor injuries to OPS officers. This indicates that even when police officers use force, serious injuries are rare.

This report has been presented to the Community Equity Council for their awareness and input. Based upon their recommendations, future OPS Use of Force reports will include analysis of subject age and gender. It is also recommended that future reports include some analysis of officers involved in Use of Force incidents and discussion of accountability measures for officers involved in incidents where excessive force was used. It is also recommended that efforts be made with the OPS to better understand and respond to emergency calls involving “suspicious persons”.

Appendix A – Tables

Table 1A: Use of Force per 1,000 dispatched calls

2022 Quarters	Dispatched calls	Use of Force incidents	Use of Force incidents per 1000 dispatched calls
Q1	49.075	65	1.324503
Q2	58.444	63	1.077955
Q3	57.178	68	1.189269
Q4	50.233	49	0.975454

Table 2A: Time of Day

Time Period, Hour Start	Count of Case Number
12 AM	7
1 AM	11
2 AM	8
3 AM	10
4 AM	6
5 AM	1
6 AM	4
7 AM	1
8 AM	3
9 AM	12
10 AM	9
11 AM	5

12 PM	14
1 PM	9
2 PM	14
3 PM	13
4 PM	14
5 PM	18
6 PM	20
7 PM	15
8 PM	7
9 PM	17
10 PM	20
11 PM	7

Appendix Table 3A: Reasons for Use of Force

Reason for Use of Force	Total count of reason selected (n=600)	Percentage of total incidents (n=245)
Effect arrest	182	74%
Protect self	119	62%
Protect public	101	53%
Prevent commission of offence	46	24%
Prevent escape	45	22%
Other	22	5%

Appendix Table 4A: Percentages of Use of Force Subjects, by race groups, 2020-2022

Race Groups	Use of Force Subject, 2020	Use of Force Subjects, 2021	Use of Force Subjects, 2022
White	52%	52%	58%
Black	28%	26%	25%
Middle Eastern	12%	11%	10%
Indigenous	4%	6%	2%
East/Southeast Asian	3%	2%	2%
Other Racialized	1%	4%	4%