



2021 CPS Annual De-Escalation and Use of Force Report

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2021 CPS DE-ESCALATION AND USE OF FORCE SUMMARY

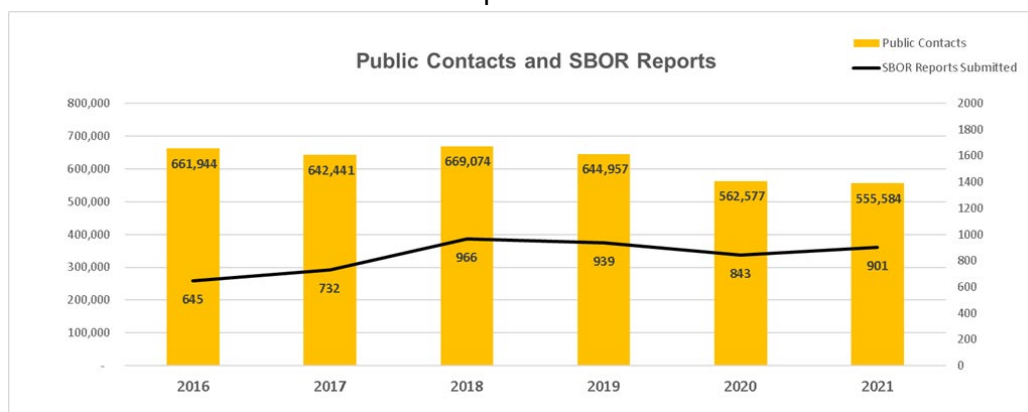
A Service-wide effort has been made to address police officer use of force through policy, training, and a commitment to best practices in less lethal tools and vehicle-based tactics. This collaborative approach has contributed to reductions from the 5-year average in physical control methods and an organizational shift toward promotion of de-escalation techniques. As the Service transitions into the continuous improvement and monitoring phase of work related to the 2018 *Use of Force in the CPS* (Wittmann Report), there will be a specific focus on continuously improving our approach to training delivery as well as ensuring content aligns with best practices.

The authority of police officers to use force is defined by the *Criminal Code of Canada*. CPS officers apply their de-escalation skills and resort to using force when it is lawful, necessary, reasonable, and proportionate (“NRP principles” of use of force). This report assists to inform training and equipment recommendations, while increasing transparency, public trust, and CPS accountability. Calls for service, crime trends, social and political context, and the COVID-19 pandemic have all impacted police demand as well as public and officer safety.

2021 KEY TRENDS

Pursuant to the reporting obligations outlined in the CPS De-Escalation and Use of Force (DEUoF) Policy, Subject Behaviour/Officer Response (SBOR) reporting is required¹ when any use of force method is deployed. This report presents incident counts where a given method was used, not the count of officers deploying a specific method. In any incident, more than one method by one or more officers may be used, which means the sum of individual method counts will always be higher than the total incident count².

In 2021, there were 555,584 public contacts³ with CPS officers (a decrease of 13% from the 5-year average; n=80,615) and 901 SBOR reports submitted for incidents involving the use of force (an increase of 9% from average; n=76). This indicates force was used in less than 1 in 617 face to face interactions between officers and the public.



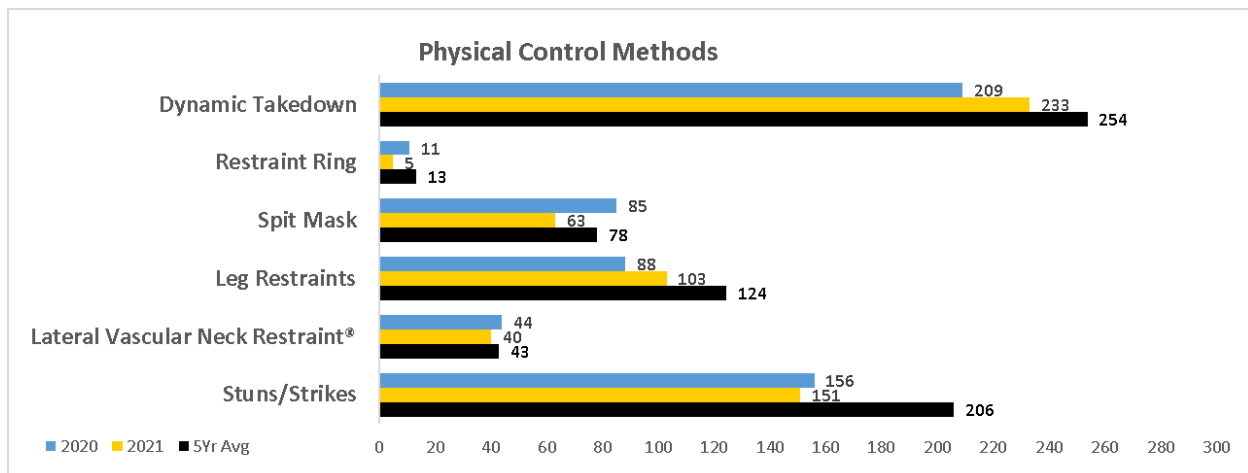
Source: CPS Corporate Data & Analytics Unit, April 2022

¹ See Appendix C for details regarding reporting requirements.

² Detailed data tables are found in Appendix A, and a glossary of terms in Appendix D.

³ See Appendix A for detailed data tables and for a definition of public contacts.

↓	<p>Of note, the following decreases were observed, when comparing 2021 statistics to the 5-year average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of stuns/strikes decreased (27%; n=55). • Police Service Dog (PSD) contacts decreased (16%; n=10) and were at the same volume as in 2020 (n=55). • The use of strip searches at the Arrest Processing Section (APS) decreased (52%; n=32). • The use of restraint rings decreased (62%; n=8).
↑	<p>The following increases were observed in 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although deployments of Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) increased (22%, n=28) compared to the 5-year average, in more than half of these (53%, n=84) no subject contact was made (CEW display or illumination only⁴). CEW is often effective to de-escalate a situation through its display and can reduce the usage of other use of force options.



2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

Member Training

- ✓ New training curriculum for APS member onboarding, sustained efforts of APS personnel, implementation of addiction-focused programming for detainees, and the physical layout of the CPS Spyhill Service Centre have contributed to improvements in detainee behaviour including a reduction in violence.
- ✓ De-escalation techniques were integrated throughout the Recruit Training Program and refreshers were delivered to all CPS members through in-service training.
- ✓ Since the rollout of VBT in 2020, more than 1200 members have been trained on Basic VBT (one-time training block) and 300 members on Advanced VBT (recertification every two years).
- ✓ The Chief Crowfoot Learning Centre (CCLC) Field Training Unit developed a mandatory curriculum for Use of Force and Decision-Making Scenario training as well an annual officer training in de-escalation.

⁴ See Appendix B for CEW Deployment Details.

Commitment to Best Practices

- ✓ The CPS De-Escalation and Use of Force (DEUoF) Committee was re-established with formalized Terms of Reference and a clear mandate.
- ✓ The *CPS Use of Force Reporting Audit* was carried out in the Fall of 2021 and resulted in improvements to the reporting system and DEUoF policy.
- ✓ A comprehensive redesign of the Police Training Officer (PTO) Program focused on training and re-certifying officer coaches in adult learning principles, emotional intelligence, coaching/mentoring, ethics, and daily officer activities. Trainees work toward achieving standard core competencies, with enhanced feedback and additional supports. This ensures the field component of officer training/mentoring adheres to CPS standards, including using force only in situations where it is lawful, necessary, reasonable, and proportionate.
- ✓ The Early Intervention Program (EIP) was implemented. This non-punitive support works with supervisors to identify problematic behaviour and performance issues early. The goal is correction over discipline and supports members by providing training and/or health and wellness interventions.
- ✓ An internal study of the use of the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint® (LVNR®) method (2018-2020) was completed, identifying the advantages, disadvantages, organizational implications, and risks of the LVNR® force method at the CPS. The Service removed LVNR® as a use of force tactic in early 2022.

2022 INITIATIVES UNDERWAY

The CPS' commitment to trust, transparency, and accountability is reflected in current projects aimed at achieving these goals in relation to use of force incidents:

Policy and Research

- Expansion and approval of the DEUoF policy. The policy includes a statement of principle, details on authority, large segments dedicated to de-escalation and duty to intervene, expanded segments related to individual methods of force, enhanced subject aftercare and reporting obligations. The draft policy was presented to the community Anti-Racism Action Committee for their feedback and awareness.
- Specification of DEUoF Committee member responsibilities related to developing and reviewing policy, training, research, and trends. Ensuring best practices are adhered to through internal studies, and benchmarking methods of force, equipment, and tactics. Progress and findings are being tracked at monthly DEUoF Committee meetings.
- The Code 700 Committee continues work on several projects related to deployment, effectiveness, reporting, and research surrounding Vehicle-Based Tactics.
- In response to technological advancements, the CPS Officer Safety & Tactics Training Unit is implementing a new Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW). The upgraded Taser® 7 will roll out in spring of 2023 as a general pool deployment of 1000 units for 1400 users under a five-year lease program.
- With developments in the field of less lethal weapon systems and given current procurement issues, the CPS is exploring a transition to a 40mm less lethal baton launcher, which could reduce maintenance costs and expand availability to members.

Commitment to Best Practices

- The CPS remains committed to reductions in use of force through the continuous improvement and monitoring of work related to the 2018 Wittmann Report.
- Following the standards and guidelines set by Statistics Canada, options are being explored around collecting and analyzing disaggregated race-based data of subjects involved in use of force incidents.
- In January 2022, upgrades to BlueTeam (IAPro) were completed. This software is used for submitting, reviewing, and analyzing SBOR reports to enhance accuracy, improve analysis and formulate relevant recommendations. Officer training will be enhanced with an instructional video, a new user manual, and a dedicated campaign focused on reporting compliance and data quality.

IN THE NEXT REPORT

The CPS looks forward to sharing progress updates on these initiatives in the 2022 CPS Semi-Annual De-Escalation and Use of Force Report in October, as we maintain public trust by increasing the understanding of police reform.



Appendix A – Detailed Data Tables

Annual Report	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 vs 2020	5Yr Avg	2021 vs 5Yr Avg	Trend
SBOR REPORTS										
SBOR Reports Submitted	645	732	966	939	843	901	6.9%	825	9.2%	
PUBLIC CONTACTS										
Dispatched CFS	266,035	275,990	275,212	274,886	263,391	260,875	-1.0%	271,103	-3.8%	
On-View CFS	56,350	56,303	56,116	60,811	67,228	57,754	-14.1%	59,362	-2.7%	
T-Stops and T-Stats	94,487	97,119	105,792	92,052	77,137	80,427	4.3%	93,317	-13.8%	
Walk-In CFS	45,324	46,460	50,027	45,815	27,195	30,013	10.4%	42,964	-30.1%	
Manned Summons Issued	186,964	149,290	159,297	144,619	105,404	102,684	-2.6%	149,115	-31.1%	
Persons Charged	12,784	17,279	22,630	26,774	22,222	23,831	7.2%	20,338	17.2%	
TOTAL	661,944	642,441	669,074	644,957	562,577	555,584	-1.2%	636,199	-12.7%	
PROPORTION										
SBOR Reports Submitted to Public Contacts	1 in 1026	1 in 878	1 in 693	1 in 687	1 in 667	1 in 617		1 in 771		
Public Contacts Resulting in an SBOR Submission	0.10%	0.11%	0.14%	0.15%	0.15%	0.16%		0.13%		

Note: •Highest value in 6yr period • Lowest value in 6yr period.

Public contacts are calculated as a sum of dispatched calls for service (public-generated), on-view calls for service (officer generated), traffic stops, walk-in, summonses issued (officer enforcement only; no automated enforcement) and persons charged (counted as unique charge counts of per person per day). Persons charged is calculated as charged person count per day, unique values only. The actual public contact counts are higher than this calculated sum as certain types of in-person officer-public interactions are not quantifiable.

Source: CPS Corporate Data & Analytics Unit; April 2022

Annual Report	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 vs 2020	5Yr Avg	2021 vs 5Yr Avg	Trend
PHYSICAL CONTROL METHODS										
Stuns/Strikes	227	220	230	197	156	151	-3.2%	206	-26.7%	
Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint [®]	31	34	49	56	44	40	-9.1%	43	-6.5%	
Leg Restraints	120	143	137	134	88	103	17.0%	124	-17.2%	
Spit Mask	71	71	87	77	85	63	-25.9%	78	-19.4%	
Restraint Ring	10	16	7	22	11	5	-54.5%	13	-62.1%	
Dynamic Takedown	263	323	260	214	209	233	11.5%	254	-8.2%	
INTERMEDIATE FORCE OPTIONS										
Oleoresin Capsicum Spray	3	8	14	9	9	6	-33.3%	9	-30.2%	
Conducted Energy Weapon	105	111	152	142	139	158	13.7%	130	21.7%	
Baton Impact	7	7	7	6	2	4	100.0%	6	-31.0%	
Baton Leverage	17	24	16	19	14	13	-7.1%	18	-27.8%	
Police Service Dog	55	48	75	93	55	55	0.0%	65	-15.6%	
ARWEN [®]	N/A	N/A	17	27	17	23	35.3%	N/A	N/A	
Firearm Pointed	32	31	30	17	24	12	-50.0%	27	-55.2%	
Firearm Fired	10	2	9	5	0	3	N/A	5	-42.3%	
OTHER OPTIONS										
Strip Search	34	55	93	89	32	29	-9.4%	61	-52.1%	
Vehicle-Based Tactics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	65	91	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Other Methods	121	167	153	83	69	69	0.0%	119	-41.8%	



Note: •Highest value in 6yr period • Lowest value in 6yr period.

Vehicle-based tactic (VBT) counts in 2021 (n=91) should not be interpreted as an increase over 2020 (n=65), given this method was implemented mid-year in 2020.

Source: CPS Corporate Data & Analytics Unit; April 2022



Appendix B – CEW (Taser®) Deployment Details

Annual Report	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 vs 2020	5Yr Avg	2021 vs 5yr Avg	Trend
CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPON (CEW) USE - INCIDENT COUNT PER METHOD										
Display or Illumination	45	63	65	50	74	84	13.5%	59	41.4%	
Contact Mode	9	5	7	10	11	17	54.5%	8	102.4%	
Probes	44	41	61	73	57	62	8.8%	55	12.3%	
Combination (Contact Mode/Probes)	14	13	27	5	13	21	61.5%	14	45.8%	
METHOD COUNT TOTAL	112	122	160	138	155	184	18.7%	137	33.9%	
INCIDENT COUNT TOTAL	105	111	152	142	139	158	13.7%	130	21.7%	
OFFICER COUNT TOTAL	134	122	160	158	158	177	12.0%	146	20.9%	

Note: •Highest value in 6yr period • Lowest value in 6yr period.

Source: CPS Corporate Data & Analytics Unit; April 2022



Appendix C – Reporting Requirements

CPS DEUoF policy requires officers to report the use of force by filling out and submitting an SBOR report by end of shift in every instance, other than training or qualification where officer(s):

- a. apply any empty hand physical force to a subject above the level of handcuffing or low-level pain compliance such as joint locks or pressure points, including but not limited to:
 - i. stuns, punches, strikes or kicks; or
 - ii. leverage or impact (dynamic) takedowns where a person has been forcibly taken to the ground;
- b. apply a neck restraint;
- c. use a chemical agent when a subject is present (for example, OC spray);
- d. strike a subject with a baton;
- e. use a leg restraint strap;
- f. use a restraint ring;
- g. use a spit mask;
- h. use a police vehicle to intentionally contact an occupied motor vehicle (per the Code 700 (Vehicle-Based Tactics) policy);
- i. point, illuminate, or discharge a CEW at a person;
- j. point a firearm, specialty munition or impact munition at a person;
- k. discharge a firearm, specialty munition or impact munition. If using a firearm to dispatch an animal, an Info Post needs to be completed;
- l. deploy a police service dog and contact occurs;
- m. when force is used on a subject during a forced entry and/or when a subject is injured during a forced entry;
- n. are involved in an unintentional firearm discharge at a Service firearm range or an unintentional discharge of any other Service weapon; or
- o. apply force to a subject that results in visible injury, loss of consciousness or medical distress.



Appendix D - Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Force: The International Association of Chiefs of Police defines force as the “amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject”.

ARWEN®: a non-lethal launcher designed by British Royal Small Arms Factory (RSAF) Enfield which fires 37mm non-lethal rounds of foam, wooden or tear gas payloads and was initially designed for riot control. ARWEN® represents another option in less-lethal use of force methods. CPS uses the munition variant ARWEN® AR-1 Impact Baton (i.e. standard, non-irritant, “rubber” munition).

Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW): an electronic device designed to physically incapacitate a subject to allow officers to restrain and gain control of the subject. The only CEW authorized for use by CPS members is TASER X26®.

Dynamic takedown: a displacement technique which requires an officer to use a degree of measured force to take a subject from an upright position to the ground to gain lawful control over them. Taking a subject to the ground in a controlled manner lowers the risk of physical harm both to the subject and to the officer.

Joint lock: a grappling technique involving manipulation of subject’s joints in a way that the joints (typically wrists, arms, or knees) reach their maximal degree of motion. These pain compliance holds typically include arm-, leg- and wristlocks and small joint manipulation.

Leg restraint: a device applied to legs or ankles that, just like handcuffs, limits the subject’s movement. It greatly reduces the chance of escape, reduce injury to officers, self-injury to subjects and damage to transportation vehicle. CPS does not apply leg restraint strap in the maximum restraint position.

Leg restraints allow a subject to walk only, and with a restricted stride. CPS officers use leg restraints to prevent subjects from kicking out at other persons or at objects/pieces of equipment such as a silent partner inside of a police vehicle or vehicle doors. Applying leg restraints effectively prevents a subject from injuring another person or themselves, as well as from damaging CPS property.

Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint® (LVNR®): The LVNR® is a method of controlling a resisting subject’s head and utilizing their neck to shift body balance to rear and gain compliance. It can be used standing, kneeling or on the ground. (Not to be confused with a chokehold that affects the respiratory system.)

The LVNR® is a technique officers use to control combative individuals that considers the subject’s age and health. CPS officers are trained, certified and periodically re-qualified (mandatory) in the use of LVNR® System, a trademarked and patented method of the National Law Enforcement Training Center.

OC spray: Oleoresin capsicum is a naturally occurring biodegradable substance used as lachrymatory agent that causes physiological reactions such as involuntary swelling of eyes and of airway mucous membranes in subjects, allowing for easier restraining and gaining compliance.

Other methods: include techniques such as joint locks and pressure points.

Police Service Dog (PSD): PSD deployment is an effective use of force option often deployed in the tracking and subsequent apprehension of subjects fleeing dumped stolen vehicles. In incidents involving a PSD contact, the arrestable subjects failed to comply with officer commands and attempted to evade apprehension despite opportunities to surrender peacefully.

Pressure point: A technique using application of pressure to a subject’s sensitive areas of body, e.g. behind the ear, under the nose or jaw, at the collar bone, to gain compliance.

Restraint ring: a wall-mounted handcuff restraint ring consists of a ring and a mounting bracket, usually made from steel. The ring is attached to the wall, usually at police station, prison, jail, etc. A person can be attached to the ring by using handcuffs to keep the person in place. A restraint ring is used to control detainee behaviour in those who are (often intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol) attempting self-harm or displaying precursor behaviours, being combative or violent, damaging CPS property and/or obstructing security cameras in cells; or creating a biohazard (mostly by spitting/transferring blood or bodily fluids onto cell walls/floors).

Spit mask: a protective head covering which prevents the transfer of saliva, blood, and mucus from one person to another.

Strip search: Strip searches are triggered by suspicious subject behavior in cells, consistent with drug consumption and/or drug sharing; or when items are recovered during the initial detainee booking-in search (including self-admitted items, items found during personal search and items alerted to by a metal detector wand) when there is a strong belief and indicia of more items concealed on a subject. Strip searches are only performed upon approval of a staff sergeant rank supervisor.

Generally, most strip searches performed do not reveal hidden items, but a portion of the searches reveals concealed drugs, drug packaging, lighters, sharp objects, and other dangerous or potentially life-threatening items.

Unintentional discharge: an inadvertent firing of a service weapon, whether it be a firearm, CEW or a less lethal device for any reason including user induced and/or mechanical malfunction and/or discharge of a CEW or CEW cartridge due to static electricity and/or due to an undetermined cause.

Vehicle-Based Tactics: refers to a range of measures officers can employ to safely apprehend the driver of a motor vehicle. These include prevention and intervention techniques and may include the use of preventative tools or tactics (ranging from disengagement to positioning police vehicles to block a subject vehicle (without contact), vehicle disabling devices and tire deflation devices) or an intentional vehicle contact. Based on a need for training of patrol members facing high-risk vehicle events on a regular basis, the CCLC developed a two-tiered training program that encompasses VBT. The basic level is mandatory for all frontline patrol members. The advanced level includes several additional tactics and members are selected for this training. Code 700 (VBT) include both preventative tactics as well as instances of intentional vehicle contact as methods to intervene on stationary and mobile vehicles engaged in criminal activity. It is often deployed to avoid police pursuits and prevent escalation of use of force which potentially present increased public and officer safety risks.