

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK  
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

27 MARCH 2013

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**Use of Force Statistics**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Board receive this report pursuant to Use of Force Board Policy No. 01/10.

**SYNOPSIS**

As per the Board's Use of Force Policy No. 01/10, a summary of the statistical information collected along with identified trends and issues related to Use of Force during 2012 are contained in this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**BACKGROUND**

Police Officers are authorized to use a range of Use of Force options in response to an event or incident in order to protect life, preserve the peace, prevent crimes, maintain order and apprehend suspects. When an incident occurs and an officer uses any of these force options, a Use of Force Report must be completed. Depending upon the number of officers involved, there may be several Use of Force Reports submitted for each incident. The Use of Force Report provides a province-wide standardized method for the collection of local data by individual police services from Use of Force incidents that occur as a result of the day-to-day operations of a police service.

The authority and direction to collect Use of Force information are found in the Policing Standards Manual (AI-012), the *Police Services Act* (O. Reg. 926 s. 14.5) and York Regional Police Use of Force Procedure (AI-012). In accordance with the Policing Standards Manual and the *Police Services Act*, York Regional Police Use of Force Procedure (AI-012) states, in part, the following:

*A member shall submit a Use of Force Report when:*

- a) a member draws a handgun 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 Conductive Energy Weapon is unholstered and displayed in the demonstrated force presence mode, to a member of the public, in order to gain their compliance; or*
- d) 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.*

After a Use of Force Report is submitted by an officer, the member's immediate supervisor reviews it. The report is then forwarded to the Training and Education Bureau and then to the Use of Force Review Committee. The Use of Force Review Committee is comprised of the Officer-in-Charge of the Training and Education Bureau, a Staff Sergeant in the Training and Education Bureau, a Sergeant in the Use of Force Unit, the Use of Force Training Analyst, a Duty Inspector and a Patrol Sergeant.

York Regional Police Use of Force Procedure (AI-012) sets out the duties of the Use of Force Review Committee as follows:

*The Use of Force Review Committee shall:*

- a) meet and review the Use of Force summary monthly;*
- b) thereafter destroy Part B of the Use of Force Form 1 and file Part A of the Form in accordance with the Police Services Act R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 926 Section 14.5;*
- c) evaluate procedures relating to the drawing, exhibiting and discharge of firearms and the use of force generally;*
- d) evaluate training methods;*
- e) annually produce a Use of Force Study which provides critical use of force data and trends;*
- f) direct their findings to the attention of the Chief of Police, the Deputy Chief of Administration and the Deputy Chief of Operations.*

The Training and Education Bureau compiles the data collected from the Use of Force Reports and this information is used to establish trends and identify problems that may be corrected through training or other administrative procedures.

**Summary of the 2012 Use of Force Study:**

- In 2012, York Regional Police attended a total of 267,847 calls for service. Of these calls for service, 185 resulted in the submission of a Use of Force Report. Consequently, only 0.01% of police interactions with the public resulted in a Use of Force Report being submitted.
- A total of 185 Use of Force incidents recorded on 270 Use of Force Reports were filed in 2012, involving a total of 304 officers. In 2011, there were 178 Use of Force incidents recorded on 239 Use of Force Reports submitted, involving a total of 348 officers. This change reflects a 4.0 percent increase in the number of incidents requiring Use of Force Reports from 2011 to 2012 and a 12.6 percent decrease in the number of officers involved in incidents that required Use of Force Reports (Chart 1).
- It should be noted that the number of Use of Force incidents fluctuates year over year; however, over the past five years, this number has varied as follows and shows a downward trend over a five year period:
  - 2008 – 196 incidents;
  - 2009 – 195 incidents;
  - 2010 – 203 incidents;
  - 2011 – 178 incidents; and
  - 2012 – 185 incidents.
- In 2012, there were 69.1 incidents requiring Use of Force Reports for every 100,000 demands for service. In 2011, there were 62.6 incidents requiring Use of Force Reports for every 100,000 demands for service. This represents an increase of 6.5 incidents per 100,000 demands for service requiring a Use of Force Report. This is a 10.3 percent increase from 2011 to 2012. Over the past five years, the number of incidents requiring Use of Force Reports for every 100,000 demands for service has varied as follows and shows a downward trend:
  - 2008 – 81.7 per 100,000;
  - 2009 – 80.4 per 100,000;
  - 2010 – 76.5 per 100,000;
  - 2011 – 62.6 per 100,000; and
  - 2012 – 69.1 per 100,000.
- The types of calls for service resulting in Use of Force were varied in 2012 and in 2011. The percentage of calls that officers responded to that resulted in the submission of a Use of Force Report are as follows in Chart 1.

CHART 1

Type of Call	2011		2012		Variance
	Incidents	Percentage	Incidents	Percentage	+/(-)%
Animal Destruction	34	19	25	14	(26)
Assaults	2	1	1	1	(50)
Break and Enter	8	4	14	8	75
Domestic Disputes	15	8	22	12	47
Emotionally Disturbed Persons	14	8	15	8	7
Homicide	1	1	1	1	0
Other Disturbances	8	4	12	6	50
Robbery	12	7	7	4	(42)
Search Warrant	10	6	8	4	(20)
Suspicious Persons	1	1	7	4	600
Traffic Stop	6	3	9	5	50
Weapons	25	14	29	16	16
Other*	42	24	35	19	(17)
<b>TOTAL OCCURRENCES</b>	<b>178</b>		<b>185</b>		<b>4.0</b>

\*Other includes: Theft of Vehicle, Wanted Person, Intoxicated Person, Drugs and various other arrests.

- In 2012, 87 percent of all Use of Force incidents involved more than one officer. There has been no significant change from 2011.
- Members draw their firearms when they believe on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to protect against loss of life or serious bodily harm, or to destroy an animal. In 2012, firearms were drawn and pointed at a person 126 times, compared to 109 times in 2011. This represents a 16 percent increase. The types of incidents attributed to this increase include weapons calls, silent 911 calls, robberies in-progress, break and enters in-progress, armed and suspicious person calls, high risk search warrants and high risk vehicle stops (Chart 2).
- In 2012, 38 firearm rounds were discharged during 25 incidents. In 2011, 56 firearm rounds were discharged during 36 incidents (Chart 2). In 2012, all incidents where firearms were discharged were done so to humanely destroy injured animals. In 2011, 34 of the 36 incidents involving firearm rounds being discharged were to humanely destroy an injured animal, one incident was negligence while unloading a firearm and one incident was at a suspect holding a weapon at a homicide.
- In 2012, 55 Use of Force incidents involved a suspect armed with a weapon, compared to 41 Use of Force incidents in 2011. This represents a 34 percent increase in the number of Use of Force incidents involving suspects armed with weapons.
- In 2012, officers encountered suspects armed with a weapon in 55 of 185 Use of Force incidents (30 percent). The most common weapons encountered included edged weapons (51 percent) and firearms (11 percent). Comparatively, in 2011, officers encountered suspects armed with a weapon in 40 of 177 Use of Force incidents (23

percent). The most common weapons encountered included edged weapons (53 percent) and firearms (25 percent).

- In 2012, Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) were used a total of 12 times by Front Line Supervisors and members of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) compared to 2011 in which CEWs were used a total of seven times. This represents an increase of 71 percent (Chart 2). It should be noted that up until November 2011, CEWs were only carried by the ERU. This increase in use of the CEW can be attributed to an increased presence as a use of force option.

In 2011, a proposal was approved for the implementation of CEWs for deployment by frontline supervisors as a logical and appropriate next step to ensure this less-lethal use of force option was more available for frontline police operations. The implementation of the CEW program was divided into two phases. Phase one included the training and equipping of all Patrol Supervisors. Phase one was completed in January of 2012. Phase two commenced during the 2012 calendar year and includes a wider deployment plan for supervisors in specialized units and members who perform acting supervisor duties. This training is expected to be completed during 2013.

The chart below illustrates the variety of Use of Force options that were employed by officers during the past two years.

**CHART 2**

Use of Force Option	2011		2012		Variance
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	+/(-)%
Aerosol Weapon	10	4	15	5	50
Canine	12	5	8	3	(33)
Empty Hand	76	29	88	31	16
Firearm Discharged	36	14	25	9	(28)
Firearm Pointed	109	42	126	44	16
Impact Weapon	9	3	9	3	0
Conducted Energy Weapon	7	3	12	4	71
<b>Total Type of Force Used</b>	259		283		10

- In 2012, there were seven officers injured in Use of Force incidents, compared to four officers in 2011. This represents a 75 percent increase in the number of officers injured during Use of Force incidents; however, in each of these instances, the officers' injuries were minor in nature which resulted in the officers being released from hospital following assessment.
- In 2012, 36 subjects were injured in Use of Force incidents, compared to 40 subjects in 2011. This represents a 10 percent decrease in the number of subjects injured during Use of Force incidents.
- In 2012, 107 incidents requiring Use of Force Reports were submitted by officers with less than five years of service, compared with 91 incidents in 2011. This represents a 17.5 percent increase in the number of Use of Force Reports submitted by officers with less than five years of service and totals 38 percent of all Use of Force Reports

submitted. It should be noted that 22 percent of all uniform members have less than five years of service, and 35 percent of officers assigned to uniform patrol have less than five years service.

- In 2012, 87 percent of the Use of Force incidents involved uniform personnel and 13 percent of the Use of Force incidents involved officers assigned to plain clothes duties. In 2011, 85 percent of the Use of Force incidents involved uniform personnel and 15 percent of the Use of Force incidents involved officers assigned to plain clothes duties. These statistics are essentially unchanged.
- In 2012, the majority of Use of Force incidents took place on a roadway (30 percent) and 63 percent of all Use of Force incidents took place between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am.

The Training and Education Bureau continues to monitor information provided by the Use of Force Review Committee in order to adapt its Use of Force training where required. Through data gathered from the Use of Force Reports, the Training and Education Bureau is able to provide officers with the tools and information required to protect the public and themselves.

In 2012, the committee identified a training need in the area of high risk vehicle stops through the examination of use of force reports and operational reviews specific to high risk incidents. Members of the Training and Education Bureau, Use of Force Unit, subsequently conducted extensive research examining best practices of North American police agencies in this area which has resulted in the development of leading edge high risk vehicle stop tactics for our members that is the first of its kind in Canada. These enhanced vehicle stop tactics have been now implemented across York Regional Police and are highlighted below:

- In 2012, a High Risk Vehicle Containment Course was developed and delivered to Investigative personnel which focuses on providing officers with the necessary skills to assist them in safely arresting non-compliant wanted suspects in vehicles; and
- In 2013, a High Risk Vehicle Program is being delivered to front line officers on their Annual Use of Force Requalification and Training Program that further enhances their skills in the execution of high risk vehicle stops.

These training courses have been shared with other Ontario police agencies who continue to monitor and work to implement the vehicle stop tactics into their own training programs.

The Use of Force Review Committee will continue to review all Use of Force Reports and assess the circumstances and outcomes for trends and patterns. This information will be integrated into various training opportunities to ensure members are properly prepared to deal with situations that arise requiring the consideration of the different Use of Force options.

The Province of Ontario does not compile yearly Use of Force statistics. York Regional Police is required by the Province of Ontario to complete Use of Force Reports, but there is no requirement to submit the reports unless requested.

In conclusion, the review of the processes and methods that York Regional Police employ in reporting and dealing with Use of Force incidents are in compliance with the Policing Standards Manual, the *Police Services Act* and York Regional Police Use of Force Procedure (AI-012).

EJ:bb

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