

## Replacement to Item No. 17

**PUBLIC**

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK  
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

25 MARCH 2015

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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 2014 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 quarterly and review a Use of Force summary;*
- (b) evaluate procedures relating to:*
  - (i) drawing, exhibiting and discharging of a firearm; and*
  - (ii) use of force.*
- (c) evaluate training methods;*
- (d) annually produce a Use of Force Study that provides critical use of force data and trends which does not contain information that identifies reporting police officers;*
- (e) direct the findings of the Use of Force Study to:*
  - (i) the Chief of Police;*
  - (ii) the Deputy Chief of Operations; and*
  - (iii) the Deputy Chief of Administration.*

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 2014 Use of Force Study:**

- In 2014, York Regional Police members attended a total of 220,546 citizen generated calls for service. Of these calls for service, 165 resulted in the submission of Use of Force Reports. Consequently, only 0.0748 percent of police interactions with the public resulted in a Use of Force Report being submitted.
- A total of 165 use of force incidents recorded on 254 Use of Force Reports were filed in 2014, involving a total of 277 officers. In 2013 there were 161 use of force incidents recorded on 224 Use of Force Reports submitted, involving a total of 315 officers. This change reflects a 2.5 percent increase in the number of incidents requiring Use of Force Reports from 2013 to 2014 and a 12.1 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 from year to year; however, over the past five years, a downward trend has been observed:
  - 2010 – 203 incidents;
  - 2011 – 178 incidents;
  - 2012 – 185 incidents;
  - 2013 – 161 incidents;
  - 2014 – 165 incidents.
- In 2014, there were 74.8 incidents requiring Use of Force Reports for every 100,000 demands for service. In 2013, there were 71.9 incidents requiring Use of Force Reports for every 100,000 demands for service. This represents 4.0 incidents per 100,000 demands increase from 2013. There has been minimal fluctuation over the past five years:
  - 2010 – 76.5 per 100,000;
  - 2011 – 62.6 per 100,000;
  - 2012 – 73.4 per 100,000;
  - 2013 – 71.9 per 100,000;
  - 2014 – 74.8 per 100,000.
- The types of calls for service resulting in use of force were varied in 2014 and in 2013. The percentage of calls that officers responded to that resulted in the submission of a Use of Force Report is as follows in Chart 1.

Chart 1

TYPES OF CITIZEN GENERATED CALLS FOR SERVICE			
	2013	2014	Variance (%)
			1 Year
Animal	26	29	11.5%
Assaults	3	1	-66.7%
Break and Enter	9	5	-44.4%
Domestic Disputes	7	10	42.9%
EDP	17	19	11.8%
Homicide	0	0	0.0%
Other Disturbances	10	7	-30.0%
Robbery	14	7	-50.0%
Search Warrant	4	3	-25.0%
Suspicious Persons	1	5	400.0%
Traffic Stop	9	7	-22.2%
Weapons	27	40	48.1%
Other*	34	32	-5.9%
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>165</b>	

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

- In 2014, 62.4 percent of all use of force incidents involved more than one officer. In 2013, 87.7 percent of all use of force incidents involved more than one officer; this represents a 28.8 percent decrease over last year.
- 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 2014, firearms were drawn and pointed at a person 125 times, compared to 110 times in 2013. This represents a 13.6 percent increase. The types of incidents reported include; weapons calls, silent 911 calls, robbery calls, break and enter calls, armed and suspicious person calls, high risk search warrants and high risk vehicle stops.
- In 2014, 31 incidents resulted in 53 firearm rounds being discharged. Two of these incidents where firearms were discharged were done so to protect officers and the public and 29 incidents were to humanely destroy injured animals. In 2013, 26 incidents resulted in 27 firearm rounds being discharged. In 2013, all 26 incidents where firearms were discharged were done so to humanely destroy injured animals.
- In 2014, 56 use of force incidents involved a suspect armed with a weapon, compared to 46 use of force incidents in 2013. This represents a 21.7 percent increase in the number of use of force incidents involving suspects armed with weapons.
- In 2014, officers encountered suspects armed with a weapon in 56 of 165 use of force incidents which represents 33.9 percent. The most common weapons encountered were edged weapons at 32.1 percent and firearms at 25.0 percent. Comparatively, in 2013, officers encountered suspects armed with a weapon in 46 of 161 use of force incidents

which represents 28.6 percent. The most common weapons encountered were edged weapons at 51 percent and firearms at 11 percent.

- In 2014, officers reported pointing their firearms on 125 occasions, compared with firearms being pointed 110 times in 2013, which represents a 13.6 percent increase. The increase in officers pointing their firearms can be attributed to the 21.7 percent increase in incidents in the number of use of force incidents involving suspects armed with weapons in 2014 compared to 2013.
- In 2014, Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) were used a total of 21 times by front line officers and members of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) compared to 14 times in 2013. This represents an increase of 50.0 percent. It should be noted that only trained members from the Emergency Response Unit, Frontline Supervisors and Frontline members acting in a supervisory role were authorized to carry CEWs during 2013. In 2014, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services changed legislation allowing all trained members with the authority to carry CEWs. As a result, there was a significant increase in the number of CEWs deployed on a regular basis on the frontline (from 3 to 9 CEWs per District). Therefore, this increased use of the CEW can be attributed to an increased presence as a use of force option for frontline officers.

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

Chart 2

TYPE OF FORCE USED			
Use of Force Option	2013	2014	Variance (%)
			1 Year
Firearm Discharged	27	36	33.3%
Firearm Pointed at Person	110	125	13.6%
Handgun Drawn	90	88	-2.2%
Aerosol Weapon	9	6	-33.3%
Impact Weapon – Hard	2	6	200.0%
Impact Weapon – Soft	0	0	0.0%
Empty Hand – Hard	29	30	3.4%
Empty Hand – Soft	43	33	-23.3%
Conducted Energy Weapon	14	21	50.0%
Canine	5	8	60.0%
Other	10	15	50.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>368</b>	

- In 2014, there were two officers injured in use of force incidents, compared to six officers in 2013. This represents a 66.7 percent decrease. In each of these instances, the officers' injuries were minor in nature.
- In 2014, 28 subjects were injured in use of force incidents, compared to 31 subjects in 2013. This represents a 9.7 percent decrease in injuries to subjects.

- In 2014, 93.7 percent of the use of force incidents involved uniform personnel and 6.3 percent of officers assigned to plain clothes duties. In 2013, 90.6 percent of the use of force incidents involved uniform personnel and 9.4 percent of officers assigned to plain clothes duties.
- In 2014, the largest percentage - 33.1 percent - of use of force incidents took place on a roadway.
- In 2014, 60.6 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 use of force training where required. This is often conducted through scenario-based training exercises delivered on the Annual Uniform Requalification Training Program. Through data gathered from the Use of Force Reports, the Training and Education Bureau is able to provide officers with the knowledge and skills based training required to protect the public and themselves.

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).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a cursive 'J' and 'L'.

Eric Jolliffe, M.O.M., BA, MA, CMM III  
Chief of Police

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