



Use of Force by the Police in Northern Ireland

1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

Date of Publication:

16th December 2022


Frequency of Publication:

Six monthly

Issued by:

PSNI Statistics Branch
Lisnasharragh
42 Montgomery Road
Belfast
BT6 9LD

 statistics@psni.police.uk

 028 9065 0222 Ext. 24135

Web [PSNI Statistics](#)

Key Statistics

Between 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022:

- there were 17,370 uses of force reported by PSNI officers, an increase of 8% on the number reported during the previous year (16,111).
- the overall increase was mainly attributable to higher levels of unarmed physical tactics, while use of handcuffs/limb restraints, irritant spray, firearms, attenuating energy projectiles (AEPs) and conductive energy devices (CEDs) also increased. In contrast, batons, police dogs and spit and bite guards were used less over the year.
- the most common type of force used was unarmed physical tactics, accounting for 58% of all uses of force.
- the most common reason an officer used force was to protect themselves (86% of the time).
- Belfast District accounted for around one-third of the use of force (34%), followed by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (11%).
- alcohol was the most common perceived impact factor when force was used (65% of the time).

In relation to those persons* on whom force was used:

- 81% were perceived to be male
- 35% were perceived to be between 25 and 34 years old
- 94% were perceived to be white.

**Figures do not represent a unique count of the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.*

Table of Contents

1. Things you need to know about this release	1
2. Summary statistics	1
3. Long-term trends (based on financial year)	1
4. District.....	1
5. Reason for use of force.....	1
6. Impact factors	1
7. Location of use of force.....	1
8. Type of incident	1
9. Officer duty type.....	1
10. Gender, age group and ethnicity	1
11. Background notes	1

1. Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

Recommendation 21 of the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Human Rights Annual Report (2008) requires the PSNI to, "provide the Policing Board with statistics on all categories of uses of force recorded on the PSNI electronic use of force monitoring system on a six monthly basis." This report outlines the occasions of Police Use of Force for the period 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. The next report, covering the period April 2022 – March 2023, will be published in June 2023.

Police officers must record the details of any incident where they deployed force tactics through a 'use of force report'. Where an incident involved more than one person or officer, each officer who used force must complete one use of force report, detailing their own use of force. As such, a singular event or individual may feature in multiple use of force reports.

In Sections 2 – 9 of this report, one 'use of force' refers to one officer's use of force involving one or more persons. As such, the number of uses reported is not equal to the number of unique incidents/events or people involved in incidents. If one officer points their firearm at three persons this will be counted as one use of force. If two officers point their firearms at the same three persons during the same incident, two use of force reports should be completed and this will be counted as two uses of force.

Data quality

The figures in Section 10 of this report reflect how many times force was recorded by police officers, however it does not tell us how many individual people experienced police use of force. As explained above, if two officers used force on one individual, each officer would submit a use of force report and the person's details would be reported by both for each type of force used.

In some cases, the person's information e.g. age, gender, ethnicity are recorded as perceived by the reporting officer, therefore should not be considered as reliable as self-reported data. On other occasions, such details are known or reported by the person.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that all incidents of use of force by the police are reported on the use of force monitoring system, there is the possibility that some under-reporting exists and this should be borne in mind when using these statistics. PSNI are currently working closely with IT colleagues to explore the potential for an automated solution, which could result in increased levels of reporting.

Users and uses of the statistics

Uses of the statistics, based on user engagement, information requests and satisfaction survey feedback include policy making and policy monitoring, performance monitoring and public interest, by a range of users including PSNI, the Policing Board, media and academics. Full details can be found in the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

PSNI Statistics Branch welcomes any user feedback on these statistics, which can be provided via the email address on the cover page.

Official Statistics

This bulletin is an Official Statistics publication meaning it complies with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). More information on [Official Statistics](#) is available on the PSNI Statistics website.

2. Summary statistics

Notes for sections 2 – 9:

- 1) An officer may have used force on more than one member of the public in a single occasion of using force.
- 2) 'CED drawn' includes drawn, aimed, arced and red-dot.
- 3) 'CED fired' includes stun drive.
- 4) Unarmed physical tactics include blocks/strikes, take downs, pressure points, physical restraint and other/improvised tactics. Each type of tactic used is counted in the figures in these sections; for example, if an officer took down and physically restrained an individual, both of these tactics will be counted.

Table 1 summarises police use of force between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 compared to the same period last year. Further information in relation to each type of force can be found in the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

Table 1: Police use of force between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 compared to the same period last year

Use of Force	Oct 20 - Sep 21	Oct 21 - Sep 22	% change ⁽¹⁾
AEP pointed	64 ⁽²⁾	73 ⁽³⁾	14%
AEP discharged	6 ⁽²⁾	7 ⁽³⁾	17%
AEP Total	70	80	14%
Baton drawn only	224	202	-10%
Baton drawn & used	123	99	-20%
Baton Total	347	301	-13%
Irritant spray drawn only	215	259	20%
Irritant spray used	210	244	16%
Irritant spray Total	425	503	18%
Firearm drawn or pointed	455	470	3%
Firearm discharged	1	0	-100%
Firearm Total	456	470	3%
Police dog	171	110	-36%
CED drawn	290	301	4%
CED fired	18	16	-11%
CED Total	308	317	3%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	5,142	5,340	4%
Unarmed physical tactics	9,056	10,136	12%
Spit and bite guard	132⁽⁴⁾	113	-14%
Water cannon deployed	2	0	-
Water cannon deployed and used	2	0	-
Water cannon Total	4	0	-
Total	16,111	17,370	8%

(1) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer.

(2) During October 2020 – September 2021 AEP was pointed only as a less lethal option. On the 6 occasions it was discharged, 3 occasions were as a less lethal option and 3 occasions were during public disorder.

(3) During October 2021 – September 2022 AEP was pointed and discharged only as a less lethal option.

(4) Following an audit of spit and bite guard (SBG) deployments, a record in April 2021 was identified as being two distinct applications rather than one. As a result, the number of uses of SBGs during October 2020 to September 2021 has been revised from the previously published figure of 131 to 132.

Direction to draw batons

- A supervisory officer directed officers to draw their batons on a further 5 occasions between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022, which are not included in the 'Baton drawn only' statistics in this report. If an officer used his baton as a result of being directed to draw it, this use will be included in the 'baton drawn and used' statistics throughout this report.

Firearms drawn with no persons present

- There were 82 occasions between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 when officers drew their firearms for operational reasons due to a perceived threat when no members of the public were present. This type of force is primarily used by Authorised / Specialist Firearms Officers during methodical and reactive search operations. These occasions are not included in the 'firearms drawn or pointed' statistics in this report.

3. Long-term trends (based on financial year)

Figure 1: Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP), 2012/13 - 2021/22

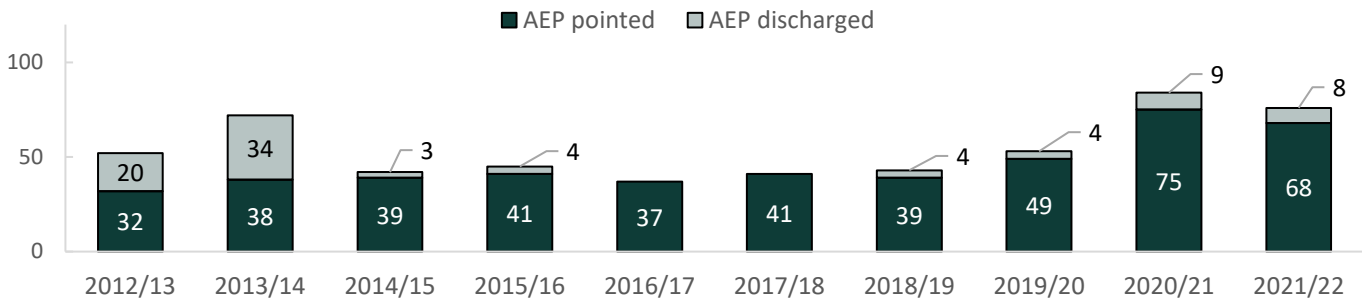


Figure 2: Police baton, 2012/13 - 2021/22

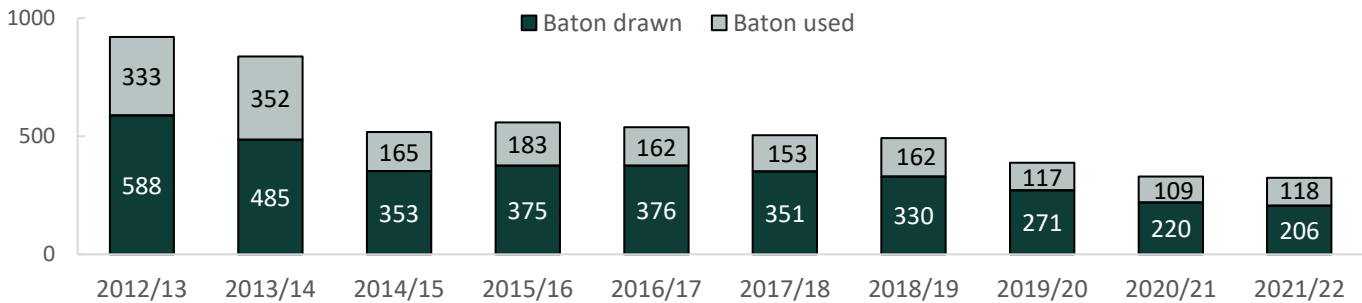


Figure 3: Irritant spray, 2012/13 - 2021/22

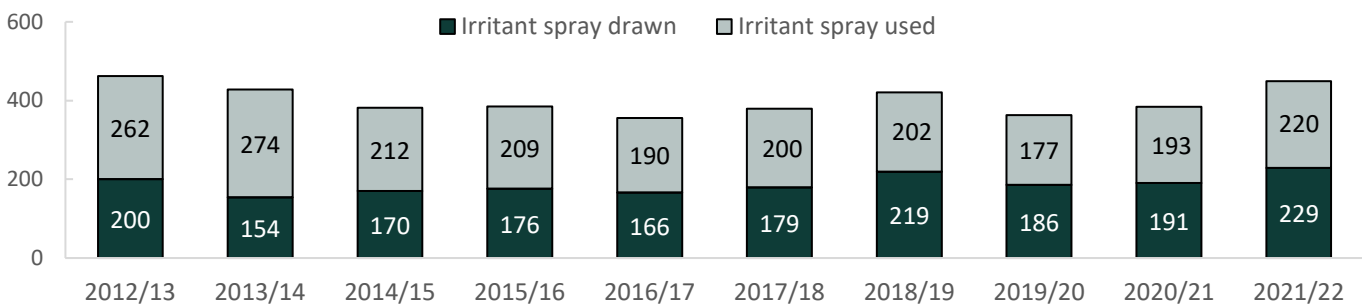


Figure 4: Firearms, 2012/13 - 2021/22

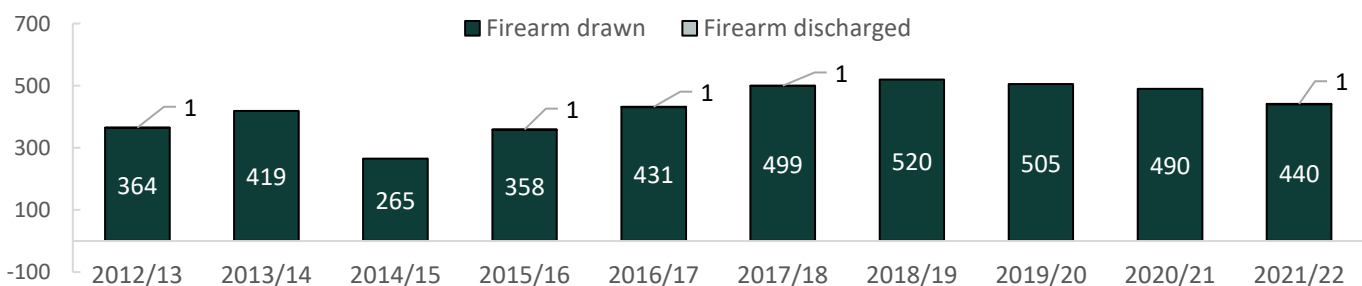


Figure 5: Police dogs, 2012/13 - 2021/22

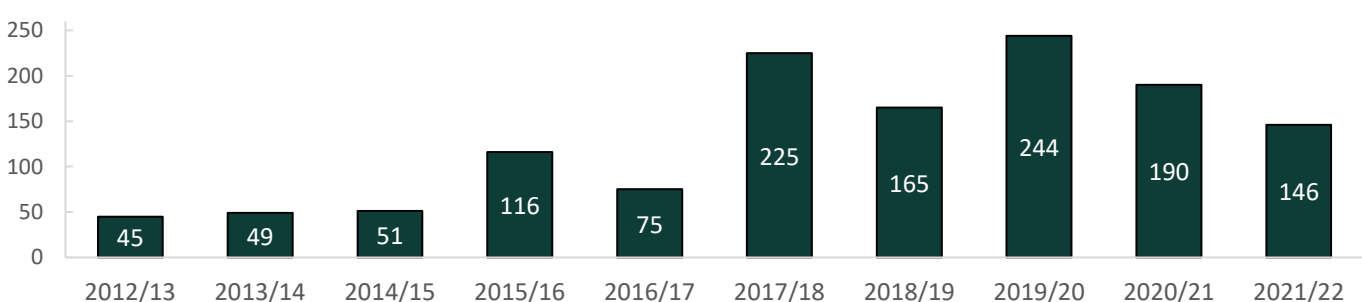


Figure 6: Conductive Energy Device (CED), 2012/13 - 2021/22

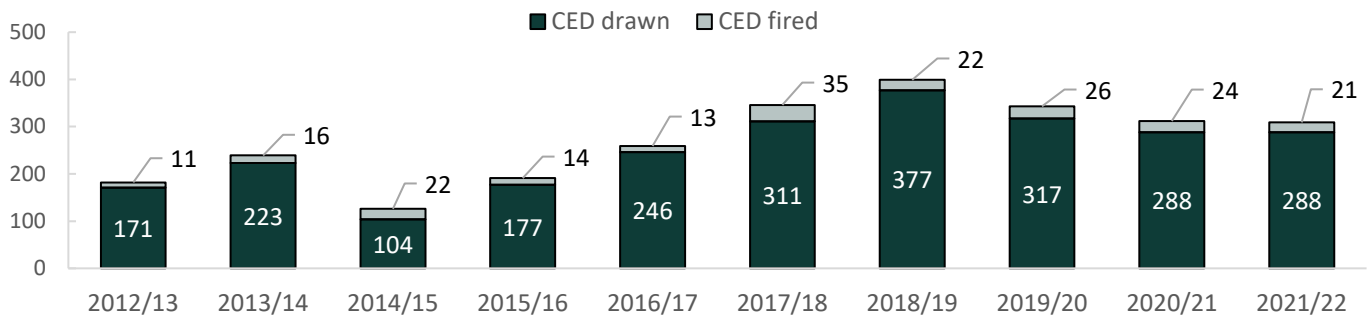


Figure 7: Water cannon used, 2012/13-2021/22

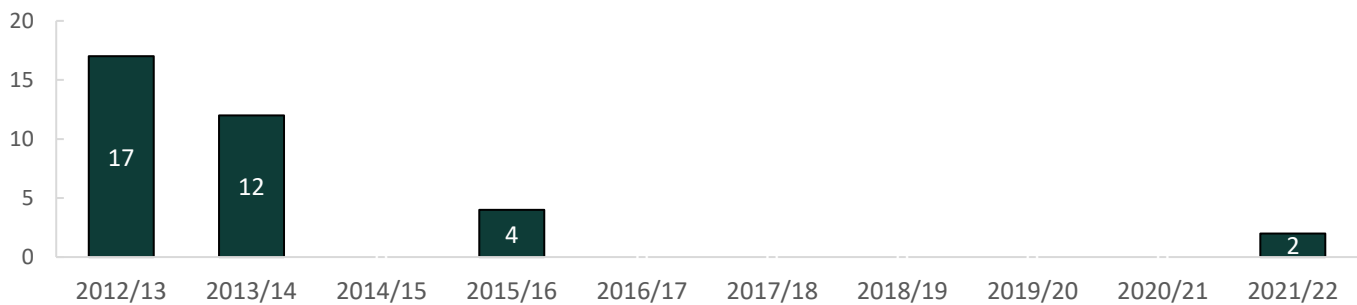


Figure 8: Handcuffs / Limb restraints, 2017/18-2021/22

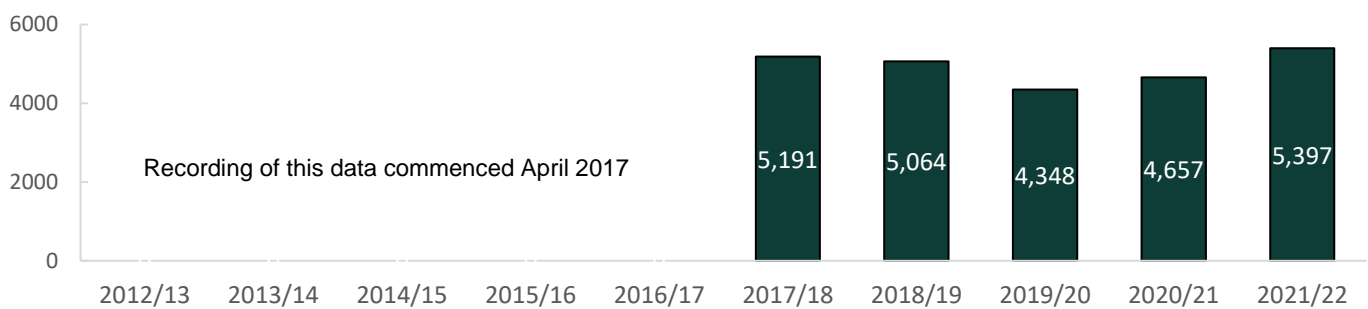


Figure 9: Unarmed physical tactics, 2017/18-2021/22

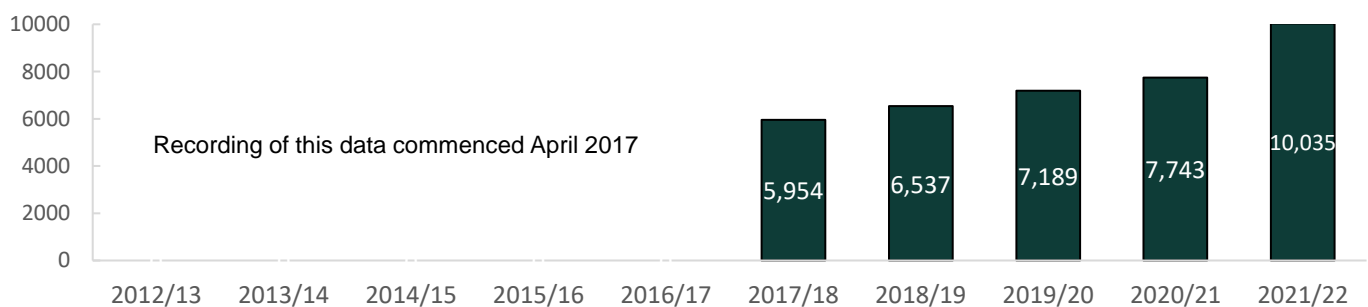
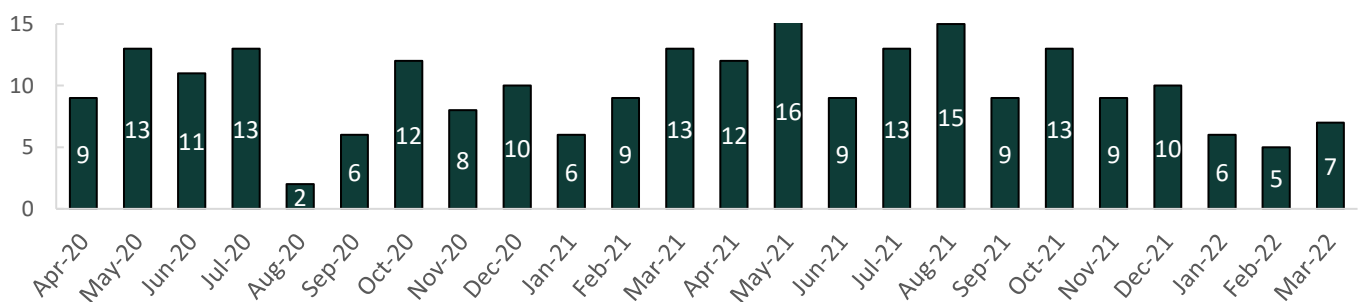


Figure 10: Spit and bite guards, Apr 2020-Mar 2022 (1,2)



(1) Spit and bite guards were introduced as a temporary measure at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Recording of the use of spit and bite guards commenced in April 2020.
 (2) Following an audit of spit and bite guard (SBG) deployments, a record in April 2021 was identified as being two distinct applications rather than one. As a result, the number of uses of SBGs during April 2021 has been revised from the previously published figure of 11 to 12.

4. District

Table 2: Use of force by Policing District, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ⁽¹⁾

Use of Force	Belfast City	Lisburn and Castlereagh City	Ards & North Down	Newry, Mourne & Down	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	Mid Ulster	Fermanagh & Omagh	Derry City & Strabane	Causeway Coast & Glens	Mid & East Antrim	Antrim & Newtownabbey	Total
AEP pointed	38	1	6	3	7	2	1	3	7	1	4	73
AEP discharged	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
Baton drawn only	53	8	12	16	16	31	10	36	10	5	5	202
Baton drawn & used	22	11	4	6	3	10	4	24	7	3	5	99
Irritant spray drawn only	69	8	23	19	27	36	23	12	19	13	10	259
Irritant spray used	67	6	10	16	16	33	18	35	22	13	8	244
Firearm drawn or pointed	228	20	27	17	42	27	15	28	15	23	28	470
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	50	8	5	2	15	1	1	9	8	7	4	110
CED drawn	164	9	23	11	20	11	7	11	11	15	19	301
CED fired	8	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	16
Handcuffs / limb restraints	1,653	298	271	458	598	414	340	534	232	303	239	5,340
Unarmed physical tactics	3,590	533	417	673	1,103	991	642	981	354	468	384	10,136
Spit and bite guard	36	3	0	10	16	5	6	14	4	10	9	113
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,982	905	799	1,232	1,865	1,561	1,068	1,689	692	862	715	17,370
% of Use of Force	34%	5%	5%	7%	11%	9%	6%	10%	4%	5%	4%	100%
Uses per 1,000 population ⁽²⁾	17	6	5	7	9	10	9	11	5	6	5	9

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

(2) Rates per 1,000 population are calculated using NISRA's mid-2021 [population estimates](#).

5. Reason for use of force

Figure 11: Reason for use of force, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1, 2)

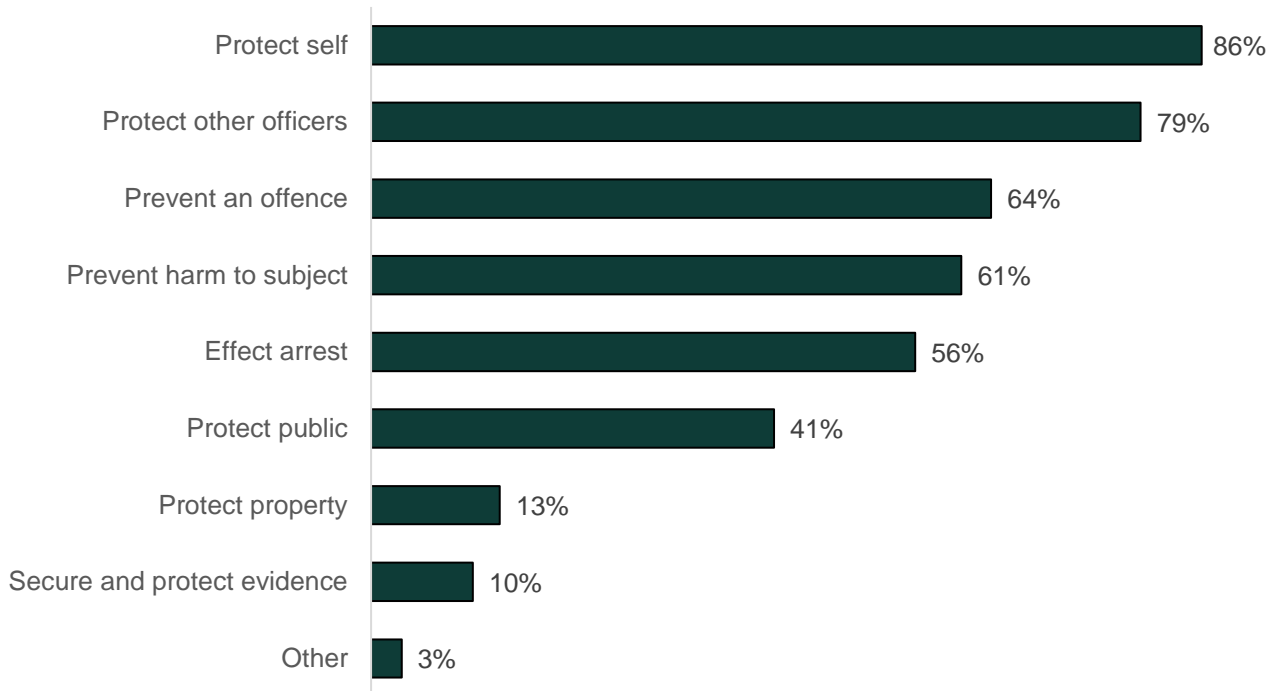


Table 3: Use of force by reason, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1, 2, 3)

Use of Force	Protect self	Protect other officer	Prevent an offence	Prevent harm to subject	Effect arrest	Protect public	Protect property	Secure or protect evidence	Other
AEP	96%	95%	84%	85%	54%	78%	10%	24%	0%
Baton	83%	68%	63%	28%	53%	52%	15%	9%	4%
Irritant spray	92%	81%	65%	38%	60%	46%	14%	5%	1%
Firearm	99%	96%	83%	52%	71%	81%	13%	37%	1%
Police dog	81%	75%	71%	44%	79%	77%	18%	38%	2%
CED	99%	98%	88%	83%	63%	67%	10%	31%	1%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	85%	77%	58%	63%	63%	43%	14%	11%	3%
Unarmed physical tactics	84%	79%	65%	62%	51%	37%	13%	8%	4%
Spit and bite guard	88%	94%	72%	18%	19%	37%	19%	3%	1%
Total	86%	79%	64%	61%	56%	41%	13%	10%	3%

- (1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.
- (2) An officer may report more than one reason for using each type of force.
- (3) Reason is not recorded on the use of force form when using the water cannon.

6. Impact factors

Figure 12: Impact factors relating to use of force, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1, 2)

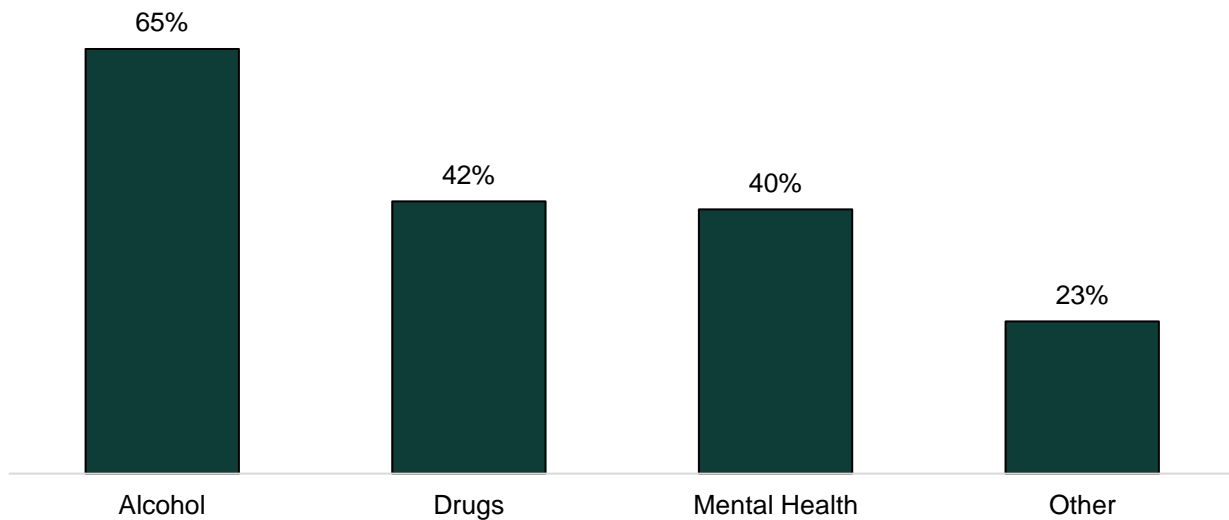


Table 4: Use of force by impact factor, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1, 2)

Use of Force	Alcohol	Drugs	Mental health	Other
AEP	49%	46%	79%	21%
Baton	67%	29%	16%	31%
Irritant spray	69%	34%	30%	24%
Firearm	43%	39%	54%	37%
Police dog	49%	32%	33%	44%
CED	52%	42%	64%	26%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	61%	37%	36%	24%
Unarmed physical tactics	68%	44%	42%	22%
Spit and bite guard	72%	62%	42%	15%
Water cannon deployed	-	-	-	-
Total	65%	42%	40%	23%

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

(2) Impact factors are officer perceived. An officer may report more than one impact factor relating to each type of force.

7. Location of use of force

Table 5: Use of force by location, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1, 2)

Use of Force	Roadway	Dwelling	Custody suite	Hospital	Garden / driveway	Other ⁽³⁾	Car park	Motor vehicle	Public park	Total
AEP pointed	18	39	0	0	13	2	0	0	1	73
AEP discharged	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	7
Baton drawn only	119	23	0	1	14	16	16	1	12	202
Baton drawn & used	60	15	1	3	4	10	3	2	1	99
Irritant spray drawn only	118	74	0	0	24	20	13	4	6	259
Irritant spray used	109	63	0	7	22	25	14	2	2	244
Firearm drawn or pointed	150	247	0	3	38	11	16	2	3	470
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	49	19	0	0	22	9	6	0	5	110
CED drawn	42	222	0	2	26	5	1	2	1	301
CED fired	1	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
Handcuffs / limb restraints	2,034	1,267	456	434	349	274	275	170	81	5,340
Unarmed physical tactics	3,593	1,765	1,985	694	535	489	525	424	126	10,136
Spit and bite guard	34	7	12	11	3	3	17	24	2	113
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6,327	3,759	2,454	1,156	1,051	866	886	631	240	17,370
% of Use of Force	36%	22%	14%	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	1%	100%

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

(2) A use of force incident may involve multiple locations (e.g. an incident could begin in a dwelling but finish on the street outside if the person attempted to escape). However, the recording system does not allow for multiple locations to be included for one incident, so the primary location is likely to be recorded.

(3) Locations where force is less frequently used, for example, public buildings, trains and 'other' locations.

8. Type of incident

Table 6: Use of force by type of incident, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ⁽¹⁾

Use of Force	Crime	Custody	Other	Public order	Domestic	Firearms	Traffic	Terrorism	Total
AEP pointed	4	0	1	0	1	67	0	0	73
AEP discharged	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	7
Baton drawn only	94	1	9	61	20	2	14	1	202
Baton drawn & used	43	1	8	32	11	0	4	0	99
Irritant spray drawn only	141	1	26	35	44	4	8	0	259
Irritant spray used	119	3	17	51	46	2	5	1	244
Firearm drawn or pointed	69	0	15	2	15	356	2	11	470
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	31	0	6	14	10	47	2	0	110
CED drawn	31	1	12	0	9	245	2	1	301
CED fired	1	0	4	0	1	10	0	0	16
Handcuffs / limb restraints	2,522	493	707	498	680	276	146	18	5,340
Unarmed physical tactics	4,040	1,979	1,252	1,266	1,012	369	187	31	10,136
Spit and bite guard	64	17	7	12	10	1	2	0	113
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7,159	2,496	2,065	1,971	1,859	1,385	372	63	17,370
% of Use of Force	41%	14%	12%	11%	11%	8%	2%	<1%	100%

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

9. Officer duty type

Table 7: Use of force by officer duty type, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ⁽¹⁾

Use of Force	Local/Neighbourhood Policing	Custody	Armed Response Vehicle	Tactical Support Group	Other	Dog Handler	Traffic	Specialist Firearms Officer	Total
AEP pointed	0	0	73	0	0	0	0	0	73
AEP discharged	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Baton drawn only	167	0	2	23	7	1	2	0	202
Baton drawn & used	83	0	0	12	4	0	0	0	99
Irritant spray drawn only	244	0	4	7	3	0	1	0	259
Irritant spray used	235	0	1	4	3	1	0	0	244
Firearm drawn or pointed	62	0	370	3	3	2	1	29	470
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	0	0	0	0	0	109	0	1	110
CED drawn	0	0	298	0	0	0	0	3	301
CED fired	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Handcuffs / limb restraints	4,322	349	319	181	106	9	29	25	5,340
Unarmed physical tactics	7,314	1,690	447	495	114	18	26	32	10,136
Spit and bite guard	103	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	113
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12,530	2,044	1,539	727	241	140	59	90	17,370
% of Use of Force	72%	12%	9%	4%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	100%

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

10. Gender, age group and ethnicity

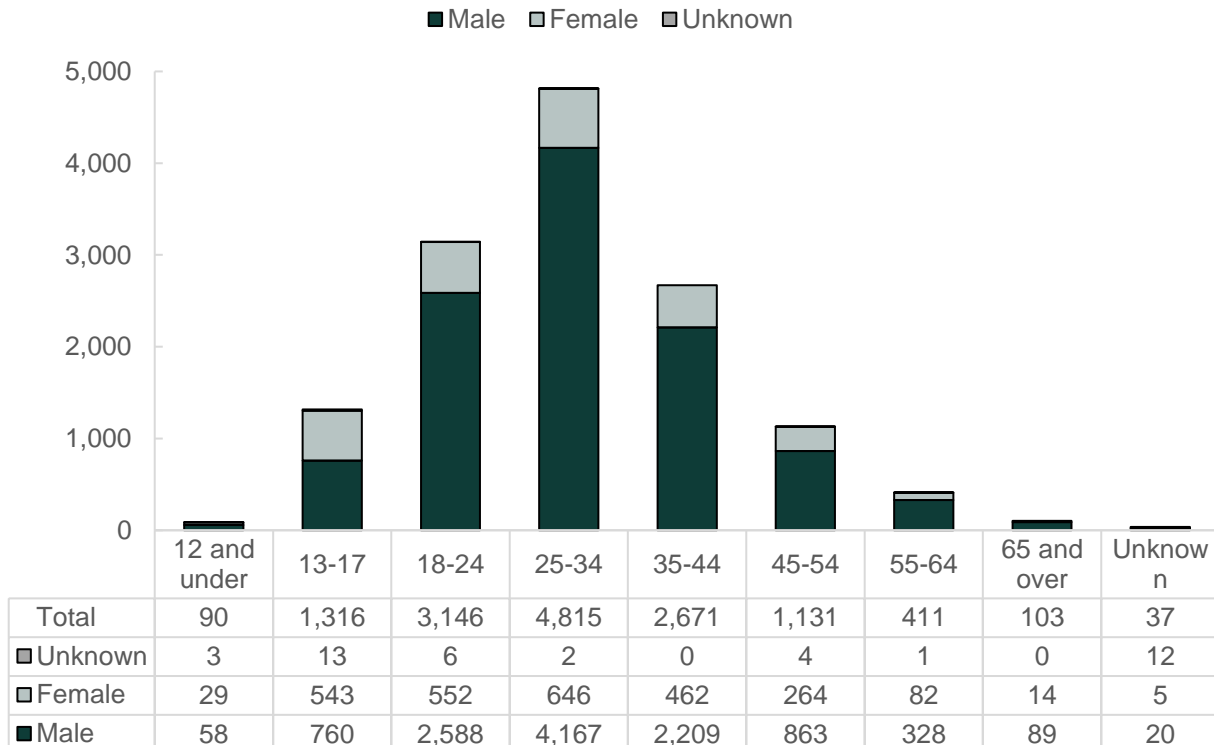
The figures in this section do not represent the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.

More than one use of force report may be completed for the same individual. If two officers used force on one individual, each officer would submit a use of force report and the person's details would be recorded on both reports. Additionally, one officer may have used more than one type of force on the same individual and the person's details would be reported for each type of force used by the officer.

However, the exception to this is in the case of handcuffs / limb restraints and the various types of unarmed physical tactics. If handcuffs and limb restraints are used, or multiple types of unarmed physical tactics are used on an individual by the same officer, the person details will only be counted once.

In some cases, the person's information e.g. age, gender, ethnicity are recorded as perceived by the reporting officer, therefore should not be considered as reliable as self-reported data. On other occasions, such details are known or reported by the person.

Figure 13: Gender and age of those individuals on whom force was used, 1 October 2021–30 September 2022 ^(1,2)



(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.

(2) Gender and age may be officer perceived.

Table 8 Gender of those individuals on whom force was used by type of force, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1, 2, 3)

Use of Force	Male	Female	Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	93%	7%	0%	100%	76
AEP discharged	100%	0%	0%	100%	7
Baton drawn only	89%	8%	3%	100%	206
Baton drawn & used	92%	8%	0%	100%	104
Irritant spray drawn only	89%	10%	1%	100%	264
Irritant spray used	95%	4%	<1%	100%	250
Firearm drawn or pointed	87%	13%	0%	100%	553
Firearm discharged	-	-	-	-	0
Police dog	91%	7%	2%	100%	109
CED drawn	88%	12%	<1%	100%	345
CED fired	81%	19%	0%	100%	16
Handcuffs / limb restraints	81%	19%	<1%	100%	4,919
Unarmed physical tactic	78%	21%	<1%	100%	6,758
Spit and bite guard	78%	22%	0%	100%	113
Total	81%	19%	<1%	100%	13,720

- (1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.
(2) Gender may be officer perceived.
(3) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer and as a result may not sum to 100%.

Table 9: Age of those individuals on whom force was used by type of force, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1, 2, 3)

Use of Force	12 and under	13-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	0%	3%	16%	38%	24%	11%	7%	3%	0%	100%	76
AEP discharged	0%	0%	29%	57%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	7
Baton drawn only	1%	9%	24%	35%	14%	9%	1%	0%	7%	100%	206
Baton drawn & used	0%	8%	25%	40%	21%	4%	2%	0%	0%	100%	104
Irritant spray drawn only	0%	7%	19%	37%	20%	12%	4%	<1%	1%	100%	264
Irritant spray used	0%	2%	22%	40%	22%	8%	4%	0%	1%	100%	250
Firearm drawn or pointed	0%	3%	19%	41%	21%	10%	5%	1%	<1%	100%	553
Firearm discharged	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Police dog	0%	6%	14%	44%	17%	13%	3%	0%	3%	100%	109
CED drawn	<1%	3%	19%	40%	19%	12%	6%	<1%	<1%	100%	345
CED fired	0%	0%	13%	38%	44%	0%	6%	0%	0%	100%	16
Handcuffs / limb restraints	<1%	10%	23%	35%	19%	9%	3%	1%	0%	100%	4,919
Unarmed physical tactics	1%	11%	24%	34%	19%	7%	3%	1%	<1%	100%	6,758
Spit and bite guard	0%	2%	30%	38%	23%	6%	1%	0%	0%	100%	113
Total	1%	10%	23%	35%	19%	8%	3%	1%	<1%	100%	13,720

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.

(2) Age may be officer perceived.

(3) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer and as a result may not sum to 100%.

Table 10: Ethnicity of those individuals on whom force was used, 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022 ^(1,2)

Use of Force	White	Irish Traveller	Black	Unknown	Other Ethnic Group	Mixed	Asian	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	93%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%	100%	76
AEP discharged	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	7
Baton drawn only	88%	9%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	100%	206
Baton drawn & used	94%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	100%	104
Irritant spray drawn only	90%	5%	2%	2%	<1%	1%	0%	100%	264
Irritant spray used	90%	5%	4%	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	100%	250
Firearm drawn or pointed	93%	3%	3%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	100%	553
Firearm discharged	100%	0
Police dog	94%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%	100%	109
CED drawn	94%	2%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	100%	345
CED fired	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	16
Handcuffs / limb restraints	94%	2%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	100%	4,919
Unarmed physical tactics	95%	2%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	100%	6,758
Spit and bite guard	96%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	100%	113
Total	94%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	100%	13,720

- (1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.
- (2) Ethnicity may be officer perceived.
- (3) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer and as a result may not sum to 100%.

11. Background notes

Further information on how these statistics are collated, reported and used is included in the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

Use of force

A use of force is counted as when a police officer uses any of the following force tactics:

- Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP) - pointed or discharged
- Baton – drawn only or drawn and used
- Irritant spray – drawn only or used
- Firearm – drawn or pointed, or discharged
- Police dog
- Conducted Energy Device (CED) – drawn (including aimed, arced, red-dotted) or fired (including drive-stun)
- Handcuffs / limb restraints (including flexi-cuffs)
- Unarmed physical tactics (including blocks/strikes, take downs, pressure points, physical restraints, other / improvised)
- Spit and bite guard (introduced as a temporary measure at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020)
- Water canon – deployed or used

These are explained in more detail in Section 3 of the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

Useful links

The most recent statistics for police use of force in England and Wales and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-use-of-force-statistics>