



Use of Force by the Police in Northern Ireland

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

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Key Statistics

Between 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024:

- there were 21,508 uses of force reported by PSNI officers, an increase of 21% on the number reported during the previous year (17,742).
- use of handcuffs/limb restraints, unarmed physical tactics, spit and bite guards, police dog and attenuating energy projectiles (AEPs) increased compared to the previous year while baton, conductive energy device (CEDs) and firearms usage decreased. Use of irritant spray decreased to a lesser degree.
- the most common type of force used was unarmed physical tactics, accounting for 60% of all uses of force.
- the most common reasons an officer used force was to protect themselves (79% of the time) and protect other officers (77% of the time).
- Belfast District accounted for one-third of the use of force (33%), followed by Derry City and Strabane (12%).
- alcohol was the most common perceived impact factor when force was used (62% of the time).

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

- 82% were perceived to be male
- 38% 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.*

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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 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The next report, covering the 12 month period October 2023 to September 2024, will be published in December 2024.

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.

At the time of publication, 98% of the use of force forms submitted for 2023/24 had been validated and thereby included in the final dataset.

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. However, PSNI have recently implemented an automated solution, which should significantly reduce any under-reporting, primarily by prompting officers automatically when a use of force form is required.

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](#) as follows:

- Trustworthiness: the statistics are impartial, independent and released in an open and transparent manner in accordance with a pre-announced publication schedule
- Quality: the statistics are produced using robust and relevant data sources which undergo continuous quality improvement and assurance checks
- Value: the statistics strive to meet user needs informed by ongoing feedback, providing sufficient detail which is widely accessible.

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 drive stun.
- 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 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 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 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 compared to the same period last year

Use of Force	Apr 22 – Mar 23	Apr 23 – Mar 24	% change ⁽¹⁾
AEP pointed	67 ⁽²⁾	78 ⁽²⁾	16%
AEP discharged	4 ⁽²⁾	9 ⁽²⁾	125%
AEP Total	71	87	23%
Baton drawn only	218	149	-32%
Baton drawn & used	95	100	5%
Baton Total	313	249	-20%
Irritant spray drawn only	274	253	-8%
Irritant spray used	240	248	3%
Irritant spray Total	514	501	-3%
Firearm drawn or pointed	527	445	-16%
Firearm discharged	1	0	-100%
Firearm Total	528	445	-16%
Police dog⁽³⁾	153	191	25%
CED drawn ⁽³⁾	301	232	-23%
CED fired	15	21	40%
CED Total	316	253	-20%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	5,455	6,670	22%
Unarmed physical tactics	10,259	12,924	26%
Spit and bite guard	133	188	41%
Water cannon deployed	0	0	-
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	-
Water cannon Total	0	0	-
Total	17,742	21,508	21%

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

(2) During both April 2022 – March 2023 and April 2023 – March 2024 AEP was pointed and discharged only as a less lethal option.

(3) Further disaggregation of police dog and CED drawn can be found in Table 1a.

Table 1a: Disaggregation of use of police dog and CED between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 compared to the same period last year

Use of Force	Apr 22 – Mar 23	Apr 23 – Mar 24	% change ⁽¹⁾
Indirect Deployment	9	9	0%
Interim Deployment	69	88	28%
Direct Deployment	68	85	25%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Command)	4	4	0%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Provoked)	2	2	0%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Accidental)	1	1	0%
Other	0	2	-
Police dog Total	153	191	25%
CED drawn	67	51	-24%
CED aimed	17	33	94%
CED red dot	216	146	-32%
CED arced	1	2	100%
CED fired	15	21	40%
CED drive stun	0	0	-
CED angled drive stun	0	0	-
CED Total	316	253	-20%

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

Direction to draw batons

- A supervisory officer directed officers to draw their batons on a further 5 occasions between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, 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 169 occasions between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 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), 2014/15 - 2023/24

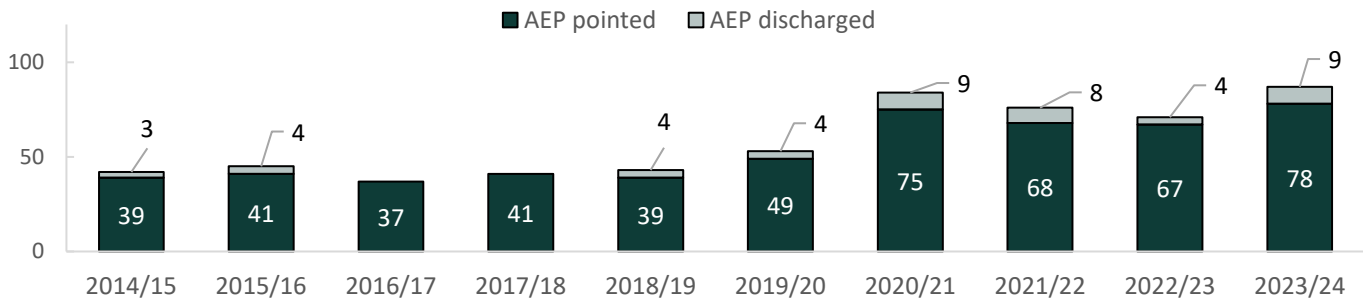


Figure 2: Police baton, 2014/15 - 2023/24

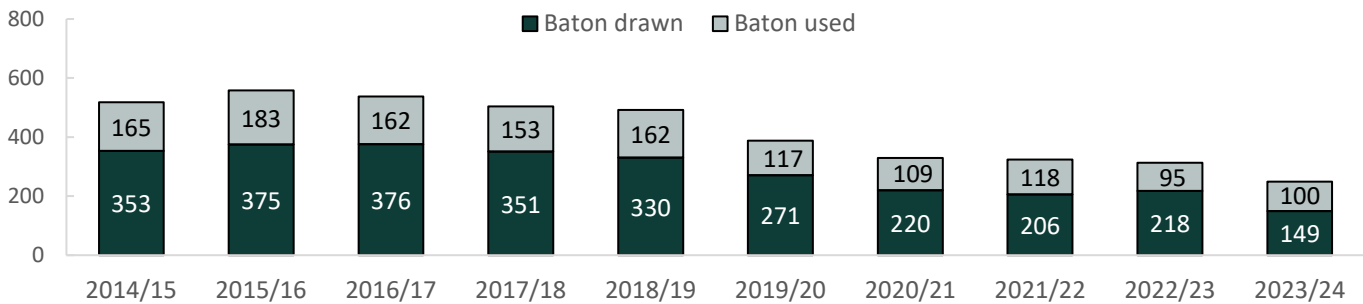


Figure 3: Irritant spray, 2014/15 - 2023/24

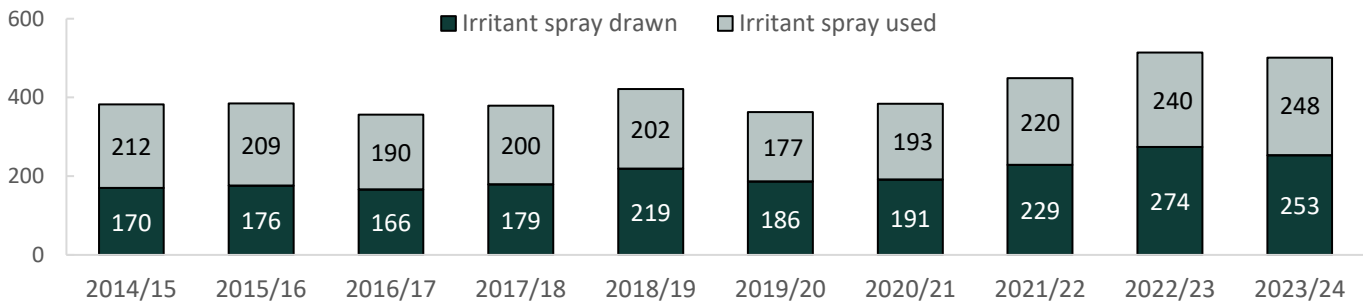


Figure 4: Firearms, 2014/15 - 2023/24

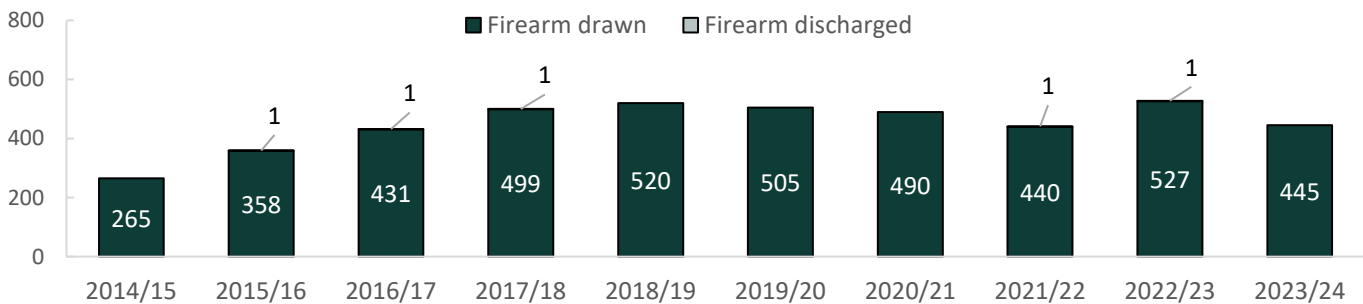


Figure 5: Police dogs, 2014/15 - 2023/24

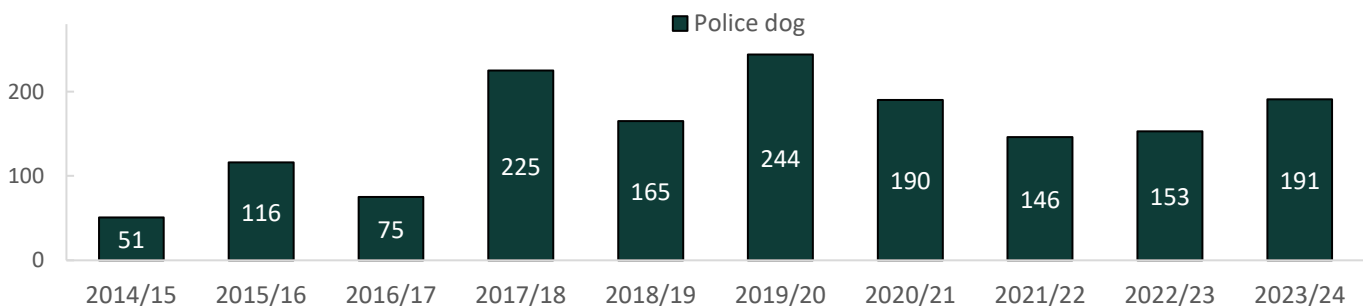


Figure 6: Conductive Energy Device (CED), 2014/15 - 2023/24

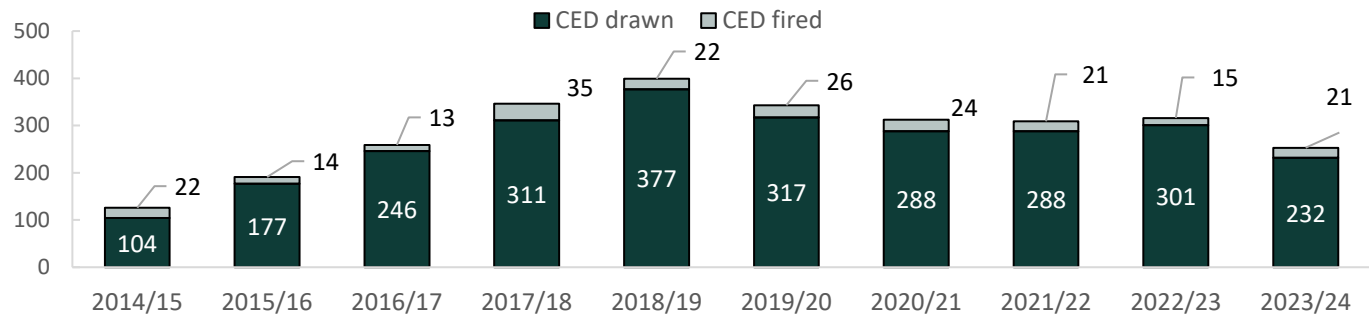


Figure 7: Water cannon used, 2014/15 - 2023/24



Figure 8: Handcuffs / Limb restraints, 2017/18 - 2023/24

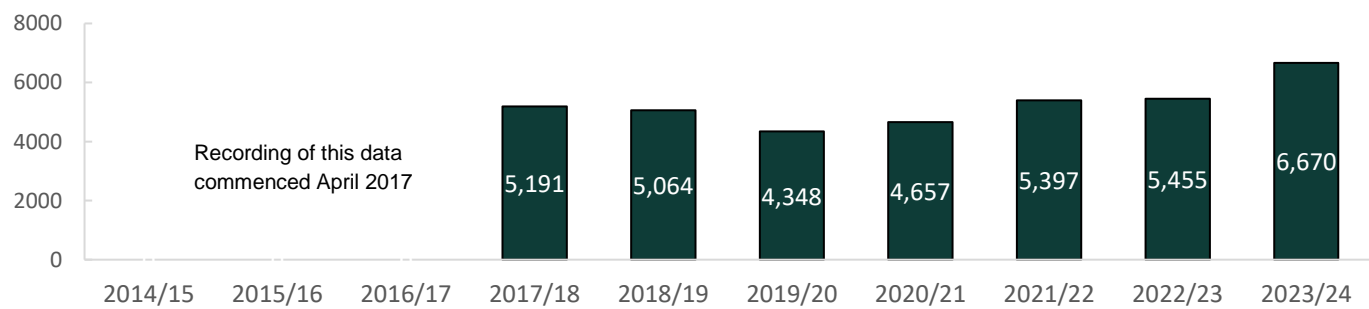


Figure 9: Unarmed physical tactics, 2017/18 - 2023/24

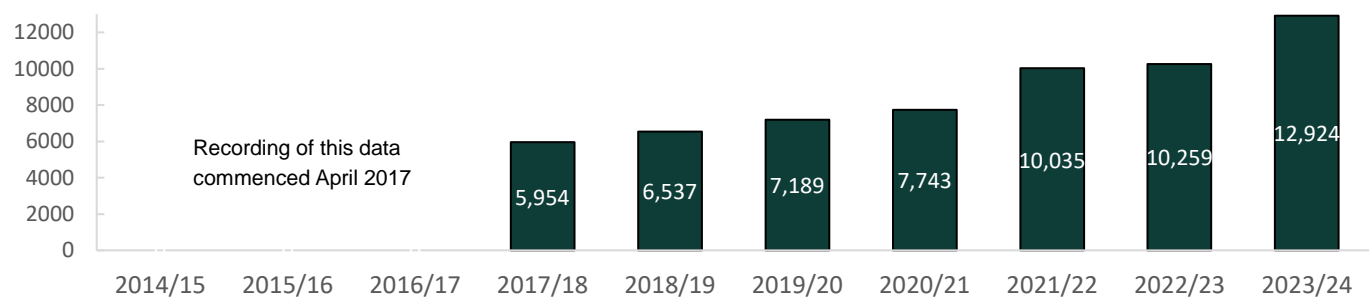


Figure 10: Spit and bite guards, 2020/21 - 2023/24 ⁽¹⁾



(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.

4. District

Table 2: Use of force by Policing District, 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ⁽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	25	0	3	3	8	5	1	6	6	15	6	78
AEP discharged	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	9
Baton drawn only	54	6	9	11	7	18	10	22	3	7	2	149
Baton drawn & used	40	4	2	11	6	7	4	11	1	5	9	100
Irritant spray drawn only	74	11	21	26	23	21	19	19	10	20	9	253
Irritant spray used	83	8	7	13	17	26	19	32	12	18	13	248
Firearm drawn or pointed	205	17	32	30	29	18	7	45	21	27	14	445
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	66	2	5	16	8	2	3	59	16	6	8	191
CED drawn	124	4	26	11	12	9	1	12	15	9	9	232
CED fired	6	2	2	0	1	2	0	1	5	2	0	21
Handcuffs / limb restraints	1,910	338	313	557	691	427	357	923	345	380	429	6,670
Unarmed physical tactics	4,409	630	590	929	1,321	908	684	1,475	441	688	849	12,924
Spit and bite guard	74	12	3	13	17	7	8	13	12	7	22	188
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	7,071	1,034	1,014	1,623	2,140	1,450	1,113	2,618	889	1,186	1,370	21,508
% of Use of Force	33%	5%	5%	8%	10%	7%	5%	12%	4%	6%	6%	100%
Uses per 1,000 population ⁽²⁾	20	7	6	9	10	10	10	17	6	9	9	11

(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-2022 [population estimates](#).

5. Reason for use of force

Figure 11: Reason for use of force, 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(1, 2)

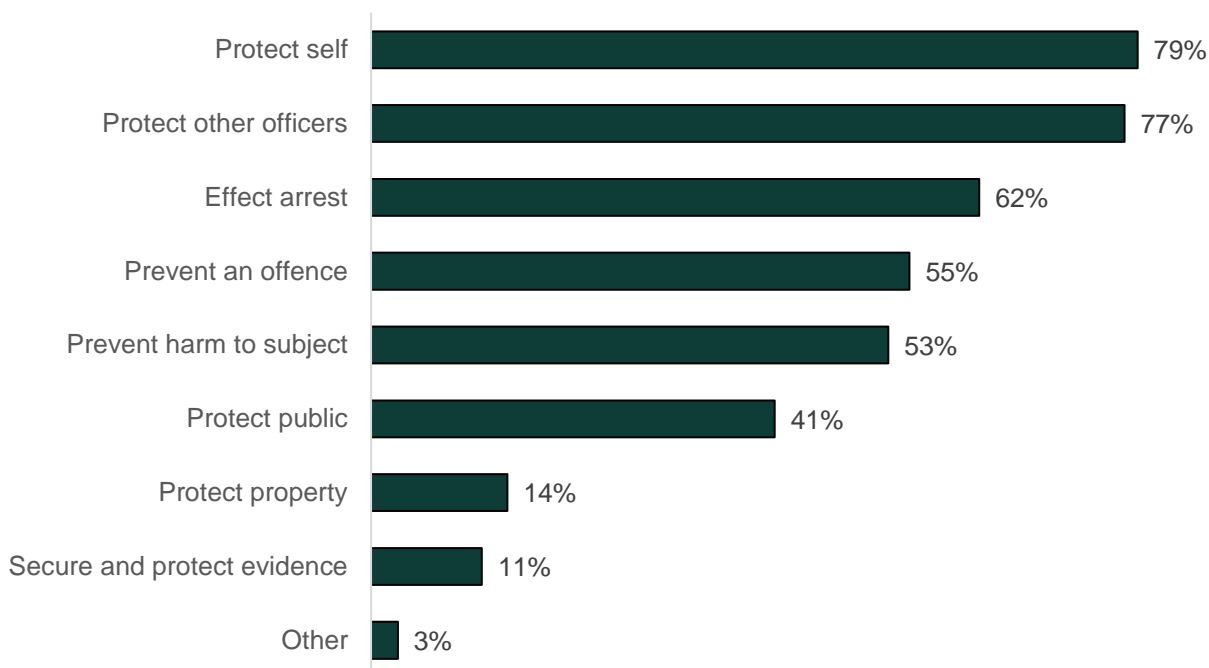


Table 3: Use of force by reason, 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(1, 2, 3)

Use of Force	Protect self	Protect other officer	Effect arrest	Prevent an offence	Prevent harm to subject	Protect public	Protect property	Secure or protect evidence	Other
AEP	86%	86%	52%	59%	89%	67%	20%	24%	2%
Baton	82%	68%	57%	57%	27%	51%	12%	14%	3%
Irritant spray	91%	84%	65%	60%	39%	47%	13%	8%	2%
Firearm	92%	95%	65%	73%	46%	80%	14%	33%	3%
Police dog	73%	75%	76%	65%	35%	70%	15%	30%	1%
CED	95%	96%	57%	73%	84%	63%	16%	21%	1%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	76%	75%	71%	52%	52%	42%	14%	12%	2%
Unarmed physical tactics	79%	77%	59%	56%	55%	39%	14%	10%	3%
Spit and bite guard	91%	93%	27%	57%	18%	34%	18%	2%	1%
Total	79%	77%	62%	55%	53%	41%	14%	11%	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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(1, 2)

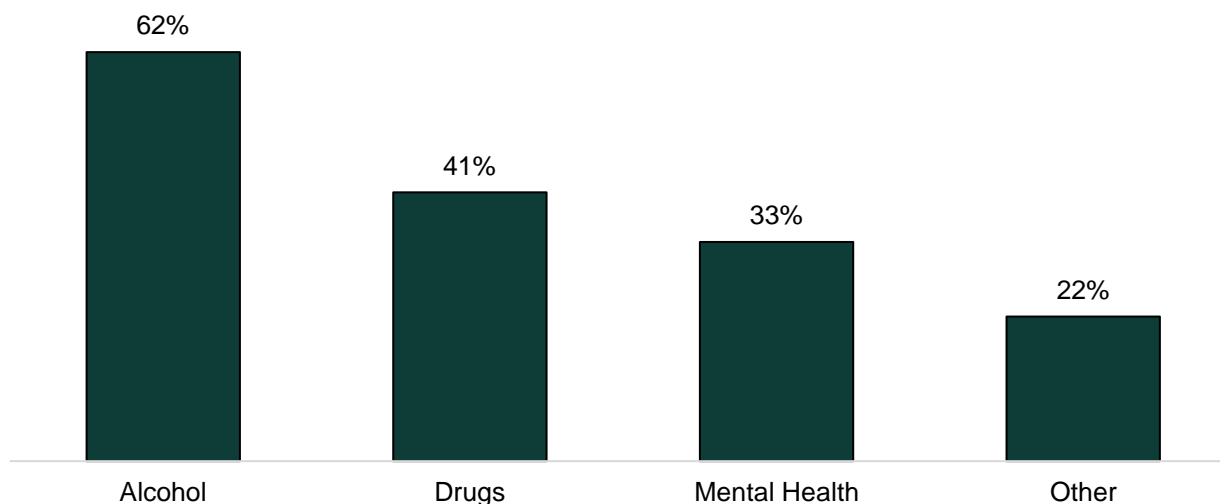


Table 4: Use of force by impact factor, 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(1, 2)

Use of Force	Alcohol	Drugs	Mental health	Other
AEP	60%	55%	74%	22%
Baton	68%	45%	23%	24%
Irritant spray	64%	43%	34%	20%
Firearm	40%	37%	50%	39%
Police dog	53%	31%	28%	30%
CED	45%	43%	71%	28%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	60%	36%	28%	23%
Unarmed physical tactics	64%	43%	34%	20%
Spit and bite guard	68%	58%	30%	11%
Water cannon deployed	-	-	-	-
Total	62%	41%	33%	22%

(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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(1, 2)

Use of Force	Roadway	Dwelling	Custody suite/dock	Hospital	Garden / driveway	Other ⁽³⁾	Car park	Motor vehicle	Public park	Total
AEP pointed	10	37	0	0	17	6	0	0	8	78
AEP discharged	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
Baton drawn only	87	34	0	2	6	10	7	0	3	149
Baton drawn & used	58	17	2	1	9	6	3	4	0	100
Irritant spray drawn only	107	88	0	7	29	10	9	1	2	253
Irritant spray used	113	71	1	1	20	17	18	5	2	248
Firearm drawn or pointed	157	192	1	1	61	21	4	2	6	445
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	99	23	0	0	55	7	5	0	2	191
CED drawn	18	167	0	4	31	7	0	0	5	232
CED fired	0	14	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	21
Handcuffs / limb restraints	2,887	1,740	283	446	401	392	276	157	88	6,670
Unarmed physical tactics	5,210	2,396	1,788	962	679	697	445	581	166	12,924
Spit and bite guard	47	19	33	22	5	8	11	42	1	188
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	8,793	4,806	2,108	1,446	1,319	1,182	778	792	284	21,508
% of Use of Force	41%	22%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ⁽¹⁾

Use of Force	Crime	Domestic	Other	Custody	Public order	Firearms	Traffic	Terrorism	Total
AEP pointed	7	0	1	0	0	70	0	0	78
AEP discharged	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	9
Baton drawn only	76	16	16	2	28	3	8	0	149
Baton drawn & used	53	18	1	2	14	1	11	0	100
Irritant spray drawn only	144	46	35	1	20	3	4	0	253
Irritant spray used	125	46	19	1	38	7	11	1	248
Firearm drawn or pointed	88	22	20	0	3	302	1	9	445
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	92	18	9	0	25	45	1	1	191
CED drawn	30	13	6	0	0	183	0	0	232
CED fired	0	0	3	0	0	18	0	0	21
Handcuffs / limb restraints	3,709	1,012	623	318	469	251	266	22	6,670
Unarmed physical tactics	6,387	1,577	1,210	1,620	1,288	423	380	39	12,924
Spit and bite guard	122	24	5	15	17	2	3	0	188
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	10,833	2,794	1,948	1,959	1,902	1,315	685	72	21,508
% of Use of Force	50%	13%	9%	9%	9%	6%	3%	<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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ⁽¹⁾

Use of Force	Local/Neighbourhood Policing	Armed Response Vehicle	Custody	Tactical Support Group	Other	Dog Handler	Specialist Firearms Officer	Traffic	Total
AEP pointed	0	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	78
AEP discharged	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Baton drawn only	112	4	0	19	8	2	0	4	149
Baton drawn & used	87	3	0	4	3	1	0	2	100
Irritant spray drawn only	243	2	0	2	6	0	0	0	253
Irritant spray used	230	6	0	3	6	0	0	3	248
Firearm drawn or pointed	84	327	0	5	4	0	25	0	445
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	0	0	0	0	0	187	4	0	191
CED drawn	0	226	0	0	0	0	6	0	232
CED fired	0	20	0	0	0	0	1	0	21
Handcuffs / limb restraints	5,752	298	149	166	194	22	22	67	6,670
Unarmed physical tactics	10,234	536	1,304	455	227	50	35	83	12,924
Spit and bite guard	176	1	3	4	4	0	0	0	188
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	16,918	1,510	1,456	658	452	262	93	159	21,508
% of Use of Force	79%	7%	7%	3%	2%	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

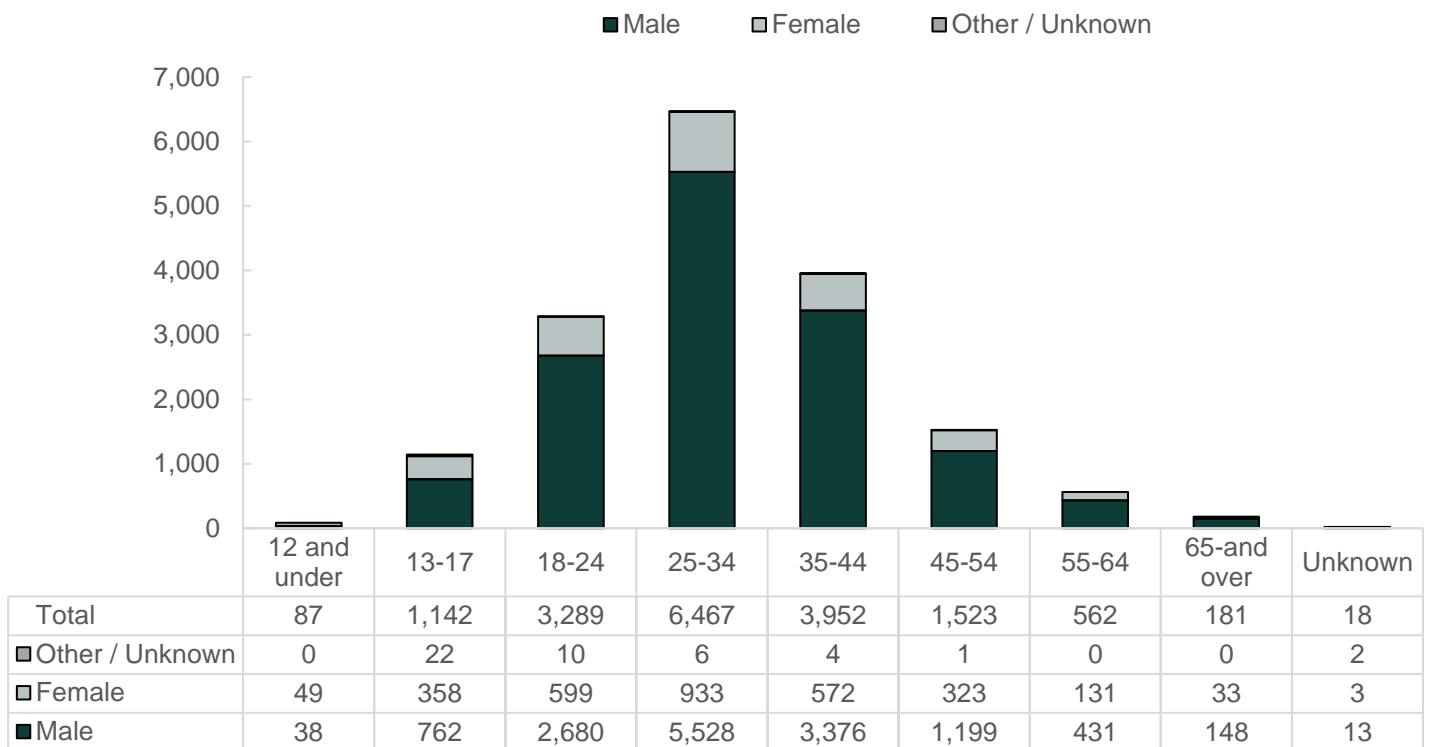
The figures in this section do not represent the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.

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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(1, 2, 3)

Use of Force	Male	Female	Other / Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	95%	5%	0%	100%	86
AEP discharged	100%	0%	0%	100%	9
Baton drawn only	95%	5%	0%	100%	152
Baton drawn & used	98%	2%	0%	100%	101
Irritant spray drawn only	94%	6%	0%	100%	268
Irritant spray used	95%	5%	0%	100%	260
Firearm drawn or pointed	93%	7%	0%	100%	515
Firearm discharged	.	.	.	.	0
Police dog	94%	3%	2%	100%	205
CED drawn	93%	7%	0%	100%	258
CED fired	95%	5%	0%	100%	21
Handcuffs / limb restraints	83%	17%	<1%	100%	6,330
Unarmed physical tactic	79%	20%	<1%	100%	8,828
Spit and bite guard	80%	20%	0%	100%	188
Total	82%	17%	<1%	100%	17,221

- (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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(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%	2%	12%	47%	28%	10%	1%	0%	0%	100%	86
AEP discharged	0%	0%	0%	11%	56%	33%	0%	0%	0%	100%	9
Baton drawn only	1%	7%	21%	39%	20%	8%	2%	1%	1%	100%	152
Baton drawn & used	0%	2%	15%	49%	27%	4%	3%	1%	0%	100%	101
Irritant spray drawn only	0%	3%	17%	42%	25%	9%	4%	1%	0%	100%	268
Irritant spray used	0%	5%	16%	48%	22%	5%	2%	1%	0%	100%	260
Firearm drawn or pointed	0%	3%	16%	36%	26%	13%	5%	1%	<1%	100%	515
Firearm discharged	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
Police dog	0%	2%	21%	40%	22%	7%	2%	0%	4%	100%	205
CED drawn	0%	1%	13%	36%	28%	14%	5%	3%	<1%	100%	258
CED fired	0%	0%	0%	43%	24%	5%	10%	19%	0%	100%	21
Handcuffs / limb restraints	<1%	6%	20%	38%	23%	9%	3%	1%	0%	100%	6,330
Unarmed physical tactics	1%	8%	19%	37%	23%	9%	3%	1%	<1%	100%	8,828
Spit and bite guard	1%	6%	27%	44%	18%	4%	2%	1%	0%	100%	188
Total	1%	7%	19%	38%	23%	9%	3%	1%	<1%	100%	17,221

(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 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 ^(1,2,3)

Use of Force	White	Irish Traveller	Other Ethnic Group	Black	Mixed	Asian	Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	97%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	100%	86
AEP discharged	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	9
Baton drawn only	89%	7%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	100%	152
Baton drawn & used	97%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	100%	101
Irritant spray drawn only	93%	4%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	100%	268
Irritant spray used	92%	5%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	100%	260
Firearm drawn or pointed	95%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	100%	515
Firearm discharged	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
Police dog	90%	5%	<1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	100%	205
CED drawn	97%	<1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	100%	258
CED fired	95%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	21
Handcuffs / limb restraints	93%	3%	1%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	100%	6,330
Unarmed physical tactics	94%	3%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	100%	8,828
Spit and bite guard	95%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	100%	188
Total	94%	3%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	100%	17,221

(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
- 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>