



# Use of Force by the Police in Northern Ireland

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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**Key Statistics**

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025:

- there were 19,028 uses of force reported by PSNI officers, a decrease of 12% on the number reported during the previous year (21,508).
- use of attenuating energy projectiles (AEPs), conductive energy devices (CEDs) and firearms increased compared to the previous year while use of batons, irritant spray, police dogs, handcuffs/limb restraints, unarmed physical tactics and spit and bite guards decreased.
- 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 (80% of the time) and protect other officers (78% of the time).
- Belfast District accounted for just over one-third of the use of force (35%), followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (13%).
- alcohol was the most common perceived impact factor when force was used (60% of the time).

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

- 83% were perceived to be male
- 36% were perceived to be between 25 and 34 years old
- 93% 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 2024 to 31 March 2025. The next report, covering the 12 month period October 2024 to September 2025, will be published in December 2025.

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, 99.5% of the use of force forms submitted for the period April 2024 to March 2025 had been validated and thereby included in the statistics in this report.

## 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 2024 and 31 March 2025 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 2024 and 31 March 2025 compared to the same period last year**

Use of Force	Apr 23 – Mar 24	Apr 24 – Mar 25	% change <sup>(1)</sup>
AEP pointed	78 <sup>(2)</sup>	100 <sup>(3)</sup>	28%
AEP discharged	9 <sup>(2)</sup>	10 <sup>(3)</sup>	11%
<b>AEP Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>26%</b>
Baton drawn only	149	130	-13%
Baton drawn & used	100	78	-22%
<b>Baton Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>-16%</b>
Irritant spray drawn only	253	196	-23%
Irritant spray used	248	262	6%
<b>Irritant spray Total</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>-9%</b>
Firearm drawn or pointed	445	485	9%
Firearm discharged	0	0	.
<b>Firearm Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Police dog<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>191</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-38%</b>
CED drawn <sup>(4)</sup>	232	282	22%
CED fired	21	19	-10%
<b>CED Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Handcuffs / limb restraints</b>	<b>6,670</b>	<b>5,753</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Unarmed physical tactics</b>	<b>12,924</b>	<b>11,420</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Spit and bite guard</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Water cannon deployed	0	0	-
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	-
<b>Water cannon Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,508</b>	<b>19,028</b>	<b>-12%</b>

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

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

(3) During April 2024 – March 2025 AEP was pointed on 99 occasions as a less lethal option and pointed on one occasion during public disorder; during the same period it was discharged on 6 occasions as a less lethal option and discharged on 4 occasions during public disorder.

(4) 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 2024 and 31 March 2025 compared to the same period last year**

Use of Force	Apr 23 – Mar 24	Apr 24 – Mar 25	% change <sup>(1)</sup>
Indirect Deployment	9	0	-100%
Interim Deployment	88	58	-34%
Direct Deployment	85	50	-41%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Command)	4	6	50%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Provoked)	2	4	100%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Accidental)	1	1	0%
Other	2	0	-100%
<b>Police dog Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-38%</b>
CED drawn	51	51	0%
CED aimed	33	54	64%
CED red dot	146	174	19%
CED arced	2	3	50%
CED fired	21	19	-10%
CED drive stun	0	0	.
CED angled drive stun	0	0	.
<b>CED Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>19%</b>

(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 8 occasions between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, 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 172 occasions between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 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), 2015/16 - 2024/25

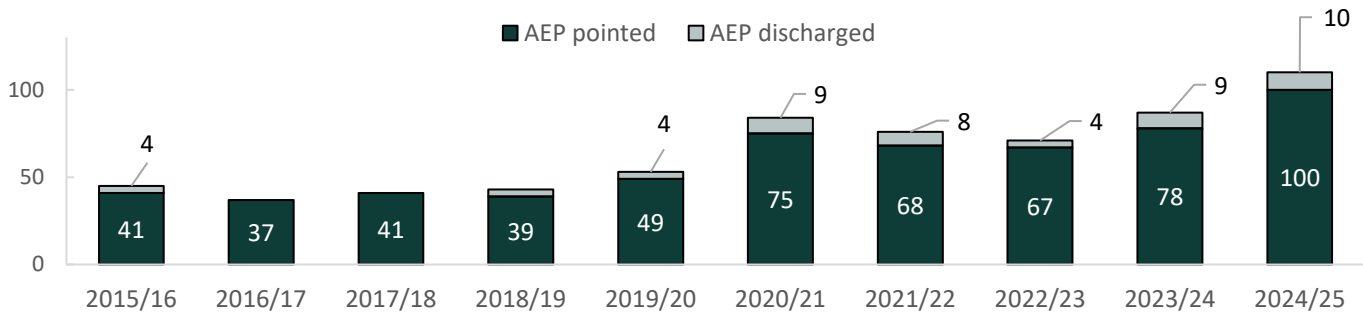


Figure 2: Police baton, 2015/16 - 2024/25

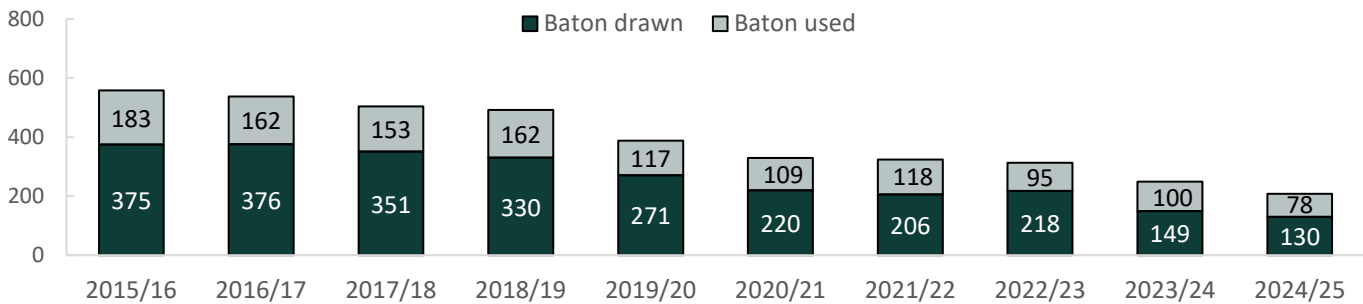


Figure 3: Irritant spray, 2015/16 - 2024/25

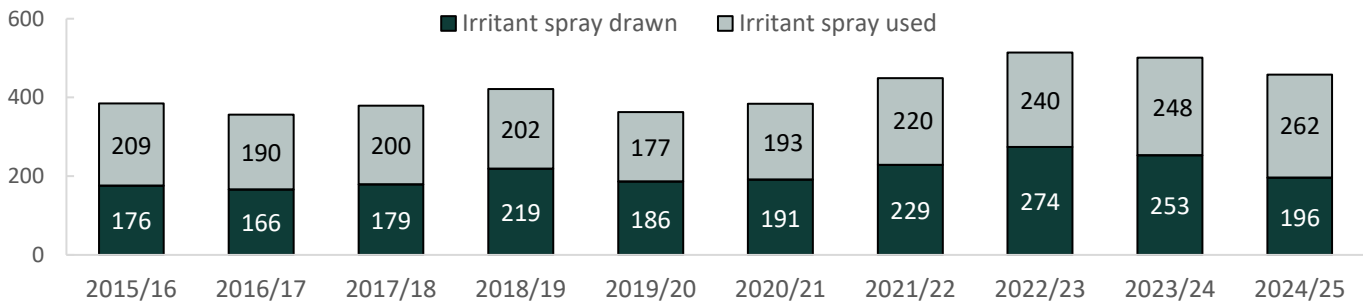


Figure 4: Firearms, 2015/16 - 2024/25

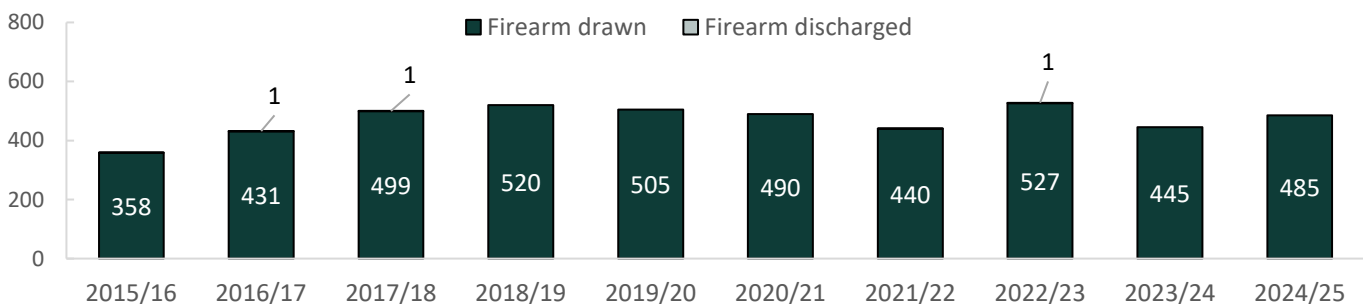
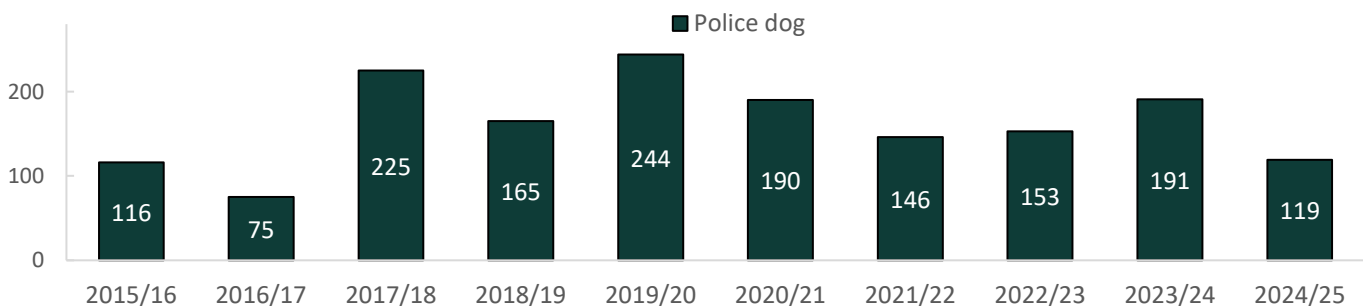
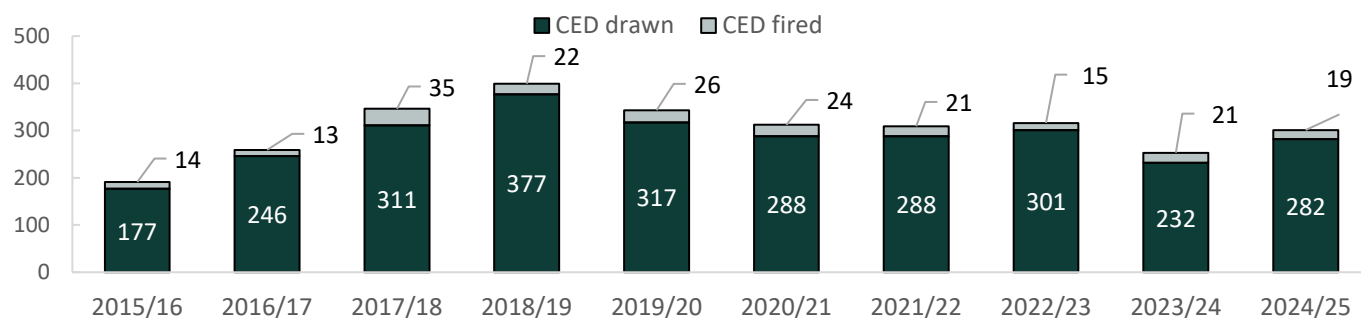


Figure 5: Police dogs, 2015/16 - 2024/25



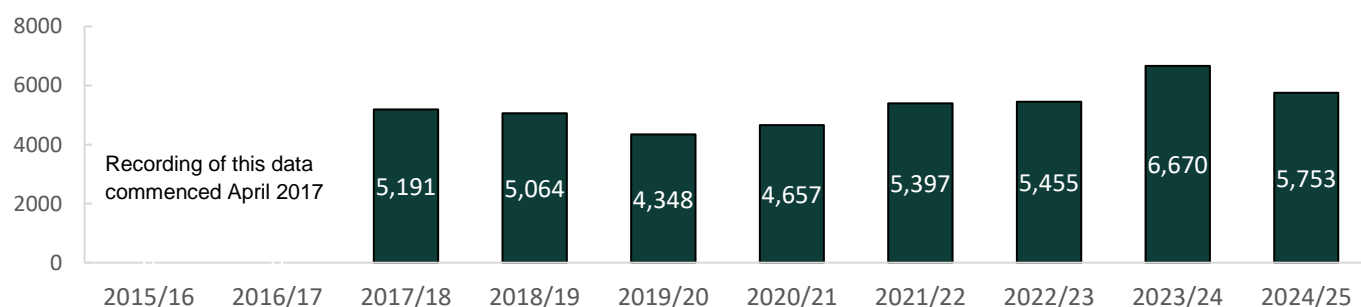
**Figure 6: Conductive Energy Device (CED), 2015/16 - 2024/25**



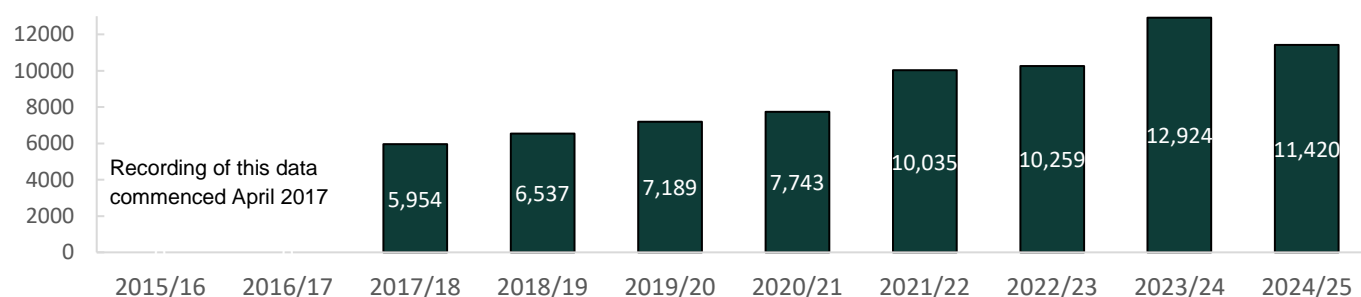
**Figure 7: Water cannon used, 2015/16 - 2024/25**



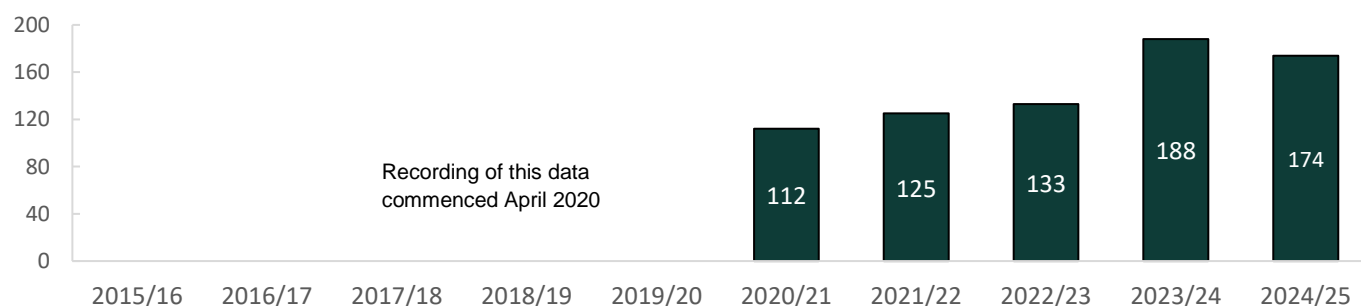
**Figure 8: Handcuffs / Limb restraints, 2017/18 - 2024/25**



**Figure 9: Unarmed physical tactics, 2017/18 - 2024/25**



**Figure 10: Spit and bite guards, 2020/21 - 2024/25 <sup>(1)</sup>**



(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 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1)</sup>**

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	33	2	13	8	19	3	4	5	4	6	3	100
AEP discharged	4	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	10
Baton drawn only	60	5	0	12	11	12	5	10	2	4	9	130
Baton drawn & used	28	1	8	3	8	6	3	7	4	4	6	78
Irritant spray drawn only	50	4	8	17	26	11	17	28	6	16	13	196
Irritant spray used	66	12	15	30	26	26	19	23	8	19	18	262
Firearm drawn or pointed	215	20	32	35	58	27	10	25	20	24	19	485
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	45	6	2	10	7	2	0	31	8	3	5	119
CED drawn	137	8	19	19	26	11	9	16	8	16	13	282
CED fired	5	2	1	1	7	0	1	0	2	0	0	19
Handcuffs / limb restraints	1,766	256	197	511	789	398	318	626	213	310	369	5,753
Unarmed physical tactics	4,206	405	416	899	1,522	715	578	1,254	302	479	644	11,420
Spit and bite guard	69	4	2	14	30	4	0	24	9	9	9	174
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,684</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>19,028</b>
% of Use of Force	35%	4%	4%	8%	13%	6%	5%	11%	3%	5%	6%	100%
Uses per 1,000 population <sup>(2)</sup>	19	5	4	8	11	8	8	14	4	6	8	10

(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-2023 [population estimates](#).



## 5. Reason for use of force

Figure 11: Reason for use of force, 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1, 2)</sup>

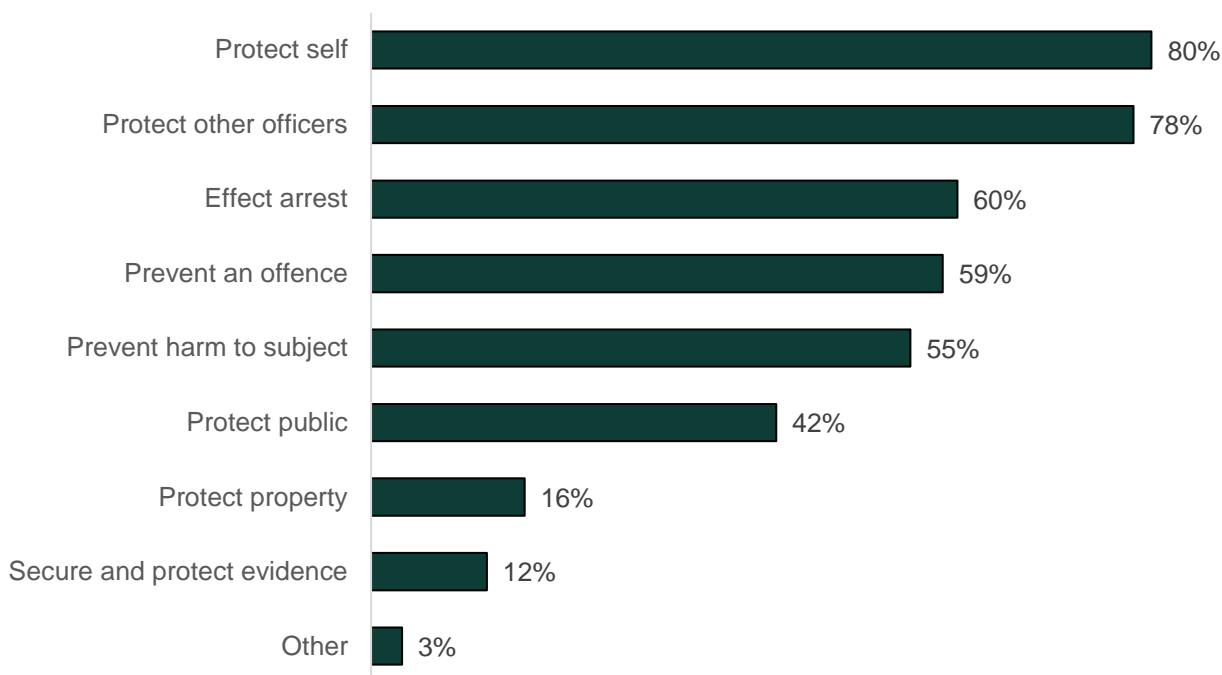


Table 3: Use of force by reason, 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1, 2, 3)</sup>

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%	85%	44%	69%	80%	75%	21%	19%	1%
Baton	75%	68%	63%	55%	24%	50%	17%	13%	4%
Irritant spray	89%	80%	67%	59%	37%	50%	16%	12%	1%
Firearm	94%	95%	55%	74%	51%	81%	16%	28%	2%
Police dog	86%	80%	78%	66%	29%	76%	16%	36%	3%
CED	90%	93%	56%	72%	85%	65%	11%	24%	1%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	79%	76%	70%	55%	55%	42%	16%	13%	3%
Unarmed physical tactics	80%	78%	56%	60%	57%	38%	16%	10%	4%
Spit and bite guard	88%	96%	25%	60%	16%	35%	15%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3%</b>

(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 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1, 2)</sup>

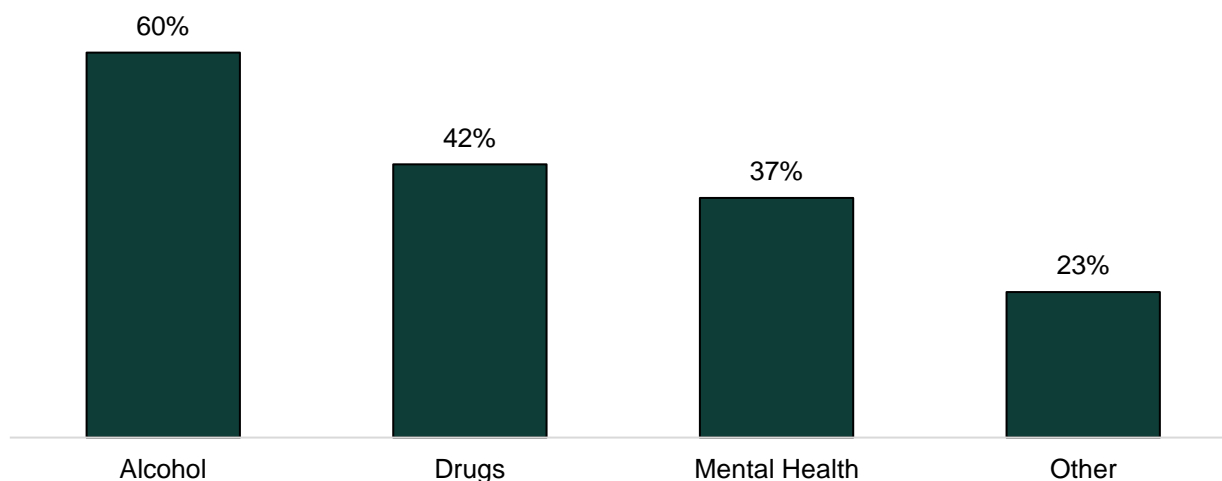


Table 4: Use of force by impact factor, 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1, 2)</sup>

Use of Force	Alcohol	Drugs	Mental health	Other
AEP	33%	30%	64%	36%
Baton	54%	38%	25%	30%
Irritant spray	63%	42%	32%	18%
Firearm	42%	40%	52%	37%
Police dog	55%	34%	39%	28%
CED	39%	36%	64%	27%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	58%	39%	32%	22%
Unarmed physical tactics	62%	45%	38%	22%
Spit and bite guard	75%	56%	37%	14%
Water cannon deployed	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>23%</b>

(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 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1, 2)</sup>

Use of Force	Roadway	Dwelling	Custody suite/dock	Hospital	Garden / driveway	Other <sup>(3)</sup>	Car park	Motor vehicle	Public park	Total
AEP pointed	19	44	0	0	33	2	0	0	2	100
AEP discharged	4	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
Baton drawn only	88	10	3	1	7	10	8	2	1	130
Baton drawn & used	44	10	2	1	10	6	2	3	0	78
Irritant spray drawn only	82	64	0	1	27	14	5	2	1	196
Irritant spray used	125	73	0	7	20	16	9	6	6	262
Firearm drawn or pointed	168	247	0	2	48	10	8	1	1	485
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	57	14	0	0	34	8	6	0	0	119
CED drawn	37	188	0	2	48	6	0	0	1	282
CED fired	1	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	19
Handcuffs / limb restraints	2,450	1,502	284	424	333	358	254	103	45	5,753
Unarmed physical tactics	4,443	2,139	1,895	839	542	670	439	363	90	11,420
Spit and bite guard	65	20	18	30	4	8	6	23	0	174
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>19,028</b>
<b>% of Use of Force</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

(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 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1)</sup>

Use of Force	Crime	Domestic	Other	Custody	Public order	Firearms	Traffic	Terrorism	Total
AEP pointed	13	2	4	0	1	80	0	0	100
AEP discharged	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	0	10
Baton drawn only	58	9	10	3	35	1	13	1	130
Baton drawn & used	43	12	6	1	13	0	3	0	78
Irritant spray drawn only	100	41	22	2	20	2	9	0	196
Irritant spray used	141	41	30	1	32	12	5	0	262
Firearm drawn or pointed	92	28	23	0	0	328	5	9	485
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	47	10	3	0	15	41	3	0	119
CED drawn	28	13	18	0	1	222	0	0	282
CED fired	2	1	0	0	0	16	0	0	19
Handcuffs / limb restraints	3,131	893	557	246	382	285	249	10	5,753
Unarmed physical tactics	5,388	1,376	1,132	1,695	1,098	373	335	23	11,420
Spit and bite guard	124	22	5	7	13	3	0	0	174
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,167</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19,028</b>
% of Use of Force	48%	13%	10%	10%	8%	7%	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 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1)</sup>

Use of Force	Local/Neighbourhood Policing	Armed Response Vehicle	Custody	Tactical Support Group	Other	Dog Handler	Specialist Firearms Officer	Traffic	Total
AEP pointed	1	98	0	1	0	0	0	0	100
AEP discharged	0	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	10
Baton drawn only	94	2	2	23	4	2	0	3	130
Baton drawn & used	63	0	1	10	3	1	0	0	78
Irritant spray drawn only	184	0	0	6	2	0	0	4	196
Irritant spray used	247	6	0	3	5	1	0	0	262
Firearm drawn or pointed	85	364	0	3	2	0	29	2	485
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police dog	0	0	0	0	0	114	5	0	119
CED drawn	0	278	0	0	0	0	4	0	282
CED fired	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
Handcuffs / limb restraints	4,876	355	113	138	151	18	34	68	5,753
Unarmed physical tactics	8,613	529	1,391	474	210	45	71	87	11,420
Spit and bite guard	164	1	1	5	2	0	0	1	174
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,327</b>	<b>1,658</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>19,028</b>
% of Use of Force	75%	9%	8%	4%	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

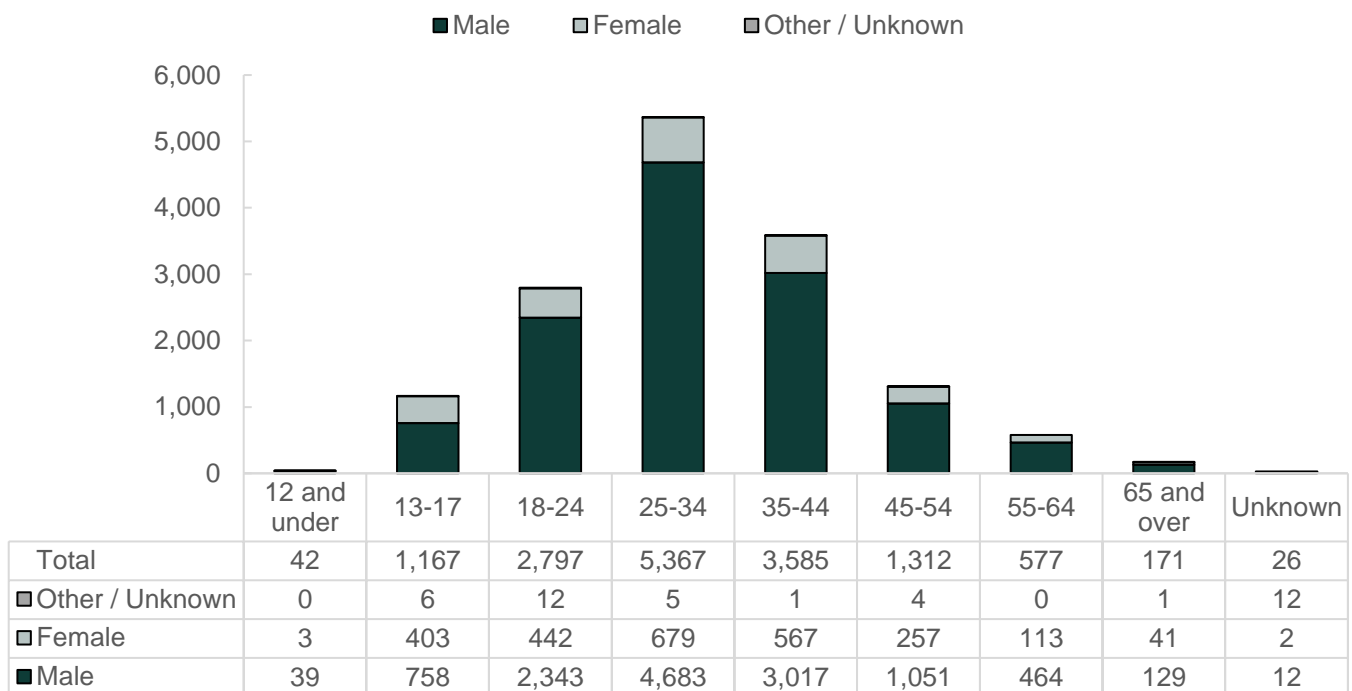
The figures in this section do not represent the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.

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 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1,2)</sup>**



(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 2024 – 31 March 2025** <sup>(1, 2, 3)</sup>

Use of Force	Male	Female	Other / Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	94%	6%	0%	100%	110
AEP discharged	90%	10%	0%	100%	10
Baton drawn only	92%	5%	4%	100%	132
Baton drawn & used	95%	5%	0%	100%	81
Irritant spray drawn only	96%	4%	<1%	100%	202
Irritant spray used	96%	4%	<1%	100%	273
Firearm drawn or pointed	90%	9%	1%	100%	557
Firearm discharged	.	.	.	-	0
Police dog	90%	7%	2%	100%	126
CED drawn	89%	11%	0%	100%	311
CED fired	100%	0%	0%	100%	19
Handcuffs / limb restraints	83%	17%	<1%	100%	5,417
Unarmed physical tactic	81%	19%	<1%	100%	7,632
Spit and bite guard	85%	15%	0%	100%	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,044</b>

- (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 2024 – 31 March 2025** <sup>(1, 2, 3)</sup>

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%	0%	12%	40%	21%	15%	8%	4%	1%	100%	110
AEP discharged	0%	0%	50%	30%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	10
Baton drawn only	1%	9%	30%	31%	17%	4%	4%	1%	4%	100%	132
Baton drawn & used	0%	5%	23%	47%	15%	5%	5%	0%	0%	100%	81
Irritant spray drawn only	0%	4%	13%	41%	27%	9%	3%	<1%	1%	100%	202
Irritant spray used	0%	2%	19%	40%	29%	7%	3%	<1%	0%	100%	273
Firearm drawn or pointed	0%	3%	18%	37%	21%	13%	6%	2%	<1%	100%	557
Firearm discharged	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
Police dog	0%	2%	21%	41%	18%	10%	5%	2%	2%	100%	126
CED drawn	0%	1%	12%	39%	24%	14%	9%	1%	0%	100%	311
CED fired	0%	0%	11%	53%	26%	5%	5%	0%	0%	100%	19
Handcuffs / limb restraints	<1%	7%	19%	35%	25%	9%	4%	1%	0%	100%	5,417
Unarmed physical tactics	<1%	9%	18%	35%	23%	8%	4%	1%	<1%	100%	7,632
Spit and bite guard	0%	3%	21%	49%	20%	5%	1%	1%	0%	100%	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,044</b>

(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 2024 – 31 March 2025 <sup>(1,2,3)</sup>**

Use of Force	White	Irish Traveller	Other Ethnic Group	Black	Mixed	Asian	Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	81%	5%	0%	8%	3%	3%	0%	100%	110
AEP discharged	70%	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	10%	100%	10
Baton drawn only	91%	2%	2%	2%	1%	0%	2%	100%	132
Baton drawn & used	93%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	100%	81
Irritant spray drawn only	91%	6%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%	1%	100%	202
Irritant spray used	95%	3%	<1%	1%	0%	0%	<1%	100%	273
Firearm drawn or pointed	87%	3%	1%	4%	1%	1%	2%	100%	557
Firearm discharged	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
Police dog	94%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	100%	126
CED drawn	87%	3%	1%	6%	1%	2%	<1%	100%	311
CED fired	89%	5%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	100%	19
Handcuffs / limb restraints	93%	3%	1%	2%	<1%	1%	0%	100%	5,417
Unarmed physical tactics	94%	2%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	100%	7,632
Spit and bite guard	98%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,044</b>

(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>