



Use of Force by the Police in Northern Ireland

1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

Date of Publication:

12th December 2025


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 2024 and 30 September 2025:

- there were 21,553 uses of force reported by PSNI officers, an increase of 18% on the number reported during the previous year (18,245).
- the use of all types of force increased compared to the previous year except the use of police dogs, which decreased.
- the most common type of force used was unarmed physical tactics, accounting for 58% 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 one-third of the use of force (33%), followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (13%) and Derry City and Strabane (12%).
- alcohol was the most common perceived impact factor when force was used (59% of the time).

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

- 82% were perceived to be male
- 35% 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.*

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 2024 to 30 September 2025. The next report, covering the 12 month period April 2025 to March 2026, will be published in June 2026.

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, 99.1% of the use of force forms submitted for the period April 2025 to September 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 October 2024 and 30 September 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 October 2024 and 30 September 2025 compared to the same period last year

Use of Force	Oct 23 – Sep 24	Oct 24 – Sep 25	% change ⁽¹⁾
AEP pointed	80 ⁽²⁾	106 ⁽³⁾	33%
AEP discharged	15 ⁽²⁾	15 ⁽³⁾	0%
AEP Total	95	121	27%
Baton drawn only	133	163	23%
Baton drawn & used	79	121	53%
Baton Total	212	284	34%
Irritant spray drawn only	220	214	-3%
Irritant spray used	236	278	18%
Irritant spray Total	456	492	8%
Firearm drawn or pointed	411	565	37%
Firearm discharged	0	1	-
Firearm Total	411	566	38%
Police dog⁽⁴⁾	171	89	-48%
CED drawn ⁽⁴⁾	220	299	36%
CED fired	16	22	38%
CED Total	236	321	36%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	5,472	7,006	28%
Unarmed physical tactics	11,010	12,479	13%
Spit and bite guard	182	192	5%
Water cannon deployed	0	0	-
Water cannon deployed and used	0	3	-
Water cannon Total	0	3	-
Total	18,245	21,553	18%

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

(2) During October 2023 – September 2024 AEP was pointed on 79 occasions as a less lethal option and pointed on one occasion during public disorder; during the same period it was discharged on 11 occasions as a less lethal option and discharged on 4 occasions during public disorder.

(3) During October 2024 – September 2025 AEP was only pointed as a less lethal option; during the same period it was discharged on 3 occasions as a less lethal option and discharged on 12 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 October 2024 and 30 September 2025 compared to the same period last year

Use of Force	Oct 23 – Sep 24	Oct 24 – Sep 25	% change ⁽¹⁾
Indirect Deployment	2	0	-100%
Interim Deployment	70	51	-27%
Direct Deployment	86	33	-62%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Command)	7	2	-71%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Provoked)	3	3	0%
Direct Deployment (Bite- Accidental)	1	0	-100%
Other	2	0	-100%
Police dog Total	171	89	-48%
CED drawn	43	45	5%
CED aimed	44	46	5%
CED red dot	133	202	52%
CED arced	0	6	-
CED fired	16	22	38%
CED drive stun	0	0	-
CED angled drive stun	0	0	-
CED Total	236	321	36%

(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 9 occasions between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 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 158 occasions between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 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

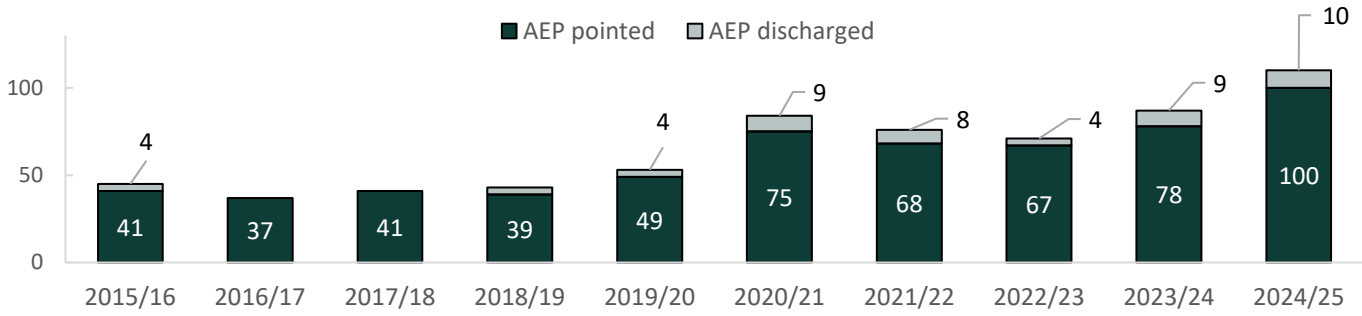


Figure 2: Police baton, 2015/16 - 2024/25

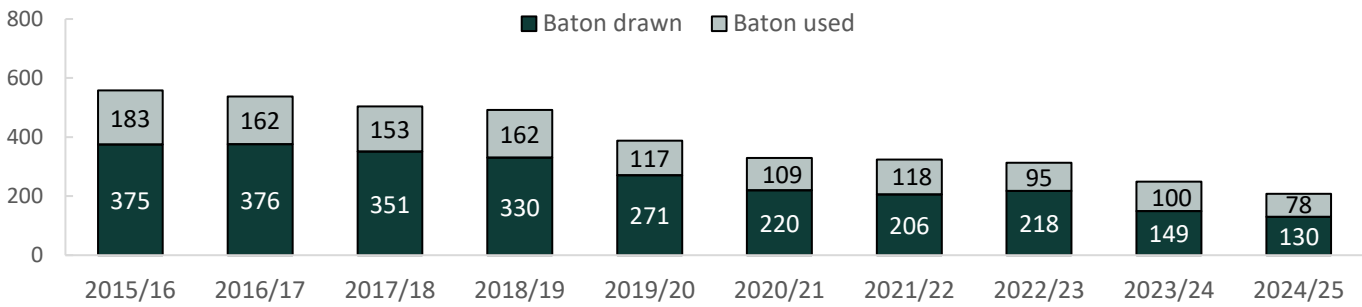


Figure 3: Irritant spray, 2015/16 - 2024/25

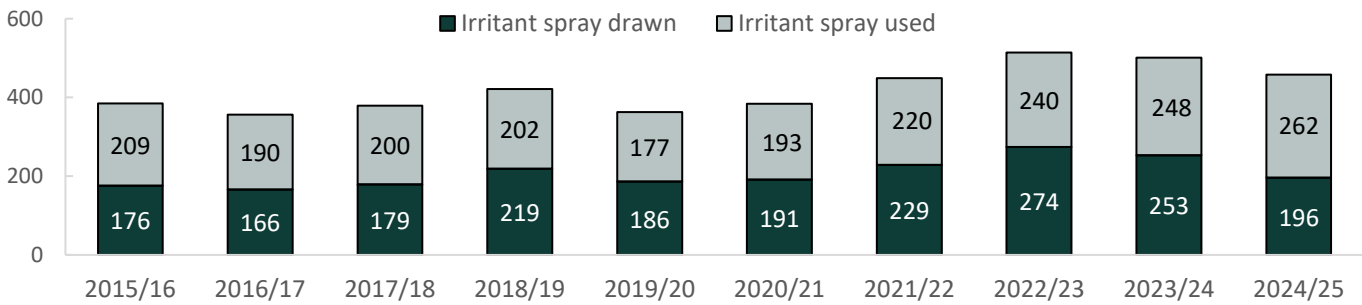


Figure 4: Firearms, 2015/16 - 2024/25

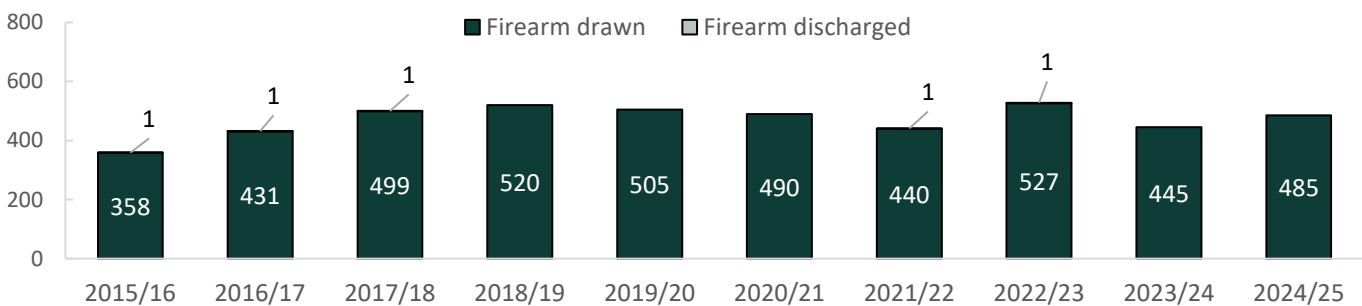


Figure 5: Police dogs, 2015/16 - 2024/25

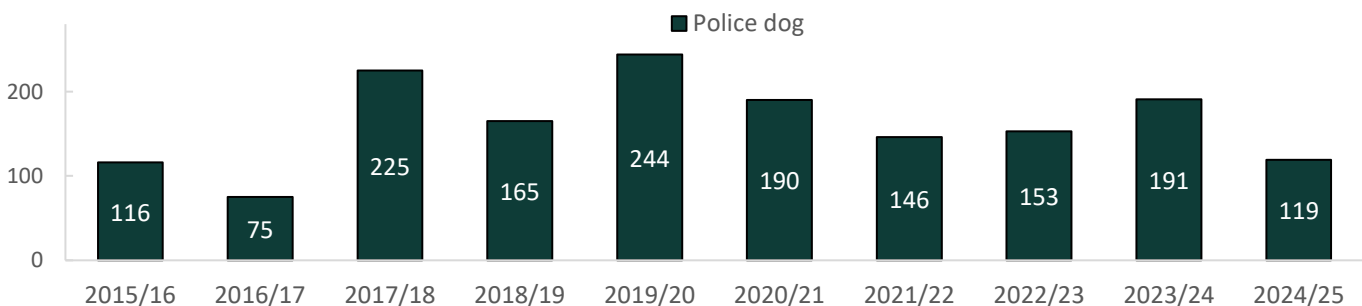


Figure 6: Conductive Energy Device (CED), 2015/16 - 2024/25

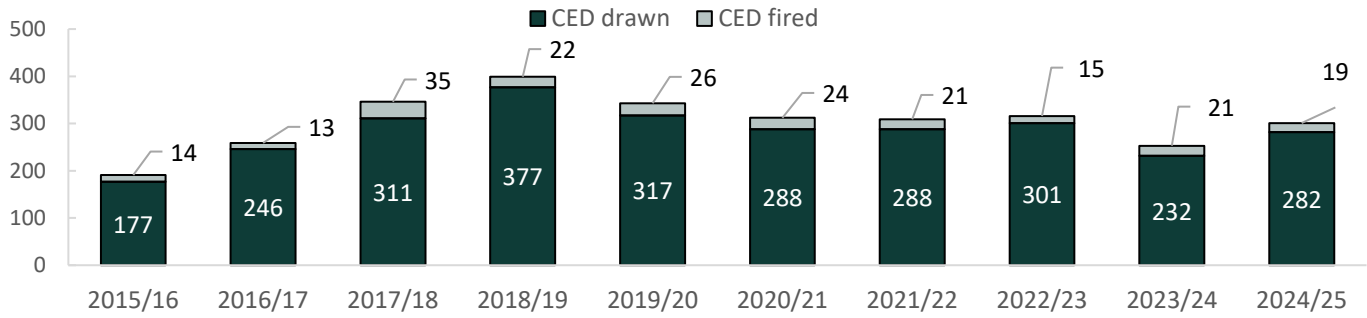


Figure 7: Water cannon used, 2015/16 - 2024/25



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

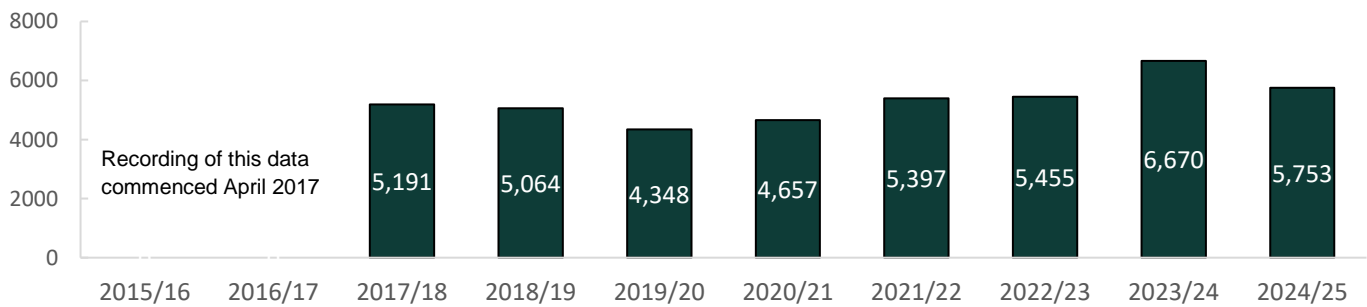


Figure 9: Unarmed physical tactics, 2017/18 - 2024/25

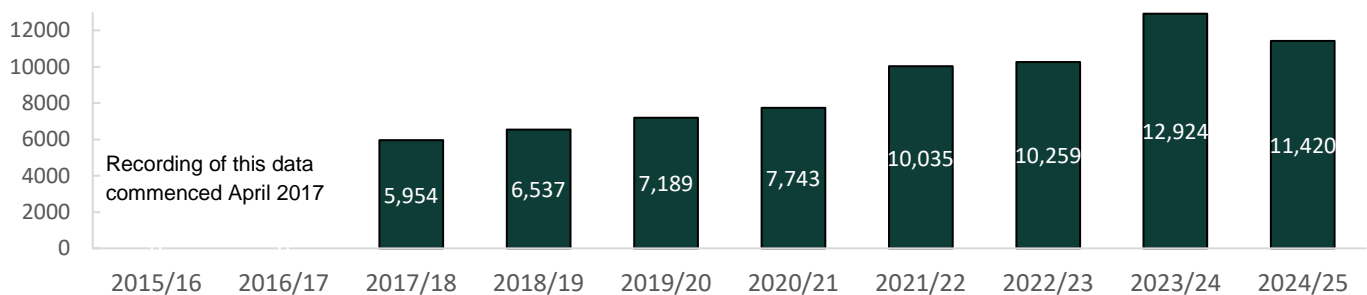
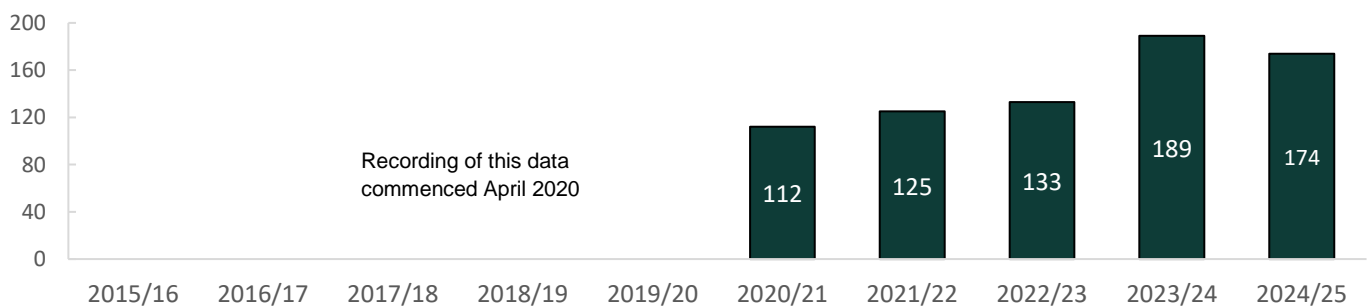


Figure 10: Spit and bite guards, 2020/21 - 2024/25 ⁽¹⁾



(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 October 2024 – 30 September 2025 ⁽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	40	0	14	7	18	4	5	4	3	7	4	106
AEP discharged	2	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	1	5	0	15
Baton drawn only	74	4	0	15	17	15	6	16	2	8	6	163
Baton drawn & used	46	1	5	5	24	7	8	7	6	6	6	121
Irritant spray drawn only	68	3	9	17	32	19	10	28	5	13	10	214
Irritant spray used	73	7	12	34	35	27	16	23	13	22	16	278
Firearm drawn or pointed	271	18	36	47	53	33	12	25	11	35	24	565
Firearm discharged	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Police dog	24	6	2	5	6	3	0	31	5	2	5	89
CED drawn	133	10	24	31	24	14	10	16	4	20	13	299
CED fired	9	3	1	0	6	0	1	0	0	2	0	22
Handcuffs / limb restraints	1,970	321	287	652	901	474	368	905	306	359	463	7,006
Unarmed physical tactics	4,372	482	522	1,029	1,584	771	596	1,507	385	527	704	12,479
Spit and bite guard	66	7	3	17	25	2	2	37	15	8	10	192
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Total	7,148	862	917	1,859	2,731	1,369	1,034	2,600	756	1,016	1,261	21,553
% of Use of Force	33%	4%	4%	9%	13%	6%	5%	12%	4%	5%	6%	100%
Uses per 1,000 population ⁽²⁾	20	6	6	10	12	9	9	17	5	7	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-2023 [population estimates](#).

5. Reason for use of force

Figure 11: Reason for use of force, 1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(1, 2)

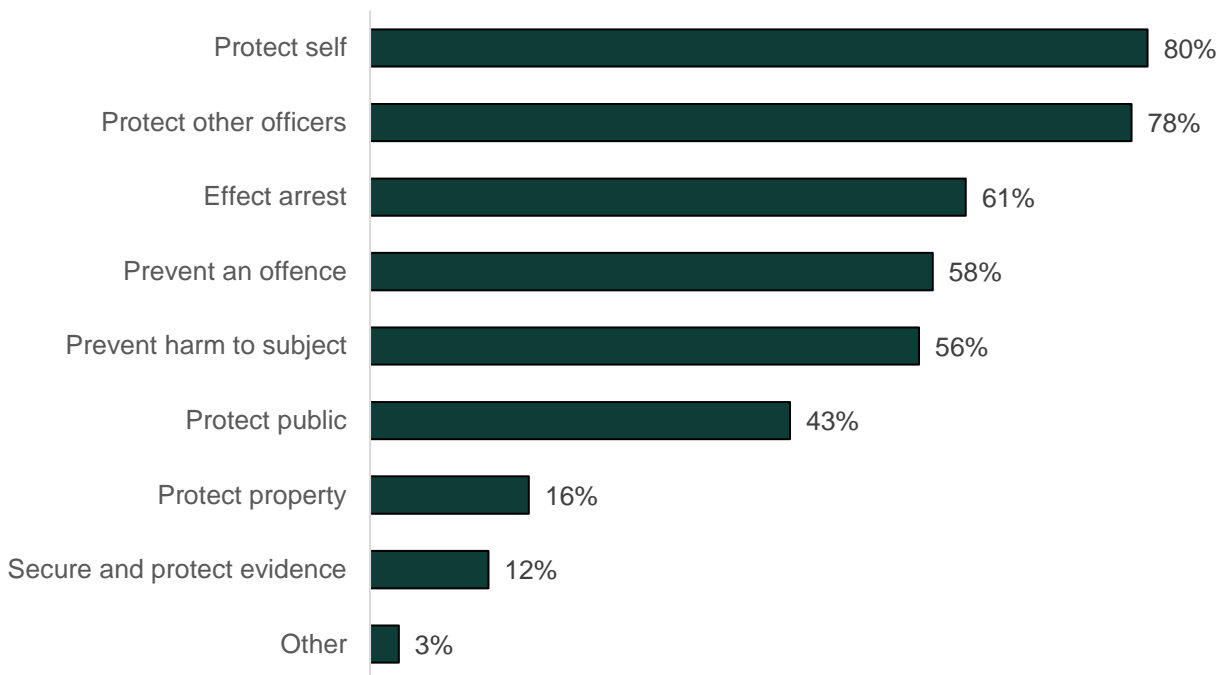


Table 3: Use of force by reason, 1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(1, 2, 3)

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	84%	91%	43%	63%	74%	72%	20%	19%	2%
Baton	82%	72%	54%	58%	24%	59%	23%	11%	5%
Irritant spray	90%	84%	67%	61%	38%	53%	17%	10%	3%
Firearm	94%	95%	57%	71%	49%	76%	17%	28%	3%
Police dog	83%	78%	79%	56%	24%	72%	21%	30%	3%
CED	91%	95%	57%	73%	83%	68%	11%	23%	2%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	78%	75%	69%	53%	56%	42%	16%	13%	2%
Unarmed physical tactics	80%	78%	58%	59%	58%	40%	16%	11%	3%
Spit and bite guard	90%	97%	19%	50%	15%	32%	15%	0%	0%
Total	80%	78%	61%	58%	56%	43%	16%	12%	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 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(1, 2)

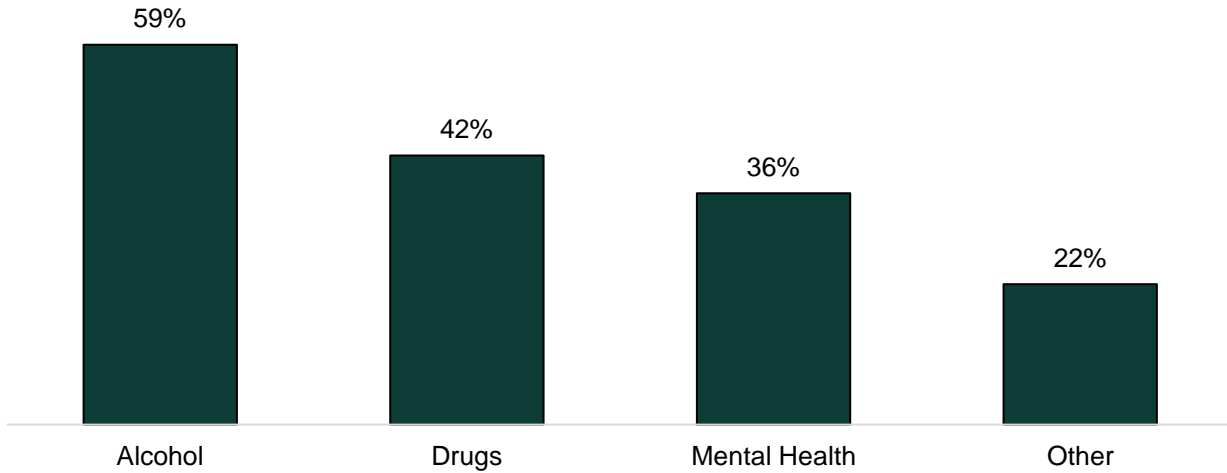


Table 4: Use of force by impact factor, 1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(1, 2)

Use of Force	Alcohol	Drugs	Mental health	Other
AEP	34%	29%	56%	40%
Baton	49%	34%	15%	40%
Irritant spray	59%	43%	33%	19%
Firearm	39%	39%	47%	39%
Police dog	44%	28%	42%	34%
CED	42%	39%	61%	31%
Handcuffs / limb restraints	56%	39%	32%	22%
Unarmed physical tactics	62%	44%	37%	20%
Spit and bite guard	76%	57%	37%	13%
Water cannon deployed	-	-	-	-
Total	59%	42%	36%	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 October 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(1, 2)

Use of Force	Roadway	Dwelling	Custody suite/dock	Hospital	Garden / driveway	Other ⁽³⁾	Car park	Motor vehicle	Public park	Total
AEP pointed	19	48	0	4	28	3	2	0	2	106
AEP discharged	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	15
Baton drawn only	118	18	0	2	8	10	5	1	1	163
Baton drawn & used	84	11	2	2	8	3	7	3	1	121
Irritant spray drawn only	93	76	2	4	16	9	7	5	2	214
Irritant spray used	123	83	0	9	25	21	7	5	5	278
Firearm drawn or pointed	179	295	0	5	49	14	17	5	1	565
Firearm discharged	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Police dog	48	9	0	0	27	4	0	0	1	89
CED drawn	34	208	0	4	42	8	1	0	2	299
CED fired	3	15	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	22
Handcuffs / limb restraints	2,933	1,930	303	488	391	418	339	139	65	7,006
Unarmed physical tactics	5,023	2,456	1,839	824	543	750	510	424	110	12,479
Spit and bite guard	76	25	19	33	4	7	9	19	0	192
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	8,749	5,175	2,165	1,375	1,142	1,247	904	603	193	21,553
% of Use of Force	41%	24%	10%	6%	5%	6%	4%	3%	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 2024 – 30 September 2025 ⁽¹⁾

Use of Force	Crime	Domestic	Other	Custody	Public order	Firearms	Traffic	Terrorism	Total
AEP pointed	14	5	1	0	0	86	0	0	106
AEP discharged	0	0	0	0	12	3	0	0	15
Baton drawn only	51	12	10	1	68	2	18	1	163
Baton drawn & used	50	12	8	3	43	0	5	0	121
Irritant spray drawn only	123	34	20	2	20	4	11	0	214
Irritant spray used	153	39	24	1	39	16	6	0	278
Firearm drawn or pointed	94	25	21	0	0	416	7	2	565
Firearm discharged	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Police dog	38	8	2	0	7	31	3	0	89
CED drawn	38	6	16	1	0	238	0	0	299
CED fired	2	1	0	0	0	19	0	0	22
Handcuffs / limb restraints	3,827	1,126	700	267	427	360	288	11	7,006
Unarmed physical tactics	5,954	1,533	1,243	1,626	1,234	492	388	9	12,479
Spit and bite guard	132	21	17	7	12	2	1	0	192
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Total	10,476	2,822	2,062	1,908	1,865	1,670	727	23	21,553
% of Use of Force	49%	13%	10%	9%	9%	8%	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 October 2024 – 30 September 2025 ⁽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	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	106
AEP discharged	0	3	0	11	1	0	0	0	15
Baton drawn only	109	4	0	35	13	0	0	2	163
Baton drawn & used	91	1	1	21	6	0	1	0	121
Irritant spray drawn only	200	2	0	5	3	1	0	3	214
Irritant spray used	261	9	0	4	4	0	0	0	278
Firearm drawn or pointed	79	446	0	1	6	0	32	1	565
Firearm discharged	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Police dog	0	0	0	0	0	87	2	0	89
CED drawn	0	290	0	0	0	0	9	0	299
CED fired	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Handcuffs / limb restraints	6,028	436	113	132	182	3	35	77	7,006
Unarmed physical tactics	9,652	663	1,309	474	237	13	68	63	12,479
Spit and bite guard	180	1	2	6	3	0	0	0	192
Water cannon deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water cannon deployed and used	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Total	16,600	1,984	1,425	689	458	104	147	146	21,553
% of Use of Force	77%	9%	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

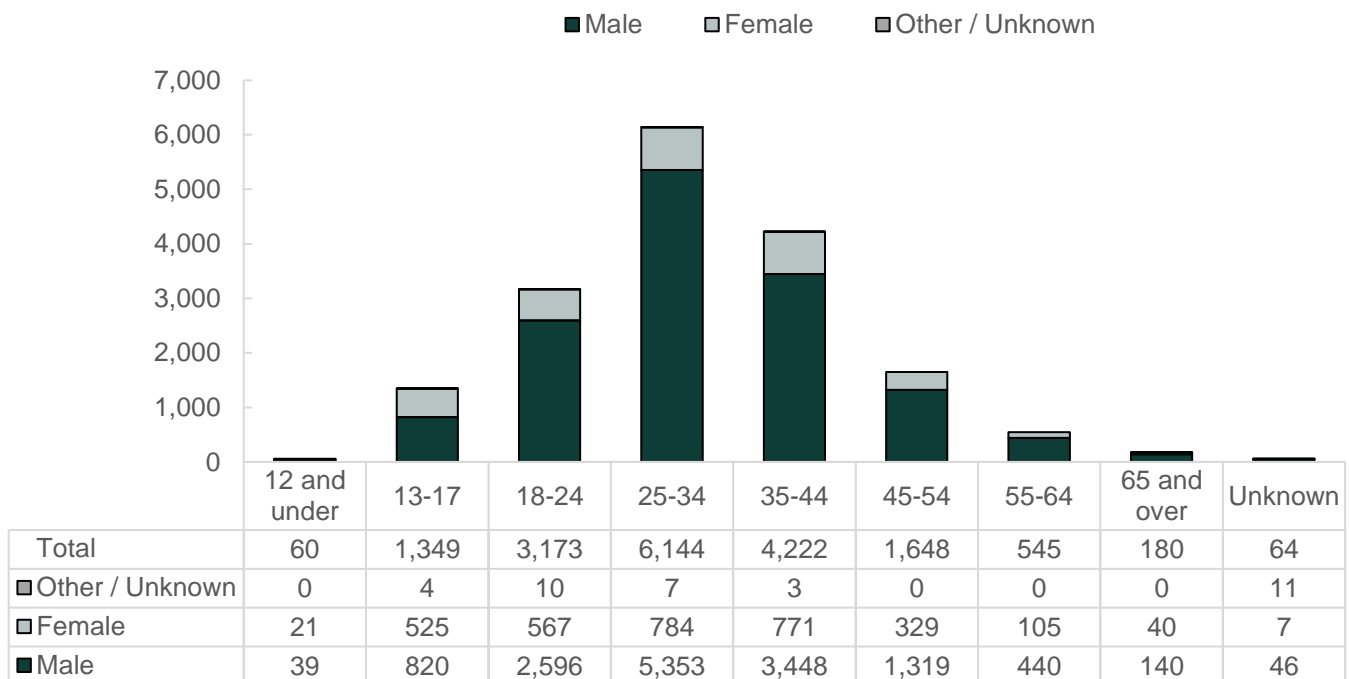
The figures in this section do not represent the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.

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 October 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(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 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(1, 2, 3)

Use of Force	Male	Female	Other / Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	94%	6%	0%	100%	114
AEP discharged	100%	0%	0%	100%	31
Baton drawn only	92%	3%	5%	100%	168
Baton drawn & used	96%	4%	0%	100%	125
Irritant spray drawn only	92%	8%	0%	100%	223
Irritant spray used	95%	5%	1%	100%	293
Firearm drawn or pointed	92%	8%	0%	100%	644
Firearm discharged	100%	0%	0%	100%	1
Police dog	96%	3%	1%	100%	92
CED drawn	90%	10%	0%	100%	336
CED fired	95%	5%	0%	100%	22
Handcuffs / limb restraints	82%	18%	<1%	100%	6,644
Unarmed physical tactic	79%	21%	<1%	100%	8,500
Spit and bite guard	83%	17%	0%	100%	192
Total	82%	18%	<1%	100%	17,385

- (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 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(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%	0%	10%	34%	26%	17%	10%	4%	0%	100%	114
AEP discharged	0%	3%	26%	0%	6%	6%	3%	0%	55%	100%	31
Baton drawn only	0%	7%	26%	27%	24%	7%	1%	1%	7%	100%	168
Baton drawn & used	0%	11%	23%	34%	15%	8%	4%	0%	5%	100%	125
Irritant spray drawn only	0%	3%	19%	39%	28%	8%	2%	0%	0%	100%	223
Irritant spray used	0%	3%	17%	43%	26%	8%	2%	1%	1%	100%	293
Firearm drawn or pointed	0%	4%	13%	35%	26%	15%	5%	2%	<1%	100%	644
Firearm discharged	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	1
Police dog	0%	2%	26%	32%	23%	13%	4%	0%	0%	100%	92
CED drawn	0%	1%	8%	40%	27%	14%	8%	2%	0%	100%	336
CED fired	0%	0%	0%	50%	18%	18%	5%	9%	0%	100%	22
Handcuffs / limb restraints	<1%	7%	18%	36%	25%	9%	3%	1%	0%	100%	6,644
Unarmed physical tactics	1%	9%	19%	35%	23%	9%	3%	1%	<1%	100%	8,500
Spit and bite guard	0%	6%	19%	44%	20%	9%	1%	0%	0%	100%	192
Total	<1%	8%	18%	35%	24%	9%	3%	1%	<1%	100%	17,385

(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 2024 – 30 September 2025 ^(1,2,3)

Use of Force	White	Irish Traveller	Other Ethnic Group	Black	Mixed	Asian	Unknown	Total	Total number
AEP pointed	86%	2%	0%	10%	0%	2%	1%	100%	114
AEP discharged	39%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	61%	100%	31
Baton drawn only	88%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	6%	100%	168
Baton drawn & used	90%	2%	2%	2%	0%	1%	4%	100%	125
Irritant spray drawn only	95%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	0%	100%	223
Irritant spray used	94%	3%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	100%	293
Firearm drawn or pointed	87%	1%	3%	5%	<1%	2%	2%	100%	644
Firearm discharged	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	1
Police dog	96%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	100%	92
CED drawn	86%	2%	1%	8%	0%	2%	1%	100%	336
CED fired	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	22
Handcuffs / limb restraints	92%	3%	2%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	100%	6,644
Unarmed physical tactics	94%	2%	1%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	100%	8,500
Spit and bite guard	98%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	100%	192
Total	93%	2%	1%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	100%	17,385

- (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>