

Woodstock Police - 2020 Use of Force Statistics

	2020		2021		
Reports submitted/year	34		31		
Time of Day					
00:00-06:00 Hrs.	2		1		
06:00-12:00 Hrs.	6		5		
12:00-18:00 Hrs.	10		6		
18:00-00:00 Hrs.	16		20		
Distance from the subject the Officer(s) is dealing with					
Less than 2 meters	8		5		
2-3 meters	15		4		
3-5 meters	10		13		
5-7 meters	3		3		
7-10 meters	2		2		
10+ meters	6		3		
Suspect Weapons or perceived weapons					
Knife/Machete	8		7		
Gun/Rifle	5		5		
Physically fighting	0		1		
Vehicle as a weapon	0		4		
Other (bat,metal etc)	1		6		
Use of Force Option Used by the Officer					
Firearm					
# of times ANY firearm pointed	23		14		
# Of times PISTOL pointed	16		10		
# Of times SHOTGUN pointed	0		0		
# Of times Carbine (C-8 rifle)	6		4		
Baton					

# of times Asp baton used	0		1		
OC Spray					
(aka pepper spray)	1		1		
Hands on used by Officer					
(punch, knee etc.)	0		3		
Conductive Energy Weapon (CEW-TASER)					
# Of times CEW displayed or pointed	9		17		
# Of times CEW Deployed (darts)	2		3		
Animals					
put down due to injury and/or distemper – Racoons	2		1		
Race Based Data					
White	32		34		
Black	4		5		
Indigenous	1		0		
Latino	1		0		
Years of Service					
0 to 5	14		13		
5 to 10	10		7		
10 to15	5		8		
15 to 20	1		1		
20 to 30	0		3		

The Police Services Act requires members of a police service to submit a use of force report to the Chief of Police whenever the member:

- 1) Draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public, excluding a member of the police force while on duty, or discharges a firearm
- 2) Uses a weapon other than a firearm on another person; or
- 3) Uses physical force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention

The 2021 Use of Force Reports describing the different use of force options engaged by our officers on frontline duty has been reviewed. There were a total of thirty-one (31) reports submitted during 2021. This is a decrease from the number of reports submitted in 2020, when thirty-four (34) were submitted. The break-down of the types of reports submitted in 2021 is as follows:

** The number of Use of Force reports don't align in 2021 with the number options listed above because during some incidents there were multiple reports submitted and sometimes officers transition back and forth between use of force options during an incident as circumstances dictate.*

*** Tracking years of Use of Force - 2014 (39), 2015 (29), 2016 (53), 2017 (60), 2018 (53), 2019 (57), 2020 (34) and 2021 (31).*


In each of the 31 incidents requiring a Use of Force Report, with the exception of destroying injured animals, the officers were dealing with actively resistant offenders or in circumstances where a threat was presented that justified the Use of Force measures to protect their safety or the safety of members of the public. Some examples of the incidents where Use of Force Reports were submitted, 5 involved guns, 7 involved knives, 6 involved other weapons (bats, metal bars etc.), 4 involved a vehicle as a weapon and 1 was for physical fighting.

As indicated in the table, the incident involving the discharge of a firearm involved officers putting down a raccoon that were exhibiting signs of distemper or rabies. This animal was put down for humanitarian or public safety reasons. After reviewing all of the incidents where force was used with our Use of Force Instructor, I can advise that in each and every incident, the officers responded appropriately to the level of force presented by the suspect.

Considering the fact that our officers responded to 27,158 calls for service, and dealt with a wide variety of assaultive, violent, actively resistant and/or armed offenders in 2021, these statistics are well within acceptable margins.

In addition, Use of Force reporting requirements changed as of January 1st, 2020. The Ministry designed a new form with additional reporting requirements, on the form and later to the Ministry itself. The new change in the form is the addition of the category “Perceived Subject Race – what race category best describes the subject(s)”. The information is being collected for the purpose of identifying and monitoring potential racial bias or profiling in a specific service, program, or function. Further, it is important for members of police services to understand they are being asked to give their best assessment of an individual, honestly and in good faith, and that recording your perception of race in the use of force report is mandatory whenever a use of force report must be completed under the Equipment and Use of Force Regulation. Race Based Data is as follows: White (34), Black (5), Indigenous (0), Latino (0). After the form has been reviewed by the training officer it is then emailed directly to the Ministry. The Training Officer also meets with every officer in regards to their Use of Force report. The purpose of this is to go over any positives, alternative measures, or learning experiences that can be considered whenever confronted with this sort of situation again.

Respectfully submitted;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wilkinson", enclosed within a thin blue rectangular border.

Deputy Chief of Police Rod Wilkinson