



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: 2025 Use of Force Annual Report
TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board
DATE: 18 February 2026

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The use of force data and analysis contributes to the positive outcomes within the following Strategic Priorities, set by the Board in the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan:

- Community Safety
- Community Wellbeing
- Our Members
- Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

Reporting Use of Force

As a requirement under Ontario Regulation 391/23 of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA), a Use of Force report must be submitted when a member of a police service:

- draws a handgun in the presence of a member of the public;
- points a firearm at a person;
- discharges a firearm;
- uses a weapon on another person;
- draws and displays a conducted energy weapon (CEW) to a person with the intention of achieving compliance;
- points a CEW at a person;
- discharges a CEW; or
- uses force on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention.

A modernized Use of Force report was implemented on January 1, 2023, based on amendments to use of force reporting requirement in Regulation 926 of the Police Services Act (PSA) made in November 2022. Amendments include submission requirements related to CEWs; annual review of use of force procedures and training; and publication of annual reports to the police services board analyzing the data from the reports and identifying any trends. The report went through minor amendments again in 2025 mostly to change the headers to show it as being a document of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) instead of the PSA.

Information about a use of force event that is captured in the standardized provincial report includes data on citizen race, gender, and age as perceived by the officer at the time of use of force, the type of force used, any weapons involved, injuries sustained, etc. Reporting and analysis can be used to assess individual and group training needs, policy and procedure requirements, and racial disproportionalities and disparities.

Race and Identity-Based Data Collection

Ontario's Anti-Racism Act (ARA), 2017, establishes transparent and sustainable mechanisms to identify and eliminate systemic racism and advance racial equity in Ontario. As a requirement of the ARA, police services collect race-based data on the Use of Force report in a manner compliant with the Anti-Racism Data Standards (ARDS), which outline how organizations must collect, manage, analyze and report on information collected under the authority of the ARA. This oversight and accountability is in place to monitor for impacts and trends to: advance racial equity; improve policy and service delivery; and increase transparency and trust.

In recent years, there have been increasing demands from community groups for police to collect data stemming from citizen-police interactions, and directions on the collection of race/ethnicity data to police agencies from civilian oversight organizations as well as provincial governments, as summarized in the OSPSPB January 18, 2026, report titled "Race and Identity-Based Data".

2025 Use of Force Annual Report

It is important to note that numbers in this annual report are not always a 1:1 ratio, for example, multiple officers may each submit a report on one or more types of force used during the same incident on the same individual, or one officer may submit a report on one or more types of force used on multiple individuals in the same incident. Each officer using reportable force must submit a report and include their perception of race, age, and gender of each subject and the type(s) of force.

- There were **36 Use of Force reports** submitted in 2025, involving **28 unique incidents** with **22 unique persons and 6 animals** (all sick raccoons). The number of subjects involved in any one incident varied from zero to two.
- Comparing to the previous year, there were 31 Use of Force reports submitted in 2024, involving 25 unique incidents, 21 unique persons, and 3 animals. In 2024 the number of subjects involved in any one incident varied from zero to four. This is relatively consistent with 2023, with 24 unique persons that required officers to use reportable force.
- **With 18,974 occurrences dispatched for OSPS in 2025, the use of force reported in 28 incidents represents 0.15% of all events.** This low number can be attributed to the fact that the OSPS officers are trained in various types of de-escalation and use of force.
- In 2025, there were seven unique incidents where two or more officers each submitted a report on the same individual.
- **Officers' perception of the person's race involved in the use of force events was recorded as White 16 times, 3 Indigenous, 2 Latino, and 1 black in 2025.**

- **Of the 22 individuals described in use-of-force reports in 2025, these subjects were perceived as being male 20 times and female 2 times.**
- Physical control (e.g. escort technique, grounding, pinning) was used and reported 2 times in 2025, half of the previous year's total of 4. Incidents involving physical control are not required to be reported, unless the subject requires medical care or a report is triggered by a greater level of force used in the same incident.
- **In 2025, a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) was drawn, displayed, pointed, and/or discharged 23 times, as compared to 19 times in 2024.**
- **A firearm was reported drawn, pointed, and/or discharged 12 times in 2025, similar to the 12 in 2024.** In 2025, a firearm was drawn, pointed or discharged in:
 - 6 animal incidents in which the firearm was discharged on an animal only;
 - 3 incidents where multiple officers responded to deal with one subject (1 warrant execution with threat of a firearm, 1 theft with the threat of swinging golf club, 1 disturbance call);
 - 1 incident in which multiple subjects were present.

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Although few calls for service result in a provincially reportable use of force event, high risk events happen often enough that the OSPS officers need to be ready at a moment's notice. The OSPS officers have so far been able to gain control of these situations effectively with only a small number of injuries to the subjects or the public.

Some of these incidents included a violent disturbance at a known drug house that eventually led to a multi-jurisdictional operation that included an OPP helicopter and K9 unit (guns drawn and pointed); an out-of-control hospital patient barricaded in a locked room with another patient, threatening to kill anyone who tried to get near (CEW deployed); a break and enter suspect who fled on foot and threatened officers with a golf club (CEW deployed); a person in crisis with a hand in a backpack in the middle of a busy road claiming he had a gun inside; and more (CEW deployed).

Annual Use of Force Report - 2025		2025	2024	2023
Number of Reports Submitted		36	31	22
Individual		36	31	21
Team		0	0	1
Number of unique incidents		28	25	19
Number of unique Subjects				
Persons		22	21	24
No Interaction with Subject			1	1
None (Animal Only)		6	3	1
Subject's Perceived Race				
Black		1	0	4
East/Southeast Asian		0	0	-
Indigenous		3	2	3
Latino		2	0	-
Middle Eastern		0	1	1
South Asian		0	0	-
White		16	17	19
Subject's Perceived Age				
<12			0	-
12-17		3	1	-
18-24		5	3	1
25-34		9	7	9
35-44		3	3	6
45-54		1	4	5
55-64		1	2	5
>65		0	0	1
Subject's Perceived Gender				
Male		20	19	23
Female		2	2	4
Trans/Non-binary/Other		0	0	-
Type of Force Used				
Physical Control		2	4	5
Intermediate Weapon:				
Baton		0	0	-
OC Spray		1	0	-
CEW:		23	19	14
Drawn and Displayed		1	5	9
Pointed		15	8	9
Discharged		7	6	4
Less Lethal Firearm				-
Other				-
Firearm:		12	13	14
Handgun			5	12
Handgun-Drawn			5	12
Handgun-Pointed		5	8	11
Handgun-Discharged		0	0	-
Handgun- animal		6	3	1
Rifle		1	0	1
Rifle-Pointed		1	0	1
Rifle-Discharged		0	0	-
Shotgun		0	0	-
Shotgun-Pointed		0	0	-
Shotgun-Discharged		0	0	-

ATTACHMENT(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Inspector Craig Matheson, Operations
Constable Curtis Gloade, Training Officer