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2024 CPS REPORT

## DE-ESCALATION AND USE OF FORCE



CALGARY  
POLICE  
SERVICE

ISC: Unclassified

# 2024 Annual Report De-Escalation and Use of Force

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# Introduction

- De-escalation and Use of Force Reporting
  - **S**ubject **B**ehaviour/**O**fficer **R**esponse (SBOR) reports
- Policy requires officers to report all use of force incidents
- Annual Service Reporting – Alberta Provincial Policing Standards
- Summary of use of force by officers in 2024 with comparisons to prior years
- Reports **and force used** are reviewed, assessed and analyzed to inform training, direction and strategy for the CPS



# De-Escalation & Use of Force

- De-escalation strategies and tactics
  - lower the intensity of potentially volatile situations
  - reduce necessity/level of force required for successful incident resolution
- Some encounters result in police officers having to resort to force
  - these situations can be dynamic, volatile and emotionally charged
- Officers – trained & required to continuously assess risks in the situation
  - can employ only approved procedures and tactics

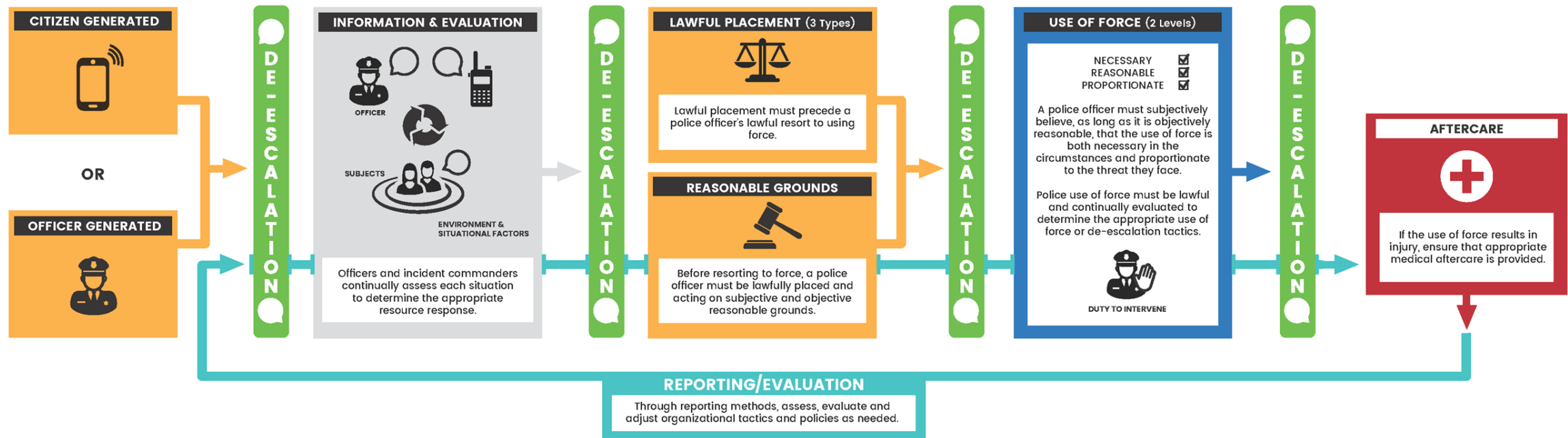




# De-Escalation & Use of Force



## DE-ESCALATION & USE OF FORCE FRAMEWORK



### DE-ESCALATION

A range of verbal and non-verbal strategies and tactics used to lower the intensity of potentially volatile situations with the aim to reduce the necessity or level of force required to successfully resolve an incident. De-escalation will be continually reassessed throughout an incident and used when reasonably feasible.

### USE OF FORCE

Under Section 25 of the Criminal Code, police officers are authorized to use necessary, reasonable and proportionate force when acting on reasonable grounds and with lawful placement.



# 2024 Report Findings



- The volume of incidents involving the use of force decreased in 2024 (818)
  - 2024 was a 7-year low
    - Also -8% below 5-year average (893)
  - **1 in 702** or **0.15%** of officer/public interactions result in a use of force incident
    - 99.8% of officer/public interactions: no force used
    - In 2024: ~575,000 or 1575/day





# 2024 Report Findings



- Most individual methods of force also decreased
  - CEW use, dynamic takedowns, spit masks, firearm pointed
- Context:
  - Certain crime types affecting the use of force decreased
    - Property crimes (B&E, theft incl. vehicle)
    - Disorder (disturbances, unwanted guests, MH-related complaints, intoxicated persons)
  - Violent crimes (incl. domestics) increased
  - Complex calls involving weapons and drugs persist
  - Countable officer/public interactions decreased -2%
- All factors considered, in 2024, force was used less often



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## ANALYSIS OF RACE DATA OF USE OF FORCE SUBJECTS



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# 2024 Analysis of Race Data of Use of Force Subjects

Bureau of Organizational Performance  
May 2025





# Introduction

- Second annual report
  - Builds on previous publication (2022/2023)
  - Considered feedback and consultation results
  - Expanded for 5-year historical data
- Focuses on *disproportionality* and *disparity* of subject population race groups





# Findings

- When the use of force subject population is portrayed against the general Calgary population, results are similar to last year's report
  - Disproportionality and disparity exist
  - Black and Indigenous subjects are overrepresented
  - Racialized subjects are underrepresented
- Facts to consider
  - Little alignment exists between force subject population and the general population of Calgary
  - Arrested persons and use of force subject populations closely correlate
  - Census data is aged; Calgary population has grown and diversified substantially in the most recent years
- When portrayed against population of arrested persons, disproportionality and disparity largely disappear



# Findings

- Females as subjects of force are increasing in proportion
- Black females are overrepresented
  - Further analysis of this cohort data shows 7 of the individual subjects accounted for 46% of all force incidents involving Black females from 2019-2024.
  - These 7 individuals also amassed over 350 documented interactions with police in those years; criminal (mostly assaults, domestics, theft and mischief) and non-criminal (mental health-related, missing persons).
- Physical methods of force are used more frequently than intermediate methods (across all populations)



# Findings

- Stuns/strikes, conducted energy weapons (CEWs), and police service dog (PSD) contacts were methods deployed slightly more towards Black subjects than towards White subjects (stuns/strikes: 1.1x more, CEWs: 1.2x, PSD: 1.4x).
- Indigenous persons are 4x less likely to become force subjects in calls for service (CFS) involving mental health than White persons.
- Black persons are 1.9x more likely to become force subjects in CFS involving disturbances, and 1.5x more in assault CFS than White persons, but 2x less likely to become force subjects in CFS involving mental health.



# **CPS RESPONSE & NEXT STEPS**





# Connecting the Data



**Together, these reports provide a fuller picture** – helping us understand both the *what* and the *who*.

- The annual De-escalation and Use of Force Report tells us what types of force are used, how often and in what situations.
- The Race Data Analysis of Use of Force Subjects helps us understand who is involved and whether disparities exist across racial groups.

**The reports are reviewed both independently and together to:**

- Support evidence-based training
- Inform policy and equipment decisions
- Guide meaningful community engagement





# From Insight to Action



**We're evolving with purpose.** Data, experience, and the needs of our community and members inform our priorities and progress.

- **The goal is not zero – this is not realistic or safe.**
- **Building trust through relationships, awareness and understanding.**
  - Engaging in ongoing dialogue with the community and our partners.
  - Helping the public understand what use of force is, when it's applied and why it's sometimes necessary.
- **Translating insight into strategy, training and public accountability.**
- **Exploring focused, person-specific interventions, where appropriate.**
- **Beyond the numbers.** We're listening to the lived experiences of our officers and the community to evolve in meaningful and effective ways.



# Commitment to Continuous Improvement

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- Review/assessment to ensure each use of force incident is reviewed by a use of force expert (SME; testifying in court)
- Ongoing training and development
- Next reports:
  - Vehicle-Based Tactics (VBT) analysis
  - Tire Deflation Device (TDD) equipment
  - Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIW) transition

