



# 2014 Annual Use of Force Report

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TO: Barrie Police Services Board

FROM: Chief Kimberly Greenwood

DATE: May 14, 2015

SUBJECT: 2014 Annual Use of Force Report

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## **BACKGROUND**

Provincial Adequacy Standard #AI-012 of the Police Services Act, requires that the Chief of Police report annually to the Board on the use of force by members of the Service.

“Use of Force” reports are required to be submitted by every member of the Service who uses force in any one of the following situations:

- A firearm is drawn in the presence of a member of the public (excluding other police officers or auxiliary members while on duty or a "ride along" observer);
- A firearm is pointed at any person;
- A firearm is discharged;
- A weapon other than a firearm, including a weapon of opportunity is used on another person;
- A Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) is pointed at a subject to gain compliance; and,
- Physical force is used on a person resulting in an injury requiring medical attention.

Statistics on the use of force are maintained by the Training Unit. The statistics are compiled from the review, evaluation and analysis of mandated “Use of Force” reports.

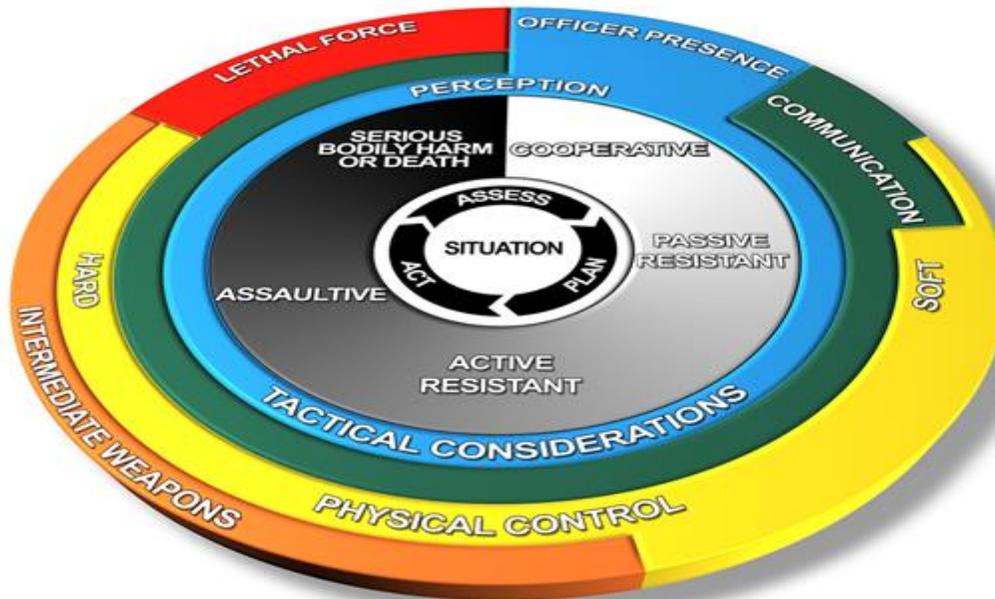
These use of force reports are collected and used only to identify individual and group training requirements, or organizational use of force policy requirements.

Officers interact on a daily basis with members of the public in which their issues and concerns are resolved without having to use force at a level that would require the submission of a report as indicated above. There are also times when the interactions are dynamic and more than one use of force option may be required to control and resolve the situation.

## **USE OF FORCE MODEL**

The Province of Ontario provides police services in Ontario with a standard “Use of Force Model.” This model depicts the use of force options which are appropriate based on the situation the officer encounters. The model considers that the same situation faced by different officers may lead to the use of different force options based on the perception of the officers and their individual characteristics. It does not mandate single specific force options; rather it provides a range of options that may be appropriate for the situation based on the subject behaviours.

## Ontario Use of Force Model (2004)



**The officer continuously assesses the situation and selects the most reasonable option relative to those circumstances as perceived at that point in time.**

### Subject Behaviours

#### *Co-operative*

The subject responds appropriately to the officers' presence, direction and control.

#### *Resistant (Passive)*

The subject refuses, with little or no physical action, to cooperate with the officer's lawful direction.

#### *Resistant (Active)*

The subject uses non-assaultive physical action to resist. The subject refuses to comply with the officer's lawful direction.

#### *Assaultive*

The subject attempts to apply, or applies force to any person; attempts or threatens by an act or gesture to apply force to another person.



### *Serious Bodily Harm or Death*

The subject exhibits actions that the officer reasonably believes are intended to or likely to cause serious bodily harm or death to any person.

### **Use of Force Options**

#### *Officer Presence*

While not strictly a use of force option the simple presence of an officer can affect both the subject and the situation.

#### *Communication*

An officer can use verbal and non-verbal communication to control and/or resolve the situation.

#### *Physical Control (Soft)*

Control oriented techniques including restraining techniques, joint locks and non-resistant handcuffing.

#### *Physical Control (Hard)*

Techniques intended to stop a subject's behaviour or allow application of a control technique. Hard control has a higher probability of causing injury and includes empty hand strikes such as punches and kicks.

#### *Intermediate Weapons*

Force option that involves the use of a less-lethal weapon. Less lethal weapons are those whose use is not intended to cause serious injury or death.

#### *Lethal Force*

The use of a force option involving any weapon or technique intended to or reasonably likely to cause serious bodily harm or death.

**5 Year Trend**

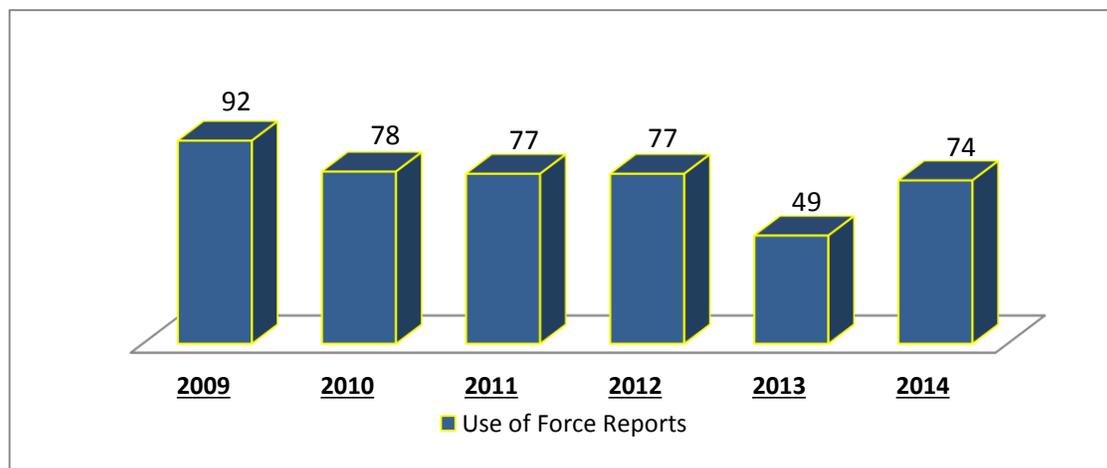


Figure 1.1



**2013/2014 USE OF FORCE STATISTICS ANALYSIS**

In 2014 Police received 61,916 calls for service. This number does not accurately capture the exponentially larger number of police/public interactions that occur every single day in every month throughout the year. Of the vast number of these interactions only an exceptionally low number of the police/public interactions involve any use of force. Pursuant to Provincial Adequacy Standard #AI-012 of the Police Services Act, the vast majority of police/subject interactions which are resolved with using force is not of a level requiring the submission of a "Use of Force" report. Situations involving use of force are dynamic and many involve the demand for more than one use of force option.

Officer presence and communication are present in all encounters with the public. If a use of force option is utilized, police officers communicate direction and commands to gain compliance. The statistical information captured below indicates the number of times a particular use of force option was utilized. (Figure 1.2).

**2014 Types of Force Used**

<b>Communication</b>	
Tactical Communications	72
<b>Physical Control</b>	
Hard	19
Soft	11
Impact Weapon Soft (control technique)	0
<b>Intermediate Weapons</b>	
Impact (Baton)	1
Aerosol (Pepper Spray)	4
CEW (Taser)	36
Arwen	0
Canine	1
<b>Lethal Force</b>	
Handgun Drawn	18
Handgun Pointed	15
Handgun Discharged	4

Figure 1.2

It is important to note that a particular option may have been attempted with lack of success only in that in this particular incident the demonstrated behavior of the subject did not cease, and another option was required – for example – an Officer may attempt to use Soft Physical



Control to affect an arrest only to find it ineffective due to the Subject becoming more violent or increasing the level of resistance. The Officer might then resort to a higher level of force to gain control of the subject, conversely use of force may deescalate as well. As a result of the dynamic nature of use of force incidents each report submitted may indicate more than one use of force option utilized. It is highly unusual that only one use of force option be required. Since Officer Presence and Communication are standard in every encounter with the public, any other use of force option would result in multiple levels of force.

In 2014:

- Communication alone was effective in resolving three occurrences that required a use of force report. These incidents are typically occurrences when Subjects are trying to harm themselves and Officers utilize Communication only, to have the Subject cease their violent or harmful behavior so that medical attention can be provided.
- Physical Control (Hard and Soft) was successful in resolving nine occurrences.
- Aerosol Weapons were successful in resolving four occurrences.
- Impact Weapons were successful in resolving one occurrence.
- Conducted Energy Weapons were successful in resolving 36 occurrences.
- The ARWEN was not utilized.
- Canine was successful in resolving one occurrence.
- A Drawn/Pointed firearm was successful in resolving seventeen occurrences.
- Firearm discharged was successful in resolving four occurrences, all which were to destroy an injured or suffering animal.

### Reason for Use of Force 2014

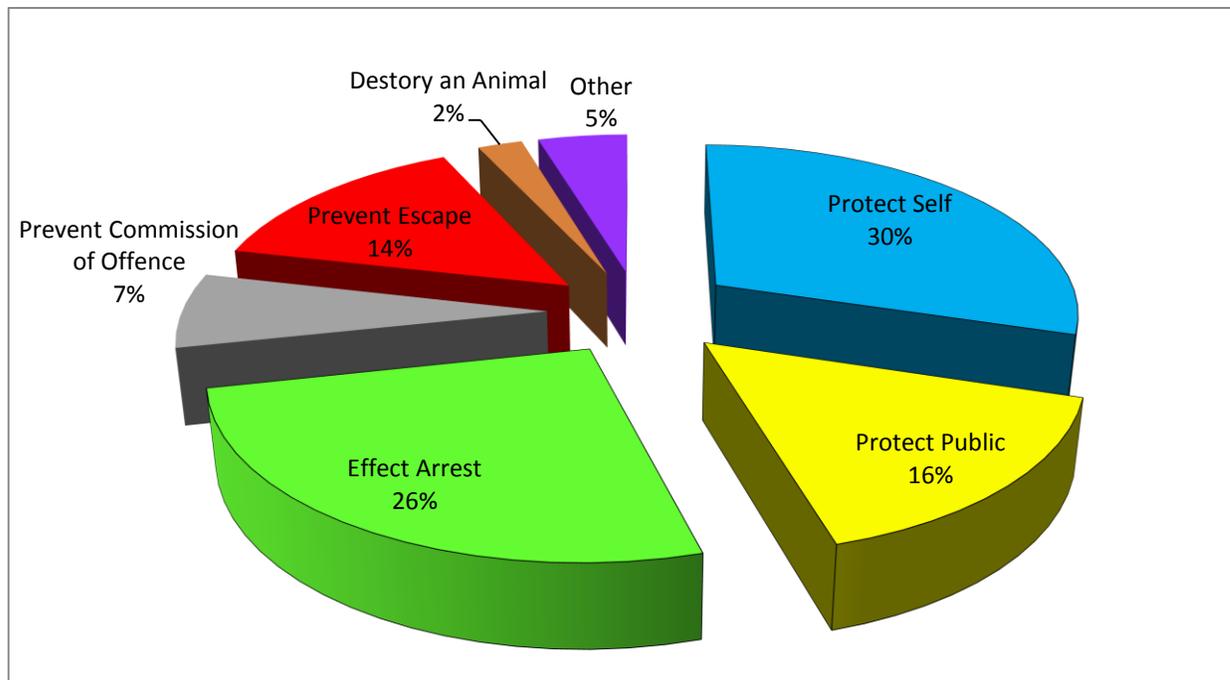


Figure 1.3



Use of Intermediate weapons 2014

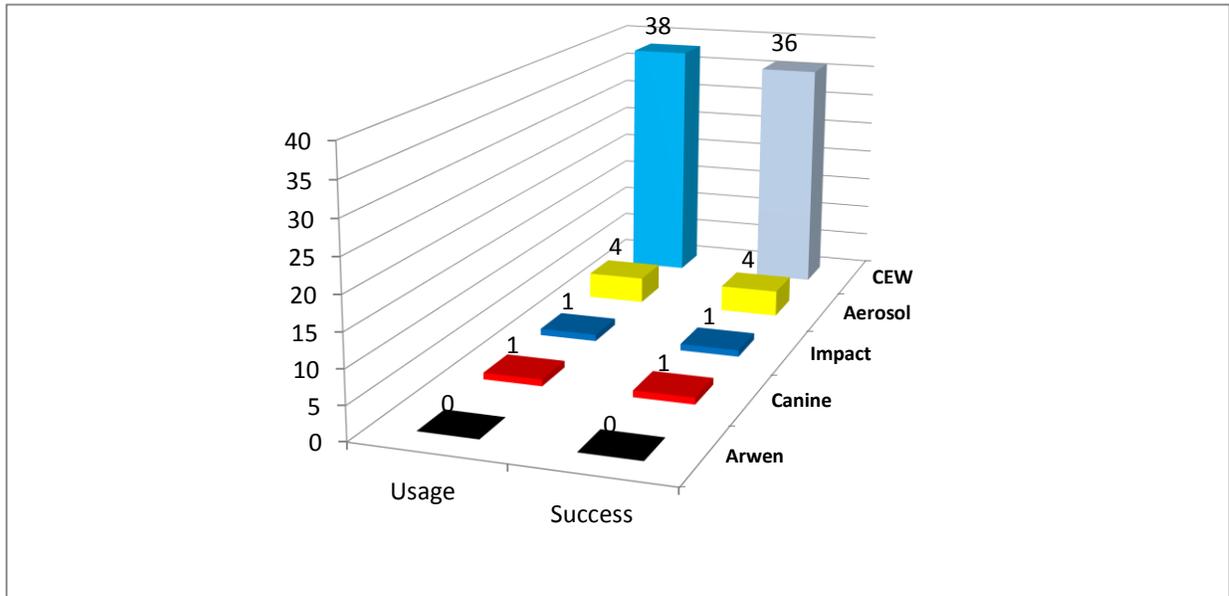


Figure 1.4

Use of Intermediate weapons 2013

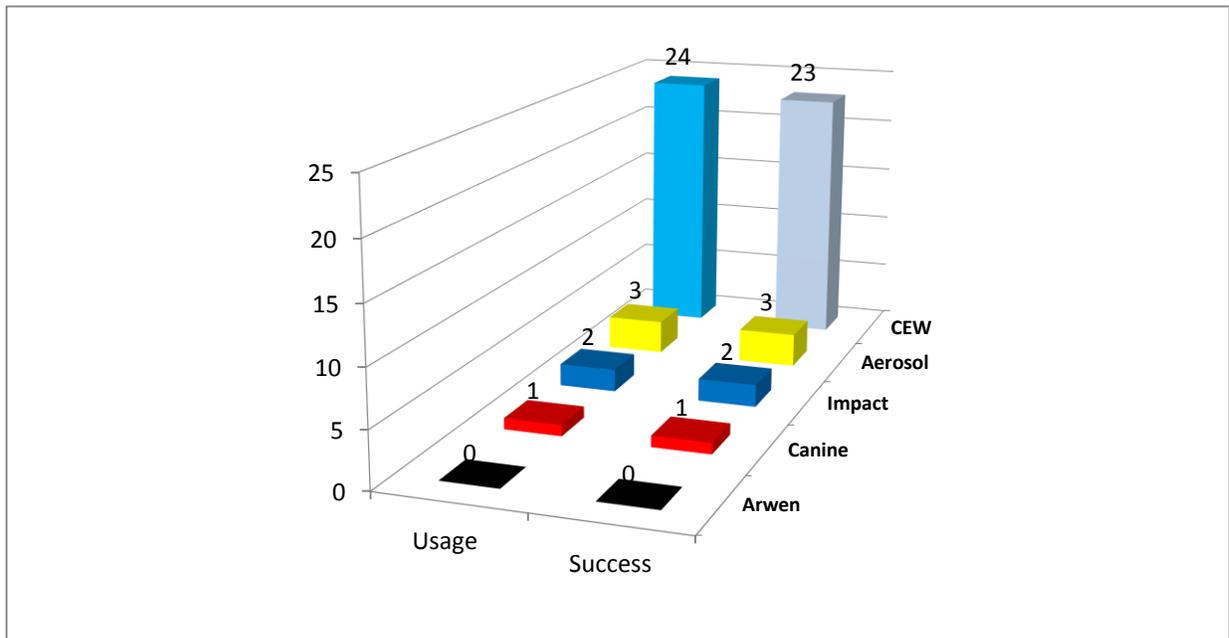


Figure 1.5

- Ineffective Usage of CEW: see Reporting page 9.



The number of suspects involved in use of force incidents saw an increase from 2013 to 2014. The number of suspects with weapons decreased in 2014.(Figure 1.6).

### Suspect Weapons

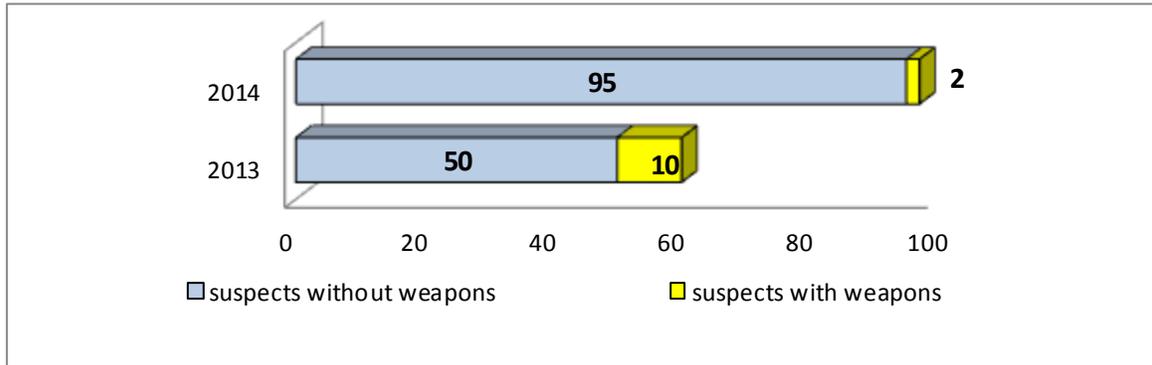


Figure 1.6

In 2014, 1 Officer was injured during a use of force occurrence. (Figure 1.7).  
In 2014, 10 Subjects were injured during a use of force occurrence. (Figure 1.7).

### Use of Force Injuries

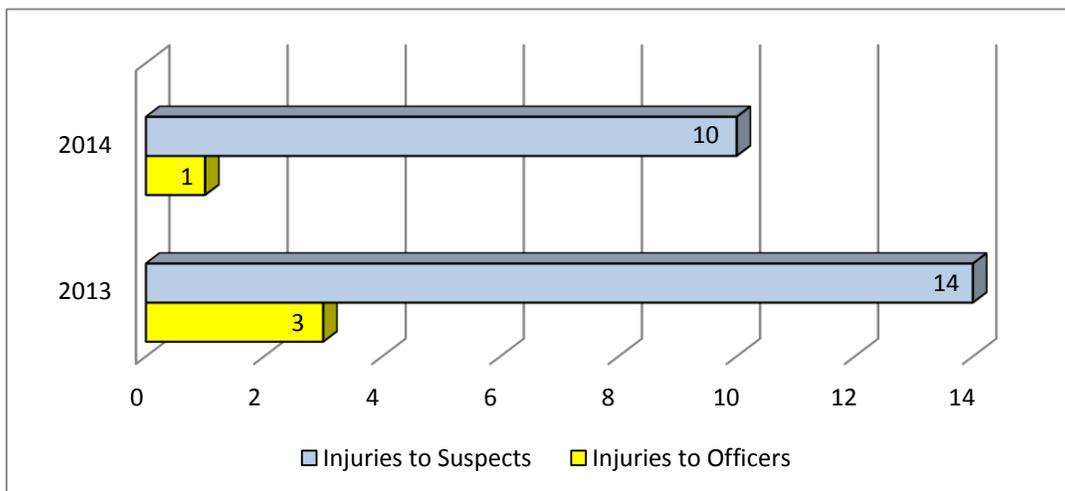


Figure 1.7

Intermediate weapons are the most effective when dealing with actively resistant/assaultive subjects. Use of force training covers all of the use of force options provided to all members of the Service annually by our Training Unit. The rates of effective deployment and relative moderate injury rates indicate members are able to use their knowledge, skills and abilities effectively when confronted with a situation requiring the use of force. (Figure 1.4 and 1.5).



### CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPONS

The Barrie Police Service has equipped officers with “TASER” Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) since 2004 after the Ministry of Public Safety and Correctional Services approved the use of the weapon for members of containment/tactical teams and front line supervisors.

In November 2013, the use of CEWs was enhanced to approve front-line officers by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. In March 2014, the Police Service approved the issue of CEWs to selected front-line officers. A total of 96 members of the Service are issued with a CEW.

All officers that carry the CEW are initially required to be trained and qualified in the weapon and they must also re-qualify annually. All training and administration of the CEW program is the responsibility of our Training Unit.

From a Barrie Police Service perspective, it has allowed us to confirm with our community that our user training and CEW maintenance exceeds not only the manufacturer’s recommended standards, but exceeds the practice of many Canadian police agencies.

### CEW OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT STATISTICS

#### Applications

The 2014 statistics revealed an increase in the application of the Conducted Energy Weapon. The CEW, when used in the display mode, continues to be an effective option in resolving situations. (Figure 1.7 and 1.8).

2014 CEW (Taser) Use

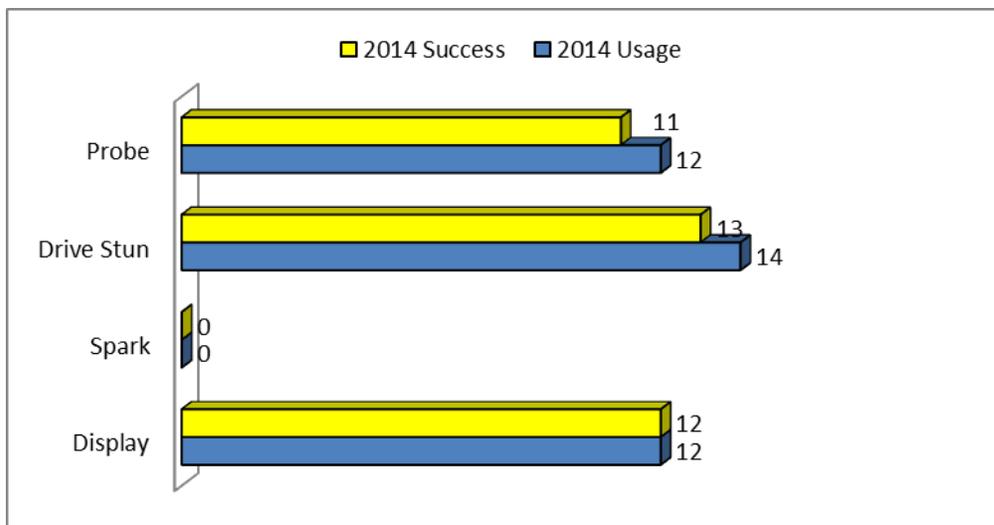


Figure 1.7



2013 CEW (Taser) Use

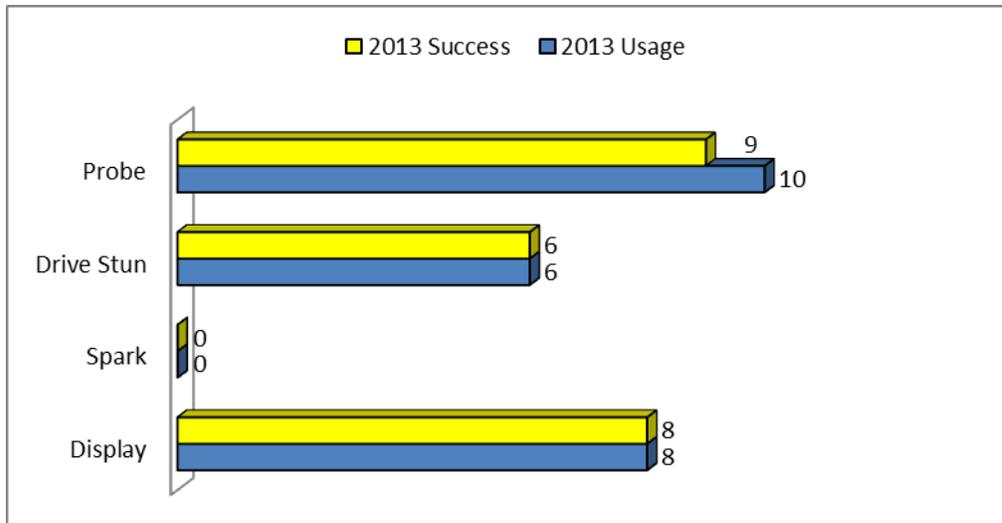


Figure 1.8

**Reporting**

As in previous years, whenever an officer deploys a CEW during the course of his/her duties, there is a requirement to complete a provincial use of force report. There are four deployment types:

- Display
- Spark test
- Drive stun
- Probe deployment.

As such, the deployment statistics are listed under those four types. In addition, whether or not the application was successful in bringing the situation to a peaceful end is also recorded. Represented in Figures 1.4 and 1.5 are incidents when the CEW was used but was unsuccessful in ending the altercation. These instances are a result of user error and/or equipment failure.

In 2014 CEW usage resulted in 12 “display only events” of which all 12 resulted in compliance (100%). The CEW was actually deployed (either drive stun or probe mode) a total of 26 times. Of the 26 deployments, 13 of 14 drive stun deployments were successful in gaining compliance while 11 of 12 probe deployments aided in gaining compliance. (Figure 1.7 and 1.8).

Financial Impact: Not Applicable

Recommended Action: that this report be received by Board members for information only.

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