

NZ Police Annual Tactical Options Research Report #4

1 January to 31 December 2015

Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation (RORE)

Introduction

This Annual Tactical Options Research Report covers the 2015 calendar year (1 January to 31 December), with a focus on all tactical options. It is part of an external tactical options reporting series produced by Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation, Police National Headquarters, for monitoring purposes and to enhance public trust and confidence through transparency.

Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) data

Most data in this report is derived from Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) data, which counts TOR events and tactical options used.

A TOR event is the reportable use of one or more tactical options, by one officer, against one individual. As some TOR events involve the use of more than one tactical option, the total number of TOR events is lower than the total number of tactical options used.

TASER data is presented by highest mode of deployment. Modes of TASER deployment are: shows (presentation, laser painting or arcing); and discharges (discharge with probes and/or contact stun).

View from the frontline...

"Prior to confronting [the subject] it was decided that I would arm myself with my Glock and that Constable [Name] would also deploy with Taser at the ready. ASGT [Name] would be in reserve to assist if required...

The use of a firearm was proportionate as I believed [the subject] was still in possession of a knife and he would not hesitate in using it on me or fellow officers. At this time he posed a threat of GBH.

Only after judging his level of sobriety or lack thereof did I transition to a lesser tactical option and holstered my Glock.

[The subject's] previous and current behaviours dictated my response within the tactical option framework. My PCA was reduced from GBH so I withdrew my OC spray.

[The subject] refused to listen to simple commands and advanced towards me. He still posed a threat to me and he was now in a position where he would be able to strike if he decided to. At this point my PCA was that he was actively resisting my commands and could easily become assaultive.

OC spray was justified and was used to effect arrest under Section 39 of the Crimes Act."

Key findings

Police rarely used tactical options when engaging with the public.

- 99.9% of recorded face-to-face interactions with the public¹ involved no use of tactical options.
- 7,970 tactical options were used at 4,914 TOR events in 2015.

Subject weapons were present at 17% of TOR events and used at a quarter of these events.

- Cutting/stabbing weapons were the most common weapons Police encountered, and were present at 8% of all TOR events. Firearms were present at 1.5% of TOR events.
- Police were more likely to use higher levels of force in response to armed subject compared to unarmed subjects.
- Staff and subject injury rates were lower at events where the subject is armed, likely as a result of differences to how Police respond to armed subjects and the tactical options deployed.

Most of the tactical options used were lower levels of force.

- The three most common tactical options deployed were: empty hand tactics (44% of TOR events), handcuffs and restraints (41%), and OC spray (29%).
- Firearms (7% - all 'shows'), dogs (6%), baton (1%), and sponge rounds and 'other' tactical options (<1%) were used least frequently at TOR events.
- TASER was deployed (ie, shown or discharged) at 20% of TOR events.

Most TASER events did not involve TASER discharge.

- TASER 'shows' (ie, presentation, laser pointing, or arcing) were the highest mode of deployment at 87% of TASER events.
- TASER was discharged (ie, contact stun or discharge with probes) at 13% of TASER TOR events (1% contact stun and 12% discharge with probes).
- Overall, this equates to a TASER 'show' to 'discharge' ratio of 7:1. This varies from 17:1 in Wellington District to 4:1 in Eastern and Waitematā districts.

Injuries at TOR events were uncommon.

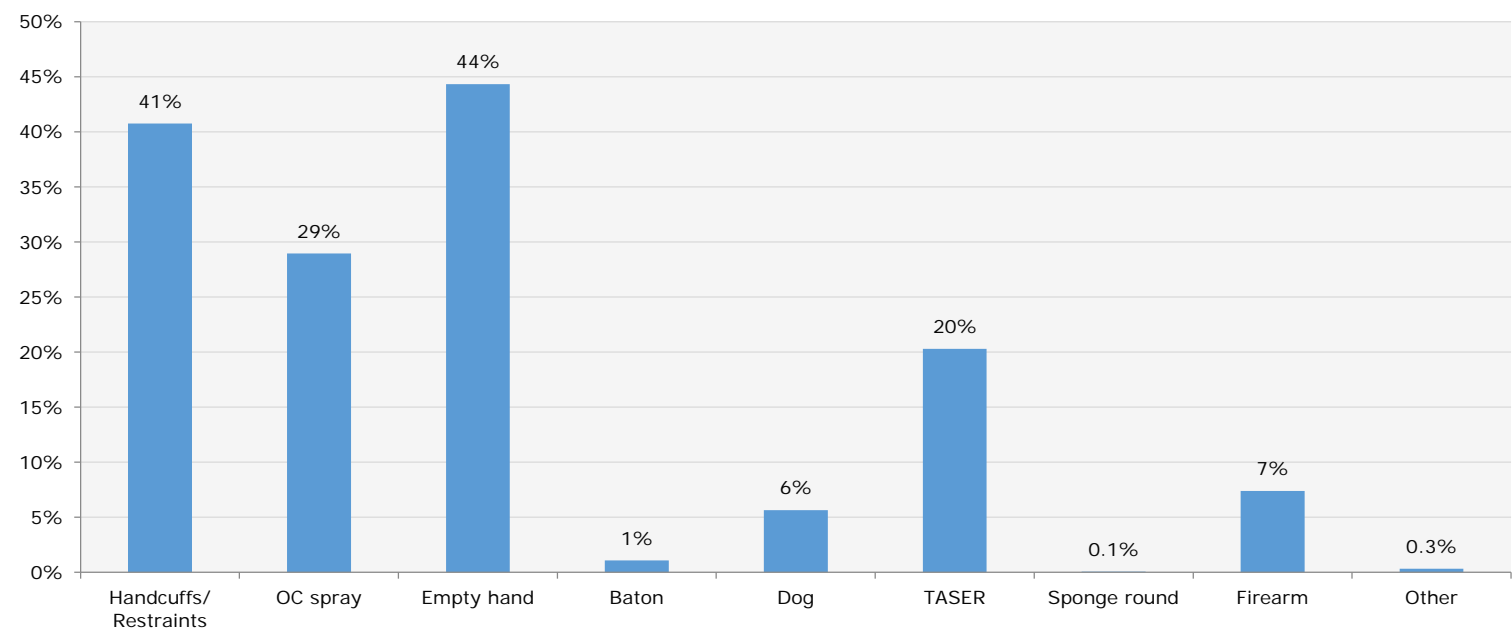
- 18% of TOR events resulted in an injury to the subject (10% minor, 7% moderate and 1% serious).
- Firearms (0% - all shows), TASER (1% - excluding superficial probe injuries), and OC spray (2%) had the lowest subject injury rates of all tactical options.
- Staff were injured at 12% of TOR events (9% minor, 2% moderate, 0.3% serious).

Table 1: Tactical options used at TOR events, by district, 2015^{2,3}

| | Handcuffs/ Restraints | OC spray | Empty hand | Baton | Dog | TASER | Sponge round | Firearm ⁴ | Other |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------|------------|-------|-----|-------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| Northland | 64 | 107 | 69 | 5 | 17 | 34 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Waitematā | 208 | 73 | 217 | 2 | 14 | 92 | 0 | 47 | 2 |
| Auckland City | 268 | 123 | 228 | 6 | 9 | 117 | 1 | 67 | 1 |
| Counties Manukau | 279 | 190 | 380 | 12 | 22 | 116 | 0 | 47 | 4 |
| Waikato | 122 | 113 | 112 | 5 | 29 | 72 | 1 | 26 | 4 |
| Bay of Plenty | 229 | 184 | 258 | 5 | 31 | 102 | 0 | 34 | 2 |
| Eastern | 113 | 136 | 137 | 3 | 19 | 70 | 0 | 9 | 1 |
| Central | 150 | 134 | 170 | 7 | 22 | 95 | 1 | 36 | 0 |
| Wellington | 209 | 111 | 208 | 5 | 64 | 91 | 1 | 43 | 1 |
| Tasman | 47 | 46 | 64 | 0 | 6 | 45 | 0 | 7 | 2 |
| Canterbury | 181 | 151 | 192 | 3 | 42 | 101 | 0 | 28 | 0 |
| Southern | 133 | 56 | 144 | 0 | 3 | 63 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Total TOR events | 2,003 | 1,424 | 2,179 | 53 | 278 | 998 | 4 | 363 | 17 |
| National average | 167 | 119 | 182 | 4 | 23 | 83 | 0.3 | 30 | 1 |

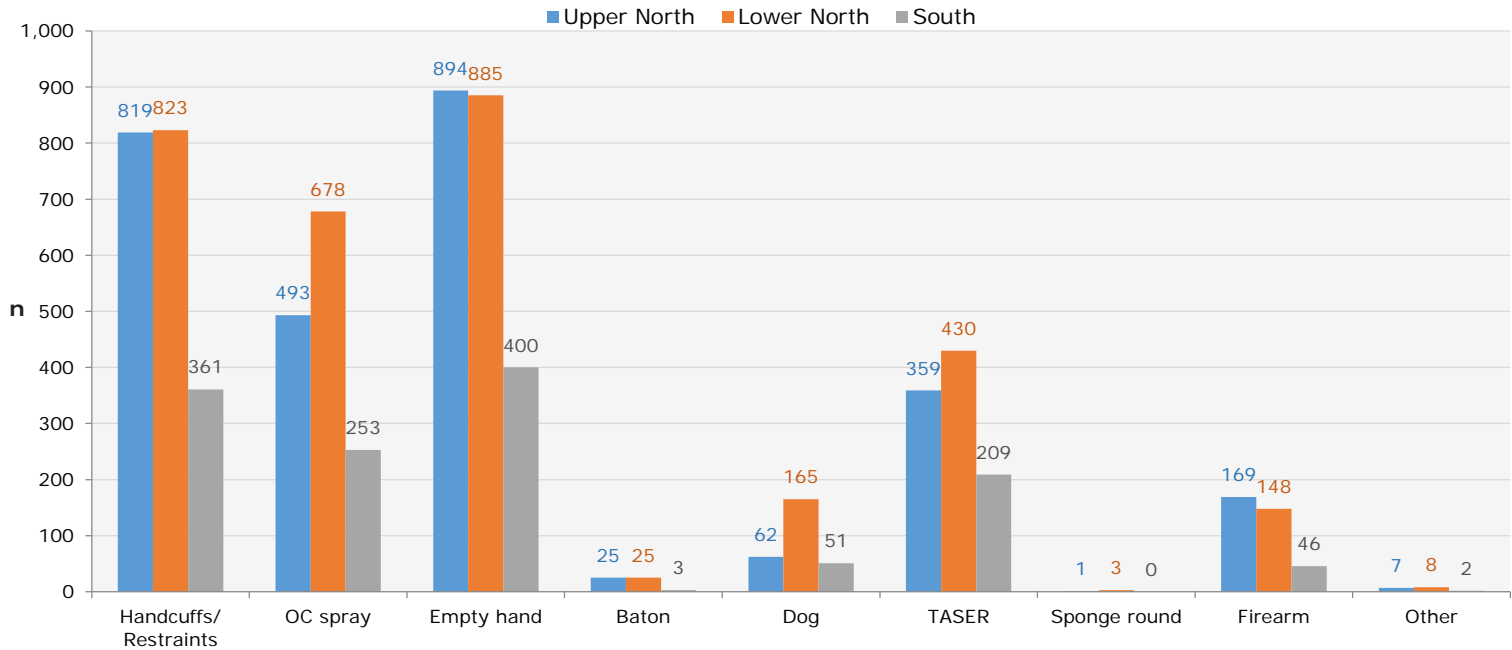
² An officer may use more than one tactical option (eg, handcuffs and OC spray) at a TOR event.
³ Table 1, Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 count whether a particular tactical option was used at a TOR event, not the number of times that tactical option was used at the event. See last page for tactical options deployments that are reportable in a Tactical Options Report.
⁴ For 2015, all 363 firearm events reported in the TOR database involved only the presentation of firearms. Fatalities associated with the use of force are not reported in a TOR form.

Figure 1: Proportion (%) of TOR events (n=4,914) where a tactical option(s) was used, nationally, 2015⁵



⁵ For example, 41% of subjects at TOR events had handcuffs or restraints used on them. As officers may use more than one tactical option (eg, handcuffs and OC spray) at a TOR event, the total percentage exceeds 100%.

Figure 2: Tactical options used at TOR events, by location, 2015⁶



⁶ 'Upper North' comprises Northland, Waitematā, Auckland City and Counties Manukau. 'Lower North' comprises Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Eastern, Central and Wellington. 'South' comprises Tasman, Canterbury and Southern.

Table 2: TASER TOR events, by highest mode of deployment⁷, by district, 2015

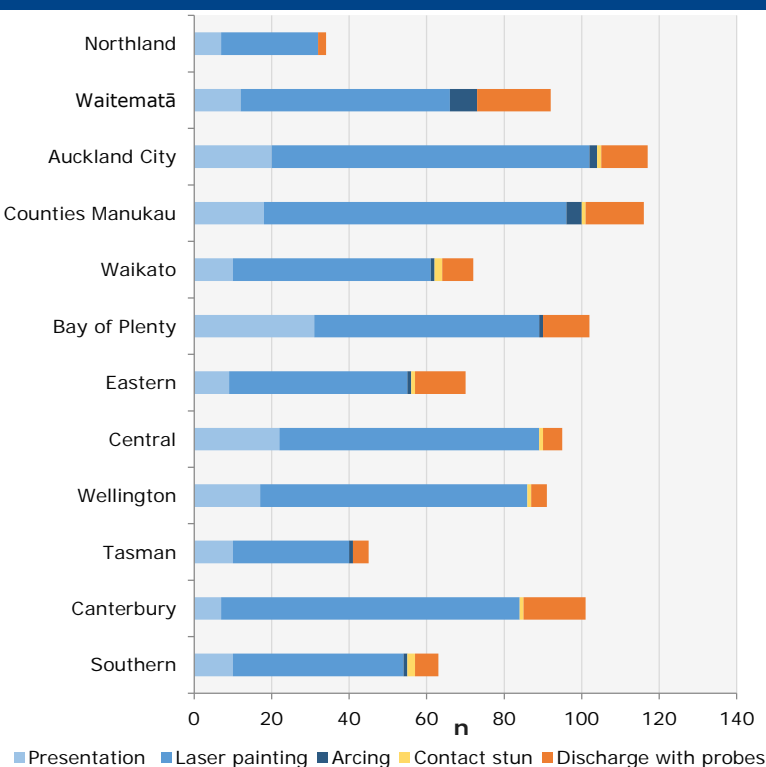
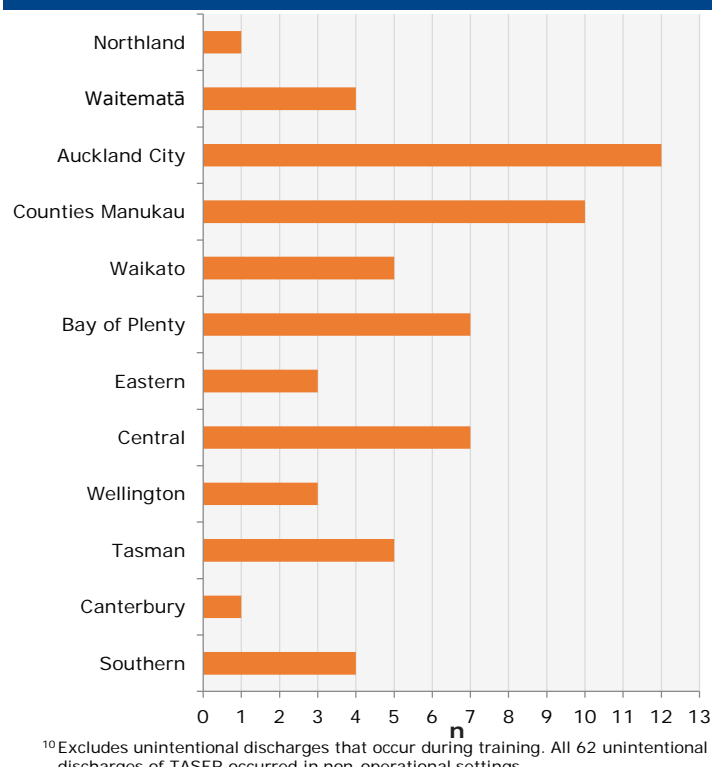
| | Presentation | Laser painting | Arcing | Contact Stun ⁸ | Discharge with probes ⁸ | Total TASER events | Per 10,000 offender proceedings ⁹ |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Northland | 7 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 34 | 41 |
| Waitematā | 12 | 54 | 7 | 0 | 19 | 92 | 63 |
| Auckland City | 20 | 82 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 117 | 79 |
| Counties Manukau | 18 | 78 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 116 | 50 |
| Waikato | 10 | 51 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 72 | 49 |
| Bay of Plenty | 31 | 58 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 102 | 56 |
| Eastern | 9 | 46 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 70 | 67 |
| Central | 22 | 67 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 95 | 61 |
| Wellington | 17 | 69 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 91 | 63 |
| Tasman | 10 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 45 | 61 |
| Canterbury | 7 | 77 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 101 | 53 |
| Southern | 10 | 44 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 63 | 57 |
| Total TASER events | 173 | 681 | 18 | 10 | 116 | 998 | 58 |
| National average | 14 | 57 | 1.5 | 0.8 | 10 | 83 | |

⁷ TASER data is presented by 'highest mode of deployment', and is shown from left (lowest) to right (highest). Thus, where TASER discharge with probes is the highest mode of deployment, any other mode of deployment that preceded the discharge with probes is excluded from the data. This caveat applies to Table 2 and Figure 3.

⁸ TASER discharge (ie, contact stun and discharge with probes) data in Table 2 and Figure 3 counts the number of TOR events at which a discharge occurred, but not the number of discharges. Discharge refers to all instances where a TASER was discharged in an operational setting, including discharges that made no or insufficient contact with the subject.

⁹ Police offender proceedings data is obtained from Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics (RCOS) and counts how many times Police have taken action against offenders (for one or more offences). These figures differ from the previously used Apprehensions data and therefore are not comparable with previous Tactical Options Research Reports.

Figure 3: TASER TOR events (n=998), by highest mode of deployment, by district, 2015

Figure 4: Number of unintentional discharges of TASER (n=62), by district¹⁰

¹⁰ Excludes unintentional discharges that occur during training. All 62 unintentional discharges of TASER occurred in non-operational settings.

Table 3: Number of TASER discharges at each TASER TOR event, by district, 2015¹¹

| | One | Two | Three | Four | Five or more | Total discharge events |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-------|------|--------------|------------------------|
| Northland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Waitematā | 13 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Auckland City | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Counties Manukau | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 16 |
| Waikato | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Bay of Plenty | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Eastern | 8 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14 |
| Central | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Wellington | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Tasman | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Canterbury | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Southern | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Total discharge events | 90 | 30 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 126 |

¹¹ TASER discharge data in Table 3 includes all TASER discharges with probes and contact stuns that occurred in an operational setting, including discharges that made no or insufficient contact with the individual. TASER may be discharged more than once at a TASER TOR event. In 90 TASER TOR events, TASER was discharged once, while in 36 events TASER was discharged two or more times. Thus, there were 180 discharges at 126 TASER TOR discharge events.

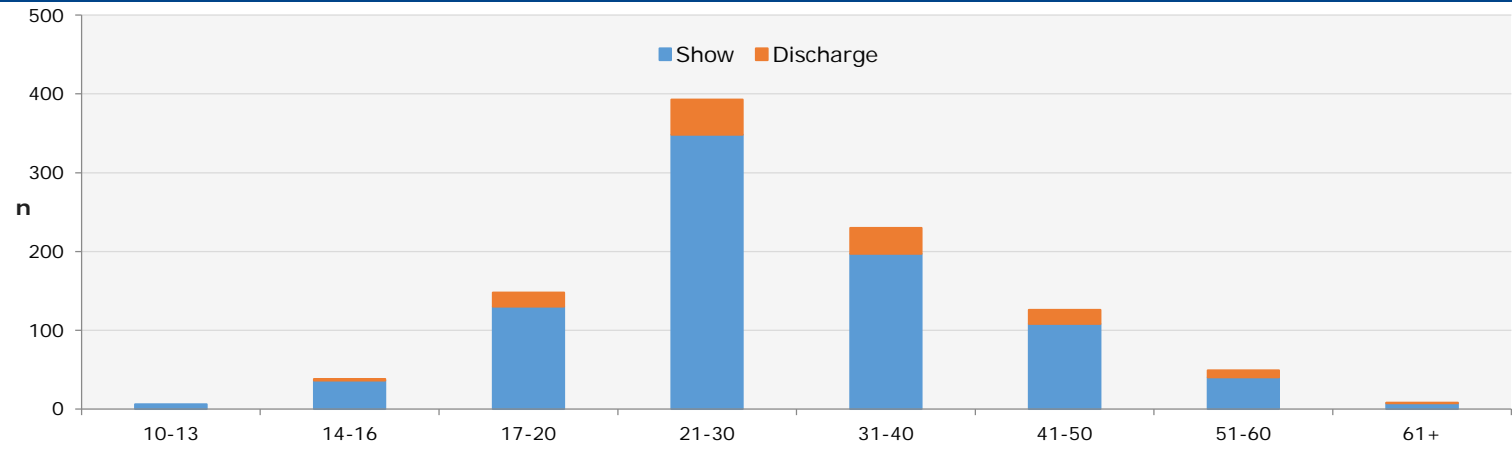
Table 4: Number of TASER discharges, by discharge mode and district, 2015

| | Contact stun ¹² | Discharge with probes ¹³ | Total discharges |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Northland | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Waitematā | 0 | 25 | 25 |
| Auckland City | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| Counties Manukau | 10 | 22 | 32 |
| Waikato | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Bay of Plenty | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| Eastern | 13 | 18 | 31 |
| Central | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Wellington | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Tasman | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Canterbury | 2 | 18 | 20 |
| Southern | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| Total discharges | 38 | 142 | 180 |

¹² Contact stun refers to discharges where probes were not deployed, ie, the TASER was activated while in contact with the subject, without deploying the probes.

¹³ Discharge with probes refers to discharges where probes were deployed.

Figure 5: TASER TOR events, by age and mode of deployment, 2015¹⁴



¹⁴ The youngest person who had TASER discharged against them was aged 14 years, while the oldest person was aged 63.

Table 5: TASER TOR events, by ethnicity and mode of deployment, 2015

| | Shows | % of shows | Discharges | % of discharges | Total TASER events | Per 10,000 offender proceedings ¹⁵ |
|---------------------|-------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| Māori | 474 | 54% | 63 | 50% | 537 | 75 |
| European | 272 | 31% | 46 | 37% | 318 | 47 |
| Pacific peoples | 103 | 12% | 13 | 10% | 116 | 68 |
| Asian | 9 | 1% | 4 | 3% | 13 | 20 |
| MELAA ¹⁶ | 8 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 8 | 40 |
| Other / Unknown | 6 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 6 | - |
| Total TASER events | 872 | 100% | 126 | 100% | 998 | 58 |

¹⁵ Police offender proceedings data is obtained from Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics (RCOS) and counts how many times Police have taken action against offenders (for one or more offences). These figures differ from the previously used Apprehensions data and therefore are not comparable with previous Tactical Options Research Reports.

¹⁶ Middle Eastern/Latin American/African

Table 6: Subject injuries¹⁷ resulting from TASER discharges, by severity¹⁸, and district

| | Minor | Moderate | Serious | Total injuries |
|------------------|-------|----------|---------|----------------|
| Northland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Waitematā | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Auckland City | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Counties Manukau | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Waikato | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Bay of Plenty | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Central | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Wellington | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Tasman | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Canterbury | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Southern | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total injuries | 4 | 9 | 1 | 14 |

¹⁷ More than one subject injury may occur, and be reported, as a result of a TASER discharge. The n=14 in Table 6 counts individual injuries, rather than TASER events at which one or more injuries occurred. Superficial probe injuries are excluded.

¹⁸ 'Minor', 'moderate', and 'serious' are proxy indicators of severity. Minor injuries = 'nil, self, or staff treatment'; moderate injuries = 'medical treatment (but not hospital admission)'; serious injuries = 'treatment at a hospital'. Care should be taken in interpreting 'serious' injury data as injuries can be treated at hospital for practical reasons rather than necessity. 4

Table 7: Staff injuries¹⁹ at TASER TOR events, by severity¹⁸, and district

| | Minor | Moderate | Serious | Total injuries |
|------------------|-------|----------|---------|----------------|
| Northland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Waitematā | 7 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| Auckland City | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Counties Manukau | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Waikato | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Bay of Plenty | 6 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| Eastern | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Central | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| Wellington | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Tasman | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Canterbury | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Southern | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total injuries | 41 | 10 | 3 | 54 |

¹⁹ Officers can only report one injury and injury severity type received at a TASER TOR event. The n=54 in Table 7 counts TASER events at which one or more staff injuries occurred rather than individual injuries.

Table 8: Use of force complaints and notifications to IPCA, by tactical option and district, 2015

| | Handcuffs/ Restraints | OC spray | Empty hand | Baton | Dog | TASER | Firearm | Other | Total |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|-------|-----|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| Northland | 3 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 18 |
| Waitematā | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 17 |
| Auckland City | 4 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 44 |
| Counties Manukau | 1 | 4 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 62 |
| Waikato | 0 | 2 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 26 |
| Bay of Plenty | 1 | 4 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Eastern | 2 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 33 |
| Central | 0 | 1 | 34 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| Wellington | 1 | 0 | 41 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 55 |
| Tasman | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Canterbury | 0 | 4 | 56 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 75 |
| Southern | 1 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Total | 16 | 19 | 328 | 3 | 29 | 17 | 15 | 7 | 434 |
| Per 1,000 TOR events | 8 | 13 | 151 | 57 | 104 | 17 | 41 | - | 88 |

Table 9: Use of force complaints and notifications to IPCA, by tactical option and status, 2015

| | Handcuffs/ Restraints | OC spray | Empty hand | Baton | Dog | TASER | Firearm | Other | Total |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|-------|-----|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| COMPLETE | 14 | 18 | 314 | 2 | 27 | 12 | 14 | 7 | 408 |
| Upheld ¹⁹ | 5 | 3 | 66 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 90 |
| Other ²⁰ | 9 | 15 | 248 | 1 | 26 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 318 |
| % upheld | 36% | 17% | 21% | 50% | 4% | 25% | 43% | 71% | 22% |
| INCOMPLETE | 2 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 26 |
| Active | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Pending | 1 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 15 |
| Total | 16 | 19 | 328 | 3 | 29 | 17 | 15 | 7 | 434 |

¹⁹ 'Upheld' refers to any finding that has some form of disciplinary or corrective action taken with the employee, or a change to Police policy and procedure.

²⁰ 'Other' refers to all other findings such as Not Upheld, Conciliated, Withdrawn, etc.

Table 10: Mental health incident types²¹ at TOR events, by incident type and district

| | Mental illness (1M) | % of TOR events | Suicide attempt (1X) | % of TOR events |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Northland | 7 | 3% | 6 | 3% |
| Waitematā | 25 | 6% | 12 | 3% |
| Auckland City | 31 | 6% | 18 | 3% |
| Counties Manukau | 27 | 4% | 31 | 4% |
| Waikato | 13 | 4% | 10 | 3% |
| Bay of Plenty | 39 | 7% | 25 | 4% |
| Eastern | 14 | 4% | 14 | 4% |
| Central | 21 | 5% | 26 | 6% |
| Wellington | 29 | 6% | 33 | 6% |
| Tasman | 6 | 4% | 8 | 5% |
| Canterbury | 36 | 7% | 42 | 9% |
| Southern | 17 | 6% | 30 | 11% |
| Total events | 265 | 5% | 255 | 5% |

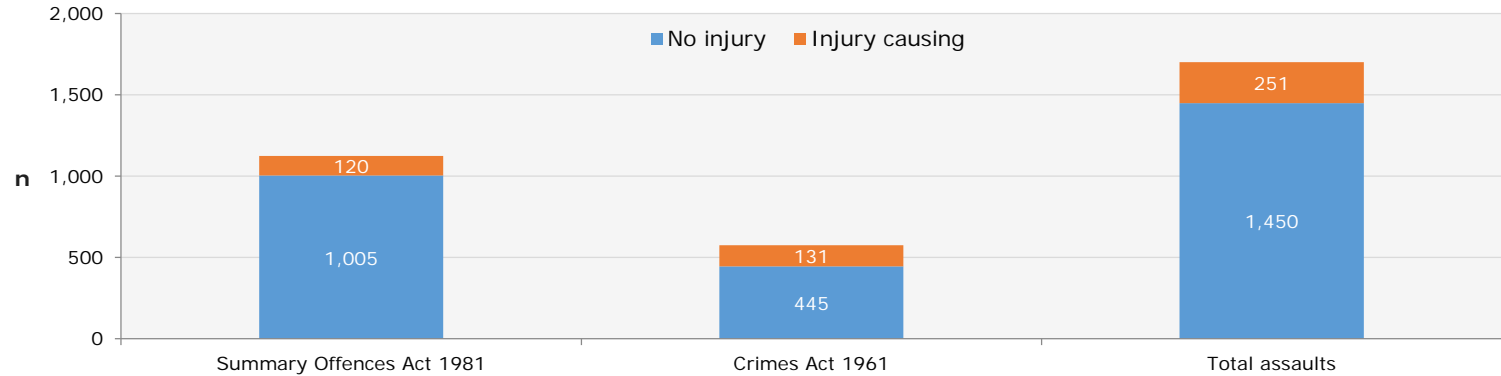
²¹ Incident types refer to the incident type the submitting officers selected that best described the incidents. It does not reflect any diagnosis of the subject's mental state by a mental health professional.

Table 11: Mental health relevant factors²² at TOR events, by relevant factor and district

| | Mental illness | % of TOR events | Suicidal | % of TOR events |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Northland | 22 | 10% | 12 | 6% |
| Waitematā | 71 | 18% | 30 | 7% |
| Auckland City | 75 | 14% | 36 | 7% |
| Counties Manukau | 85 | 12% | 61 | 9% |
| Waikato | 62 | 20% | 27 | 9% |
| Bay of Plenty | 72 | 13% | 50 | 9% |
| Eastern | 43 | 13% | 29 | 8% |
| Central | 52 | 13% | 39 | 9% |
| Wellington | 83 | 16% | 67 | 13% |
| Tasman | 25 | 17% | 15 | 10% |
| Canterbury | 98 | 20% | 73 | 15% |
| Southern | 54 | 20% | 48 | 18% |
| Total events | 742 | 15% | 487 | 10% |

²² Relevant factors refer to the submitting officers subjective assessment of factors which were perceived as relevant to use of tactical options. It does not reflect any diagnosis of the subject's mental state by a mental health professional.

Figure 6: Assaults on Police, by offence Act and injury, 2015²³



²³ Assaults on Police data is obtained from the Recorded Crime Victim Statistics (RCVS).

Table 12: Number of AOS deployments²⁴, by deployment type and incident district, 2015

| | Emergency callouts | Pre-planned deployments | Total deployments |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Northland | 15 | 18 | 33 |
| Waitematā | 8 | 15 | 23 |
| Auckland City | 5 | 19 | 24 |
| Counties Manukau | 12 | 22 | 34 |
| Waikato | 20 | 71 | 91 |
| Bay of Plenty | 25 | 72 | 97 |
| Eastern | 23 | 34 | 57 |
| Central | 42 | 35 | 77 |
| Wellington | 23 | 83 | 106 |
| Tasman | 8 | 26 | 34 |
| Canterbury | 28 | 73 | 101 |
| Southern | 23 | 44 | 67 |
| Total deployments | 232 | 512 | 744 |

²⁴ Multiple AOS squads may attend one deployment.

Table 13: Number of TOR events, by month and district, 2015

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Average |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Northland | 12 | 9 | 29 | 15 | 25 | 21 | 14 | 19 | 16 | 21 | 19 | 17 | 18 |
| Waitematā | 40 | 34 | 35 | 30 | 26 | 19 | 40 | 29 | 25 | 38 | 42 | 43 | 33 |
| Auckland City | 45 | 37 | 43 | 54 | 57 | 32 | 43 | 35 | 38 | 61 | 60 | 36 | 45 |
| Counties Manukau | 71 | 58 | 62 | 44 | 57 | 60 | 60 | 46 | 52 | 63 | 67 | 60 | 58 |
| Waikato | 37 | 16 | 18 | 30 | 21 | 31 | 27 | 21 | 25 | 20 | 27 | 37 | 26 |
| Bay of Plenty | 80 | 33 | 33 | 43 | 50 | 44 | 54 | 38 | 46 | 56 | 52 | 43 | 48 |
| Eastern | 39 | 30 | 33 | 24 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 36 | 21 | 31 | 25 | 39 | 29 |
| Central | 34 | 36 | 35 | 41 | 18 | 36 | 26 | 39 | 28 | 45 | 39 | 35 | 34 |
| Wellington | 37 | 41 | 46 | 33 | 42 | 34 | 37 | 57 | 49 | 34 | 46 | 55 | 43 |
| Tasman | 23 | 10 | 20 | 17 | 10 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 14 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 13 |
| Canterbury | 43 | 50 | 33 | 42 | 29 | 37 | 46 | 47 | 28 | 44 | 51 | 39 | 41 |
| Southern | 19 | 22 | 29 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 31 | 32 | 13 | 17 | 17 | 30 | 22 |
| Average | 40 | 31 | 35 | 33 | 32 | 30 | 34 | 34 | 30 | 36 | 38 | 37 | 34 |

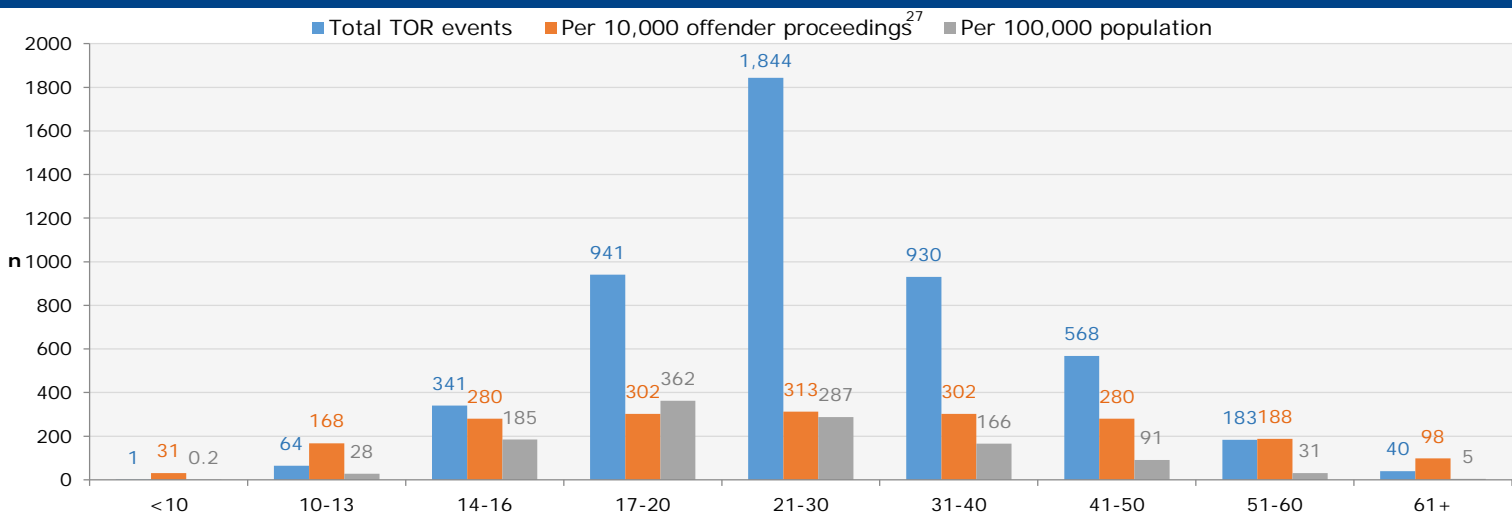
Table 14: Number of TOR events, by weekday and district, 2015

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Average |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Northland | 21 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 35 | 48 | 40 | 31 |
| Waitematā | 43 | 44 | 55 | 48 | 78 | 66 | 67 | 57 |
| Auckland City | 74 | 49 | 67 | 67 | 81 | 93 | 110 | 77 |
| Counties Manukau | 71 | 87 | 96 | 81 | 120 | 138 | 107 | 100 |
| Waikato | 37 | 35 | 50 | 37 | 48 | 58 | 45 | 44 |
| Bay of Plenty | 52 | 69 | 55 | 90 | 78 | 121 | 107 | 82 |
| Eastern | 38 | 43 | 35 | 48 | 48 | 67 | 64 | 49 |
| Central | 42 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 53 | 94 | 82 | 59 |
| Wellington | 48 | 58 | 63 | 64 | 66 | 98 | 114 | 73 |
| Tasman | 17 | 12 | 15 | 24 | 23 | 35 | 25 | 22 |
| Canterbury | 57 | 81 | 55 | 69 | 61 | 65 | 101 | 70 |
| Southern | 21 | 25 | 20 | 30 | 27 | 67 | 77 | 38 |
| Average | 43 | 48 | 49 | 53 | 60 | 79 | 78 | 59 |

Table 15: Number of TOR events, by time and district, 2015

| | 0000 - 0200 | 0200 - 0400 | 0400 - 0600 | 0600 - 0800 | 0800 - 1000 | 1000 - 1200 | 1200 - 1400 | 1400 - 1600 | 1600 - 1800 | 1800 - 2000 | 2000 - 2200 | 2200 - 2400 | Average |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Northland | 37 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 21 | 20 | 12 | 21 | 27 | 24 | 29 | 18 |
| Waitematā | 35 | 31 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 32 | 27 | 26 | 42 | 37 | 82 | 52 | 33 |
| Auckland City | 64 | 50 | 49 | 13 | 19 | 25 | 32 | 34 | 53 | 48 | 89 | 65 | 45 |
| Counties Manukau | 88 | 67 | 22 | 11 | 21 | 57 | 59 | 56 | 56 | 67 | 84 | 112 | 58 |
| Waikato | 44 | 26 | 11 | 6 | 19 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 42 | 19 | 36 | 39 | 26 |
| Bay of Plenty | 82 | 65 | 17 | 15 | 39 | 44 | 38 | 44 | 45 | 55 | 67 | 61 | 48 |
| Eastern | 46 | 33 | 12 | 12 | 20 | 23 | 19 | 21 | 29 | 37 | 41 | 50 | 29 |
| Central | 73 | 28 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 32 | 28 | 30 | 38 | 30 | 54 | 67 | 34 |
| Wellington | 86 | 63 | 27 | 15 | 17 | 23 | 30 | 38 | 39 | 43 | 50 | 80 | 43 |
| Tasman | 34 | 17 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 16 | 23 | 13 |
| Canterbury | 77 | 46 | 16 | 5 | 16 | 35 | 26 | 40 | 46 | 64 | 57 | 61 | 41 |
| Southern | 60 | 32 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 33 | 38 | 40 | 22 |
| Average | 61 | 39 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 28 | 27 | 29 | 36 | 39 | 53 | 57 | 34 |

Figure 7: TOR events, by subject age, 2015^{25,26}



²⁵The youngest person who had a tactical option used against them was aged 6 years, while the oldest person was aged 82.

²⁶The data in Figures 7 and 8, and Table 16 do not account for subject behaviours at TOR events.

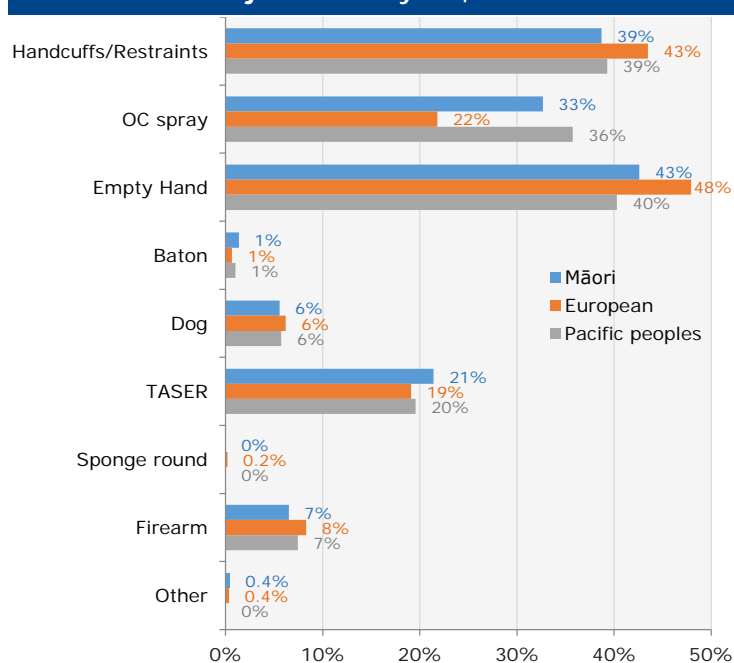
²⁷Police offender proceedings data is obtained from Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics (RCOS) and counts how many times Police have taken action against offenders (for one or more offences). These figures differ from the previously used Apprehensions data and therefore are not comparable with previous Tactical Options Research Reports.

Table 16: TOR events, by subject ethnicity, 2015²⁶

| | n | Per 10,000 offender proceedings ²⁷ | Per 100,000 population |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|------------------------|
| Māori | 2,507 | 349 | 348 |
| European | 1,665 | 248 | 49 |
| Pacific peoples | 593 | 348 | 164 |
| Asian | 77 | 116 | 13 |
| MELAA ²⁸ | 53 | 264 | 85 |
| Other / Unknown | 19 | - | - |
| Total TOR events | 4,914 | 286 | 107 |

²⁸Middle Eastern, Latin American, or Africa

Figure 8: Proportion (%) of tactical options used, by subject ethnicity^{26,29}, 2015



²⁹For example, 43% of European subjects at TOR events had handcuffs or restraints used on them. As officers may use more than one tactical option (eg, handcuffs and OC spray) at a TOR event, the total percentage for each ethnicity exceeds 100%.

Table 17: TOR events, by work group, 2015

| Work group | n |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Public Safety Teams (formerly GDB) | 3,675 |
| Specialist ³⁰ | 405 |
| Road Policing | 294 |
| Custody / Watchhouse | 291 |
| Investigation | 145 |
| Prevention | 93 |
| Other / Unspecified | 11 |
| Total TOR events | 4,914 |

³⁰Includes AOS, STG, Dog section, Maritime unit, Air support, Airport police

Figure 9: Proportion (%) of TOR events by incident type

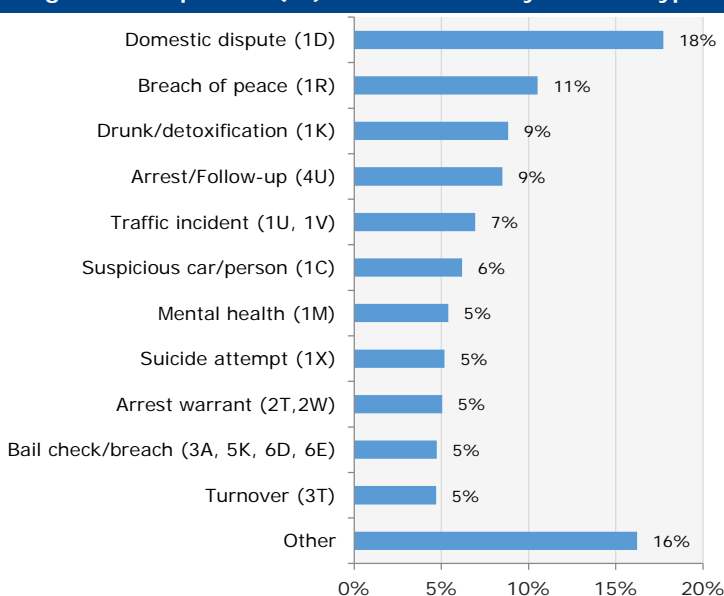
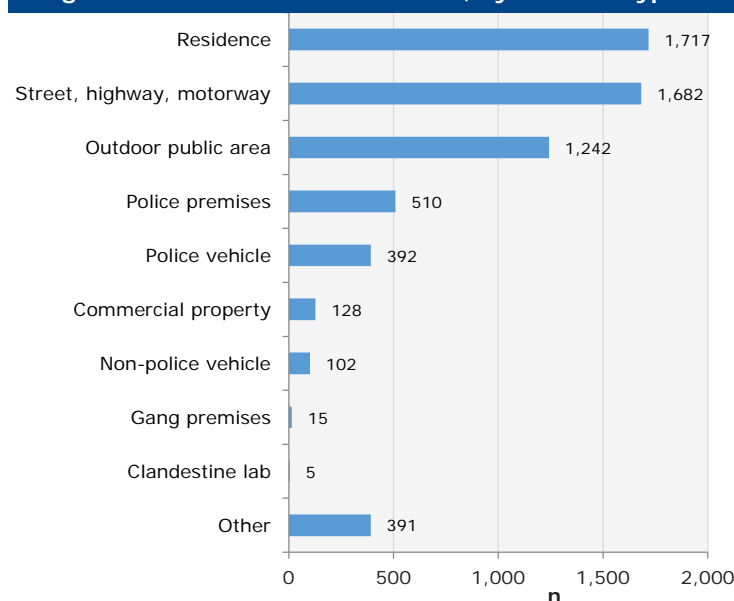


Figure 10: Number of TOR events, by location type³¹



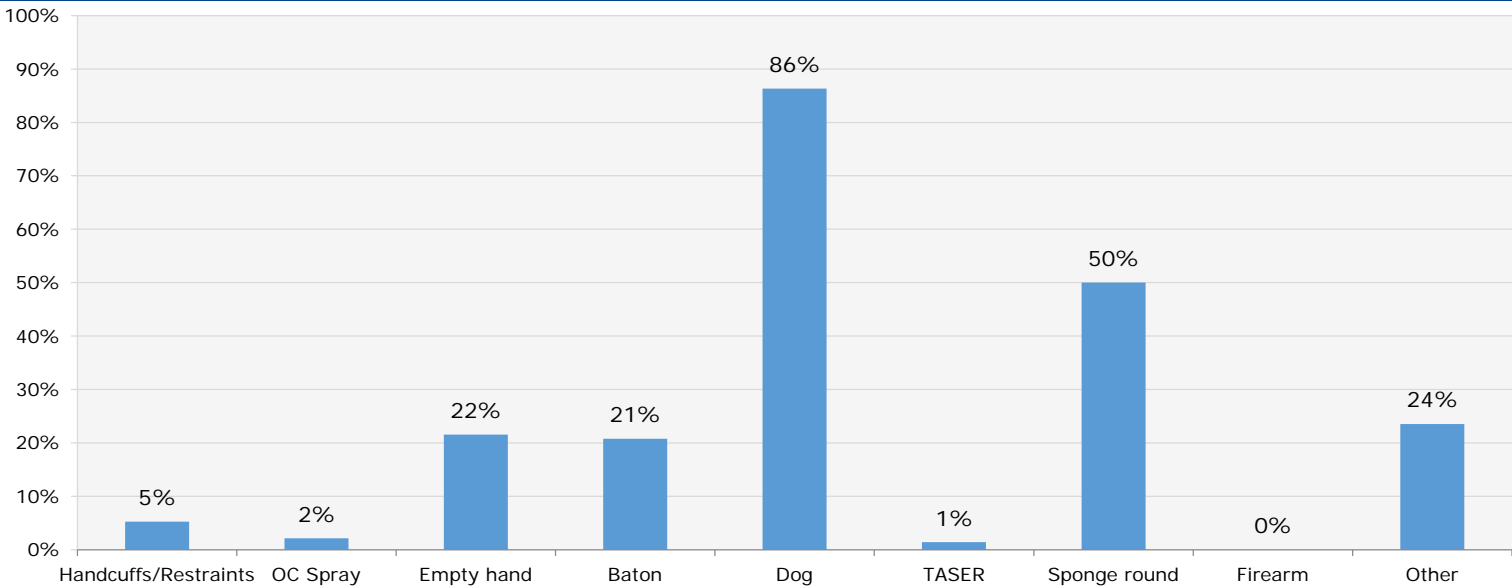
³¹More than one location type may be reported for each TOR event. Thus, the sum of the numbers in Figure 10 (n=6,184), exceeds the number of TOR events (n=4,914).

Table 18: Number of subject injuries as a result of tactical options use, by district, 2015³²

| | Handcuffs/ Restraints | OC Spray | Empty hand | Baton | Dog | TASER | Sponge round | Firearm | Other | Total injuries | % of all injuries |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|-------|-----|-------|-----------------|---------|-------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Northland | 8 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 4% |
| Waitematā | 5 | 1 | 41 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 7% |
| Auckland City | 13 | 1 | 51 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 9% |
| Counties Manukau | 9 | 7 | 80 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 119 | 14% |
| Waikato | 3 | 2 | 20 | 0 | 25 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 6% |
| Bay of Plenty | 17 | 4 | 74 | 2 | 28 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 129 | 15% |
| Eastern | 7 | 6 | 43 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 8% |
| Central | 5 | 4 | 34 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 8% |
| Wellington | 14 | 0 | 35 | 2 | 59 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 113 | 13% |
| Tasman | 7 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 3% |
| Canterbury | 9 | 4 | 36 | 3 | 38 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91 | 10% |
| Southern | 8 | 1 | 29 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 5% |
| Total injuries | 105 | 30 | 470 | 11 | 240 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 876 | 100% |
| % of all injuries | 12% | 3% | 54% | 1% | 27% | 2% | 0.2% | 0% | 0.5% | 100% | |

³² More than one subject injury may be reported as a result of a TOR event. Table 18 presents injuries caused by each tactical option, as a proportion of all injuries caused by all tactical options. Thus, the 876 injuries shown in Table 18 represents the total injuries received as a result of tactical options use, rather than the number of TOR events at which one or more injuries occurred. Fatalities associated with a use of force are not reported in a TOR form, but are instead subject to internal and external investigations.

Figure 11: Subject injury rate (%) for each tactical option used at TOR events, nationally, 2015^{33,34}



³³ Figure 11 shows the injury rate (%) for each tactical option eg, 86% of dog bites resulted in subject injury. As the injury rate for each tactical option is independent, percentages should not be summed.

³⁴ TASER subject injury data includes shows and discharges (excluding fatalities). Superficial TASER probe injuries are excluded. All firearms TOR events in 2015 involved only the presentation of firearms.

Table 19: Subject injuries³⁵ at TOR events, by severity³⁶, and district

| | Minor | Moderate | Serious | Total injuries |
|------------------|-------|----------|---------|----------------|
| Northland | 18 | 13 | 3 | 34 |
| Waitematā | 37 | 13 | 7 | 57 |
| Auckland City | 53 | 20 | 4 | 77 |
| Counties Manukau | 71 | 40 | 8 | 119 |
| Waikato | 23 | 23 | 6 | 52 |
| Bay of Plenty | 75 | 48 | 6 | 129 |
| Eastern | 47 | 20 | 3 | 70 |
| Central | 37 | 27 | 2 | 66 |
| Wellington | 39 | 61 | 13 | 113 |
| Tasman | 17 | 9 | 1 | 27 |
| Canterbury | 37 | 40 | 14 | 91 |
| Southern | 29 | 8 | 4 | 41 |
| Total injuries | 483 | 322 | 71 | 876 |

³⁵ More than one subject injury may occur, and be reported, as the result of a TOR event. The n=876 in Table 19 counts individual injuries, rather than TOR events at which one or more injuries occurred. Superficial TASER probe injuries are excluded.

³⁶ 'Minor', 'moderate', and 'serious' are proxy indicators of severity. Minor injuries = 'nil, self, or staff treatment'; moderate injuries = 'medical treatment (but not hospital admission)'; serious injuries = 'treatment at a hospital. Care should be taken in interpreting 'serious' injury data as injuries can be treated at hospital for practical reasons rather than necessity.

Table 20: Staff injuries³⁷ at TOR events, by severity³⁶, and district

| | Minor | Moderate | Serious | Total injuries |
|------------------|-------|----------|---------|----------------|
| Northland | 19 | 2 | 1 | 22 |
| Waitematā | 40 | 11 | 1 | 52 |
| Auckland City | 41 | 12 | 0 | 53 |
| Counties Manukau | 78 | 15 | 5 | 98 |
| Waikato | 16 | 8 | 0 | 24 |
| Bay of Plenty | 67 | 10 | 2 | 79 |
| Eastern | 26 | 5 | 1 | 32 |
| Central | 37 | 11 | 1 | 49 |
| Wellington | 41 | 16 | 0 | 57 |
| Tasman | 17 | 5 | 3 | 25 |
| Canterbury | 39 | 6 | 1 | 46 |
| Southern | 27 | 7 | 2 | 36 |
| Total injuries | 448 | 108 | 17 | 573 |

³⁷ Officers can only report one injury and injury severity type which they received at a TOR event. The n=573 in Table 20 counts TOR events at which one or more staff injuries occurred rather than individual injuries.

Focus on: Subject Weapons

Figure F1: Proportion (%) of all TOR events involving armed subjects, by weapon type and use

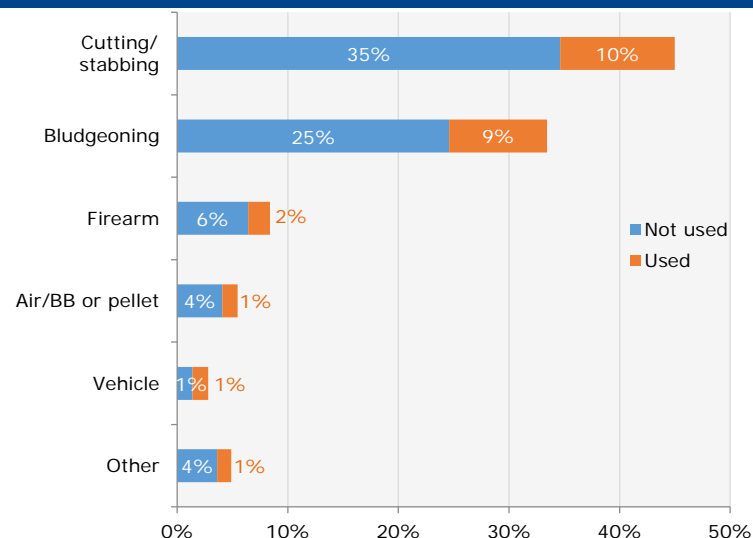


Figure F2: Proportion (%) of TOR events where a tactical option(s) was used, by subject armament

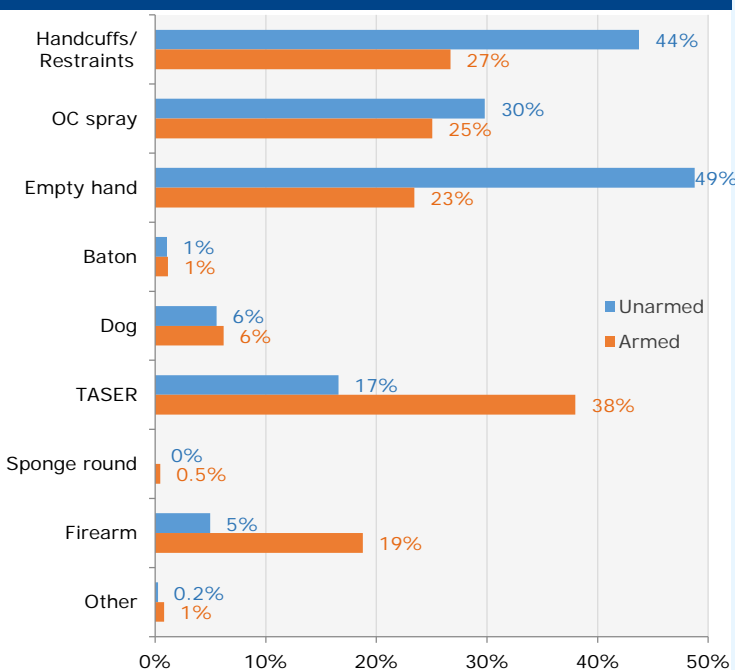
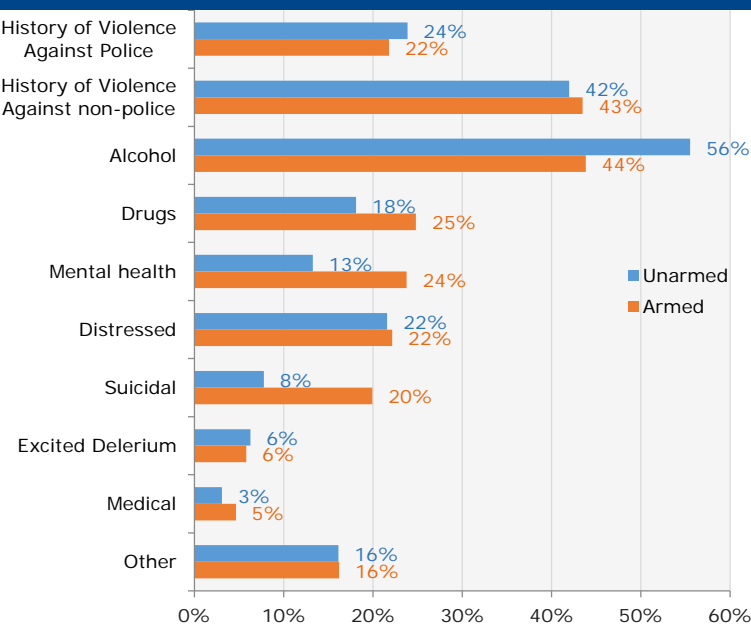


Figure F3: Proportion (%) of TOR events by subject relevant factors and armament



Overview

While subject behaviour is the key factor to the deployment of tactical options, armed subjects have a greater capacity for harm to themselves, the public and Police. To mitigate the potential for harm, Police often adopt different approaches to confronting armed subjects compared to unarmed subjects with similar behaviour, including the deployment of tactical options proportionate to the threat the subject poses.

This 'Focus on' provides analysis of TOR events at which subjects were in possession of weapons (including cutting/stabbing weapons, bludgeoning weapon, firearms, air/BB or pellet weapons, vehicles or other weapons). The analysis does not account for whether the officer believed the subject was armed and other factors which would affect the perceived threat the subject posed (including behaviours and perceived capability).

Key findings

- Subjects were armed with a weapon at 17% (n=858) of all TOR events. This was fairly consistent across all districts, ranging from 15% of TOR events in Northland, Auckland City, and Tasman to 22% in Canterbury.
- The most common types of subject weapons were cutting or stabbing weapons (45%), followed by bludgeoning weapons (33%). Firearms accounted for 8% of all subject weapons, with Air, BB or pellet weapons accounting for 5%. Subjects used weapons in a quarter of these events. (Figure F1)
- Subjects aged 14-30 were the least likely to be armed at TOR events (16%). Whereas subjects under 14 and over 51 were the most likely to be armed (25% and 31% respectively).
- European and MELAA (Middle Eastern/Latin American/African) subjects were the most likely to be armed (20% and 32% respectively) whereas Pacific peoples, Māori, and Asian subjects were the least likely to be armed (16%).
- Police were more likely to use higher levels of force in response to armed subject compared to unarmed subjects. Police deployed TASER (including 'shows') over twice as often in response to armed subjects (38%) as unarmed subjects (17%), and deployed firearms (including presentations) nearly four times as often in response to armed subjects (19%) compared to unarmed subjects (5%)³⁷. Similarly, Police were much less likely to use Handcuffs and restraints, and empty hand tactics on armed subjects compared to unarmed subjects. (Figure F2)
- Police firearms were the most common tactical option deployed in response to subjects armed with firearms (81%) or Air, BB or pellet weapon (87%). TASER was the most common tactical option deployed in response to subjects armed with cutting or stabbing weapons (52%), and OC spray was the most commonly used tactical option in response to bludgeoning weapons (39%). Comparatively, Police firearms were deployed in 9% of events involving cutting/stabbing weapons and 5% of events involving bludgeoning weapons.
- Armed subjects were more likely to be considered by officers to be impaired by drugs (25%), have a mental health issue (24%), and/or be suicidal (20%); compared with unarmed subjects (18%, 13%, and 8% respectively). Armed subjects were less likely to be suspected of being impaired by alcohol (44%) compared with unarmed subjects (56%). (Figure F3)
- Overall, the staff injury rate was lower at TOR events involving armed subjects (7%) than unarmed subjects (13%), except for when subjects used vehicles as weapons which resulted in a 17% staff injury rate. The lower overall rate is likely partly a result of Police using higher level, ranged, tactical options (ie TASER, firearms,) when engaging armed subjects.
- The subject injury rate TOR events was also lower for armed subjects (12%) compared to unarmed subjects (18%). Again, this is likely due to the deployment of TASER, and the presentation of firearms which have low subject injury rates.

³⁷ Typically, the unarmed subjects were believed to be armed.



Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation (RORE)

This report was compiled by Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation (RORE) at Police National Headquarters. A key role of this team is to undertake research, analysis, monitoring and evaluation of police use of force, to provide accountability and assist evidence-based decision making, in support of police and public safety.

Tactical Options Reporting (TOR)

A TOR 'event' is the reportable use of one or more tactical options by one officer, against one individual. Multiple TOR events can occur at one incident.

The following deployments of tactical options are reportable: handcuffs with pain compliance, or without pain compliance when used with another reportable tactical option; other restraints; OC spray bursts; empty hand tactics; baton strikes; dog bites or other dog-related deployment injuries; weapons of opportunity (reported in "other"); sponge rounds; shows and discharges of a TASER and/or firearm (noting the exemptions below).

The Armed Offenders Squads (AOS) and Special Tactics Group (STG) are exempted from reporting shows (but not discharges) of TASER and firearms. Fatalities associated with the use of force are also not reported in a TOR form, but are instead the subject of internal and external investigations. Accordingly, some use of force data is not included in this report.

Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) data limitations

TOR data presents a quantitative overview of deployment of tactical options; however, it does not provide a nuanced understanding of factors that influence the deployment of tactical options. Further, where the numbers in these reports are small, slight increases or decreases may result in large percentage differences. For these reasons, caution should be exercised when interpreting TOR data, including when comparing TOR data in previous and future reports, and districts.

Disclaimer

The TOR data reported in this publication is provisional, and is the most accurate available at time of extraction. Data entry errors were corrected where identified. While some data inaccuracies may remain (as with all large administrative databases), New Zealand Police is confident that the data is more than sufficiently accurate to monitor and describe reported deployment of tactical options by police. Police makes no warranty, expressed or implied, nor assumes any legal liability or responsibility, for the accuracy, correctness, completeness, or use of, the data or information in this publication. Further, Police shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from reliance on the data or information presented in this publication.

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