

NZ Police Annual Tactical Options Research Report #5

1 January to 31 December 2016

Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation (RORE)

Introduction

This Annual Tactical Options Research Report covers the 2016 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...

"I introduced myself and Constable [Name] to [the subject] and asked him what was going on. I noticed that he was holding something in his right hand so I asked him what it was. [The subject] replied with "It's for you". I realised it was a knife and told [the subject] to put it down. [The subject] was holding the knife by the handle with the blade pointing towards me. I told him to put the knife down once more before I laser painted him with the taser. I advised him that I was pointing a taser at him and that it was 50,000 volts. He replied with "I don't give a [expletive]". [The subject] started to approach me and I told him to stay where he was. [The subject] continued to approach me and I once again told him to stay where he was. [The subject] took another step towards me so I discharged the taser for 5 seconds. Both probes hit [the subject] and NMI was effective. [The subject] dropped the knife and I kicked it away from him. Once the 5 seconds was up, I told him to get on his stomach while Constable [Name] handcuffed him. [The subject] was then taken to [a location] where he was seen by a doctor and processed."

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.
- 8,051 tactical options were used at 5,055 TOR events in 2016.

Mental health was perceived as a relevant factor at 19% of events involving Police use of force.

- Subjects at TOR events who were perceived as suffering from mental distress were more likely to display aggressive behaviour and be armed compared to subjects with no perceived mental distress.
- Subjects in mental distress were more likely to have handcuffs and restraints and TASER used on them; and were less likely to have dogs used or firearms presented at them.
- Differences in deployment of tactical options seems largely influence by whether subjects were armed. However, irrespective of whether they were armed, subjects in mental distress were more likely to have a TASER discharged at them, with a show to discharge ratio of 4:1 (compared to 6:1 for subjects with no perceived mental distress).

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

- The three most common tactical options deployed were: empty hand tactics (40% of TOR events), handcuffs and restraints (37%), and OC spray (27%).
- Firearms (9%), 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 26% 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 85% of TASER events.
- TASER was discharged (ie, contact stun or discharge with probes) at 15% of TASER TOR events (1% contact stun and 14% discharge with probes).
- Overall, this equates to a TASER 'show' to 'discharge' ratio of 6:1. This varies from 12:1 in Central District to 3:1 in Counties Manukau District.

Injuries at TOR events were uncommon.

- 18% of TOR events resulted in an injury to the subject (9% minor, 7% moderate and 1% serious).
- Firearms (0%), TASER (2% - excluding superficial probe injuries), and OC spray (3%) had the lowest subject injury rates of all tactical options.
- Staff were injured at 11% of TOR events (9% minor, 2% moderate, 0.4% serious)



¹ Based on 3,548,750 callouts where Police attended

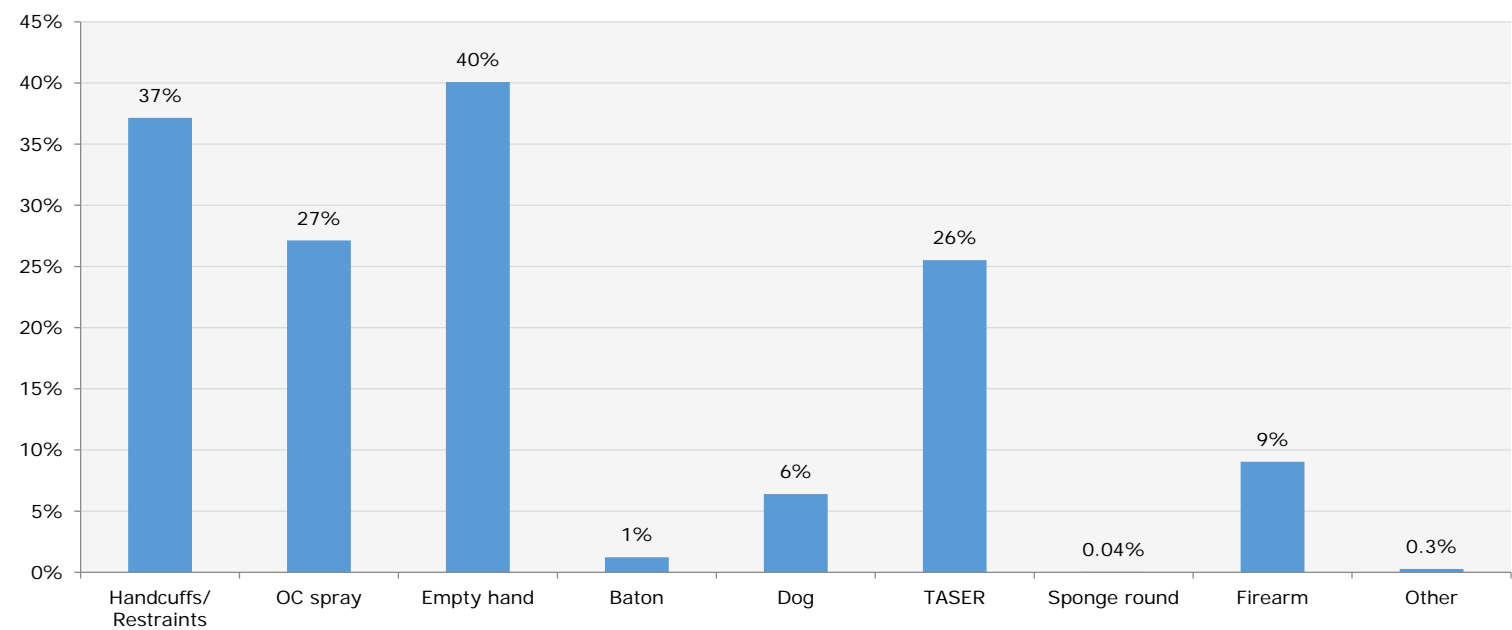
Table 1: Tactical options used at TOR events, by district, 2016^{2,3}

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Sponge round	Firearm	Other
Northland	91	95	74	3	33	56	0	13	1
Waitematā	188	75	186	7	21	102	0	29	0
Auckland City	190	119	231	5	14	123	0	38	1
Counties Manukau	297	169	321	8	20	145	0	80	0
Waikato	124	138	106	10	33	113	1	20	1
Bay of Plenty	177	144	231	4	27	158	0	45	4
Eastern	100	128	144	3	37	76	0	18	0
Central	160	139	181	10	22	141	1	57	2
Wellington	195	158	210	4	68	119	0	69	1
Tasman	62	48	69	2	10	76	0	22	1
Canterbury	185	102	157	3	31	119	0	51	1
Southern	109	56	116	3	7	62	0	15	2
Total TOR events	1,878	1,371	2,026	62	323	1,290	2	457	14
National average	157	114	169	5	27	108	0.2	38	1

² An officer may use more than one tactical option (eg, handcuffs and OC spray) at a TOR event.

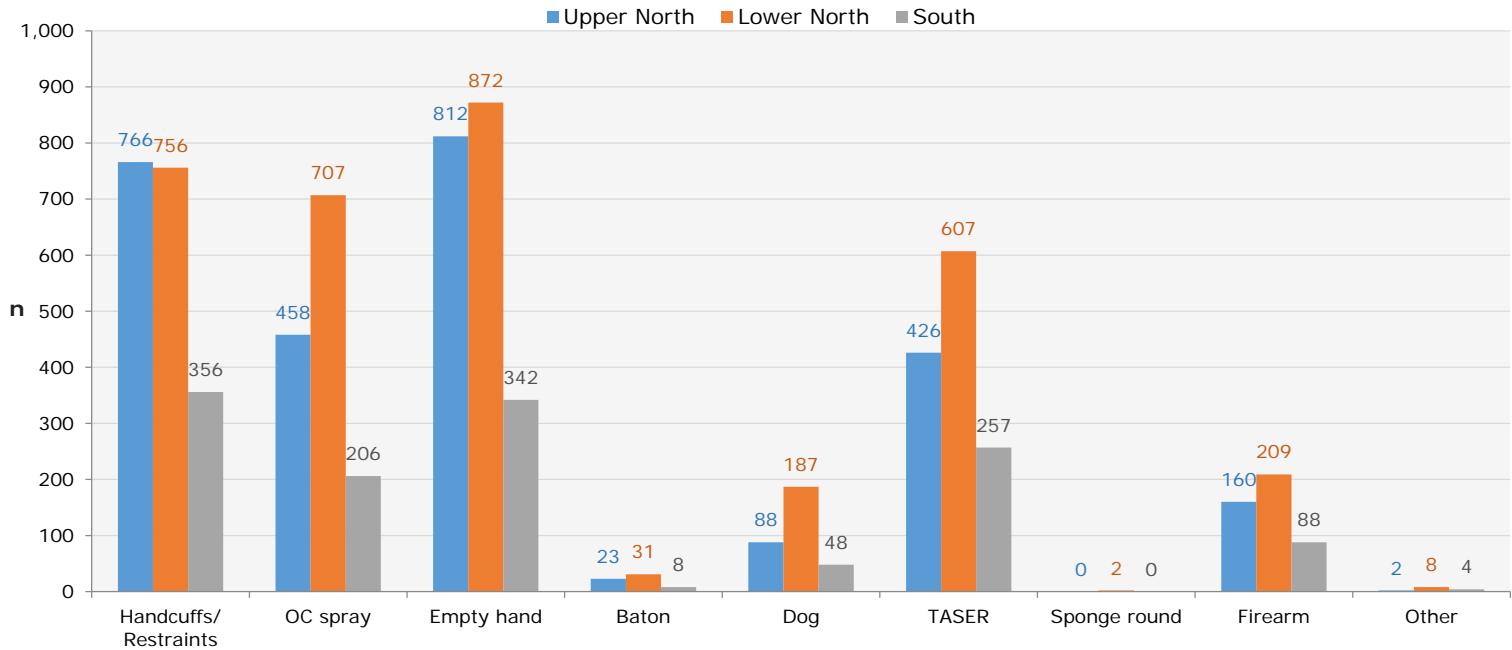
³ Table 1, Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 count whether a particular tactical option was used at a TOR event, not the number of times that tactical option was used at the event. See last page for tactical options deployments that are reportable in a Tactical Options Report.

Figure 1: Proportion (%) of TOR events (n=5,055) where a tactical option(s) was used, nationally, 2016⁴



⁴ For example, 37% 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, 2016⁵



⁵ '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 deployment⁶, by district, 2016

	Presentation	Laser painting	Arcing	Contact Stun ⁷	Discharge with probes ⁷	Total TASER events	Per 10,000 offender proceedings ⁸
Northland	9	40	1	0	6	56	67
Waitematā	14	68	2	0	18	102	72
Auckland City	17	78	3	2	23	123	76
Counties Manukau	26	83	2	3	31	145	63
Waikato	17	79	0	1	16	113	74
Bay of Plenty	46	95	2	1	14	158	85
Eastern	7	54	1	1	13	76	58
Central	35	95	0	1	10	141	87
Wellington	27	80	2	0	10	119	83
Tasman	18	45	1	1	11	76	106
Canterbury	11	92	0	0	16	119	65
Southern	10	39	1	5	7	62	57
Total TASER events	237	848	15	15	175	1,290	74
National average	20	71	1.3	1.3	15	108	

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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 some previous Tactical Options Research Reports.

Figure 3: TASER TOR events (n=1,290), by highest mode of deployment, by district, 2016

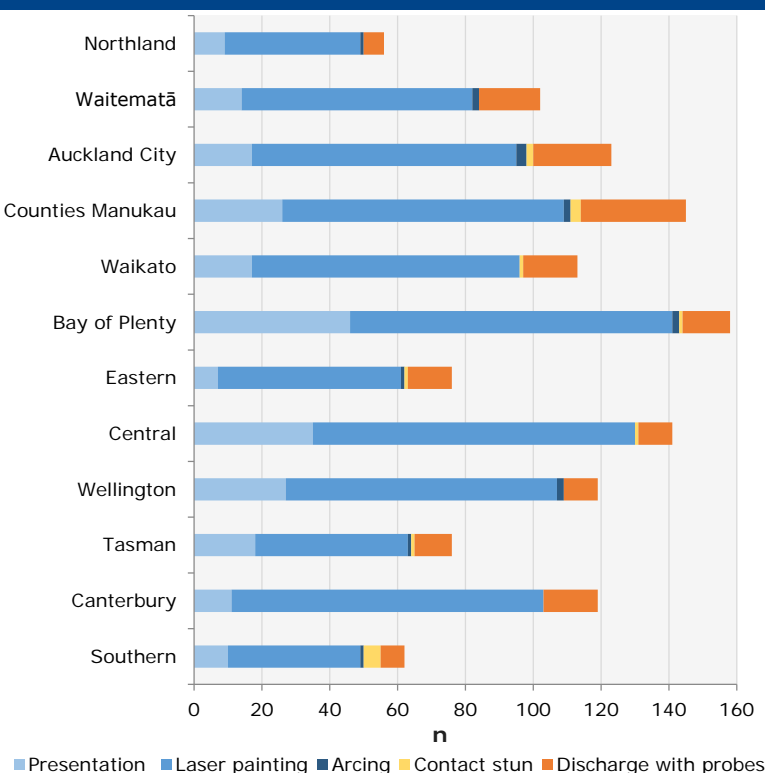
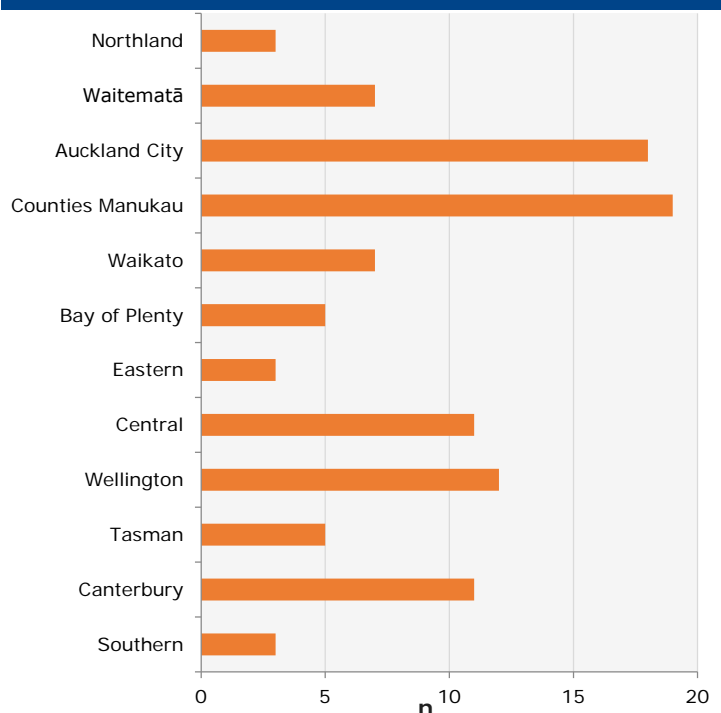


Figure 4: Number of unintentional discharges of TASER (n=104), by district⁹



⁹ Excludes unintentional discharges that occur during training. Six of the 104 discharges occurred in an operational setting, however no charge was delivered to any person as a result of these unintentional discharges.

Table 3: Number of TASER discharges at each TASER TOR event, by district, 2016¹⁰

	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Total discharge events
Northland	2	4	0	0	0	6
Waitematā	7	11	0	0	0	18
Auckland City	14	10	0	0	1	25
Counties Manukau	22	12	0	0	0	34
Waikato	10	6	0	1	0	17
Bay of Plenty	10	3	0	0	2	15
Eastern	8	5	1	0	0	14
Central	9	1	0	0	1	11
Wellington	7	2	0	0	1	10
Tasman	8	4	0	0	0	12
Canterbury	13	3	0	0	0	16
Southern	7	4	1	0	0	12
Total discharge events	117	65	2	1	5	190

¹⁰ 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 117 TASER TOR events, TASER was discharged once, while in 73 events TASER was discharged two or more times. Thus, there were 296 discharges at 190 TASER TOR discharge events.

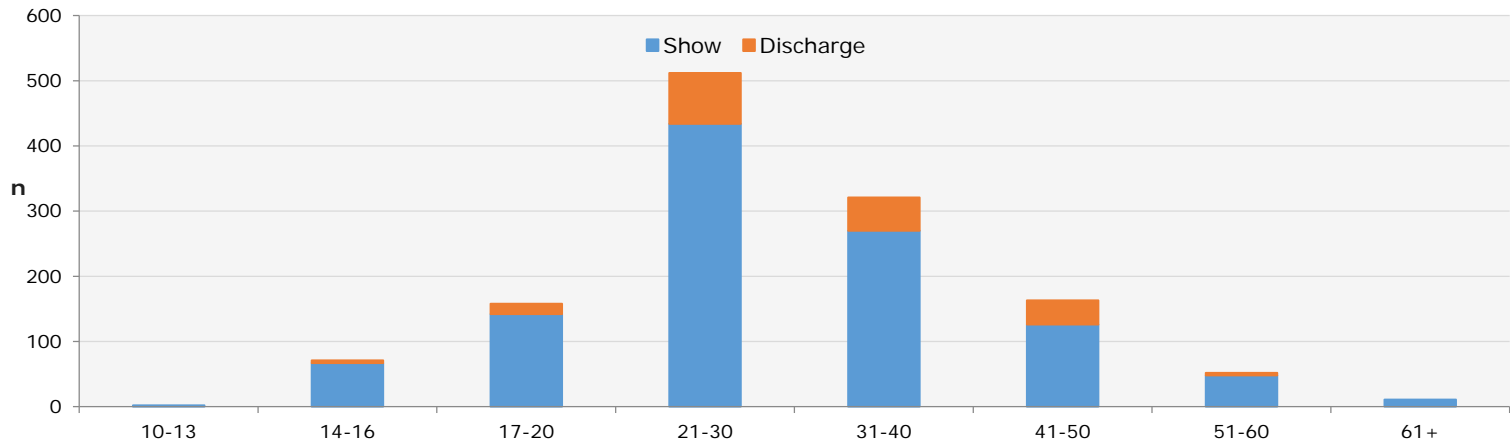
Table 4: Number of TASER discharges, by discharge mode and district, 2016

	Contact stun ¹¹	Discharge with probes ¹²	Total discharges
Northland	0	10	10
Waitematā	1	28	29
Auckland City	12	32	44
Counties Manukau	5	41	46
Waikato	7	19	26
Bay of Plenty	15	18	33
Eastern	2	19	21
Central	8	10	18
Wellington	3	13	16
Tasman	3	13	16
Canterbury	0	19	19
Southern	7	11	18
Total discharges	63	233	296

¹¹Contact stun refers to discharges where probes were not deployed, ie, the TASER was activated while in contact with the subject, without deploying the probes.

¹²Discharge with probes refers to discharges where probes were deployed.

Figure 5: TASER TOR events, by age and mode of deployment, 2016¹³



¹³The youngest person who had TASER discharged against them was aged 14 years, while the oldest person was aged 56.

Table 5: TASER TOR events, by ethnicity and mode of deployment, 2016

	Shows	% of shows	Discharges	% of discharges	Total TASER events	Per 10,000 offender proceedings ¹⁴
Māori	603	55%	101	53%	704	93
European	355	32%	57	30%	412	62
Pacific peoples	122	11%	26	14%	148	88
Asian	10	1%	3	2%	13	20
MELAA ¹⁵	7	1%	1	1%	8	46
Other / Unknown	3	0.3%	2	1%	5	-
Total TASER events	1,100	100%	190	100%	1,290	74

¹⁵Police 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 some previous Tactical Options Research Reports.

¹⁶Middle Eastern/Latin American/African

Table 6: Subject injuries¹⁵ resulting from TASER discharges, by severity¹⁶, and district

	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	0	0	0	0
Waitematā	1	0	0	1
Auckland City	1	5	2	8
Counties Manukau	1	2	0	3
Waikato	0	3	1	4
Bay of Plenty	1	1	1	3
Eastern	0	1	0	1
Central	2	0	0	2
Wellington	0	3	0	3
Tasman	0	1	0	1
Canterbury	0	0	1	1
Southern	0	0	2	2
Total injuries	6	16	7	29

¹⁵More than one subject injury may occur, and be reported, as a result of a TASER discharge. The n=29 in Table 6 counts individual injuries, rather than TASER events at which one or more injuries occurred. Superficial probe injuries are excluded.

¹⁶'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 injuries¹⁷ at TASER TOR events, by severity¹⁶, and district

	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	2	0	0	2
Waitematā	4	3	0	7
Auckland City	6	2	0	8
Counties Manukau	9	5	0	14
Waikato	2	3	1	6
Bay of Plenty	6	0	1	7
Eastern	5	0	0	5
Central	6	0	1	7
Wellington	5	2	0	7
Tasman	3	0	1	4
Canterbury	5	1	1	7
Southern	2	1	0	3
Total injuries	55	17	5	77

¹⁷Officers can only report one injury and injury severity type received at a TASER TOR event. The n=77 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, 2016

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Firearm	Other	Total
Northland	1	0	9	0	2	0	0	0	12
Waitematā	5	1	18	0	1	2	0	1	28
Auckland City	4	1	21	1	2	1	1	0	31
Counties Manukau	7	0	33	0	0	3	0	1	44
Waikato	1	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	9
Bay of Plenty	3	3	31	0	0	0	7	0	44
Eastern	2	2	16	0	4	0	0	0	24
Central	3	2	23	0	2	1	2	0	33
Wellington	10	2	25	0	12	4	0	0	53
Tasman	4	0	15	0	2	2	0	0	23
Canterbury	1	1	23	0	7	2	1	0	35
Southern	2	0	18	0	1	6	4	0	31
Total	43	12	238	1	33	21	17	2	367
Per 1,000 TOR events	23	9	117	16	102	16	37	-	73

Table 9: Use of force complaints and notifications to IPCA, by tactical option and status, 2016

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Firearm	Other	Total
COMPLETE	40	9	198	0	27	18	6	1	299
Upheld ¹⁷	1	0	23	0	3	4	0	1	32
Other ¹⁸	39	9	175	0	24	14	6	0	267
% upheld	3%	0%	12%	-	11%	22%	0%	100%	11%
INCOMPLETE	3	3	40	1	6	3	11	1	68
Active	2	3	25	1	3	3	7	1	45
Pending	1	0	15	0	3	0	4	0	23
Total	43	12	238	1	33	21	17	2	367

¹⁷ '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.

¹⁸ 'Other' refers to all other findings such as Not Upheld, Conciliated, Withdrawn, etc.

Table 10: Mental health incident types¹⁹ at TOR events, by incident type and district

	Mental illness (1M)	% of TOR events	Suicide attempt (1X)	% of TOR events
Northland	10	4%	7	3%
Waitematā	35	9%	17	4%
Auckland City	30	6%	26	5%
Counties Manukau	15	2%	32	5%
Waikato	15	4%	21	6%
Bay of Plenty	25	4%	22	4%
Eastern	20	6%	16	4%
Central	27	5%	18	4%
Wellington	27	5%	28	5%
Tasman	16	8%	12	6%
Canterbury	29	7%	37	8%
Southern	15	6%	18	8%
Total events	264	5%	254	5%

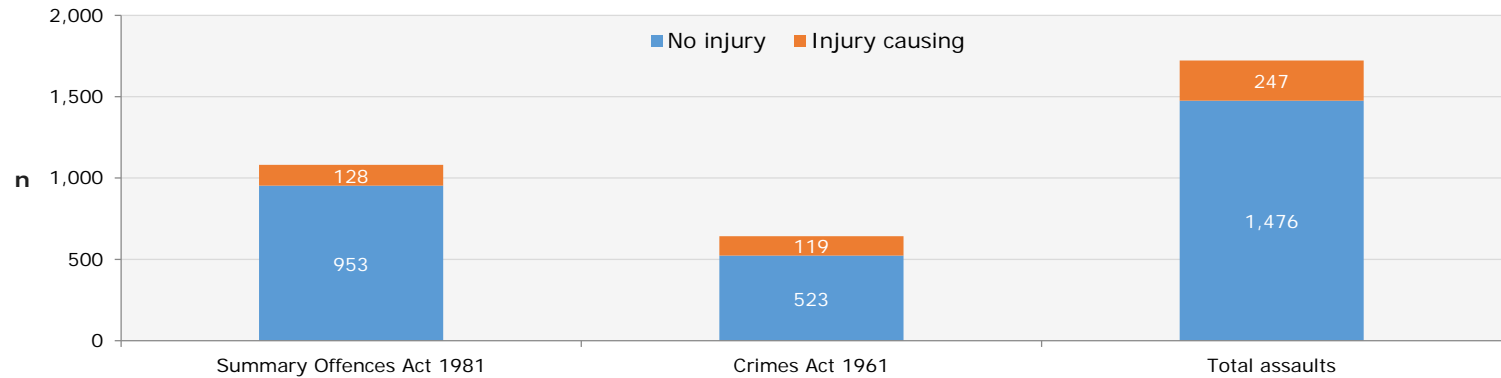
¹⁹ Incident types refer to the incident type the submitting officers selected that best described the incidents. It does not reflect any diagnosis of the subject's mental state by a mental health professional.

Table 11: Mental health relevant factors²⁰ at TOR events, by relevant factor and district

	Mental illness	% of TOR events	Suicidal	% of TOR events
Northland	26	11%	12	5%
Waitematā	67	17%	37	9%
Auckland City	69	14%	41	8%
Counties Manukau	67	10%	57	8%
Waikato	63	18%	36	10%
Bay of Plenty	80	14%	44	8%
Eastern	37	10%	32	9%
Central	71	14%	47	9%
Wellington	81	14%	52	9%
Tasman	36	18%	30	15%
Canterbury	76	17%	68	15%
Southern	45	19%	32	14%
Total events	718	14%	488	10%

²⁰ 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, 2016²¹



²¹ Assaults on Police data is obtained from the Recorded Crime Victim Statistics (RCVS).

Table 12: Number of AOS deployments ²² , by deployment type and incident district, 2016													
	Emergency callouts					Pre-planned deployments					Total deployments		
Northland	24					23					47		
Waitematā	7					21					28		
Auckland City	6					22					28		
Counties Manukau	19					34					53		
Waikato	32					34					66		
Bay of Plenty	35					64					99		
Eastern	34					30					64		
Central	44					53					97		
Wellington	32					69					101		
Tasman	13					27					40		
Canterbury	34					95					129		
Southern	34					50					84		
Total deployments	314					522					836		

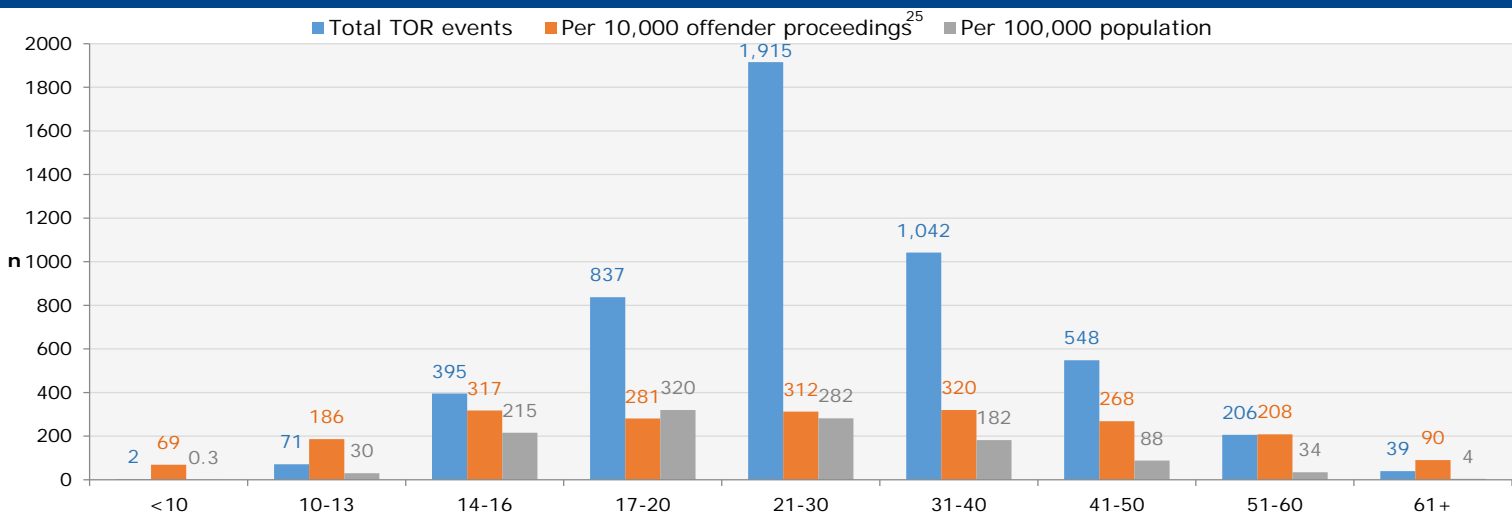
²²Multiple AOS squads may attend one deployment.

Table 13: Number of TOR events, by month and district, 2016													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Northland	20	16	18	23	19	19	21	20	16	23	21	31	21
Waitematā	42	26	35	40	21	40	23	36	23	34	32	38	33
Auckland City	37	71	42	42	22	29	40	46	42	44	30	52	41
Counties Manukau	84	55	56	57	49	48	57	45	51	56	66	68	58
Waikato	18	32	27	26	26	30	24	40	33	33	25	40	30
Bay of Plenty	60	46	47	29	50	45	42	42	54	53	51	50	47
Eastern	23	25	27	28	28	11	38	33	39	31	30	43	30
Central	34	39	51	39	40	52	40	38	40	43	46	43	42
Wellington	55	47	36	34	43	61	50	57	35	43	47	57	47
Tasman	13	15	18	9	10	10	30	20	21	15	20	23	17
Canterbury	42	45	24	33	37	29	49	41	34	24	43	38	37
Southern	14	21	22	19	26	12	18	26	17	25	21	16	20
Average	37	37	34	32	31	32	36	37	34	35	36	42	35

Table 14: Number of TOR events, by weekday and district, 2016													
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Average					
Northland	31	23	34	41	27	54	37	35					
Waitematā	36	53	50	61	69	69	52	56					
Auckland City	49	58	38	93	64	106	89	71					
Counties Manukau	56	81	69	113	94	147	132	99					
Waikato	50	41	54	28	49	69	63	51					
Bay of Plenty	62	54	71	76	94	114	98	81					
Eastern	35	47	36	38	48	66	86	51					
Central	61	61	54	62	72	103	92	72					
Wellington	53	51	61	67	91	118	124	81					
Tasman	25	27	18	27	33	38	36	29					
Canterbury	35	47	36	70	70	95	86	63					
Southern	16	32	19	36	38	39	57	34					
Average	42	48	45	59	62	85	79	60					

Table 15: Number of TOR events, by time and district, 2016													
	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	34	26	12	4	13	9	15	18	23	19	28	46	21
Waitematā	44	31	20	10	16	30	35	35	50	37	35	47	33
Auckland City	54	45	40	13	25	51	31	37	30	67	45	59	41
Counties Manukau	98	63	28	18	32	57	53	47	56	63	75	102	58
Waikato	34	28	10	9	14	33	25	30	25	48	47	51	30
Bay of Plenty	86	45	16	16	50	47	36	38	38	57	64	76	47
Eastern	57	24	14	11	15	30	29	34	37	35	36	34	30
Central	53	39	8	14	22	44	33	52	47	68	53	72	42
Wellington	82	70	22	15	25	35	25	36	48	62	62	83	47
Tasman	33	17	3	8	5	11	13	16	8	24	30	36	17
Canterbury	72	46	14	11	17	27	30	27	40	46	46	63	37
Southern	46	14	10	7	11	7	12	5	20	20	34	51	20
Average	58	37	16	11	20	32	28	31	35	46	46	60	35

Figure 7: TOR events, by subject age, 2016^{23,24}



²³The youngest person who had a tactical option used against them was aged 9 years, while the oldest person was aged 84.

²⁴The data in Figures 7 and 8, and Table 16 do not account for subject behaviours at TOR events.

²⁵Police 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, 2016²⁴

	n	Per 10,000 offender proceedings ²⁵	Per 100,000 population
Māori	2,682	356	364
European	1,688	255	49
Pacific peoples	545	325	147
Asian	69	105	10
MELAA ²⁶	38	221	56
Other / Unknown	33	-	-
Total TOR events	5,055	289	108

²⁶Middle Eastern, Latin American, or Africa

Table 17: TOR events, by work group, 2016

Work group	n
Public Safety Teams (formerly GDB)	3,721
Specialist ²⁸	472
Road Policing	379
Custody / Watchhouse	208
Investigation	159
Prevention	98
Other / Unspecified	18
Total TOR events	5,055

²⁸Includes AOS, STG, Dog section, Maritime unit, Air support, Airport police

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

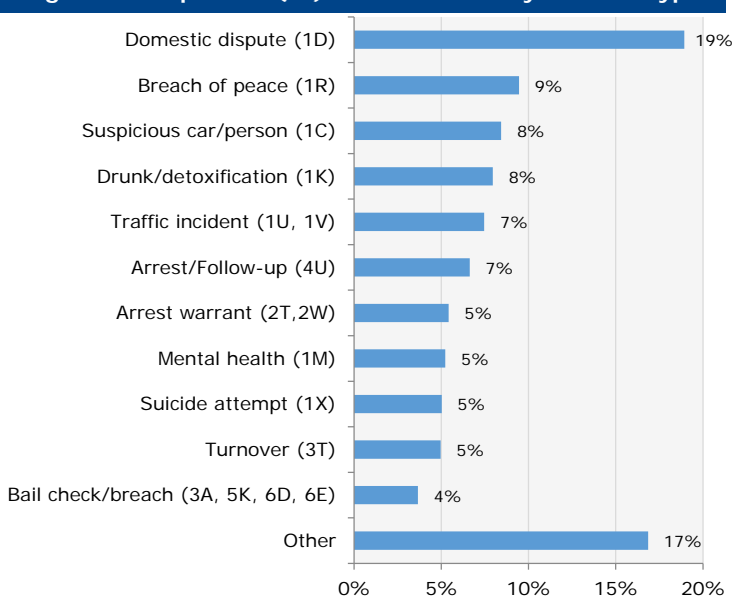
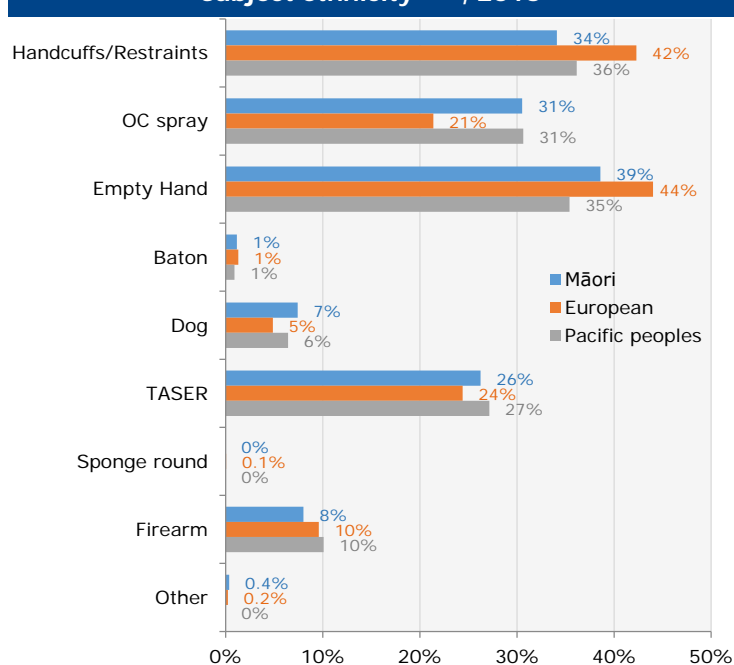
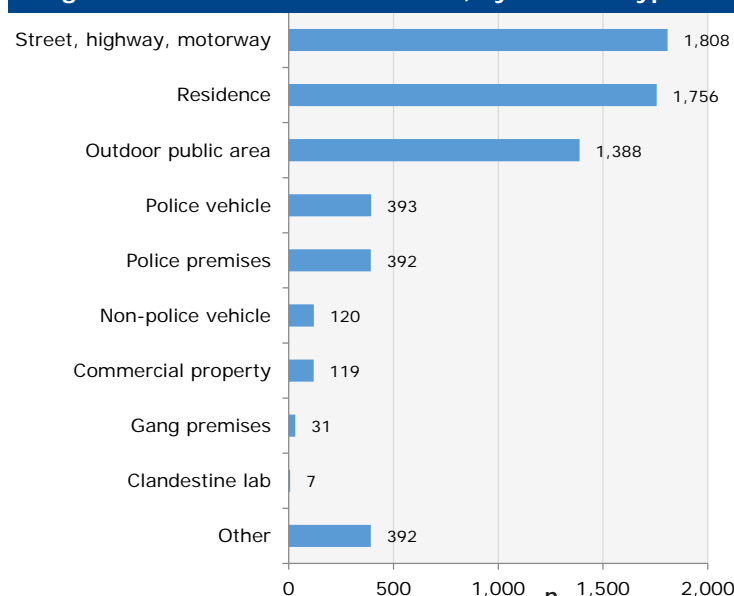


Figure 8: Proportion (%) of tactical options used, by subject ethnicity^{24,27}, 2016



²⁷For example, 42% 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%.

Figure 10: Number of TOR events, by location type²⁹



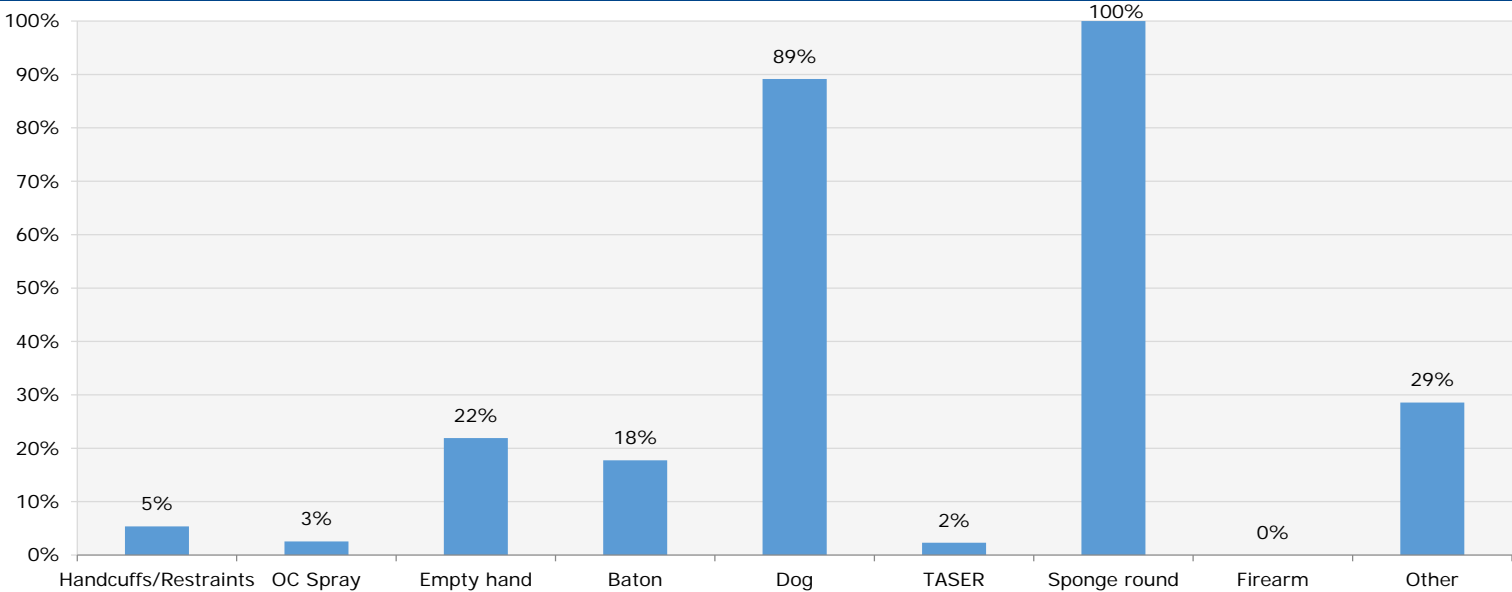
²⁹More than one location type may be reported for each TOR event. Thus, the sum of the numbers in Figure 10 (n=6,406), exceeds the number of TOR events (n=5,055).

Table 18: Number of subject injuries as a result of tactical options use, by district, 2016³⁰

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC Spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Sponge round	Firearm	Other	Total injuries	% of all injuries
Northland	7	3	9	0	27	0	0	0	0	46	5%
Waitematā	10	1	39	2	20	1	0	0	0	73	8%
Auckland City	9	2	29	1	13	9	0	0	0	63	7%
Counties Manukau	17	6	63	1	16	3	0	0	0	106	12%
Waikato	2	1	27	2	27	4	1	0	0	64	7%
Bay of Plenty	13	5	48	0	25	3	0	0	1	95	10%
Eastern	4	4	40	0	32	1	0	0	0	81	9%
Central	7	6	55	4	21	2	1	0	1	97	11%
Wellington	7	3	48	0	65	3	0	0	1	127	14%
Tasman	12	1	24	0	8	1	0	0	1	47	5%
Canterbury	9	2	39	0	27	1	0	0	0	78	9%
Southern	4	1	23	1	7	2	0	0	0	38	4%
Total injuries	101	35	444	11	288	30	2	0	4	915	100%
% of all injuries	11%	4%	49%	1%	31%	3%	0.2%	0%	0.4%	100%	

³⁰More 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 915 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, 2016^{31,32}



³¹Figure 11 shows the injury rate (%) for each tactical option eg, 89% of dog bites resulted in subject injury. As the injury rate for each tactical option is independent, percentages should not be summed.

³²TASER and firearm subject injury data includes shows and discharges (excluding fatalities). Superficial TASER probe injuries are excluded.

Table 19: Subject injuries³³ at TOR events, by severity³⁴, and district

	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	15	26	5	46
Waitematā	41	28	4	73
Auckland City	31	26	6	63
Counties Manukau	72	27	7	106
Waikato	24	39	1	64
Bay of Plenty	55	35	5	95
Eastern	32	44	5	81
Central	58	36	3	97
Wellington	51	62	14	127
Tasman	35	12	0	47
Canterbury	44	30	4	78
Southern	22	12	4	38
Total injuries	480	377	58	915

³³More than one subject injury may occur, and be reported, as the result of a TOR event. The n=915 in Table 19 counts individual injuries, rather than TOR events at which one or more injuries occurred. Superficial TASER probe injuries are excluded.

³⁴'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 injuries³⁵ at TOR events, by severity³⁴, and district

	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	20	8	2	30
Waitematā	53	9	1	63
Auckland City	35	5	1	41
Counties Manukau	83	19	0	102
Waikato	23	8	2	33
Bay of Plenty	51	13	2	66
Eastern	34	7	2	43
Central	36	5	3	44
Wellington	42	14	2	58
Tasman	17	4	2	23
Canterbury	23	8	1	32
Southern	29	8	1	38
Total injuries	446	108	19	573

³⁵Officers 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.

Figure F1: Proportion (%) of subject behaviours at TOR events by perceived mental distress

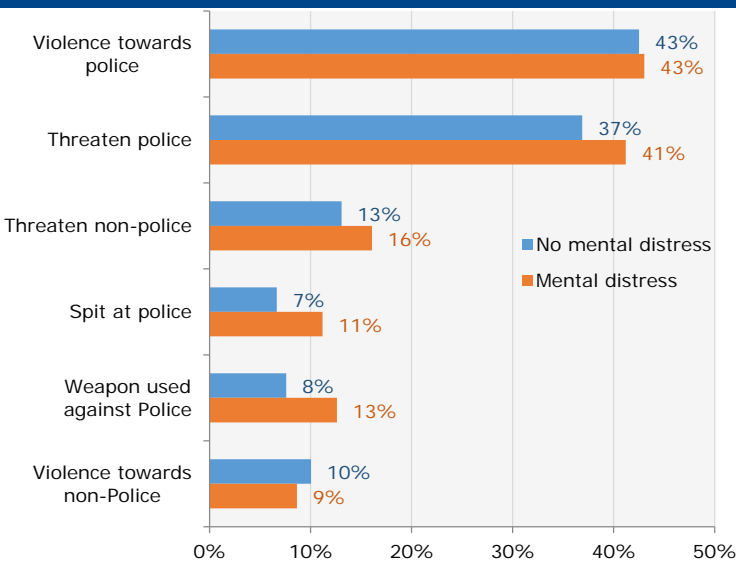


Figure F2: Proportion (%) of tactical options used where subjects were armed, by perceived mental distress

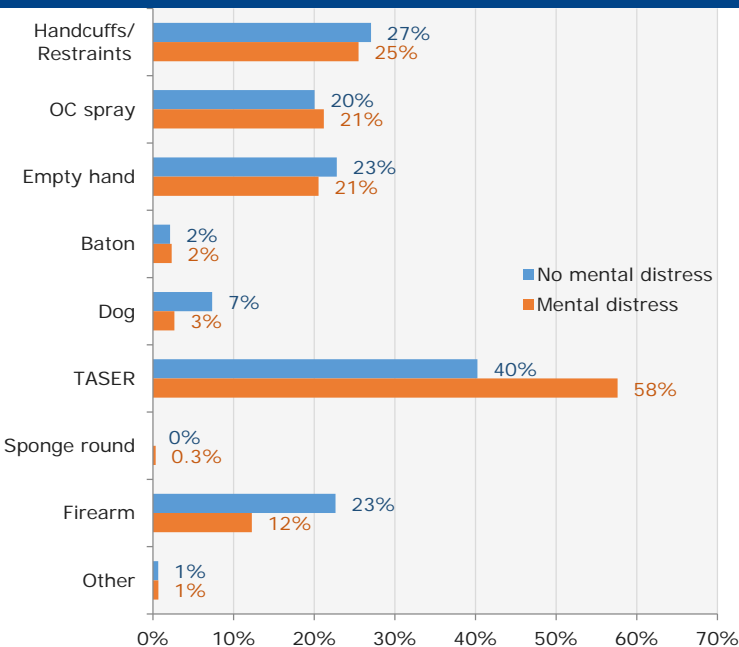
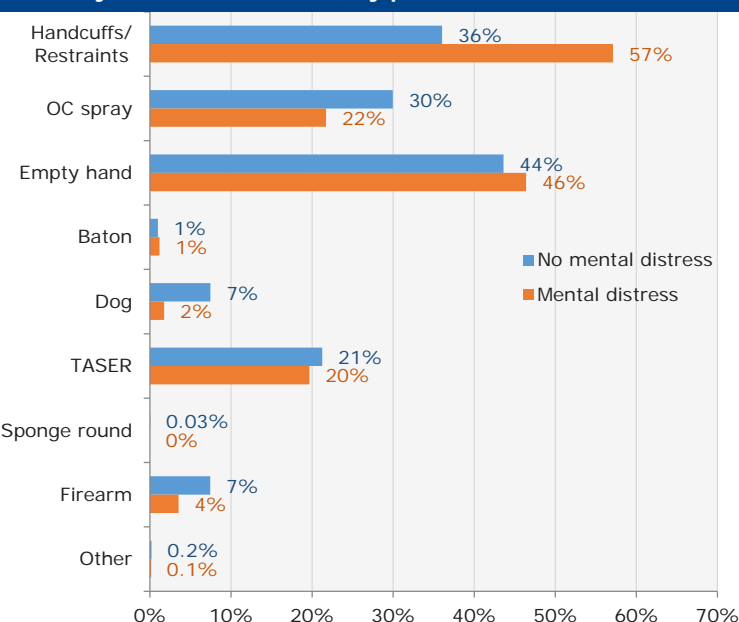


Figure F3: Proportion (%) of tactical options used where subjects were unarmed, by perceived mental distress



Overview

Mental health is a recognised driver of Police demand. Every 24 hours police staff respond to 90 calls involving a person having a mental health crisis, including suicide attempts, with demand increasing by around 9 percent a year. These figures do not include people suffering from mental distress who are encountered by Police during other callouts.

This 'Focus on' provides analysis of TOR events at which the submitting officers perceived that the subject was impaired by mental distress³⁶ (irrespective of the incident callout). This classification is based on the submitting officer's subjective assessment of the subject's behaviours at the time of the incident. This is not based on any diagnosis from a mental health professional.

Key findings

- Overall, 19% of subjects were perceived to be impaired by mental distress, ranging from 13% in Northland District to 26% in Tasman, Canterbury, and Southern districts.
- Subjects aged 14-20 were the least likely to be perceived as being impaired by mental distress (13%). The rates of perceived mental distress increased with age, with 33% of subjects age 51 and older perceived to be impaired by mental distress.
- European subjects were the most likely to be perceived as being impaired by mental distress (30%) whereas Pacific peoples and Māori were the least likely to be perceived as being affected by mental distress (11% and 15% respectively).
- Overall, subjects perceived to be impaired by mental distress were slightly more likely to have shown aggressive behaviour (77%), compared to subjects with no perceived distress (74%). Spitting at Police and using weapons against police were more common behaviours by subjects perceived as being impaired by mental distress (11% and 13% respectively) compared with subjects with no perceived mental distress (7% and 8% respectively). (Figure F1)
- Similarly, subjects perceived to be impaired by a mental distress were twice as likely to be in possession of a weapon (31%) than subjects with no perceived mental distress (15%).
- Subjects were more likely to have handcuffs or restraints used on them if they were perceived to be impaired by mental distress than subjects with no distress (47% and 35% respectively). However, when subjects were armed, handcuffs and restraints were used almost equally on subjects irrespective of perceived mental distress. (Figure F2)
- Subjects perceived to be impaired by mental distress were also more likely to have TASER deployed at them (31%) than subjects with no perceived distress (24%). However, there were no differences in deployment of TASER when subjects were unarmed (Figure F3). Though, when TASER was deployed, it was more likely to be discharged at subjects with perceived mental distress, irrespective of whether the subjects were armed or not, with a show to discharge ratio of 4:1 (compared to 6:1 for subjects with no perceived distress). This may reflect that the presentation of TASER is less effective as a deterrent for subjects in mental distress. Alternatively, subjects who were not deterred by the presentation of a TASER may be more likely to be perceived as being impaired by mental distress.
- Conversely, subjects with perceived mental distress were slightly less likely to have OC spray used on them (22% versus 28%). However, when subjects were armed, there was no differences in deployment of OC spray.
- Subjects with perceived mental distress were less likely to have a Police dog used (2% versus 7%), and nearly half as likely to have a firearm presented at them (6% versus 10%). These differences were not affected by whether the subjects were armed or not.

³⁶ "Mental distress" includes TOR events where the submitting officer has selected "1M Mental illness" or "1X Suicidal" as relevant factors for the subject, but does not include "Distressed emotional state (not 1M)".



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.

Contacts

For media enquiries, please see the Police media contacts at:

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For other public enquiries, please contact Police National Headquarters:

Tel: 04 474 9499