

2017 NZ Police Tactical Options Research Report

Introduction

This document is part of an annual reporting series that examines tactical options use by NZ Police. Its purpose is to provide transparency and accountability to the New Zealand public about this crucial area of the policing function.

The reporting series, and an associated TASER reporting series, has been in place for a number of years. Previous reports can be found here:

<http://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/tactical-options-research-reports>

Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) data

Most data in this report is derived from Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) data, which records TOR events and the tactical options used by police staff within those events.

A 'TOR event' is defined as 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).

Comments from the frontline...

'I attempted to de-escalate the situation via communication ... he directed his anger towards me. He yelled, 'I just want to fight', 'come on, let's go then'. [He] grabbed a dumbbell bar and waved it directly towards me. I feared GBH ... I laser painted [him] ... The TASER proved effective. He sat down on the chair and placed his hands to the front'.

'He was laser painted ... [He] saw the two red dots of the TASER and immediately put his hands up in the air. His aggression was gone and he apologised to the Police. The matter was resolved without further incident'.

Key findings

Police rarely used tactical options when engaging with the public

- 7,066 tactical options were used by constabulary police officers at 4,536 TOR events
- 99.9% of recorded face-to-face interactions between NZ Police and the public¹ involved no use of tactical options.

Most of the tactical options used by NZ Police officers were lower levels of force

- The three most common tactical options deployed were: empty hand tactics (at 39% of TOR events), handcuffs and restraints (at 34%), and OC spray (at 32%)
- TASER was deployed (i.e. shown or discharged) at 26% of TOR events
- Firearms (6%),² dogs (6%), baton (1%), and 'other' tactical options (0.4%) were the least frequently used tactical options at TOR events.

Most TASER events did not involve a discharge

- TASER 'show' (i.e. presentation, laser painting, or arcing) was the highest mode of deployment at 84% of TASER events
- TASER was discharged (i.e. through contact stun or discharge with probes) at 16% of TASER TOR events (1.2% contact stun and 14.5% discharge with probes)
- The 2017 TASER 'show' to 'discharge' ratio was 5:1.

Injuries at TOR events were uncommon

- 18% of TOR events resulted in an injury to the subject (9% minor, 8% moderate, and 2% serious)
- TASER (2% excluding superficial probe injuries), and OC spray (4%) had the lowest subject injury rates of all tactical options
- Firearms use by police resulted in 6 subject injuries (3 fatal, 3 non-fatal)
- Staff were injured at 12% of TOR events (9% minor, 3% moderate, and 0.6% serious).

¹ Based on 3,766,446 occurrences recorded by police in 2017. (Refer to <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/statistics-and-publications/data-and-statistics/demand-and-activity>)

² Most firearms use by police relates to presentations. Changes have been made to Police firearms and fatality reporting in 2017. Please see the last page of this report for further detail.



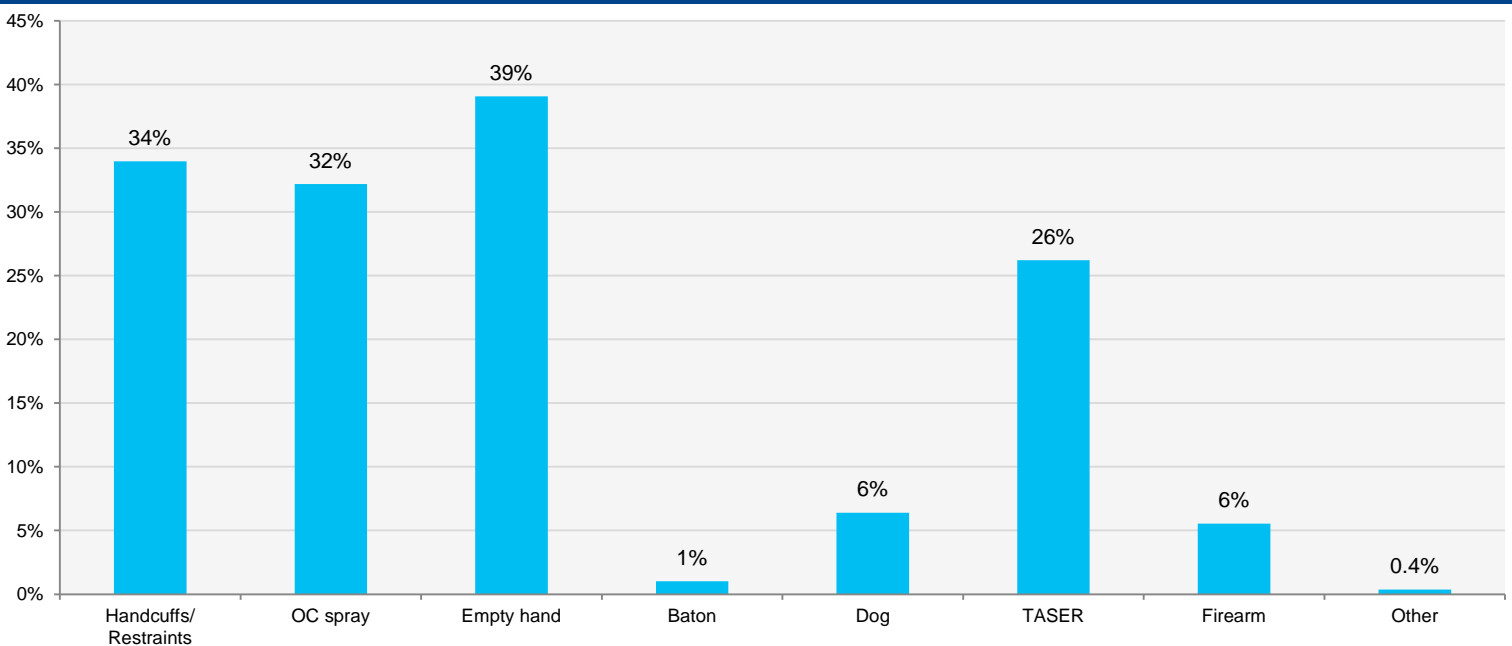
Table 1: Tactical options used at TOR events, by district, 2017^{3,4}

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Firearm	Other
Northland	70	117	63	1	19	47	13	1
Waitematā	129	67	131	3	20	78	10	1
Auckland City	197	162	218	9	19	123	19	3
Counties Manukau	235	152	266	2	33	79	31	1
Waikato	109	160	108	10	29	94	28	0
Bay of Plenty	142	168	163	2	22	169	31	3
Eastern	66	104	101	1	16	71	18	0
Central	125	150	175	9	30	141	26	3
Wellington	167	160	211	3	42	132	27	2
Tasman	60	41	95	1	7	69	10	1
Canterbury	163	109	164	3	43	118	29	2
Southern	78	71	78	2	10	68	9	0
Total TOR events	1,541	1,461	1,773	46	290	1,189	251	17
National average	128	122	148	4	24	99	21	1

³ An officer may use more than one tactical option (e.g. handcuffs and OC spray) at a TOR event.

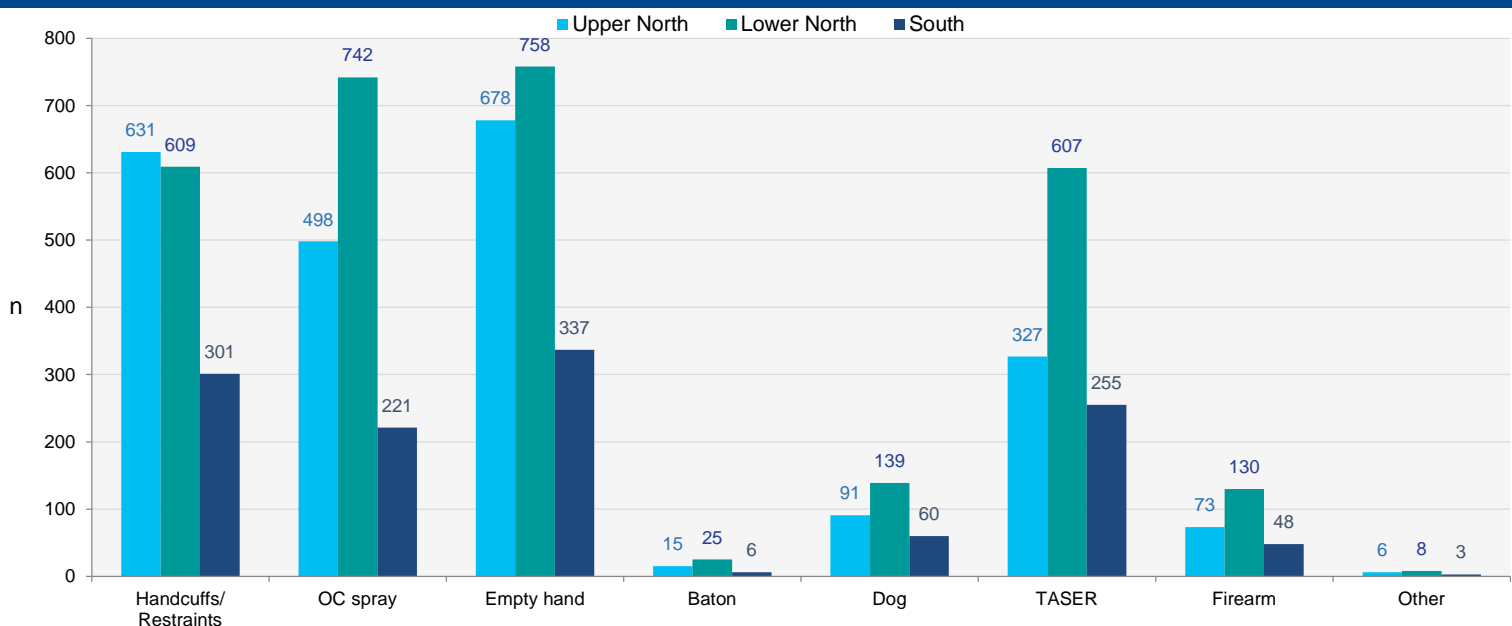
⁴ Table 1, Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 count whether a particular tactical option was used at a TOR event, not the number of times that tactical option was used at the event. See back page of this report for further details of tactical options recording practices.

Figure 1: Proportion (%) of TOR events (n=4,536) where a tactical option(s) was used, nationally, 2017⁵



⁵ For example, 34% of subjects at TOR events had reportable 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, 2017⁶



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, 2017

	TASER shows			TASER discharges ⁸		Total TASER events	Per 10,000 offender proceedings ⁹
	Presentation	Laser painting	Arcing	Contact Stun	Discharge with probes		
Northland	9	32	2	0	4	47	69
Waitematā	6	45	2	3	22	78	62
Auckland City	14	65	17	3	24	123	86
Counties Manukau	12	52	2	1	12	79	38
Waikato	16	60	0	2	16	94	63
Bay of Plenty	34	105	4	1	25	169	104
Eastern	5	56	1	1	8	71	60
Central	25	100	0	0	16	141	97
Wellington	21	81	4	3	23	132	108
Tasman	9	58	1	0	1	69	110
Canterbury	12	89	1	0	16	118	82
Southern	13	49	1	0	5	68	70
Total TASER events	176	792	35	14	172	1,189	77
National average	15	66	2.9	1.2	14	99	

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 For example, there were 47 TASER events and 6,859 offender proceedings in Northland, which equates to 69 TASER events for every 10,000 offender proceedings. 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 Tactical Options Research Reports prior to 2015.

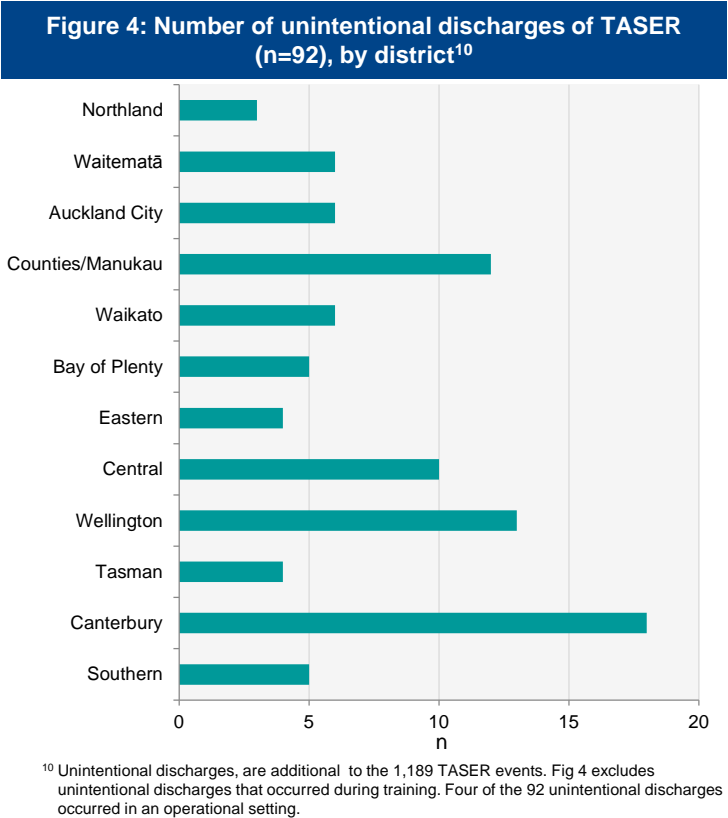
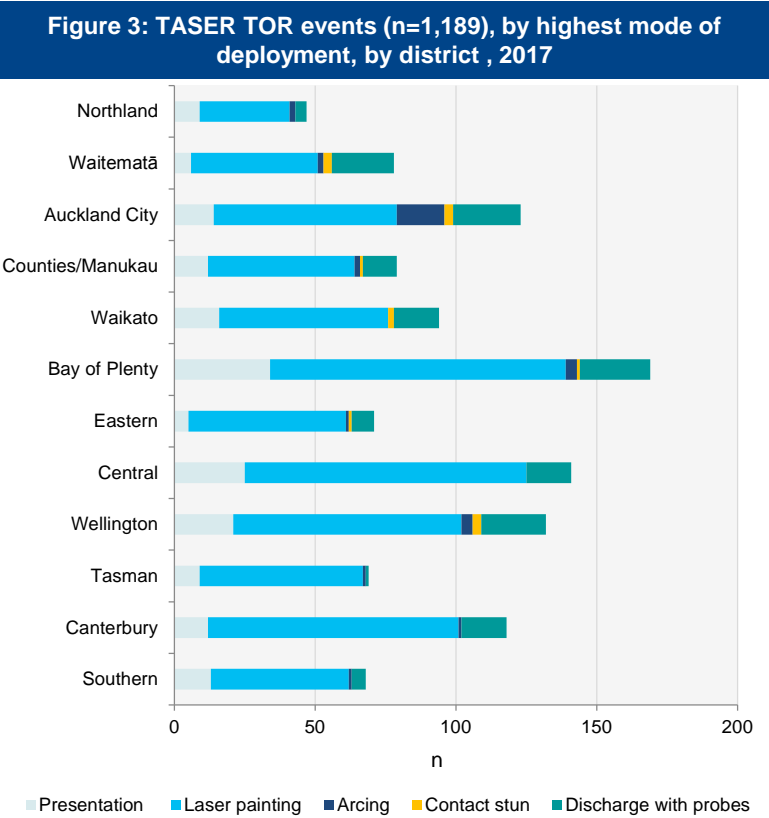


Table 3: Number of TASER discharges at each TASER TOR event, by district, 2017 ¹¹							
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more	Total discharge events	% of TASER events
Northland	2	2	0	0	0	4	9%
Waitematā	16	5	2	1	1	25	32%
Auckland City	17	7	1	1	1	27	22%
Counties Manukau	7	4	2	0	0	13	16%
Waikato	10	6	1	0	1	18	19%
Bay of Plenty	9	12	4	0	1	26	15%
Eastern	7	1	0	0	1	9	13%
Central	12	3	1	0	0	16	11%
Wellington	10	14	1	0	1	26	20%
Tasman	1	0	0	0	0	1	1%
Canterbury	9	6	1	0	0	16	14%
Southern	3	2	0	0	0	5	7%
Total discharge events	103	62	13	2	6	186	16%

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 103 TASER TOR events, TASER was discharged once, while in 83 events TASER was discharged two or more times. In total, there were 316 discharges at 186 TASER TOR discharge events.

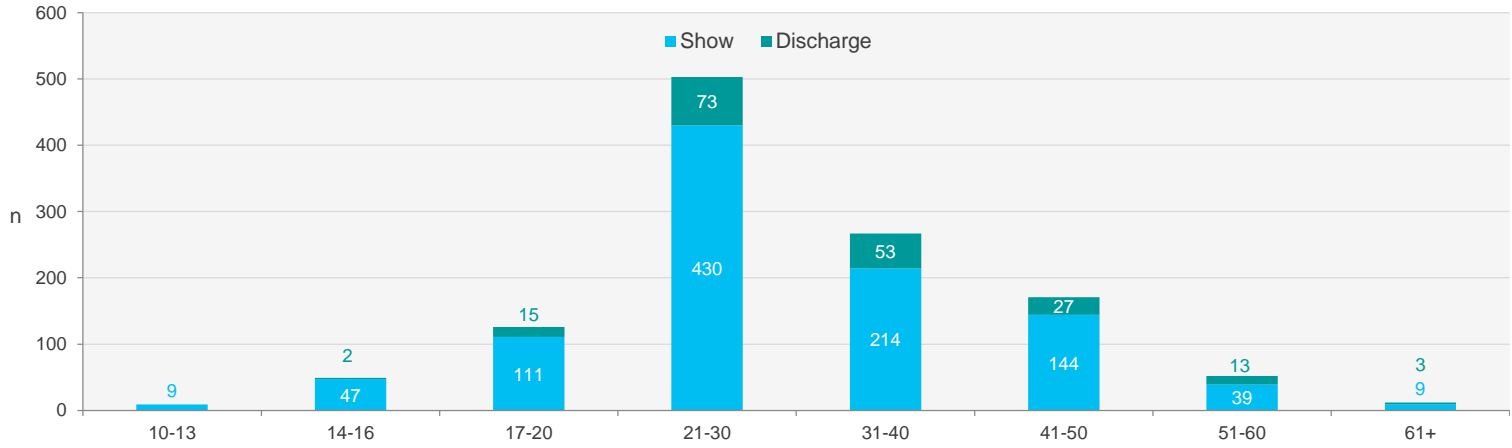
Table 4: Number of TASER discharges, by discharge mode and district, 2017

	Contact stun ¹²	Discharge with probes ¹³	Total discharges
Northland	0	6	6
Waitematā	7	39	46
Auckland City	15	31	46
Counties Manukau	4	17	21
Waikato	9	22	31
Bay of Plenty	6	44	50
Eastern	1	16	17
Central	0	21	21
Wellington	9	37	46
Tasman	0	1	1
Canterbury	1	23	24
Southern	0	7	7
Total discharges	52	264	316

¹² Contact stun refers to discharges where probes were not deployed - i.e. 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 and includes any subsequent cycles after probes have been discharged.

Figure 5: TASER TOR events, by subject age and mode of deployment, 2017¹⁴



¹⁴ The youngest person who had TASER discharged against them was aged 15 years old, while the oldest person was aged 74.

Table 5: TASER TOR events, by ethnicity and mode of deployment, 2017¹⁵

	Shows	% of shows	Discharges	% of discharges	Total TASER events	Per 10,000 offender proceedings ¹⁶
Māori	575	57%	99	53%	674	101
European	283	28%	52	28%	335	60
Pacific peoples	120	12%	26	14%	146	98
Asian	13	1%	5	3%	18	32
MELAA	10	1%	3	2%	13	78
Other / Unknown	2	0.2%	1	1%	3	-
Total TASER events	1,003	100%	186	100%	1,189	77

¹⁵ These classifications are based on the Statistics New Zealand Statistical Standard for ethnicity (ETHNIC05 v.2). MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American, African.

¹⁶ 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 prior to 2015.

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

	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	0	0	0	0
Waitematā	1	2	6	9
Auckland City	1	1	0	2
Counties Manukau	1	1	1	3
Waikato	0	0	1	1
Bay of Plenty	0	1	1	2
Eastern	0	0	1	1
Central	1	0	0	1
Wellington	1	2	0	3
Tasman	0	0	0	0
Canterbury	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	0	0
Total injuries	5	7	10	22

¹⁷ More than one subject injury may occur, and be reported, as a result of a TASER discharge. The n=22 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 out of necessity.

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

	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	3	0	0	3
Waitematā	6	4	0	10
Auckland City	5	6	0	11
Counties Manukau	4	1	0	5
Waikato	3	2	3	8
Bay of Plenty	8	2	1	11
Eastern	1	1	0	2
Central	3	2	1	6
Wellington	6	1	0	7
Tasman	2	0	0	2
Canterbury	9	3	0	12
Southern	4	1	1	6
Total injuries	54	23	6	83

¹⁹ Officers can only report one injury and injury severity type received at a TASER TOR event. The n=83 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, 2017²⁰

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Firearm	Other	Total
Northland	1	4	11	0	1	0	2	2	21
Waitematā	2	2	14	0	0	4	0	0	22
Auckland City	1	1	17	0	4	1	0	1	25
Counties Manukau	2	7	30	0	0	0	0	1	40
Waikato	1	5	31	0	5	3	4	0	50
Bay of Plenty	3	3	22	0	0	0	1	0	28
Eastern	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	18
Central	1	2	30	0	2	1	2	1	39
Wellington	6	3	28	0	10	1	1	1	50
Tasman	3	0	6	0	3	0	2	0	14
Canterbury	0	1	21	1	6	1	3	1	34
Southern	3	1	21	0	0	1	0	0	26
Total	23	29	249	1	31	12	15	7	367

²⁰ Tables 8 and 9 show numbers of allegations relating to the use of force. Multiple allegations can arise from one incident.

Table 9: Use of force complaints and notifications to IPCA, by tactical option and status, 2017

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Firearm	Other	Total
COMPLETE	20	16	192	1	18	8	4	5	264
Upheld ²¹	4	0	7	0	2	2	0	0	15
Other ²²	16	16	185	1	16	6	4	5	249
INCOMPLETE	3	13	57	0	13	4	11	2	103
Active	2	8	44	0	7	4	10	2	77
Pending	1	5	13	0	6	0	1	0	26
Total	23	29	249	1	31	12	15	7	367

²¹ '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.

²² 'Other' refers to all other findings such as Not Upheld, Conciliated, Withdrawn, etc.

Table 10: Mental health incident types²³ at TOR events, by incident type and district

	Mental illness (1M)	% of TOR events	Suicide attempt (1X)	% of TOR events
Northland	10	4%	10	4%
Waitematā	26	9%	16	5%
Auckland City	14	3%	21	4%
Counties Manukau	22	4%	24	4%
Waikato	20	5%	12	3%
Bay of Plenty	25	5%	19	4%
Eastern	17	6%	13	5%
Central	23	5%	23	5%
Wellington	24	5%	21	4%
Tasman	11	5%	17	8%
Canterbury	19	4%	34	8%
Southern	11	5%	17	8%
Total events	222	5%	227	5%

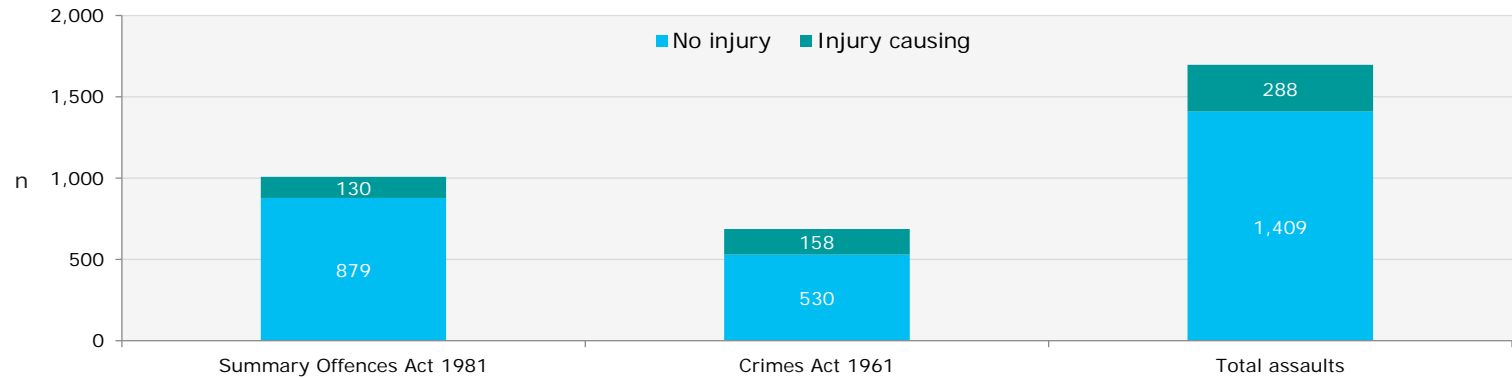
²³ Officers select an incident type that best describes the nature of the incident at which tactical options were used in their view. 1M and 1X are incident types. Selection of a 1M or 1X incident type does not constitute a formal diagnosis of the subject's mental state.

Table 11: Mental health relevant factors²⁴ at TOR events, by relevant factor and district

	Mental illness	% of TOR events	Suicidal	% of TOR events
Northland	37	15%	23	10%
Waitematā	52	18%	41	14%
Auckland City	64	13%	30	6%
Counties Manukau	67	13%	45	8%
Waikato	50	14%	29	8%
Bay of Plenty	76	15%	36	7%
Eastern	47	16%	29	10%
Central	66	14%	42	9%
Wellington	81	16%	43	9%
Tasman	39	19%	29	14%
Canterbury	70	16%	62	14%
Southern	37	18%	26	12%
Total events	686	15%	434	10%

²⁴ Relevant factors refer to the submitting officer's subjective assessment of factors that were perceived to be observable at the event. It does not reflect a formal diagnosis of the subject's mental state.

Figure 6: Assaults on Police, by Act and injury, 2017²⁵



²⁵ Assaults on Police data is obtained from the Recorded Crime Victim Statistics (RCVS).

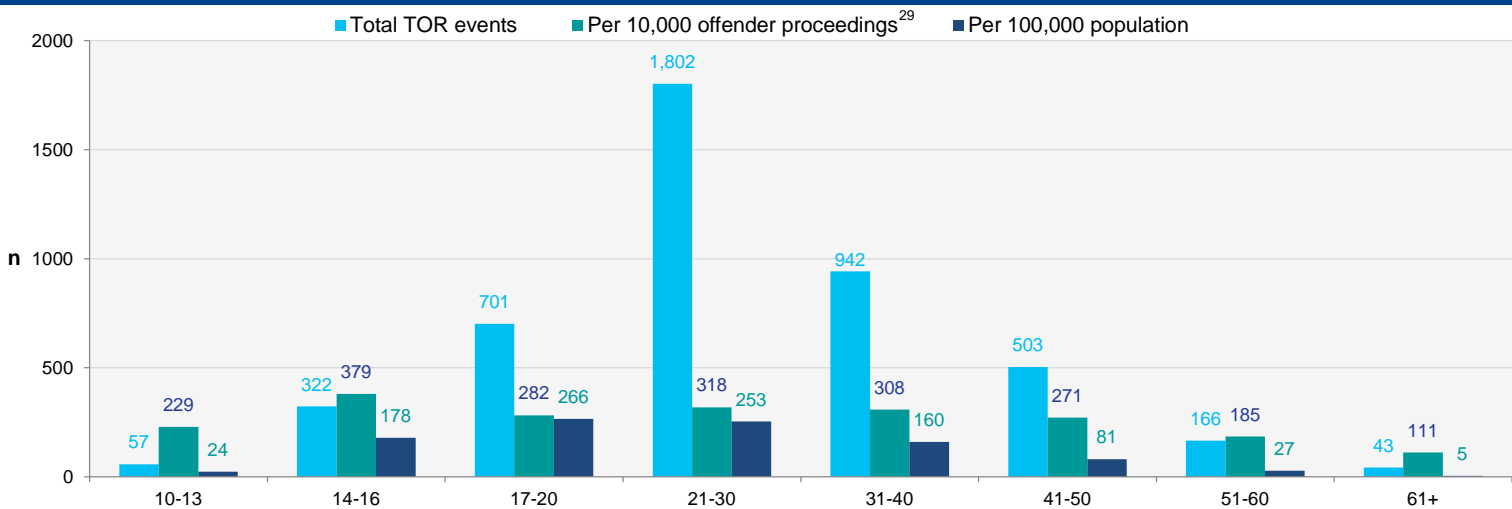
Table 12: Number of AOS deployments ²⁶ by deployment type and incident district, 2017					
	Emergency callouts	% of deployments	Pre-planned deployments	% of deployments	Total deployments
Northland	10	36%	18	64%	28
Waitematā	6	30%	14	70%	20
Auckland City	8	32%	17	68%	25
Counties Manukau	3	8%	34	92%	37
Waikato	36	39%	56	61%	92
Bay of Plenty	21	21%	78	79%	99
Eastern	18	40%	27	60%	45
Central	44	46%	52	54%	96
Wellington	32	27%	85	73%	117
Tasman	23	43%	30	57%	53
Canterbury	35	28%	92	72%	127
Southern	19	32%	41	68%	60
Total deployments	255	32%	544	68%	799

²⁶ Multiple AOS squads may attend one deployment.

Table 13: Number of TOR events, by month and district, 2017													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Northland	23	18	28	17	22	18	21	16	23	21	14	19	20
Waitematā	36	32	16	22	16	22	28	18	30	21	23	34	25
Auckland City	40	32	28	28	53	29	51	47	39	55	34	48	40
Counties Manukau	43	46	42	45	38	33	37	43	41	64	49	56	45
Waikato	32	30	36	19	44	21	28	35	38	22	27	40	31
Bay of Plenty	58	47	55	30	45	20	45	30	36	35	53	49	42
Eastern	30	17	32	33	20	32	15	20	20	18	26	23	24
Central	42	39	45	33	28	47	37	47	39	41	39	33	39
Wellington	49	48	45	46	43	45	43	45	38	35	35	31	42
Tasman	24	24	10	15	24	13	18	10	19	11	13	20	17
Canterbury	38	22	41	34	34	28	30	29	36	46	30	63	36
Southern	15	16	13	21	16	17	20	23	17	19	16	18	18
Average	36	31	33	29	32	27	31	30	31	32	30	36	32

Table 14: Number of TOR events, by weekday and district, 2017									
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Average	
Northland	37	36	27	25	33	36	46	34	
Waitematā	32	34	29	31	32	62	78	43	
Auckland City	42	46	51	63	69	108	105	69	
Counties Manukau	48	56	53	80	91	96	113	77	
Waikato	35	39	47	61	52	77	61	53	
Bay of Plenty	61	52	68	40	80	95	107	72	
Eastern	20	26	34	34	46	61	65	41	
Central	45	50	54	57	75	83	106	67	
Wellington	55	53	48	80	53	106	108	72	
Tasman	30	42	11	20	26	33	39	29	
Canterbury	47	35	47	67	62	96	77	62	
Southern	6	24	20	37	33	47	44	30	
Average	38	41	41	50	54	75	79	54	

Table 15: Number of TOR events, by time and district, 2017													
	00:00 - 01:59	02:00 - 03:59	04:00 - 05:59	06:00 - 07:59	08:00 - 09:59	10:00 - 11:59	12:00 - 13:59	14:00 - 15:59	16:00 - 17:59	18:00 - 19:59	20:00 - 21:59	22:00 - 23:59	Average
Northland	46	11	6	5	12	20	25	16	18	15	34	32	20
Waitematā	40	20	8	9	22	19	20	25	36	22	40	37	25
Auckland City	48	66	35	12	24	24	40	28	42	43	47	75	40
Counties Manukau	73	43	27	21	17	40	45	31	39	54	59	88	45
Waikato	47	28	7	8	17	28	44	38	37	35	37	46	31
Bay of Plenty	64	65	15	5	33	36	24	43	52	32	52	82	42
Eastern	34	27	9	11	10	17	9	34	30	30	45	30	24
Central	88	28	14	11	23	41	32	26	37	43	59	68	39
Wellington	80	46	22	17	37	26	29	34	45	52	50	65	42
Tasman	16	24	2	5	7	7	18	11	21	28	30	32	17
Canterbury	58	72	19	8	22	26	17	33	42	46	38	50	36
Southern	35	22	7	6	8	9	12	17	10	26	26	33	18
Average	52	38	14	10	19	24	26	28	34	36	43	53	32

Figure 7: TOR events, by subject age, 2017^{27,28}

²⁷ The youngest person who had a tactical option used against them was aged 10 years, while the oldest person was aged 82.

²⁸ The data in Figures 7 and 8, and Table 16 do not account for subject behaviours at TOR events.

²⁹ 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 Tactical Options Research Reports prior to 2015.

Table 16: TOR events, by subject ethnicity, 2017^{28,30}

	n	Per 10,000 offender proceedings ²⁸	Per 100,000 population
Māori	2,440	364	325
European	1,444	259	42
Pacific peoples	526	353	138
Asian	63	113	9
MELAA	43	258	59
Other / Unknown	20	-	-
Total TOR events	4,536	293	95

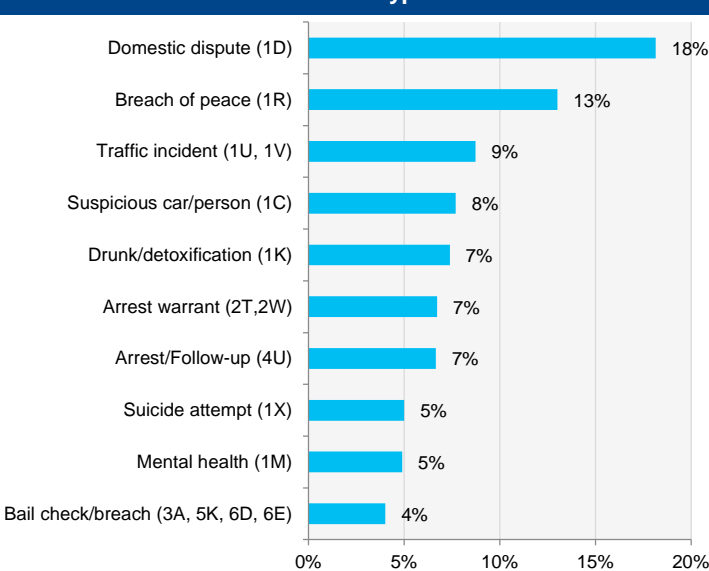
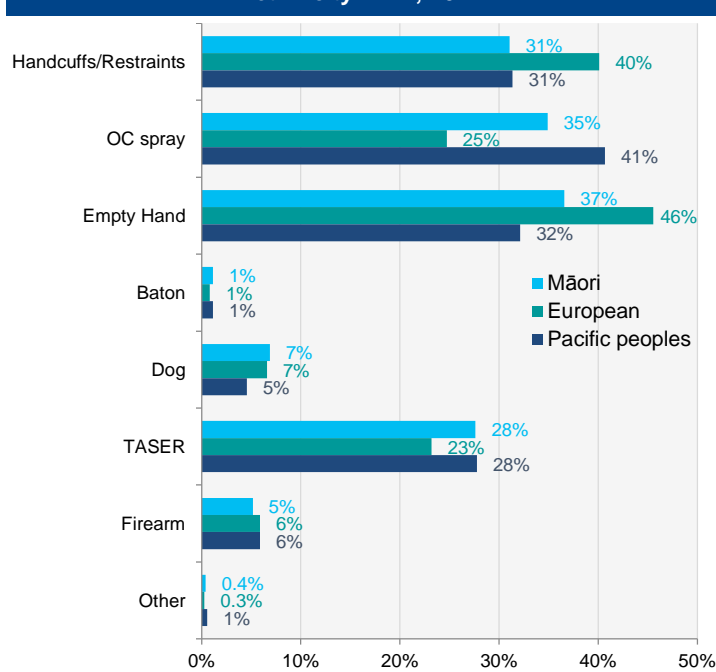
³⁰ These classifications are based on the Statistics New Zealand Statistical Standard for ethnicity (ETHNIC05 v.2). MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American, African.

Table 17: TOR events, by work group, 2017

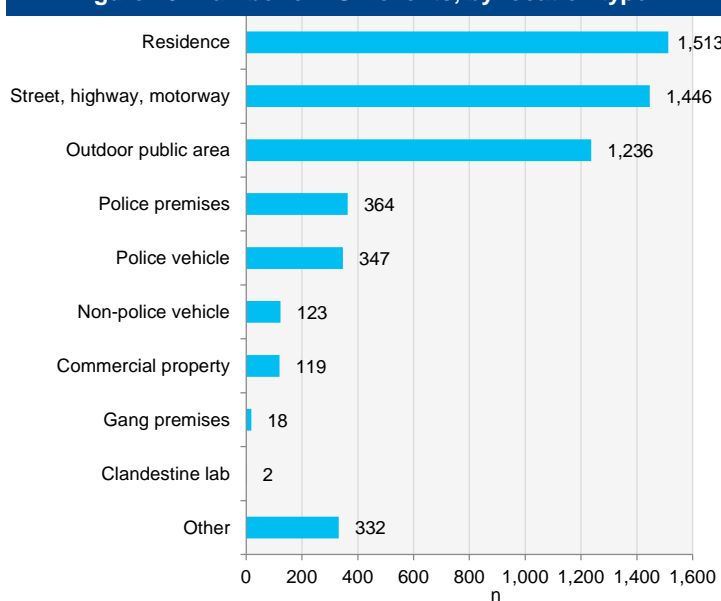
Work group	n
Public Safety Teams (formerly GDB)	3,420
Specialist ³²	430
Road Policing	257
Custody / Watchhouse	210
Investigation	131
Prevention	77
Other / Unspecified	11
Total TOR events	4,536

³² Includes AOS, STG, Dog Section, Maritime Unit, Air Support, Airport Police

Figure 9: Proportion (%) of TOR events by 10 most common incident types

Figure 8: Proportion (%) of tactical options used, by subject ethnicity^{28,30,31}, 2017

³¹ For example, 40% of European subjects at TOR events had handcuffs or restraints used on them. As officers may use more than one tactical option (e.g. handcuffs and OC spray) at a TOR event, the total percentage for each ethnicity exceeds 100%.

Figure 10: Number of TOR events, by location type³³

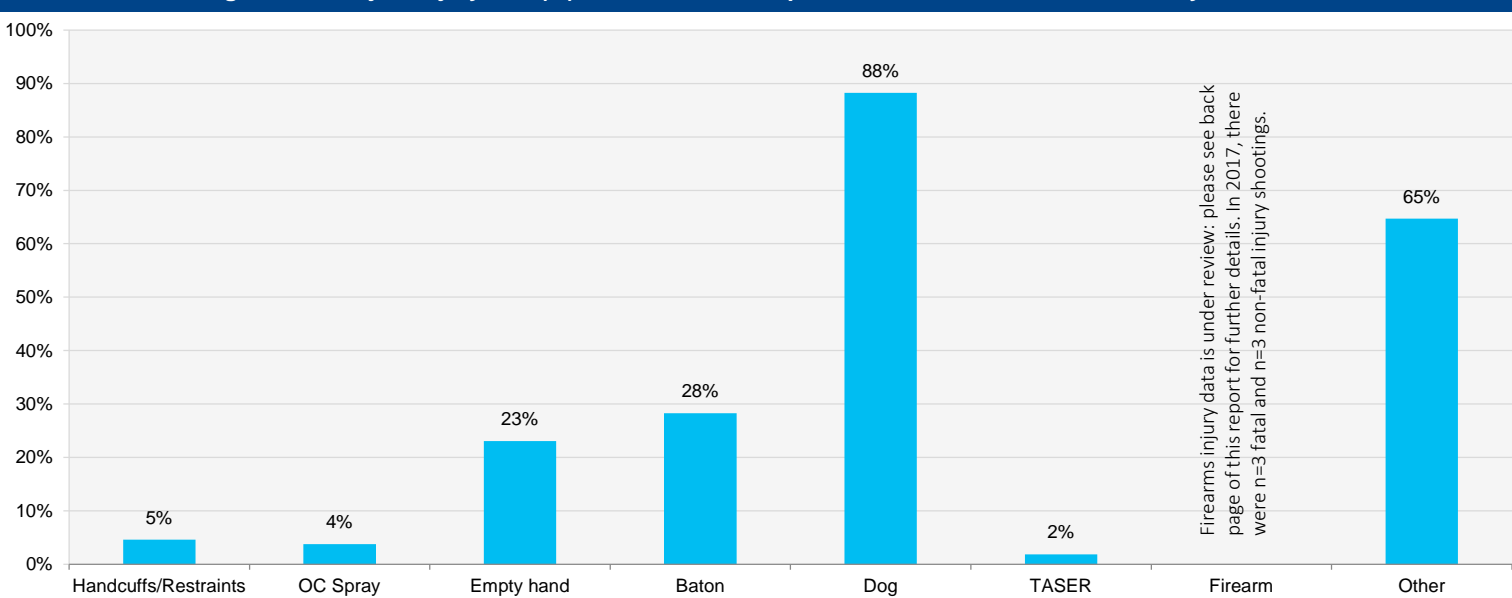
³³ More than one location type may be reported for each TOR event. Thus, the sum of the numbers in Figure 10 (n=5,500), exceeds the number of TOR events (n=4,536).

Table 18: Number of subject injuries as a result of tactical options use, by district, 2017³⁴

	Handcuffs/ Restraints	OC Spray	Empty hand	Baton	Dog	TASER	Firearm	Other	Total injuries	% of all injuries
Northland	2	6	14	0	19	0	Firearms injury data is under review: please see back page of this report for further details. In 2017, there were n=3 fatal and n=3 non-fatal injury shootings.	0	41	5%
Waitematā	3	2	29	1	19	9		0	63	8%
Auckland City	5	5	53	1	12	2		2	80	10%
Counties Manukau	11	5	53	1	22	3		2	97	12%
Waikato	3	8	29	3	28	1		0	72	9%
Bay of Plenty	14	4	48	2	21	2		1	92	11%
Eastern	2	4	23	0	17	1		0	47	6%
Central	6	1	41	3	24	1		2	78	9%
Wellington	4	6	47	0	38	3		2	100	12%
Tasman	11	8	23	0	5	0		0	47	6%
Canterbury	5	3	35	1	43	0		2	89	11%
Southern	5	3	14	1	8	0		0	31	4%
Total injuries	71	55	409	13	256	22	-	11	837	100%
% of all injuries	8%	7%	49%	2%	31%	3%	-	1%	100%	

³⁴ More than one subject injury may be reported at 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 837 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 standard TOR form.

Figure 11: Subject injury rate (%) for each tactical option used at TOR events, nationally, 2017^{35,36}



³⁵ Figure 11 shows the injury rate (%) for each tactical option e.g. 88% of dog bites resulted in subject injury. As the injury rate for each tactical option is independent, percentages should not be summed. This data is influenced by TOR reporting conventions.

³⁶ TASER and firearm subject injury data includes shows and discharges (excluding fatalities). Superficial TASER probe injuries are excluded.

Table 19: Subject injury ³⁷ at TOR events, by severity ³⁸ & district				
	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	18	21	2	41
Waitematā	26	24	13	63
Auckland City	47	25	8	80
Counties Manukau	54	34	9	97
Waikato	30	35	7	72
Bay of Plenty	49	35	8	92
Eastern	28	16	3	47
Central	39	37	2	78
Wellington	40	52	8	100
Tasman	23	19	5	47
Canterbury	31	54	4	89
Southern	14	13	4	31
Total injuries	399	365	73	837

³⁷ More than one subject injury may occur, and be reported, as the result of a TOR event. The n=837 in Table 19 counts individual injuries, rather than TOR events at which one or more subject injuries occurred. Superficial TASER probe injuries are excluded.

³⁸ '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 out of necessity.

Table 20: Staff injury ³⁹ at TOR events, by severity ³⁸ & district				
	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Total injuries
Northland	24	1	2	27
Waitematā	36	9	3	48
Auckland City	32	14	2	48
Counties Manukau	56	19	3	78
Waikato	26	9	4	39
Bay of Plenty	47	10	3	60
Eastern	26	8	1	35
Central	44	15	3	62
Wellington	37	11	3	51
Tasman	14	2	1	17
Canterbury	42	14	1	57
Southern	21	5	3	29
Total injuries	405	117	29	551

³⁹ Officers can only report one injury and injury severity type that they received at a TOR event. The n=551 in Table 20 counts TOR events at which one or more staff injuries occurred rather than individual injuries.



Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation

This report was compiled by Response and Operations: Research and Evaluation 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 and sponge rounds (reported in "other"); 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 standard TOR form, but are instead the subject of internal and external investigations. Additionally, uses of force on animals are not included in this report. Accordingly, some use of force data is not included in this report.

In 2017 Police made a variety of changes to TOR firearms data to improve reporting. Historically, fatalities have not been recorded in TOR data: primarily because these events are subject to detailed and established investigative processes. However, this system has had implications for the real-time and ready visibility of fatalities, and also those uses of force resulting in more serious injury (e.g. with the possibility of death). Given the significance of this area of the use of force environment, in late 2017 Police made changes to its reporting policies and introduced the TOR fatality/shooting injury form. This form enables the real-time reporting of high-level details pertaining to fatalities and injury shootings, and improves the quality and completeness of TOR data in this area of reporting.

Owing to its introduction in late 2017, this data will be fully incorporated into this reporting series from 2018. However, in the interim period, and to ensure transparency in this area of police use of force, an audit of this environment highlights that there were 3 fatal and 3 non-fatal firearms injury shootings by police in 2017.

Tactical Options Reporting (TOR) data

Percentages below 1% are reported to one decimal place; all other percentages are rounded.

TOR data presents a quantitative overview of the 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 across reporting years or districts.

2017 year TOR data was extracted on 6 March 2018. Four percent (196) of Tactical Options Reports were excluded from this analysis as they had not completed the two-stage review process as at this date.

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 the 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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