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Unclassified

**RCMP Quarterly Report
On
Conducted Energy Weapons
2008-07-01 to 2008-09-30**

Prepared By:
National Use of Force Unit, Use of Force & Operational Programs Section,
National Criminal Operations Branch, CCAPS



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Executive Summary

This report on the RCMP's use of the conducted energy weapon (CEW) covers the period July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008 ("the reporting period") and provides details on deployment type, effectiveness, occurrence type, perceived subject behaviour, subject injuries and reported presence of alcohol and/or other substances. In a majority of cases, the CEW proved to be an effective intervention option in addressing subject behaviour. There were situations where the CEW was ineffective, due to factors such as: weapon malfunction; heavy or loose clothing worn by the subject; or ineffective probe deployments.

The statistical information for this report was derived from the data contained in the RCMP's CEW database.

This report indicates the following:

- There were 239 CEW deployments on 233 subjects during the reporting period.
- 214 (89.5%) of these deployments were effective in controlling the subjects' behaviour.
- Presence alone (ie: not deployed in stun or probe mode) accounted for 120 (50.2%) of deployments.
- Incidents of causing a disturbance, assaults and domestic disputes accounted for 117 (49%) of all occurrence types in which a CEW was deployed.
- Responses to mental health or suicidal subjects accounted for 42 (17.5%) of all deployments.
- In 57 incidents (23.8%) members deployed the CEW even though they reported facing a threat of death or grievous bodily harm.
- Alcohol and/or use of other substances was suspected/confirmed in 206 incidents (86.2%).
- Out of the 239 total deployments 97.5% of the individuals sustained no injury other than the immediate effect of the CEW, such as a slight burn or probe mark.
- All of the CEW usages reviewed for this report were found to be consistent with RCMP policy.

Conducted Energy Weapon - Deployments

The activation or cycling of the CEW is possible in two different modes, namely:

- **Push stun mode:** pressing or pushing an activated CEW onto an individual's body, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that individual;
- **Probe mode:** deploying an activated CEW by discharging two electrical probes, equipped with small barbs that hook onto a person's clothing or skin, allowing electrical energy to be transferred to that person.

Usage of a CEW is articulated in Operational Manual Policy (OM) Part 17. The "usage" of a CEW as an intervention option is explained in OM 17.7.2.4 and occurs when:

- The CEW Challenge is issued. The CEW Challenge is the declaration by a member before using the CEW: "Police, stop or you will be hit with 50,000 volts of electricity!"; or
- The CEW is presented. Presence is when the CEW is drawn from its holster and restores control in a situation by presence alone, whether or not the CEW Challenge is given; or
- The CEW is activated. Activation occurs when the safety is released on the CEW and/or the CEW is cycled in push stun or probe mode.

After each CEW usage, members are required by policy to notify their supervisor as soon as practicable and to complete the Form 3996 (CEW Usage Report) prior to the end of their shift. Form 3996 documents the details concerning the use of the CEW in a given incident.

To address the issue of proper completion of form 3996, the National Use of Force Section provided all RCMP divisions with a template describing the information required to complete the form properly and reinforced the circumstances under which the report is required. Any outstanding reports are tracked nationally and updated as they are successfully uploaded to the data base.

The National Use of Force Section continually reviews submitted reports in an effort to enhance and emphasize full and accurate CEW reporting.

(Note: As of February 3rd, 2009 the CEW Challenge was removed from policy; however, during this reporting period, the CEW Challenge was in effect. Nonetheless, members are taught to use verbal intervention and conflict resolution when feasible, as well as use simple commands such as "police stop" to potentially deescalate a subject's behaviour).



Conducted Energy Weapon - Deployments

Table 1 below reports CEW deployments by division on a monthly basis for the reporting period. Table 2 outlines the types of deployments divisionally. Chart 1 (refer to page 6) shows the total breakdown of deployments nationally.

Table 1 Deployment by Division

| Province & Division | | Month | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | | July | August | September | Total: |
| NL | B | 8 | 8 | 4 | 20 |
| MB | D | 8 | 6 | 7 | 21 |
| BC | E | 29 | 36 | 23 | 88 |
| SK | F | 8 | 14 | 10 | 32 |
| NWT | G | 6 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| NS | H | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| NB | J | 8 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| AB | K | 18 | 15 | 10 | 43 |
| PEI | L | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| YK | M | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| NU | V | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Total: | | 88 | 86 | 65 | 239 |

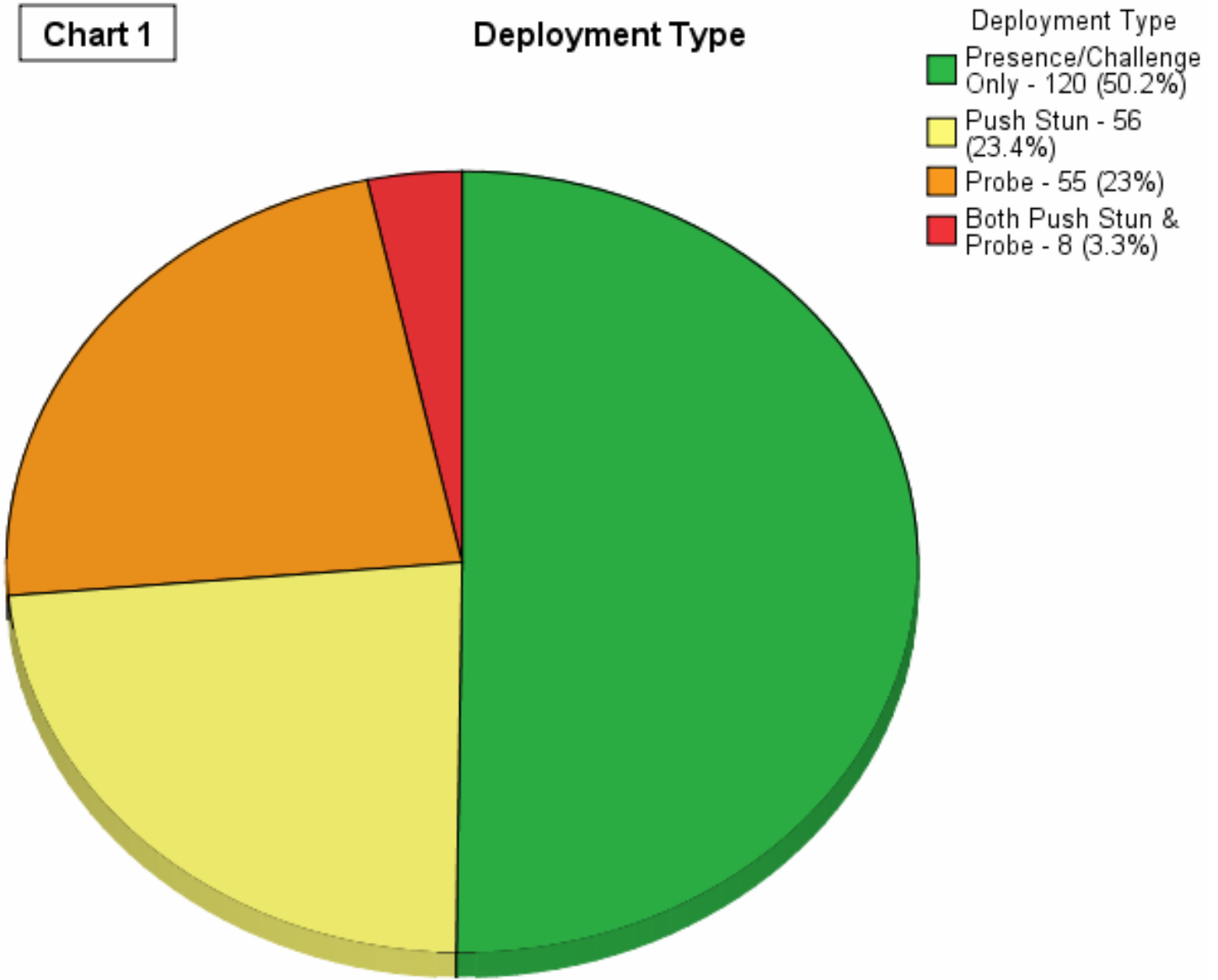
Table 2 Types of Deployment by Division

| Province & Division | | Deployment Type | | | | Total: |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------------|--------|
| | | Presence/ Challenge Only | Push Stun | Probe | Both Push Stun & Probe | |
| NL | B | 14 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 20 |
| MB | D | 11 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 21 |
| BC | E | 38 | 26 | 21 | 3 | 88 |
| SK | F | 19 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 32 |
| NWT | G | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| NS | H | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| NB | J | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| AB | K | 21 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 43 |
| PEI | L | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| YK | M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| NU | V | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Total: | | 120 | 56 | 55 | 8 | 239 |



Chart 1

Deployment Type





Conducted Energy Weapons - Effectiveness

Table 3 reports on the overall effectiveness of the CEW. For the purposes of this analysis “effectiveness” means that deployment of the CEW resulted in control of the subject’s behaviour. Chart 2 provides a further breakdown of how effective CEW use was in relation to the type of subject behaviour encountered. Chart 3 (refer to page 8) represents the analysis of 25 instances when the CEW was ineffective after deployment.

Table 3 Overall Effectiveness of the CEW

| Effectiveness | Overall Effectiveness | |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Count | Percent |
| Effective | 214 | 89.5% |
| Not Effective | 25 | 10.5% |
| Total | 239 | 100% |

Chart 2

Deployment Effectiveness

Deployment Type

Presence/Challenge Only

Push Stun

Probe

Both Push Stun & Probe

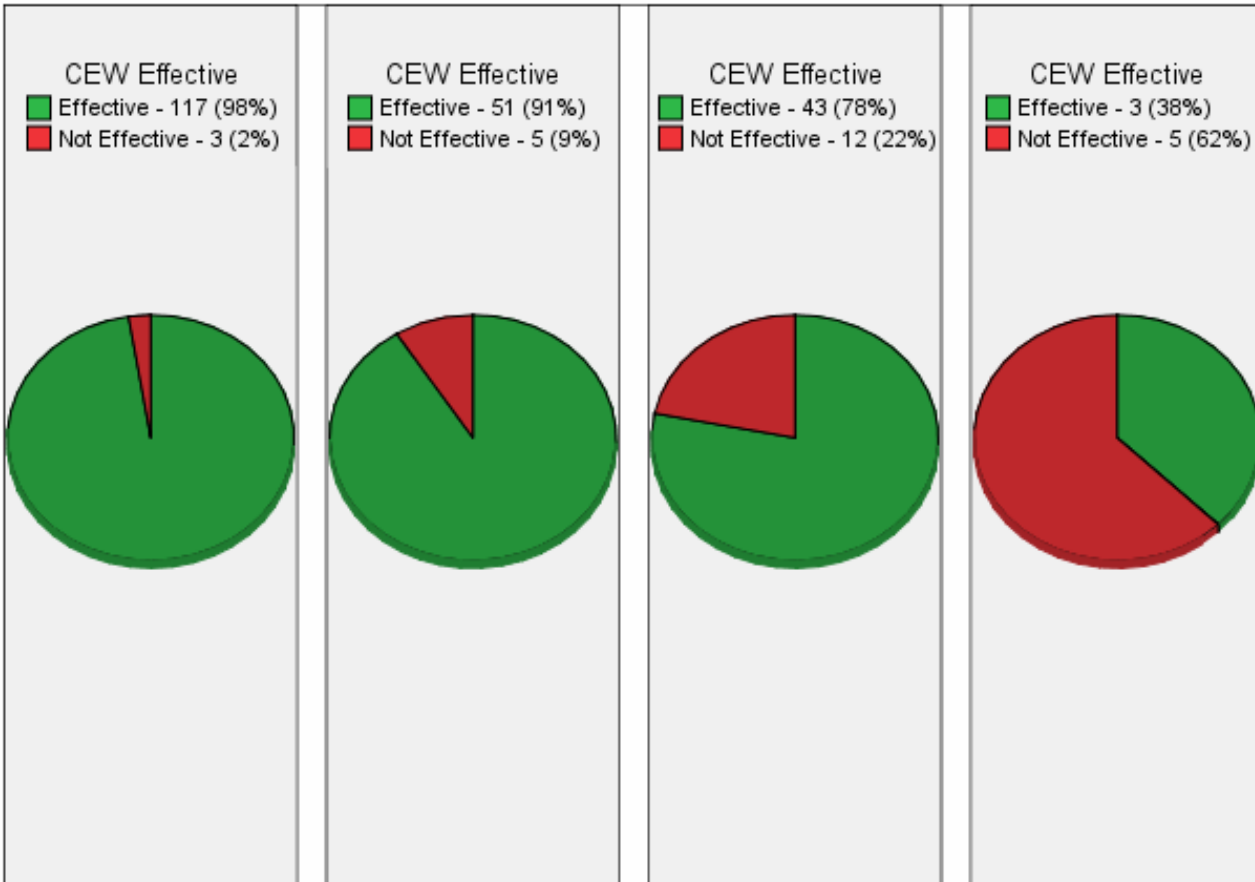
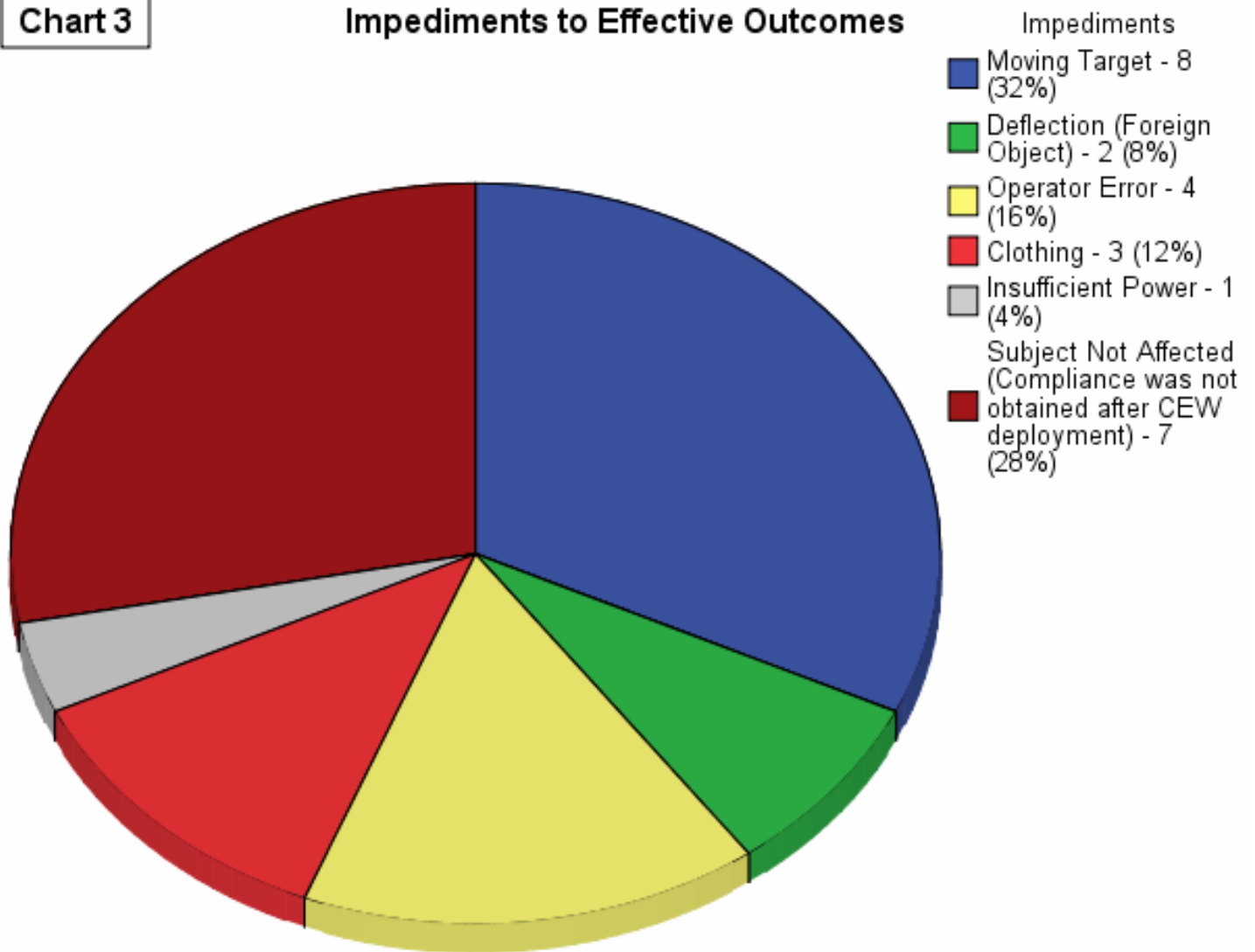




Chart 3

Impediments to Effective Outcomes



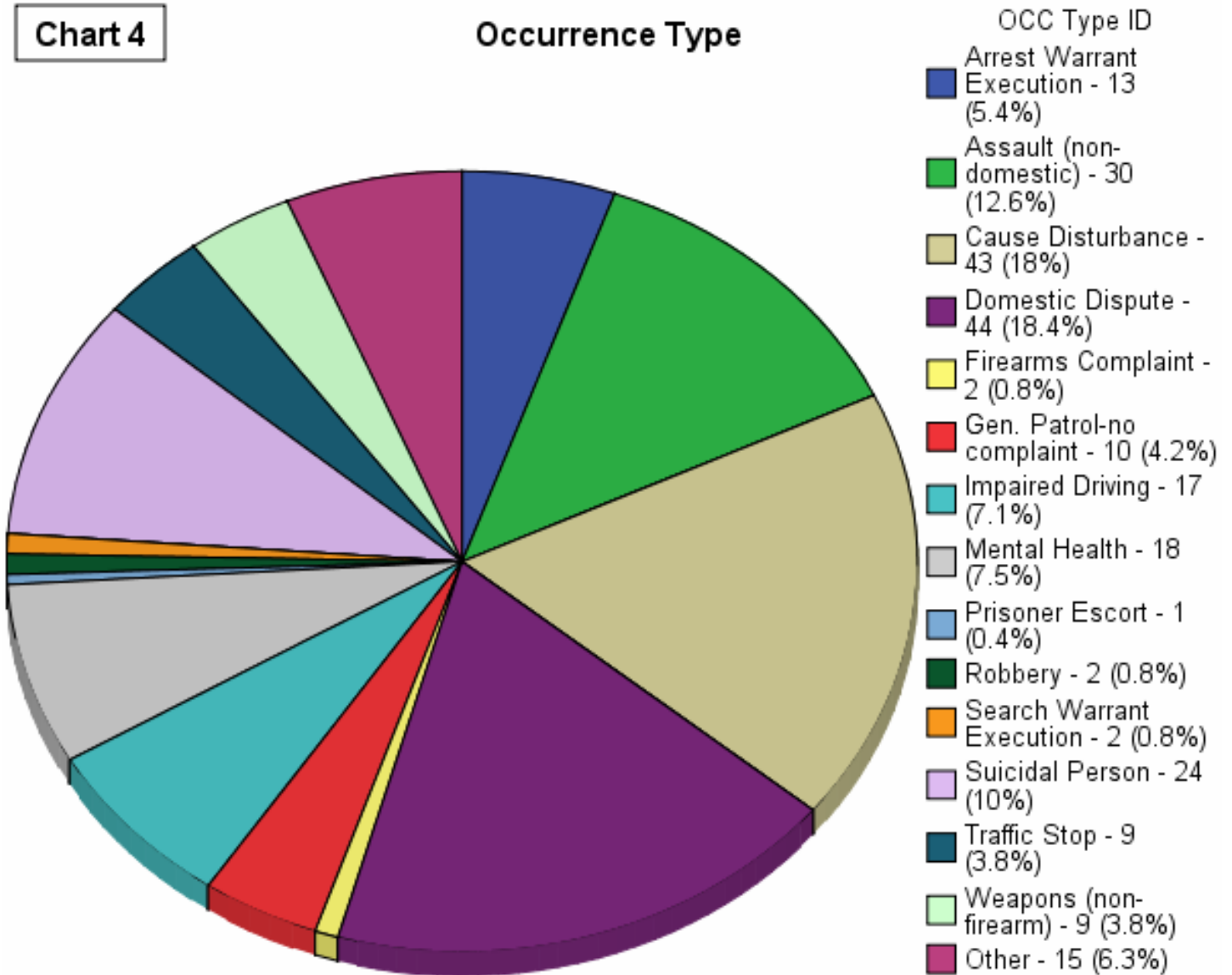


Conducted Energy Weapon - Occurrence Type

Chart 4 outlines the occurrence type of the actual call for service in which a CEW was deployed. There are 15 different occurrence types used to describe a call for service which a member either observes or is dispatched to attend. Although the circumstances and situational factors may change during an occurrence, the initial occurrence type is the category that members are instructed to select for their report.

Chart 4

Occurrence Type



(Note: The "Other" category includes incidents for which there is no occurrence type such as Mischief, Break and Enter and Threats.)

Conducted Energy Weapon - Subject Behaviour

Chart 5 (refer to page 11) outlines the reported behaviour of individuals subject to CEW usage.

The CEW database does not currently have a specific data field for recording subject behaviour. Information from the summary narratives on completed Forms 3996 was used to determine subject behaviour. The identification of behaviour will be included in the Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SB/OR) reporting form currently being piloted.

All incidents reported in this period where a CEW was utilized on a subject displaying passive resistant or cooperative behavior have been reviewed. It was confirmed that the members' decision to utilize the CEW in each of these cases was based on a perceived threat. All of these incidents involved the unholstering and displaying the CEW by the member. There were no push stun or probe mode deployments of the CEW on passive resistant or cooperative subjects.

In the case of the subject deemed to be displaying passive resistant behavior, the following situational factors and threat cues that assisted the member(s) in formulating their risk assessment are, but not limited to the following:

- initial complaint of domestic dispute (high risk situations of death or grievous bodily harm to police, victim, suspect(s) and/or public);
- evidence of assault in progress;
- evidence of an assault had occurred inside the residence (residence in disarray);
- unknown location of a child in the residence;
- conflicting information from a victim/witness advising subject not present at the residence;
- subject believed to be in one of two bedrooms at the end of a dark hallway;
- unable to observe subject;
- subject refusing to answer and comply with police verbal commands;
- subject warned of CEW presence; and
- subject has a criminal record.

In the case of the subject deemed to be co-operative, the following situational factors and threat cues that assisted the member(s) in formulating their risk assessment are, but not limited to the following:

- subject wanted on an arrest warrant for a violent domestic assault that occurred the evening prior;
- subject was avoiding apprehension by police;
- subject possibly armed and dangerous;
- subject has a criminal record.
- subject stature described as a very large male;
- subject was in a vehicle that stopped at a public swimming pool;
- location congested with families and children in the immediate area;

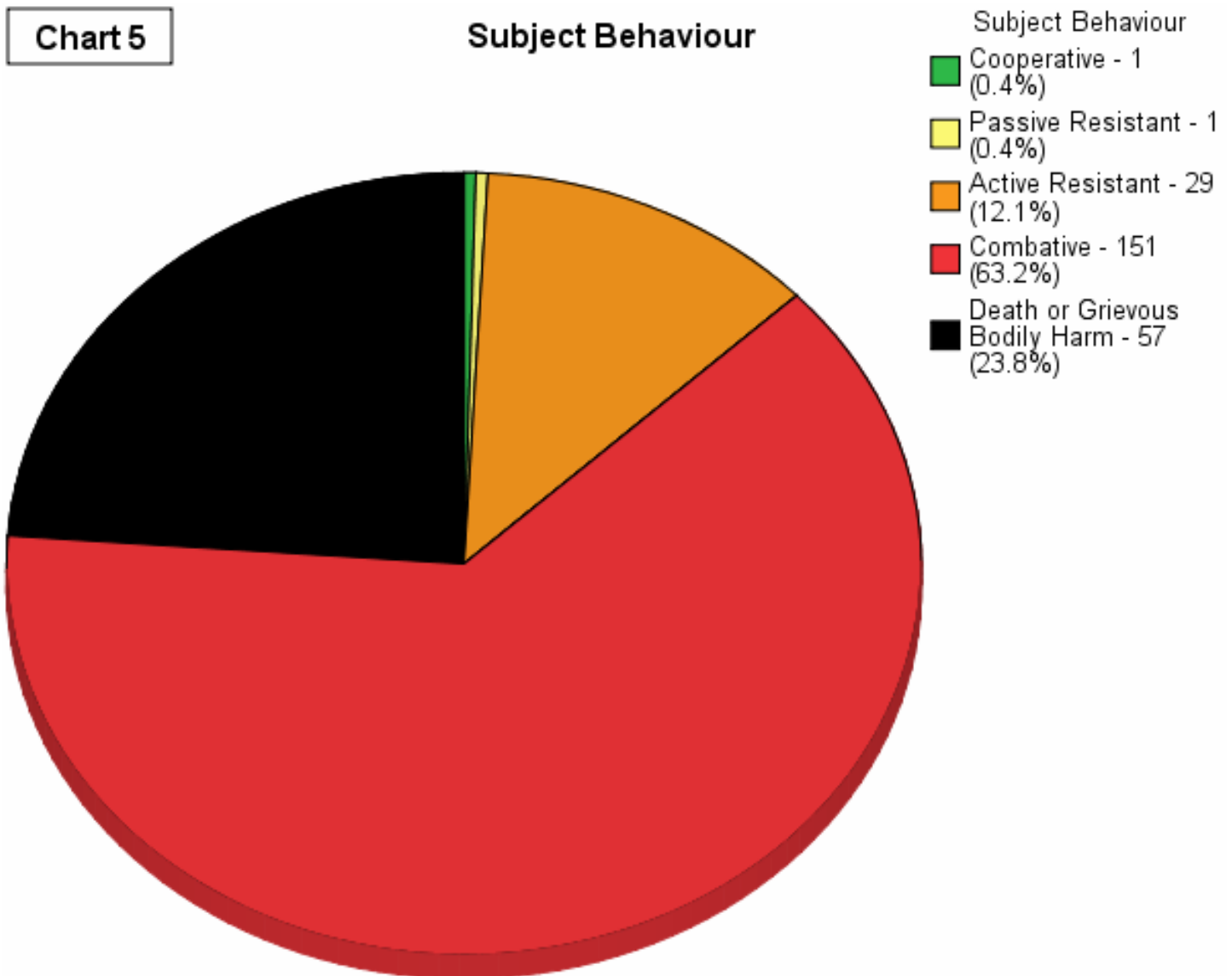


- Public and police safety a high priority in assessing risk;
- CEW deployed upon subject's exiting of vehicle.

Though this is not a comprehensive list of all the situational factors and threat cues perceived during a member's risk assessment of a particular situation, it does provide insight as to the totality of the circumstances observed/perceived during CEW deployments.

Chart 5

Subject Behaviour



(Note: The percentage totals may be within +/- one tenth of a percentage point due to software capabilities).



Conducted Energy Weapon - Subject Injuries

Chart 6 (refer to page 13) reports the types of injuries sustained by individuals who were exposed to CEW deployment(s).

Injuries associated with CEW usage are categorized as follows:

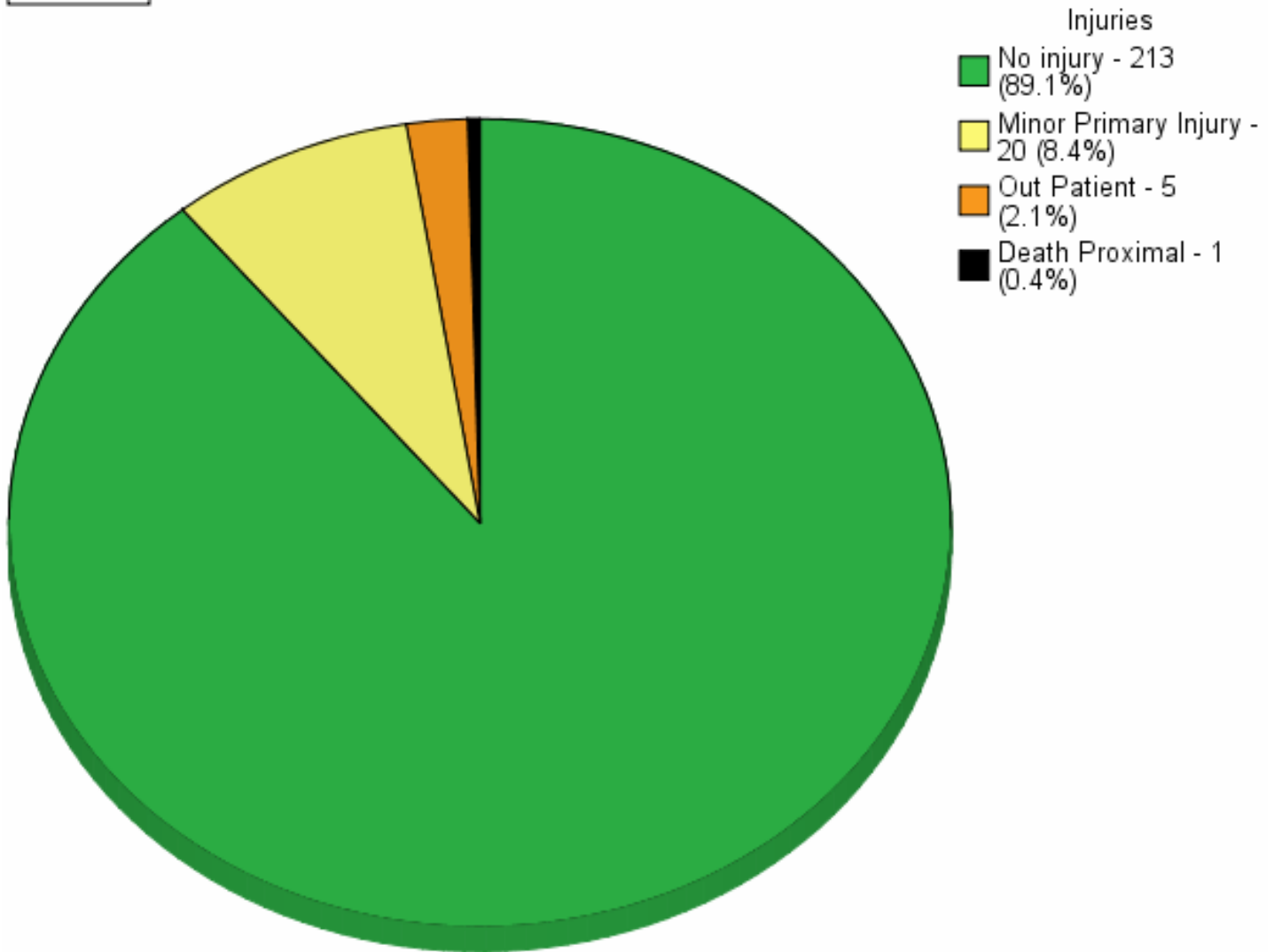
- No injury
- Minor primary injury - includes the immediate effects of CEW usage, such as slight burns, probe marks or slight bruising and cuts due to falls or physical struggles with police.
- Outpatient injury - any instance where a subject received medical attention and was not admitted to a health care facility.
- Inpatient injury - any instance where an injury related to the use of a CEW resulted in the subject being admitted to a health care facility.
- Death proximal to CEW usage - death occurring after the deployment of the CEW.

Chart 6 indicates that of the 239 CEW deployments, no injuries were sustained in 213 (89.1%), minor primary injuries were sustained in 20 (8.4%), 5 (2.1%) received outpatient treatment and 1 (0.4%) death proximal to CEW usage. Of the 5 incidents reporting outpatient treatment 3 were to assist in the removal of probes or to have pre-existing/self inflicted injuries treated. One was precautionary due to complaints of chest pains. This subject was assessed and medically cleared to be in police custody. One subject received treatment for abrasions and a possible dislocated elbow resulting from a fall after CEW deployed in probe mode. The circumstances surrounding the subject whose death was proximal to CEW usage is still under investigation at this time. The situation involved a subject who had a severe self inflicted stab wound, had fallen through a second story window to the ground and was a suspect in a recent robbery with a weapon. The police engaged the subject outside the residence and the CEW was deployed to prevent the subject, who was ignoring police commands, from re entering a residence where it was believed he would have ready access to a firearm.

Chart 7 (refer to page 14) shows the correlation between subject injuries and their reported behaviour.



Chart 6 **Reported Injuries Associated with CEW Usage**



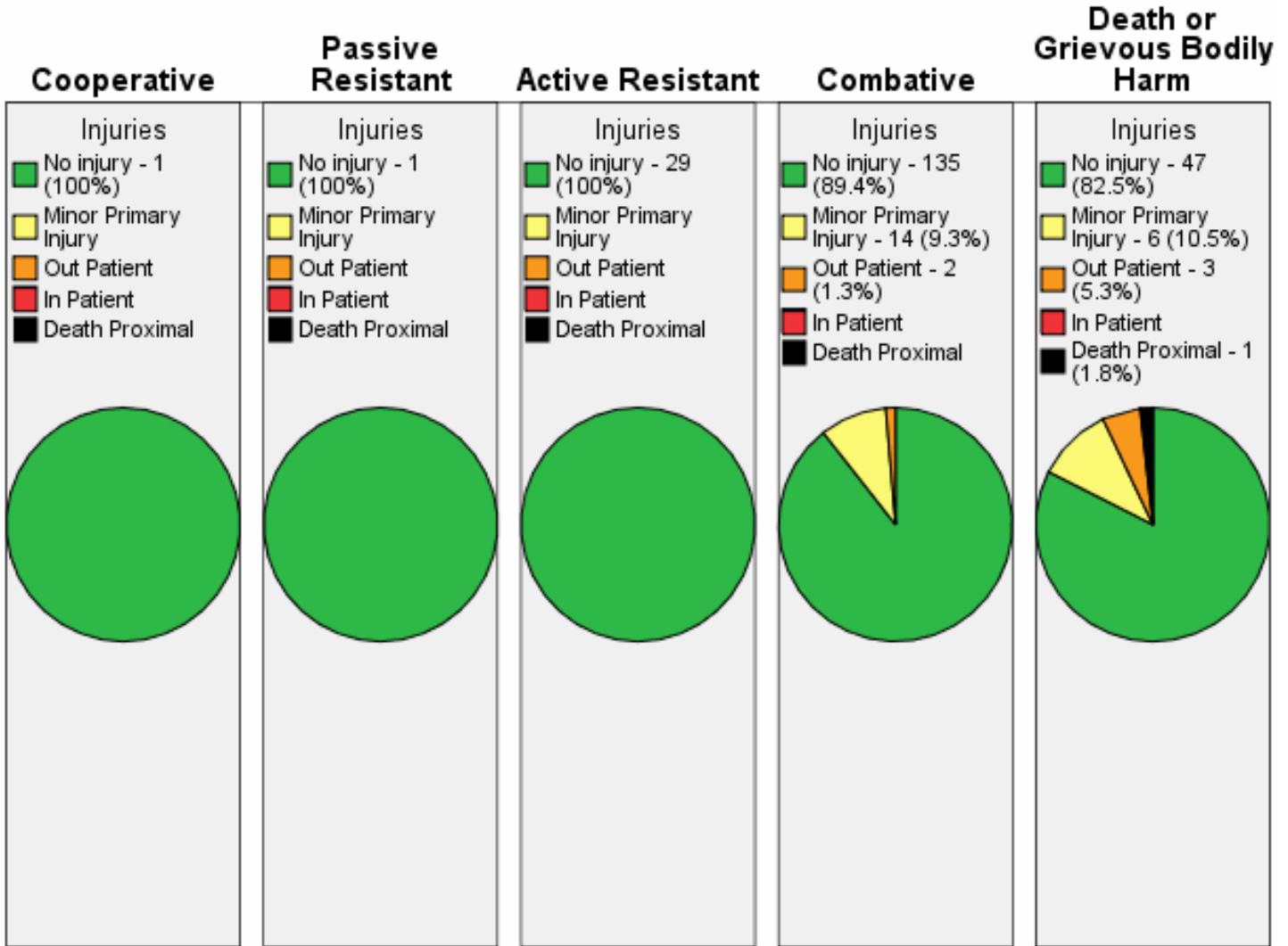
(Note: The circumstances surrounding the subject whose death was proximal to CEW usage can be found on page 12).



Chart 7

Injuries Associated with Subject Behaviour

Subject Behaviour



(Note: The circumstances surrounding the subject whose death was proximal to CEW usage can be found on page 12).



Conducted Energy Weapon – Perceived Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances

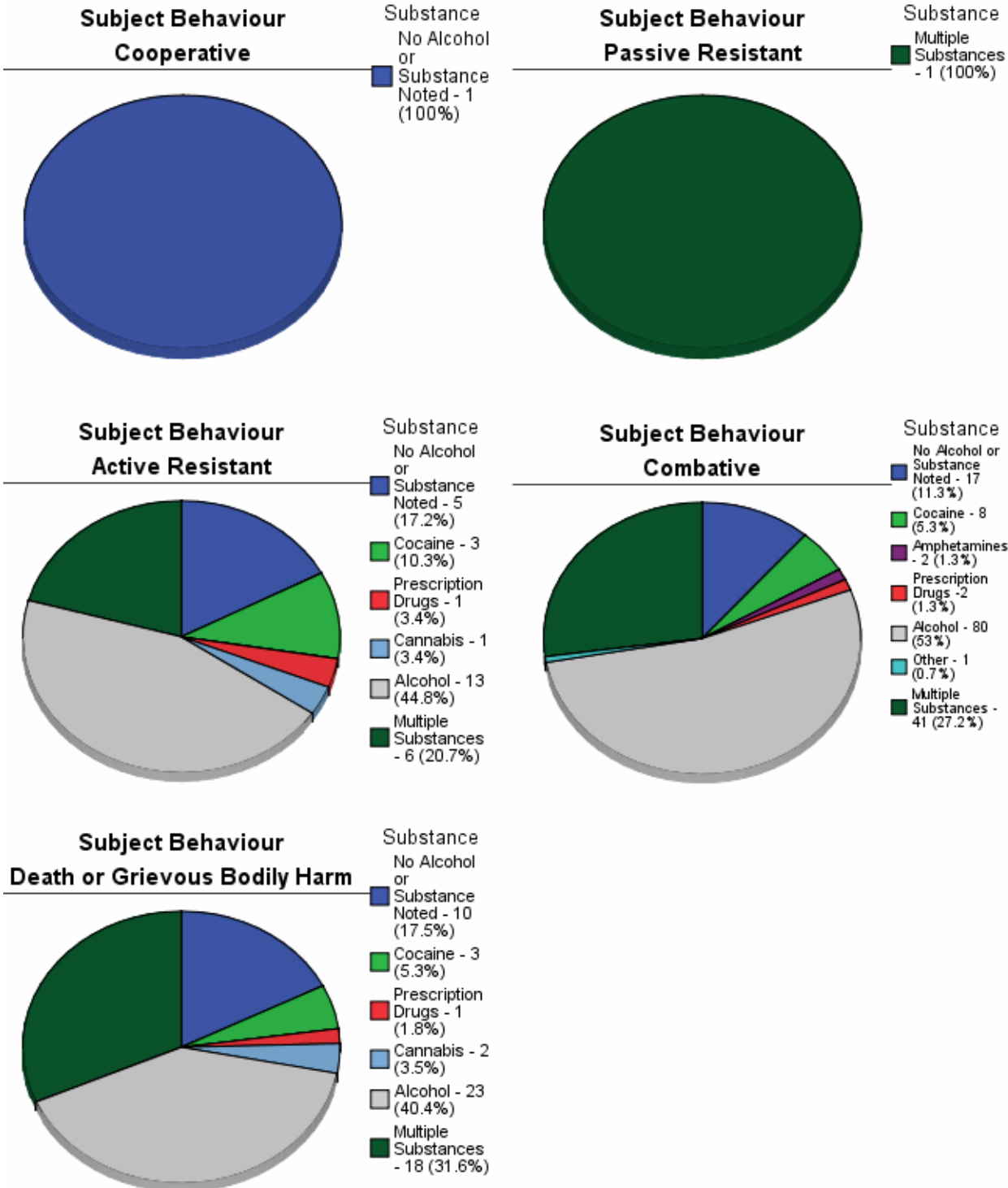
Table 4 reports the perceived presence of alcohol or other substances in the subject. Nationally, the presence of alcohol or other substances was reported in 206 incidents or 86.21% of this period’s CEW deployments. The 13.8 % reported as “No” does not mean alcohol or other substances were not present, but rather that they were not detected by the reporting member in his/her interaction with the subject. Chart 8 (refer to page 16) shows the correlation between observed subject behaviour and the presence of alcohol or other substances.

Table 4 Perceived Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances

| Present | Alcohol or Substance Noted | |
|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| | Count | Percent |
| Yes | 206 | 86.2% |
| No | 33 | 13.8% |
| Total: | 239 | 100% |



Chart 8 Perceived Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances by Subject Behaviour



(Note: See Appendix "D" for table).



Approved By:
Insp. K.T. LIGHTFOOT
OIC National Use of Force and Operational
Programs
CCAPS

Prepared By:
Sgt. K. Beson
Cpl. K Lackie
CM Simon Baldwin
National Use of Force Unit
CCAPS



APPENDIX A

Total number of regular members employed during the reporting period

| Province & Division | | RCMP REGULAR MEMBERS ON STRENGTH AS OF 2008-09-30 |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| OTTAWA | A | 253 |
| NL | B | 499 |
| QC | C | 977 |
| MB | D | 941 |
| BC | E | 6163 |
| SK | F | 1164 |
| NWT | G | 184 |
| NS | H | 1069 |
| NB | J | 878 |
| AB | K | 2419 |
| PEI | L | 132 |
| YK | M | 121 |
| HQ | N | 1577 |
| ON | O | 1233 |
| REGINA | DEPOT | 131 |
| NU | V | 114 |
| Total: | | 17855 |

(Note: The uses of provincial abbreviations in this report are meant to denote RCMP-related numbers and do not represent provincial law enforcement statistics).



APPENDIX B

| Province & Division | | CEW Procured per Division July to September 2008 | | |
|---------------------|-------|---|-----|--------|
| | | M26 | X26 | Total: |
| OTTAWA | A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NL | B | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| QC | C | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| MB | D | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| BC | E | 0 | 30 | 30 |
| SK | F | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| NWT | G | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NS | H | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| NB | J | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| AB | K | 0 | 18 | 18 |
| PEI | L | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| YK | M | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HQ | N | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ON | O | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| REGINA | DEPOT | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NU | V | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Total: | | 0 | 60 | 60 |

| Province & Division | | CEW Disposed per Division July to September 2008 | | |
|---------------------|--|---|-----|--------|
| | | M26 | X26 | Total: |
| Total: | | 0 | 0 | 0 |



APPENDIX C

| Region | Number of Members Trained on the CEW User Course (000028) between January 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008 | | |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | January 1 to March 31, 2008 | April 1 to June 30, 2008 | July 1 to September 30, 2008 |
| Pacific | 98 | 55 | 33 |
| North West | 123 | 99 | 15 |
| NHQ | 4 | 22 | 0 |
| Central | 30 | 6 | 10 |
| Atlantic | 135 | 40 | 6 |
| Total: | 390 | 222 | 64 |

| Region | Number of Members Recertified on the CEW * (000279) between January 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008 | | |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | January 1 to March 31, 2008 | April 1 to June 30, 2008 | July 1 to September 30, 2008 |
| Pacific | 38 | 57 | 8 |
| North West | 228 | 131 | 159 |
| NHQ | 2 | 15 | 2 |
| Central | 30 | 38 | 7 |
| Atlantic | 58 | 75 | 151 |
| Total: | 356 | 316 | 327 |

*Includes Both Users and Instructors, as there is no Instructor's Recertification Course at present

| Region | Number of Instructors Trained on the CEW Instructors Course (000029) between January 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008 | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | January 1 to March 31, 2008 | April 1 to June 30, 2008 | July 1 to September 30, 2008 |
| Pacific | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| North West | 18 | 19 | 1 |
| NHQ | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Central | 1 | 3 | 13 |
| Atlantic | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total: | 20 | 22 | 35 |



APPENDIX D

Perceived Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances by Subject Behaviour

| | | | Subject Behaviour | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|
| | | | Cooperative | Passive Resistant | Active Resistant | Combative | Death or Grievous Bodily Harm | Total |
| Substance | No Alcohol or Substance Noted | Count | 1 | 0 | 5 | 17 | 10 | 33 |
| | | % within Substance | 3.0% | 0.0% | 15.2% | 51.5% | 30.3% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Subject Behaviour | 100.0% | 0.0% | 17.2% | 11.3% | 17.5% | 13.8% |
| | | % of Total | 0.4% | 0.0% | 2.1% | 7.1% | 4.2% | 13.8% |
| | Cocaine | Count | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 14 |
| | | % within Substance | 0.0% | 0.0% | 21.4% | 57.1% | 21.4% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Subject Behaviour | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10.3% | 5.3% | 5.3% | 5.9% |
| | | % of Total | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.3% | 3.3% | 1.3% | 5.9% |
| | Amphetamines | Count | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | | % within Substance | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Subject Behaviour | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.3% | 0.0% | 0.8% |
| | | % of Total | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.8% | 0.0% | 0.8% |
| | Prescription Drugs | Count | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| | | % within Substance | 0.0% | 0.0% | 25.0% | 50.0% | 25.0% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Subject Behaviour | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.4% | 1.3% | 1.8% | 1.7% |
| | | % of Total | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.4% | 0.8% | 0.4% | 1.7% |
| | Cannabis | Count | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| | | % within Substance | 0.0% | 0.0% | 33.3% | 0.0% | 66.7% | 100.0% |
| | | % within Subject Behaviour | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.4% | 0.0% | 3.5% | 1.3% |
| | | % of Total | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.8% | 1.3% |
| Alcohol | Count | 0 | 0 | 13 | 80 | 23 | 116 | |
| | % within Substance | 0.0% | 0.0% | 11.2% | 69.0% | 19.8% | 100.0% | |
| | % within Subject Behaviour | 0.0% | 0.0% | 44.8% | 53.0% | 40.4% | 48.5% | |
| | % of Total | 0.0% | 0.0% | 5.4% | 33.5% | 9.6% | 48.5% | |
| Other | Count | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| | % within Substance | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | |
| | % within Subject Behaviour | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.7% | 0.0% | 0.4% | |
| | % of Total | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.4% | |
| Multiple Substances | Count | 0 | 1 | 6 | 41 | 18 | 66 | |
| | % within Substance | 0.0% | 1.5% | 9.1% | 62.1% | 27.3% | 100.0% | |
| | % within Subject Behaviour | 0.0% | 100.0% | 20.7% | 27.2% | 31.6% | 27.6% | |
| | % of Total | 0.0% | 0.4% | 2.5% | 17.2% | 7.5% | 27.6% | |
| Total | Count | 1 | 1 | 29 | 151 | 57 | 239 | |
| | % within Substance | 0.4% | 0.4% | 12.1% | 63.2% | 23.8% | 100.0% | |
| | % within Subject Behaviour | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | |
| | % of Total | 0.4% | 0.4% | 12.1% | 63.2% | 23.8% | 100.0% | |



APPENDIX E



Divisions

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| HQ - Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario | H - Nova Scotia |
| A - Ottawa, Ontario | J - New Brunswick |
| B - Newfoundland | K - Alberta |
| C - Quebec | L - Prince Edward Island |
| D - Manitoba | M - Yukon Territory |
| E - British Columbia | O - Ontario |
| F - Saskatchewan | T - Depot |
| G - Northwest Territories | V - Nunavut |