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2009-07-27

Unclassified

**RCMP Quarterly Report  
On  
Conducted Energy Weapons  
2008-10-01 to 2008-12-31**

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## Executive Summary

This report on the RCMP's use of the conducted energy weapon (CEW) covers the period October 1, 2008 to December 31, 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 211 CEW deployments on 210 subjects during the reporting period.
- 193 (91.5%) of these deployments were effective in controlling the subjects' behaviour.
- Presence alone (ie: not deployed in stun or probe mode) accounted for 120 (56.9%) of deployments.
- Incidents of causing a disturbance, assaults and domestic disputes accounted for 105 (49.8%) of all occurrence types in which a CEW was deployed.
- Responses to mental health or suicidal subjects accounted for 36 (17.1%) of all deployments.
- In 54 incidents (25.6%) 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 186 incidents (88.2%).
- Out of the 211 total deployments 95.7% 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 the current RCMP policy for the reporting period.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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			Total:
		October	November	December	
NL	B	1	2	3	6
MB	D	11	5	1	17
BC	E	25	22	27	74
SK	F	12	17	12	41
NWT	G	4	0	0	4
NS	H	1	5	4	10
NB	J	2	4	3	9
AB	K	13	16	11	40
PEI	L	2	0	3	5
YK	M	1	2	0	3
NU	V	2	0	0	2
<b>Total:</b>		<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>211</b>

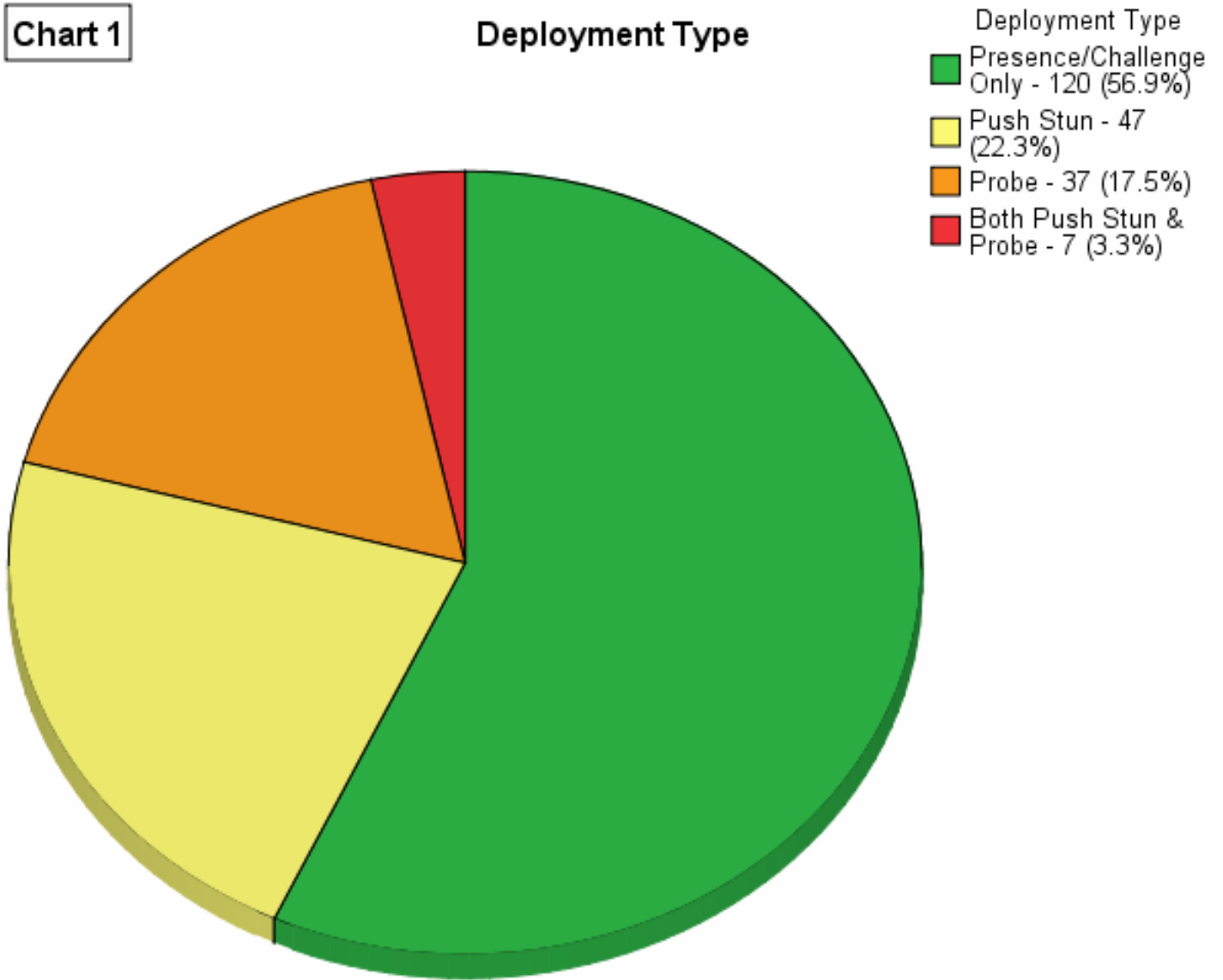
**Table 2** Types of Deployment by Division

Province & Division		Deployment Type				Total:
		Presence/ Challenge Only	Push Stun	Probe	Both Push Stun & Probe	
NL	B	2	2	1	1	6
MB	D	9	3	4	1	17
BC	E	42	21	11	0	74
SK	F	31	5	4	1	41
NWT	G	4	0	0	0	4
NS	H	5	3	2	0	10
NB	J	4	5	0	0	9
AB	K	17	8	12	3	40
PEI	L	4	0	1	0	5
YK	M	1	0	2	0	3
NU	V	1	0	0	1	2
<b>Total:</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>211</b>



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	193	91.5%
Not Effective	18	8.5%
Total	211	100%

**Chart 2**

## Deployment Effectiveness

### Deployment Type

#### Presence/Challenge Only

#### Push Stun

#### Probe

#### Both Push Stun & Probe

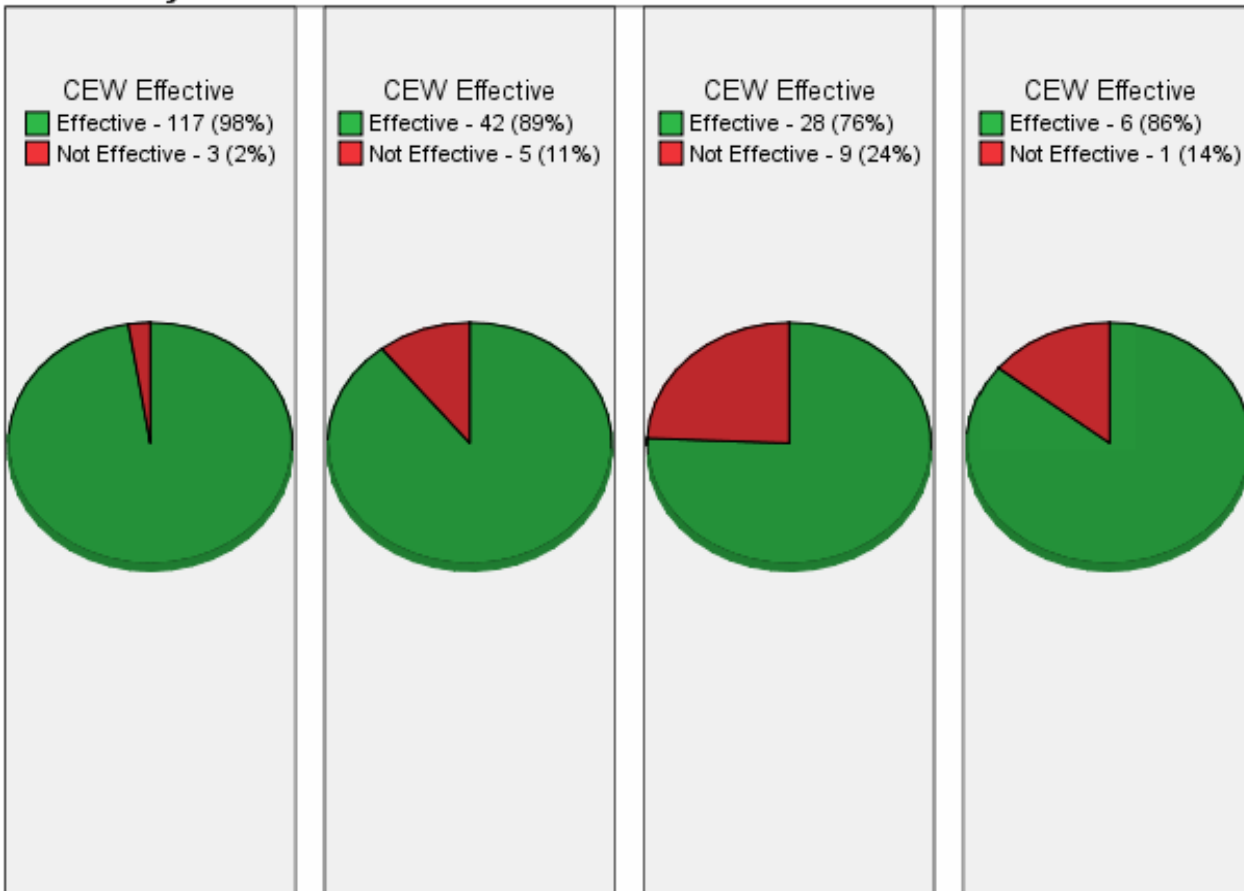
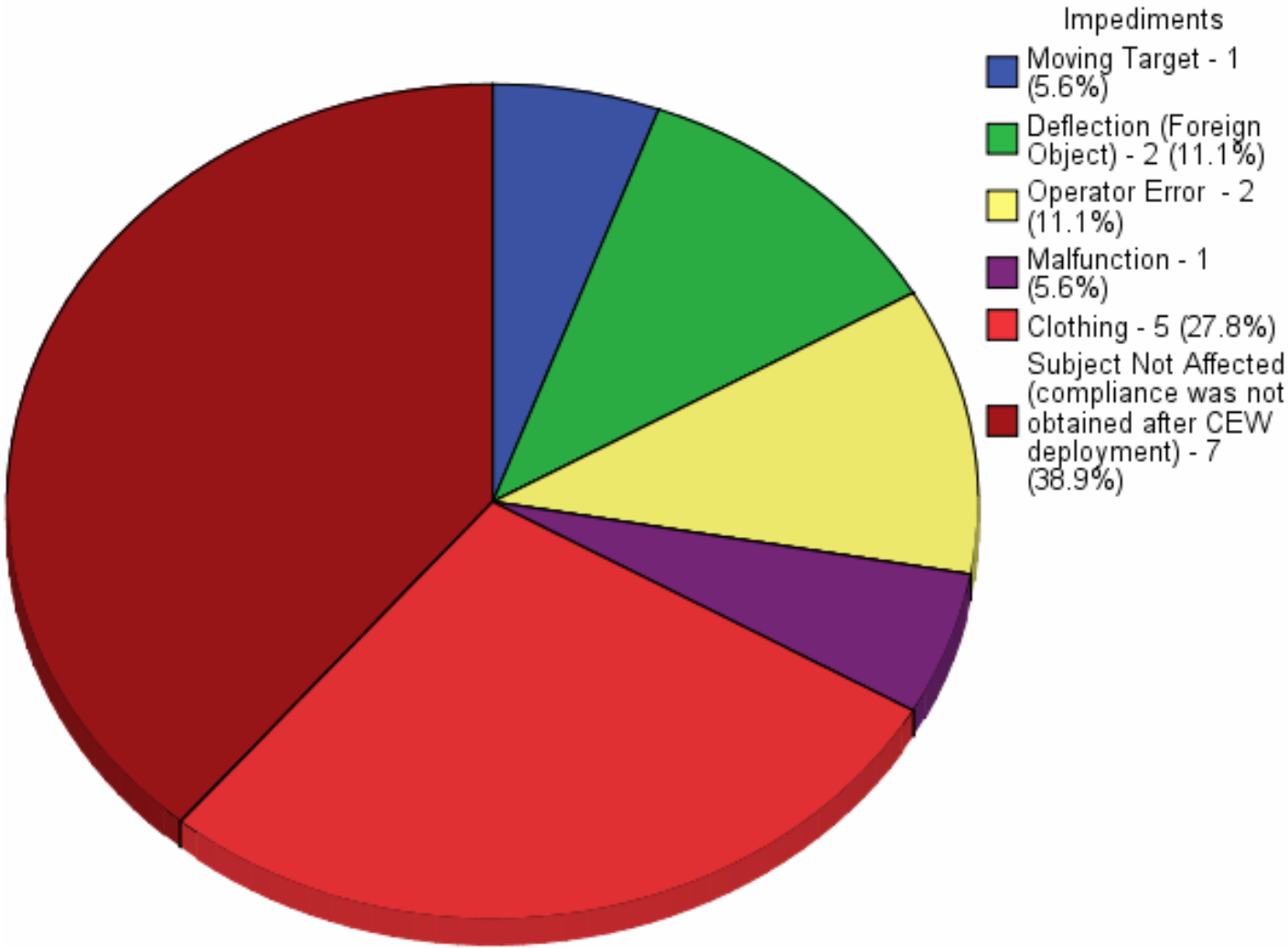






Chart 3

### Impediments to Effective Outcomes



(Note: “Effective Outcomes” means that deployment of the CEW resulted in control of the subject’s behavior).

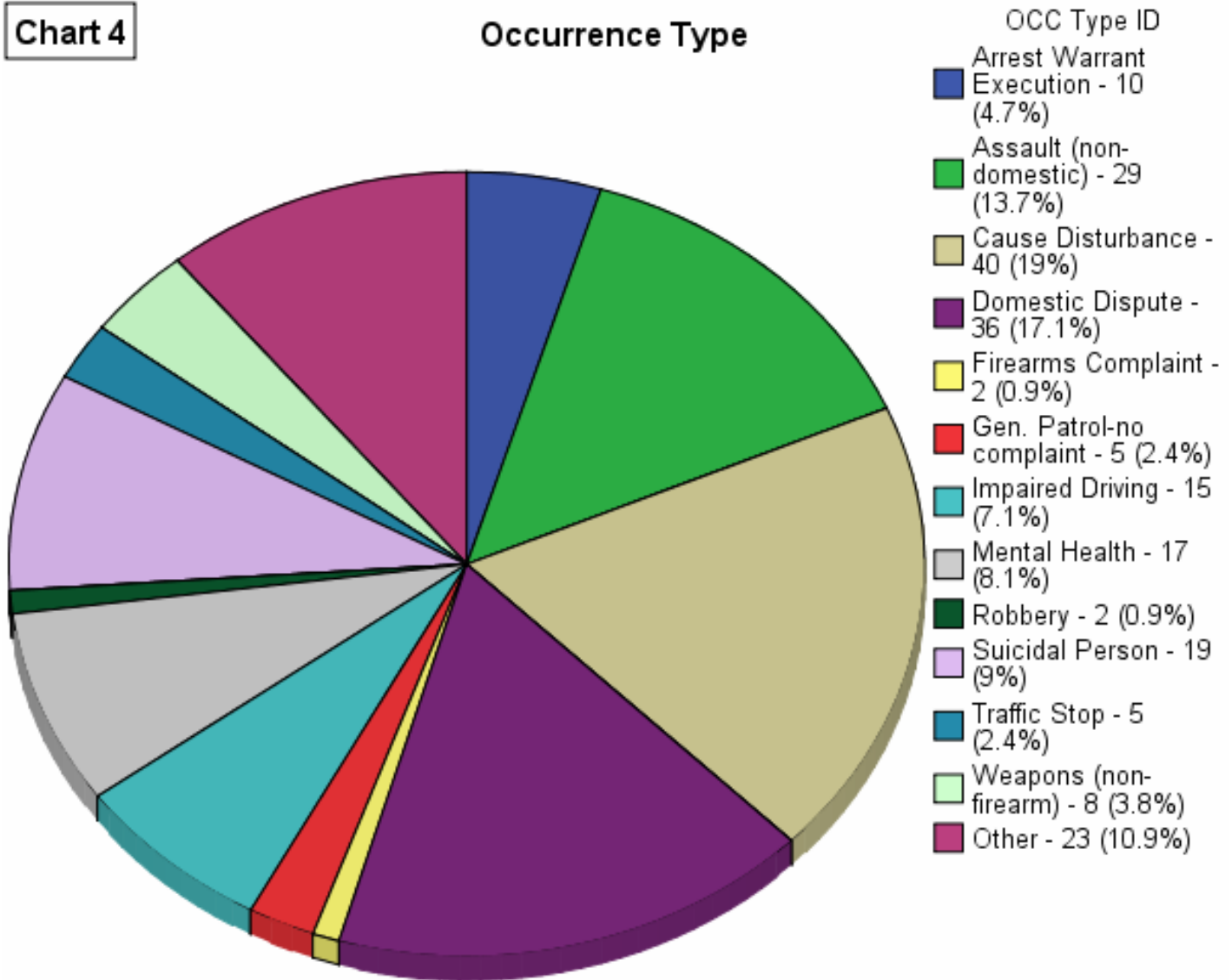


## Conducted Energy Weapon - Occurrence Type

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.

There were no instances in this reporting period where a CEW was utilized on a subject displaying passive resistant behavior. There were two instances where a CEW was utilized on subjects displaying cooperative behavior. Both incidents were reviewed and it was confirmed that the members' decision to utilize the CEW was based on a perceived threat. Both incidents involved the unholstering and displaying the CEW by the member. There were no push stun or probe mode deployments of the CEW on cooperative subjects.

In the cases 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 are not limited to the following:

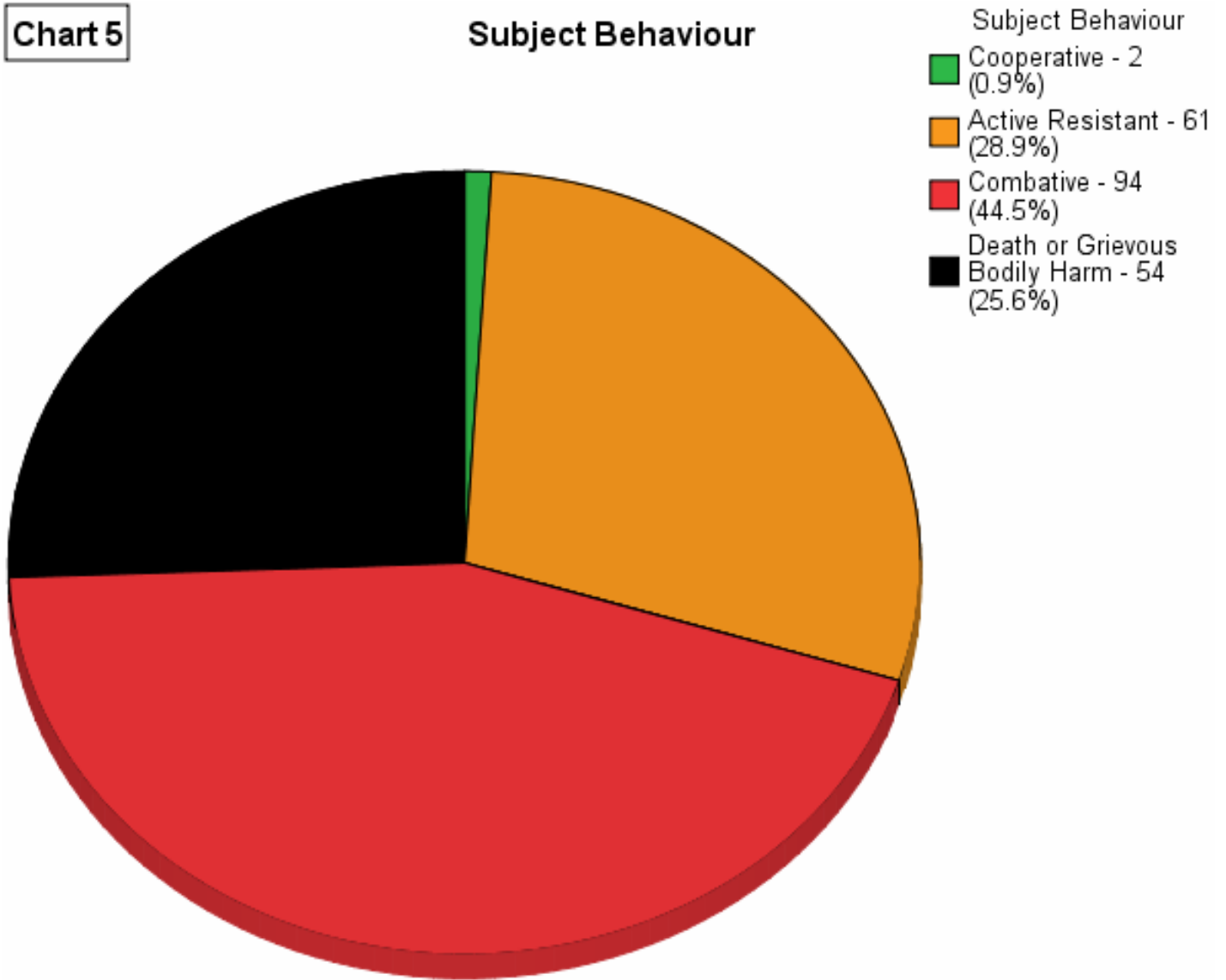
- In one case, the subject was wanted on an arrest warrant for murder and may have been armed. The subject was physically large and intoxicated. The member was alone when the subject was located. Additionally, there was the presence of a second intoxicated subject, who was confrontational with the member.
- In the other case, the members were dispatched to a domestic disturbance involving a subject who has a history of violence and is a known police hater. The subject was intoxicated and verbally aggressive towards the police upon arrest. There were weapons that were easily accessible and the presence of a second subject. The subject may not have been aware of the CEWs presence due to it only being unholstered and pointed to the floor.

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 reports the types of injuries sustained by individuals who were exposed to CEW deployment(s).

Injuries associated with CEW usage are categorized as follows:

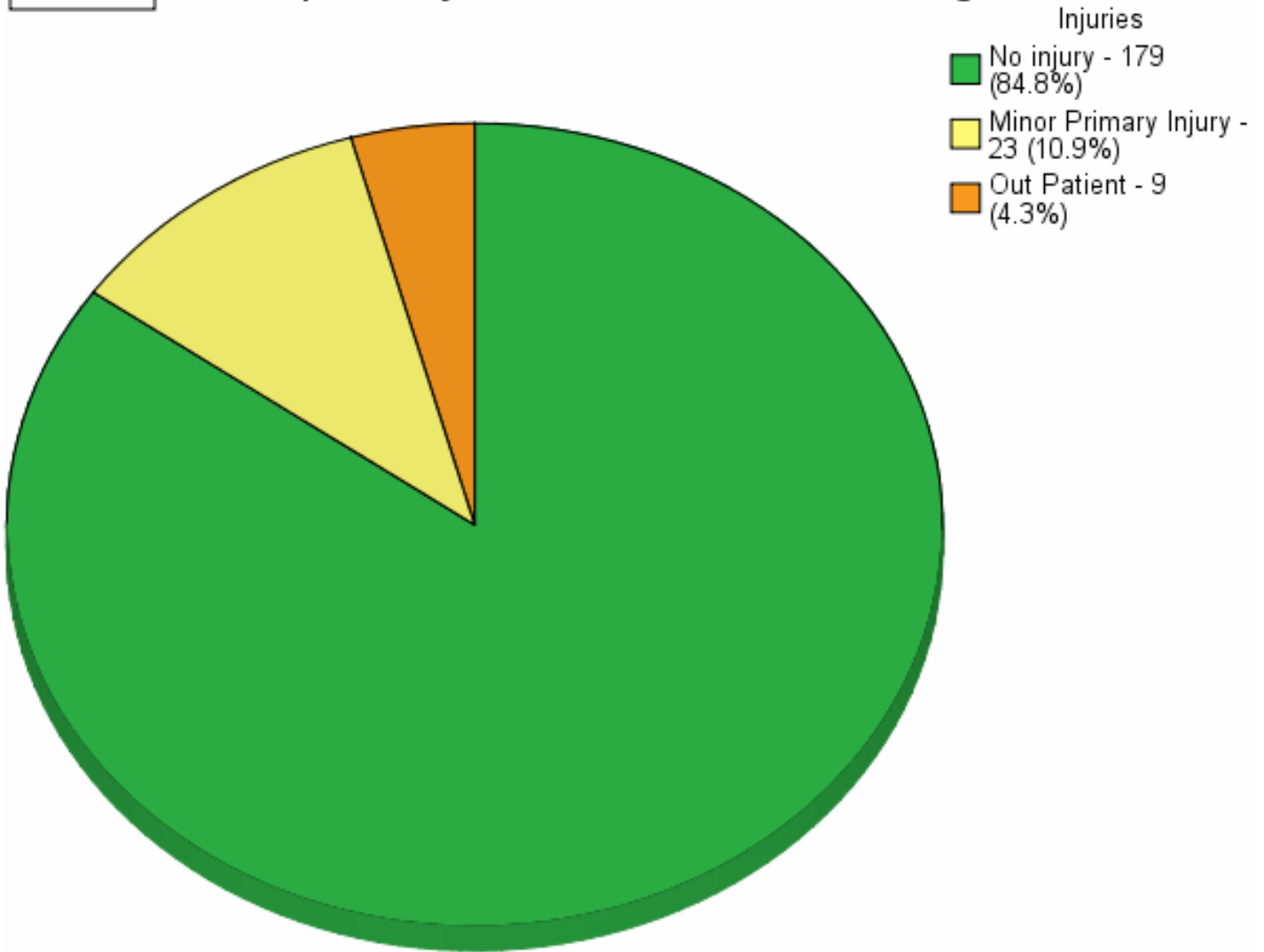
- No injury
- Minor primary injury - includes the immediate effects of CEW usage, such as slight burns, probe marks or slight bruising and cuts due to falls or physical struggles with police.
- Outpatient injury - any instance where a subject received medical attention and was not admitted to a health 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 (refer to page 13) indicates that of the 211 CEW deployments, no injuries were sustained in 179 (84.8%), minor primary injuries were sustained in 23 (10.9%), 7 (4.3%) deployments resulted in outpatient treatment. Of the 7 incidents reporting outpatient treatment 5 were to have probes removed. One was precautionary to have the area checked where the CEW probes contacted the back. The other was as a result of a behavior change; from highly agitated to non responsive, medical tests revealed the subject was on cocaine but otherwise healthy. All seven of the subjects were treated and medically cleared to be incarcerated.

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



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

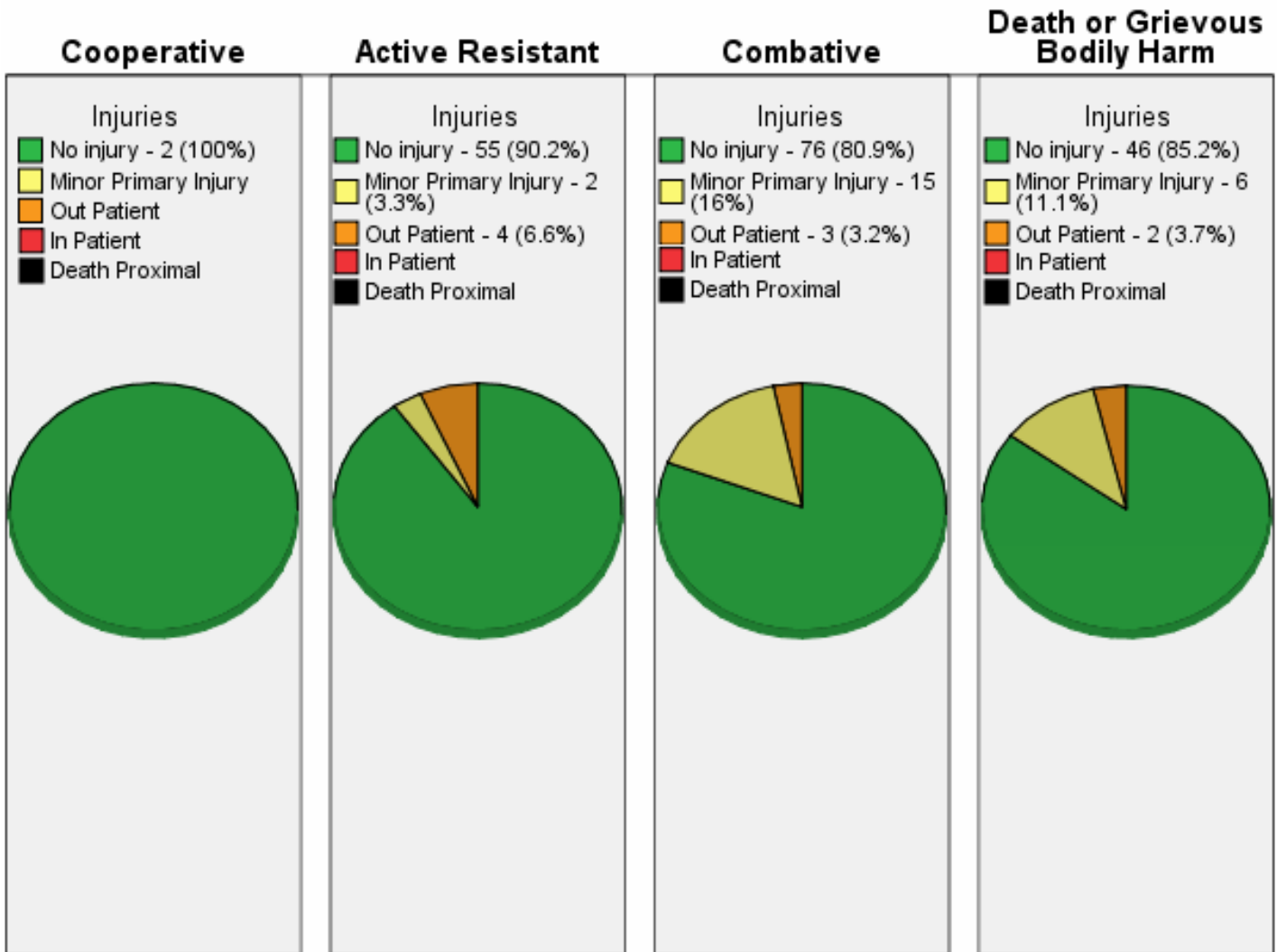




**Chart 7**

## Injuries Associated with Subject Behaviour

### Subject Behaviour





## 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.

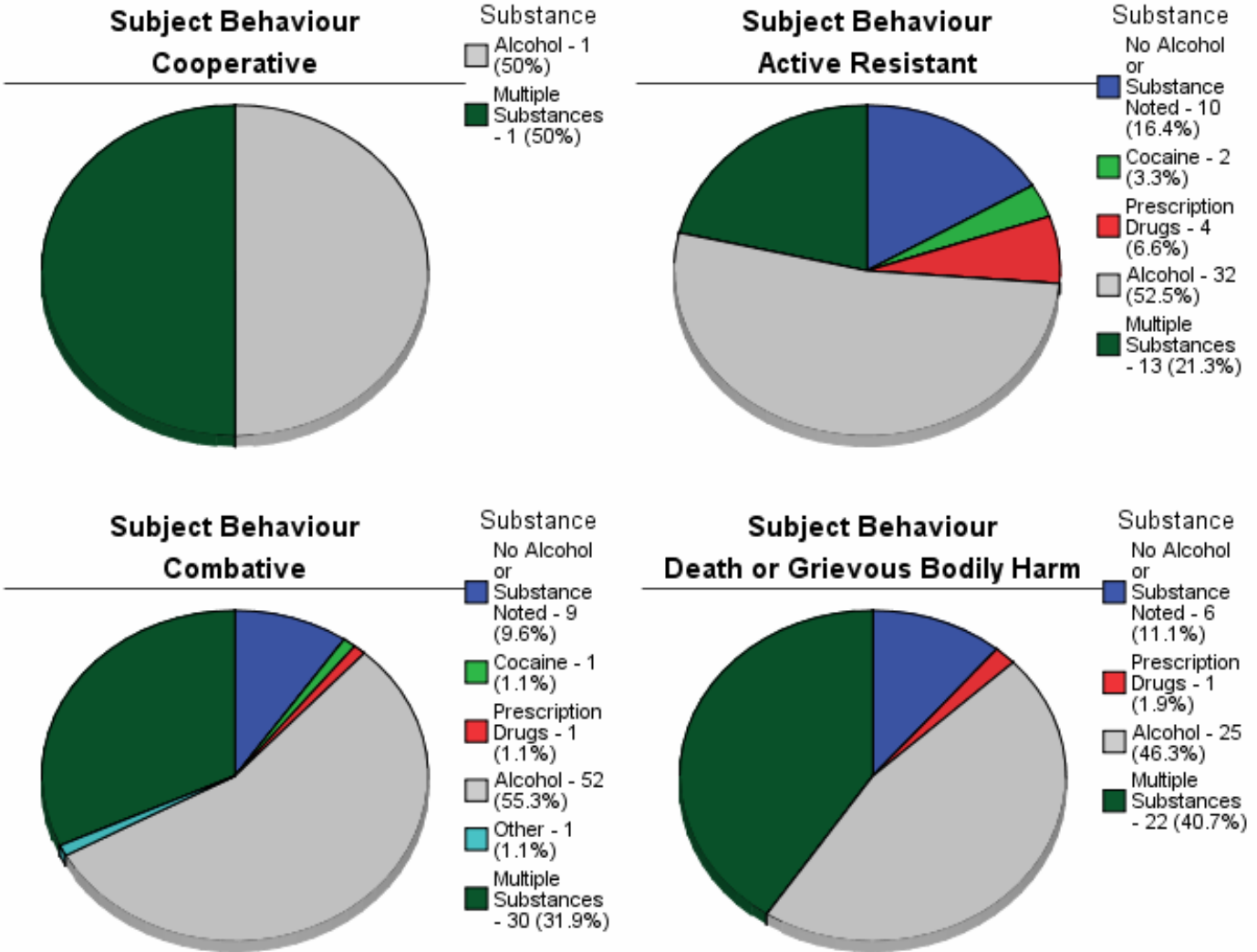
**Table 4** Perceived Presence of Alcohol and/or other Substances

Present	Alcohol or Substance Noted	
	Count	Percent
Yes	186	88.2%
No	25	11.8%
Total:	211	100%





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



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

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## APPENDIX A

### Total number of regular members employed during the reporting period

Province & Division		RCMP REGULAR MEMBERS ON STRENGTH AS OF 2008-12-31
OTTAWA	A	242
NL	B	506
QC	C	975
MB	D	1152
BC	E	6129
SK	F	1167
NWT	G	191
NS	H	1099
NB	J	894
AB	K	2542.5
PEI	L	131
YK	M	128
HQ	N	1815.5
ON	O	1278
REGINA	DEPOT	141
NU	V	111
Total:		18502

(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 October to December 2008		
		M26	X26	Total:
OTTAWA	A	0	0	0
NL	B	0	1	1
QC	C	0	0	0
MB	D	0	2	2
BC	E	0	10	10
SK	F	0	67	67
NWT	G	0	19	19
NS	H	0	8	8
NB	J	0	6	6
AB	K	0	11	11
PEI	L	0	3	3
YK	M	0	0	0
HQ	N	0	0	0
ON	O	0	3	3
REGINA	DEPOT	0	0	0
NU	V	0	5	5
Total:		0	135	135

Province & Division		CEW Disposed per Division October to December 2008		
		M26	X26	Total:
SK	F	0	4	4
NWT	G	0	1	1
NS	H	0	1	1
Total:		0	6	6



## APPENDIX

Region	Number of Members Trained on the CEW User Course (000028) between January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008			
	January 1 to March 31, 2008	April 1 to June 30, 2008	July 1 to September 30, 2008	October 1 to December 31, 2008
Pacific	98	55	33	56
North West	123	99	15	72
NHQ	4	22	0	0
Central	30	6	10	0
Atlantic	135	40	6	8
<b>Total:</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>136</b>

Region	Number of Members Recertified on the CEW * (000279) between January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008			
	January 1 to March 31, 2008	April 1 to June 30, 2008	July 1 to September 30, 2008	October 1 to December 31, 2008
Pacific	38	57	8	59
North West	228	131	159	189
NHQ	2	15	2	1
Central	30	38	7	0
Atlantic	58	75	151	61
<b>Total:</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>310</b>

\*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 December 31, 2008			
	January 1 to March 31, 2008	April 1 to June 30, 2008	July 1 to September 30, 2008	October 1 to December 31, 2008
Pacific	0	0	17	0
North West	18	19	1	0
NHQ	1	0	3	2
Central	1	3	13	0
Atlantic	0	0	1	15
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>



## APPENDIX D

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

			Subject Behaviour				
			Cooperative	Active Resistant	Combative	Death or Grievous Bodily Harm	Total
Substance	No Alcohol or Substance Noted	Count	0	10	9	6	25
		% within Substance	0.0%	40.0%	36.0%	24.0%	100.0%
		% within Subject Behaviour	0.0%	16.4%	9.6%	11.1%	11.8%
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
	Cocaine	Count	0	2	1	0	3
		% within Substance	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Subject Behaviour	0.0%	3.3%	1.1%	0.0%	1.4%
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
	Prescription Drugs	Count	0	4	1	1	6
		% within Substance	0.0%	66.7%	16.7%	16.7%	100.0%
		% within Subject Behaviour	0.0%	6.6%	1.1%	1.9%	2.8%
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
	Alcohol	Count	1	32	52	25	110
		% within Substance	0.9%	29.1%	47.3%	22.7%	100.0%
		% within Subject Behaviour	50.0%	52.5%	55.3%	46.3%	52.1%
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>52.1%</b>
	Other	Count	0	0	1	0	1
		% within Substance	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% within Subject Behaviour	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.5%
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Multiple Substances	Count	1	13	30	22	66	
	% within Substance	1.5%	19.7%	45.5%	33.3%	100.0%	
	% within Subject Behaviour	50.0%	21.3%	31.9%	40.7%	31.3%	
	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>Count</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>211</b>
		<b>% within Substance</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
		<b>% within Subject Behaviour</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
		<b>% of Total</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## APPENDIX E



### Divisions

**HQ - Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario**  
**A - Ottawa, Ontario**  
**B - Newfoundland**  
**C - Quebec**  
**D - Manitoba**  
**E - British Columbia**  
**F - Saskatchewan**  
**G - Northwest Territories**

**H - Nova Scotia**  
**J - New Brunswick**  
**K - Alberta**  
**L - Prince Edward Island**  
**M - Yukon Territory**  
**O - Ontario**  
**T - Depot**  
**V - Nunavut**