

PEACE OFFICER STATISTICS - 2024 ANNUAL UPDATE

City Peace Officers are highly trained professionals. They are held to the highest accountability standards and are governed by multiple layers of oversight. This includes provincial legislation, stringent guidelines and mandatory reporting for the provincial Peace Officer Program, and adherence to the [City's Code of Conduct](#), policies, and internal processes. Committed to transparency, the City of Edmonton publicly reports on use-of-force events and Peace Officer complaints every six months.

In 2024, Peace Officers recorded 89,460 incidents. An incident can be a file generated by calls for service from the public or a file proactively generated by Peace Officers.

Use-of-Force Events: 2024

Peace Officers have a range of response options including officer presence, verbal commands, soft empty hand techniques (such as grabs, holds, escorts, and waking or rousing individuals), hard empty hand techniques (such as strikes), and intermediate weapons (such as a baton or Oleoresin Capsicum/OC/pepper spray). During their duties, it may become necessary for Peace Officers to use force if the exercise of persuasion, advice, and warning is insufficient. The force used should be commensurate with the perceived threat in the situation.

When officers complete written reports, they are expected to document all use-of-force. Files are then assigned to supervisors and management to review use-of-force events. In most cases, the use-of-force is found to be reasonable. However, if an inappropriate use is suspected based on the event and report, the file is referred to a professional standards investigator for further review and potential investigation. If circumstances merit, the matter would be referred to the Edmonton Police Service for criminal investigation.

- **Total Use-of-Force Events:** There were 223 events, representing a decrease of 2% from last year. The proportion of use-of-force events decreased slightly from 0.3% to 0.25% or 2.5 incidents per 1,000 files.
- **Major Event Types:** A small number of event types account for 77% of all use-of-force incidents: assault (33%), trespassing (23%), obstruction of a Peace Officer (13%) and trouble with persons (8%).

| Incidents | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 vs. 2023 | 5 Yr Avg | 2024 vs. 5 Yr Avg | Trend |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| Hard Empty Hand Techniques | 85 | 106 | 185 | 207 | 210 | 1.4% | 159 | 32.4% | |
| Intermediate Weapons | 16 | 23 | 27 | 20 | 13 | -35.0% | 20 | -34.3% | |
| Total Use of Force | 101 | 129 | 212 | 227 | 223 | -1.8% | 178 | 25.0% | |
| Total Incidents | 67,367 | 65,225 | 60,085 | 79,224 | 89,460 | 12.9% | 72,272 | 23.8% | |
| % Use of Force used in all Incidents | 0.15% | 0.20% | 0.35% | 0.29% | 0.25% | -13.0% | 0.25% | 0.8% | |
| No. of Use of Force Incidents per 1000 Files | 1.5 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.5 | -13.0% | 2.5 | 0.8% | |
| No. of Intermediate Weapon Incidents per 1000 Files | 0.24 | 0.35 | 0.45 | 0.25 | 0.15 | -42.4% | 0.3 | -49.4% | |
| No. of Hard Empty Hand Incidents per 1000 Files | 1.26 | 1.63 | 3.08 | 2.61 | 2.35 | -10.2% | 2.2 | 7.4% | |

Notes: This analysis only considers hard empty-hand techniques and intermediate weapons in the use-of-force continuum. COVID-19 significantly impacted ridership and travel patterns from 2020-2022. **Hard empty-hand techniques** include physical control, strikes, and stuns designed to create reaction time and space for an officer to repel a physical attack, effect an arrest or radio for help. **Intermediate weapons** include a baton and Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray.

Peace Officer Complaints and Reportable Events

As an authorized Peace Officer employer, the City must report specific use-of-force and other occurrences to the Public Security Peace Officer Program. In the context of City of Edmonton Peace Officers, those occurrences include:

- Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) pepper spray
- Use of baton
- Weapon use by another person
- Peace Officer involved in serious injury or death of any person
- Peace Officer Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) breach/violation
- Peace Officer injury or death
- Peace Officer assaulted by another person
- Disciplinary or non-disciplinary measures that have been enforced in accordance with the authorized employer and Human Resources policies and procedures
- Charge or arrest of a Peace Officer under an Alberta Act
- Charge or arrest of a Peace Officer under the Criminal Code of Canada, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* or any other legislation in Canada
- Resignation or retirement of a Peace Officer
- Termination with cause of a Peace Officer
- Lost or stolen Peace Officer identification card
- Notice of public complaint of conduct
- Notice of an employer-initiated complaint of conduct
- Allegations of criminal charges
- Allegations of pursuit

This year, 15 formal complaints and employer-initiated investigations were received and all investigations have been closed. The number of formal complaints has remained the same and reportable events have decreased compared to 2023.

| Incidents | 2023 | 2024 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| Formal Complaints | 15 | 15 |
| Employer-initiated investigations | 5 | 2 |
| Written Public Complaints | 10 | 13 |
| Reportable Events* | 15 | 12 |
| Reportable - Use of Force | 15 | 12 |

*Reportable events include incident, investigative and administrative reporting requirements

Weapon and Assault Against Peace Officer Events: 2024

In recent years, there has been an increase in weapon-related incidents and assaults against Peace Officer files. We have included these data points to provide additional context for the use-of-force reporting.

- **Assaults:** Assaults on Peace Officers are rare, occurring in less than 0.2% of all files. This has been trending down since 2022.
- **Weapons:** Weapon-related incidents remain low, comprising less than 1% of all files handled. While there has been a significant increase in weapons files from 2019 to 2024, these events are trending downward, with a 28% decrease compared to 2023.

| Incidents | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 vs. 2023 | 5 Yr Avg | 2024 vs. 5 Yr Avg | Trend |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|----------|-------------------|-------|
| Assault Against Peace Officer | 113 | 97 | 117 | 133 | 139 | 4.5% | 120 | 16.0% | |
| Weapons Files | 435 | 478 | 719 | 890 | 729 | -18.1% | 542 | 34.6% | |
| Total Files | 67,367 | 65,225 | 60,085 | 79,224 | 89,460 | 12.9% | 72,272 | 23.8% | |
| % Weapon Files/Total Files | 0.65% | 0.73% | 1.20% | 1.12% | 0.81% | -27.5% | 0.90% | -9.7% | |