

Electronic Defense Weapon Analysis and Findings, 2016

A STUDY BY THE INSTITUTE FOR MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL POLICY
AT CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



Number of Taser Reports

- There were 575 taser reports involving 542 people. (2015: 650 reports involving 610 people)
- 80 departments submitted EDW reports: (2015: 79 departments)
 - 76 were municipal police departments
 - 3 were special police departments
 - Connecticut State Police
 - 18 departments reported no incidents involving an EDW
- Average number of reports is seven per department (2015: 8 per department)
 - 51 departments reported fewer than 5
 - 14 reported between 5 and 10
 - 15 reported more than 10

Number of Taser Reports

() = 2015

Department Name	Number of Taser Incidents	% of Statewide Taser Incidents
Connecticut State Police	42 (33)	7.73%
New Haven	33 (15)	6.08%
Waterbury	30 (22)	5.52%
Norwalk	26 (35)	4.79%
Manchester	26 (28)	4.79%
Bridgeport	26 (20)	4.79%
Bristol	25 (5)	4.60%
Hartford	22 (51)	4.05%
New Britain	17 (15)	3.13%
Stamford	14 (3)	2.58%

Taser Subject Demographics

() = 2015

Race/Ethnicity		Gender		Age		
White	43.7%	Male	93.4%	15 or younger	1.5%	
	(47.5%)			16 – 20	12.5%	
Black	33.8%			(93.9%)	21 – 30	35.1%
	(30.1%)				31 – 40	25.6%
All Other Races	1.5%	Female	6.6%	41 – 50	15.9%	
	(0.5%)			51 – 60	7.4%	
Hispanic	21.0%			(6.1%)	Older than 61	0.7%
	(21.3%)				Unknown	1.3%

Taser Subject Demographics

- 37 persons under 18 were involved in a taser incident (2015: 22 persons under 18)
 - 13 of them were tased (8 black, 2 white, 3 Hispanic)
 - 6 of the youth tased were reported as emotionally disturbed or suicidal
 - A 13 year old was tased 4 times
 - All youth under 16 were black, though only one was tased
 - Youngest person to have been involved in a taser incident was 7 years old

Type of Taser Deployment

() = 2015

- Approximately 55% of people (300) involved in taser incidents were tased

Type of Deployment	Number	Percent
Warning*	241 (182)	44.5% (29.8%)
Cartridge Deployment	226 (271)	41.7% (44.4%)
Drive-Stun Deployment	34 (91)	6.3% (15%)
Cartridge and Drive-Stun	40 (57)	7.4% (9.3%)
Not Reported	1 (9)	0.1% (1.5%)

Type of Deployment by Race and Gender

	Warning*		Cartridge		Drive-Stun		Cartridge and Drive-Stun	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race/Ethnicity								
White	103	43.4%	98	41.4%	16	6.8%	20	8.4%
Black	80	43.7%	80	43.7%	12	6.6%	11	6.0%
Hispanic	55	48.7%	44	38.9%	5	4.4%	9	8.0%
All Other Races	3	37.5%	4	50.0%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%
Gender								
Male	222	44.0%	213	42.2%	31	6.1%	39	7.7%
Female	19	52.8%	13	36.1%	3	8.3%	1	2.8%

Total Number of Persons Tased (60% of Persons Tased)

Department Name	Number of Taser Deployments	% of Statewide Persons Tased
Connecticut State Police	39	13.0%
Hartford	21	7.0%
Waterbury	21	7.0%
Bridgeport	18	6.0%
New Haven	16	5.3%
Norwalk	16	5.3%
Meriden	11	3.7%
Manchester	10	3.3%
Norwich	10	3.3%
Middletown	9	3.0%
West Haven	9	3.0%

Armed vs. Unarmed Persons

- 80% of all people involved in taser incidents were unarmed
- 30% of all armed persons tased were suicidal
- Less than 7% of all persons involved in a taser incident were armed and threatened to use the weapon

Armed vs. Unarmed Persons

Race/Ethnicity	Armed		Unarmed	
	N	% Tased	N	% Tased
White	51	58.8%	186	55.9%
Black	32	56.3%	151	56.3%
Hispanic	26	46.2%	88	52.3%
All Other Races	0	0.0%	8	62.5%
Total	109	55.1%	433	55.4%

Taser Incidents Involving Emotionally Disturbed or Suicidal Persons

- Approximately 38% of persons involved in reported taser incidents were described as emotionally disturbed. (33% in 2015)

	Total Identified: "Emotionally Disturbed"	% Tased
Race/Ethnicity		
White	112	60.7%
Black	59	59.3%
Hispanic	31	41.9%
All Other Races	5	60.0%
Gender		
Male	188	57.5%
Female	19	57.9%

Taser Incidents Involving Emotionally Disturbed or Suicidal Persons

- 11% of reported taser incidents involved persons described as suicidal
- Suicidal persons were much more likely to be armed
 - 54% were armed compared to 15% of non-suicidal persons

Taser Incidents involving Intoxicated Persons

- 44% of persons involved in taser incidents were identified as “under the influence of alcohol/drugs”
 - These persons were more likely to be tased than average (60%)

Type of Resistance that Resulted in Taser Use

- Unarmed, but threatened used of weapon (11)
- Threat/Hostile (202)
- Unarmed Assault (55)
- Fighting Stance/Combative (199)
- Fleeing (181)
- Dead Weight/ non-compliant (52)
- Failed to follow officers directions (213)

Multiple Taser Deployments

- 55% of persons tased only received one shock

Race/Ethnicity	One Deployment		Two Deployments		More than 3 Deployments		Unknown Deployments	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race/Ethnicity								
White	70	52.6%	24	18.0%	30	22.6%	9	6.8%
Black	62	60.2%	22	21.4%	18	17.5%	1	0.9%
Hispanic	34	55.7%	19	31.1%	7	11.5%	1	1.7%
All Other Races	0	0.0%	2	40.0%	2	40.0%	1	20.0%
Gender								
Male	152	53.5%	66	23.2%	54	19.0%	12	4.3%
Female	14	77.8%	1	5.5%	3	16.7%	0	0.0%

Injuries Resulting from Tasers

- Subject Injuries Reported
 - 162 probe puncture injuries (266 cartridge deployments)
 - 78 abrasions
 - 38 “other”
 - 26 bruises
 - 5 experienced breathing difficulties
 - 1 lost consciousness
- Officer Injuries Reported
 - 20 bruises
 - 29 abrasions
 - 1 probe puncture
 - 6 breathing difficulty
 - 29 “other”

Summary of Findings

- Use of tasers by police appears to be under-reported
- The vast majority of taser incidents involved males (93%)
- Minority persons account for 56% of all taser incidents
- 37 persons under the age of 18 were involved in a taser incident
- Of the 542 people involved in a taser incident, 300 (55%) received an electric shock
- 80% of persons involved in taser incidents were unarmed
 - Black males were less likely than white or Hispanic males to be armed
- 38% of persons involved in taser incidents were described as emotionally disturbed
- 11% of persons involved in taser incidents were suicidal
- 44% of persons involved in taser incidents were under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- 45% of persons tased received more than one shock

Recommendations

1. Improve Data Collection Form
2. Clarify reporting practices
3. Collect use-of-force and case incident reports for all taser incidents
4. Additional research on persons experiencing psychiatric crisis
5. Collect data on other use-of force incidents

Questions?

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