Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety™

December 2025

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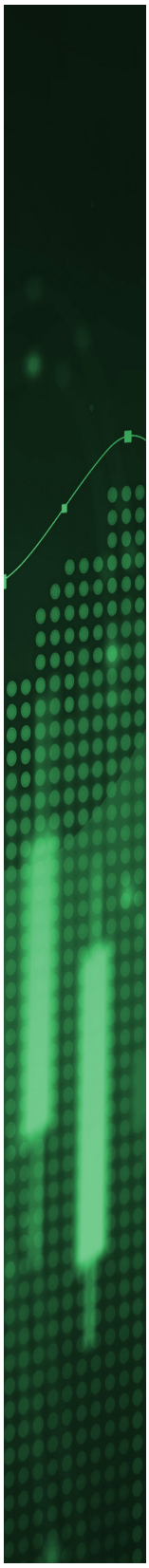


Our Shared Commitment to Public Safety

Law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and community members across Washington now have access to the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS) dashboard, a common tool for objectively analyzing reportable police use-of-force incidents and comparing outcomes with those of similar agencies.

WADEPS is the nation's first contextually relevant use-of-force reporting system. Understanding when, where, and under what circumstances police officers apply force enables law enforcement agencies and the public to identify trends and patterns in policing interactions and to make timely, evidence-based decisions that lead to meaningful outcomes.

WADEPS addresses the 'why' behind the use of force, replacing after-the-fact assumptions and anecdotes with current, actionable data and evidence to better understand police-community interactions. Using contextual data, we can identify positive outliers by normalizing rates of force to the police workload and find agencies that handle high-risk activities with lower-than-expected rates of force.

This report introduces the WADEPS dashboard and highlights the ongoing work to provide context about agencies, officers, and communities so we can answer practical questions and compare similar agencies with divergent data in critical areas.

WADEPS provides a shared language for public safety. The idea for WADEPS began with broad bipartisan support in the state legislature. It blossomed under the guidance of experienced criminal justice researchers and data scientists. and matured with input from community advocacy groups, law enforcement professionals, and experts on data analytics and public safety.

Implementation has been our focus over the past six months: bringing the data portal online, fine-tuning the cloud-based infrastructure and data lake, providing training for agency leaders and officers, and refining the public data dashboard.

Our purpose is to enable learning and ensure discussions about policing rely on facts rather than proxies or assumptions. WADEPS can provide a data-driven story of the reality on the ground in Washington and support evidence-based analysis to determine whether the state's investments in diversion strategies, including those funded by House Bill 2015 (2025), deliver on the intended public safety outcomes.

WADEPS builds trust through transparency and shared understanding and is powered by the conviction that data must do more than archive history; it must actively inform decision-making. As we move on from merely counting isolated use-of-force incidents, WADEPS will enable Washington to make the data count.

Data Sharing Begins

The WADEPS Reporting Tool opened for data submissions on September 2, 2025.

As of December 31, 2025, agencies across the state had collectively submitted data for:

516 reportable use-of-force incidents

2,190,070 police-community contacts

What is a "reportable use of force"?

As defined by Chapter 10.118 RCW, a reportable use of force includes, but is not limited to, when an officer points or discharges a firearm, uses a Taser or pepper spray, deploys a canine, or strikes a person with a weapon or their body. Additionally, agencies must report any other use of force that results in substantial or great bodily harm or death.

The decision whether to expand the required use-of-force data elements rests with the state legislature.

Law enforcement agencies have 30 days from the date of a reportable use-of-force incident to submit the required data to WADEPS.

POINT	Pointed a firearm at a person
DISCHARGE	Discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person
ECW	Used an electronic control weapon at or in the direction of a person
CHEMICAL	Used a chemical irritant spray against a person or in the direction of a person
LESS LETHAL DISCHARGE	Discharged a less lethal shotgun or impact munitions at or in the direction of a person
IMPACT	Struck a person using an impact weapon or instrument, including but not limited to a club, baton, or flashlight
STRIKE	Used any part of the body to physically strike a person, including but not limited to punching, kicking, slapping, using closed fists, leg, or feet
VEHICLE	Used a vehicle to intentionally strike a person or vehicle
CANINE	Deployed a canine
NECK	Used neck restraint
FORCE OTHER	Type of force not listed (when injury is involved)

Reportable types of force from Section 1 of the WADEPS Data Dictionary. See the appendix for related force severity categories.

What is a police-community contact?

When an officer is dispatched, whether for a 911 call, a planned action, or an officer-initiated activity, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) software automatically logs incident details.

Five incident-based CAD data points about each call for service are shared with WADEPS: the responding agency, the initial reason for the call, the date and time, a city-level location, and a unique incident number.

Law enforcement agencies provide this limited CAD data to WADEPS in a year-to-date format at the start of each month.

The WADEPS Dashboard

The Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS) is the state's first unified policing data repository. The WADEPS dashboard, available at wadeps.org, is an interactive data storytelling resource on reportable use-of-force incidents and police-community interactions.

The WADEPS dashboard currently offers five data stories about the reportable use of force by law enforcement in Washington. Dashboard users can review police engagements in unprecedented detail and learn more about the circumstances leading up to a reportable use of force, the number of subjects and officers involved, whether anyone was injured, the professional experience of the officers, the arrest outcome, and more.

Within each data story, users can apply filters to change the date range, focus on specific agencies, or examine particular incident details. The raw data can be downloaded using a pop-up menu in each block. The full dataset can be downloaded using a link in the FAQ on the same webpage as the dashboard.

Data Storytelling

The combination of data, descriptions, and visuals to provide context and improve understanding.

Current Data Stories

- **The Big Picture**
- **Who is Reporting**
- **What Happened**
- **Who Was Affected**
- **Who Applied Force**

Additional data stories are in development:

- Incident Characteristics
- Where Force Happens
- Outcomes & Administrative Review
- Call Volume and Police Activity
- Agency Staffing and Resources

Important to Remember

Data stories are points in time:
Each view displays a snapshot of the data based on the date selected in the filter. The dashboard updates as new data is received and processed.

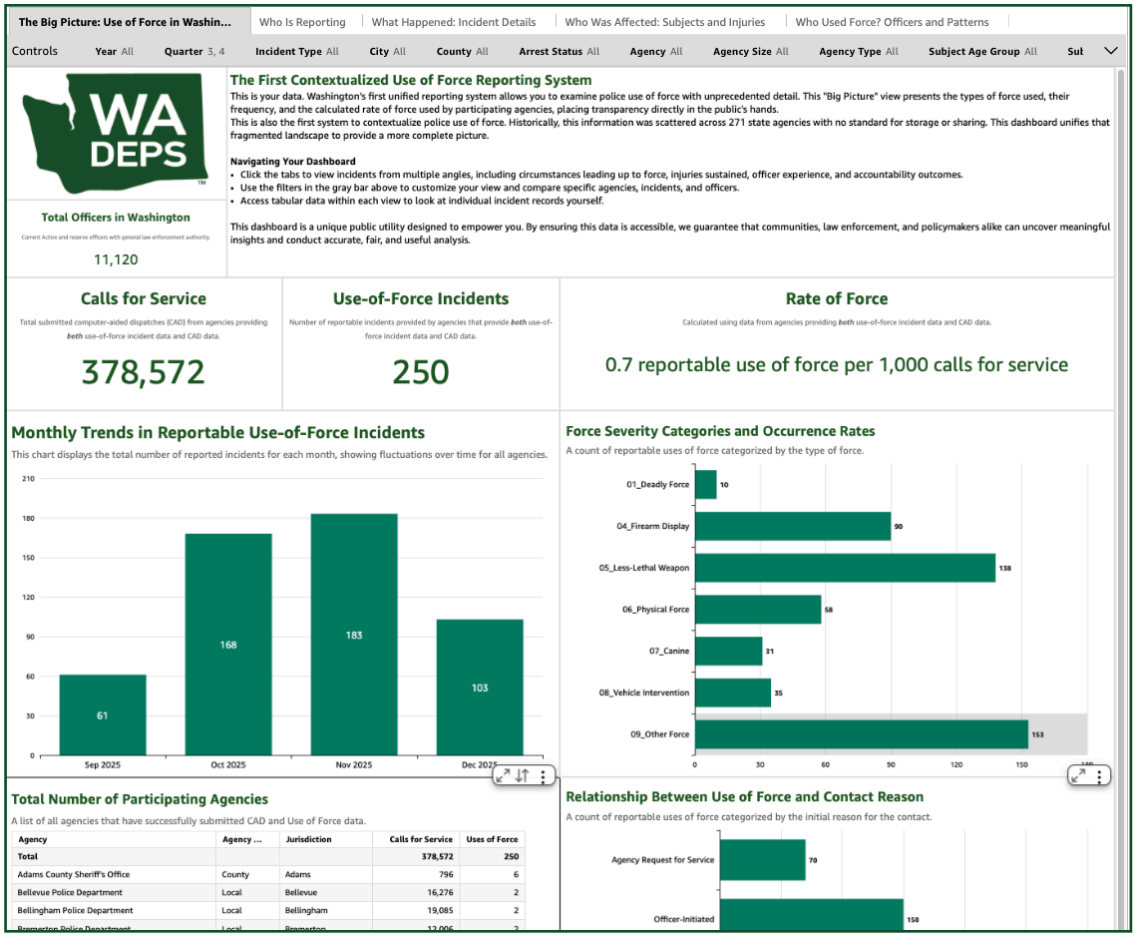
Incident count vs record count:
For every reportable use-of-force incident, agencies must submit an individual data record for each officer-subject interaction. If an incident involved multiple subjects and/or multiple officers, the raw WADEPS data will include multiple records with the same incident

The Big Picture

The first data story introduces the **Rate of Force calculation**. This is the percentage of incidents that resulted in a reportable use of force out of the total number of community engagements and calls for service as measured by CAD data.

The Rate of Force measurement enables users to evaluate the reportable use of force in the context of overall police workload instead of the commonly used population rate based on census data.

This layer also includes information about the types of reportable force, frequency of use, and a high-level view of the initial reason for the police contact.

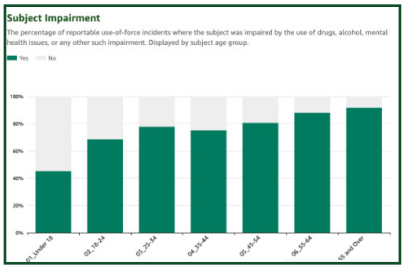


Example of "The Big Picture" layer.

Key Insights

- The Rate of Force calculation only includes data from agencies that have provided BOTH use-of-force incident data and calls-for-service data (CAD). The rate meets the primary legislative requirement to standardize force data and introduce an activity-based calculation.

- The Subject Impairment graph on this view shows the percentage of incidents involving drugs, alcohol, or mental health, provides context for these encounters, and emphasizes the need for resources beyond standard policing. This will be a valuable metric in evaluating changes in police contacts associated with House Bill 2015 (2025). See the "Additional Context" section for more information.

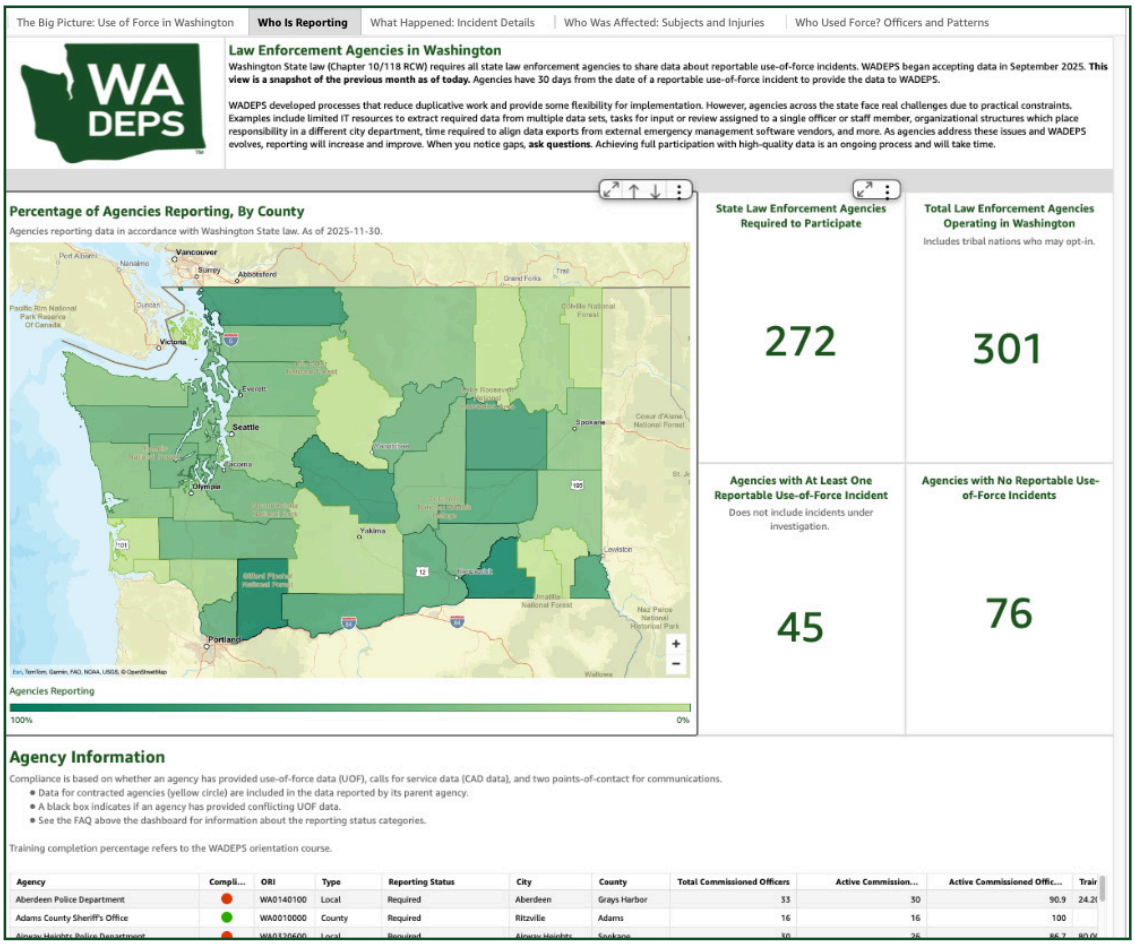


Important to Remember

On this view, the count of calls for service (CAD data) and reportable use-of-force incidents includes only agencies that have provided both types of data for the time period selected in the filter.

Who is Reporting

Chapter 10.118 RCW requires law enforcement agencies to share data about reportable use-of-force incidents with WADEPS. This data story focuses on law enforcement agency characteristics, including agency type (local, county, etc.), service area or location, number of officers, and the previous month's participation and compliance metrics.



Example of the "Who is Reporting" layer.

Key Insight

For many agencies, the required use-of-force reporting is as simple as verifying in the WADEPS Reporting Tool that no reportable uses of force were used by its officers during the previous month.

Important to Remember

Achieving full participation with all agencies providing high-quality data is an ongoing process and will take time. WADEPS has developed processes that reduce duplicate work and provide flexibility in implementation. However, agencies of all sizes across the state face practical constraints. Examples include limited IT resources to extract required data from multiple datasets or to align data exports from external emergency management software vendors, limited staffing for data entry or review, and other organizational complexities.

Agency Participation and Compliance Metrics

With the broad mixture of agency types, sizes, and operations, WADEPS uses five categories when measuring participation and compliance with the law:

Required: An agency with general law enforcement authority operated by a governmental agency within Washington state.

Contracted: An agency whose complete operational activities are provided by a larger “parent” agency. Reportable use-of-force and CAD data for any “contracted” agency are included in the data received from its parent agency.

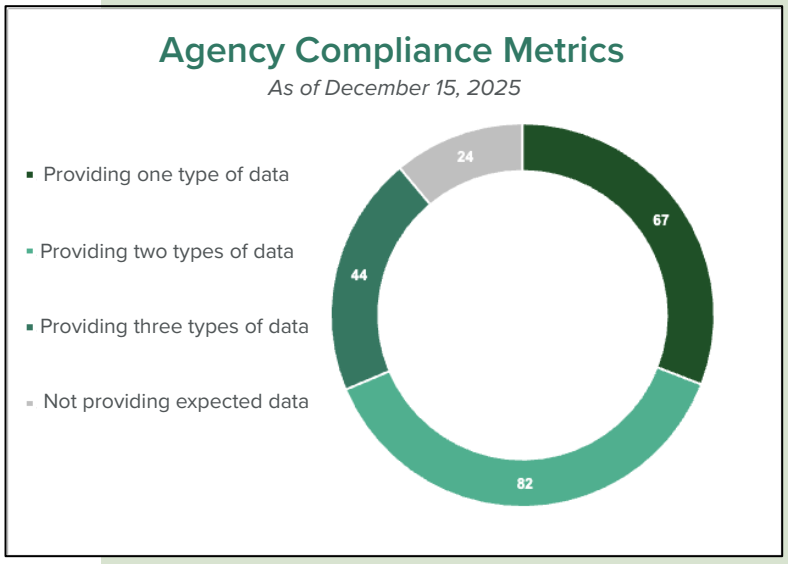
Optional: Tribal law enforcement agencies are not subject to state law but may opt to participate in data sharing with WADEPS.

Force Data Only: An agency that does not use computer-aided dispatch (CAD) to track calls for service.

Not Authorized to Use Force: A state agency with law enforcement authority but whose officers are specifically not authorized to use force.

Each month, WADEPS tracks three types of data expected to be received from law enforcement agencies required to participate by Chapter 10.188 RCW:

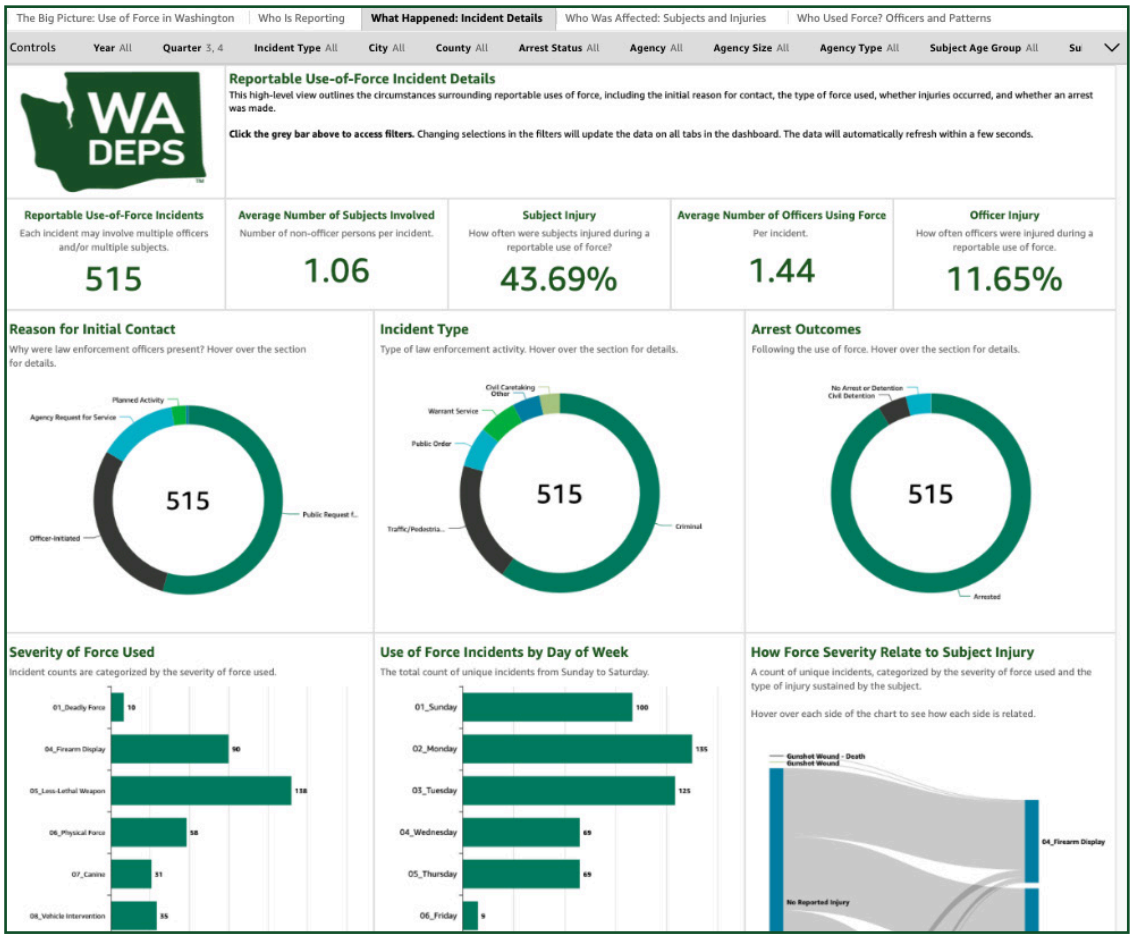
1. Received use-of-force incident data or attested to no reportable use-of-force incidents
2. Received computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data
3. Two verified points of contact on record



See the "Additional Context" section for more information about agency characteristics.

What Happened

This high-level data story examines the circumstances surrounding a reportable use of force, including the initial contact reason, the type(s) of force used, who was injured, whether an arrest occurred, and other related factors.

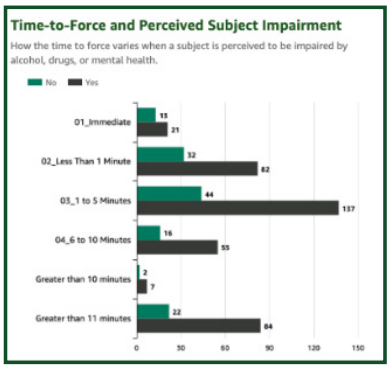


Example of the 'What Happened" layer, which draws data from Sections 1, 2, and 6 of the WADEPS data dictionary.

Key Insights

- The Reason for Initial Contact chart provides context for the circumstances surrounding reportable use-of-force incidents. By identifying which call types most frequently result in force (e.g., traffic stops, domestic calls, mental health checks, etc.), agencies can focus training and resources on situations where officers are most likely to encounter escalation.

- The Time-to-Force and Perceived Subject Impairment graph shows how behavioral health issues influence on-scene decision-making. If officers respond to impaired individuals with force more quickly, agencies could consider expanding training in established “time, distance, and shielding” tactics to improve de-escalation and reduce engagement.

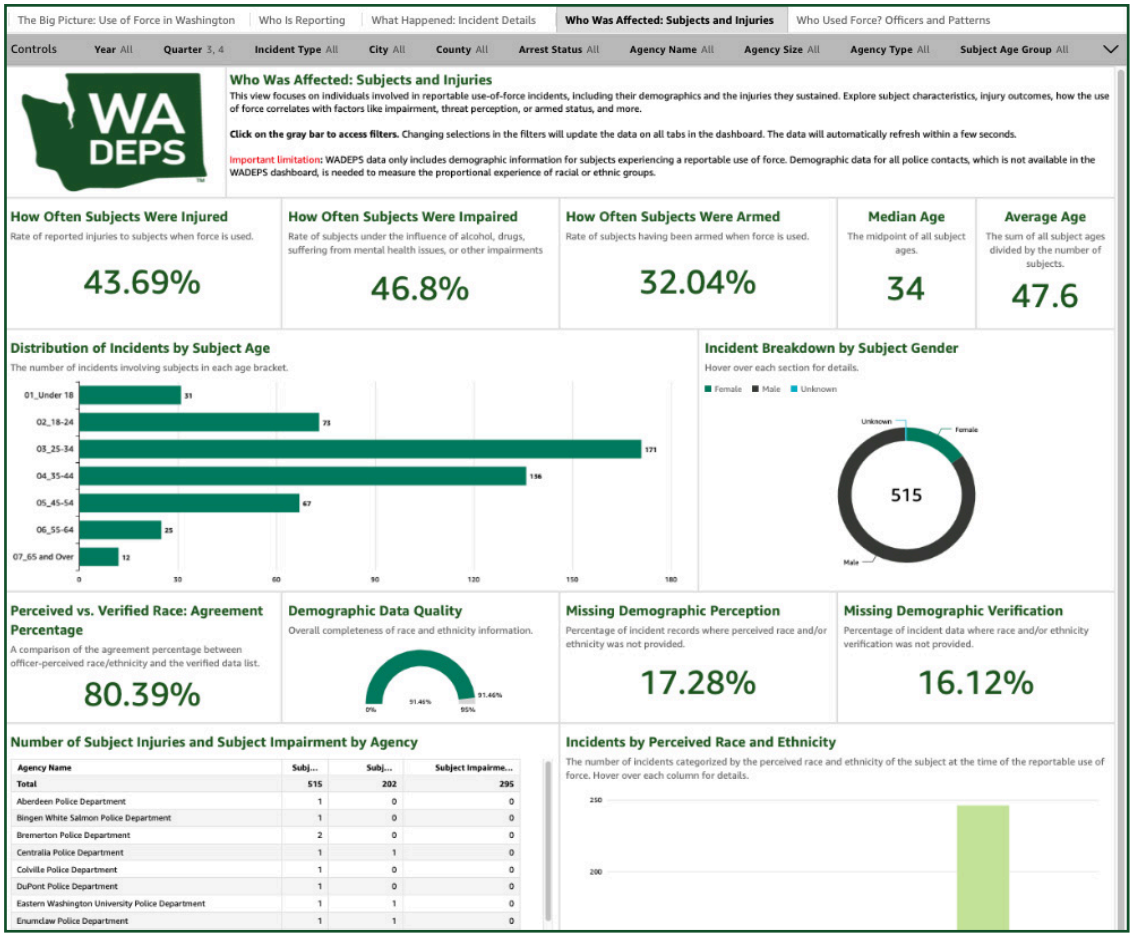


Important to Remember

On this view, the number of reportable use-of-force incidents includes all agencies, regardless of whether they have provided CAD data for the time period selected in the filter.

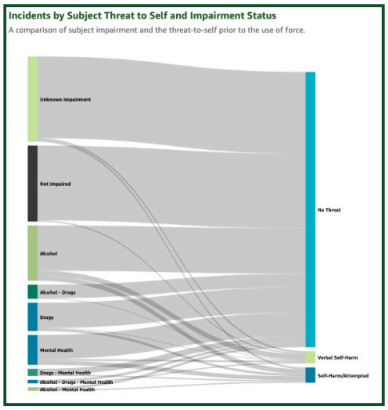
Who Was Affected

This view focuses on individuals involved in reportable use-of-force incidents, including their demographics and the injuries they sustained. Explore subject characteristics, injury outcomes, how the use of force correlates with factors like impairment, threat perception, or armed status, and more.



Example of the 'Who Was Affected" layer, which draws data from Section 3 of the WADEPS data dictionary.

Key Insights



- The Perceived vs. Verified Race chart acts as a "trust check" on demographic reporting. By monitoring discrepancies between an officer's perception and verified records, WADEPS ensures racial analyses rely on verified facts rather than assumptions.

- The Subject Threat to Self and Impairment Status chart differentiates between reportable force used to apprehend a suspect and reportable force used to save a person in crisis from self-harm.

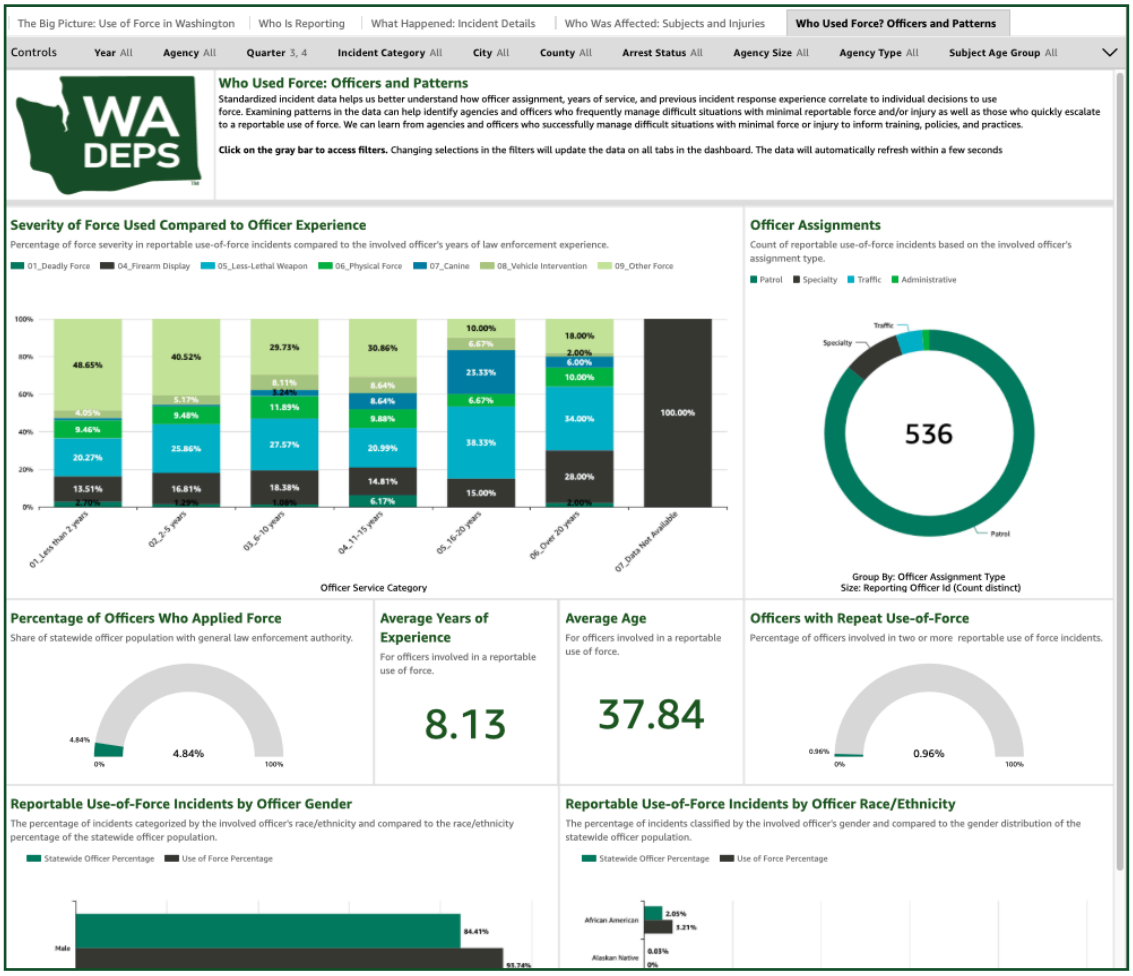
Important Limitation

WADEPS data only includes demographic information for subjects who experienced a reportable use of force. Demographic data on all police contacts, which is not available in the WADEPS dashboard, is needed to measure the proportional experiences of racial or ethnic groups.

Who Used Force

Standardized incident data helps us better understand how officer assignment, years of service, and prior incident-response experience correlate with individual decisions to use force.

Examining patterns in the data can help identify agencies and officers who frequently manage difficult situations with minimal reportable force or injury, and those who quickly escalate to a reportable use of force. We can learn from these agencies and officers to inform training, policies, and practices.

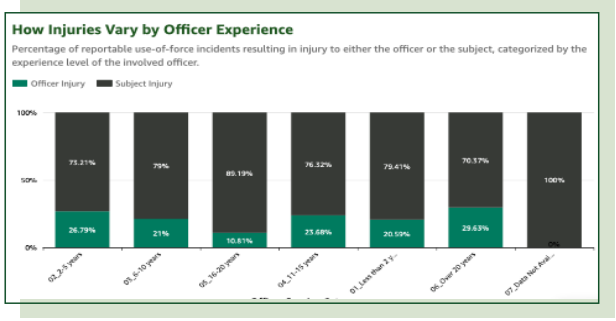


Example of the 'Who Used Force" layer, which draws data from Section 4 of the WADEPS data dictionary.

Key Insights

- The Average Years of Experience graph examines the belief that issues involving force primarily affect officers with limited experience and provides critical context for understanding reportable force.

- The How Injuries Vary by Officer Experience chart correlates injury rates with years of service, enabling agencies to determine whether newer officers are more likely to be involved in altercations or whether veteran officers face different risks.



WADEPS Reporting Tool

The Reporting Tool is a custom-built, secure user interface for sharing use-of-force and CAD data with WADEPS.

Highlights

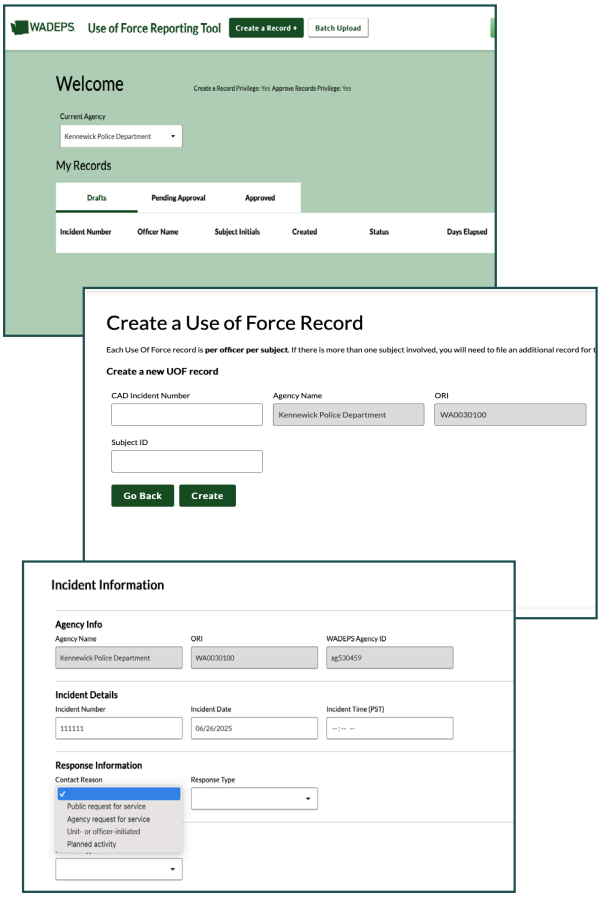
- All active officers have read-only access by default so they can verify their demographic information, view any reportable use-of-force records associated with their name, and access their confidential WADEPS ID.

- User management tools provide agency administrators with the flexibility and the responsibility to assign or adjust roles for officers and professional staff as needed.

- Individual officer/subject incident records are created using a preset clickable interface: each section of the required data is shown separately for straightforward data entry. Agencies may also use an Excel smart template to create multiple records at once.

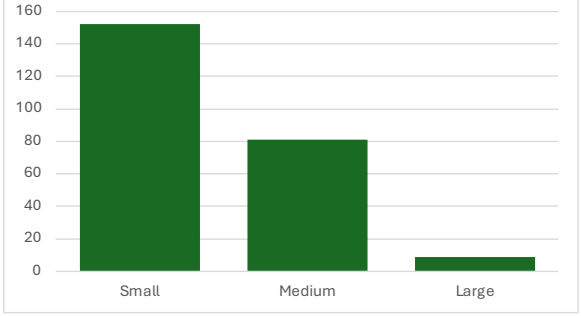
- Hover-over tips and definitions provide details without clutter.

- No reportable use of force for the previous month? A brief checkbox attestation is available on the supervisor dashboard.



Adaptable to Agency Size

The straightforward features of the Reporting Tool are intended to minimize administrative burden for agencies of all sizes. Agency-level employee data from the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) reveals that a large proportion of the law enforcement agencies in Washington have 25 or fewer officers.



Agency Count by Size (number of sworn officers)

Small: 25 or fewer officers
Medium: 26 to 200 officers
Large: more than 200 officers

Agency Training & Support

Resources

For any new system, education and resources for users are key to success. WADEPS supports the hundreds of law enforcement agencies operating in Washington state with a variety of resources and tools they may deploy as best fits their operations:

- Informational website with history, purpose, and links to resources
- Data dictionary with definitions of and values for all required data elements, including specific types of force.
- On-demand training courses
  - Course One: WADEPS Overview and Requirements
  - Course Two: WADEPS Data Entry
- Detailed data entry training manual
- Learning environment for the Reporting Tool
- Informational handouts for leaders and officers
- Pop-up tips and definitions in the WADEPS Reporting Tool
- Excel templates for uploading data
- CAD data file verification tool
- Actionable email communications
- Real-time and email-based customer support

On-Demand Training

Two high-quality, on-demand courses are available for agency personnel.

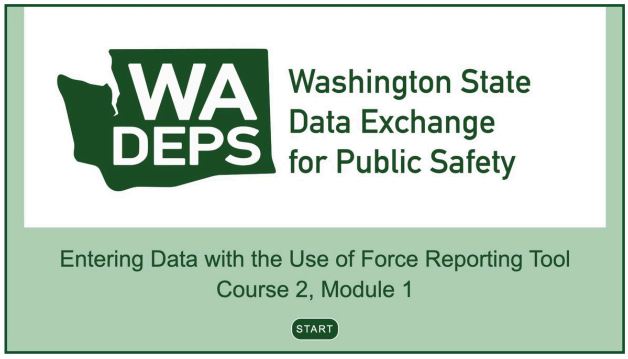
Course One: WADEPS Overview and Requirements has been available to officers statewide since July 2025 through the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC), the same portal that officers and staff use to access their law enforcement training, thus reducing the need for a separate account for WADEPS training.

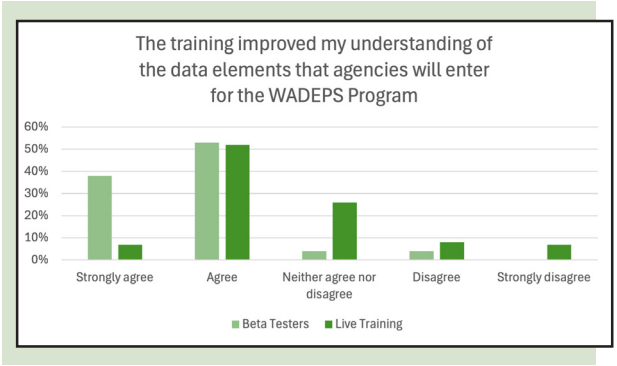
Course Two: WADEPS Data Entry is also available to all officers through CJTC. The course and its associated training manual are recommended resources for anyone with a data entry or approval role in the WADEPS Reporting Tool.

As of December 18, 2025, more than half of the current 11,153 officers with general law enforcement authority in the state had completed the Overview and Requirements course, including 35 agencies with a 100% completion rate, and more than 670 officers and staff had completed Course Two.

Course One

51% of officers in the state have completed the Overview and Requirements training.





Each agency has the flexibility and responsibility to assign the data entry and approval roles to as many individuals as is appropriate for its operations.

Both Course One and Course Two are also available through the WADEPS website and the WADEPS Reporting Tool, respectively, for non-commissioned officers and staff who do not have a CJTC student account. As of December 18, 2025, the two courses have been accessed through these links more than 244 times combined.

To assess the effectiveness of the on-demand training, WADEPS surveys officers and staff who have completed Course One through CJTC.

Two hundred and seventy-six individuals responded to the initial survey in October, and many offered valuable feedback for improvement.

The next survey will be distributed in early 2026.

The WADEPS Overview and Requirements course is available to the public at wadeps.org/training.

Multi-Channel Customer Support

WADEPS is committed to helping agency leaders and personnel understand how standardizing incident data across hundreds of organizations benefits everyone, and to assisting agencies in identifying feasible, sustainable internal processes to meet critical WADEPS data-matching requirements.

WADEPS has three customer service pathways:

1. Actionable email communications to agency points of contact
2. Email-based issue resolution and customer support
3. Real-time customer service (virtual and by phone)

Real-time Assistance

The WADEPS team holds “open office hours” on Zoom twice a week. In this virtual forum, agency personnel can get immediate help from the WADEPS team on any topic. Each session is tailored to the attendees' needs. Topics have included a review of required data elements, access to the Reporting Tool, data entry training, dashboard demonstrations, data analysis discussions, and more. Phone support or additional Zoom meetings are available upon request.

Actionable Emails

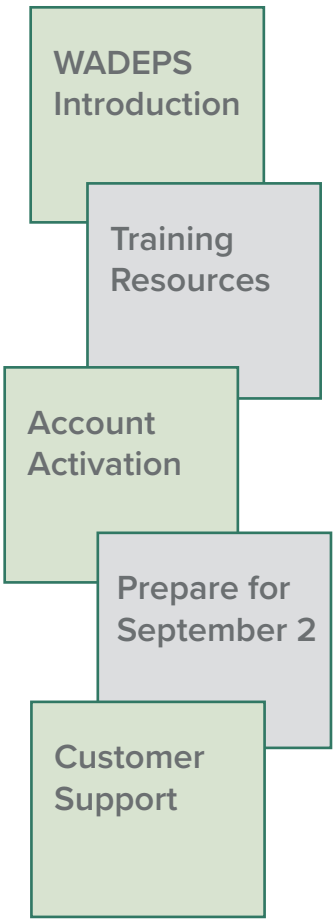
WADEPS uses customer relationship management (CRM) software to efficiently manage hundreds of contact details for both organizations and individuals. The CRM is linked to a bulk email platform, which is used to send targeted communications to individuals at law enforcement agencies, public safety answering points (PSAPs), and other organizations.

During the 19 weeks from May through December 2025, WADEPS distributed 20 emails to an average audience of more than 425 agency points of contact.

The delivery cadence was frequent early in the onboarding phase and then slowed as agencies became more familiar with the reporting process and requirements.

Each email included at least one action item and links to resources to help agencies and their personnel navigate onboarding, training, and the data submission process. Agency points of contact are encouraged to share the information with their colleagues as appropriate for their agency.

While email is a cost-effective and timely communication tool, it's not perfect. Agency firewalls and spam filters can inadvertently block messages, and distribution lists must be regularly maintained. Our estimated open rate has grown steadily, peaking at 65% for the Reporting Tool launch announcement in September, and far exceeds industry averages. However, an analysis of email engagement and data submissions indicates that we need to employ alternative outreach methods in early 2026 to improve agency engagement.

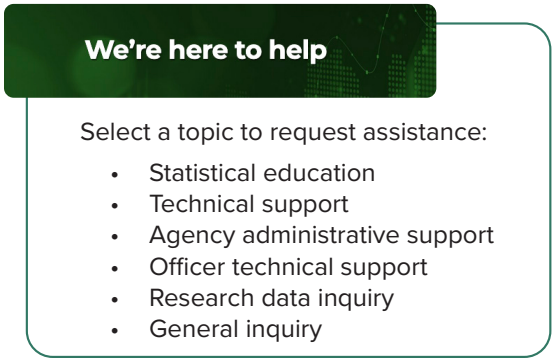


Email Customer Support

Agency personnel can submit questions or request customer support via a short online form on the WADEPS website. Each inquiry is routed to an appropriate WADEPS staff member for investigation, follow-up, and resolution. Most often, requests involve clarifying data requirements, assisting with account access to the Reporting Tool, and/or reviewing process and training.

WADEPS uses Jira, an industry-standard project management tool from Atlassian, to manage inquiries from the website form.

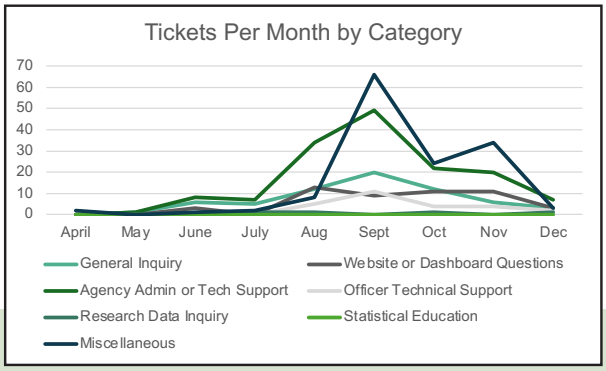
Our service level goal is to fully address agency partner issues within three business days (24 work hours), and many are resolved well within this time frame. Additional time is needed when a complex

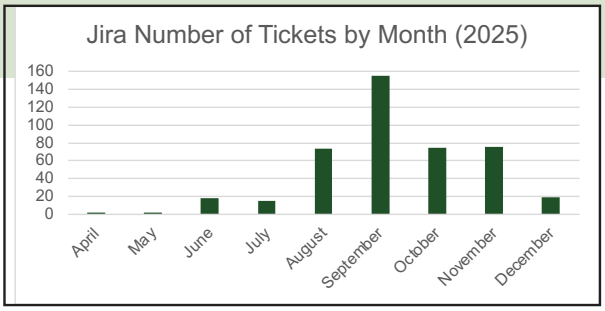


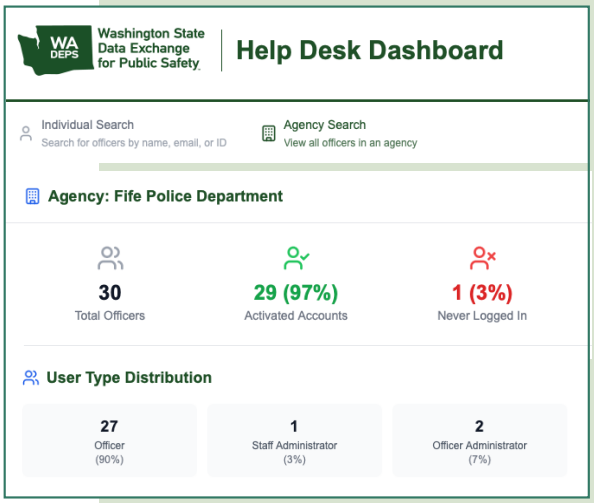
technical issue arises that requires coordination across multiple teams and/or additional steps essential to maintaining the reliability and accuracy of the WADEPS system.

Service tickets are also left "open" while agencies confirm the solution provided. Occasionally service tickets overlap with emails sent directly to the WADEPS general email address and are addressed through that channel instead of Jira.

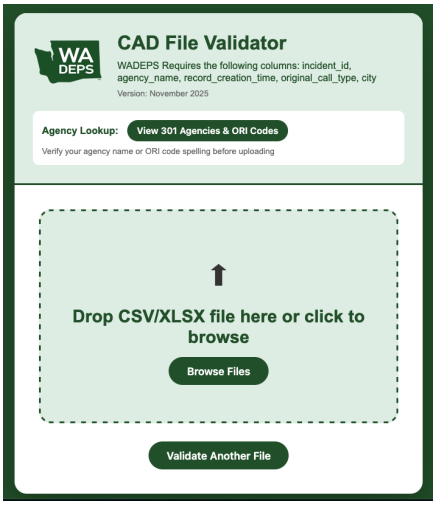
Since launching Jira, 63% of tickets submitted have been marked as resolved within the service level goal, with the average resolution time of 27.38 hours. In the last quarter, this statistic improved slightly to 66.1%, with an average resolution time of 26.79 hours.







Our custom-built internal Help Desk tool enables WADEPS staff to quickly assist agency personnel with questions about access to the Reporting Tool.



Our custom-built CAD data validation tool improves the upload process by helping agencies and PSAPs ensure agency names are spelled correctly and CAD elements meet WADEPS formatting specifications.

Outreach

Focus Groups & Presentations

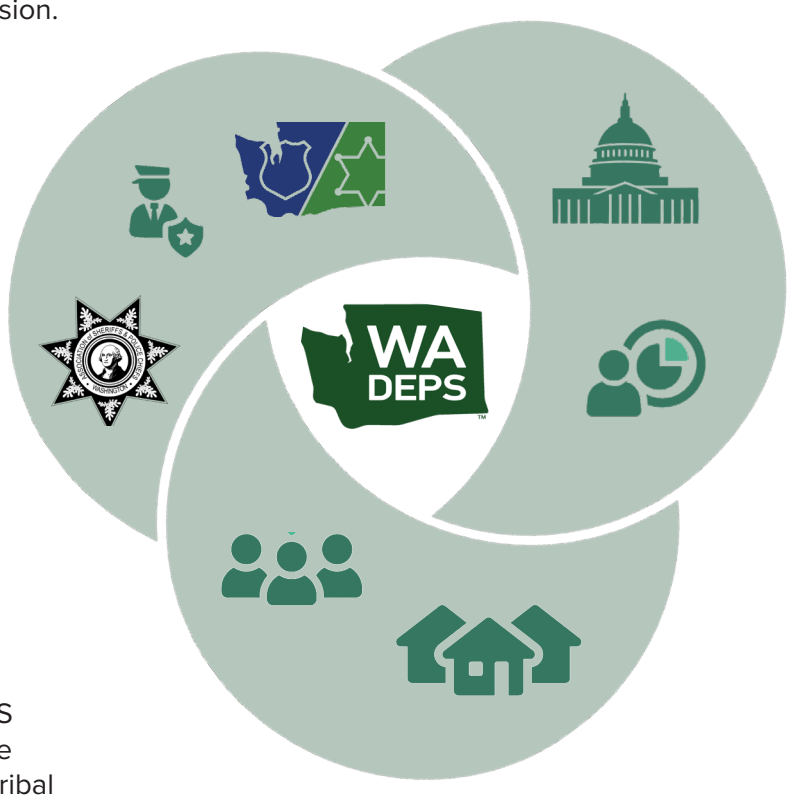
In addition to connecting with community groups around the state, WADEPS was once again invited to attend general membership meetings for both the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WACOPS) to demonstrate the data dashboards, answer questions, and gather feedback.

WASPC

At the WASPC fall conference held in the Tri-Cities in November, the WADEPS team met with two committees:

Ad Hoc Committee on WADEPS
Approximately 100 members attended this session. Response was favorable to demonstrated dashboard enhancements, including new clarifications on the limitations of the displayed data. Attendees also expressed interest in agency staffing data and offered suggestions for establishing agency comparisons.

The team answered questions and collected feedback on the required reporting elements, privacy concerns for law enforcement officers, and how data is managed when multiple officers are involved in a single reportable use-of-force incident.



Indian Country Committee
The 20 or so members who attended this meeting indicated keen interest in the WADEPS initiative and participated in a discussion on the responsibility for use-of-force reporting when tribal officers are acting on behalf of other agencies.

WACOPS

At the WACOPS fall meeting held in Wenatchee in September, the approximately 35 members in attendance responded favorably to the dashboard demonstration and the introductory statistical education video. Discussion and feedback covered officer privacy and clarification on reporting requirements.

Community Focus Group

WADEPS hosted a Zoom-based community focus group and demonstration with members of organizations across the state in December. Over the 1.75-hour virtual meeting, 16 participants actively contributed to discussions on police use of force, shared their

experiences with police use of force, and provided feedback on data they believe is essential to understanding incidents and outcomes.

For example, participants expressed concerns about the limited incident location data (currently limited to city-level only). They provided suggestions to expand the collected data to include officer complaint data, settlement information to give context on the cost of reportable use-of-force incidents, dispatch communications to officers, and other historical data. Participants emphasized the importance of using WADEPS data to identify strategies that reduce police use of force.

Working Committees

WADEPS Beta Test User Group

Organized in July 2024 and comprising more than three dozen law enforcement professionals, the volunteer beta test user group played an essential role in WADEPS's successful launch. With the system up and running, the group's final meeting is scheduled for January 2026. We are grateful for their time and the invaluable insights and honest feedback they provided.

WADEPS Data Ad Hoc Committee

In July 2025, WADEPS invited a small group of individuals with experience working with policing data to participate in an informal monthly review and discussion of received data and to provide recommendations on data collection and dashboard improvements. The standardization of CAD call types into categories was identified as an essential step toward making incident comparisons more equitable. Members have also discussed challenges in agency-to-agency comparisons, when force is an individual-level decision, and that WADEPS lacks two key CAD data elements: the final call type and the officer(s) assigned to the call.

WADEPS Automation Group

A cohort of early-adopter law enforcement agency personnel and emergency management software vendor representatives will begin meeting in January 2026 to help guide development of the automated transfer of use-of-force and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data from vendor programs directly to WADEPS on behalf of law enforcement agencies. The main goals are to validate technical workflows and create standardized implementation guides to support future adoption by agencies using similar integration systems.

Statistical Education

With the rollout of the WADEPS dashboard, data on police use of force in Washington is now accessible to policymakers, industry researchers, and community members. WADEPS is working to empower all stakeholders with tools to undertake evidence-based analyses.

WADEPS-dedicated researchers in the WSU Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) are continuing their work to develop publicly available educational resources and analytical tools using WADEPS data.

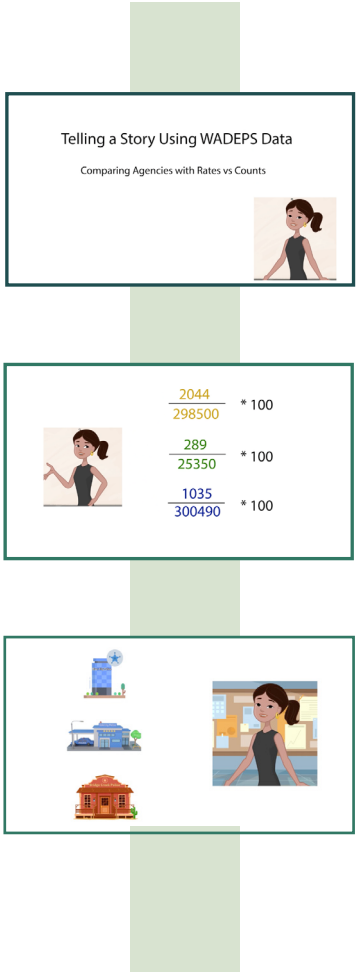
GitHub

WADEPS utilizes GitHub, a collaborative web-based repository, to foster open-source development and transparency in our research. To prioritize safety, all code undergoes a rigorous security review. Once confirmed free of vulnerabilities, the code is publicly released for community access and collaboration.

Video Tutorials

Beginner-Friendly

A six-part series introducing different use-of-force incident variables and how to use them for meaningful analysis is in development. In the first video, which is available on the WADEPS website, viewers learn about the rate of force calculation and the added insight it provides when compared to raw incident counts. The video also introduces how to use characteristics to find comparable agencies for analysis. Subsequent videos, currently in development, will explore how to use different WADEPS data elements, such as the incident type, subject resistance, and officer demographics, to make meaningful assessments and comparisons.



Intermediate/Advanced

Educational resources geared toward people interested in using WADEPS data to analyze and answer questions about police agency behavior are in development. Materials will be geared toward individuals with intermediate or advanced levels of mathematical and statistical knowledge, and will be available in print, video, and in various programming environments, including Python, R, JASP, and Excel.

Tutorials are planned for five statistical categories: classification, clustering, variable importance analysis, time series analysis, and general statistical methods of validation and analysis (e.g., hypothesis testing, linear regression, confidence intervals, and normal distribution).

Additional Context

WADEPS is committed to providing a comprehensive and transparent view of reportable use-of-force incidents across the state. Incorporating supplementary data enables fair comparisons along shared organizational characteristics.

Agency Characteristics

Reporting Status

With a wide variety of agency types, sizes, and operations, WADEPS established five categories for measuring compliance and participation: required, contracted, optional, force data only, and not authorized to use force.

WADEPS has identified **301 agencies** with general law enforcement authority operating in the state in eight categories: local, county, state, university, airport, transit, port, and tribal. Of these, 29 tribal agencies are not subject to state law but may opt to participate in data sharing.

The **remaining 272 agencies** are required by law to participate. However, this includes 54 agencies that have self-identified as a "contracted" agency in which their complete operational activities are provided by a larger “parent” agency.

Data for a “contracted” agency is included in the data received from the providing "parent" agency. For example, the Woodinville and SeaTac police departments are two of 17 agencies operated by the King County Sheriff's Office. On the WADEPS dashboard, their use-of-force and CAD data is included in the sheriff's office data.

This means WADEPS expects **218 agencies** to provide required data. Of these, several state agencies do not use standard computer-aided dispatch to track calls for service and/or officer counts are not available in CJTC, and two are not authorized to use force.

Officer Characteristics

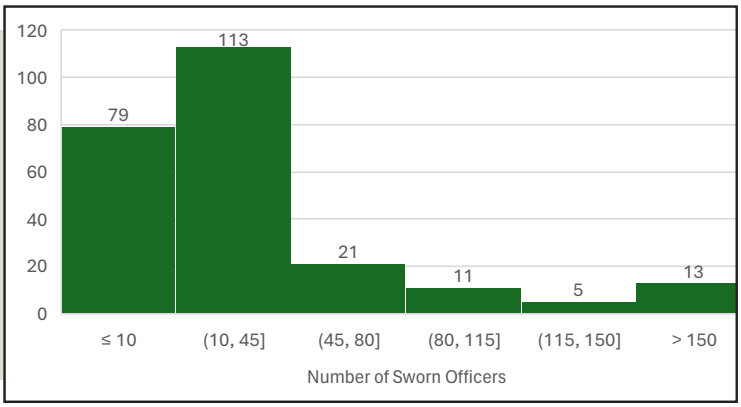
The WADEPS team has researched, collected, and is analyzing multiple datasets on staffing levels and officer demographics to provide additional context on law enforcement agencies and the reportable use-of-force incident data. This data will be available on the WADEPS dashboard in the first quarter of 2026.

Demographics and Staffing

Drawing on personnel data from the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC), initial findings show the average age of current sworn officers is 40.2 years and the average length of employment with their current agency is 10 years.

The CJTC data indicates 41% of agencies employ between 10 and 45 sworn officers, and 30% employ fewer than 10.

Sworn Officer Count by Agency Size



Officer Racial Demographics Relative to Agency Size

EEOC Category	Large	Medium	Small	Total
White	46.06%	62.57%	58.80%	56.08%
No Response	26.74%	12.24%	13.49%	17.62%
Other	15.45%	9.50%	11.43%	11.93%
Hispanic	3.80%	6.84%	7.48%	5.86%
African American	2.97%	3.37%	1.97%	3.01%
Asian	2.72%	2.84%	1.15%	2.54%
Multi-Racial	1.47%	1.13%	0.99%	1.23%
Native American	0.25%	0.71%	4.03%	1.06%
Pacific Islander	0.50%	0.76%	0.58%	0.64%
Alaskan Native	0.04%	0.03%	0.08%	0.04%

Another interesting finding in the CJTC demographic data is the percentage of officers for whom the racial demographic is missing. Further study is needed to determine the cause.

Agency Budgets

The WADEPS team searched for annual or biennial budget reports on corresponding city, county, or related government websites. Budget reports for state agencies, tribal police bodies, and special jurisdiction agencies were more difficult to locate; therefore, most of the budget data collected came from local or municipal departments and county sheriff's offices.

Budgets were analyzed by law enforcement agency type and agency size.

On average, local or municipal departments received approximately 29% of their jurisdictions' general budget and 8% of total budgets. County sheriff's offices received about 23% of general budgets and 4% of total budgets.

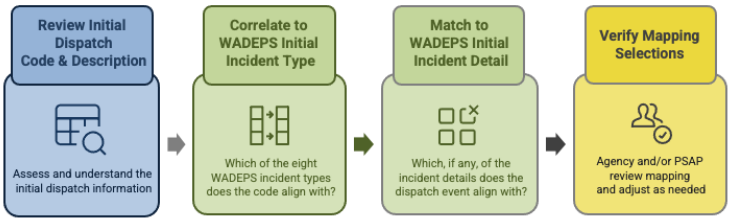
See the appendix for more information on the budget dataset and the methodology.

CAD Mapping

The lack of a common call-type coding system for computer-aided dispatching (CAD) across Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) has traditionally hindered valid cross-jurisdictional research on policing practices and policies. In collaboration with the 48 primary PSAPs in Washington, we are mapping CAD call types to WADEPS incident types and incident-type details for all participating agencies. When complete, the standardized approach will enable meaningful analysis and comparisons between agencies.

WADEPS uses a categorization protocol that aligns call-type data from all agencies within a consistent analytical framework. Unlike traditional aggregate reporting, this method produces activity-based insights, allowing detailed identification and tracking of specific interactions and service types regardless of local terminology. See the appendix for examples and methodology.

As of December 18, 2025, call type codes from 46% of Washington's PSAPs and 151 law enforcement agencies have been fully standardized. A critical component of this success is our rigorous validation methodology, under which participating police



Dispatch Code	Primary Description	Secondary Description (if available)	WADEPS Initial incident Type (1.9a)	WADEPS Initial Incident Detail (1.9b)
DOAH	DEATH - HOMICIDE		1. Offense against person	2 Homicide (all types)
RAPE~N	RAPE		1. Offense against person	3 Rape
THES~J	SHOPLIFT		2. Property offense	9 Theft
VAN~J	VANDALISM		2. Property offense	10 Mischief
NARF	FOUND NARCOTICS		3. Public order offense	15 Drug related
T	TRAFFIC STOP		4. Vehicle stop	22 Moving violation
SS	SUBJECT STOP		5. Pedestrian stop	N/A
SUIT	SUICIDE THREAT		6. Civil caretaking	25 Mental health/wellness check
WAR	WARRANT SERVICE/SUBJ WITH WARR		7 Warrant	N/A
FLAG	CITIZEN FLAG DOWN		8. Other	N/A

Sample CAD call type mapping

Data Use Agreement

WADEPS adheres to well-established research protocols. Accepted "best practices" include mutually agreeing on the legal framework for privacy and data management.

WADEPS developed a general data use agreement (DUA) to govern how data provided to the system is shared, used, and made available to the public and to ensure data submitted to WADEPS mirrors data held independently by participating agencies and their respective dispatch centers.

WADEPS recommends agencies complete the general data use agreement, but it is not required for agencies to begin sharing data with WADEPS.

The DUA was provided to primary agency points of contact in early June 2025.

- By early July 2025, a total of 74 agencies had signed the agreement.
- By mid-December, 2025, a total of 103 agencies had signed the agreement.

Use-of-Force Policies

Another visibility and engagement metric WADEPS is working to integrate is the availability of agency use-of-force policies.

A central resource is the Law Enforcement Use of Force and De-Escalation webpage on the Office of the Attorney General's website. Policies for 245 law enforcement agencies in Washington state were available as of mid-December 2025.

An example of policy integration: King County Sheriff's Office, the second largest law enforcement agency in the state, has incorporated the WADEPS use-of force reporting process into its General Orders Manual.

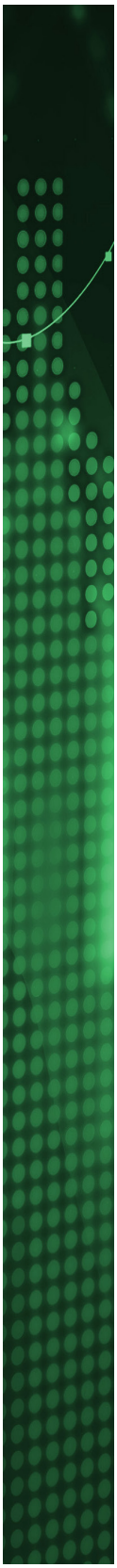
House Bill 2015

The WADEPS dashboard meets a critical need following the 2025 passage of House Bill 2015. As local jurisdictions use this new revenue to fund "proven public safety strategies" such as behavioral health responses and diversion, the state faces a measurement gap. The bill's intention is to help agencies resolve incidents without arrest or force, yet traditional policing data systems are designed to only count arrests and the use of force. Consequently, if an agency uses HB2015 funds to deploy a mental health unit that successfully de-escalates a crisis, standard reporting will record nothing and the successful intervention becomes a non-event.

WADEPS serves as a cornerstone for determining whether and how new policies and programs across the state affect public safety. WADEPS data can contextualize reportable use of force within the reality of agency capacity. For example, because we track staffing trends biweekly, we can correlate staffing shortages with decision-making patterns. WADEPS can assess whether incidents occurred during periods of resource strain, shifting the focus from individual actions to a clearer understanding of operational pressures that influence outcomes.

Conclusion

Continuing Our Journey Forward



The Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety has achieved its first goals: the infrastructure is in place, agency leaders and officers are being trained, standardized data is flowing into the system, and the public dashboard is live. The insights provided by the rate of force calculation are based on police activity rather than on population.

WADEPS is the nation's first contextually relevant use-of-force reporting system. It has been shaped by and built with the shared conviction that a data repository should do more than merely serve as an archive. It should be used to inform decision-making at all levels.

We encourage dashboard users to ask, "Why is that?"
Agency leaders to wonder "What could we do differently?"
Policymakers to investigate "Is there a return on our investment?"
Researchers to question "How does the data change over time?"

In the coming year, WADEPS will move beyond collecting data to begin telling data stories about operational realities of policing that are often overlooked or unseen. For example, mapping CAD data and linking specific call types to non-force outcomes will highlight the millions of interactions officers handle each year that do not involve reportable force. WADEPS will then also be able to assess whether diversion strategies, including those funded by House Bill #2015, are effective.

Several more dashboard layers are in development. One will overlay call volume onto reportable use-of-force incidents, expanding the opportunities to explore underlying causes and enabling users to explore how reportable uses of force are related to specific call types. Another planned layer will link crime statistics with agency workload and community characteristics.

And even more is possible.

The WADEPS infrastructure can accommodate additional policing and contextual data sets. Recommendations and suggestions received so far cover vehicle pursuit data, correctional facilities, prior use-of-force involvement for subjects, additional administrative outcomes for officers, and other types of police activity. With future data collection, it will also be possible to determine how an agency using a co-responder model compares to one that does not in terms of rates of force.

WADEPS will shift from implementation and integration to ongoing operational support at the end of FY2027. This important stewardship phase will focus on safeguarding cloud infrastructure security, maintaining data quality as volume grows, and supporting the user base that relies on this system for transparency and decision-making. A dedicated maintenance framework will be needed to protect the state's investment and preserve the dataset's long-term integrity.

WADEPS is more than a data-gathering tool; it is a collaborative platform for data storytelling that can drive meaningful, evidence-based reform. The learning and discovery it inspires will benefit the State of Washington for years to come.

Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety™

Our Mission

To make public safety data discoverable, accessible, and meaningful.

Our Vision

Empower individuals, agencies, communities, and governments throughout Washington to address complex challenges in public safety and drive positive change through evidence-based analysis and decision-making.

WADEPS is managed by at Washington State University through a contract with the Office of the Attorney General.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

APPENDIX

WADEPS DECEMBER 2025 REPORT

FORCE SEVERITY CATEGORIES

The 11 reportable types of force listed in the WADEPS Data Dictionary are categorized as follows on the WADEPS dashboard.

SEVERITY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Firearm Display	POINT	Pointed a firearm at a person
Deadly Force	DISCHARGE	Discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person
Less-Lethal Weapon	ECW	Used an electronic control weapon at or in the direction of a person
Less-Lethal Weapon	CHEMICAL	Used a chemical irritant spray against a person or in the direction of a person
Less-Lethal Weapon	LESS LETHAL DISCHARGE	Discharged a less lethal shotgun or impact munitions at or in the direction of a person
Physical Force	IMPACT	Struck a person using an impact weapon or instrument, including but not limited to a club, baton, or flashlight
Physical Force	STRIKE	Used any part of the body to physically strike a person, including but not limited to punching, kicking, slapping, using closed fists, leg, or feet
Vehicle Intervention	VEHICLE	Used a vehicle to intentionally strike a person or vehicle
Canine	CANINE	Deployed a canine
Neck Restraint	NECK	Used a neck restraint
Other Force	FORCE OTHER	Type of force not listed (when injury is involved)

APPENDIX

WADEPS DECEMBER 2025 REPORT

BUDGET CONTEXT

Methods

The budget collection process took place in April 2025. For each of the 299 law enforcement agencies identified by WADEPS, annual or biennial budget reports were located on city, county, or related government websites (e.g., Office of Financial Management), depending on the agency's jurisdiction. Budget reports for state agencies, tribal police bodies, and special-jurisdiction agencies were more difficult to locate; therefore, most of the budget data came from local or municipal departments and county sheriff's offices. Budget reports for 2023–2026 were selected, downloaded as PDFs, and stored in a designated folder in the WADEPS SharePoint. In total, budget reports were collected for 234 agencies.

Between May and July 2025, each budget report was reviewed by a WADEPS team member to identify and extract the variables shown in Table 1. These variables were recorded in a Microsoft Excel file, along with corresponding page numbers for later verification. In October 2025, a second WADEPS team member conducted spot checks to confirm the accuracy of the extracted data. Budget reports were analyzed in November and December 2025, and the preliminary results make up the remainder of this section.

Table 1. Budget Variables

VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION	CODING METHOD
Total Budget	The dollar value of the total budget provided in the budget PDF.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
General Budget	The dollar value of the general budget (housed within the total budget) provided in the budget PDF.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Law Enforcement Budget	The dollar value of the law enforcement budget (housed within the general budget) provided in the budget PDF.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Salaries And Wages	The dollar value of funds for compensation of sworn officers and civilian staff within the law enforcement budget.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Benefits	The dollar value of funds for non-salary compensation within the law enforcement budget.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Supplies	The dollar value of funds for non-permanent, disposable items needed for operational activities and functions within the law enforcement budget.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable

Service Charges	The dollar value of funds for operational activities and functions within the law enforcement budget.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Capital Outlay	The dollar value of funds for upgrading or maintaining physical assets within the law enforcement budget.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Debt Service	The dollar value of funds for payments on loans and other forms of debt within the law enforcement budget.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Transfers	The dollar value of funds that are moved within and/or between organizations within the law enforcement budget.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Total Budget Allocated to Law Enforcement	The percentage of total budget in the budget PDF that is allocated law enforcement agencies.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
General Budget Allocated to Law Enforcement	The percentage of general budget in the budget PDF that is allocated to law enforcement agencies.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Law Enforcement Budget Per Capita	The calculation of the dollar value of law enforcement budget divided population by law enforcement jurisdiction in 2023 WASPC data.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable
Law Enforcement Budget Per Sworn Officer/Deputy	The calculation of the dollar value of law enforcement budget divided sworn officers in the law enforcement agency in 2022 WSCJTC data.	**Numeric.** NA = Unavailable

Budget data were analyzed by law enforcement agency type and agency size. Table 2 displays the budget reports located by agency type and agency size. As expected, the largest portion of the sample (consisting only of agencies which had budget and size data) consisted of small local or municipal departments, followed by small county sheriff's offices. Transit, airport, and university law enforcement agencies accounted for the smallest portion of the sample.

Table 2. Collected Budget Reports by Agency Type and Agency Size

AGENCY TYPE/SIZE	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	NA	GRAND TOTAL
AIRPORT	1	1	0	2	4
COUNTY	11	18	6	0	35
LOCAL	97	53	8	11	169
STATE	0	1	1	12	14
TRANSIT	0	0	0	3	3
TRIBAL	1	0	0	1	2
UNIVERSITY	6	1	0	0	7
GRAND TOTAL	**116**	**74**	**15**	**46**	**234**

Table 3 displays the total, general, and law enforcement budget by agency type. No law enforcement budgets were found in the reports collected for state agencies, tribal police bodies, and transit agencies. As expected, total budgets exceeded general budgets, which, in turn, exceeded law enforcement budgets. On average, local or municipal departments received approximately 29% of their jurisdictions' general budget and 8% of total budgets. County sheriff's offices received about 23% of general budgets and 4% of total budgets.

Table 4 displays the total, general, and law enforcement budget by agency size. As expected, larger agencies received larger budgets across all categories. On average, law enforcement budgets for large agencies were more than six times higher than those of medium agencies and 33 times higher than those of small agencies. Medium agencies' law enforcement budgets were also about five times higher than those of small agencies.

Table 3. Total, General, and Law Enforcement Budgets by Agency Type

AGENCY TYPE	AVERAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET	AVERAGE OF GENERAL BUDGET	AVERAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET
AIRPORT	$2,565,296,977.25	$633,396,076.00	$1,473,260.00
COUNTY	$772,207,320.99	$145,581,994.87	$33,177,714.19
LOCAL	$207,406,707.16	$57,977,726.44	$17,101,050.87
STATE	$2,228,589,142.86	$1,048,887,214.29	NA
TRANSIT	$5,455,653,190.67	$1,081,648,921.00	NA
TRIBAL	$46,038,518.00	$7,529,023.00	NA
UNIVERSITY	$798,312,543.29	$180,734,737.33	$5,494,031.00

Table 4. Total, General, and Law Enforcement Budgets by Agency Size

AGENCY SIZE	AVERAGE OF TOTAL BUDGET	AVERAGE OF GENERAL BUDGET	AVERAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET
SMALL	$173,957,351.56	$35,221,235.01	$4,171,541.50
MEDIUM	$273,694,618.28	$77,672,331.00	$20,887,886.60
LARGE	$2,262,009,347.78	$506,774,995.57	$132,043,463.08
NA	$1,612,775,693.62	$667,950,518.20	$8,645,199.45

Table 5 displays the descriptive statistics of the law enforcement budget by agency type. A total of 195 law enforcement budgets were identified across the collected budget reports, depending on each agency's jurisdiction. Because only three budgets were found for airport and university combined, these categories are excluded from discussion to avoid overstating and overgeneralizing results. Of note, budgets for local or municipal departments showed considerable variation, ranging from $37,975 to $451,560,186. Table 6 displays the descriptive statistics of the law enforcement budget by agency size. Of particular note, large agencies exhibited substantially variability, with a standard deviation of approximately $130 million.

Table 5. Descriptive Statistics of Law Enforcement Budget by Agency Type

AGENCY TYPE	N	MIN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET	AVERAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET	MAX OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET	SD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET
AIRPORT	2	$45,860.00	$1,473,260.00	$2,900,660.00	$2,018,648.44
COUNTY	32	$1,251,950.00	$33,177,714.19	$277,363,391.00	$67,228,863.45
LOCAL	160	$37,975.00	$17,101,050.87	$451,560,186.00	$44,797,382.32
STATE	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
TRANSIT	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
TRIBAL	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
UNIVERSITY	1	$5,494,031.00	$5,494,031.00	$5,494,031.00	NA

Table 6. Descriptive Statistics of Police/Sheriff Budget by Agency Size

AGENCY SIZE	N	MIN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET	AVERAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET	MAX OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET	SD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BUDGET
SMALL	101	$37,975.00	$4,171,541.50	$45,666,614.00	$5,644,087.35
MEDIUM	69	$45,860.00	$20,887,886.60	$127,014,090.00	$23,630,321.98
LARGE	14	$16,992,758.00	$132,043,463.08	$451,560,186.00	$130,898,884.17
NA	11	$40,008.00	$8,645,199.45	$21,890,950.00	$7,492,502.54

APPENDIX

WADEPS DECEMBER 2025 REPORT

CAD DATA MAPPING

Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) data offers a crucial resource for examining police interactions, but the lack of a standardized coding system across Washington's 48 Primary Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) has traditionally hindered valid cross-jurisdictional research. Each PSAP operates under a unique system of language classifying the *same* police-public contacts, roughly 200 core interactions by nature, into over 1,000 *different* call types. The initial phases of the CAD mapping process have identified 30 unique call codes and descriptors under "Assault," over 60 descriptors for various circumstances associated with "Alarms," and over 70 call codes for "Vehicle" contacts. These minor differences between call types are meaningful. The purpose of the call, nature of the request, associated civil or criminal offense, and dispatched police response vary based on details of each call type. To standardize data for ingestion and interpretation, WADEPS created a categorization protocol that aligns data from more than 300 law enforcement agencies into a consistent analytical framework. Unlike traditional aggregate reporting, this method produces "Activity Based Insights," allowing detailed identification and tracking of specific interactions and service types regardless of local terminology.

By standardizing disparate agency data, the program provides stakeholders with essential evidence to objectively evaluate policing trends and resource use across the state. Mapping *incident type* separates person, property, and public order offenses from civil caretaking and administrative obligations, permitting more detailed analysis of demands on officers' time. Categorizing contacts by *incident detail* provides valuable context on the nature of incidents requiring police response, revealing trends in community activities and priorities. This information could influence training and policy decisions. The core value of this standardization is the ability to conduct meaningful comparative analysis regarding the use of force. By accurately mapping distinct agency codes into a standardized system clearly distinguishing between property- and person-based criminal offenses, community caretaking obligations, and occupational responsibilities, we can calculate the exact volume of specific contact types and associate call types to outcomes. This enables fair comparisons between law enforcement agencies (LEAs) by identifying jurisdictions that manage similar rates of high-risk contacts yet maintain significantly lower rates of force. Highlighting these disparities shifts the focus from mere compliance to active learning, enabling the state to identify and replicate the strategies used by agencies that successfully minimize force during complex interactions.

WADEPS' efforts have achieved substantial coverage, with 46% of Washington's PSAPs and 151 associated law enforcement agencies fully standardized as of December 2025. A critical component of this success is the rigorous validation methodology, under which participating police agencies have individually verified more than 1,000 distinct call types. In total, call type documents were submitted by 49 separate organizations: 31 local LEAs, 8 county LEAs, and 11 PSAPs. Feedback was provided by 22 of these agencies in the form of comments and re-

classification recommendations. Revisions in response to practitioner insight resulted in three updates to the mapping protocol. Rather than relying on automated assumptions, this process engages practitioners directly to verify that agency-specific codes are interpreted correctly before data ingestion. As the project enters Phase 3 to onboard the remaining jurisdictions by March 2026 this practitioner-validated dataset ensures that the resulting comparative analyses are grounded in operational reality, providing a reliable foundation for statewide policy development.