

Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety



Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety

Mission

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

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.

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Executive Summary

July 2025



Led by the Office of the Attorney General's announcement in June, Washington became the first state in the nation to implement an incident-based police use-of-force reporting system. The Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS) is the result of broad consensus among diverse stakeholders, including community advocacy groups, legislators, and law enforcement agencies across the state, and national experts on data and public safety. All agree that context is critical: to be meaningful, use-of-force data cannot be limited to simply counting the number of times force was applied.

The comprehensive WADEPS approach helps visualize the frequency and nature of law enforcement interactions. Not only does it centralize and standardize use-of-force incident data, WADEPS incorporates data and information from computer-aided dispatch, crime rates, community demographics, law enforcement agency operations, and organizational characteristics to enable fair comparisons between agencies and provide the rich contextual framework that all stakeholders seek.

Bringing this complex initiative to life required multi-layered collaboration between numerous siloed information providers at the state, local, and regional level, and a strong internal team with complementary and intersecting skill sets.

Key achievements during the first half of 2025 included completion of the data security review and development of the WADEPS Reporting Tool, a custom-built user interface for agencies to share data securely and with minimal effort. Beta testers from law enforcement agencies suggested several valuable new features which required additional time for software programming prior to implementation. Offering a high-quality, easy-to-navigate user experience is a top priority for the entire WADEPS team.

Onboarding communications with the 268 law enforcement agencies required by Chapter 10.118 RCW to participate began in June and data reporting is set to commence in September 2025.

WADEPS will change how we understand police-community interactions by enabling advanced analyses that were previously unavailable to policymakers and researchers. For example, the data analysis used to enable WADEPS accounts for all active officers also provides new insights on officer movements between agencies, recruitment success, and retirement rates.

As data begins to accumulate, WADEPS tools and resources will help reveal meaningful insights on police and community interaction and contribute to improving public safety operations and public trust.

WADEPS at a Glance*

Law Enforcement Agencies 268 required / 29 tribal / 2 not authorized to use force

Active Officers in Washington State



281 CITIES 39 COUNTIES

Officers/Staff Completed **Initial Training**

Reportable Uses of Force



WADEPS.ORG page views⁺

MEDIA MENTIONS following June press release

WADEPS appeared in many major TV & print news outlets across the state, including KING, KIRO, KREM, KNDO, Seattle Times, Spokesman-Review, and The Columbian (Vancouver, WA).

Plus A full Seattle Now episode on KUOW featuring the WADEPS executive director.

Agency Onboarding

The official website at wadeps.org launched on June 1, 2025.

Following the Office of the Attorney General's letter to chiefs and sheriffs on June 2, 2025, WADEPS began a comprehensive three-phase onboarding process to provide agency leaders and key staff across the state with measured information and deliberate action items leading up to the initial reporting deadline of September 2 set by the Office of the Attorney General.



The staggered WADEPS onboarding phases overlap to give agencies the flexibility to develop internal data sharing processes and roll-out protocols that best fit their organization and personnel.

This approach enables the small WADEPS staff to manage information distribution and troubleshooting for the several hundred law enforcement agencies required to participate in data sharing and to better accommodate their wide variety of operational structures and data collection protocols.





PHASE ONE

Informational website
Course One training
Data use agreement distribution

PHASE TWO

CAD incident data mapping Course Two training resources Reporting Tool learning environment

PHASE THREE

Active data sharing in the Reporting Tool Officer account activation 100x100 Challenge begins

WADEPS Components

During the first half of 2025, the WADEPS team continued to refine the Reporting Tool user interface, enhance contextual data sets, validate and streamline data lake processes, and integrate feedback from law enforcement beta testers and the data governance committee. An external review successfully verified security compliance.

Reporting Tool

The WADEPS Reporting Tool is a custom-built, secure user interface for sharing use-of-force (UOF) and CAD data. Its design minimizes administrative burden on agency personnel and offers data input flexibility for agencies of different sizes and with a range of operational structures.

Highlights

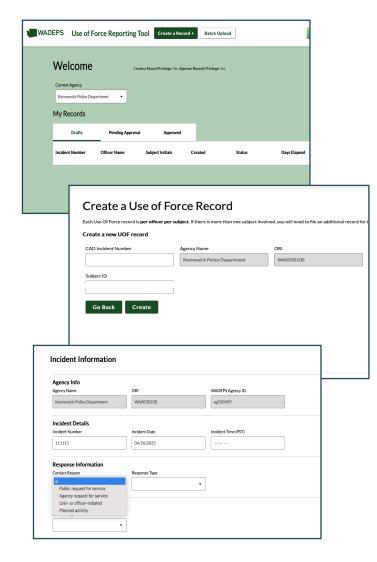
User access and role tools provide agency administrators with both the flexibility and the responsibility of assigning privileges to its officers and professional staff as needed.

Two UOF data input options: create an individual officer/incident record or upload a standardized CSV or Excel file to create multiple records at once.

Pagination: when creating an individual record, each section of the required UOF data is shown separately for clear and easy data entry.

Monthly CAD data sharing can be securely managed via a drag-and-drop interface.

Hover-over tips and definitions provide depth without clutter.

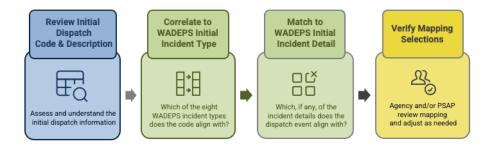


Contextual Data

WADEPS is leading the nation in creating a use-of-force data system that provides more than just a tally of police activity. Contextual information includes census data and community demographics, agency size and type, and incident-based computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data.

Mapping CAD Call Types

WADEPS uses all calls for service to calculate an incident-based rate of force. To enable comparable rates between agencies, WADEPS is mapping CAD call type codes from all agencies and public safety answering points (PSAPs) to a corresponding incident type and incident detail in the approved data dictionary (1.9a and 1.9b, respectively).



Sample CAD call type mapping

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

Exploring Additional Data

To further contextualize law enforcement use of force, WADEPS is exploring three additional datasets which each include measurements of crime within Washington state:

- National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
- Incident data from the FBI's Crime Data Explorer
- Statistics from reports published by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)

WADEPS researchers are assessing differences between these diverse data sets to determine how their data might be correlated to the WADEPS data to provide additional and meaningful statistical context.

Data Management

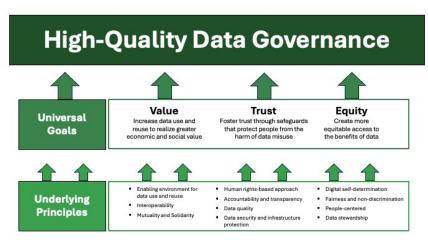
The WADEPS Reporting Tool serves as an interface between the agencies and the WADEPS data lake, the secure data repository which will feed the public dashboard. Key data management and software development accomplishments in the first half of 2025 include:

- Implemented environment-specific deployments using branch-based logic to manage changes and enable rollback support.
- Developed a smart Excel template for importing data about multiple use-of-force incidents at one time, known as a batch upload.
- Activated real-time feedback for batch uploads indicating when records have been successful added and, if necessary, error notifications linked to incident numbers for quick identification of where action is needed.
- Enabled user-initiated account management within the WADEPS
 Reporting Tool and a batch account creation function for agency
 administrators to quickly add professional staff who do not have a
 Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) student number.

Data Governance

The WADEPS Data Governance advisory committee advocates for the data its accuracy, integrity, efficiency, expandability, completeness, usability, accessibility, accountability, and security.

The committee follows international standards for data governance and earlier this year developed universal goals that align with the United Nations working group on international data governance.



Adapted from MacFeely, S., et al. (2025). Towards a set of universal data principles. Statistical Journal of the IAOS, 41(1): 150-155.

The committee reviewed the use-of-force incident data points established by the law and the AGO advisory group and identified additional data points that would add significant value and depth to the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety.

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

Recommended enhancements:

- Reason force initiated
- Subject's highest level of resistance
- Takedowns
- Physical control tactics
- Treatment for injuries
- Final call type
- Video review

Reportable Uses of Force

- Pointed a firearm at a person.
- Discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person.
- Used an electronic control weapon at or in the direction of a person.
- Used chemical irritant spray against or in the direction of a person.
- Discharged a less-lethal shotgun or impact munitions at or in the direction of a person.
- Struck a person using an impact weapon or instrument.
- Used any part of the body to strike a person physically.
- Used a vehicle to strike a person or vehicle intentionally.
- Deployed a canine.
- Used a neck restraint.

Security Review

WADEPS and Washington State University (WSU) align with multiple security frameworks, including NIST 800-53r5, OCIO, HIPAA, FERPA, and GLBA, to address compliance and security requirements across systems.

WADEPS and WSU place a strong emphasis on data security and conduct regular assessments to identify threats, vulnerabilities, and risks. The formal risk management policy meets the requirements for identifying threat sources, events, likelihood, and impact.

State security requirements

WADEPS has been reviewed for the state's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Policy 141.10, titled Securing Information Technology Assets. This is a foundational cybersecurity policy for all state agencies and establishes the framework and requirements for protecting the state's information technology resources and data. The primary goal of this policy is to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the state's IT assets.

External review

Conducted by Structured, an award-winning solution provider that delivers secure, cloud-connected digital infrastructure and managed IT services.

Focus Groups

Throughout the development of the Reporting Tool, WADEPS continued to seek feedback from law enforcement to better understand policing record-keeping protocols and community members to better understand community expectations.

More than 110 participants shared their insights over the course of the most recent outreach meetings.

WADEPS representatives attended a use-of-force training held by the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) in Burien in March 2025. They had the opportunity to hear from instructors, trainees, and community members. The discussion points included the incident data being collected, confidentiality protections, and what data is gathered on subjects of police uses of force.

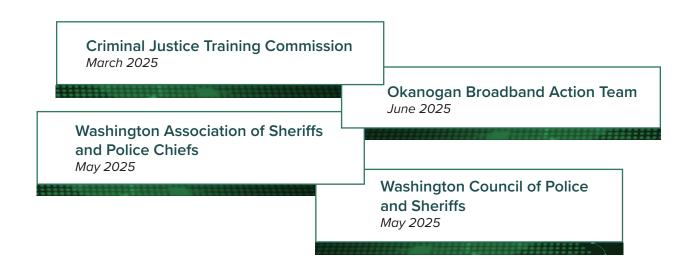
In May, WADEPS showcased the Reporting Tool and held Q&A sessions with two law enforcement organizations: the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) in Spokane and the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WACOPS) in Everett.

WADEPS also was invited to attended the Okanogan Broadband Action Team (BAT) virtual meeting in June. Topics raised during this event focused primarily on access and impact in rural communities.









Beta Testing

More than three dozen experienced police professionals provided critical perspective during hands-on beta testing for the WADEPS Reporting Tool user interface and associated training resources.

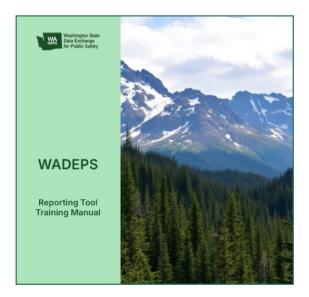
Throughout the iterative process, feedback and insights from beta testers helped pinpoint slight variations in how policing data is collected and identify cases that required additional clarification.

For example, value definitions were revised for Section 2: Type of Force, Element 2.8 Vehicle to reference PIT maneuvers, a precision immobilization technique trained officers use to disable a fleeing vehicle. Also, within the Reporting Tool, a mission-critical software feature was added which enables officers temporarily working for a different agency who are involved in a reportable use-of-force incident to be associated with the secondary law enforcement agency.

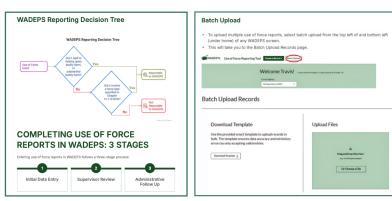
Preparing for Implementation

Training Resources

Multi-format materials have been developed to provide officers, professional staff, and agency leaders with the information they need to navigate the reporting requirements of Chapter 10.118 RCW successfully.



A comprehensive text-based training manual for the WADEPS Reporting Tool offers context and step-bystep guidance for accurate data entry.



Two high-quality, on-demand courses are available to agency personnel through a partnership with CJTC, the state's Criminal Justice Training Commission:



More than 290 people completed the training within the first 24 hours it was available.

Course One: WADEPS Overview and Requirements

Provides a foundational understanding of the legislative requirements and what use-of-force incident data is to be shared with WADEPS. Recommended for agency leaders, all active general law enforcement officers, and professional staff as appropriate for each agency. Approved for 1.75 hours of in-service credit.

As of July 22, 2025, CJTC reported 3,235 individuals had completed Course One and another 508 were in-progress.

Personnel at all levels are participating in the recommended training, including:

- Officers (1,388)
- Deputies (919)
- Sergeants (546)
- Troopers (426)
- Lieutenants (103)
- Chiefs (83)
- Captains (54)
- Park rangers (44)



Course Two:

Data Entry for the WADEPS Reporting Tool

A walk-through demonstration of the Reporting Tool. Includes three short modules covering each aspect of reporting and verifying use-of-force incident data. The course takes approximately one hour to complete and is recommended for officers and staff who will be actively involved in data entry. Agency leaders may assign the course to personnel as needed.

Learning Environment

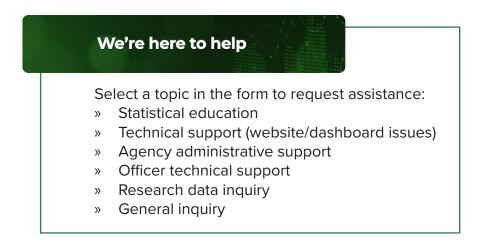
In early August, WADEPS will open a hands-on learning environment for the Reporting Tool in which key agency personnel can explore the two different use-of-force record-creation methods, the CAD data upload mechanism, and the supervisory role duties to assess how best to manage the required data submission processes within their particular organizational structure.





User Support

WADEPS is using an email-based ticketing system hosted on the wadeps.org website to provide agency users and online visitors with technical and statistical assistance. WADEPS staff will be assigned to appropriate teams to provide timely responses and support in the learning environment and the live Reporting Tool.



Communicating with Stakeholders

The wadeps.org website provides a wealth of information about WADEPS for a general audience: its legislative mandate, the reportable use-of-force data elements, and the contextual data sets. Additional information geared toward agency leaders and personnel is presented under the "For Agencies" navigation tab.

Employing modern customer relationship management (CRM) tools, WADEPS manages contact information for more than 350 organizations (law enforcement agencies, public safety answering points, and related companies) and their designated points-of-contact to distribute informational materials and action-oriented emails.



WADEPS.ORG Engagement Statistics



Page views: 18,630 User sessions: > 3,570

Average session length: 2m 50s Average engagements/user: 15+

User actions: > 54,760

(scroll, click, download, submit form, etc.)

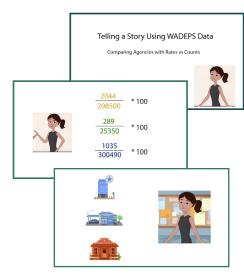
The absence of an official state resource identifying all law enforcement agencies limits the effectiveness of email push communications. Data from the CRM can help WADEPS and the Office of the Attorney General identify agencies who may not have received onboarding emails due to spam filtering or changes in personnel.

Statistical Education

Working with the WSU Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER), WADEPS has made significant strides in developing both public-facing educational resources and internal analytical tools to support stakeholder engagement and data-driven analysis using WADEPS data.

Highlights include:

- Completed first of six videos for the general public on how to analyze use-of-force incidents by both raw counts and adjusted rates.
- Created a synthetic dataset that mirrors the structure of WADEPS data without using sensitive records.
- Developed Python code examples to improve the team's efficiency in responding to statistical consulting requests.
- Finalized a time-series forecasting section and began developing the causal inference module.
- Drafted intermediate-level tutorials on methods such as linear regression to expand support for a broader range of stakeholders.



Agency Profiles

By consolidating multiple datasets into a user-friendly presentation, WADEPS will enable community members, agency representatives, policymakers, and researchers to engage in informed discussions and make data-driven decisions about policing across the state.

WADEPS is building a web-based template for agency profiles to promote transparency, support public accountability, and foster deeper engagement between law enforcement and the community they serve.

Each agency profile will include three components:

- (1) agency characteristics (size, operational structure, specialized units, etc.)
- (2) agency service area and socio-economic demographics
- (3) agency budget (allocation of public funds)

Launch Metrics

Metrics have been identified to ensure all elements are secure, verified, and ready for use.

Data Quality

- Validation rules implemented for UOF data fields
- · Contextual data set integration successfully tested
- · Monitoring processes successfully tested
- · Reporting processes successfully tested
- · Cleaning and reconciliation successfully tested

System Security and Compliance

- WA OCIO 141.10 review
- Internal review successful
- External review completed
- · Documentation and knowledge base created

User Accounts Prepared

- Mirrored data from CJTC successfully tested
- Multifactor authentication enabled
- Activation process successfully tested

Data Ingestion

- · Secure online submission form successfully tested
- Smart CSV templates successfully tested
- · PSAP data transfer successfully tested

User Training

- Learning modules in CJTC and user tested
- · Training manual reviewed and available

User Support

- Help desk, web-based request form and email ticket tracking established
- · Comprehensive audit tracking enabled
- Staff trained and prepared to meet one-hour initial response and target resolution goal of 48 hours

Public Website

- · Content reviewed and approved
- QuickSight embedding successfully tested
- Web-based request form successfully tested
- Load balancing integration complete
- 99.9% uptime achieved during testing

Agency Onboarding

- · Agency points of contact collected and verified
- DUA finalized and ready for distribution
- Handouts reviewed and ready for distribution
- · Agency-specific FAQs available on website
- · Communications plan reviewed and approved

Key Completed In-Progress

ROI: Early Results

The return on investment (ROI) to Washington taxpayers goes beyond providing a centralized data warehouse and building a user interface to serve the reporting needs of law enforcement agencies. Teaching and research are core principles of the WADEPS proposal accepted by the AGO and all initiatives led by Washington State University.

Research

Supporting investigations at the intersection of public safety and public health.



Insights on officer staffing

WADEPS's analytical capabilities can provide new, actionable insights beyond the use of force that were previously unavailable to researchers and policymakers.

For example, WADEPS officer accounts mirror active CJTC officer accounts. The biweekly data WADEPS receives to sync the accounts can provide insights on overall officer staffing levels as well as how often officers change agencies.

By analyzing the biweekly differences, WADEPS found Washington had a net gain of 49 officers between January and June 2025:

- 93 officers transferred to another agency within the state
- 388 officers left the profession or transferred out of state
- 437 new officers joined Washington agencies



Academic inquiry

Graduate student researchers in criminal justice, political science, and statistics are contributing to WADEPS program development and gaining advanced skills working with "big data" while developing unique research projects.

Two manuscripts are in process:

- 1. An examination of the public visibility of law enforcement agencies through their online materials
- 2. An analysis of law enforcement similarity analyses

Graduate students have also presented information and methodology about WADEPS at several professional conferences, gaining valuable communications experience and gathering feedback from researchers, faculty, and peers at other institutions.

Teaching

Providing experiential learning beyond the classroom helps prepare undergraduate and graduate students for the Washington workforce.



Data analytics internships

In 2025, undergraduate interns in the WSU data analytics, math, and statistics departments were provided with real-world tasks to research REST APIs—a type of programming which enables communication between different systems over the internet.

In the fall of 2025, a new cohort of interns will complete training in professional data management tools and gain access to a cloud-based learning environment where they will help develop new dashboards that could be integrated into WADEPS.



Criminal justice and political science studies

Graduate student assistants earning their PhDs in criminal justice and political science are employed to assist with contextual data collection and collating data for agency profiles. This work helps them improve their skill sets, provides hands-on professional experience, and expands their career opportunities after graduation.



Law clinic

Our partner institution, Seattle University, organized a semester-long law clinic to review the WADEPS initiative. Looking through the lens of police reform, School of Law students examined the legislation and data elements and engaged with state legislators and agency leaders. They produced a series of thoughtful briefs on individual topics, such as adding takedowns as a reportable use of force, including use of force in jails and prisons, and how the data could contribute to community impact research.

Conclusion



The Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS) is an active investment by the legislature in public safety, workforce development, applied scholarship, and community engagement.

WADEPS demonstrates that a comprehensive, contextual data collection and analysis platform can meet the needs of diverse constituencies.

As data flows into the system and members of those diverse constituencies begin using the public dashboard:

- WADEPS will play an essential role in creating transparency surrounding reportable uses of force and in fostering trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.
- WADEPS will become an increasingly powerful tool for evidencebased policymaking and community relations initiatives.
- WADEPS will become a data-rich archive for researchers seeking to uncover patterns and contextual relationships in the use of force by law enforcement and the impact of policy and organizational changes in Washington.

WADEPS is managed by respected criminal justice researchers and scholars at Washington State University (WSU). Since the beginning of the contract in August 2023, the WADEPS team has worked tirelessly to develop and deploy a sound, scalable data management system.

Our goal remains for WADEPS to become a nationwide model for use-offorce data collection and analysis, informing best practices for the industry, and driving positive change across the country.

WADEPS Team

David Makin (principal investigator), Travis Franklin, Matthew Hickman, Season Hoard, Dean Johnson, Bala Krishnamoorthy, Sergey Lapin, Kara MacDonald, Daniel Mueller, Lucky Ozegbe, Sarena Paige, Nick Pappin, Christina Sanders, Gunjan Sinha, Joanna Steward, JJ Warren, Dale Willits, and Yin Zhang.

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