



Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety

Making public safety data discoverable,
accessible, and meaningful.

June 2026

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Executive Summary

Rich Data and Robust Information

WADEPS is Washington's first standardized use-of-force reporting system and the most comprehensive statewide reporting system in the nation. It has been shaped by and built with input from stakeholders at all levels and the shared conviction that a data repository should do more than merely serve as an archive.

Law enforcement agencies began sharing standardized data on reportable uses of force as well as incident data on all calls for service in September 2025. As of June 30, 2026, WADEPS had received data for 1,480 incidents with 1,980 reportable uses of force across more than 3.7 million calls for service, which equates to an activity-based rate of force of 0.40 uses of force per 1,000 calls.

In the pages that follow, WADEPS presents baseline data for reportable uses of force across the state, from the initial contact through the administrative outcome. Our role as data custodians is to facilitate the reporting process, evaluate the data's integrity through a robust auditing process, and provide opportunities to learn so discussions about policing rely on facts rather than proxies or assumptions.

This report also introduces the first statewide exploration of daily police activity and our process for standardizing and mapping millions of calls for service across hundreds of agencies. Capturing the data and linking each call to a reportable use-of-force incident type is a monumental operational achievement that enables WADEPS to calculate rates of force by activity type.

By pairing force data with calls for service data, we also have an unprecedented opportunity to examine agencies that handle similar call types at similar volumes yet experience completely different force rates. Identifying these variances allows us to ask why, paving the way for meaningful improvements in policy and training.

The reportable use-of-force data provides an informative snapshot of policing across the state even though the system may not yet be mature enough to draw definitive conclusions. With a database of this scope and size, inconsistencies are inevitable. We are working with law enforcement agencies to improve standardization and align all data with RCW definitions. The system's limitations and constraints are discussed throughout the report.

We have built a system grounded in evidence, authenticity, and rigorous research protocols, ensuring the data quality continues to improve and that when statistical analyses are ready, the findings can be trusted.

The public dashboard provides a deep dive into many data stories. We are continually refining and developing visualizations to meet the needs of the general public as well as policing professionals and public safety researchers.

With WADEPS, Washington is now incredibly well-positioned to learn from the standardized data shared by law enforcement.

A Message from the Principal Investigator

In the fall of 2020, I was among several experts who received an email from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) asking whether it was feasible to build a statewide database to track police use of force in Washington. As a criminal justice researcher with experience building and analyzing large data sets, I understand many of the central challenges in building systems for public safety data.

At the time, only a handful of states had launched statewide projects similar to the AGO's inquiry, and among those that had, many faced the same core limitation: calculating force rates based on census data. While a community's population tells us how many people the police could interact with, it cannot tell us how many the police actually interact with and for what reasons. These systems all shared the same flaw: they were data-rich but information-poor. They had data on the use of force, but the ability to draw insights to influence policy and practice was limited.

My response to the AGO was that building a system was possible, and that if Washington was going to invest in such an initiative, the data collection should be grounded in evidence-based practices and have research embedded in its mission. The state ought to have a data exchange that is rich in both data and information.

Soon after the initial conversation about feasibility, I had the privilege of serving on a subject-matter expert group convened by the AGO and providing feedback on the draft legislation that would eventually become SB5259. The experience of participating in the process and having two of my recommendations enacted into state law (RCW 10.118) are among my proudest professional accomplishments.

Over the last three years, the WADEPS team has worked tirelessly to design,

build, and implement the Washington State Data Exchange for Public Safety (WADEPS). The agency reporting tool and the public dashboard were both informed by stakeholder input. We met with hundreds of law enforcement professionals, community and advocacy members, emergency management software representatives, and everyone in between. Every meeting was an opportunity to listen and learn. We were (and still are) constantly looking for common ground to deliver a system that is meaningful and useful for the most people.

For example, when community members expressed an interest in the on-demand training we developed to help law enforcement officers fully understand the law and the specific types of force reportable to WADEPS, we made the training publicly available on the wadeps.org website. While it is impossible to be responsive to every request on a project of this scale, listening allowed us to create a meaningful educational opportunity for a new audience. We will continue to engage with stakeholders to identify common ground as we work on system enhancements.

The WADEPS Reporting Tool officially went live for law enforcement agencies in September 2025. Reporting compliance for 2025 exceeded 80%, with most Washington law enforcement agencies meeting state reporting requirements. Most importantly, we began capturing the incident context data that other state systems lacked and making it available on the public WADEPS dashboard.

I am confident WADEPS will play a major role in transforming Washington from merely a data-rich state into a state that is truly information-rich.



David A. Makin, PhD
Principal Investigator
Washington State Data Exchange
for Public Safety

Agency Compliance

Agency Reporting Status

WADEPS identified 301 law enforcement agencies with general or limited law enforcement authority operating in Washington and established six categories to track agency participation and compliance with the law:

Required An agency operated by a governmental unit (city, county, state, etc.) 211 agencies	Force Only State agencies that do not use computer-aided dispatch (CAD) to track calls for service. 7 agencies	Contracted An agency whose officers are officially employed by a larger parent agency. 39 agencies
Optional Tribal agencies not subject to state law may opt to participate in data sharing. 29 agencies	Not Authorized State agencies whose officers are specifically not authorized to use force. 2 agencies	Not Applicable Agencies that are strictly administrative, inactive, or have been dissolved. 13 agencies

Data Shared with WADEPS

Agencies share two types of data with WADEPS:

- Reportable use-of-force data for specific types of force identified in Chapter 10.118 RCW.
- Limited incident-based computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data for all police-community contacts (also known as “calls for service”).

Together, these two data types enable WADEPS to calculate an activity-based **Rate of Force** for required agencies and for the state overall. The formula is the number of reportable use-of-force incidents divided by the number of community engagements.

Compliance with the Law

WADEPS processes help reduce duplicative data entry work and provide flexibility for implementation. However, agencies of all sizes across the state face practical constraints in reporting one or both types of data, including changes in leadership and/or software vendors, limited IT resources and/or staffing, and other organizational complexities.

The WADEPS Reporting Tool opened for data submissions on September 2, 2025. As of June 30, 2026, agencies across the state had collectively submitted:

1,480	3,712,969
Reportable Use-of-Force Incidents	Police-Community Contacts

2026 Use of Force Reporting Status by Month

Over the first six months of 2026: 78.06% of required and force-only agencies regularly shared reportable use-of-force data with WADEPS and 67.54% of required agencies regularly shared CAD data with WADEPS.

Reporting Status	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Reporting Force	23.4%	21.1%	22.5%	20.2%	24.8%	24.8%
No Reportable Force	62.8%	61.5%	56.4%	53.7%	53.2%	45.3%
Not Reporting	13.8%	17.4%	21.1%	26.1%	22.0%	29.4%

Resources and Ongoing Outreach

WADEPS is committed to providing agencies with the resources and information they need to be successful in meeting data sharing requirements.

- **On-demand training courses** about reportable uses of force and the WADEPS Reporting Tool are available to commissioned officers through the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) and on the website for professional staff.
- **On-demand email-based technical support** through the wadeeps.org website and the agency Reporting Tool (see page 7 for details).
- **Twice-weekly drop-in technical support sessions** via Zoom where agency officers and staff can receive live assistance on any aspect of the WADEPS program (see page 7 for details).
- **Ongoing email communications** provide agencies with updates on the public dashboards and Reporting Tool features. Monthly reminders reinforce answers to common questions about incident data, reportable types of force, CAD reporting options, access to the Reporting Tool, and, most importantly, the twice-weekly support sessions. In the first six months of 2026, WADEPS sent seven emails to agency points of contact, including Reporting Tool administrators, totaling more than 600 individuals. Open rates averaged just above 50% and click-per-open rates at nearly 20%. It's important to note recipients can view the email content without activating the tracking pixel included by the email software.
- **Individual email and phone call outreach** efforts were made by WADEPS and the Office of the Attorney General in January and June to reach and provide assistance to agencies who had not yet provided any data or whose reporting was sporadic.

Public Dashboard

The public dashboard, available at wadeeps.org, provides access to reportable use-of-force data to agency personnel as well as the general public. During the first half of 2026, incremental modifications to the data visualizations improved the user experience and general understanding of the circumstances surrounding reportable uses of force and agency data sharing. Dashboard tabs include Who is Reporting, Rate of Force, What Happened, Who Was Affected, Who Used Force, and Administrative Outcomes.

In May, two new tabs were added: Agency Workforce, featuring staffing and operations data that provides context for officer activity and resources, and Agency Comparison, which offers users the ability to compare up to four agencies and the state averages across multiple categories.

Website traffic to the dashboards remained modest, as expected during this “soft launch” period and prior to broad public announcement: more than 10,600 page views from approximately 1,620 users, with an average session time of greater than 3:00 minutes.

Comprehensive Technical Support

From the very beginning of required reporting, WADEPS has provided a range of technical and customer support to participating agencies. Our approach focuses on ensuring agencies have the resources and assistance they need to fulfill their obligation of sharing accurate and timely data with WADEPS.

The WADEPS multi-channel model fosters ongoing communication and collaboration, and helps develop strong engagement across law enforcement organizations.

Consistent Opportunities: Live and On-Demand

WADEPS maintains a regular cadence of technical assistance through twice-weekly, virtually hosted support sessions with multiple team members available to answer any question an agency might have.

Between January 1 and June 30, 2026, WADEPS hosted 52 drop-in sessions, giving agencies regularly scheduled opportunities to receive guidance, ask questions, and address technical challenges. Information about the sessions is included in all email communications to agency contacts and Reporting Tool administrators.

Agencies can also request one-to-one live support, virtually or by phone, at a mutually convenient time.



Email-based Support

Agency officers and staff members can request email-based support or information through the public "Contact Us" form on the wadeeps.org website. Each submission creates a customer service ticket that is assigned to a WADEPS team member. Our service goal is to resolve issues within three business days (24 work hours).

Authentication and MFA-related issues are the dominant type of support requested, accounting for almost 3 out of every 10 tickets, followed by Reporting Tool permission management and CAD upload problems. Together, these three categories represent more than 54% of all submitted tickets.

Through ongoing communication and responsive support services, WADEPS continues to strengthen partnerships with law enforcement agencies and improve reliable assistance across Washington.

Technical Support Statistics

Metric	Result
Tickets Received	295
Average Time to Resolution	26.75 hours
Resolution Goal Achieved	85.2%

Rank	Topic	Percent
1	Login/Authentication	28.8%
2	User Access & Permissions	13.6%
3	CAD Upload/Validation Errors	11.9%
4	Dashboard & Reporting Status	10.2%
5	WADEPS Reporting Questions	9.5%



Data Exchange Constraints

Built on the foundation of transparency, WADEPS is the most comprehensive reporting system of any state in the nation. True transparency, however, requires more than just publishing numbers; it requires being upfront about what the system can and cannot do. Understanding the structural boundaries of WADEPS is essential to setting realistic expectations for how to interpret and use the data in this early stage.

The primary limitation of WADEPS today is its maturity. Reporting began in September 2025, so the system currently contains less than a full year's worth of data. For statistical analysis to provide meaningful insights, we need both a longer historical window and absolute confidence the reported data is accurate. Practically speaking, we need time to observe seasonal variations, account for shifts in supervision for officer compliance with reporting, and allow the reporting habits of hundreds of individual agencies to normalize. We also need time to refine the data itself; our first audit identified inconsistent reporting that we are actively resolving (see page 9).

This report provides a first look at baseline data for reportable uses of force, rather than longitudinal trends. Statistical analysis and comparisons must wait until the system is fully stabilized to avoid flawed insights which could lead to bad policy.

The data exchange also has inherent structural limitations. For the data to be useful, reporting must be standardized across hundreds of distinct law enforcement agencies, which forces complex police-community interactions into predefined categories and checkboxes. Standardization requires ongoing training to overcome unique challenges in capturing nuanced details, such as a subject's injury.



The WADEPS database is highly effective at answering the **who, what, when, and where of an incident and is uniquely capable of providing the operational why by pairing force data with calls for service.** However, the database cannot capture the full context of a use-of-force encounter. It cannot measure the tone of a conversation leading up to an incident. It cannot quantify the exact spatial dynamics of a scene, the split-second situational awareness of the officers involved, or the historical relationship between an officer and a community member. We have already heard from many stakeholders who would like to see additional data collected. As the system stabilizes, we will pursue opportunities to expand data collection (see page 29).

Currently, WADEPS is firmly in the data-gathering phase. We recognize the eagerness among researchers, policymakers, and community advocates to see, or perhaps conduct their own, comparative statistical analyses as soon as possible, however we ask for restraint. By respecting what the data cannot support right now, we are protecting its integrity and the credibility of insights provided in the future.



Data Auditing

To ensure data integrity and identify areas for improvement in data sharing, the WADEPS team regularly audits reportable use-of-force data. Each audit includes two parts: 1) flagging records that do not meet the reporting requirements and 2) flagging record inconsistencies. The audit results identify potential data entry errors. Agencies can then review each flagged record and correct or retract the data through a new "Recalled Records" function in the WADEPS Reporting Tool.

The first audit included all records submitted to WADEPS from September 2025 to June 2026, and focused on two notable areas of potential reporting issues: incorrectly reported "other" uses of force and duplicate incident reporting.

"Force Other" Data

The audit revealed high reporting of "other" uses of force and more than 500 records submitted by 58 agencies that needed review. (See page 18 for the list of reportable types of force.)

The explanatory text provided with the "force_other" field most commonly included types of force not reportable to WADEPS, such as:

- Takedowns, control holds, grab/holds, hands on, and control techniques,
- Soft empty hands,
- Vehicle grapples,
- Pointing an Electronic Control Weapon (ECW),
- Handcuffing,
- Wrap devices,
- Using "other" to indicate a "witness officer" who did not apply force.

The audit also revealed instances where a reportable use of force (one of the 10 specified in the law) was incorrectly reported in the "force_other" field.

Examples include:

- ECW deployment,
- 40mm deployment (less-lethal discharge),
- Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuvers (vehicle),
- Duplication of reportable force types in the same record.

Duplicate Records

Duplicated records were less common. The audit identified 61 records submitted by 7 agencies with all or nearly all fields replicated and another 66 records submitted by 20 agencies with duplicated incident IDs, but incident dates that were weeks or months apart.

Next Steps

Additional audits are planned for 2026, including

- Duplicate incident IDs,
- Records that report "point" along with less-lethal discharge, ECW, or chemical,
- Time-to-Force mismatch with Time-to-Force BWC (body-worn camera),
- Injury Reporting.

WADEPS is also developing enhancements to the Reporting Tool that will help reduce some of these common issues.



Statewide Police Activity

The Washington Data Exchange for Public Safety is the first state system to collect and standardize statewide police activity using computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data to measure calls for service (CFS).

Agencies provide monthly year-to-date CFS data to WADEPS, ensuring the data exchange mirrors agency records. When reporting began in September 2025, agencies provided CFS data for January 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025.

Reporting agencies have shared over 6.6 million CFS records spanning the 18 months from January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, a volume unlike any other publicly accessible policing data set. For the first time, Washington residents can see what law enforcement officers do daily, and they can see it within 30 days rather than waiting 12 to 18 months for agency-produced annual reports.

Calls for Service

Computer-aided dispatch (CAD) refers to both the process and the system most law enforcement agencies use to respond to calls for service effectively and efficiently. Data is created whenever an officer is dispatched, regardless of whether it's a 9-1-1 call, an officer-initiated action, or a planned activity.

When a dispatch center (known as a Public Safety Answering Point or PSAP) receives a request, the CAD software automatically records details: time, location, reason for the call, and which agency responded (PSAPs often provide dispatch services for multiple agencies). This technology produces a digital log of police activities, recording the nature and frequency of interactions between officers and the public.

The Standardization Process

While the CAD process is common, the resulting CAD data is not standardized across PSAPs, making comparison and evaluation across agencies extremely difficult. To make the data meaningful, WADEPS developed a classification system to standardize data across all participating agencies.

The challenge: 78 PSAP partnership groups operate in Washington. Each is an independent organization whose dispatch codes, event types, and incident labels have no inherent connection to other PSAPs.

The approach: WADEPS collected call-type documents from participating PSAPs and agencies and completed a two-phase mapping process to align CAD data with incident types and incident details used in the reportable use-of-force data.

Incident Type: The overall nature of the activity.

Incident Detail: The specific circumstances of the activity

Phase 1: Partnership Mapping

WADEPS requested CAD call label codes and descriptions from all PSAPs and agencies. WADEPS team members reviewed each document and, based on the call description, mapped each CAD dispatch code to one of the eight incident types and 29 incident detail values in the WADEPS Data Dictionary.

These classifications are assigned in pairs, resulting in 32 unique mapping possibilities. A chart on the next page shows the distribution of event codes across the incident types defined by the AGO's Law Enforcement Data Collection Advisory Group.

After mapping, WADEPS returned each document to the agency representative for line-by-line validation and feedback. Final agency-level assignments defaulted to the agency's requested classification.

More than 60 organizations submitted call-type documents. Some belonged to the same PSAP partnership group, allowing WADEPS to compare agency-selected classifications within the partnership. When validated assignments from different agencies conflicted at the PSAP level, WADEPS reviewed and provided a recommendation.

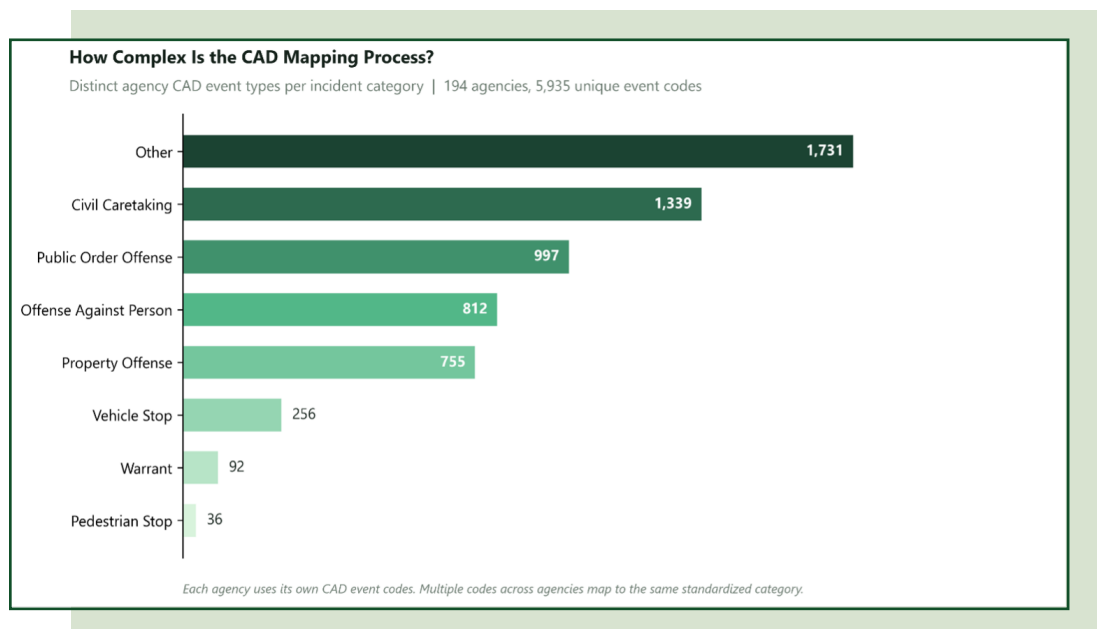
Phase 2: Statewide Standardization

The second phase standardized call types across all participating PSAPs statewide. WADEPS compiled all validated call code information into a single file, sorted by incident type, incident detail,

and descriptive keywords. The team identified groups of codes with shared characteristics and required all codes within a group to use the same mapping assignment. Where PSAP-level mappings disagreed, the majority preference decided the final classification.

The Result

WADEPS reviewed more than 60,000 call codes and categorized them into one of the 32 predefined reportable use-of-force classifications established by the AGO's Law Enforcement Data Collection Advisory Group.



Incident Types and Associated Incident Details

Response Type	Crime Control		Order Maintenance			Public Service		Other
Incident Type 1.9a	Offense Against Person	Property Offense	Public Order Offense	Vehicle Stop	Pedestrian Stop	Civil Caretaking	Warrant	Other
Incident Detail 1.9b	Assault	Arson	Public disturbance	DUI	NONE	Mental health / wellness check	NONE	NONE
	Homicide	Burglary	Drug related	Accident		Civil infraction		
	Rape	Theft	Sex related	Moving violation		Eviction order enforcement		
	Robbery	Mischief	Weapon related	Non-moving violation		Domestic order enforcement		
	Civil order violation	Trespassing	Transit related	Vehicle Stop - Other		Civil Caretaking - Other		
	Offense Against Person - Other	Vehicle theft/prowl Property Offense - Other	Public Order Offense - Other					

This work produced the first state system to collect, classify, and report CFS data, and the first to use standardized data which enables more nuanced interpretation and analysis, promoting an apples-to-apples evaluation.

Using information collected from participating PSAPs and agencies, WADEPS has implemented the standardized system for 74% (222) of the 301 agencies identified in Washington state.

Of the 218 agencies required to report force to WADEPS, 211 must report CAD data, and 76.8% of those agencies are currently in compliance. Forty-nine agencies have not completed the mapping process (see chart on next page). WADEPS will continue the process until every agency required to submit CAD data has been mapped, validated, and standardized.

What the Data Shows

Results from reporting agencies demonstrate the wide variety of interactions police have in their communities. While interactions categorized as ‘other’ make up about one-quarter of the interactions between January 2025 and July 2026, more than 20% were classified as civil caretaking, closely followed by vehicle stops and public order offenses (see chart below and on the next page).

As more agencies complete the mapping process, the volume of uncategorized records will decrease, providing a more accurate account for the nature of police interactions. And with improved categorizations comes the opportunity to better understand how frequency and the

nature of interactions shape the use of force. In late 2026, WADEPS will release a new dashboard allowing users to examine the calls for service data, with a data brief scheduled for publication in early 2027 highlighting the trends and patterns among reporting agencies.

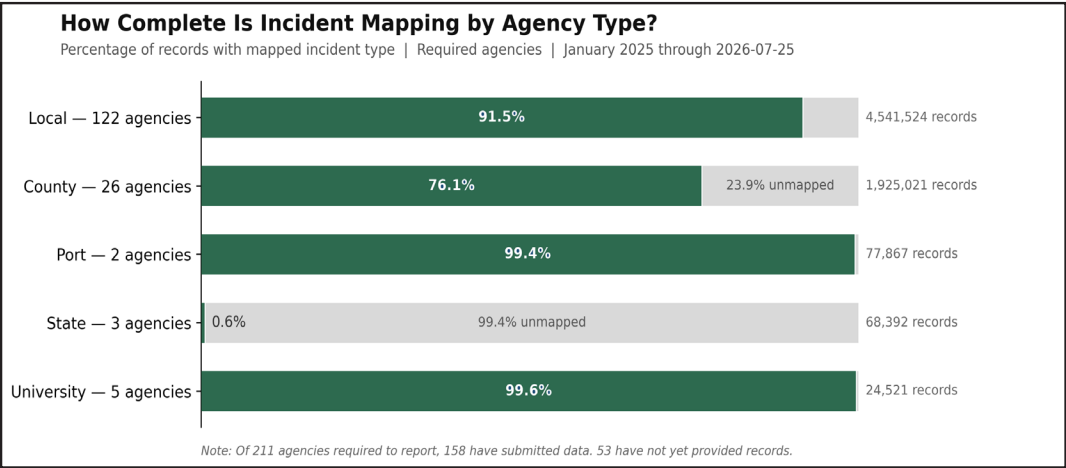
Known Limitation

The current 32-category system sometimes forces agencies to use catch-all labels like "Civil Caretaking" or details ending in "Other." These categories prevent data loss but tell the public very little about what occurred. Proposed ways to address this requires authorization to amend the AGO Advisory Group recommendations:

- Expanding the classification system to offer more combinations of incident type and detail.
- Developing a code-based system with custom mappings tailored to incoming data and the agencies submitting it.

Summary

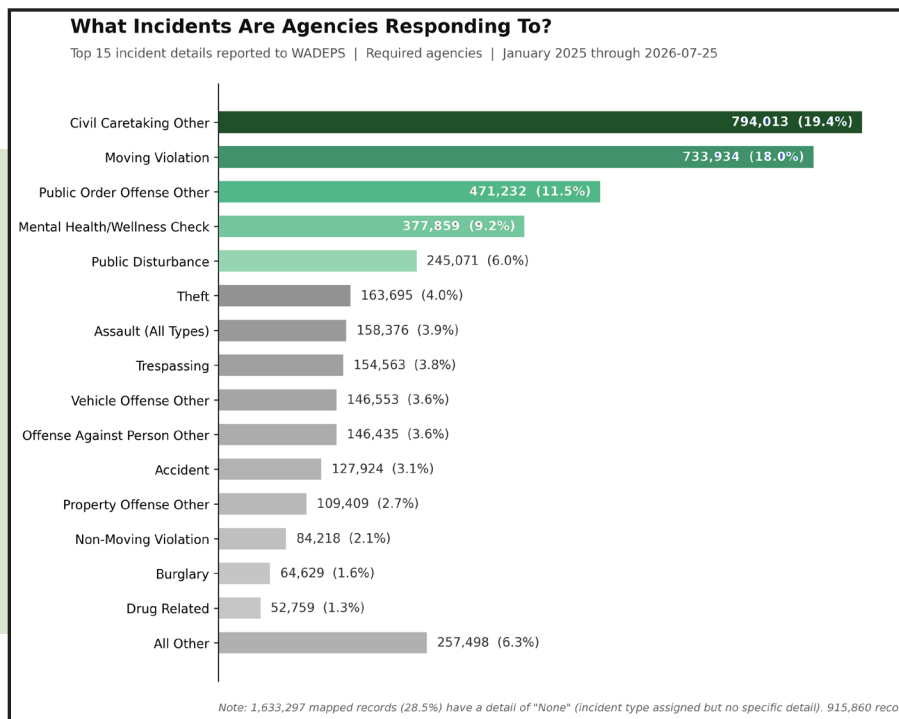
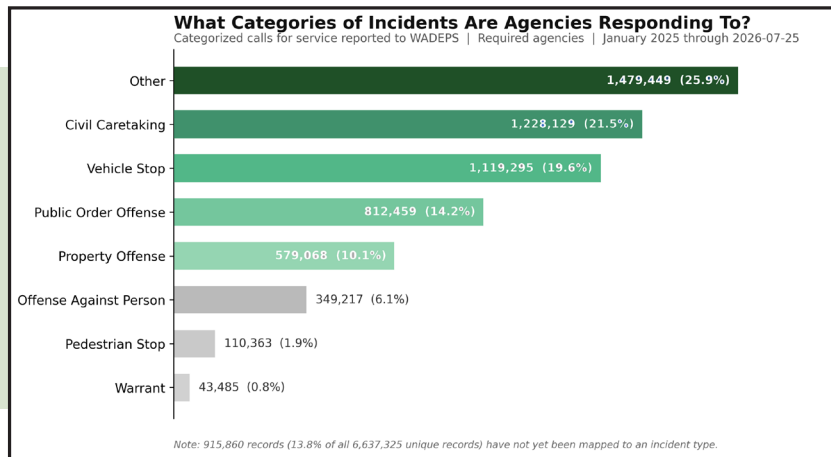
CAD-generated CFS data is unlike any other publicly available source of police data. It is official internal data produced by well-tested technology relied on by most law enforcement agencies. The records are generated automatically, and every incident is documented regardless of its nature, events, or outcomes. An agency representative has verified every call code included in the data and its mapping classification. Collecting and maintaining the data does not require additional agency resources, meaning it is less affected by officer memory, staffing limitations, or organizational culture, thereby limiting error



and bias. As a result, CFS data provides a more complete, accurate, and unbiased picture of day-to-day police activity than any other available source.

Washington is the first state in the nation to publish police calls-for-service data to the public. WADEPS built this system through collaboration with law enforcement agencies and dispatch centers statewide.

As the remaining agencies complete the mapping process, coverage will grow, and the public will gain a more complete picture of policing activity across the state. This open resource serves researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and community members seeking to understand law enforcement activity in near real time.



Reportable Use of Force

Interpreting Use of Force

Reportable use-of-force data is complex. One use-of-force incident can involve multiple people (officers and/or subjects), each with different outcomes, and/or may occur across multiple locations.

For example, if three officers respond to a call for service and each applies reportable force against the same person, that is one reportable use-of-force *incident* with three reportable use-of-force *records*.

Important WADEPS Definitions

Reportable Use of Force

One of the types of force specified in Chapter 10.118 RCW.

Use-of-Force Incident

An event or situation requiring or requesting police assistance during which reportable force was used; can involve multiple officers, multiple subjects, and/or multiple uses of force.

Use of Force Record

A reportable use-of-force interaction between one officer and one subject during one incident.

Further complexity is added when examining subject-level or officer-level data. For example, when examining the demographics of subjects involved across all incidents, the one person in the example above would appear three different times, which would produce inaccurate results. For that reason, *records* are considered ‘nested’ within *incidents*.

Additionally, the data audit revealed instances of conflicting data for use-of-force incidents with multiple use-of-force records. For example, multiple records of reportable force on the same subject in the same incident but with different incident contact reasons, different subject resistance, and/or different threat assessments. When a conflict exists, WADEPS retains the first-reported value while we work with agencies to address such inconsistencies.

Levels of Granularity

In this report, different levels of analysis were used in the data stories around reportable use of force.

Record Level: Includes all reportable use-of-force records received. This level is used to investigate things like how often reportable uses of force occur, how they are reviewed, and the administrative outcomes.

Incident Level: Includes unique incidents, regardless of the number of officers or subjects involved. This level is used to investigate reasons for contact, the location of force events, and arrests.

Subject Level: Includes unique subjects in unique incidents to ensure that individuals are properly counted in the data if they appear in multiple records associated with the same incident. This level is used to examine subject-level demographics, including age, gender, and verified race or ethnicity, and subject impairment.

Officer Level: Includes unique officers who used force. This level is used to investigate officer demographics that are unlikely to change over time, including race or ethnicity and gender.

Officer-Incident Level: Includes unique officers in unique incidents to ensure that an officer is properly counted in our calculations if they appear across multiple incidents. For example, if Officer A is included in use-of-force records for three separate incidents, they are counted three times when investigating variables such as officer injury and type of force applied.

Baseline Analysis for Reportable Use of Force

The data stories presented below are a snapshot of reportable force across the state of Washington between September 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. Together, they provide a baseline for who, what, when, where, and why force is used, which will evolve as the audit progresses and as compliance increases. WADEPS collects contextual data that is not discussed here; visit the public dashboard at wadeeps.org to explore all available data.

Reason for Contact

Across 1,480 incidents and 1,980 records, most contacts occurred because of public requests for service. The second most prevalent contact category was officer-initiated, followed by an agency request for service, and, lastly, planned activities. A small percentage of incidents were submitted with invalid reasons (2.77%), which the audit process is working to correct.

Use-of-Force Incident Contact Reason

<i>Reason for Contact</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent of Unique Incidents</i>
Public Request for Service	792	53.51%
Officer- or Unit-Initiated	388	26.22%
Agency Request for Service	193	13.04%
Planned Activity	66	4.46%

Incident Type

Most incidents were classified as offenses against persons (30%), with property offenses (20%) and vehicle stops (16%) the next most common. Pedestrian stops were the least common incident type (1%).

Records submitted to WADEPS can contain multiple incident types. In this data, 304 incidents (20.54%) contain multiple incident types.

Use-of-Force Incident Type

<i>Incident Type</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent of Incidents</i>
Offense Against Person	457	30.88%
Multiple Incident Types	304	20.54%
Property Offense	248	16.76%
Vehicle Stop	177	11.96%
Warrant	107	7.23%
Public Order Offense	89	6.01%
Civil Caretaking	47	3.18%
Other	36	2.43%
Pedestrian Stop	15	1.01%

Individuals Involved

Subject Demographics

Of the 1,588 unique subjects involved in reportable uses of force, the majority were identified by the officer and verified as white (39.99%), male (86.84%), and between 35 and 44 years old (31.23%). Thirty-eight records did not include a valid subject age value.

Data Quality Note: Approximately 21% of the reportable use-of-force records listed the verified race of the subject as “unknown”.

Subject Impairment

Officers perceived most subjects (approximately 75%) as experiencing some level of impairment, such as alcohol use, drug use, or altered mental health status. Approximately 1 in 10 subjects were perceived to be experiencing multiple impairments at the time of the reportable force.

Demographics of Subjects Involved

<i>Verified Subject Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent of Unique Subjects</i>
White	635	39.99
Unknown	332	20.91
Black or African American	253	15.93
Hispanic or Latino	203	12.78
Multiple Races/Ethnicities	90	5.67
American Indian or Alaska Native	29	1.83
Asian	25	1.57
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	18	1.13
Middle Eastern or North African	3	0.19

Officer Demographics

Of the 1,304 unique officers who engaged in reportable uses of force, most self-identified as white (45.4%) and male (92.33%).

Data Quality Note: Officer race and ethnicity is mirrored from official CJTC officer profiles: 24.4% of officer records do not include race/ethnicity information and 15% of officers selected “No Response.”

Reason for Use of Force

Subject Armed

Of the 634 (39.2%) unique subjects recorded as being armed, a conventional firearm was the most common type of weapon (39.59% of incidents), closely followed by an edged object (24.61%). Blunt objects, multiple weapon types, and vehicles were the next three most common types.

Data Quality Note: 17.19% of subjects were reported as armed, but a weapon type was not selected in the use-of-force record.

Subject Weapons

<i>Subject Type of Weapon</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Firearm	251	39.59
Edged Object	156	24.61
Blunt Object	50	7.89
Multiple Weapon Types	42	6.62
Vehicle	11	1.74
Projectile	7	1.1
Chemical Explosive	5	0.79
ECW	3	0.47
No Weapon Reported	109	17.19

Subject Threat

A subject may be deemed a threat to themselves, others, and/or officers.

Threat to others: Out of the 1,588 unique subjects involved in a reportable use-of-force incident, 902 (56.8%) did not involve a threat to others. Of those perceived as a threat to others, the majority were recorded as assault, use or display of a deadly weapon, and threatening posture and/or furtive movements.

Threat to officers: 57.75% of subjects were identified as a threat to the officer, with the most common threats recorded as threatening posture and/or furtive movements. Assault was the second most common recorded threat, closely followed by use or display of a deadly weapon.

Subject Threat

<i>Type of Subject Threat</i>	<i>Threat to Officer*</i>	<i>Threat to Others</i>	<i>Threat to Self</i>
Verbal Threat	4.16%	4.85%	--
Threatening Posture and/or Furtive Movements	29.72%	10.33%	--
Assault	11.34%	14.61%	--
Use or Display of a Less-Lethal Weapon	2.27%	1.2%	--
Use or Display of a Deadly Weapon	10.2%	12.2%	--
Non-Conforming	0.1%	--	--
Verbal Threat of Self-Harm	--	--	4.09%
Self-Harm or Attempted Self-Harm	--	--	4.22%
None	42.2%	56.8%	91.69%
Percent Total	100%	100%	100%

* An additional single incident (0.1%) with a threat to officers involved a non-conforming subject. However, it was outside of the official categories and therefore not included.

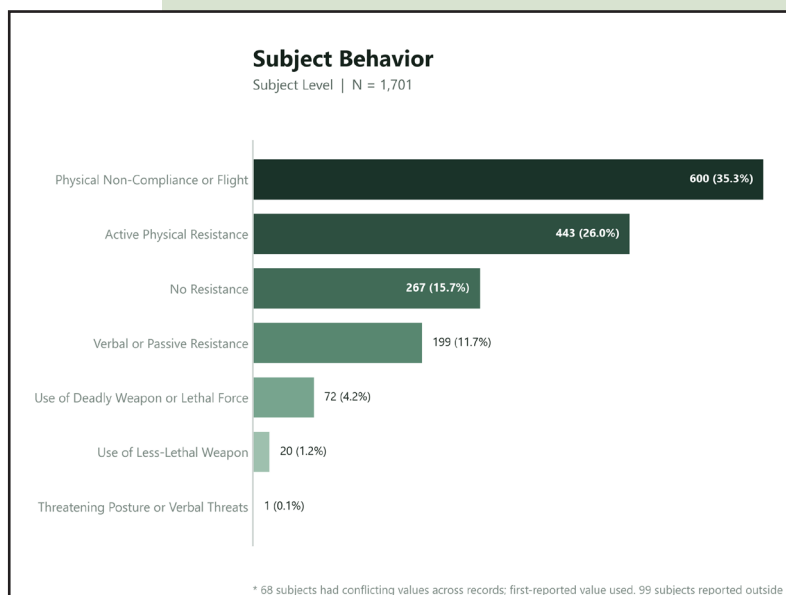
Threat to self: While the majority of subjects were not recorded as a threat to self (91.69%), of those who were, self-harm or attempted self-harm and verbal threat of self-harm both occurred at a rate of approximately 4%.

Subject Resistance

Of the 1,588 unique subjects involved in a reportable use-of-force:

- 35.7% (slightly more than one-third) engaged in physical non-compliance or flight before the use of force occurred;
- 24.8% (nearly one quarter) were recorded as actively resisting physically;
- 16.2% were recorded as providing no resistance prior to the reportable use of force.

Subjects engaged in civil disobedience in approximately 2% of reportable uses of force. Civil disobedience for WADEPS is categorized as a form of nonviolent resistance to commands issued by a police officer.



Calculating the Force Factor

The proportionality of police use of force is a fundamental human rights concern emphasized by the United Nations in several international law enforcement standards and guidelines. In the United States, proportionality is central to the constitutional framework for assessing the reasonableness of police use of force under the Fourth Amendment. In brief, police use of force must be proportional to the threat to the government's interest in apprehending a subject for law enforcement, order maintenance, or officer or civilian safety.

In *Graham v. Connor*, the U.S. Supreme Court identified the severity of the crime, the immediate threat to officers or others, and the subject's active resistance or attempts to evade or flee as important, though not exhaustive, considerations in identifying governmental interests in apprehension and in justifying the use of force. These are often called the Graham factors.¹

To assess force relative to subject resistance, the Force Factor² is a useful tool. A scale of 1 to 7 is

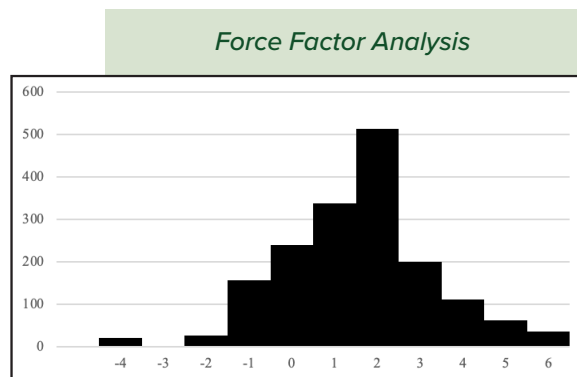
1. Washington established standards for use of force in Chapter 10.120 RCW that are more restrictive than *Graham*. Accordingly, just because a score may be considered reasonable and aligned, it does not automatically mean the use of force was permissible.

2. Stoughton, S., Noble, J. & Alpert, G. (2020). *Evaluating Police Uses of Force*. New York, NY: New York University Press. Importantly, these authors also offer a reconceptualization of threat as a combination of the subject's ability, opportunity, and intent to cause harm.

assigned to categories of subject resistance and officer force (see table on next page).

A Force Factor score is then calculated for each reportable use of force by subtracting the subject resistance score from the officer force score. For instance, if an officer grabbed and held a subject (level 4) when the subject displayed threatening posture (level 3), the score would be +1, meaning the force used was one level higher than the resistance.

The chart below shows the WADEPS Force Factor results with 64.1% of reportable uses of force scoring between 0 and 2.



Force Factor Scale and Definitions

SUBJECT		OFFICER	
Resistance Level	Resistance Types	Force Level	Force Types
7	Use or display of a deadly weapon or lethal force: use or attempt to use firearms, knives, physical strikes to head, vehicular assault	7	Firearm discharge, vehicle as force, neck
6	Use of a less-lethal weapon: strikes using blunt objects, throwing objects, using an ECW, and other less-lethal weapons	6	ECW, chemical spray, pepperball, less-lethal projectile, impact weapons, canine deployment
5	Active physical resistance: strikes with fists, elbows, knees, kicking, and spitting	5	Physical strike, hard takedown, leg sweep, hard empty hands
4	Physical non-compliance or flight: physical evasion, pulling away from the officer, tucking arms to prevent handcuffing, and running or attempting to flee	4	Grab/hold, push/pull, armbar, counter joint, counter hold, restraint strap, wrap, soft empty hands, soft takedown
3	Threatening posture, verbal threats: fighting stances, verbal threats of assault	3	Firearm or ECW point only
2	Verbal resistance or passive resistance: going limp, sitting down, refusing to move without threatening actions	2	Verbal commands
1	No resistance	1	None, presence, verbal exchange

Reportable Types of Force

Within the 1,480 unique incidents, the use of an electronic control weapon (ECW) was the most reported force type, with 326 deployments (22%), followed by 298 incidents (20.1%) involving multiple applications of force against unique subjects, and then by pointing (20.1%) and physical strikes (13.6%). A firearm was discharged in only 10 incidents (0.7%). See the chart on the next page.

Data Quality Note: Per the RCW and Advisory Board requirements, "point" refers only to a conventional firearm. We have identified inconsistent reporting in some records that appear to conflate "point" with an ECW rather than a firearm, and we are reaching out to agencies to validate the information.

Force Types Specified in Chapter 10.118 RCW

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 if an injury is involved OR use of a hybrid pepper ball at or in the direction of a person.

Subject and Officer Injuries

Of the 1,588 unique subjects involved in a reportable use-of-force incident, the majority (61.9%) were recorded as experiencing no injury. The most common injury was minor injury, identified as cuts or bruises, with nearly a quarter of subjects recorded with this level of injury.

Similarly, of the 1,926 unique officers involved in a reportable use-of-force incident, 91.7% were recorded as having no injury, and 7.1% were recorded as experiencing minor injury.

Data Quality Note: WADEPS has identified inconsistent injury reporting and will work with agencies to correct records containing incorrect injury data.

Incident Outcomes

Of the 1,588 unique subjects involved in a reportable use of force, the vast majority were arrested (88.54%). Of those arrested, 17.82% included a domestic violence enhancement. Subjects who were neither arrested nor detained accounted for 6.86%, and the remainder resulted in civil detention (4.6%).

Administrative Outcomes

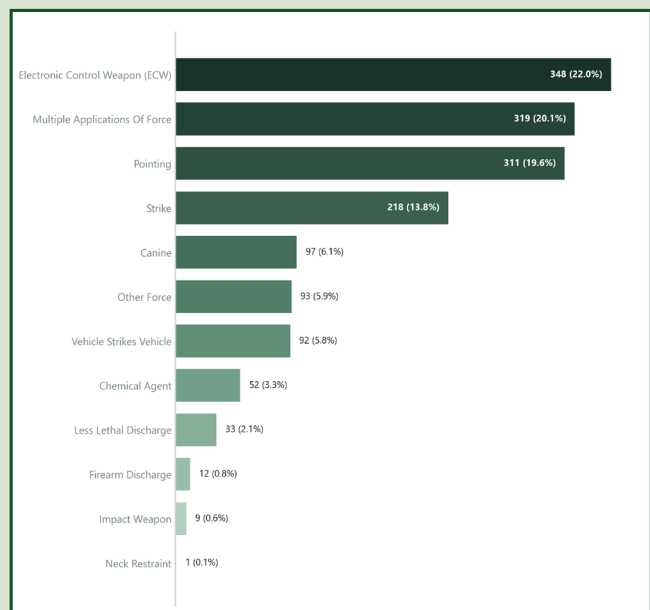
Washington is one of the few states that publishes administrative data associated with each reportable use of force. This administrative data includes whether a review was necessary, and if so, the type of review, who conducted the review, whether the reportable force was within policy or a policy violation, and the action taken, which might include a change in assignment, additional training, formal reprimand, and/or up to termination. In circumstances where an internal or external investigation occurs, the data includes whether the outcome resulted in the officer being exonerated, sustained, or not sustained.

Agencies have 30 days from the date the administrative review is completed to report the determination to WADEPS.

Review Status

Of the 1,980 reportable use-of-force records, 659 (33.3%) required no further review, 851 (56.4%) were referred for review, and 470 (23.7%) have no review status recorded and remain pending.

Reportable Uses of Force per Incident



Reportable Use of Force Outcomes

Incident Outcome	Count	Percent of Subjects
Arrested	1406	88.54%
No arrest or detention	109	6.86%
Civil detention	73	4.6%
Subjects marked with DV enhancement	283	17.82%

Reportable Use of Force Reviews

Review Type	Count
Administrative Review	716
Internal Investigation	65
External Investigation	1

Data Quality Note: 69 records referred for review are missing a selected review type. WADEPS is working with impacted agencies to update the records.

Among the 851 records referred for review, the following review types were initiated, with two records undergoing more than one review:

Administrative Review: Of the 716 records that underwent an administrative review, 91.3% were evaluated as within policy, with 2% of reportable force applications deemed a policy violation. 6.7% of administrative outcomes are awaiting determination.

Internal Investigation: Of the 65 records that underwent an internal investigation, 92.3% of officers were exonerated, with 7.7% sustained. Across this reporting period, no internal investigations resulted in a "not sustained" determination.

External Investigation: One record underwent an external investigation during this period. The result was exonerated.

Investigative Entity

Of the 1,604 records with investigative entity information reported, 11 (0.7%) were referred to the Office of Independent Investigations.

Actions Taken

Among the 780 records that completed at least one review type (administrative, internal, or external), most required no administrative action (87.6%). The bottom table to the right summarizes administrative outcomes.

Days to Complete a Review

A unique feature of the data collected by WADEPS is the ability to calculate, for the first time statewide, the time to complete an administrative review. For the reportable use-of-force records with valid dates entered, the top two tables to the right show the average number of days to complete an administrative review and to complete an internal investigation.

Reportable Use of Force Review Findings

Administrative Review Outcome	Average Days	Range (days)	Count (N=710)
Within Policy	10.9	0–117	649
Policy Violation	39.4	0–214	14
Pending/Unknown	2.3	0–27	47

Internal Investigation Result	Average Days	Range (days)	Count (N= 65)
Sustained	61.8	0–137	5
WADEPS Audit *	0.0	0.0	60

Action	Count	Percent of Incidents
No Action Taken	683	87.6%
Mandatory Training	32	4.1%
Formal Reprimand	5	0.6%
Multiple Outcomes	3	0.4%
Not Recorded	57	7.3%

** Data Quality Note:* WADEPS identified reporting inconsistencies in the administrative data and will address these with agencies. For example, 60 internal investigation records marked as exonerated all share the exact same start and end date, producing an average duration of 0.0 days. WADEPS is working to confirm these values.



Comparing Peer Agencies

The Challenge of Simple Comparisons

When evaluating a police department, a common first impulse is to compare it to agencies serving similar sized populations. It seems reasonable: a city of 50,000 people should be comparable to other cities of 50,000 people. But in practice, population size captures almost nothing about what actually shapes an agency's day-to-day work.

Consider two municipal police departments in Washington with similar populations: the Kennewick Police Department and the Kirkland Police Department. Both are city agencies. Both employ roughly the same number of officers (96 and 99, respectively). A simple size-based comparison would treat them as natural peers. But their day-to-day realities have almost nothing in common.

Kennewick is the largest of the sprawling Tri-Cities in arid south-central Washington. According to 2023 sworn officer data from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), Kennewick handles more than 8,700 calls for service a month (e.g., traffic enforcement, violent crime incidents, property calls, and mental health-related responses), including approximately 200 violent incident calls per month.

Kirkland, one of several compact and conjoined affluent suburbs to the east of Seattle, handles approximately 3,500 calls a month, with around 124 violent incident calls per month. Officer for officer, the demands placed on these two agencies are categorically different.

WADEPS identified 301 law enforcement agencies in Washington. They range from single-officer rural departments to police forces with upwards of a thousand sworn officers. Some departments contract to provide services to other communities, and some are staffed part-time. Comparing them using officer count or population size alone produces rankings that are not only unhelpful; they can actively mislead policymakers and communities.

Agency Comparison	
Kennewick Police Department	
Municipal City PD - Urban	
Officers (2023):	96
Avg. calls per month:	8,703
Coverage:	Urban core
Violent calls 1 month:	-200
Traffic calls:	16%
Mental Health Related Calls:	11%
Kirkland Police Department	
Municipal City PD - Urban	
Officers (2023):	99
Avg. calls per month:	3,498
Coverage:	Urban suburb
Violent calls 1 month:	-124
Traffic calls:	30%
Mental Health Related Calls:	15%

Kennewick Police Department and Kirkland Police Department, both municipal city agencies with nearly identical officer counts, face fundamentally different operational realities. Officer counts: WASPC 2023. All other data: WADEPS CAD submissions, Sep 2025–Apr 2026 (8-month average).

A Smarter Way to Compare

Making an equitable agency comparison is not a single step. It requires consideration of several layers of context at once: what type of agency it is, the environment it operates in, and the actual workload its officers face. Miss any layer, and the comparison breaks down.

WADEPS, in partnership with the Center for Interdisciplinary Statistical Education and Research (CISER) at Washington State University, has developed a framework that matches

agencies to genuinely comparable peers, based on how they actually operate, not just the number of residents they serve.

The framework considers three factors at once:

1. Who the Agency Is

Its type (municipal police department, county sheriff's office, university campus force, or tribal department) and the size of its sworn officer force.

Note: Tribal law enforcement agencies participate in WADEPS voluntarily and peer matching requires additional consideration given their unique jurisdictional context.

2. Where the Agency Operates

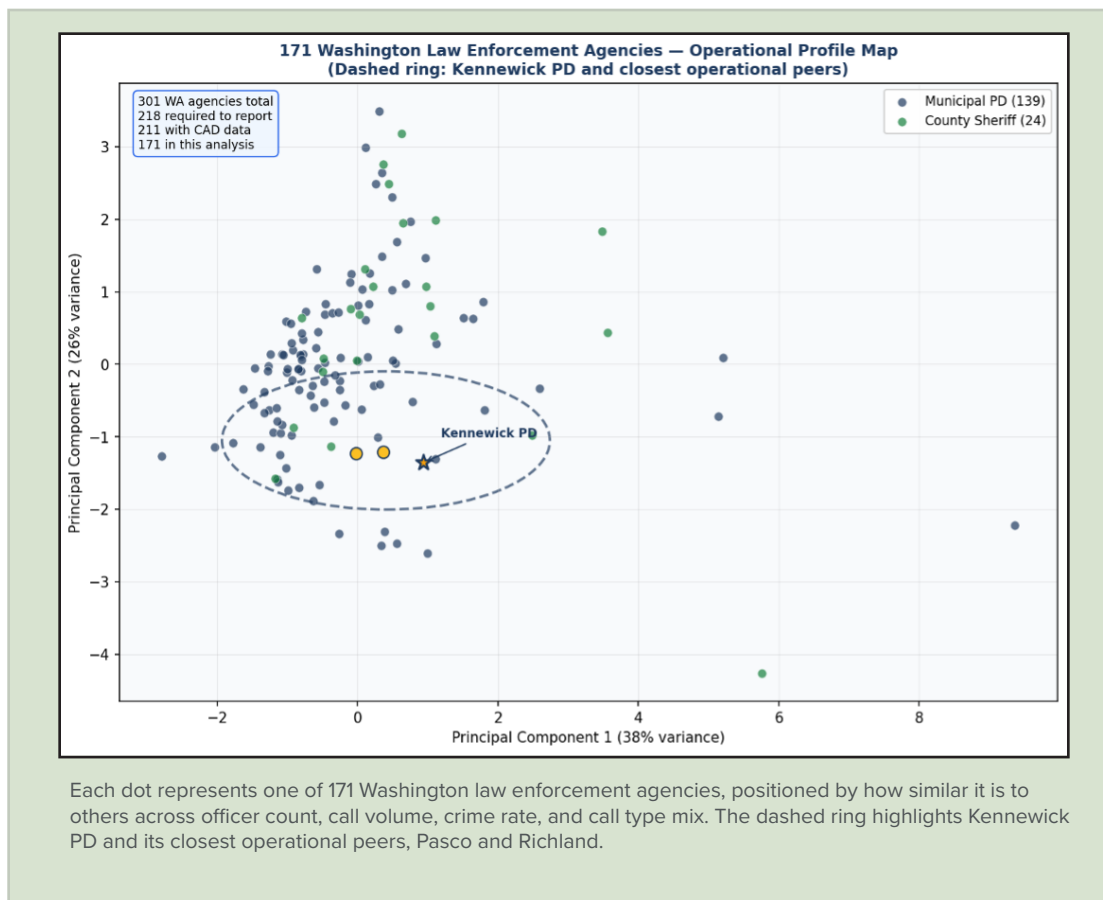
The population it serves and the broader economic and geographic context of its jurisdiction.

3. What the Agency Faces

The crime environment in its jurisdiction, the share of community resources dedicated to public safety, and the mix of calls its officers respond to.

By combining all three, WADEPS can build a complete picture of each agency's situation, then find other agencies across Washington that closely match it. The technical tool used is called Gower distance, a method for measuring how similar two agencies are across many characteristics at once, even when those characteristics include both numbers (such as officer count) and categories (such as agency type). Think of it as a similarity score: two agencies that look alike in every way score near zero; agencies that differ fundamentally score higher. The framework then maps all agencies visually; nearby agencies on the map are the most natural peers.

WADEPS identified 301 law enforcement agencies operating in the state. Of these, 218 must submit data to WADEPS under state law (see page 5 for reporting status information). Of those 218 agencies, 211 must also submit computer-aided dispatch (CAD) records, the calls for service data that allows a full operational picture to be constructed for each agency. The map below shows the 171 agencies with sufficient data across all reporting periods in the current study window.



Preliminary Results

The first version of results, produced in early 2026, demonstrates that the framework consistently identifies more meaningful peer groups than approaches based on population or officer count alone. The results were reviewed by Washington State University researchers who specialize in policing and public safety data and by professionals with first-hand knowledge of agencies facing genuinely comparable challenges.

The difference in practice is concrete. A size-based approach would group Kennewick Police Department (96 officers, 8,700 calls a month, approximately 200 violent incident calls per month) with Kirkland Police Department (99 officers, 3,500 calls a month, approximately 124 violent incident calls per month), despite their differences in call volume.

The WADEPS framework instead identifies Pasco and Richland police departments as Kennewick's closest peers: both are Tri-Cities area departments facing similar call volumes, similar crime environments, and similar distributions of call types. These are agencies that genuinely understand each other's operational reality.

Next Steps

Publishing fair agency comparisons is not simply a technical exercise; it requires trust. WADEPS is committed to allowing every agency to review its peer matches before any comparisons are made public. Agencies will be able to flag concerns and provide context.

Any deviations from established peer assignments will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and approved only where agencies meet predefined criteria; all approved deviations and their justifications will be publicly disclosed. Peer comparisons are ultimately a public accountability tool; transparency in both the methodology and any exceptions is essential.

The goal is not to produce a ranking; it is to build a comparison system that every agency, every community, and every legislator can trust.

WADEPS plans include:

- Expanding the variables used for peer identification to include call volume data from agencies now submitting CAD records;
- Conducting structured feedback sessions with agencies on their initial peer assignments;
- Developing agency-facing tools so that departments can explore their own peer groups directly through the WADEPS platform;
- Publishing peer comparisons in 2027, including peer-matching methodology, criteria for group assignments, and the basis for any approved deviations.

An Important Note about CAD Data Quality

One of the most powerful factors for comparing agencies fairly is their actual workload. Specifically, how many calls for service they handle each month. That data comes from each agency's computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, the same systems that track 911 calls and dispatch officers.

Not all agencies are currently submitting their CAD data to WADEPS. Smaller and more rural agencies are most likely to have gaps, often because their systems require additional technical setup. Without call volume data, certain comparisons become less precise.

WADEPS is actively working to close this gap through direct technical support to agencies. In the meantime, the comparable peer framework is designed to function even when CAD data is not yet available, using population and other contextual factors instead. As more agencies come online, the precision of every comparison will improve automatically.



Focus Groups and Feedback

WADEPS engaged both law enforcement and community stakeholders through presentations, focus groups, demonstrations, and discussions conducted between 2023 and 2026. Law enforcement engagement primarily occurred through partnerships with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WACOPS), and other professional meetings. Community engagement included outreach to local organizations, statewide advocacy groups, and presentations in communities including the Tri-Cities, Yakima, Spokane, Pullman, and Okanogan.

Early engagement efforts focused on introducing WADEPS, explaining its purpose, and gathering feedback on proposed data collection. As the reporting system and public dashboard became available, presentations shifted toward demonstrations of system functionality and discussions about interpretation and usability. Across all engagement activities, several consistent themes emerged. Although law enforcement and community participants often approached WADEPS from different perspectives, both groups emphasized the importance of transparency, contextual information, effective communication, and ensuring the data are useful for decision-making.

Law Enforcement

While discussions in engagement sessions have evolved, several themes remain consistent. These include the importance of contextualization, minimizing administrative burden, CAD data limitations, WADEPS communication, protections against data manipulation, and officer confidentiality.

Contextualizing Use of Force

The most common recommendation was to collect additional contextual information to better explain reportable use-of-force incidents. Participants emphasized that use-of-force rates do not tell the complete story and recommended collecting additional factors such as de-escalation efforts, subject resistance and behavior, subject criminal history and prior law enforcement contacts, and broader criminal justice outcomes. Participants believed more complete contextual data would improve public understanding while helping policymakers, the media, and communities interpret use of force more accurately.

Administrative Burden

Agency participants consistently expressed concern about additional reporting requirements, particularly because implementation represented an unfunded mandate. Agencies strongly support automation, vendor integration, and other



system improvements that will reduce duplicate data entry and minimize workload. Automation remains one of the most frequently requested enhancements.

CAD Data Limitations

Participants discussed limitations of CAD data. It was noted that initial call classifications often differ from the circumstances officers encounter and that CAD data does not capture all officer interactions with the community.

WADEPS Communication

Law enforcement participants stressed the need for ongoing communication regarding implementation timelines, reporting expectations, training, and future system updates. Feedback from early sessions led WADEPS to increase communication through established law enforcement channels, particularly WASPC.

Public Interpretation and Officer Confidentiality

Participants expressed concern that use-of-force statistics could be misunderstood or selectively presented without sufficient context. These discussions reinforced the need for explanatory materials, clear definitions, and educational resources accompanying the public dashboard. Officer confidentiality and protection of personally identifiable information were also recurring concerns, particularly during early implementation.

Overall Law Enforcement Perspectives

Over time, discussions reflected increasing confidence in WADEPS and appreciation for continued collaboration with law enforcement agencies. Participants generally viewed the program as having the potential to improve transparency while helping communicate use-of-force incidents are relatively uncommon. Continued engagement, system enhancements, and improved communication remain important for maintaining trust and participation.

Community Engagement

Community participants generally had less awareness of WADEPS than law enforcement. They therefore required more introductory information about the program's purpose and goals, especially in the early stages of the WADEPS work. Discussions consistently centered on transparency, accountability, accessibility, and ensuring the dashboard serves community needs.

Context and Transparency

Community members emphasized meaningful interpretation of the use of force requires more contextual information. Frequently requested information included de-escalation efforts, nature of the initial call, dispatch information, characteristics of the encounter, and officer and subject demographics. Participants also discussed tracking complaint data, identifying repeat patterns, and understanding the broader financial and policy impacts of use-of-force incidents. Participants viewed transparency as essential to rebuilding public trust and emphasized the importance of clearly identifying agencies that are and are not participating in WADEPS.



Accessibility and Public Awareness

Participants noted that the dashboard will only be effective if people know it exists and can use it. Recommendations for the dashboard included localized outreach through community organizations, partnerships with neighborhood groups and libraries, traditional and social media communication, mobile-friendly dashboard design, and simple instructional materials. Participants also encouraged WADEPS to communicate about why the dashboard matters and how communities can use the information.

Utility of the Dashboard

Community members identified several practical uses for WADEPS data, including evaluating

policy and training reforms, supporting public education and advocacy, informing funding and grant applications, guiding operational improvements, monitoring long-term trends, and supporting research and public accountability. Many participants believed emphasizing these practical benefits would encourage broader public engagement while also demonstrating value for law enforcement agencies.

Overall Community Perspectives

Community discussions indicated strong support for WADEPS' transparency goals but emphasized that data alone is insufficient. Success will depend on sustained outreach, public education, accessibility, and ongoing support that enables communities to interpret and apply the information effectively.

Data Ad Hoc Working Group

Monthly meetings with this established group of policing data professionals provided valuable agency-based feedback on the data sharing process and communications plans, as well as recommendations to improve the user experience for the public dashboard.

Conclusions

Across all engagement activities, law enforcement and community participants shared several themes and also provided unique perspectives. Both groups emphasized the importance of contextual information, transparency, clear communication, and clear data presentation. Law enforcement focused on administrative burden, operational realities, and accurate interpretation, while community participants emphasized accountability, public accessibility, and communication.

WADEPS will continue its engagement efforts with law enforcement and communities. The team will expand community engagement throughout Washington, continue refining the dashboard based on user feedback, and prioritize communication strategies that improve awareness, accessibility, and effective use of WADEPS data by the public, policymakers, and practitioners.



Commitment to Open Source

What It Means for WADEPS

In simple terms, open source means tools and educational materials developed to work with WADEPS data are available to anyone, free of charge, no permission required. Agency leaders and analysts, community members, researchers, students, and policymakers can all access, use, and build upon the same statistical foundation.

WADEPS is funded by public resources, built on public data collected by public agencies, in the service of public accountability, so the knowledge required to understand and use the data shared with WADEPS should be just as accessible as the data itself.

GitHub Repository

WADEPS hosts a publicly available repository on GitHub, the world's most widely used platform for sharing analytical tools and code. The repository serves as the permanent home for tools and processes developed by WADEPS. All materials are planned to be released under an open license, meaning they can be adapted, redistributed, and built upon by anyone.

As work progresses, visitors to the repository will be able to find:

- Written tutorials: step-by-step guides to statistical analysis using public safety data, from complete beginner to advanced practitioner.
- Python code notebooks: working code that runs the same analyses described in the tutorials so that users can follow along with their own data.
- Workflow guides: decision-tree style diagrams to help users choose the right analytical approach for their questions.
- Documentation and methodology notes so that every analytical choice is transparent and reviewable by anyone.

Tutorials

Resources will serve four distinct audiences, each with a different relationship to WADEPS data and a different reason to engage with it.

Law enforcement agencies: Officers, supervisors, and data coordinators who want to make sense of their own data, understand how their numbers compare to peers, and use evidence to support internal decision-making.

Community members: Residents, advocates, and journalists who want to understand what the data shows about policing in their community, without needing a statistics background.

Researchers and academics: Faculty, graduate students, and policy analysts who work with public safety data professionally and want to understand WADEPS data structure and methodology in depth

Policymakers and legislators: Elected officials, legislative staff, and agency administrators who want to interpret WADEPS findings accurately to inform funding, oversight, and policy decisions.

Videos

Short animated explainer videos to introduce the key data variables in WADEPS: what they measure, how they are collected, and how to interpret them. Designed to be accessible to the general public.

Casual Inference

Methods that can answer important policy questions such as "did a training program actually reduce injuries, or would the outcome have been the same without it?" Explained in plain language with examples using public safety data.

Time Series Analysis

Core skills for tracking patterns over time: how to identify trends, spot unusual events, and compare one time period to another. Modules for beginner, intermediate, and advanced statistics users.



The Path Forward

The WADEPS mission is to make public safety data discoverable, accessible, and meaningful. We are committed to helping Washington evolve from a state that is merely data-rich into one that is genuinely information-rich.

As the system continues to mature, we intend to pursue activities within our operational authority to improve data sharing technology and processes, encourage agency compliance, and support structural enhancements that require legislative partnership.

Platform Enhancements

Accessibility is a cornerstone of our work. The system used to share data with WADEPS and for the public to view the data must be as intuitive as possible for a largely non-technical audience. We are actively developing and implementing enhancements to make data sharing easier, improve validation, and expand the public presentation.

On the Public Dashboard

A summary dashboard with easy-to-view core metrics and plain-language definitions to help community members understand what reportable use of force is and what it looks like in their area.

An expansion of the analytical dashboard that offers proportional demographic displays, deeper equity analyses, and advanced peer-agency comparisons to support agency analysts, policymakers, and researchers.

Agencies and Data Quality

High-quality data begins at the source. While our platform can ingest and validate millions of records, the accuracy of those records depends on the daily practices of participating law enforcement agencies. Our operational focus is on closing reporting gaps, verifying accuracy, and supporting agencies through direct collaboration.

Over the next several months, our development and training teams will be working on the following:

- **Agency Data Entry**

Technical updates to the data entry application, the WADEPS Reporting Tool, will reduce the administrative burden. Enhancements include alerts for missing officer and subject demographic information, streamlined workflows to prevent duplicate data entry, and automated feedback to agencies when a use-of-force record is flagged by an audit.

- **Completeness**

We work directly with agencies to improve the accuracy of selected values for required data fields, ensuring, for example, accurate documentation of officer/subject demographics and more precise injury reporting.

- **Targeted Training**

Using early audit findings, we are developing targeted, data-driven training for law enforcement agency personnel. By identifying common data entry mistakes and areas of confusion, we are proactively helping agencies align their reporting practices with state standards.

- **Continued Auditing**

WADEPS will continue auditing the data received, focusing on inconsistencies and coordinating with agencies to verify the accuracy of the submitted data.

Statutory and Legislative Needs

While WADEPS has made significant progress in standardizing statewide data, several identified data gaps and statistical biases cannot be resolved without legislative action.

We recommend the following five statutory adjustments to improve data quality, ensure equitable comparisons, and capture the true operational realities of Washington policing:

1. Enhance CAD Data to Include Arrest Outcomes

Expanding calls for service data to include an arrest flag and final call type would allow WADEPS to calculate force rates per actual arrest, rather than just per call for service, providing a much more accurate metric for policy evaluation.

2. Authorize Flexibility for Calls for Service (CAD) Categories

Current regulations require dispatch data to be forced into one of 32 predefined categories. As a result, nearly half (47.4%) of all statewide police activity is currently grouped into vague catch-all labels like "Civil Caretaking" or "Other." WADEPS requires statutory authorization to refine these categories so the public can see a more accurate, granular picture of what officers are actually doing day to day.

3. Collection of a Subject's Highest Level of Resistance

WADEPS currently only has the authority to collect a subject's initial level of resistance, yet we collect all types of force officers use throughout an incident. Because subjects often escalate their resistance during an encounter, comparing their initial behavior to the officer's peak force artificially skews the proportionality data. Capturing the highest level of resistance is a necessary statutory fix needed to prevent the data from falsely making it appear that officers are using disproportionate force.



4. Improve the Consistency and Objectivity of Injury Data Collection

Create clear, plain-language definitions for each injury tier and integrate them into the state's model policy. Enhance current injury classifications by capturing the specific level of medical care rendered following an incident (i.e., evaluated by EMS on scene, transported to hospital, refused medical attention), which would provide clear, measurable context to accompany the officer's assessment. Introduce a prompt in the reporting tool confirming that the subject was asked about potential injuries or the need for medical attention.

5. Establish a Formal Advisory Board

We recommend creating a legislatively authorized advisory body with the power to approve minor data element changes (such as disaggregating impairment categories or refining force definitions) without requiring full legislative amendment for each technical update.





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.

Learn more at wadeeps.org.

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