

# Brockville Police Service

## 2020 Annual Report





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## Joint Message from Police Services Board Chair and Chief of Police



**Chair of the Board  
King Yee, Jr.**



**Chief  
Scott Fraser**

The year 2020 started out like most other years, however, quickly changed to a year nobody will ever forget. The Brockville Police Service was required to make rapid changes to the delivery of services and the manner in which day to day operations existed. We did not have the ability to close our doors and send staff home. In fact, the result of many City operations closing caused the Police Service to take on new and important roles. Partnering with our Community Health Teams in order to establish a Covid 19 testing facility became an integral piece of our response. Early into the pandemic we understood that it was going to take the community to tackle this issue. As expected, the community stepped up to the challenge and despite many difficulties worked together for a coordinated solution. Despite the added resources and costs, we were able to work towards a safe and efficient testing facility at the Memorial Centre in Brockville. As the City of Brockville began bringing their staff back to work we were able to transition police service members away from the testing facility and back to enforcement.

We also observed a dramatic increase in our homeless population and the creation of a warming shelter in our community. This, coupled with a Justice System reluctance to incarcerate offenders due to Covid, directly impacted the police response in Brockville. We continue to work with our community partners relating to the mental health crisis response and addiction and substance abuse issues. As Covid 19 left many of those resources unavailable, the Police were often the only available resource to people in their time of need.

We still have a long road ahead in 2021 but we are ready to face any challenges! We are very proud of the men and women of the Brockville Police who continually arrive at work ready to work. Despite increased media and social media scrutiny, and all things Covid 19, our staff worked through the difficult times to do our best in keeping the public safe. The Police Board working alongside Administration and the Brockville Police Association ensured we were providing the best service possible while keeping everyone safe. Thanks for taking the time to review our Annual Report.

King Yee, Jr.  
Chair, Brockville Police Services Board

Scott Fraser  
Chief of Police

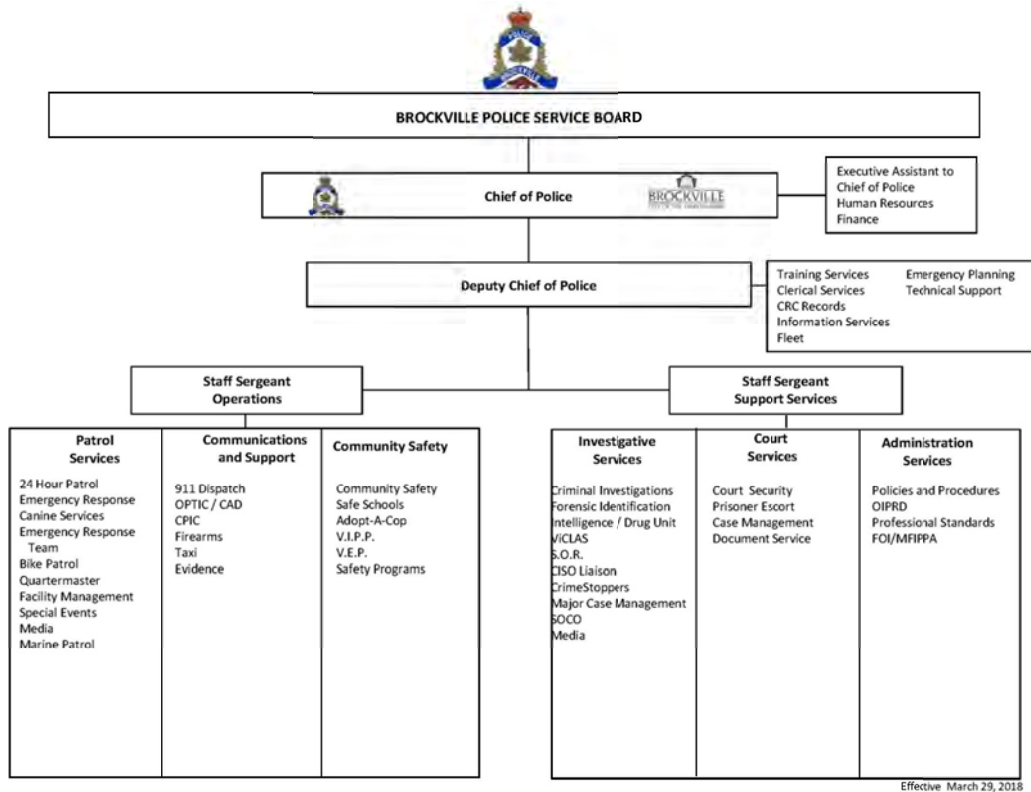


## Vision

The vision of the Brockville Police Service is to provide efficient and proactive community policing.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Brockville Police Service is to ensure safety and security through partnerships within our Community.



## Statement of Principles

The Brockville Police Services Board is committed to the principle that people are our most important resource.

Accordingly, this Police Service affirms and supports its intention for and adherence to:

- The principles of equity and fairness embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Police Services Act.
- The principles of community service and community policing embodied In the Police Services Act.
- The principle of honest communication internally within the Police Service, as well as with our community.
- The principle of sensitivity and compassion for victims of crime.
- The principle of continuous improvement and education of members of the Police Service.





## 2020 Operational Statistics

Due to Covid 19 the Brockville Police Service was required to change their service delivery. As a result many calls were diverted or handled via the telephone. Proactive enforcement was also reduced in order to protect staff and the public. We observed a decrease in our calls for service.

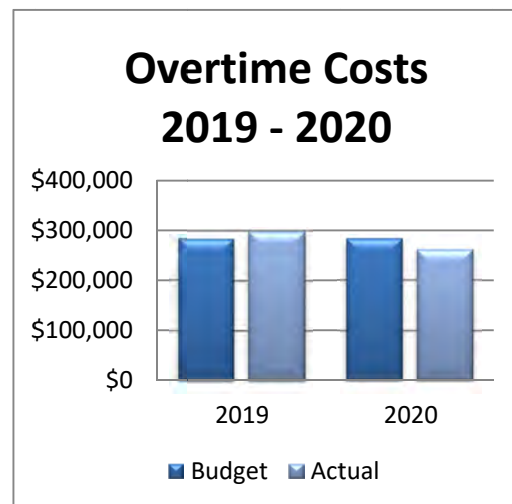
Statistics	2019	2020	% Change
Calls for Service	15,748	12,828	-18.5%
Population	22,707	21,854	-3.8%
Police Officers	40	40	0%

Despite noting an authorized strength of 40 officers we observed many vacancies in 2020. We are working with the community, the Association, Municipal Council and the Police Services Board to address the staffing challenges.

We ended 2020 in a deficit as a result of a commitment to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. Striving to be a budget conscious sustainable police service continues to be a priority and moving forward we are working at reducing costs and improving employee wellness. Our front-line supervisors and admin staff continue to forecast for vacancies and efficiently fill those voids. As a result staff were able to control overtime and ensuring adequate staffing 24/7.

Staffing	
Position	Actual
Chief of Police	1
Deputy Chief	1
Staff Sergeant	2
Sergeants	5
Constables	31
<b>Total Police Staff</b>	<b>40</b>
Special Constables	1
Civilians	14
<b>Total Civilian Staff</b>	<b>15</b>

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Variance (%)
Revenue:			
Total Revenue	\$2,009,410	\$2,155,523	107.3%
Expenses:			
• Human Resources	\$8,942,798	\$9,474,638	105.9%
• Materials, Supplies and Contracted Services	\$893,648	\$904,923	101.3%
Total Expenses:	\$9,836,446	\$10,379,561	105.5%
<b>Net Budget / Actual*</b>	<b>\$7,827,036</b>	<b>\$8,224,038</b>	<b>105.07%</b>



\* Unaudited City of Brockville Financial Information

## Officer Duty



Due to the pandemic we observed a reduction on the amount of time in specialty areas such as the beat, boat and bike. Summer events were cancelled and the City islands were closed for the season. Patrol hours were increased as a result of the decrease in other areas.

Officer Duty Activity		
Duty	2019 Hours	2020 Hours
Beat, Bike and Marine Time	783	438
Mobile Patrol	20,702	21,238

In relation to time on calls, we continue to work with BGH in the area of mental health. We utilize a shared software program “HealthIM” in order to assist in reducing time at the emergency room. Reducing our wait time to 65 minutes in relation to mental health calls is a step in the right direction. The Brockville Police Service have also partnered with Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Mental Health and Addictions in order to have a front-line mental health worker embedded at the police station. This partnership allows the police to react quicker and sometimes before an incident leads to a mental health crisis. We also work closely with other community agencies such as CRISIS and the ACTT team. This partnership provides a better community response to those experiencing a mental health episode and it is always kept in mind that mental illness is not a crime.

2020 Call Time Averages – Arrival to Closing Time		
Incident Type	# of Incidents	Time
Mental Health	382	65:59
Noise Complaints	243	15:40
Impaired Drivers	19	67:50



## 2018 - 2020 Business Plan

The Brockville Police Services Board has extended the business plan until December of 2021. This is being done in order to allow the Service to complete a component on wellness and evaluate the results. During the course of the business plan a number of initiatives promoting wellness were implemented including Peer Support and our support canine “Cooper.” It also included implementation of counselling and an in-house counselling program. We further implemented a response to crisis situations with a component related to staff wellness including critical incident debriefings. As we move forward this will be enhanced with a critical incident reintegration plan in which we hope to get people back to work efficiently and safely.

The Police service remains challenged with the revolving doors of the justice system which was exacerbated in 2020 by the pandemic. The system which works at protecting offenders from incarceration due to Covid 19 fails to appreciate the damage to victims on the street. People who have known drug homes in their neighbourhood expressed their frustration with the police demanding answers to the continued activities relating to the sales of drugs and lack of results. The system fails to understand the issues presented locally by the constant release of prolific offenders. The fundamental of Canadian Justice relies heavily upon deterrence which has been lost with many offences. The system outlines the conditions in which an offender must be released and until we see changes in decisions and case law the problem will only get worse. Essentially we observe 10 percent of the population commit 90 % of the crime, which means, we are constantly chasing the same people.

The Police also are challenged with traffic enforcement. As a result of Covid 19 the traffic courts have stopped operations. This coupled with some antiquated laws makes it difficult for police to stop unwanted behaviour. A good example of this is loud mufflers. The laws do not permit the vehicle to be removed from the roadway or for the loud muffler to be removed. This being the case, a vehicle with a loud muffler once stopped and issued the ticket is free to leave, with the same loud muffler. The driver can be stopped again the next day and issued another ticket and then again and again. Once again we find the Police chasing the same offenders on a regular basis. This being said, it does not eliminate or stop the enforcement. As we worked through a pandemic we were forced to change our response to traffic but continued to do enforcement in a safe as manner as possible. Despite the enforcement we did conduct, some will say it is not enough. A balanced response is key but may not satisfy everyone.

Moving forward the Police Services Board will be reaching out to stakeholders for input on the new Business Plan. We encourage residents to watch for this and provide their input.





## Facility

The 2020 budget supported some maintenance work on our Police Facility. Once again, due to Covid, these planned maintenance updates were postponed for the safety of our employees and contracted staff completing the work. Replacing original flooring, signage and an updated paint job for the building was planned and deferred to 2021. As a result of problems identified in our fire suppression system we had the unplanned replacement of several backflow valves and alarms. As the building was originally occupied in 1989 we are observing some original features needing repair or replacement. Covid also required us to replace our original intercom which allows our communication staff to speak with people attending the front door. Moving forward we will continue to monitor, replace and repair in order to make the facility a sustainable portion of the Brockville Police Service.

## Information Technology



The Brockville Police Service continues to upgrade and improve Information Technology. Crime has moved to the digital world and as a result the Police are required to follow-suit. 2020 saw many challenges created as a result of Covid 19 and remote meetings, testimony and work. Unfortunately, due to the security required with our Records Management System and CPIC it makes remote work difficult. Internet challenges also impacts work being done remotely and as with any challenge we find ways to adapt and overcome. Essentially, we will not be doing things the same in 2021 as we were in 2020. We look forward to the evolution of our Information Technology processes as the Brockville Police continues to change with the times.

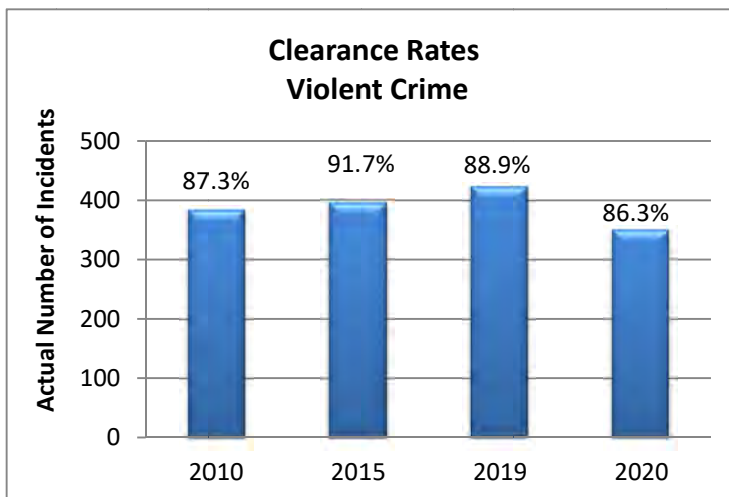




### Criminal Offences

2020 was a year like no other. Overall we observed a reduction in many crimes including sexual assaults, assaults and criminal harassment. Unfortunately we did have an increase in the number of robberies. This statistic can be easily linked to the drug sub-culture and substance addiction. As we continue to battle the addiction issues we understand that the end user is not the answer in stopping the illicit drug trade. The supply has to be interrupted in order to tackle the problem. We need to rely on our community partners to assist with addiction prevention and provide people the resources to enable them to quit using drugs. The courts also have to step in and ensure those who are providing the supply are punished accordingly. Sadly we have seen a decline in the courts wanting to incarcerate offenders, thus leaving them out to continue their trade. Until the courts get an understanding of what is happening on the streets we will see this issue get worse before it gets better.

Violent Crime Statistics	2019	2020	+ / - Change
Murder / Attempt Murder	2	1	-1
Sexual Assaults (including other sexual violations)	59	48	-11
Assaults	223	183	-40
Robbery	2	11	9
Criminal Harassment	68	35	-33
Utter Threats	64	65	1
Other Violent Offences	6	8	2
<b>Total Violent Crime Offences</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>-73</b>



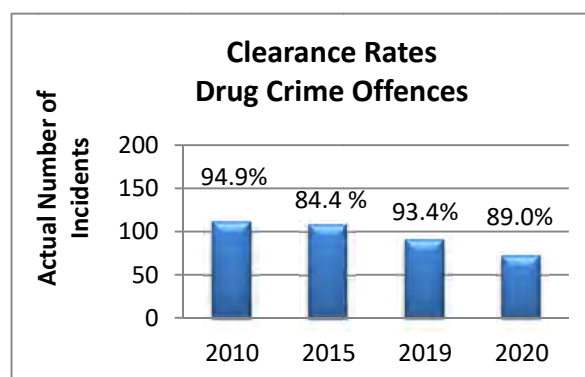
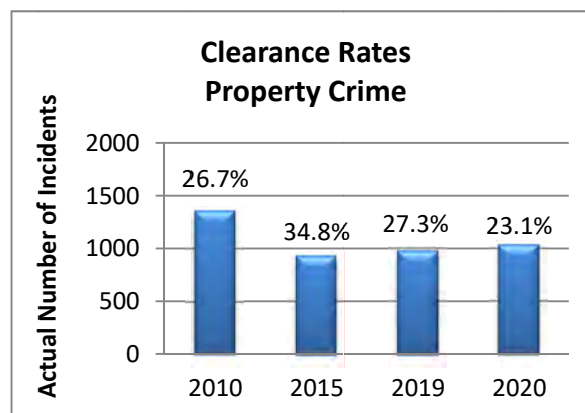
Property crimes are often preventable and are generally problematic to solve. People leaving valuables in their vehicles and not locking their doors is our number one theft issue. We also observed an increase of professional thieves travelling the 401 corridor. They often have a laundry list of items to steal and hit stores along the 401 in order to fulfill their orders. We also observed an increase in homelessness in our area this year which also translated into an increase in thefts. Some are

Property Crime Statistics	2019	2020	+ / - Change
Arson	4	1	-3
Break & Enter	95	97	2
Theft	505	583	78
Possession of Stolen Goods	17	17	0
Fraud	154	135	-19
Mischief	206	205	-1
<b>Total Property Crime Offences</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>57</b>



attending stores and stealing food while others may steal items to sell or trade. It should be noted that not all persons who found themselves homeless contributed to this problem, but a percentage can be considered repeat customers.

Clearing a crime does not necessarily mean that charges are laid. Violent offences often include more than one person and as a result provides the police with witnesses to the offence. If there are enough grounds to justify a criminal offence and there is a person to charge with that offence the matter may be closed with charges. For these reasons we often find violent offences have higher clearance rates than property offences. Often a property offence is reported after the fact, sometimes days or weeks after. This makes finding evidence and concluding the investigation on a positive note very difficult. We strive to successfully resolve all investigations but sometimes it just does not happen. We need to work together as a community in order to prevent, reduce and combat crime. A crime requires three things, a victim, offender and an opportunity. If we can take one thing away the crime will not occur. We look forward to working closely with the community to prevent crimes.



Drug Crime Statistics	2019	2020	+ / - Change
Possession:			
Heroin	3	1	-2
Cocaine	12	7	-5
Other Controlled Substance	19	17	-2
Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth)	32	21	-11
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (Ecstasy)	2	0	-2
Illicit or over 30g Dried Cannabis by an Adult	6	2	-4
Trafficking:			
Heroin	2	0	-2
Cocaine	10	14	4
Other Controlled Substance	3	7	4
Methamphetamine (Crystal Meth)	0	1	1
Opioid (Other than Heroin)	0	1	1
Products - Other Controlled Drug	1	0	-1
Obtain, offer to obtain, alter cannabis	1	2	1
<b>Total Drug Crime Offences</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>-18</b>



## Joint Forces

Working with our partner agencies in order to stem the flow of drugs and combat organized crime is necessary. Criminals do not have geographic boundaries and nor should the police. We enjoy our working relationship with our neighbouring law enforcement entities. If it is on land, sea or air, we have the ability to work collaboratively and adapt to changing times. We also remain committed to the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario and work with other Police Agencies in Ontario to tackle the issues at hand. We will also pursue Provincial grants in order to increase our capacity while not hitting the taxpayer for more money. As these grants become available we will continue to work with our partners and securing target specific funding.





## Other Criminal Code Crimes

A drastic reduction in the number of Bail Violations and Fail to Attend Court offences was observed in 2020. This is partly due to the pandemic and partly due to the fact these types of offences are often withdrawn at court. The punishment is set very low for contravention of these types of laws and therefore the deterrent is eroded and compliance is minimal. Our court system is also overburdened so it was prudent for police services to develop a better system. Frequently we will work with an offender who has breached their bail or failed to attend court. We have strong direction which mandates that offenders are released and we quickly assign them a new court date and withdraw the outstanding charge. We are also working with the court to provide offenders a bail release which is suitable and effective. If a bail plan is developed for an offender to succeed, chances are it will work. This new process has reduced the number of active charges and only those who are habitual offenders are charged.

Other Criminal Code Statistics	2019	2020	+ / - Change
Possess Firearm While Prohibited	3	2	-1
Bail Violations	291	220	-71
Counterfeit Money	35	6	-29
Disturb to Peace	183	189	6
Indecent Acts	4	6	2
Child Pornography	10	2	-8
Public Morals	0	3	3
Obstruct Public Peace Officer	1	4	3
Prisoner Unlawfully at Large	13	3	-10
Trespass at Night	5	6	1
Fail to Attend Court	118	22	-96
Breach of Probation	71	84	13
Bribery / Perjury	5	4	-1
Other Criminal Code	27	33	6
<b>Total Other Criminal Code</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>-182</b>

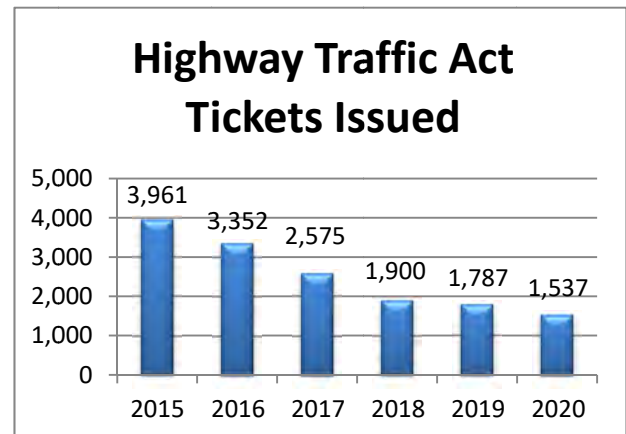
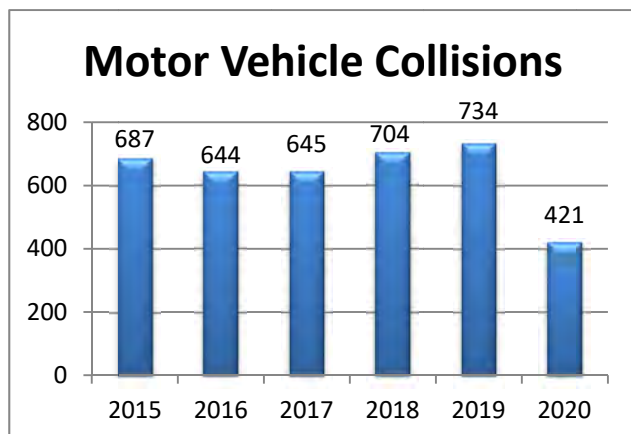




**Traffic**

The Brockville Police Service was happy to see the City of Brockville develop a traffic policy. The Brockville Police have been working with the Community and the City in order to improve traffic safety and implement traffic calming. Simply stated, the Brockville Police are unable to be everywhere, all the time. We understand that some people in our community do not accept this and demand more in the area of traffic enforcement. The utilization of speed signs is a bonus for our community in the fact it provides evidence based information vs speculation. The data allows our staff to target specific areas at specific times to combat speeding. We also received complaints relating red light violations, people not using their signals and loud mufflers. We continue to conduct enforcement, however, in the case of loud mufflers, there is no provision to have the muffler removed or the vehicle removed from the roadway. In simple terms, once the ticket is issued, the vehicle drives away, with the loud muffler. Covid also caused our traffic court to alter the manner in which they operate. Trials have not been taking place so only those who paid their fine or had their ticket withdrawn have been dealt with in 2020. It is expected in 2021 that the traffic court may resume. This being said, the deterrence for people to change their behaviour is lacking. We look forward to continuing our efforts in traffic enforcement and are realistic that the Brockville Police alone will not solve everyone’s traffic related concerns.

Driving Offences Statistics	2019	2020	+ / - Change
Dangerous Operation	4	4	0
Dangerous Operation – Evading Police	3	3	0
Dangerous Operation – Causing Bodily Harm	0	1	1
Impaired Operation (Alcohol Over .08)	19	19	0
Operation while Impaired (Alcohol/Drugs)	6	6	0
Failure or Refusal to Comply with Demand	0	1	1
Fail to Provide Blood Sample	1	0	-1
Fail to Remain	1	3	2
Driving While Prohibited	5	4	-1
<b>Total Driving Offences</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2</b>





### Public Complaint

Complaints being made regarding officer conduct and or policies of the police service are directed to the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD.). A person may complain directly to the OIPRD or file their complaint at any police service. If the complaint is received at a Police Service it must be forwarded to the OIPRD for review. The OIPRD then may assign an investigator to the file, or redirect the complaint back to the police service or have another police service investigate. The OIPRD can also reject the complaint if it does not meet the standards requiring review and investigation. This provides an independent level of transparency and accountability relating to police complaints.

Type	2020
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>15</b>
SIU Investigations	
Resolved	2
Outstanding	2
OIPRD Complaints	
On-going	1
Early Resolution	1
Fails to Meet Criteria	1
Informal Resolution	2
Frivolous / Vexatious	2
Withdrawn	2
Chiefs Complaint	
On-going	1
Resolved	1

The legislation relating to police conduct is the Police Services Act of Ontario or the Criminal Code. If the matter involves serious bodily injury, death or an allegation of sexual assault it will be investigated by the Special Investigations Unit ( SIU). Police Services who receive information regarding a matter involving injury, death or sexual assault are required to notify the SIU forthwith.

### Use of Force

Use of Force	2019	2020	+ / - Change
Firearm			
Discharged	1	0	-1
Pointed at a Person	11	6	-5
Drawn	3	3	0
Conducted Energy Weapon			
Discharged	7	2	-5
Drawn	9	8	-1
Aerosol Weapon	0	1	1
Empty Hand Techniques			
Hard	1	3	2
Soft	1	4	3



Legislation mandates that use of force reports are completed anytime that force is used. Further, those reports must be reviewed by a use of force instructor in order to ensure that the service is complying with legislation. The use of force report outlines the type of force used, the effectiveness of that force and the surrounding facts relating to why force was used. The use of force report also includes, as of 2020, the race of the individual in which force was used. Originally the reports were completed by hand and the Brockville Police Service was happy to be used as a pilot site for the electronic reporting process in 2020.