



Officer Demand, Capacity and Welfare Survey

Descriptive Statistics Summary Report

ACCIDENTS, VIOLENCE AND INJURIES

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1. FOREWORD

INTRODUCTION

In recent times policing in England and Wales has experienced unprecedented budgetary cuts, amounting to an 18% real-term reduction since 2010.ⁱ The impact on police officer numbers has been considerable, with a 14% fall in officer numbers over a seven-year period from a high of 143,734 in 2009,ⁱⁱ to 124,066 in 2016.ⁱⁱⁱ Evidence from a focus group study conducted by the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW)^{iv} highlighted that these reductions may be having a negative effect on officers individual wellbeing. It was within this context that the 2016 PFEW Officer Demand, Capacity, and Welfare Survey took place.

This document is derived from the initial descriptive report^v and provides a national summary of responses to key questions regarding **accidents, violence and injuries** from the 2016 PFEW Officer Demand, Capacity, and Welfare Survey. Where additional data are available and appropriate, the national results are benchmarked against other comparator populations such as the Armed Forces.*

Please be aware that the total number of responses for each item may vary slightly as not all items were answered by all respondents, in addition the actual differences between groups may be quite small and these details should be considered when interpreting the data.

RESPONSE RATES AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Survey responses were gathered on-line, over a four-week period in February 2016. All officers of federated ranks in England and Wales were eligible to participate. Analyses were conducted on a sample of 16,841 responses drawn from all 43 forces across England and Wales.**

14% of eligible officers completed the survey. The respondent sample was broadly representative of the overall federated officer population.*** Although this is lower than the response rate attained by the annual PFEW workforce survey in 2016, this may be due to the sensitive and specific nature of the survey topic.

*Please note that question wording and sample sizes between populations may differ – for full details, please see Houdmont & Elliott-Davies (2016).

**Data were removed where the respondent indicated they were not currently a police officer or they gave implausible answers – for full exclusion criteria, please see Houdmont & Elliott-Davies (2016).

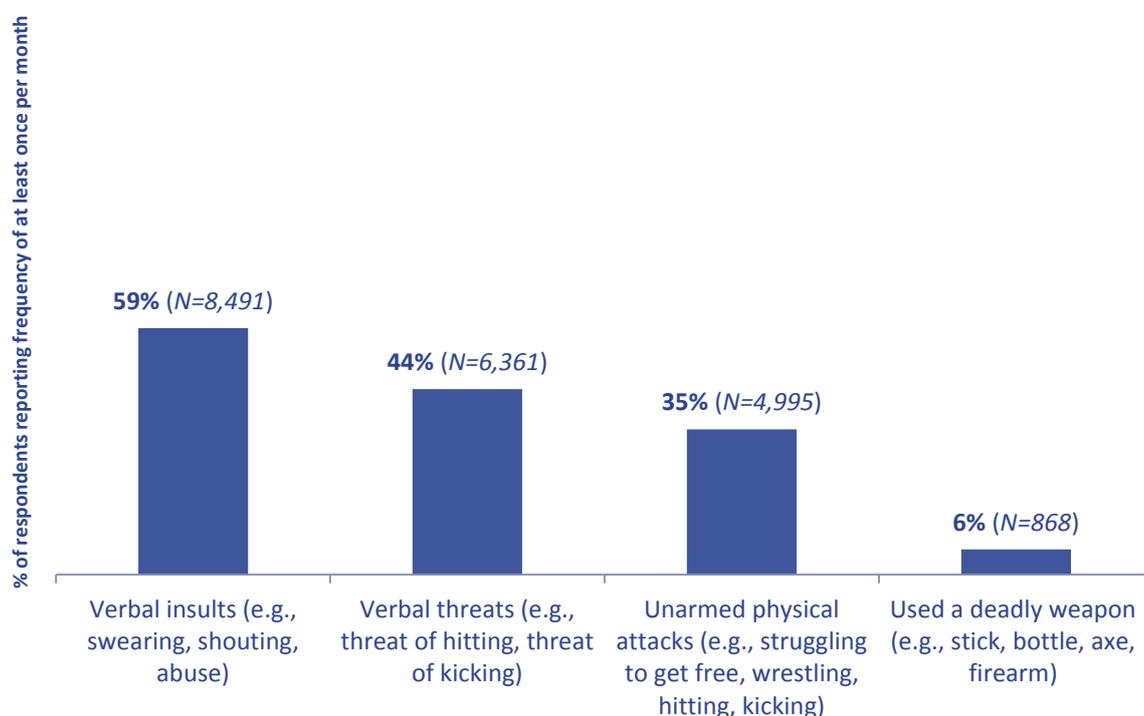
*** Although some significant differences were observed between the survey sample and the federated ranks population, in percentage terms these differences were small, allowing for the conclusion that the respondent sample was broadly representative of the national federated officer population in terms of its socio-demographic composition – for full details, please see Houdmont & Elliott-Davies (2016).

2. ACCIDENTS, VIOLENCE & INJURIES

2.1. VIOLENCE

Violence toward officers was found to be commonplace. **9,857 (68%) respondents reported having been the recipient of an unarmed physical attack** in the last 12 months (e.g., struggling to get free, wrestling, hitting, kicking). **4,995 (35%) respondents reported that this happened at least once a month.**

Violent victimisation



5,221 respondents (36%) reported having been **attacked with a weapon** (e.g., stick, bottle, axe, firearm) **at least once in the last year**, with **868 respondents (6%)** reporting that this happened **on a monthly basis.**

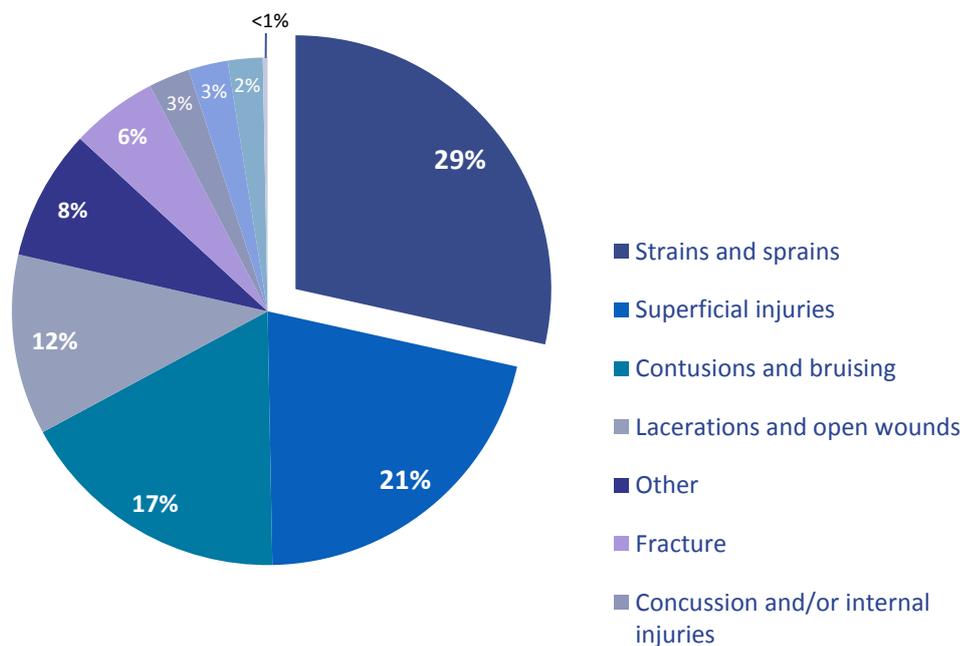
2.2. INJURIES ARISING FROM WORK-RELATED VIOLENCE & ACCIDENTS

2.2.1. Violent injuries

20% of respondents suffered one or more injuries requiring medical attention as a consequence of work-related violence in the preceding 12 month period, resulting in at least **6,692 days of sickness absence or relief from normal duties**.

The most commonly cited injury requiring medical attention as a consequence of work-related violence was 'Strains and sprains' (**29%**) followed by 'Superficial injuries' (**21%**).

Injuries requiring medical attention suffered as a result of work-related VIOLENCE

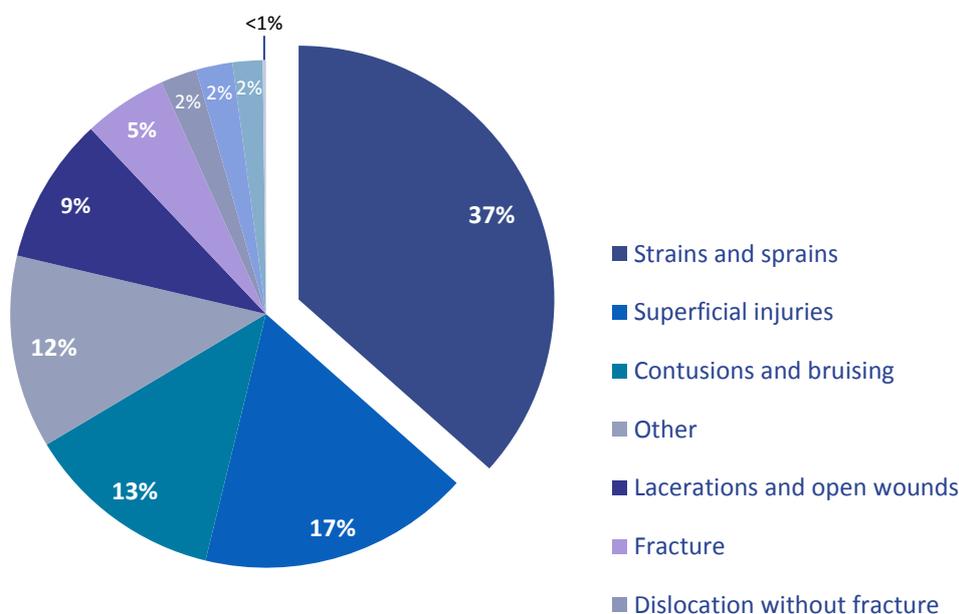


2.2.2. Accidental injuries

29% of respondents reported suffering from **one or more injuries requiring medical attention** as a consequence of work-related accidents in the preceding 12 month period; resulting in **at least 16,267 days of sickness absence or relief from normal duties**.

The most commonly cited injury requiring medical attention as a consequence of work-related violence was also 'Strains and sprains' (37%) followed by 'Superficial injuries' (17%).

Injuries requiring medical attention suffered as a result of work-related ACCIDENTS



3. References

ⁱ National Audit Office (2015). Financial Sustainability of Police Forces in England and Wales. Retrieved September 12, 2016, from <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Financial-sustainability-of-police-forces.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Home Office (2010). Police Service Strength: England and Wales, 31 March 2010. Retrieved September 12, 2016, from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115745/hosb1410.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Home Office (2016). Police Workforce, England and Wales, 31 March 2016. Statistical Bulletin 05/16. Retrieved September 12, 2016, from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2016>

^{iv} Elliott-Davies, M., Donnelly, J., Boag-Munroe, F., & Van Mechelen, D. (2016). 'Getting a battering' The perceived impact of demand and capacity imbalance within the Police Service of England and Wales: A qualitative review. *The Police Journal: Theory, Practice and Principles*, 89, 2, 93-116.

^v Houdmont, J. & Elliott-Davies, M. (2016). *Police Federation of England and Wales 2016 Officer Demand, Capacity, and Welfare Survey: Initial Report - Descriptive Results*.