Officer Demand, Capacity and Welfare Survey
Descriptive Statistics Summary Report
ACCIDENTS, VIOLENCE AND INJURIES
January 2017

Author: Mary Elliott-Davies & Dr Jonathan Houdmont
Contents

1. FOREWORD ........................................................................................................................................ 3
   INTRODUCTION .................................................................................................................................. 3
   RESPONSE RATES AND DEMOGRAPHICS ......................................................................................... 3

2. ACCIDENTS, VIOLENCE & INJURIES ............................................................................................ 4
   2.1. VIOLENCE .................................................................................................................................... 4
   2.2. INJURIES ARISING FROM WORK-RELATED VIOLENCE & ACCIDENTS ............................... 5

3. References ............................................................................................................................................. 7
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. 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 to 124,066 in 2016. Evidence from a focus group study conducted by the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) 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 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 online, 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.
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.

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**

![Injuries Pie Chart]

- Strains and sprains
- Superficial injuries
- Contusions and bruising
- Other
- Lacerations and open wounds
- Fracture
- Dislocation without fracture
3. References


