

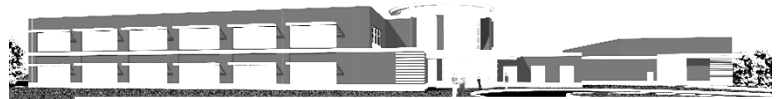
Sheriff
John F. Matz

Chief Deputy
Todd A. Christopherson



Winnebago County Sheriff

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TO: Sheriff Matz and Chief Deputy Christopherson

FROM: Lt. Eichman

DATE: January 16, 2025

RE: Annual Use of Force Report (Corrections) – 2024

Pursuant to General Order 5.05, USE OF FORCE/ REPORTING AND REVIEW, all use of force reviews conducted for 2024 incidents in the Corrections Division have been reviewed. A use of force review is completed for any of the following incidents:

- Reported injuries to a suspect based on use of force
- An Electronic Control Device (ECD) is discharged
- Chemical Agents are utilized (Oleoresin Capsicum)
- Intermediate weapons are used
- K-9 units are used as force
- Specialty impact munitions are pointed or deployed
- Vehicle Pursuits and/or induce or force to stop techniques are used
- A firearm is pointed or discharged
- While not specified, use of force reviews are completed on any use of force deemed to necessitate further analysis

Reviews are conducted to ensure that a deputy's actions are consistent with Winnebago County Sheriff's Office General Orders, applicable federal, state and local laws, and the State of Wisconsin Defensive Tactics System.

The information utilized for this report was collected from the L.E.A. Data Technologies software used to document use of force incidents for the Sheriff's Office. Individual reviews were conducted based on submitted use of force reporting forms as well as the

associated incident reports and any captured video footage. Fifteen (15) use of force reviews were conducted in 2024 for incidents that met the reporting criteria. This is a 0% change from the 15 incidents for which a use of force review was completed in 2023. The 15 reviews in 2023 was a 44% decrease from the 27 use of force reviews completed in 2022.

The Sheriffs' Office saw an increase in the number of use of force reviews where an inmate claimed injury as a result of a use of force incident involving deputies. In total, there were five (5) incidents where an inmate sustained or alleged injury. This is a 67% increase from the three (3) sustained or alleged injuries reported by inmates in 2023. The five incidents reported in 2024 included complaint of leg pain after an Electronic Control Device deployment, bruising to the upper arm, complaint of rib pain, complaint of shoulder pain, and a broken clavicle after an Electronic Control Device deployment. At the conclusion of all incidents in which an inmate sustained or alleged an injury a medical assessment was completed by a Jail Health Services Unit Nurse. One incident, the inmate who sustained a broken clavicle, did require additional medical treatment at an area hospital.

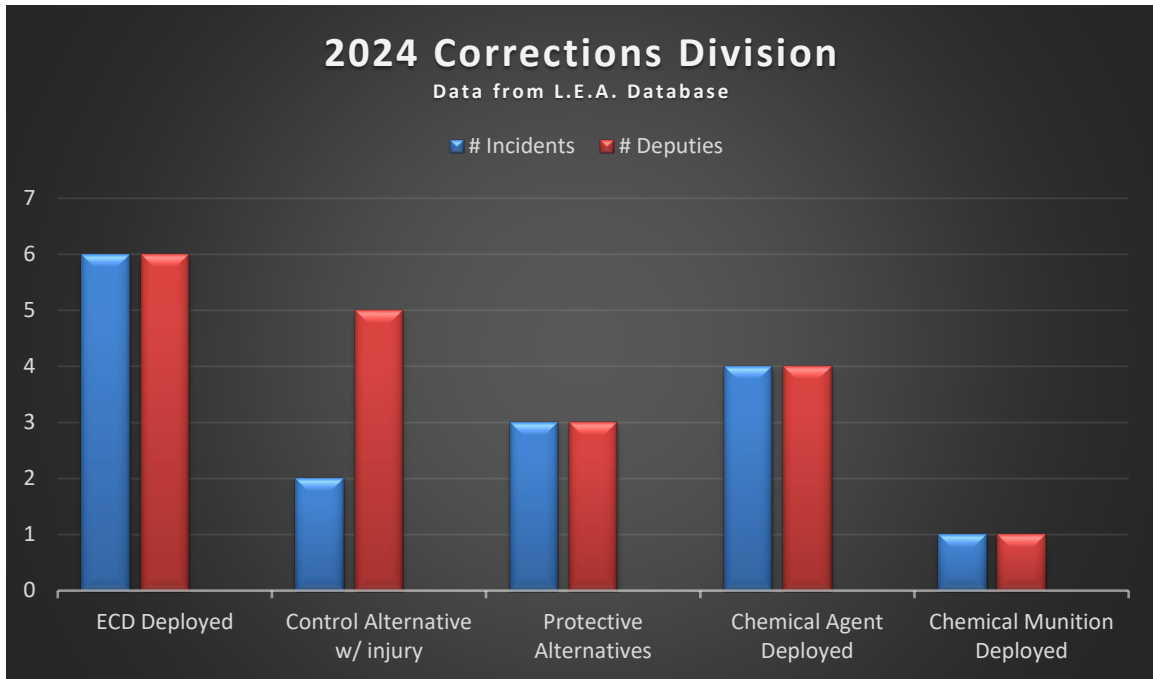
In all incidents in which an inmate sustained or alleged an injury the force used by deputies was found to be objectively reasonable.

During 2024, deputies from the Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Office recorded 905 formal incidents according to Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records. This constitutes a 6% decrease in CAD recorded incidents from 2023. Fifteen (15) of those incidents, or 1.7%, resulted in force being used. In comparison, the Corrections Division use of force percentage for 2023 was 1.6%.

A total of 19 deputies used force during the 15 incidents in 2024. The following chart illustrates the types of force utilized that required a formal review.

Note: several incidents had multiple uses of force meeting the Sheriff's Office's General Order regarding use of force review. As such, the numbers below are higher than the total 15 use of force incidents noted above:

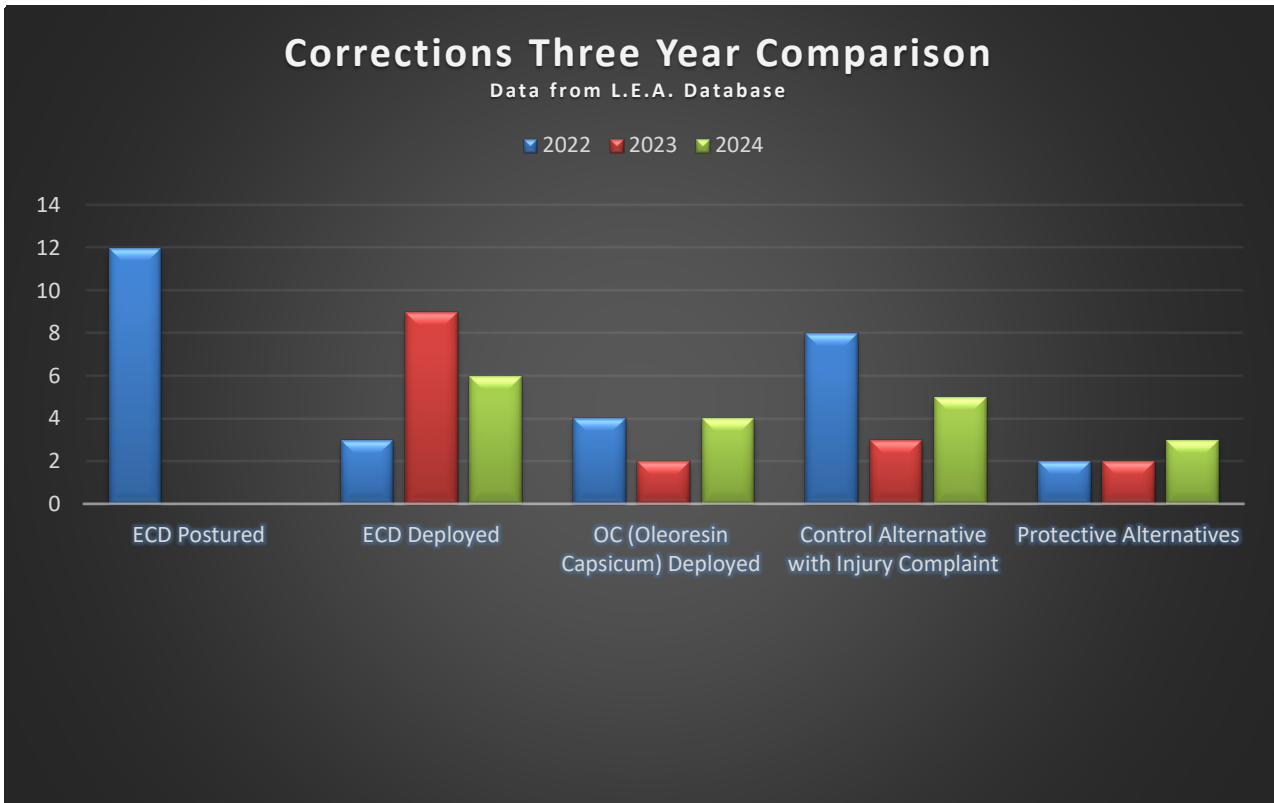
Force Option	# Incidents	# Deputies
ECD Deployed	6	6
Control Alternative w/ injury	2	5
Protective Alternatives	3	3
Chemical Agent Deployed	4	4
Chemical Munition Deployed	1	1
TOTAL	16	19



The most common force used in the Corrections Division in 2024 was an Electronic Control Device (ECD) deployment. Of the 15 uses of force for which a review was conducted, 40% involved a deputy deploying an EDC towards a physically resistive person.

To further evaluate use of force for the Sheriff’s Office Corrections Division, the following chart lists all actions taken by deputies for the previous three years.

Force Option	2022 Corrections	2023 Corrections	2024 Corrections
ECD Postured	12	N/A	N/A
ECD Deployed	3	9	6
OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) Deployed	4	2	4
Control Alternative-Injury Complaint	8	3	5
Protective Alternatives	2	2	3
Total	29	16	18



Beginning in 2023 the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office no longer considered an Electronic Control Device (ECD) Posture, or pointing of the device, as a use of force. The decision to consider an ECD Posture no longer a use of force was made after careful consideration. This change put the Sheriff's Office in line with other area law enforcement agencies regarding how ECD usage is reviewed. While the posturing of an ECD is no longer reviewed as a use of force, deputies are still required to document each incident in which an ECD is pointed at an individual in a long form report.

One of the fifteen incidents reviewed in 2024 for the Corrections Division was found to be justified with counseling. This incident involved a deputy who deployed an ECD within the Winnebago County Jail. While the use of force was justified, the involved deputy received remedial training regarding the desirability of the ECD usage as well as the use of team tactics.

The Training Division will continue to monitor use of force incidents utilizing them as a guide to develop new trainings for the agency.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Tim Eichman