



Home Office

10 September 2013

Statistical News Release: Police use of Taser statistics, England and Wales, 2009 to 2011

The latest statistics on police use of Taser, England and Wales, 2009 to 2011, produced by the Home Office are released today (10 September 2013).

Figures published for the police use of Taser cover the period from January 2009 to December 2011.

TASER is a pistol-like device that can incapacitate an individual through the use of an electrical current. It is less lethal than a convention firearm and provides a valuable tactical option for the police when faced with violence or threats of violence of such severity that force is needed to protect the public, themselves or the individual concerned.

TASER has been authorised for use by the police in accordance with the procedures for authorising the police use of less lethal weapons. This process includes an independent assessment of the potential medical impact and rigorous testing of the equipment to ensure its fitness for use. Every incident in which TASER is deployed – whether it is fired or not – is recorded by the local police force, and a report is sent to the Home Office for collation. The data, summarised and published, provides information as to TASER's operational effectiveness, its medical implications, and makes transparent the levels and types of usage by the police.

Taser use is now recorded against seven categories: Drawn, Aimed, Arced, Red Dotted, Drive Stun, Angled Drive Stun and Fired. Only the highest level of use for each Taser deployed is recorded.

The key points from the latest release are:

- Total police use of Taser has increased year on year from 2009 to 2011.
- The proportion of Taser where the 'highest use' is 'fired' remained constant through 2010 and 2011 at about a fifth, after declining from 2009.
- The most common 'highest use' of a Taser was 'red dot' in each of the last two years.

Notes to editors

'Police use of Taser statistics, England and Wales, 2009 to 2011' is available online on the UK Statistics Authority website as well as the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-use-of-taser-statistics-england-and-wales-2009-to-2011>

The table below provides information on each use and ranks them in terms of 'highest use'.

Highest Use	Fired	The TASER is fired with a live cartridge installed. When the trigger is pulled, the probes are fired into the subject so that the electrical circuit is completed and an incapacitating effect delivered.
	Angled Drive Stun	The officer fires the weapon with a live cartridge installed. However one of the probes does not attach itself properly. The officer then holds the TASER against the subject's body in a different area to the probe, in order to complete the electrical circuit and deliver an incapacitating effect.
	Drive Stun	With a live cartridge installed, the TASER is held against the subject's body and the trigger is pulled. Contact with the subject completes the electrical circuit which causes pain but does not deliver an incapacitating effect.
	Red Dotted	The weapon is not fired. Instead, the TASER is deliberately aimed and then partially activated so that a laser red dot is placed onto the subject.
	Arcing	Sparking of the TASER without aiming it or firing it.
	Aimed	Deliberately aiming of the TASER at a targeted subject.
Lowest Use	Drawn	Drawing of TASER in circumstances where any person could reasonably perceive the action to be a use of force.

For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office:

Newsdesk - **020 7035 3535**

Monday - Thursday: 07:00 - 21:00

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Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only. Members of the public should phone **020 7035 4848**.