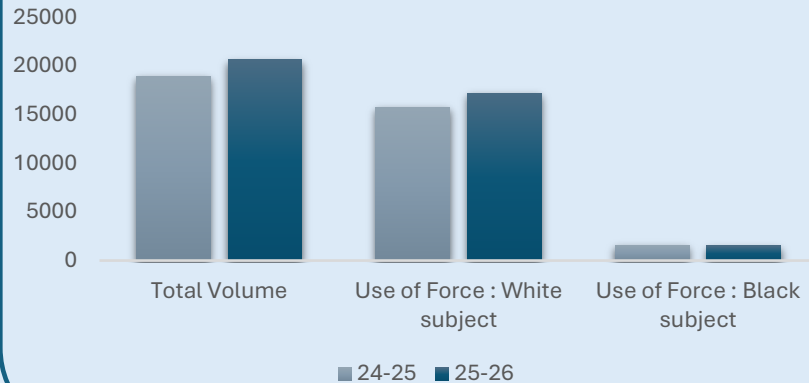
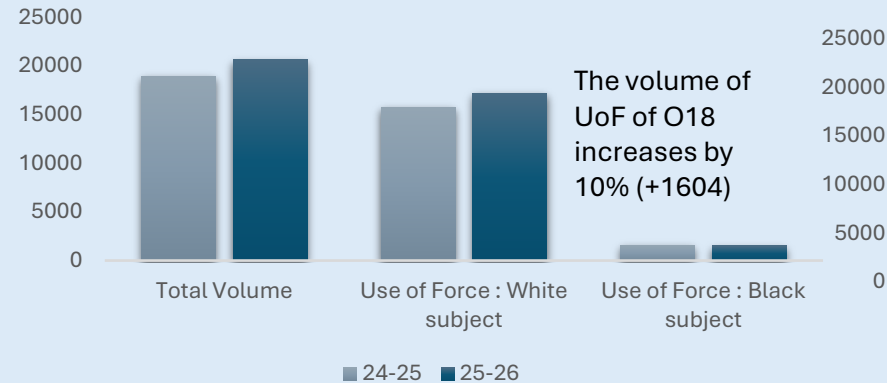


Use of Force in Sussex

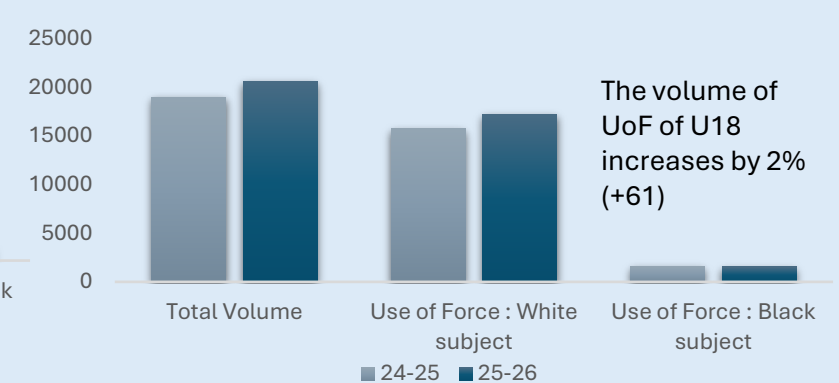
All Use of Force



Use of Force - 18+



Use of Force - Under 18



Over the past the use of Use of Force powers in Sussex has increased from 18948 to 20621 (+9%).

Disproportionality across all age groups has reduced from 7.4 times more likely for a Black person to be subject to force to 6.5 times more likely.

In over 18 subjects, disproportionality is similar reducing from 7.4 times more likely to 6.4 times more likely for a Black person to be subjected to force.

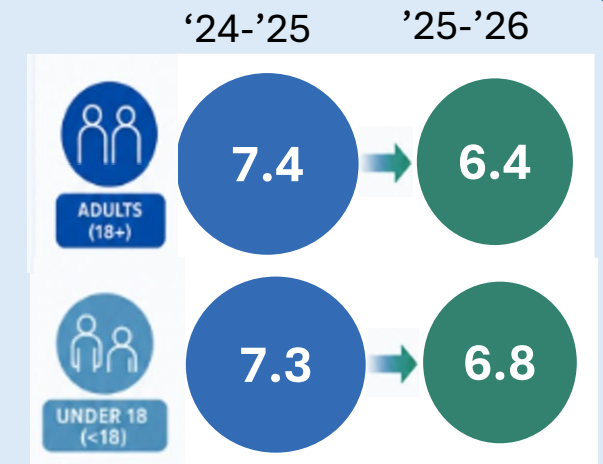
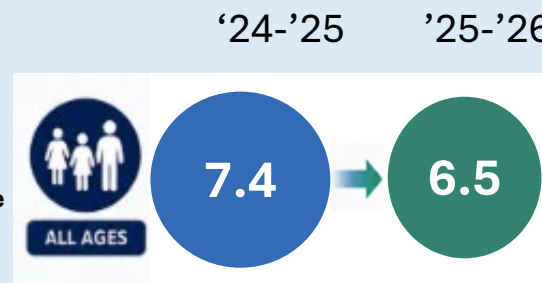
In under 18 subjects, disproportionality is also similar and has also dropped from 7.3 times more likely to 6.8 times more likely for a Black child to be subject to force.

How is Disproportionality calculated?

Sussex has a much lower population of Black people than White people (21,395* people from a total population of 1.7m) representing 1.3% of the total. This results in a high number of use of force forms submitted per 1,000 population for Black people even if a relatively low number of Black people are subject to force. In this case 1530 use of force forms were submitted in a population of 21,395 giving a number of 72 per 1,000 compared to 17,200 use of force forms for White people in a population of 1.6m giving a number of 11 per 1,000.

Disproportionality is then calculated by taking the number of forms submitted per 1000 population for Black people compared with White people. In this case 72 per 1000 Black people in Sussex compared to 11 per 1000 population of White people $72 / 11 = 6.5$ You will hear this quoted as '6.5 times more likely to be subject to use of force'

*based on census data



Use of Force in Sussex '25-'26

Top 4 Reasons for Use of Force*

Total	Effect an arrest	Prevent escape	Prevent harm	Prevent an offence
	72%	65%	51%	39%
Children	Prevent escape	Effect an arrest	Prevent harm	Prevent offence
	71%	58%	53%	42%

*Each form usually contains more than one reason for use of force

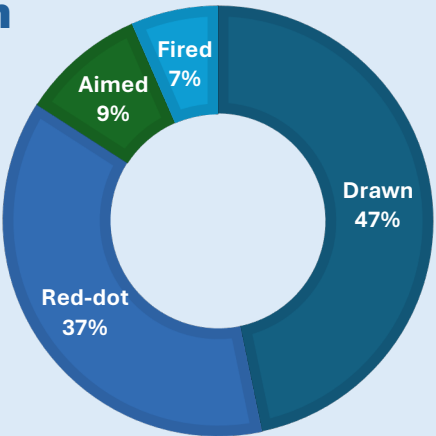
Which use of force tactics do officers use to achieve these aims?

Rank	Tactics listed	%
1st	Unarmed Skills	57%
2nd	Compliant Handcuffing	50%
3rd	Non-compliant Handcuffing	30%
4th	Other / improvised	16%
5th	Limb/Body restraints	6%
6th	Taser	3%
7th	Irritant Spray	2%
8th	Spit guard	1%
9th	Firearms	1%
10th	Dog	1%
11th	Baton	1%
12th	AEP drawn	0%

Each form submitted by an officer may list more than one use of force tactic, for example a subject may be held (unarmed skills) then handcuffed (either compliant or non-compliant)

Taser was used 581 times in Sussex in the last year

- 1st Drawn
- 2nd Red-dot
- 3rd Aimed
- 4th Fired
- 5th Arced

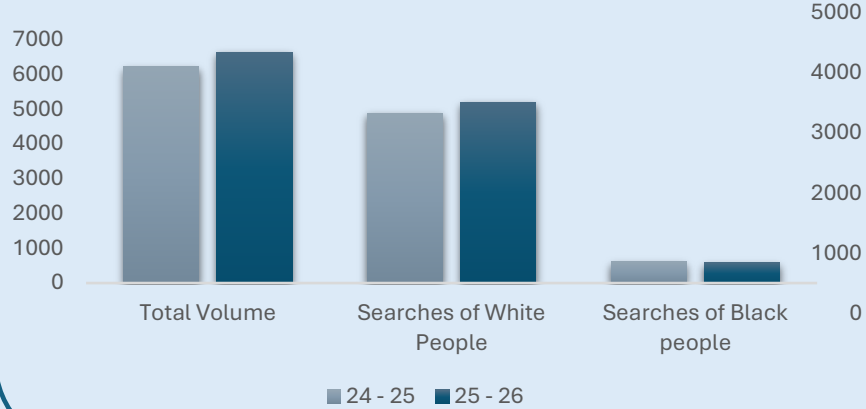


What impact factors contribute to the use of force (top 5)

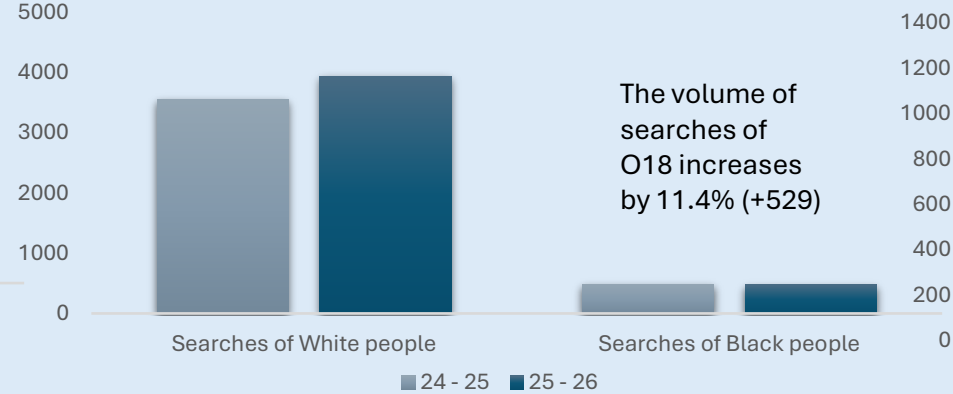
Possess Weapon	Prior Knowledge	Drugs	Mental Health	Size, Gender or Build
68%	42%	28%	28%	26%

Stop and Search in Sussex

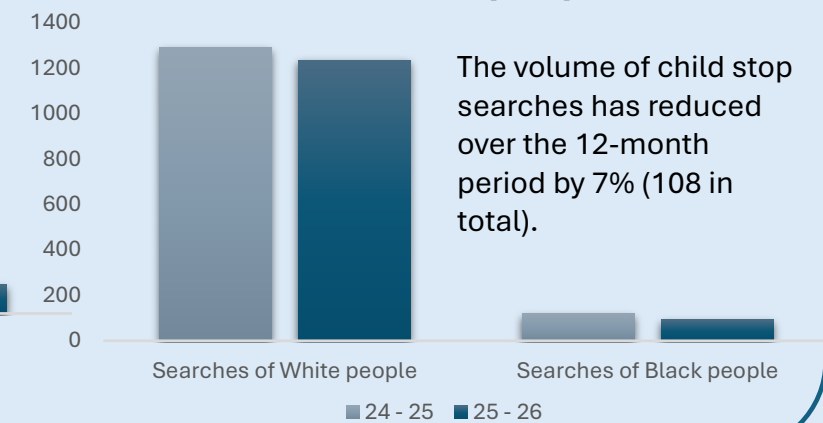
All searches



Searches of people over 18



Searches of people under 18



Over the past the use of Stop Search powers in Sussex has increased from 6224 to 6639 (+6.7%)

Disproportionality across all age groups has reduced from 9.1 times more likely for Black person to be searched to 8.1 times more likely.

In over 18 subjects, disproportionality is higher but has also reduced from 10.7 times more likely to 9.5 times more likely for a Black person to be searched

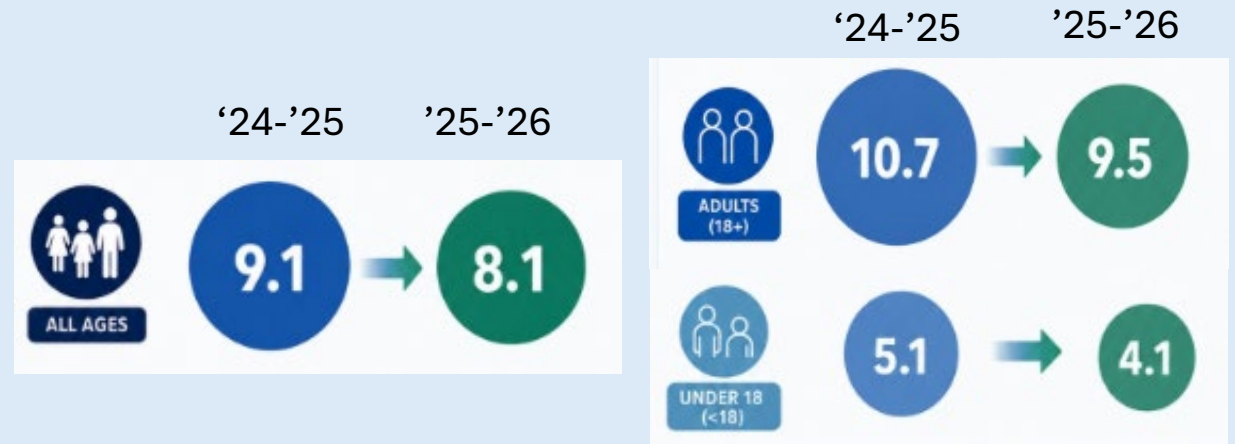
In under 18 subjects, disproportionality is lower and has also dropped from 5.1 times more likely to 4.1 times more likely for a Black child to be searched

How is Disproportionality calculated?

Sussex has a much lower population of Black people than White people (21,395* people from a total population of 1.7m) representing 1.3% of the total. This results in a high number of searches per 1,000 population for Black people even if a relatively low number of Black people are searched. In this case 582 searches in a population of 21,395 gives a number of 27.2 per 1,000 compared to 5,202 searches of White people in a population of 1.6m gives a number of 3.4 per 1,000

Disproportionality is then calculated by taking the number of people searched per 1000 population for Black people compared with White people. In this case 27.2 per 1000 Black people in Sussex compared to 3.4 per 1000 population of White people. $27.2 / 3.4 = 8.1$ You will hear this quoted as '8.1 times more likely to be stop searched'

*based on census data

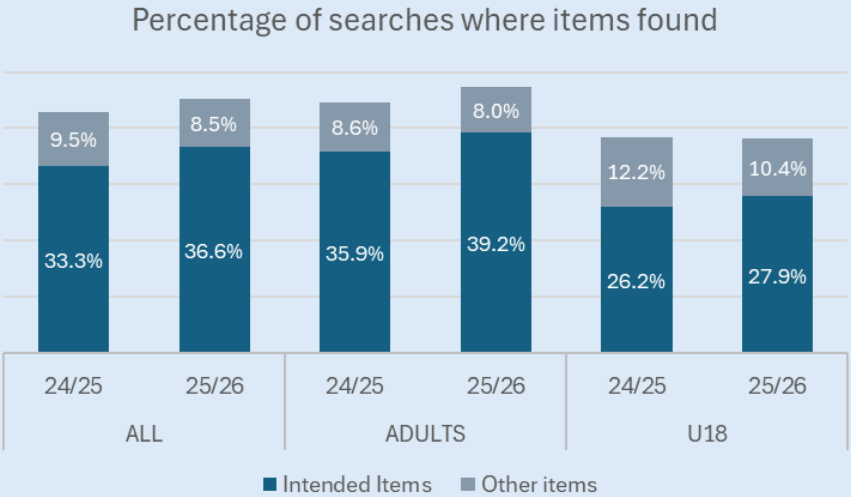


Stop and Search in Sussex '25-'26

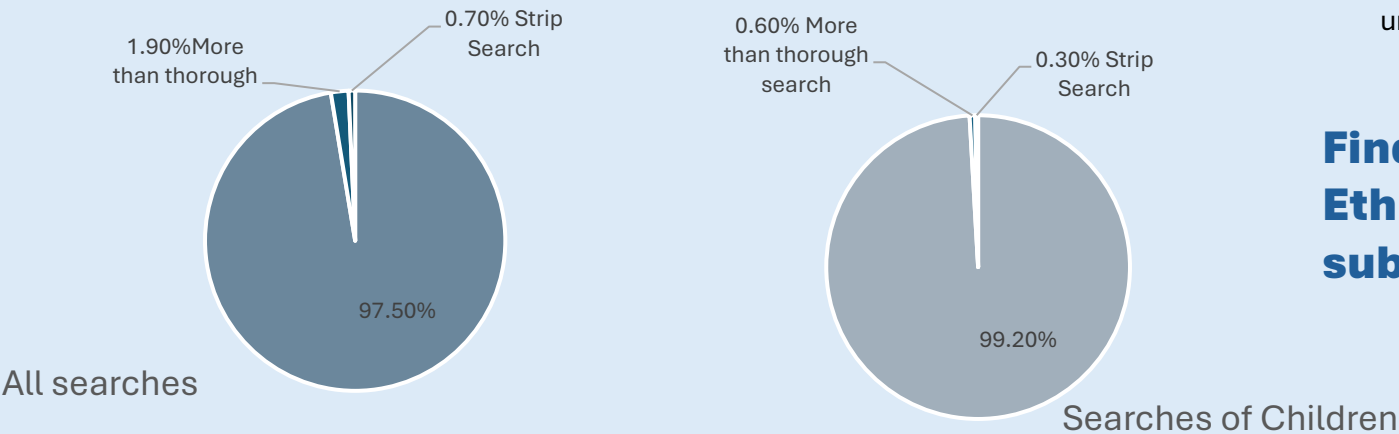
Top 4 Reasons for Stop and Search

Total	Drugs	Weapons	Stolen Property	Criminal Damage
	62.6%	15.2%	14%	14%
Children	Drugs	Weapons	Stolen Property	Criminal Damage
	37.9%	25.84%	20.4%	6.5%

Find rates in Sussex

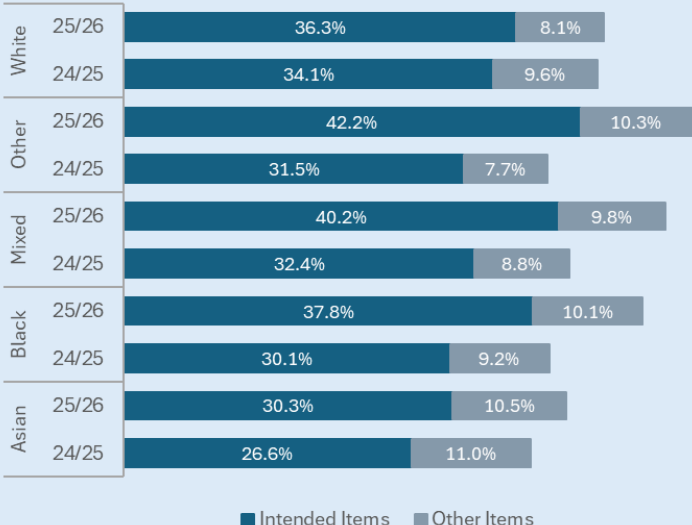


Levels of search in Sussex



A find is recorded as successful if the item the officer is seeking is found. If a different restricted item is found other than the item sought, it is recorded under “other items” found.

Find rates by Ethnicity of the subject searched



A “more than thorough search” involves the removal of a jacket, outer coat or gloves.
A Strip Search in national policing guidance document is called an “Exposing Intimate Parts” and involves the removal of all clothing

Section 60 Authorities in Sussex '25 - '26

A Section 60 Authority allows searches to be conducted by officers without suspicion

The authority must be issued by an Inspector who must consult a Superintendant as soon as practicable after granting the authority

The authority is time and location limited and must be authorised at a more senior level if continued use beyond 24 hours is required

Date and Time commenced	Date and time ended	Duration	Area Covered	Number of Searches conducted
27/6/25 21:30	28/6/25 03:30	6 hours	In Hove Lawns, Hove, A259 Junction with Fourth Avenue to A259 junction with Western Street and up to Western Road Junction with Fourth Avenue and to Western Street.	1
02/08/25 23:38	03/08/2025 23:38	24 hours	Polegrove park, Egerton park, Bexhill town centre and Bexhill seafront	9

How Stop Searches are checked and reviewed in Sussex

How is Stop and Search is conducted and reviewed in Sussex by Officers and Sergeants

Officers must complete an electronic record on their phone for every stop and search conducted.



A Sergeant must review every stop and search record submitted to check for accuracy, detail and the grounds recorded by the officer.



If the form is missing detail its sent back to the officer to resubmit.



20 Stop Searches are allocated at random to sergeants across the force to also review the Body Worn Video (BWV) of stop searches in Sussex. Searches of more disproportionately effected communities are the focus of these reviews.



Both the electronic form reviews and BWV reviews are looked at on a monthly basis to identify themes, escalate issues and address learning or performance.

How is Stop and Search overseen by Senior Leaders in Sussex?

Through the monthly meeting themes are analysed and addressed in relevant teams and departments.



Six weekly Governance Board which oversees strategic priorities and joint working between departments.



The external scrutiny panel sits quarterly. It is independently chaired and comprised of CARE advisors from diverse backgrounds who review data, examine BWV footage of stop search encounters and the use of S60 search authorities and searches under this power.



Overseen by ACO Grant as the Chief Officer lead for Stop and Search