



# CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY - PREVENTING CORRUPTION

# MYTHS, REALITY, TASER WEAPON USE AND PUBLIC POLICY

Roger Watson

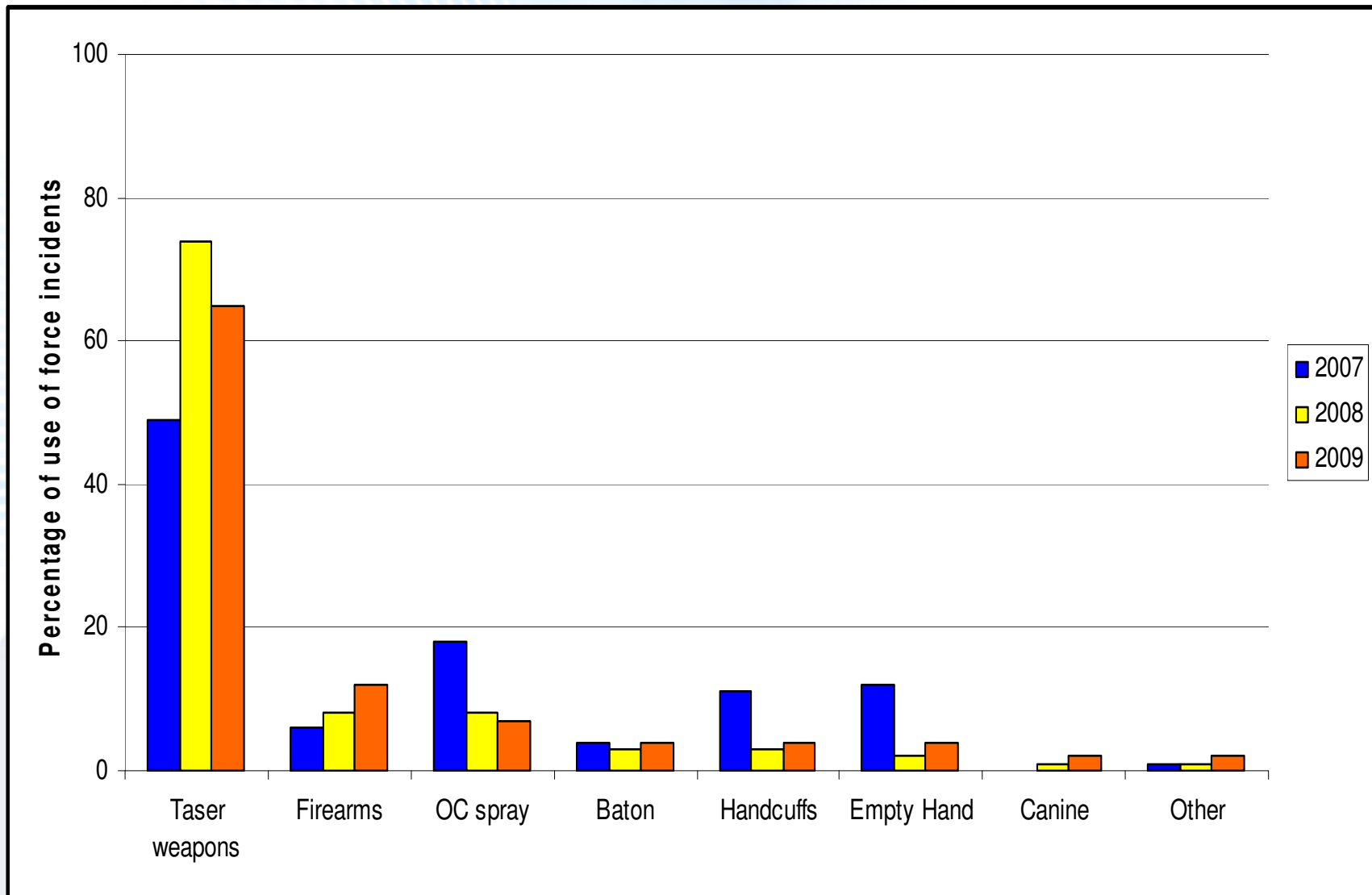
Director Corruption Prevention  
Corruption and Crime Commission

# Taser weapons as an alternative to lethal force

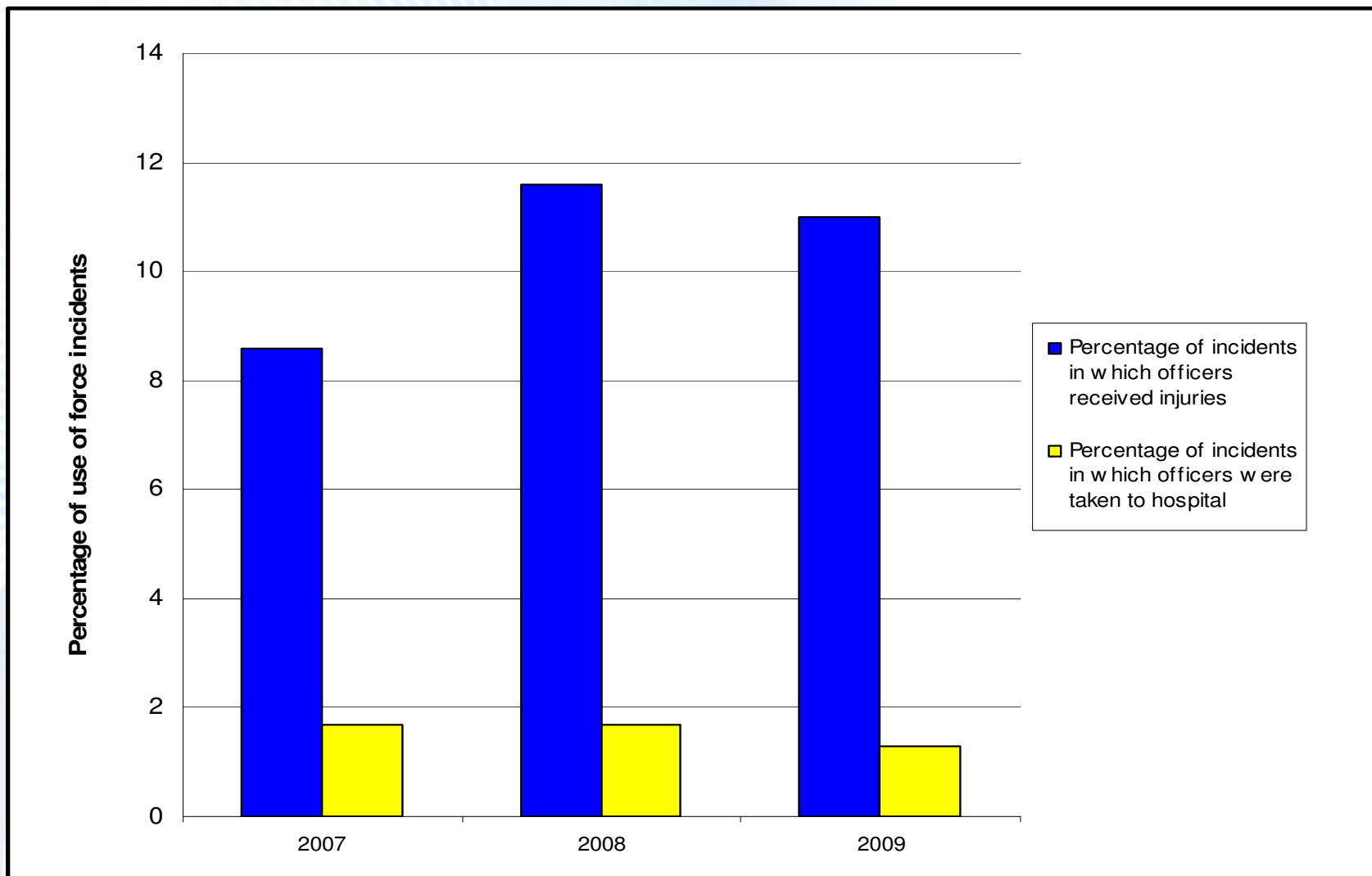
*...The feedback from police on Tasers as a tool has been enormously positive. They save lives. If you make a mistake with a Taser it's much better than making a mistake with a (firearm)... (Karl O'Callaghan, Commissioner WA Police, Police News, August 2009)*

- WA** - Imminent risk of serious harm
- NSW** - Violent confrontation or resistance
- Qld** – To prevent serious injury
- Vic** - Violent and serious confrontation
- NT** - Imminent risk of serious harm
- SA** - Disarming or apprehending a person armed with a weapon
- ACT** - Prevent injury and less forceful option unreasonable
- Tas** - Other less lethal options must be considered first

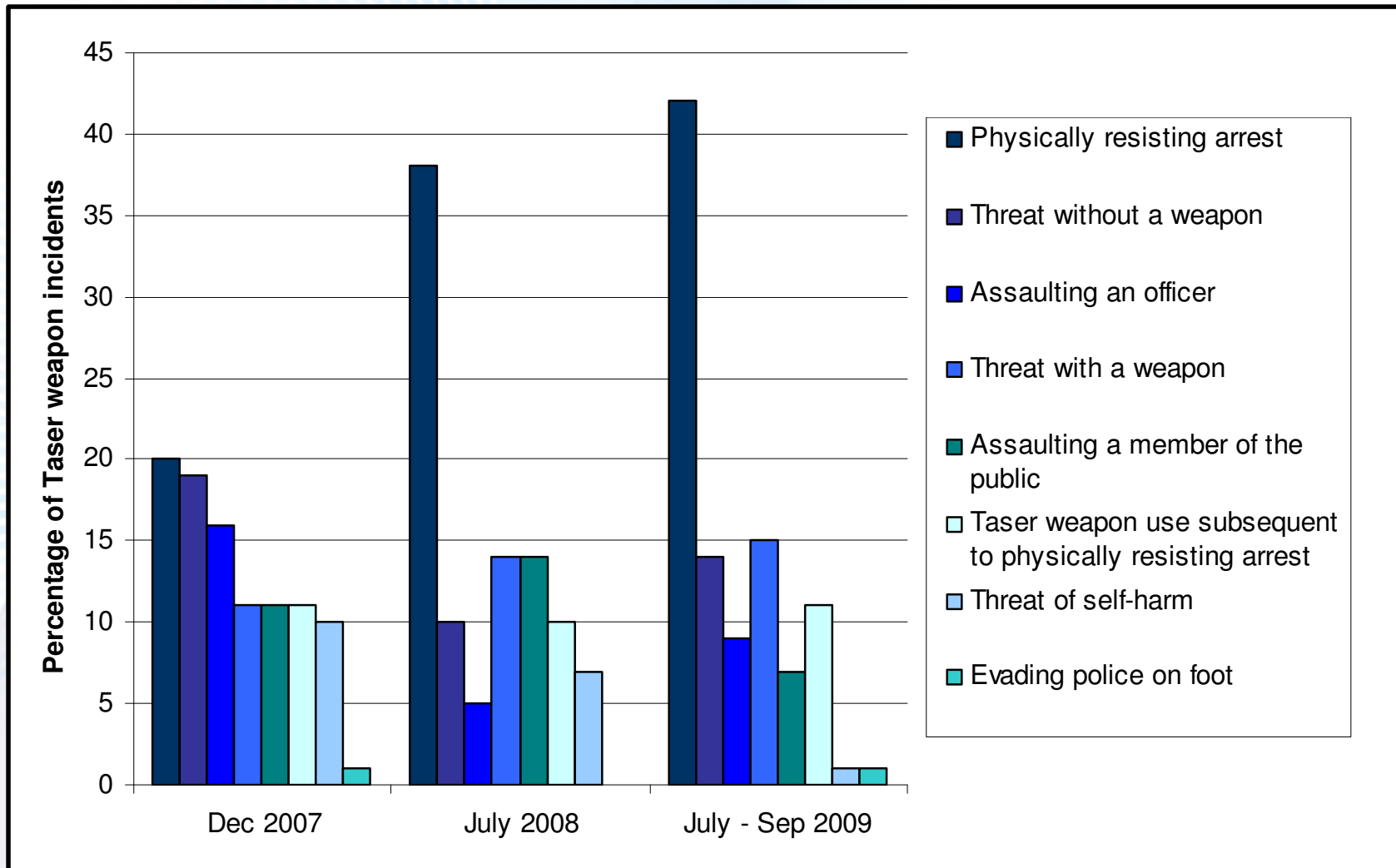
# WAPOL Types of Force Used 2007-2009



# WAPOL Injuries 2007-2009



# WAPOL Reason for Taser Weapon Use



# PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

1. Should Taser weapon use be restricted to circumstances in which firearms and/or batons would otherwise be used?
2. Does the community accept issuing police with Taser weapons to replace handcuffs, pepper spray and empty hand techniques?
  - Or would they, if properly informed?



3. Is it realistic to expect police officers to gain compliance by traditional techniques based on verbal interaction?
4. what are the consequences for the community and its police services if police resort to Taser weapons to gain compliance?

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