

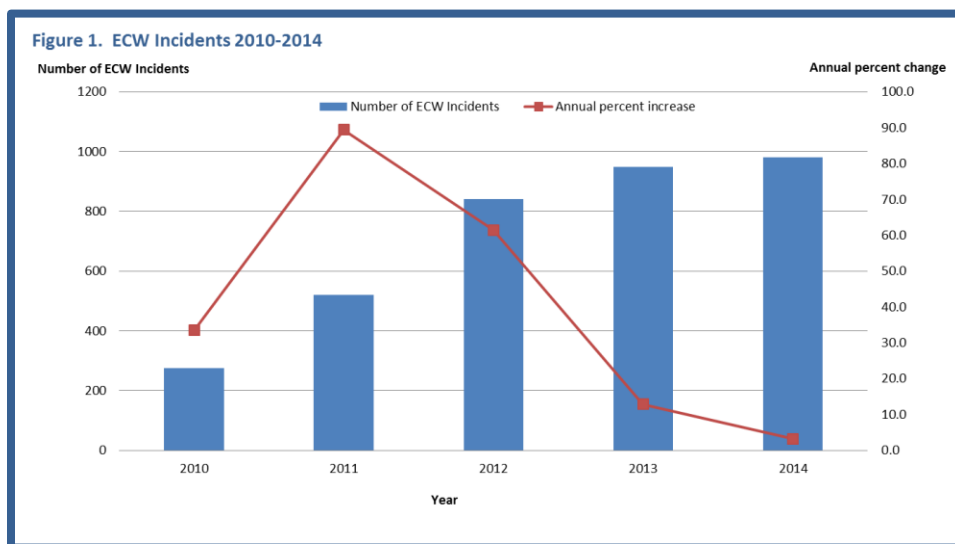


Electronic Control Weapons in Massachusetts: Trends in Growth 2010-2014

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During 2014, the number of Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) incidents increased from 949 to 980, an increase of 3.3%.¹ This marked the smallest rate of growth since yearend 2010 (Figure 1).

Growth in the number of ECW incidents peaked in 2011 with an increase of 89.5% (246 incidents). Since 2011, the growth in ECW usage slowed to 61.4% at yearend 2012, and 12.8% at yearend 2013 (percentage point drops of 48.6% and 9.5%, respectively).



This growth in ECW incidents can be partly attributed to an increase in the number of ECW approved agencies, i.e., law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts with EOPSS approved ECW training programs, ECW trained officers, and ECW devices owned by ECW approved agencies (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of ECW Incidents, ECW Approved Agencies, Sworn Officers, ECW Trained Officers, and ECW Agency Owned Devices, Yearend 2010-2014

Characteristic	Number					Annual percent change, at yearend			
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
ECW incidents	275	521	841	949	980	89.5 %	61.4 %	12.8 %	3.3 %
ECW approved agencies	82	123	145	172	195	50.0 %	17.9 %	18.6 %	13.4 %
Sworn officers ^a	--	6,839	7,564	8,648	9,318	/ %	10.6 %	14.3 %	7.7 %
ECW trained officers	--	3,134	4,013	4,620	5,363	/ %	28.0 %	15.1 %	16.1 %
ECW agency owned devices	--	1,656	2,193	2,586	3,358	/ %	32.4 %	17.9 %	29.9 %

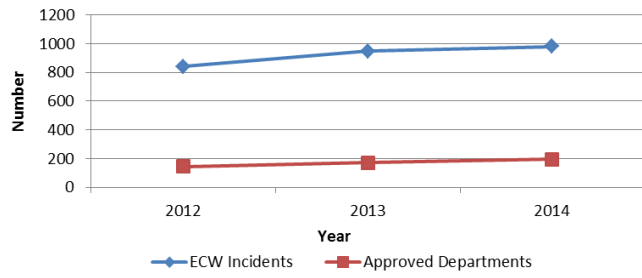
--Data not available for these years.

/ Not calculated.

^aSworn officers serving in ECW approved agencies.

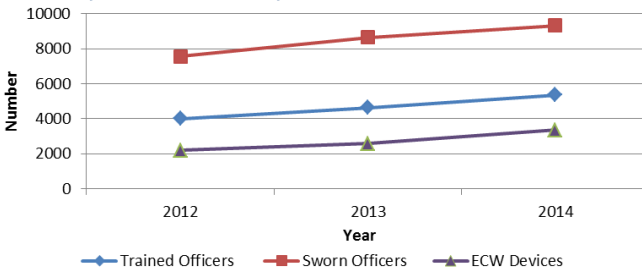
¹ An ECW incident is an event in which an officer (or a group of officers) issue a warning and/or deploy an ECW towards a single subject.

Figure 2. Number of ECW Incidents and ECW Approved Departments, 2012 - 2014



From yearend 2010 through 2014, the number of ECW approved agencies increased by 137.8% (82 agencies to 195 agencies) (Figure 2). While the number of ECW approved agencies continuously increased, the annual rate of growth slowed from 50.0% at yearend 2011 to 13.4% at yearend 2014.

Figure 3. Number ECW Trained Officers, Sworn Officers, and ECW Devices, 2012 - 2014



Of the 9,318 sworn officers serving the ECW approved agencies at yearend 2014, 57.5% were ECW trained (Figure 3).² This figure is slightly larger than the percentage of sworn officers who were ECW trained at yearend 2013 (53.4%) and 2012 (53.1%), and up 11.7% from that reported at yearend 2011.

From 2011 through 2014, the number of ECW trained officers grew twice as much as the number of sworn officers serving the ECW approved agencies (71.1% as compared to 36.2%). Additionally, the annual rate of

growth in the number of ECW trained officers consistently exceeded the rate of growth of sworn officers. From yearend 2011 to yearend 2012, ECW trained officers increased 28.0% compared to the 10.6% growth in the number of sworn officers. Though growth in the number of ECW trained officers slowed to 15.1% in 2014, it remained fairly stable in 2014 increasing by 1.0% to 16.1%. In both years, these rates exceeded that of sworn officers (14.3% and 7.7%, respectively).

Additionally, from 2012 to 2014, ECW approved agencies increased the number of ECW devices owned by 102.8% (1,656 devices to 3,358 devices). The growth in the number of ECW devices peaked at yearend 2011 (32.4%), followed by a more modest growth of 17.9% from 2012 to 2013. The growth rate increased considerably in 2014 to 29.9%. The annual growth in the number of ECW devices surpassed the growth of ECW approved agencies and the number of ECW trained officers, with the exception being the growth in ECW approved agencies in 2013.

² If an officer has not been trained on proper ECW usage, per the EOPSS approved training program, he/she is not authorized to use the devices.

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Appendix Table 1. Number of ECW Incidents, 2011 - 2014

Agency type	Number of incidents ^a			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	521	841	949	980
Non-municipal	4	2	0	2
Cape Cod Regional Law Enforcement Council	0	0	0	0
MA State Police	3	2	0	0
Martha's Vineyard Police Tactical Response Team	0	0	0	0
Massasoit Community College	--	--	--	0
Northeast MA Law Enforcement Council	1	0	0	2
Municipal	517	839	949	978
Abington	0	9	3	2
Acushnet	--	0	2	5
Adams	1	1	4	1
Amesbury	5	6	0	0
Andover	2	2	2	2
Aquinnah	--	--	--	0
Ashburnham	6	0	3	4
Athol	--	11	41	26
Attleboro	14	17	10	6
Auburn	--	--	0	8
Ayer	--	5	10	4
Barnstable	33	36	45	25
Barre	--	3	6	4
Becket	--	--	--	0
Belchertown	2	2	4	4
Berkley	0	0	0	0
Bernardston	0	1	0	0
Beverly	0	0	0	0
Billerica	2	5	4	2
Blackstone	2	2	1	1
Bourne	--	10	12	7
Boxborough	--	--	0	2
Boxford	--	--	--	0
Brewster	--	--	0	0
Bridgewater	2	0	2	2
Brockton	--	--	6	30
Brookfield	--	--	2	7
Canton	1	3	2	2
Carver	--	--	2	0
Chelmsford	3	3	1	2
Chelsea	17	6	15	8
Clinton	--	--	0	15
Concord	0	0	1	0

-- Data not collected as agency did not have an approved ECW training program.

^a As reported in *Annual Electronic Control Weapons Use Brief: Electronic Control Weapons in Massachusetts: 2014* (July 2015).

Appendix Table 1-cont. Number of ECW Incidents, 2011 - 2014

Agency type	Number of incidents ^a			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Dalton	3	1	0	0
Danvers	--	0	5	12
Dartmouth	0	8	13	9
Deerfield	7	5	3	1
Dennis	0	2	5	1
Dighton	0	0	0	0
Dover	--	0	2	1
Dracut	--	--	5	3
Dunstable	--	--	0	0
Duxbury	2	2	2	1
East Bridgewater	--	3	2	4
East Brookfield	2	2	2	1
Eastham	1	1	1	0
Edgartown	--	--	2	4
Erving	--	0	0	1
Everett	--	--	7	17
Fairhaven	9	7	5	2
Fall River	28	44	37	29
Falmouth	--	15	12	22
Foxborough	1	6	2	7
Framingham	3	4	2	7
Franklin	1	3	6	4
Freetown	3	0	2	7
Gardner	5	12	10	13
Georgetown	1	0	1	0
Gill	0	0	1	1
Gosnold	--	--	--	0
Grafton	--	--	0	5
Granville	0	0	0	0
Great Barrington	--	--	3	12
Greenfield	18	12	9	6
Groton	0	0	0	0
Groveland	0	1	0	0
Hampden	--	2	0	0
Hanson	--	--	0	4
Hardwick	4	3	3	1
Harwich	6	0	2	3
Hingham	2	11	5	7
Holden	0	0	2	3
Holliston	--	--	--	0
Holyoke	--	6	37	27
Hopedale	5	0	0	2
Hubbardston	3	4	1	4
Hudson	0	4	5	6

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Appendix Table 1-cont. Number of ECW Incidents, 2011 - 2014

Agency type	Number of incidents ^a			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Hull	--	--	--	2
Ipswich	0	0	0	0
Lakeville	--	--	--	0
Lanesborough	--	0	0	1
Lawrence	19	26	26	57
Lee	--	2	0	0
Lenox	--	0	2	0
Leominster	23	18	10	10
Littleton	3	1	2	1
Lunenburg	--	--	--	0
Lynnfield	0	0	0	0
Mansfield	5	4	1	3
Marblehead	--	--	0	1
Marion	--	0	9	1
Marlborough	--	0	12	11
Marshfield	--	--	--	5
Mashpee	6	7	7	4
Maynard	0	0	2	5
Mendon	1	2	0	1
Methuen	6	1	4	3
Middleborough	13	10	6	15
Middleton	0	3	1	3
Milford	2	3	16	6
Millbury	--	--	1	10
Millville	4	1	0	2
Montague	2	0	0	5
Nantucket	2	5	2	2
Natick	10	3	10	7
New Bedford	14	145	125	105
New Braintree	0	0	0	0
Newbury	--	--	2	0
Norfolk	0	0	1	4
North Adams	5	4	5	1
North Andover	--	0	0	0
North Attleboro	0	0	0	2
North Brookfield	1	2	3	1
North Reading	0	0	0	0
Northborough	0	0	0	0
Northfield	0	0	0	0
Norton	8	5	12	9
Norwood	1	16	12	10
Oak Bluffs	--	--	1	4
Oakham	--	--	--	0
Orleans	--	--	--	0

-- Data not collected as agency did not have an approved ECW training program.

^a As reported in *Annual Electronic Control Weapons Use Brief: Electronic Control Weapons in Massachusetts: 2014* (July 2015).

Appendix Table 1-cont. Number of ECW Incidents, 2011 - 2014

Agency type	Number of incidents ^a			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Oxford	0	14	8	10
Palmer	--	7	24	13
Paxton	0	0	1	0
Peabody	3	5	3	3
Pembroke	2	8	3	4
Pepperell	4	3	6	4
Petersham	0	0	1	0
Phillipston	0	0	0	0
Pittsfield	24	14	13	11
Plainville	0	0	3	5
Plymouth	4	35	31	22
Plympton	1	0	0	2
Provincetown	2	2	5	2
Raynham	1	0	6	5
Rehoboth	0	10	0	3
Revere	--	--	--	0
Rockland	4	7	7	8
Rowley	0	0	0	1
Salisbury	4	7	2	1
Sandwich	0	2	6	2
Seekonk	6	3	17	7
Sharon	0	0	0	1
Sheffield	--	--	--	0
Sherborn	3	3	0	0
Shrewsbury	--	--	--	0
Somerset	2	1	3	1
South Hadley	1	5	0	3
Southborough	--	--	--	0
Southbridge	10	36	18	15
Southwick	--	--	2	1
Spencer	3	3	10	2
Sterling	0	2	0	3
Stoughton	--	6	24	13
Sturbridge	0	1	1	6
Sudbury	--	--	--	0
Sunderland	--	0	0	0
Swampscott	--	0	0	2
Swansea	2	3	4	4
Taunton	13	22	18	27
Templeton	6	0	2	3
Tewksbury	5	12	11	9
Tisbury	--	--	0	0
Topsfield	2	3	0	0
Townsend	--	--	--	0

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^a As reported in *Annual Electronic Control Weapons Use Brief: Electronic Control Weapons in Massachusetts: 2014* (July 2015).

Appendix Table 1-cont. Number of ECW Incidents, 2011 - 2014

Agency type	Number of incidents ^a			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Truro	1	2	2	2
Tyngsborough	0	0	1	1
Upton	--	--	0	0
Uxbridge	--	--	--	0
Walpole	--	--	--	2
Wareham	14	31	14	27
Warren	--	--	2	0
Warwick	--	--	0	0
Webster	25	9	8	11
Wellfleet	--	--	1	0
West Boylston	2	0	1	2
West Bridgewater	--	--	0	1
West Brookfield	--	--	3	2
West Springfield	0	0	1	6
West Tisbury	--	--	--	0
Westfield	26	18	16	14
Westminster	2	5	2	1
Westport	0	2	6	1
Westwood	--	--	--	0
Williamstown	2	1	5	2
Winchendon	3	3	6	1
Woburn	--	--	0	3
Worcester	9	7	4	9
Wrentham	--	--	--	3
Yarmouth	12	9	4	10

-- Data not collected as agency did not have an approved ECW training program.

^a As reported in *Annual Electronic Control Weapons Use Brief: Electronic Control Weapons in Massachusetts: 2014* (July 2015).