

October 24, 2016

Statement: Results of Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project

Community Members,

The [results](#) of the Traffic Stop Race Data Collection Project were released today by the York Research Team.

On behalf of the Ottawa Police Service, I have received this report and its recommendations. We take this work, the lived experiences of communities, the experiences of our officers, and the report seriously. I am committed to working with community and our members to better understand the report.

Over the next several months, we will conduct a deeper analysis in order to respond to the report with an action plan that contributes to our bias-neutral policing efforts. This will include the creation of a committee made up of police and community members that will oversee the discussion and further analysis on the report.

I have complete confidence in our members. I support them, and I thank them for carrying out this study. Our officers took on a leadership role in policing with this project – collecting race based data for traffic stops since June 27, 2013. They showed professionalism in collecting this data, and I want to thank them for their work.

I also want to thank the many community members, groups and committees for contributing to this project over the last four years. I particularly would like to thank the Community Police Action Committee (COMPAC) and the project's Community-Police Advisory Committee for providing meaningful dialogue and partnership opportunities that helped shaped this project.

Racial profiling is not tolerated by the Ottawa Police Service. Our Service has been very active in promoting bias-neutral policing like new training, outreach recruitment, policy, and police and community outreach.

We took this project on to build on this important work. We value lived experiences of community members and need to continue addressing concerns about bias and racial profiling.

As the Research Team has pointed out throughout this project, the report does not conclude racial profiling, but it's clear that there are variances and anomalies in the analysis that must be researched further. We need to explore these findings further to understand the reasons for those differences.

And our work will need to go beyond straight numbers and take into account factors like how we use our resources, the realities of the community we serve, and disparities in society. Police deployment will also need to be examined.

Residents want us to be visible and active in areas with high crime or social disorder issues to respond to violent crime, shootings, or gang activity. Increased police visibility and work in these neighbourhoods often results in increased traffic stops. We need to look at issues like demographics of neighbourhoods and time of day of the stops, so we can understand how these factors affect the data analysis.

Following today's release, community-police engagement will continue to play a critical role to ensure that we understand the report, review the recommendations and create a multi-year plan that goes beyond just action planning the report's recommendations. This work will put us at the forefront of ensuring professional and bias-neutral policing.

Together we completed the biggest race based data collection study in Canadian policing history. Our journey doesn't end here. We have more work to do. Over the next few days, I invite you to take a look at the report, and work with us on this next phase by staying connected, and having input at [ottawapolice.ca/race](http://ottawapolice.ca/race).

Charles Bordeleau  
Chief of Police