

# The OPS Race Data Collection Project



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# York University Research Team

- 3 professors with expertise in social justice research – Dr. Foster, Jacobs and Siu.
- Responsibility – assists in research design and analysis.

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# Goals of York Research Team

- Ensure transparency and build public confidence in OPS integrity, fairness and professionalism.
- Promote bias-free law enforcement practices and mutual understanding between police and the public.

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# Race Data Collection

- United States Studies:
- By 2006, all but four of its fifty states (North Dakota, Missouri, Hawaii, and Vermont) collect data either voluntarily or pursuant to legislation .

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# Race Data Collection

- Canadian studies:
  - Kingston – traffic stops (2004)
  - Toronto - opinions (1995; 2000).
- Canada lags behind US in race data collection.

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# Race Data Collection

- Increased understanding of the benefits of race data – measure, monitor and manage.
- Race data collection consistent with OHRC's mandate.

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# Study Design

- Definition – “Racial profiling” as patterns showing disproportionately more traffic stops for individuals of one racial group over another.

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# Study Design

- This definition focuses on measuring police officers' behaviour of traffic stops, not their intention.



# Study Design

- Race categories – Use OPS’ existing categories.
- Data collected through officers’ perception of race.
- Data based on 50,000 traffic stops per year.
- Other information may be collected

# Study Design

- Compare OPS' race data on traffic stops with Census' race data on driver population commute to work (city-wide).
- Note the racial differences of OPS data and census data.

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# Study Design

- Scope of analysis covers:
  - Race
  - Ottawa
  - Time – 2013-2015

# Quality Assurance

- Proactive measures –
  - strong commitment from management
  - clear communication
  - train officers
  - monitor

# Quality Assurance

- Regular measures –
  - Monitor OPS, police divisions, deployment units, and officers.
  - Clear policy and procedure on data confidentiality, storage, accessibility and retrieval.

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# Next Steps

- On-going consultations and communication
- Advisory committee meetings
- Report on race data (2013-2015).