

**TORONTO POLICE SERVICE  
RACE-BASED  
DATA  
COLLECTION  
STRATEGY**

**Analysis to Action  
Model:  
Roadmap to Equity**

*Strip Searches: Measurement & Outcomes*



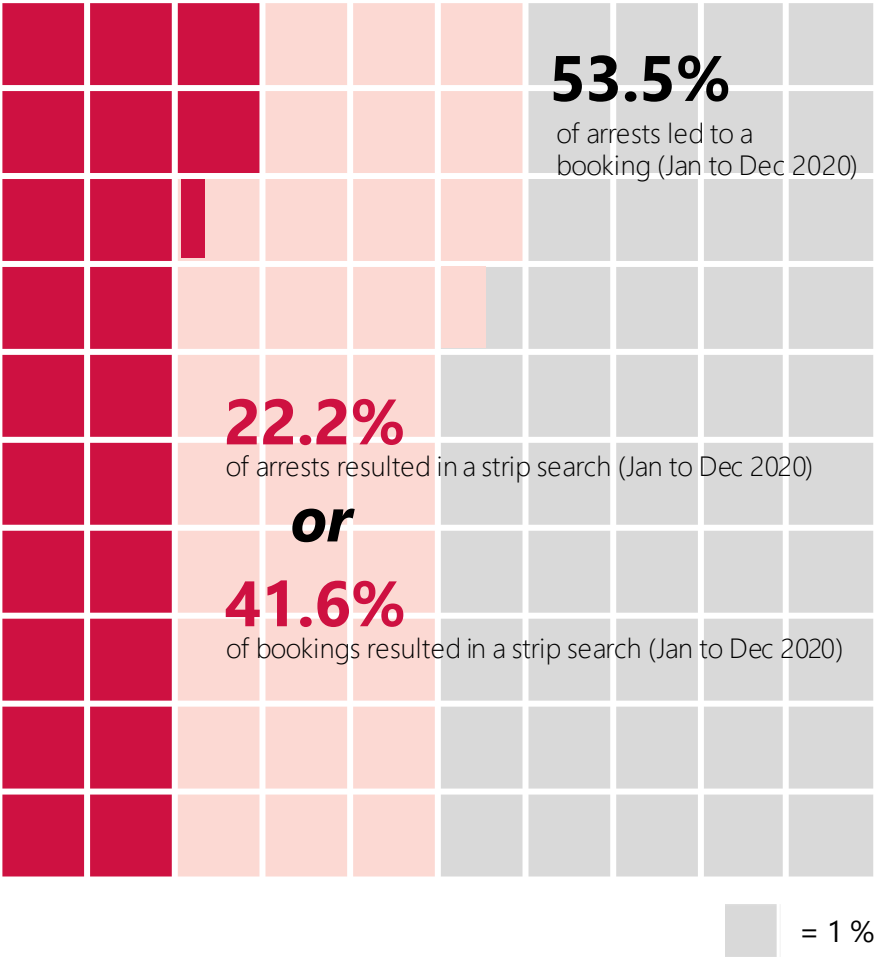
In 2020, there were **31,979** arrests made by the Toronto Police Service (an individual may be arrested more than once in a year)

**leading to**

**17,096** bookings of persons into custody (an individual may be booked more than once in a year)

**that resulted in**

**7,114** strip searches (an individual may be strip searched more than once in a year).



In 2020, there were **7,114** strip searches conducted on members of the public a person may be searched more than once in the reporting period

**46%** (3240) of people were perceived as White

**31%** (2223) of people were perceived as Black

**4%** (286) of people were perceived as Indigenous

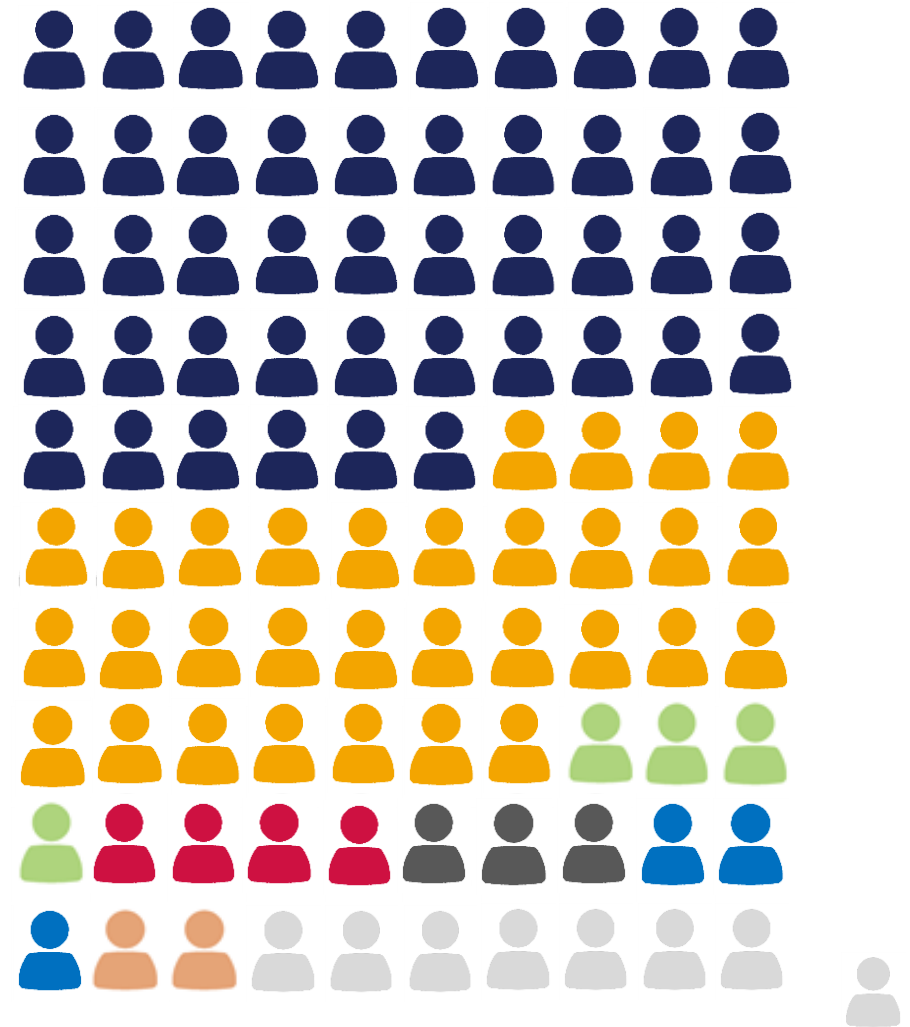
**4%** (295) of people were perceived as East/Southeast Asian

**3%** (206) of people were perceived as Middle Eastern

**3%** (241) of people were perceived as South Asian

**2%** (126) of people were perceived as Latino

**7%** (497) of people did not have a valid race category identified



= 1 %

\*percentage rounded to the nearest whole number

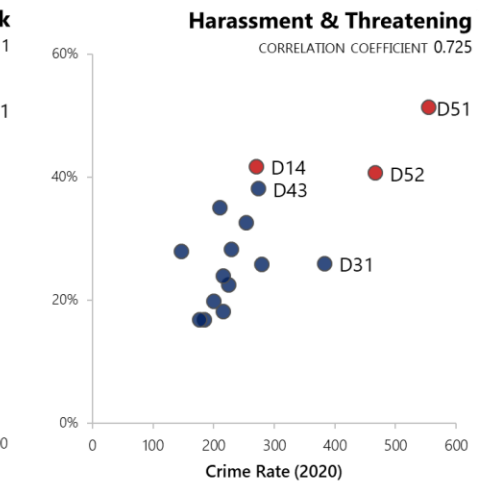
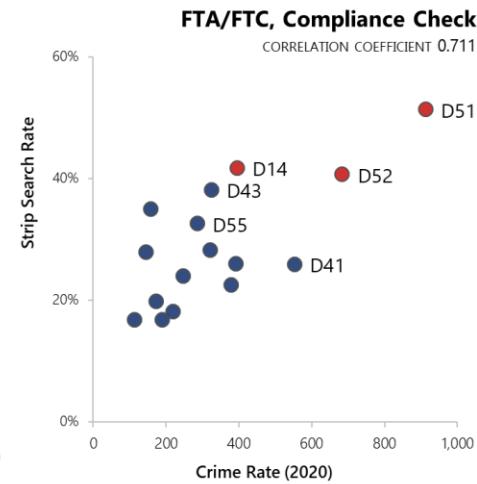
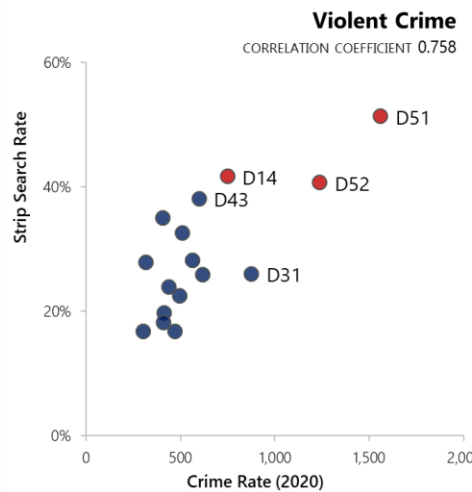
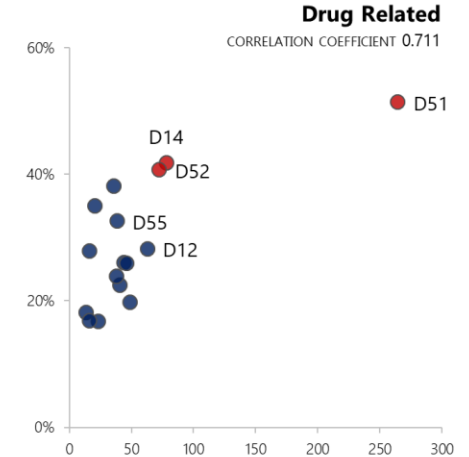
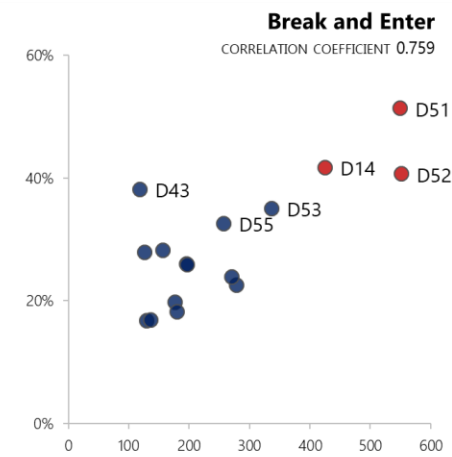
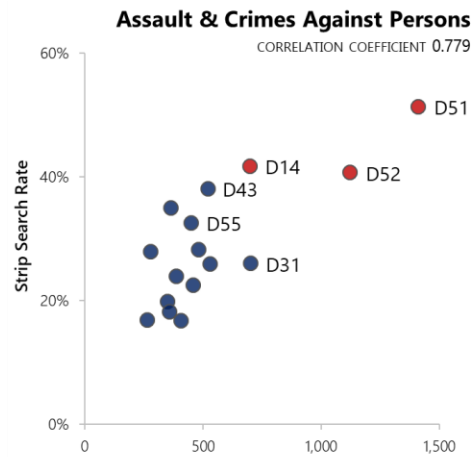
# Relationship to Crime Rate

Strip searches may be related to the crime rates in a Division.

The scatterplots on the right show the relationship between strip search rate and crime rate.

Strip Search rates were **positively correlated** with crime rates for several categories.

The downtown Divisions **D14**, **D51** and **D52** consistently show high crime rates across all categories.



# F i n d i n g



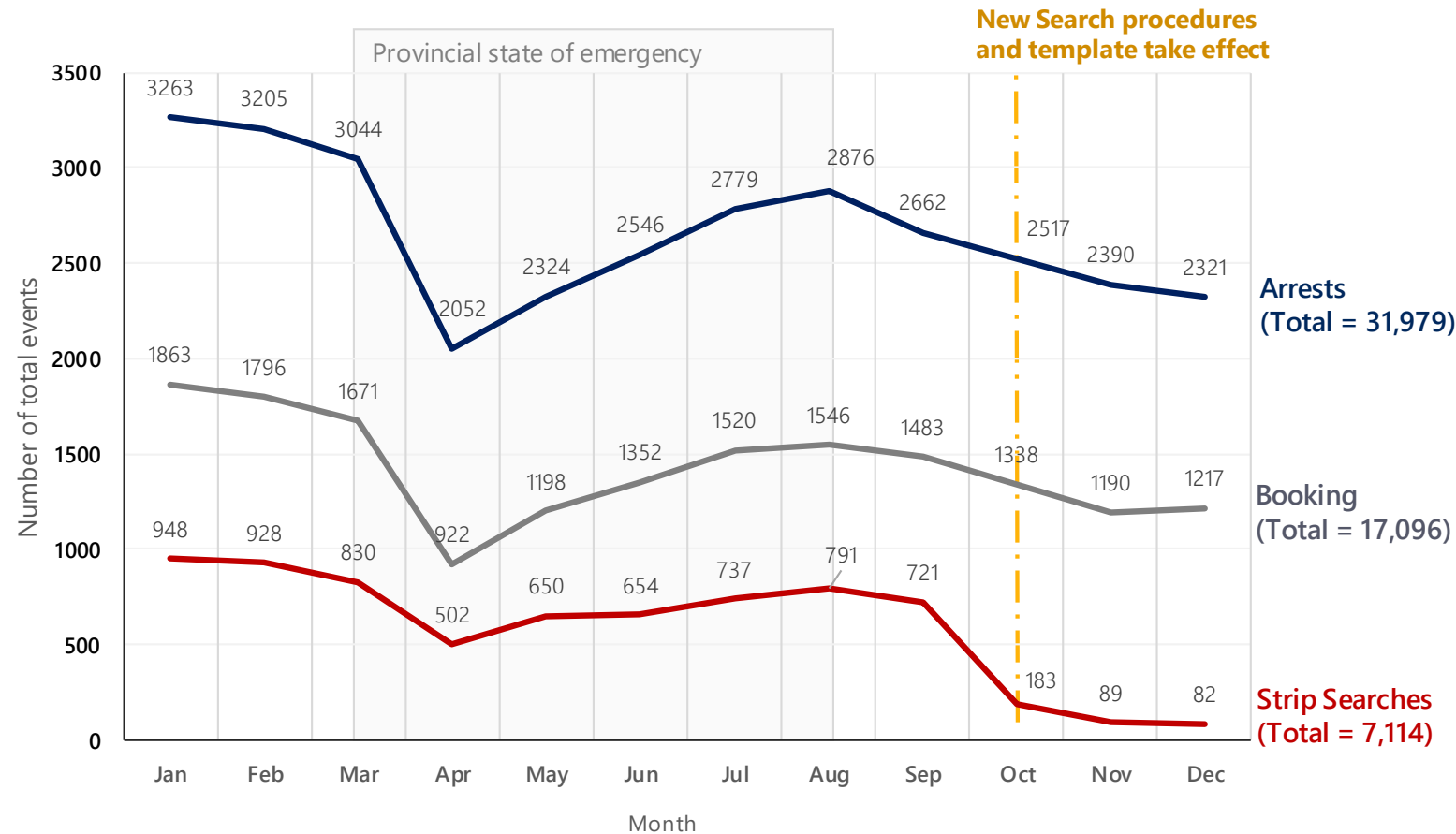
Strip search rates varied throughout the year and dropped significantly following changes in policy and procedures.

# Strip Search Rates Dropped Following Policy Changes

**We looked at the impact of the change to the Search of Persons Procedure on the number of Strip Searches.**

The graph on the right shows the impact of the Provincial State of Emergency on arrests and strip searches.

Prior to the policy change **27.3%** of arrests resulted in a **strip search**. Following the announcement of the changes to the Search of Persons policy in September, and the implemented changes in October, there was a **significant decrease** in strip searches. Post-policy change, **4.9%** of arrests resulted in a strip search.



# F i n d i n g



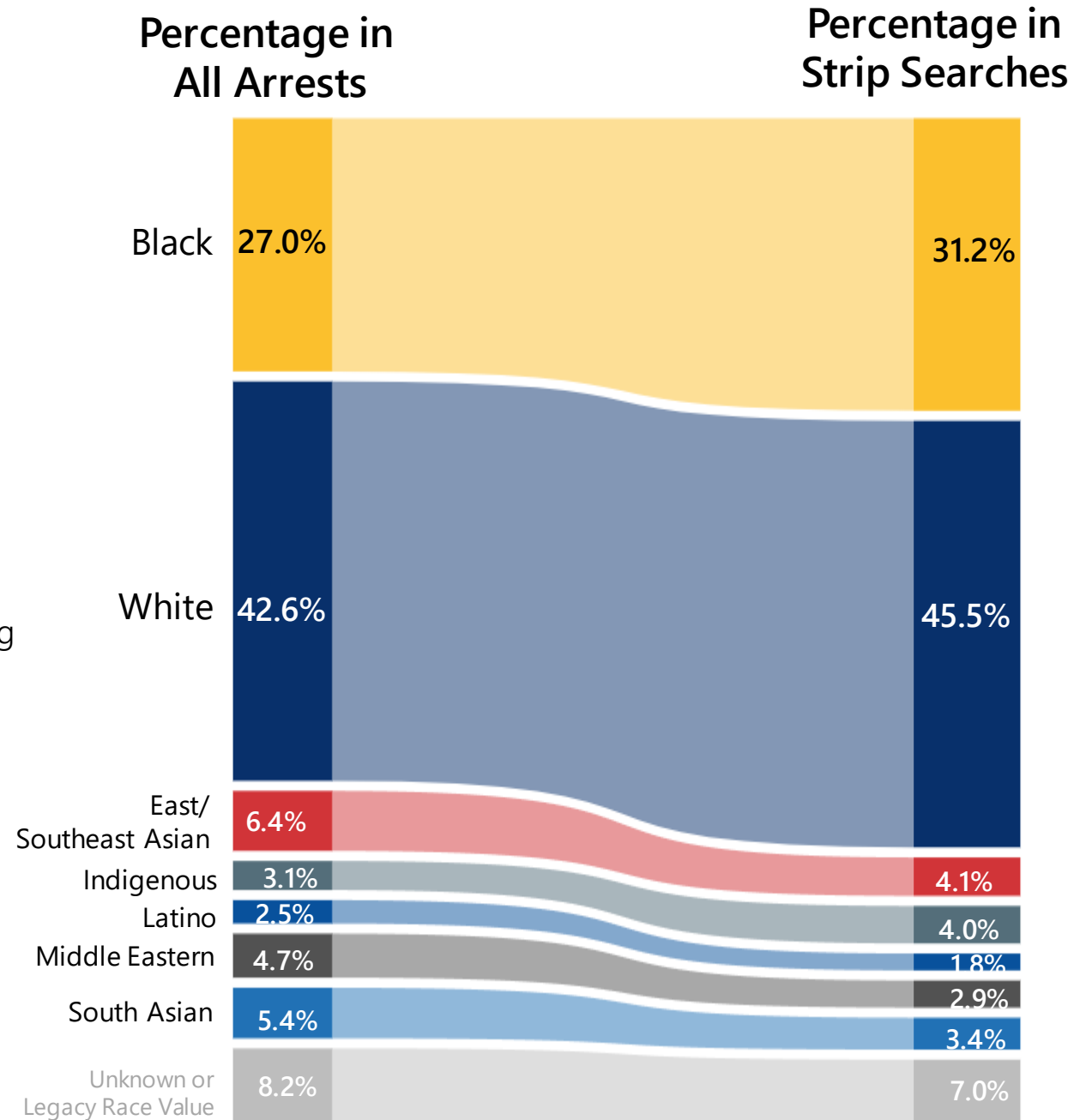
There were differences by race in strip search rates that were reduced following the changes in policy and procedure.

# There are differences by race by Strip Search Rates

We looked at strip searches by race group compared to that group's proportion in 2020 arrests. We then compared this to 2021 data to see if the procedural change reduced disproportionalities.

In order to be strip searched, a person must first be arrested; therefore, Arrested Population was the benchmark used for Strip Search analysis. Looking at people who were taken to the station ("booked"), was also considered as a benchmark; however, disproportionalities with the booking benchmark were consistent with those seen when using arrested population. The relationship between booked persons and arrested persons will be explored in Phase II of the strategy.

Indigenous People were **1.3x** **Over-represented in strip searches compared to their presence in all arrests**  
 Black People were **1.1x**  
 White People were **1.1x**



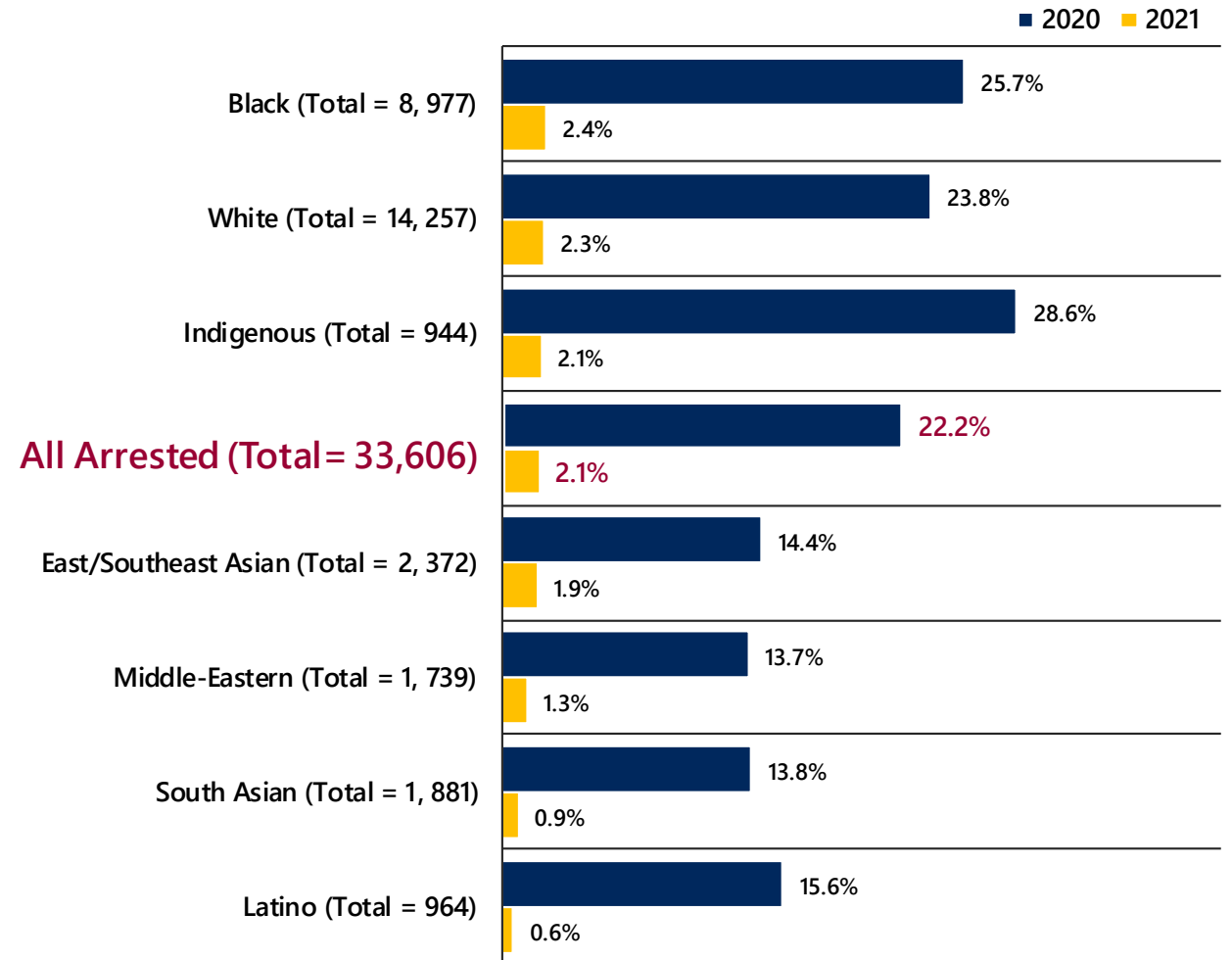
# These differences were reduced following procedural changes

We looked at strip searches by race group compared to that group's proportion in 2020 arrests. We compared this to 2021 data to see if the procedural change reduced disproportionalities

While trends in strip searches reflect the overall reduction that occurred in 2021, arrests involving White and Black people were still **more likely** to result in a strip search, compared to the average.

**White people** were strip searched in **2.5%** of arrests (328 searches) and **Black people** were strip searched in **2.4%** of arrests (214 searches)

Percent of those arrested who were strip searched by race group, comparing 2020 and 2021. Despite the overall reduction in search rates, arrests involving White and Black people were still more likely to result in a strip search



Of the 33,606 arrests in 2021, there were 692 strip searches.

# F i n d i n g



There were differences by race after accounting for repeat offences, including drug-related and weapons offences.

# There were differences by race based on frequency of arrests in 2020

We looked at people who were arrested more than once in 2020 to see if this impacts strip searches.

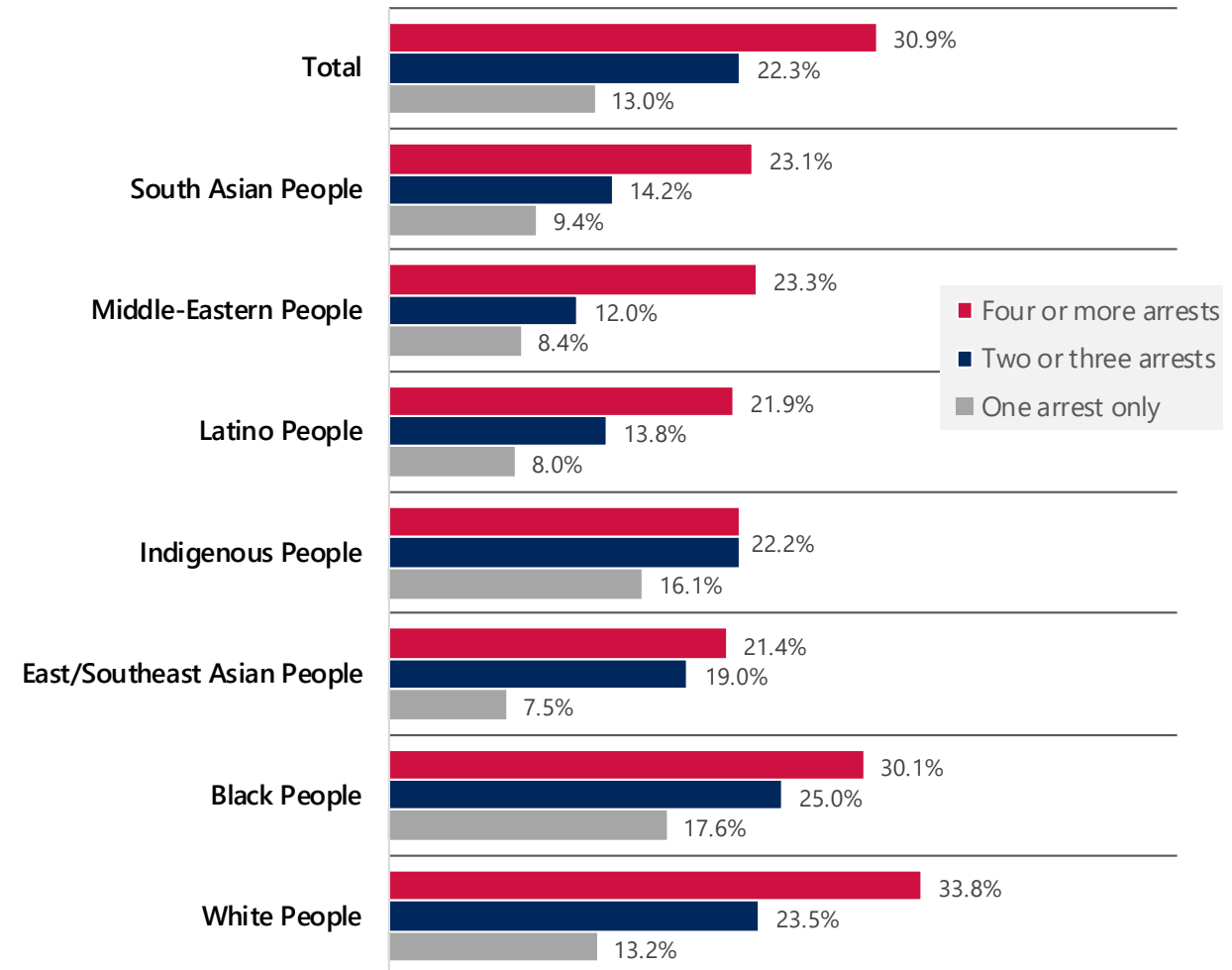
Overall, those with more frequent arrests were **2.4x** more likely to be strip searched following an arrest.

For **Indigenous People**, number of arrests made less of a difference on their chance of being strip searched

For those with 4 or more recent arrests, strip search rates **increased** (compared to those with one arrest) by:

- **2.9x** for East/Southeast Asian people
- **2.6x** for White people
- **1.7x** for Black people
- **1.4x** for Indigenous people

Across all groups, individuals with more frequent recent arrests had higher chances of being strip searched in 2020



# There are differences in strip search rates by race after taking into account primary offences involved

We looked the primary offence to see if this impacted racial disproportionalities

White People were 1.5x and Indigenous people were 1.2x **more likely** to be strip searched relative to their presence in arrests for Break & Enter offences.

Black, Latino, and Middle-Eastern People were **over-represented** in strip searches compared to their presence in arrests for Weapons & Homicide offences.

Black, East/Southeast Asian, and South Asian People were **over-represented** in strip searches compared to their presence in arrests for Drug-related offences.

Arrests involving drug-related offences, break and enters, weapons offences & failure to appear/comply were more likely to result in a strip searches

	Assault & Other crimes against persons	Break & Enter	Drug Related	FTA/FTC, Compliance Check & Parollee, Warrants	Harassment & Threatening	Robbery & Theft	Weapons & Homicide
White people	0.9	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.6
Black people	1.0	0.4	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.7
East/Southeast Asian people	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.9
Indigenous people	1.4	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.5	0.6
Latino people	1.4	0.7	0.3	0.8	1.5	1.1	1.2
Middle-Eastern people	1.3	0.3	0.6	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.5
South Asian people	1.4	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.3

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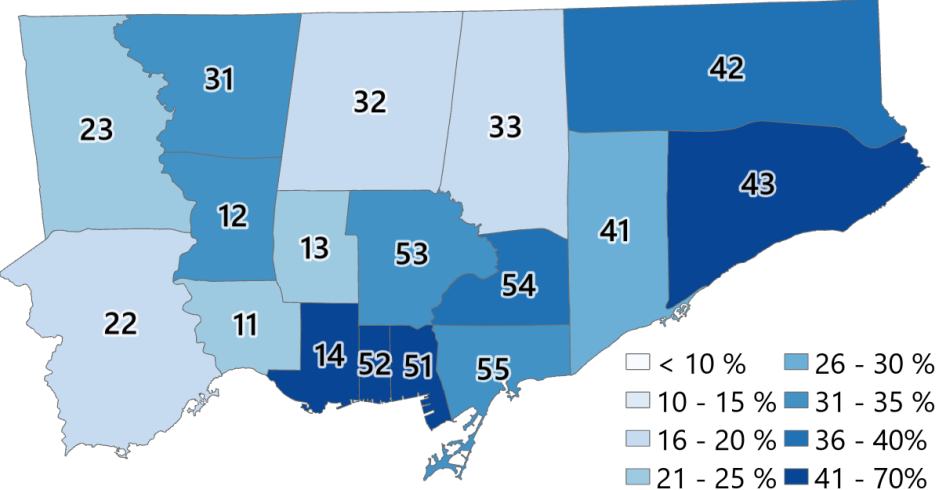
There were differences across arrest locations by division in strip searches conducted in 2020.

# There were differences by location for White, Black & Indigenous people

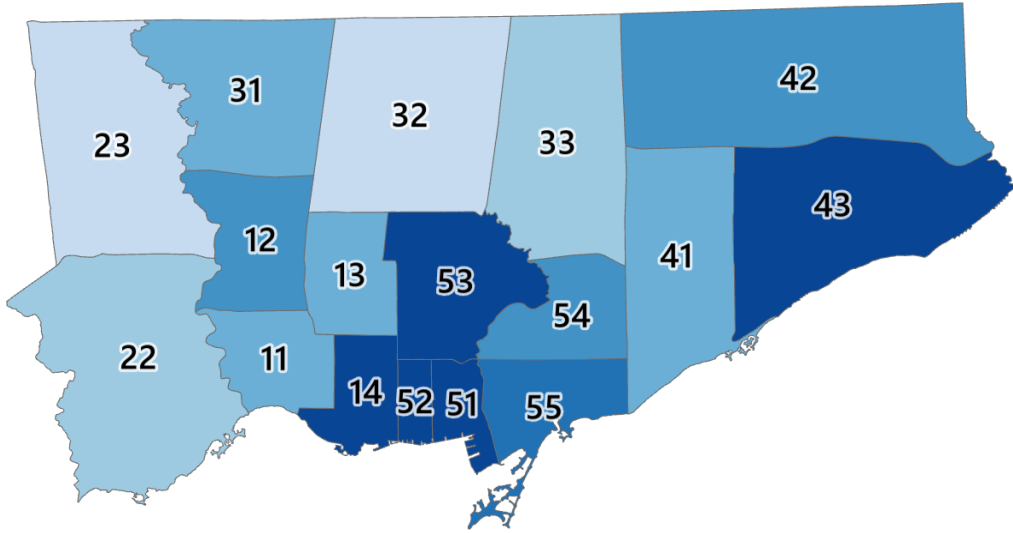
We looked at arrest location to see how strip search rates varied across Toronto by Division.

Strip Search Rates were high for arrests that took place in downtown divisions: **D14, D51, and D52**. For Black and Indigenous People, strip search rates were also high for arrests that took place in **D53**.

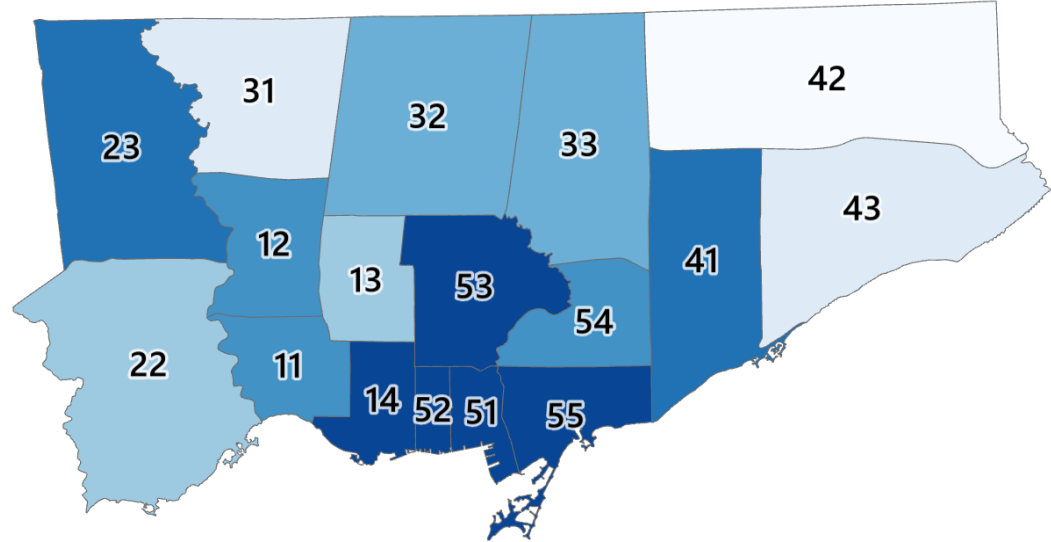
% strip searches for arrests involving White people:



% strip searches for arrests involving Black people:



% strip searches for arrests involving Indigenous people:



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<span style="display:inline-block; width:10px; height:10px; border:1px solid black; background-color:lightblue;"></span> 16 - 20 %	<span style="display:inline-block; width:10px; height:10px; border:1px solid black; background-color:darkblue;"></span> 36 - 40 %
<span style="display:inline-block; width:10px; height:10px; border:1px solid black; background-color:lightblue;"></span> 21 - 25 %	<span style="display:inline-block; width:10px; height:10px; border:1px solid black; background-color:darkblue;"></span> 41 - 70 %

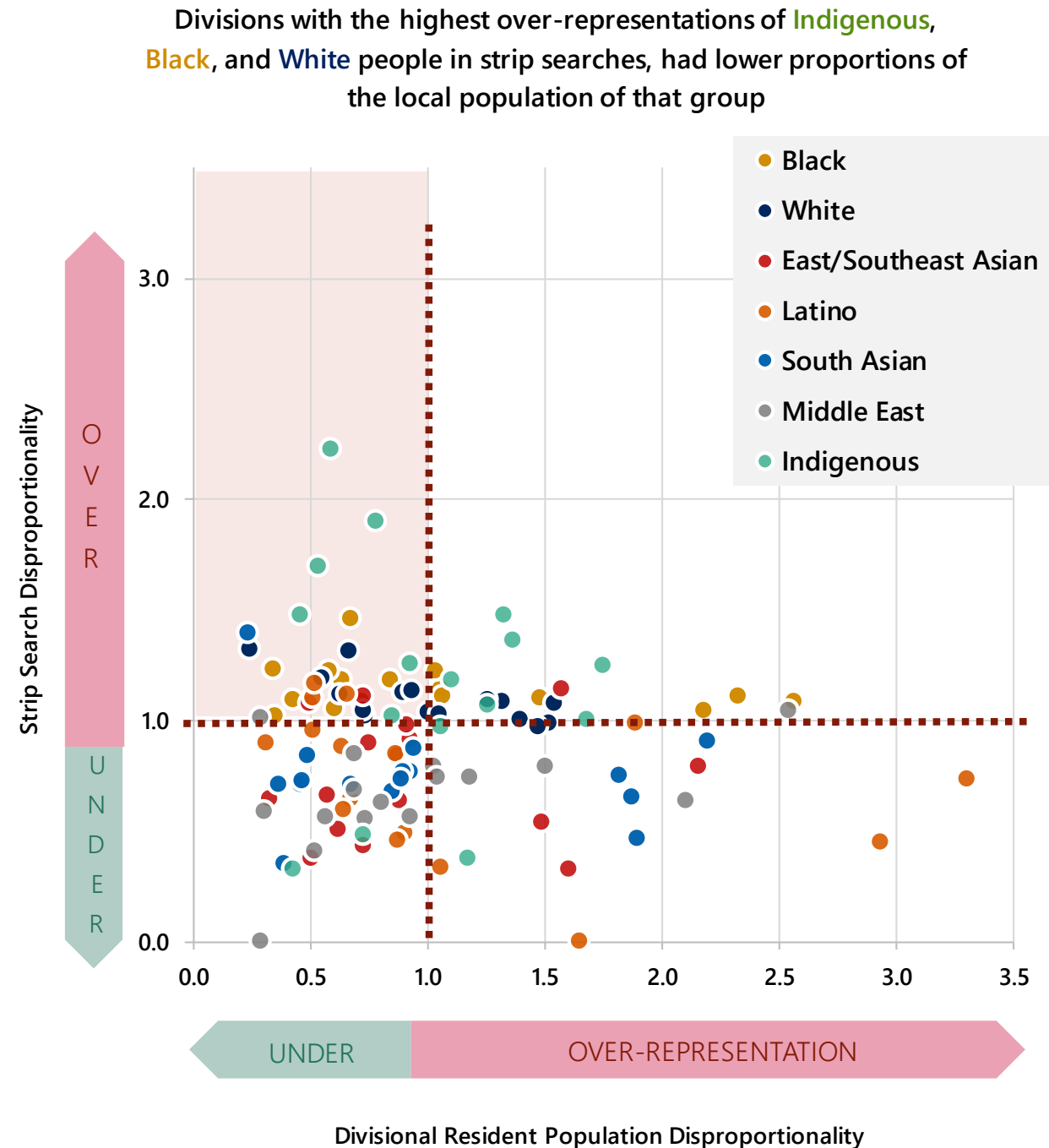
# These differences remained after looking at population demographics

We looked at strip searches by location to take into account the racial make-up of the local resident population.

The graph on the right shows the relationship between the disproportionality of the Divisional resident population and strip search rates for each race group.

Each dot depicts a race group by arrest location (Division). As there are 17 Divisions, there are 17 dots per race group indicated on the chart. Race groups are denoted by the colours identified in the legend.

The red shaded box notes **over-representation** in strip search rate but **under-representation** of that group in the Division's resident population compared to the city average.



# Other Analysis of Interest:

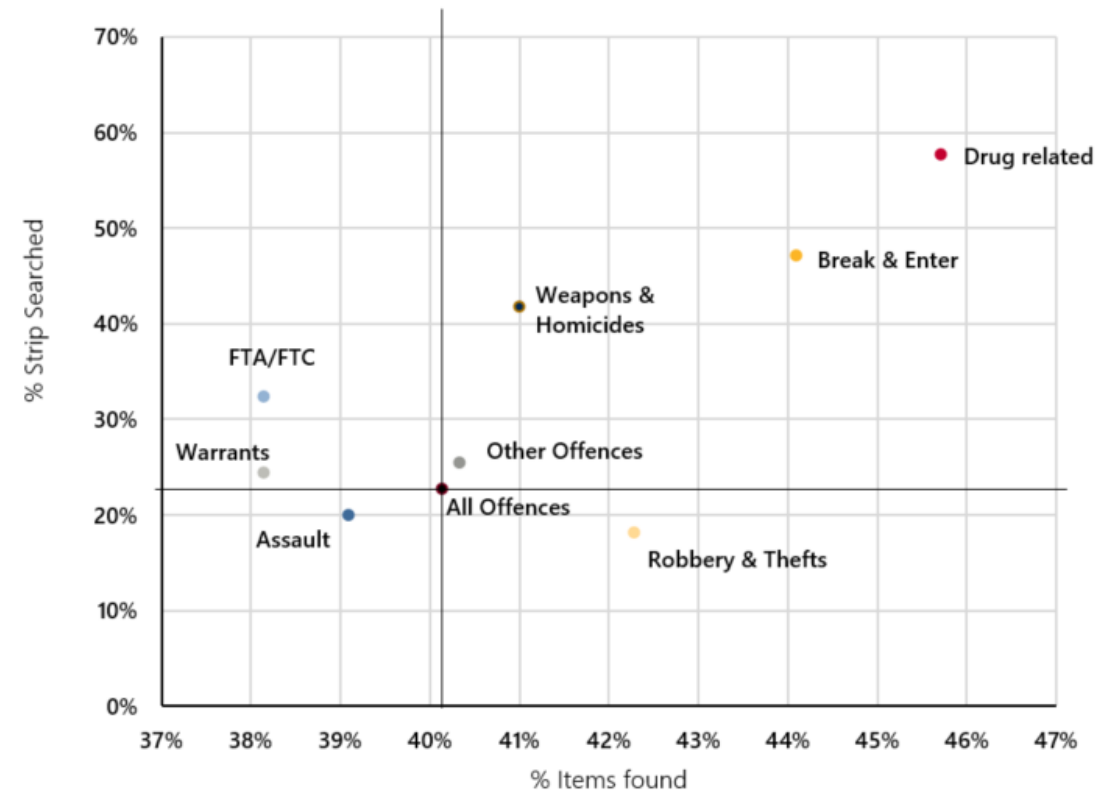
## Items Were Found in 40% of strip searches

We looked at each strip search to see how many searches resulted in items found. There were several data quality issues that the Service has worked towards resolving. Despite the data quality issues, we are reporting on this data in the interest of transparency following questions from communities and our members.

The graph on the right shows the percent of people strip searched with the percent of searches that resulted in items found by primary offence associated with the arrest.

The top right portion of the graph shows the primary offences (**drug-related**, **break & enter**, **weapons & homicide-related**) that had higher than average strip searches and higher than average items found.

There were higher rates for items found in drug-related, weapons & homicide, and break and enter offences



# Other Analysis of Interest: Items Were Found in 40% of Incidents

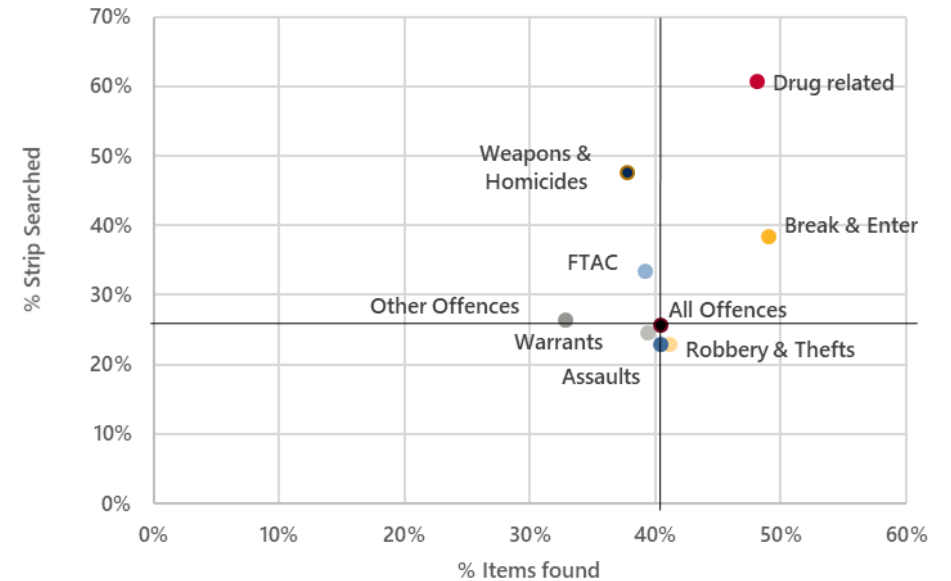
We looked at each strip search to see how many searches resulted in items found. There were several data quality issues that the Service has worked towards resolving. Despite the data quality issues, we are reporting on this data in the interest of transparency following questions from communities and our members.

The graphs on the right show the percent of people strip searched with the percent of searches that resulted in items found for the two race groups that were strip searched the most: **Black people** and **White people**.

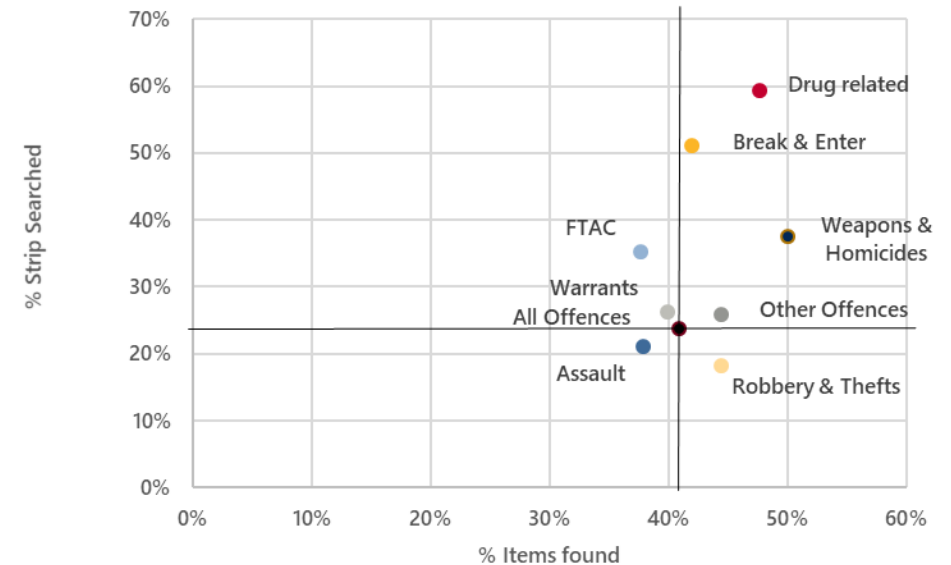
The top right portion of the graphs shows the primary offences that had higher than average strip searches and higher than average items found for each group.

There were small differences by race group. Of note, for **Black people**, strip search rates were higher than average for weapons & homicide related offences, but the percent of searches resulting in items found is lower than the average.

Drug-related and Break and Enter Offences resulted in higher percent of strip searches with items found for Black people (Total = 2, 223)



Drug-related, Break and Enter, Weapons & Homicide Offences resulted in higher percent of strip searches with items found for White people (Total = 3, 240)



# Other Analysis of Interest:

## Reasons for Search

We looked at the reasons for strip searches by race to see if there was an impact on disproportionalities. Officers must select a reason for search from a list that includes: Cause Injury, Possess Evidence, Possess Drugs, Assist Escape, and Possess Weapons.

The most common reason given for strip searches was Cause Injury. Among those strip searched, there were over-representations in certain reasons for strip search by race group. The most variation and highest over-representations were seen in Possess Weapons where:

Latino People were **over-represented** by 1.3x

Black People were **over-represented** by 1.1x

Indigenous People were **over-represented** by 1.1x

There were few differences by race in reasons for search, and the over-representation of some groups in search reasons was relatively small.

Disproportionalities in Reasons for Search by Race

	Cause Injury	Assist Escape	Possess Weapons	Possess Evidence
White people	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0
Black people	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
East/Southeast Asian people	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
Indigenous people	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.9
Latino people	1.0	1.0	1.3	0.9
Middle-Eastern people	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1
South Asian people	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.0