



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

Glossary of Terms

Administrative records

Information collected for the purpose of carrying out and providing various programs and services. For example, administrative records are maintained to manage cases and people, to respond to the legal requirements for recording details of particular events such as arrests, detentions and charges, or use of force, and to support the administration of justice. Examples include: general occurrences report, use of force forms, and arrest records among others.

Affected communities

Refers to communities or groups that are affected by systemic racism in ways that negatively impact or disadvantage individual members and/or groups as a whole.

Anti-Racism Data Standards

Data standards to guide public sector organizations to fulfill their obligations under the Anti-Racism Act and establish the consistent collection, management, use (including analyses), de-identification, and public reporting of race-based information. They are also known as Ontario's Anti-Racism Data Standards (ARDS).

Anti-Black racism

Prejudice, attitudes, beliefs, stereotyping or discrimination that are directed at people of African descent. This form of racism is rooted in our history of slavery and its legacy that continues to negatively affect Black people. Anti-Black racism is deeply entrenched in Canadian institutions, policies and practices, and manifests through unequal opportunities, lower socio-economic status, higher unemployment, significant poverty rates, and overrepresentation in the criminal justice system.

Arrest Population

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, people who were arrested by the Service in 2020.

Benchmark

A point of reference against which various outcomes can be compared, assessed, or measured.

Call for service (type)

An emergency or non-emergency call for police service that results in an enforcement action. The call type indicates how a call was characterised based on initial information provided to the Communications Operator. For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, calls for service were grouped into broad categories in order to identify meaningful trends.

Crime rate

Number of crimes per 100,000 population.

Assault & crime against persons

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, a grouping of primary offence categories within general occurrences of crimes involving actions (with intent to do harm) or threat of such actions by one person against another. Examples include: assaults (various levels, including aggravated), criminal negligence causing bodily harm or death, failure to provide necessities of life, forcible confinement, kidnapping, and administering noxious thing.

Data set (or Dataset)

An organized collection of data. The most basic representation of a data set is data elements presented in tabular form. A data set may also present information in a variety of non-tabular formats, such as an extensible mark-up language (XML) file, a geospatial data file, or an image file.

De-escalation

Verbal and non-verbal strategies intended to reduce the intensity of a conflict or crisis encountered by the police, with the intent of gaining compliance without the application of force, or if force is necessary, reducing the amount of force required to bring a situation safely under control.

De-identify

In relation to the information of an individual, it means to remove any information that could be used to identify a specific individual or for which it is reasonably foreseeable in the circumstances that it could be utilized, either alone or with other information, to identify the individual.

Disaggregated data

Data which is broken down into component parts or smaller units of data for statistical analysis. For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, it means breaking down the (aggregate) "racialized" category into its component parts such as Black, South Asian, East/Southeast Asian, Indigenous, Latino, Middle Eastern, and White.

Diversity

The range of our visible and invisible qualities, experiences, and identities that shape who we are, how we are perceived, and how we engage with the world. These can include race, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, socio-economic status, religious or spiritual beliefs, personality, and perspectives. Each person has many layers of diversity that intersect and make our lived experiences unique.



Division

A geographic unit used by the Toronto Police Service to divide the city of Toronto in order to provide law enforcement services (e.g. assign and dispatch police officers to respond to calls for service). The Service has 17 divisions.

Enforcement action

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, this includes all incident reports of arrests resulting in charges (including released at scene) or released without charges, Provincial Offences Act Part III tickets (serious offences), summons, cautions, diversions, apprehensions, and those with the role type of "subject" or "suspect." It excludes police interactions related to victims, complainants, witnesses, traffic or pedestrian stops, lower levels of tickets, and parking enforcement.

Equity

Fair treatment and access to opportunities for everyone. Equity recognizes that people have different needs and experience different barriers, so they may need different supports and provisions to access certain opportunities. It is different from equality, which is about treating everyone the same and providing the same support, regardless of the person's starting point. Equity is both a process and an outcome.

General occurrence reports

Records that are created by Toronto Police Service to record information about a person and incident, required to support operations, investigations, and the management of cases and persons (if held in custody).

Highest type of force used

The highest level of force used across all officers in an incident. For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, types of force are ranked in order from Physical or other force, Less Than Lethal Force, Handgun Drawn, and Firearm Pointed or Discharged.

Implicit bias (or Unconscious bias)

The attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions or decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases can be positive or negative and are usually outside the person's awareness.

Intersectionality

The way in which people's lives are shaped by their multiple and overlapping identities, which, together, can produce a unique and distinct experience for that individual or group, such as presenting additional barriers, opportunities, and/or power imbalances. In the context of race and Indigenous identity, this means recognizing the ways in which people's experiences of racism or privilege may vary depending on the individual's or group's relationship to other social identities such as religion, ethnic origin, gender, age, disabilities, socio-economic status, and immigration status.



Location

The division where an occurrence incident or arrest took place.

Mental health incident

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, a group of primary offence categories within a general occurrence report that describe the incident as being related to mental health. Examples include: threatening or attempted suicide, overdose, or jumper.

Multiple race group

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, a derived variable where an incident involved more than one person and people were perceived as different races from each other.

Ontario's Anti-Racism Act

An act passed in 2017 to provide a framework for the Ontario government to identify and eliminate systemic racism and advance racial equity in the province. The legislation sets out requirements to maintain an anti-racism strategy and establish targets and indicators to measure the effectiveness of the strategy. It also empowers the government to establish regulations and data standards for public sector organizations to collect, manage and use race-based data for purposes under the act.

Open data

De-identified data that are released free of charge to the public in one or more open and accessible formats.

Perceived race

A police officer's perception of a person's race at the time of an interaction. If the officer did not see the person, they must describe the circumstances in a text box to explain why (i.e., the person was covered, got away, etc.). Perceived race is collected to help us understand if there is systemic racial bias in policing practices, processes and decision-making.

Person in crisis (call for service type)

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, a call for service that results in an enforcement action, for an event relating to a person who appears to be in a state of crisis or experiences a mental health crisis. Person in crisis call for service include: emotionally disturbed person, threatening or attempted suicide, and overdose.

Primary offence

The description of a general occurrence, as determined by the police officer. Categories pertaining to criminal offences are determined based on Uniform Crime Reporting (Statistics Canada) of the most serious offence involved in an incident.



Proactive event

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, interactions with a member of the public that was initiated by a police officer. Examples include: vehicle and subject stops, premise checks, or compliance checks.

Qualitative data

Information that is hard to measure using numbers; it is often about qualities such as ideas, images, qualities (of experiences, behaviours, etc.), emotions, or processes.

Quantitative data

Information that can be measured, counted and expressed using numbers.

Race or race group

Term used to classify people into groups based mainly on physical traits (phenotypes) such as skin colour, eye colour, hair texture, and other visible features. Racial categories are not based on science or biology but on differences that society has created (i.e. "socially constructed"), with significant consequences for people's lives. Racial categories may vary over time and place and can overlap with ethnic, cultural or religious groupings.

Race-based data

Information about an individual's race, ethnic origin, Indigenous identity, and religion. It is also referred as race and identity-based data.

Racial bias

Predisposition, prejudice or generalization about a group or persons based principally on race (see definition of race).

Racial disparity

Unequal outcomes in a comparison of one racial group to another racial group.

Racial disproportionality

The proportion of a race group that is greater than (over-representation) or is less than (under-representation) their presence in the benchmark population.

Racial equity

The condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicts, in a statistical sense, how one is treated and their outcomes. Racial equity is the systemic fair treatment of all people. It results in equitable opportunities and outcomes for everyone.



Racial profiling

Any action undertaken for reasons of safety, security or public protection, that relies, in part, on stereotypes about race, colour, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, or place of origin, or on a combination of those traits, rather than on a reasonable suspicion, to single out an individual for greater scrutiny or different treatment.

Racialization

A process of drawing group boundaries (races) and allocation of persons within those boundaries by primary reference to (supposedly) inherent and/or biological (usually phenotypical) characteristics that are related to race. In this process, societies construct races as 'real,' different, and unequal in ways that matter to economic, political, and social life.

Racism

Ideology or belief system that either directly or indirectly asserts that one group is inherently superior to others based on race. It can be openly displayed in racial jokes and slurs or hate crimes but it can be more deeply rooted in attitudes, values and stereotypical beliefs. In some cases, these are unconsciously held and have become deeply embedded in systems and institutions that have evolved over time. Racism operates at a number of levels, in particular, individual, systemic and societal.

Reported use of force

All police services in Ontario are mandated to submit a report under the Police Services Act every time an officer uses force that meets the provincial definition. A police officer is required to report any interaction with the public whenever a police officer uses physical force that results in an injury requiring medical attention; draws a handgun in the presence of the public; discharges a firearm; points a firearm; and/or uses a weapon other than a firearm (including a CEW – Taser) on another person. Not all uses of force are included – for example, physical force such as a hand strike, push, or use of handcuffs that results in no or minor injuries are not included.

Resident population

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, the population of people living in the city of Toronto, broken down by race group, based on 2020 projections by Environics Analytics.

Self-identified race

Information provided by an individual about their race in response to being asked this information by a police officer.

Social identity

An individual's sense of who they are based on which social group(s) they are part of or affiliate with. Social identities allow individuals to have a sense of belonging to a group or community. These groups can consist of, but are not limited to, race, gender, religion, social class, and memberships in different organizations/clubs.



Strip search

A search conducted by a police officer on a person, which includes the removal of some or all clothing that reveals under-garments and/or a visual inspection of the body.

Strip search rate

The percentage of arrests which resulted in a strip search.

Systemic barriers

Obstacles or barriers that intentionally or unintentionally exclude individuals, groups and/or communities, and are often out of the control of any individual person. Systemic barriers or obstacles can occur when systems, policies, programs, and services are created and/or delivered without benefiting from a range of perspectives during their development or implementation.

Systemic change

Change that transforms how the whole system functions, including culture, leadership, rules, and processes in all its components and the relationships between them.

Systemic racism

Organizational culture, policies, directives, practices or procedures that exclude, displace or marginalize some racialized groups or create unfair barriers to access valuable benefits and opportunities. This is often the result of institutional biases in organizational culture, policies, directives, practices, and procedures that may appear neutral but have the effect of privileging some groups and disadvantaging others.

Threshold

A value that, if met or exceeded, indicates a notable inequality of concern for attention or action. Determining an appropriate threshold helps to interpret the meaning of the numerical results and indicates whether the magnitude of the disproportionality and disparity indices represents a notable difference for further investigation, monitoring, and/or potential action.

Use of force rate

The percentage of enforcement action incidents that are associated with a reportable use of force incident.

Unknown race

A category for perceived race in the Records Management System typically used in situations where a record is created in relation to warrants in which a police officer has not interacted with a specific individual.



Violent call for service

For the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, calls for service from members of the public for police intervention in relation to events or actions by a person that poses pending or immediate physical harm to another person. Violent call for service are: assault in progress, assault just occurred, assist P.C., homicide, person with a gun, person with a knife, robbery, sexual assault, child sexual assault, shooting, sound of gunshots, stabbing, unknown trouble, wounding, assault, and fight.

Weapons

A weapon is any thing used, designed to be used, or intended for use in causing death or injury to any person, or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person.

Weapons carried

Any weapons carried by an individual involved in a reported use of force incident, as perceived by the reporting officer at the time of the decision to use force. This information is collected in the provincial Use of Force Report.

Youth

A person who is 17 years of age or younger. While there can be different definitions of youth used elsewhere, for the purpose of Toronto Police Service's race-based data analysis, this definition has been used to be consistent with the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

