



Guardian of Public Trust

September 13, 2024

BRIEFING NOTE:

Purpose: Decision

TO: Chair and members of the Commission

FROM: Bonnie Riddell, Policy & Research Analyst

SUBJECT: Race-based Data Collection

BRIEFING INTENT:

- To provide background information on the rationale for direction to the Service to collect race-based data.

BACKGROUND:

- The Governance Committee received a verbal update to race-based data collection by the Service on September 5, 2024.
- The committee was informed that Stats Canada has yet to implement the recommendations contained in the report *Police-Reported Indigenous and Racialized Identity Statistics Via the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey*.
- The committee members expressed concerns in their ability to reach Commission goals in the absence of this data and would like to see race-based data collected in the near future in order to identify trends and patterns.
- The Service stated that they have a list of recommendations that they could put in place and practice today.
- The committee agreed to and put forth a recommendation to the Commission that the EPC directs the Service to develop a race-based data plan, even in the absence of Stats Canada's project completion.

Additional Background Information:

Why does the EPC want to advocate for the collection of RBD?

Addressing Systemic Racism and Bias

Race-based data helps police forces and policymakers identify possible patterns of systemic racism and biases in law enforcement practices.

Enhancing Accountability and Transparency

Collecting race-based data supports accountability to the public. It helps to demonstrate that police forces are committed to fair and unbiased practices, which can improve public confidence.

Policy Development

Race-based data informs the creation of more equitable policing policies. Governments and police leadership can use this information to develop strategies and minimum training standards that can address inequities and biases.

What are some cautions in collecting RBD?

The EPC is aware of concerns related to collecting RBD. While race-based data collection by police services can offer valuable insights into equity and discrimination, there are concerns about its implementation, such as:

- Potential for data misuse
- Privacy/data security
- Undermining trust with communities
- Complexity in defining race.

How can the EPC advance this work in a respectful way?

While important, these concerns should not slow down efforts to collect RBD. Some approaches could include:

1) Transparency and Community Involvement - Involve the community in the process by engaging in public consultations, explaining the purpose of the data collection, and offering regular updates on how the data will be used. This helps build trust and ensures the public understands that the data is being collected to reduce systemic biases.

2) Outcomes - Regularly assess and report on how the data is being used to improve practices.

3) Pilot a program - pilot collecting RBD in select areas to assess the effectiveness of race-based data collection. These smaller-scale efforts allow for adjustments to be made before a full rollout, helping address concerns related to privacy, accuracy, and resource allocation.

In implementing these safeguards and strategies, police services can better balance the need for data with concerns about privacy, trust, and ensuring that race-based data collection is effective and equitable.

Recommended motion:**Preamble:**

“Whereas the Edmonton Police Commission has been made aware that the Statistics Canada Race Based Data work is delayed past initial expectations and wishes to advance this work outside of the Statistics Canada project.

MOTION:

The Commission directs the Edmonton Police Service to provide a report detailing options for how Race-Based Data can be collected at EPS on an expedited basis. The report should, at a high level, detail possible costs, timelines, race-based data systems under consideration, and how quickly an option this could be implemented.”