

# Race, crime and policing

2002-2019

›TORONTO STAR‹

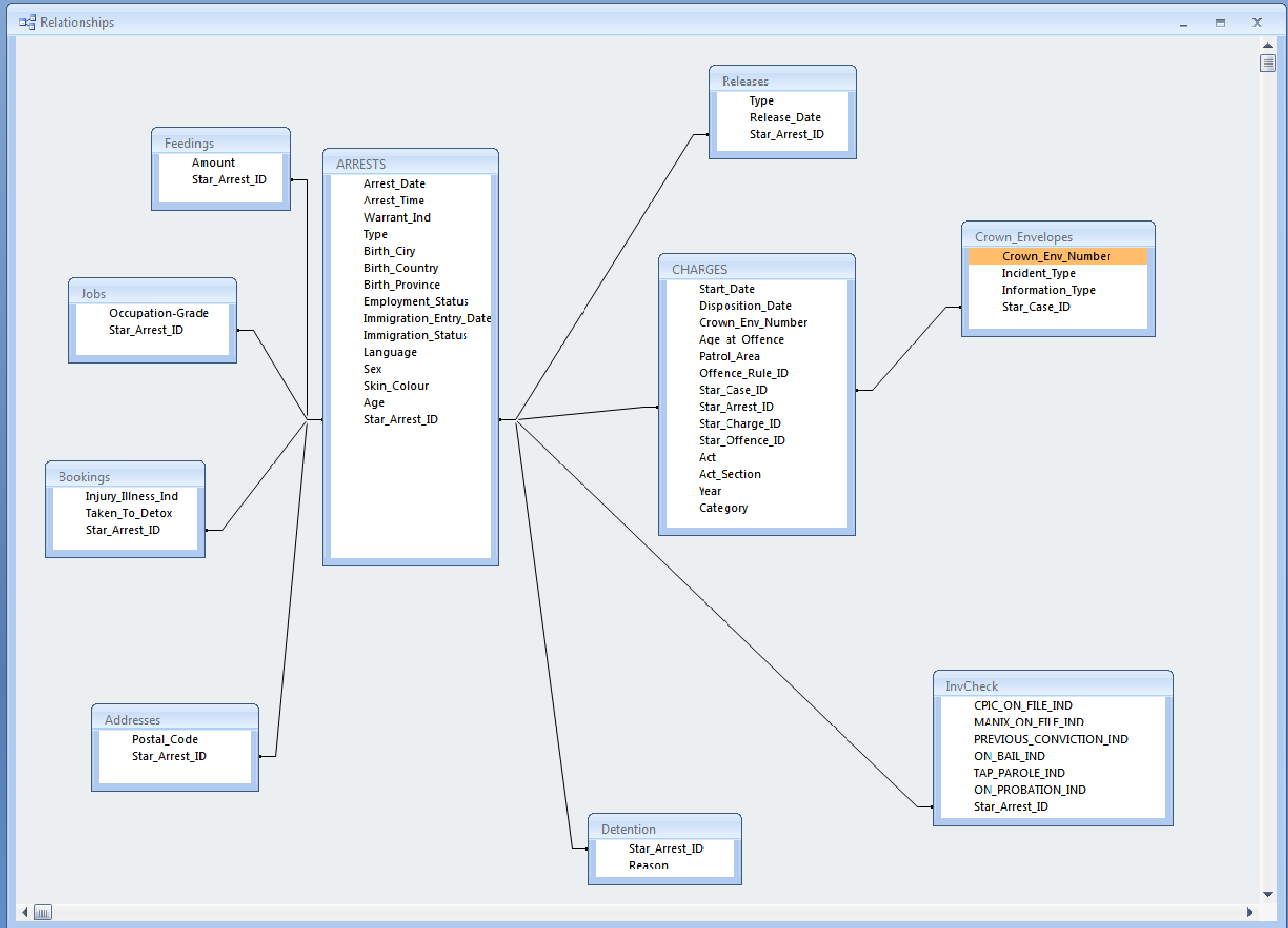
“The colour yellow — used by Toronto police this week in describing a suspect of Asian descent — has already caused embarrassment at police headquarters.”  
— *Toronto Star*, Feb. 18, 1999



# Race and crime

## 2002

- Addresses
- ARRESTS
- Bookings
- CHARGES
- Crown\_Envelopes
- Detention
- Feedings
- InvCheck
- Jobs
- Releases
- StarCoding



## AN INVESTIGATION INTO RACE AND CRIME



JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

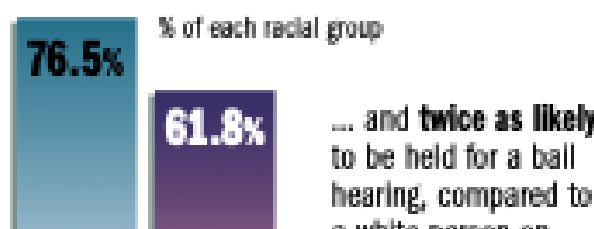
**SUING POLICE:** Jason Burke, falsely accused of dealing drugs during Caribana two years ago, says he was a victim of racial profiling.

# Singled out

Star analysis of police crime data shows justice is different for blacks and whites

## Telling numbers

Police records show that a black person in Toronto arrested on a single drug possession charge was **less likely** to be released at the scene...



Blacks arrested by Toronto police are treated more harshly than whites, a Toronto Star analysis of crime data shows.

Black people, charged with simple drug possession, are taken to police stations more often than whites facing the same charge.

Once at the station, accused blacks are held overnight for

### ■ Managing Editor's notebook, A2

leaders and criminologists, suggests police use racial profiling in deciding whom to pull over.

The evidence is contained in a massive police database recording more than 480,000 incidents in which individuals are arrested

community.

Police are forbidden, by their governing board, from analyzing this data in terms of race, but The Star has no such restriction. The findings provide hard evidence of what blacks have long suspected — race matters in Canadian society especially when dealing with

## Chrétien expected to keep cabinet minister

Ethics report has 'wobble room' to save MacAulay

BY TIM HARPER  
AND LES WHITTINGTON  
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA — Jean Chrétien receives a report from his ethics counsellor today that is expected to give him enough "wobble room" to keep his solicitor-general, Lawrence MacAulay, in the federal cabinet.

Ethics counsellor Howard Wilson completed his report and delivered it to the Prime Minister's Office last night, where it was received by Chrétien's chief of staff, Percy Downe.

It was then to be relayed to Chrétien by secure fax to Beirut, where the Prime Minister is attending a summit of French-speaking nations. It was 1:30 a.m. in Beirut when the fax arrived so Chrétien would likely be reading it this morning.

Senior sources said last night that unless there is a surprise in Wilson's report, the Prince Edward Island minister will remain, Chrétien will return to Ottawa and weather the inevitable storm of opposition and media protest and forge ahead with an ethics package by mid-week.

Wilson has been investigating whether MacAulay broke ethics guidelines for cabinet ministers in the awarding of a contract and extension worth \$100,000 to Everett Roche, a Charlottetown political friend of the solicitor-general's.

Chrétien will not fire MacAulay unless he is given incontrovertible evidence of wrongdoing.



# Sunday Star 25 years old

NEWS, A7

## THE SUNDAY STAR

Partly cloudy. High 11C

October 20, 2002

[thestar.com](http://thestar.com)

# Police target black drivers

## Star analysis of traffic data suggests racial profiling

Black drivers confronted by the flashing lights of a police cruiser often worry if they're being pulled over for the colour of their skin.

Officers deny that happens.

■ Reaction, A9  
■ The Star's view, A12

Now, for the first time, empirical evidence suggests police have indeed been targeting black drivers in Toronto.

Police traffic offence data, obtained and analyzed by The Star, shows a disproportionate number of blacks ticketed for viola-

tions that routinely surface only after a stop has been made.

These "out-of-sight" traffic offences include failing to update a driver's licence with a change of address, driving without a licence, driving without insurance,

or driving while under suspension. Police usually discover such violations only after a motorist has been pulled over. And, in the absence of any other charge, it isn't clear why drivers involved in these offences were stopped in

## Race and Crime

STAR INVESTIGATIVE TEAM: JIM RANKIN, JENNIFER QUINN,  
MICHELLE SHEPHARD, JOHN DUNCANSON, SCOTT SIMMIE

the first place.

It's assumed random checks would generate a pattern of charges that mimics the racial distribution of drivers in society as a whole. So the rate at which minority drivers are charged is often used, in the U.S., as a bellwether for racial profiling.

Canadian authorities refrain from studying the issue. Toronto's police services board has ordered its officers not to analyze

raw race-based crime data, arguing racists might use the resulting statistics to stigmatize ethnic communities.

Police follow that rule, and don't record race statistics for the purpose of ethnic analysis. They do, however, list skin colour in most arrest reports when describing a person charged. It's routine in arrests for major

■ Please see Police, A8

## Students

# Police chief calls for race relations probe

Justice Dubin to study treatment of black suspects

BY MICHELLE SHEPHARD  
AND JENNIFER QUINN  
STAFF REPORTERS

One of Canada's most respected judges will investigate race relations practices in the Toronto Police Service, following a Toronto Star investigation that showed blacks are treated more harshly than whites.

- Reaction to Dubin probe, B1
- Debate on statistics, B4
- Chief's own words, B5
- The Star's Ombud, H6

Police Chief Julian Fantino announced yesterday that he has asked the Honourable Charles Dubin, retired chief justice of Ontario, to conduct an independent review, meet with community leaders and make recommendations that could "improve our performance in this area."

Fantino spoke publicly about The Star's investigation for the first time yesterday, having just returned from an out-of-town conference.

"I have never denied that there are instances of inappropriate conduct by a small number of our officers and our personnel — some that have been viewed as discriminatory and racist," he said. "We do not, however, have a racist or corrupt police service."

When told of the findings in an interview before the stories were published, Fantino flatly denied any racial bias.

"We don't treat people differently," he said at that time. "Nor do we consider the race or ethnicity, or any of that, as factors of how we dispose of cases, or individuals."

Dubin's review was welcomed by board chair Norm Gardner, who said he hoped that there were "no restric-



KEN FAUGHT/TORONTO STAR

**FORCE UNDER FIRE:** Police Chief Julian Fantino discusses the issue of police-minority relations yesterday.

## Fantino's bold move on right path

### Editorial

Chief Julian Fantino deserves congratulations for announcing steps to address the dramatic findings of a Toronto Star investigation that indicates blacks are being unfairly targeted by Toronto police.

Although we would have preferred the chief take such action sooner, we are delighted he now wants an in-depth — and open — study into possible racial profiling by his officers.

His moves clearly show he is asserting his leadership on one of the most sensitive issues to affect this city: its police and its

mer Ontario chief justice, to take an independent look at the race relations practices of the force.

Fantino also plans to meet with his senior officers on the issue. He's inviting members of the black community to come in and talk directly with him.

And the chief reaffirmed his willingness to participate in a summit of civic leaders

look at the issue.

All good steps.

And all necessary steps, backed by promises that he won't tolerate any form of racism and that he will act forcefully on any recommendations that Dubin makes. Fantino's bold decision to appoint Dubin is a sign that he is at last serious about coming to grips with this issue.

Since he became chief, Fantino has worked hard to reach out to minorities in the city — blacks, gays, Asians and others.

But racial bias and prejudice within the

### Race and Crime

INVESTIGATIVE TEAM: AM RANKIN,  
JENNIFER QUINN, MICHELLE SHEPHARD,  
JOHN DUNCANSON, SCOTT SIMMIE

## Black crime rates highest

'No one was born violent . . .  
What's causing these problems?'

There had been another one.

Soon, a police officer would face the thankless task of breaking the news to yet another anguished family. The officer would have to tell Omar Sheriff Christian's next-of-kin that the 26-year-old was dead — shot as he stood outside an Etobicoke nightclub.

His killing, like many others in the black community, sparked a tragic chain reaction. Police allege that Christian's friends, who knew him as 'Face', took off in a fury to avenge his death. But instead of finding his killer that hot July night last year, they found community activist Paul Watson, 33, and his 29-year-old friend Michael Lewis. The two were on the doorstep of a Toronto housing complex.

In the space of 24 hours, three black men lay dead; their names added to a list many have mourned.

"Look at the news, all the shootings that have happened — look at the news," despairs Bev Folkes of the Black In-mates and Friends Assembly. "You're seeing black faces, black faces. I don't want to turn the TV on."

A Star investigation, conducted by analyzing police arrest records, showed that in certain cases where police have discretion to use personal judgment, blacks receive harsher treatment than whites. Last weekend's stories prompted a flood of letters and phone calls from black readers who say they have been subjected to ra-

## Life and death on mean streets

Toronto's patrol area 2302 has highest number of violent charges

Kevin King stands on the fenced-in asphalt where he earned his neighbourhood passport.

There are garbage piles in the corners, and four poles cast long shadows through the centre of the basketball court. And there was a time, he says, when 50 sweaty teenagers owned this area, playing ball long after the streetlights of Kipling Ave. and Panorama Court came on.

King, having just emigrated from Jamaica at the age of 14, quickly found the troubles he was having fitting into the Rex-

dale community vanished on this paved square.

"It's tough because it takes a while for the area to accept you. I was a baller so I earned it at the court. It was the only way I had friends."

### Race and Crime

INVESTIGATIVE TEAM: Jim Rankin, Jennifer Quinn, Michelle Shephard, John Duncanson, Scott Simmie

Around 1996, no one's quite sure of the date, the basketball rims were removed. The court was shut down after complaints, from the surrounding neighbourhood, about noise.

So teenagers brought togeth-

er by the ball started going their own ways. King went on to become a community activist and now, at 22, holds a college degree in business marketing.

A short baller named Garcia, who compensated for his height with quick feet on the court, was shot and killed in a Kipling highrise during a birthday party. Another player was shot but survived.

Jughead used to play with them too. On a cold March night in 1998, Jughead, known to police as Jermaine Miller, shot an undercover officer in the chest and arm during a drug deal. Detective Constable Russ Lillie survived. Miller was convicted and remains in jail.

There are more than 200 police patrol areas in the city. Po-

☛ Please see 'This, A14

## Moscow hostages: 'We were all waiting to die'



## Harris a no-show as Eves pays tribute

**“This is not another study or an investigation of the police services. Rather it is an opportunity for the commission to look into the effect of profiling.”**

**OHRC Chief Commissioner Keith Norton, in announcing a province-wide inquiry into the impacts of racial profiling, Dec. 9, 2002**

# News

## Police union sues Star over race-crime series

**7,200-member group seeks \$2.7B damages in class action lawsuit**

**Star stands by stories as fair, balanced and accurate**

PETER SMALL  
STAFF REPORTER

The Toronto Police Association has launched a \$2.7 billion class action libel suit against the Star for its series spotlighting the force's treatment of blacks.

"Accusing the members of the Toronto Police Service of racism is a very serious allegation and if such a serious allegation is going to be made, the accusers will be called upon to prove it," Tim Danson, the association's lawyer, told a news conference yesterday.



Police union lawyer Tim Danson says the Star's racial profiling series ma-

He said he thought that the case is appropriate for a jury to decide, particularly since it's the community's view that is important. "The police really want to put this in the hands of the public in the form of a jury."

Danson said regardless of whether the association loses the case against the Star, "there are some things worse than losing and that's not even trying."

When asked whether the lawsuit, regardless of its success or failure, may create a libel chill that would cause media to think twice about criticizing institutions whose employees have powerful unions, Danson called that concern "somewhat speculative."

He added that the Star has gone well beyond fair comment in its series. "This was a direct and frontal attack to the quintessential core of what it is to be a police officer."

The charges examined by the Star are part of a much-larger Toronto police

**The  
YORK**

**Monda**

At its meeting of Dec 17, the board made recommendations regarding the necessary steps to be taken to share capital corporation anticipated to be passed.

The Regulations under the Background Study and of the corporation be before a public meeting.

Accordingly, notice is 2003 commencing at Yonge Street, Newmarket proposed by-law of the representations relating to Denis Kelly, Region 5 p.m.

A copy of the Business Corporation is available at the Administrative Centre, the Business Case Base are also available on t

For further information Business Case Background Relations Specialist, a [www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca) [www.region.york.on.ca](http://www.region.york.on.ca)



**YRTA**

York Region Transit Authority  
Making the Right Connections



## News/Viewpoint

# Ruling favours Star

**Highest court kills \$2.7B class-action libel suit  
Toronto Police Association's third straight loss**

NICOLAAS VAN RIJN  
STAFF REPORTER

A \$2.7 billion class-action libel suit against the *Toronto Star* by the Toronto Police Association over a landmark 2002 series on racial profiling is dead following a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada denying the association leave to appeal an earlier court decision.

As is usual in such cases, the country's highest court gave no reasons for its ruling yesterday.

The association sued for libel following publication of the controversial Race and Crime stories in October 2002, alleging the series painted each and every member of the Toronto Police Service as racist.

In an initial action in the Ontario Superior Court, the police union argued the stories implied all police officers were "racists" and "bigots," but Mr.

even hint "that every member of the service is a racist or bigot."

When the association took the case to the Ontario Court of Appeal in June 2004, it met with a similar fate.

That court ruled "it is plain and obvious to us" the stories are not capable of suggesting every member of the Toronto police is racist or engages in racial profiling.

During arguments before the appeal court, association lawyer Tim Danson contended: "We are talking about the most sensational, concentrated, intense and prolonged attack against a class ever."

Neither Danson nor association head Dave Wilson responded to calls for comment after the Supreme Court's decision was released.

Yesterday's Supreme Court decision is the third loss in a row for the association, which had been seeking \$375,000

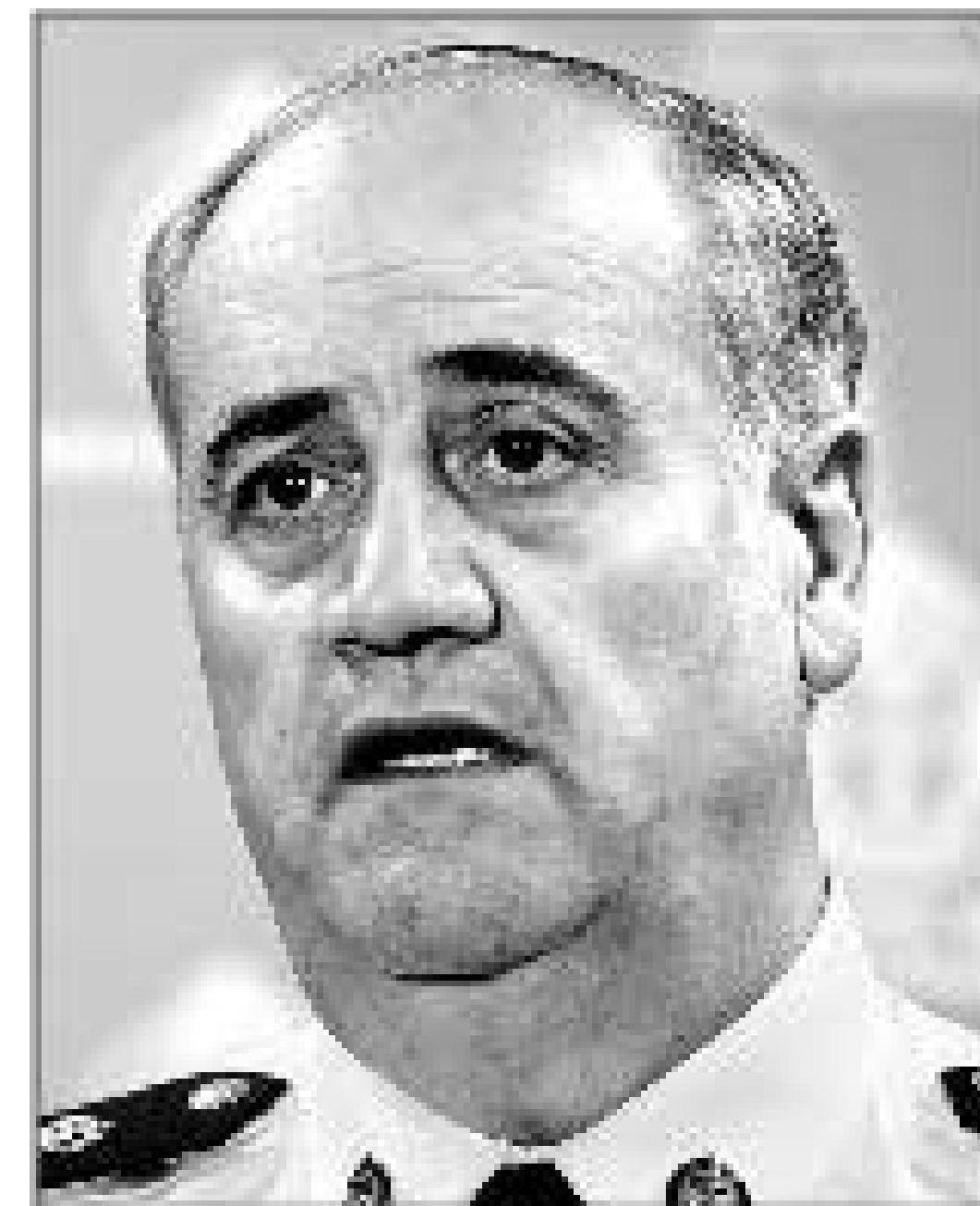
ener Award for meritorious public service journalism, the National Newspaper Award, and the Canadian Association of Journalists' award for computer-assisted reporting.

The investigative team comprised reporters Jim Rankin, Scott Simmie, John Duncanson, Michelle Shephard and Jennifer Quinn; Star library and research services manager Andrea Hall and Matthew Cole, a leading Geographic Information Systems specialist at the *Star*. Greg Smith was series editor.

The team used a police database to show that blacks charged with simple drug possession were taken to a police station more often than whites, and black suspects were held overnight for a bail hearing twice as often as whites.

In his June 2003, decision, Cullity found that the stories do not imply that all officers have racist attitudes. As well, he found, they do not suggest every officer — or anyone in particular — engaged in discriminatory conduct.

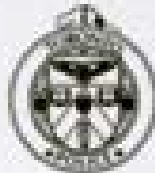
In fact, the judge noted, *Star* columnist Royson James said in one instance



**Police Chief Julian Fantino had been a vocal critic of the *Star's* landmark 2002 series on racial profiling.**

ed in one of the stories as saying the consensus at a "summit meeting" of politicians and community leaders over the issue of racial profiling was that "the overwhelming majority" of officers do their jobs ethically and professionally, Cullity said.

After Cullity ruled against the association, Danson said the appeals would go

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395668	311	Bail Compliance Check-No Viol	7/1/2009 12:49:00 PM	2009	15	Male		Black	1993 NOV	7737		
397714	123	General Investigation	7/1/2009 12:53:00 PM	2009	19	Female		Brown	1989 JUL	433		
418110	423	Traffic Stop	7/1/2009 12:57:00 PM	2009	39	Male	China	Other	1970 MAR	1121977		
396386	312	General Investigation	7/1/2009 12:57:00 PM	2009	15	Male	Canada	Black	1993 JUL	556698		
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395704	131	Traffic Stop	7/1/2009 1:30:00 PM	2009	24	Male		White	1984 OCT	101796		
395723	234	Bail Compliance Check-No Con	7/1/2009 1:30:00 PM	2009	18	Male		White	1991 APR	11687		

# Race Matters

## 2010

# Leaf GM's son killed in U.S. car crash

**Brendan Burke, 21,  
who broke homophobic  
barriers in hockey, dies  
in accident in Indiana**

**KEVIN MCGRAN**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Brendan Burke — the youngest son of Leaf general manager Brian Burke — has been killed in a car accident in Indiana.

"We are saddened to report that Brendan Burke, the youngest son of Leafs president and general manager Brian Burke, succumbed to injuries he suffered in an auto accident . . .," the Leafs said in a statement Friday night.

"The family asks for privacy at this difficult time."

Brendan Burke, 21, and Mark A. Reedy, 18, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., died at the scene of a two-vehicle accident in Wayne County, Ind., around 2:50 p.m. Friday. Heavy snow was falling at the time.

Investigators said Burke was driving eastbound on U.S. Highway 35 in a 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee when, according to witnesses, the vehicle slid sideways into an oncoming 1997 Ford truck driven by Michael Moreland, 24, of Lynn, Ind. Moreland was not hurt.

Wayne County is close to the Indiana-Ohio border, about 100 kilometres northwest of Cincinnati.

The father-son relationship made headlines throughout Canada and the North American sporting culture in November when Brian Burke revealed to the media that his son was gay.

The public admission of homosexuality by Brendan Burke, a former cocaine user, working with a top-ranked

**RACE MATTERS** FIRST IN A SERIES ON POLICING IN TORONTO

# When good people are swept up with the bad



JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

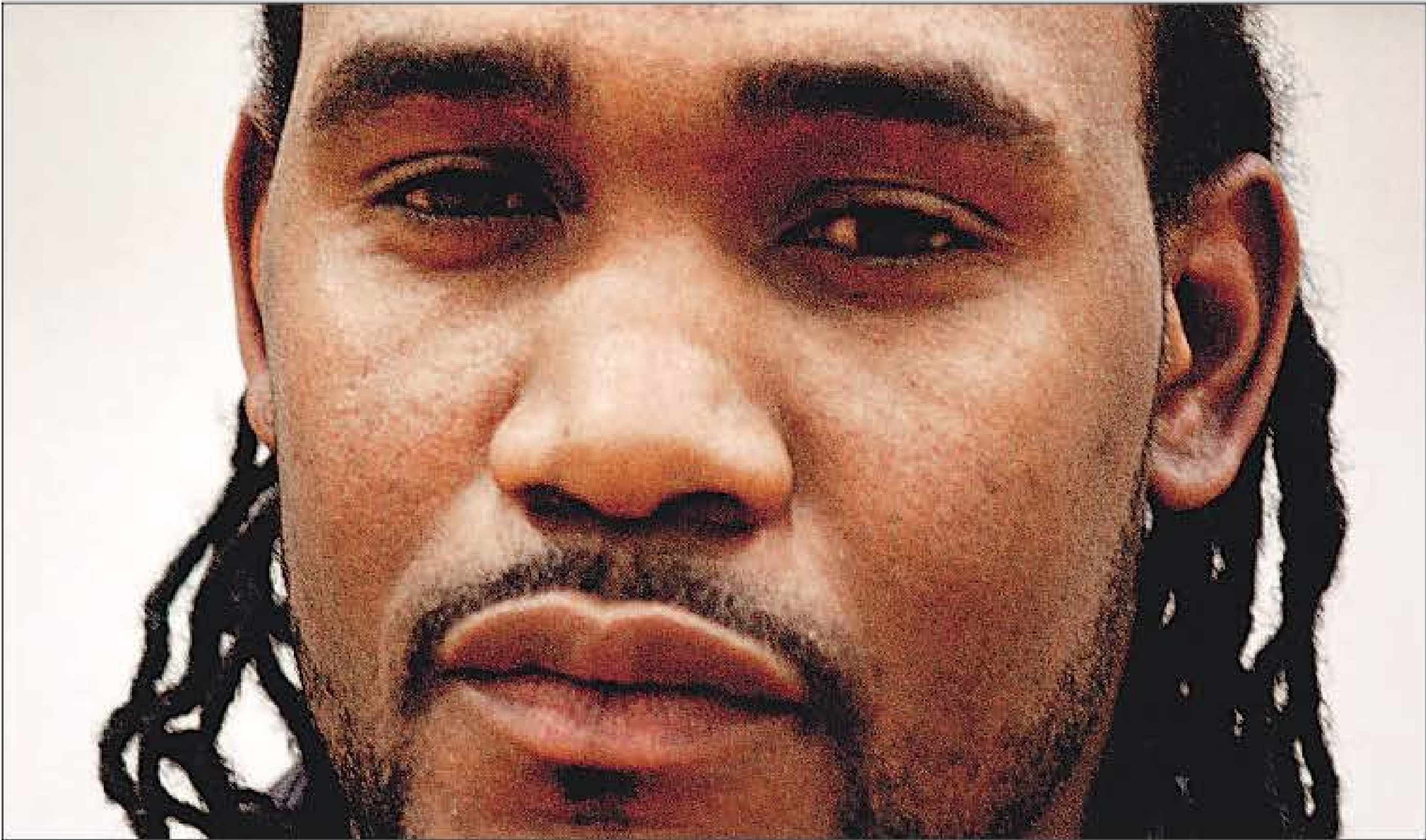
**THE GOOD.** Teacher Rohan Robinson has been stopped numerous times.

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**THE BAD.** Police frequently stopped Mark Cain, now a convicted murderer.

**SEVEN YEARS AGO**, a *Star* investigation into race, policing and crime in Toronto was met with denials of racial bias. Today, police across the country readily acknowledge bias is a factor and the Toronto Police Service is setting an example for other services and institutions with its diversity policy. Yet, race still matters. Today, using never-before-released data, the *Star* launches a series highlighting the Toronto police practice of documenting people in mostly non-criminal encounters. In an uneasy trade-off for safer streets, both “good” and “bad” end up in a growing database. Young black men, more than any other group, are most likely to be stopped and documented. **Jim Rankin reports.**



JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

Thirty-two-year-old Rohan Robinson is an elementary school teacher in Toronto. He estimates that since 2001, he has been stopped close to 30 times by police without being ticketed.

# CARDED: Probing a racial disparity

**JIM RANKIN**  
STAFF REPORTER

10...9...8...

Rohan Robinson begins the mental countdown. A police cruiser has pulled up beside his Acura, an officer has peeked in the driver's side window, and the cruiser has dropped back in behind his car.

...7...6...5...

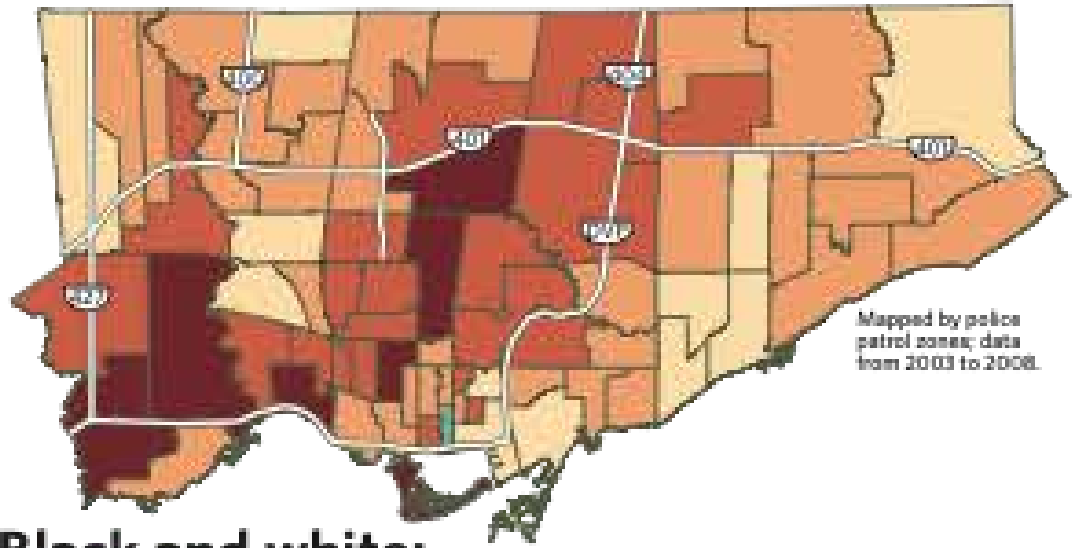
that since 2001, he has been stopped close to 30 times while driving in Toronto without being ticketed. On a few other occasions he was handed tickets, and he says he deserved them.

Before he was old enough to drive, beginning when he was 15, he would be stopped while on foot.

Toronto police question hundreds of thousands of people, both walk-

**INVESTIGATIVE TEAM:**

- David Bruser
- Molra Welsh
- Andrew Bailey
- Jim Rankin
- Hidy Ng
- Patty Winsa
- Brett Popplewell
- Michele Henry



Mapped by police patrol zones; data from 2003 to 2008.

## Black and white: A difference in documentation

Police stop and document a higher proportion of black people than white people in every single one of the city's patrol zones, save one. In most areas, the chances of being stopped if you're black

Increased likelihood of being stopped and documented by police if you're black compared to white

Less than 1

Known to police

2012



# Could every black kid in one area really be 'known to police'?

**JIM RANKIN AND PATTY WINSA**  
STAFF REPORTER

Toronto police stop, question and document hundreds of thousands of citizens each year. Most have done nothing wrong, yet their personal details end up in an ever-expanding database.

Young men in at-risk neighbourhoods, many of whom are non-white and law-abiding, are documented at much higher rates.

A *Star* analysis of Toronto police-stop data from 2008 to mid-2011 shows that the number of young black- and brown-skinned men documented in each of the city's 72 patrol zones is greater than the actual number of young men of colour living in those areas.

This raises a provocative question: in certain areas of Toronto, has every black or brown young man been stopped, questioned and documented?

Toronto police Chief Bill Blair doesn't believe so, and

TODAY'S  
WEEKEND  
LIFE  
SECTION



Theresa Quick's mother died of breast cancer at 52. So she did the only thing she thought she could



# Known to police

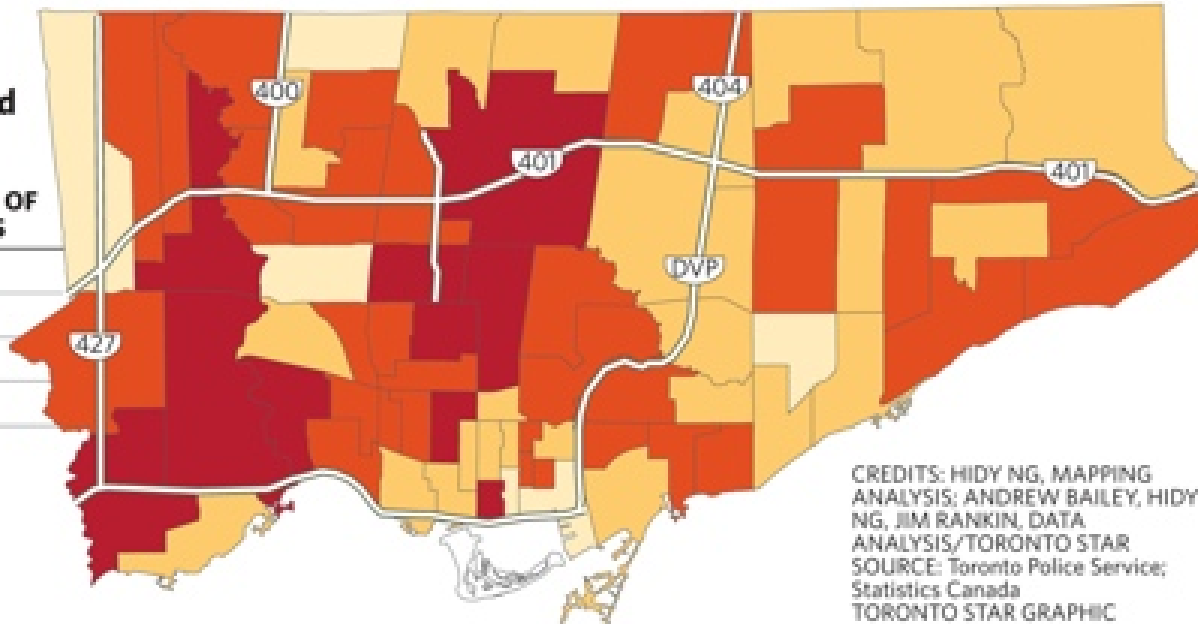
Toronto officers stop, question and document hundreds of thousands each year. Young men of colour are 'carded' in numbers far above their population

## Black and white: A difference in documentation

Police stop and document a higher proportion of black people than white people in each of the city's 72 patrol areas. On average, blacks are 3.2 times more likely to be documented than whites, but in predominantly white, more affluent neighbourhoods that likelihood increases.

Increased likelihood of being stopped and documented by police if you're black, compared to white

LIKELIHOOD	NUMBER OF ZONES
1 to less than 2	6
2 to less than 3	24
3 to less than 5	31
5 to 10 times more likely	11
No data	



**JIM RANKIN**  
**PATTY WINSA**  
STAFF REPORTERS

In a cramped office in the Weston-Mt. Dennis neighbourhood, this question is put to young men taking part in a program designed to keep them from the trouble that comes with gangs, guns and drugs:

Do you think police have stopped, questioned and documented every young man of colour in this neighbourhood?

To a one, the young men agree that is the case in their part of town, one of 13 designated by the city as priority districts, and one where there had been a spate of homicides.

"I am sure of it," says Arnold Jeyabalan, 25, a case manager and employment counsellor with Prevention Intervention Toronto, the federally funded pilot project operating in this office off the lobby of an apartment building. The project closes at the end of March.

"At least once," continues Jeyabalan, who grew up in Malvern, another of the city's at-risk neighbourhoods, and has worked with youth in Weston-Mt. Dennis since 2007.

"I find the data hugely problematic, regardless of what explanation is provided by the police service."

**ALOK MUKHERJEE**  
CHAIR,  
TORONTO POLICE  
SERVICES BOARD

attract police attention, but nothing as pronounced as black and brown youth.

Toronto police Chief Bill Blair dismisses the possibility that his officers, who are encouraged to stop, question and document citizens in all areas of the city as part of regular and targeted police work, may have documented all young black and brown men in certain areas.

"I can't imagine that that's true," Blair said in an interview that stretched over two hours and included two deputy chiefs.

People come and go, he said, and citizens are documented in areas where they do not live, which indeed accounts for many of the cards filled out in certain neighbourhoods.

Blair pointed to internal police data that, unsurprisingly, show many of



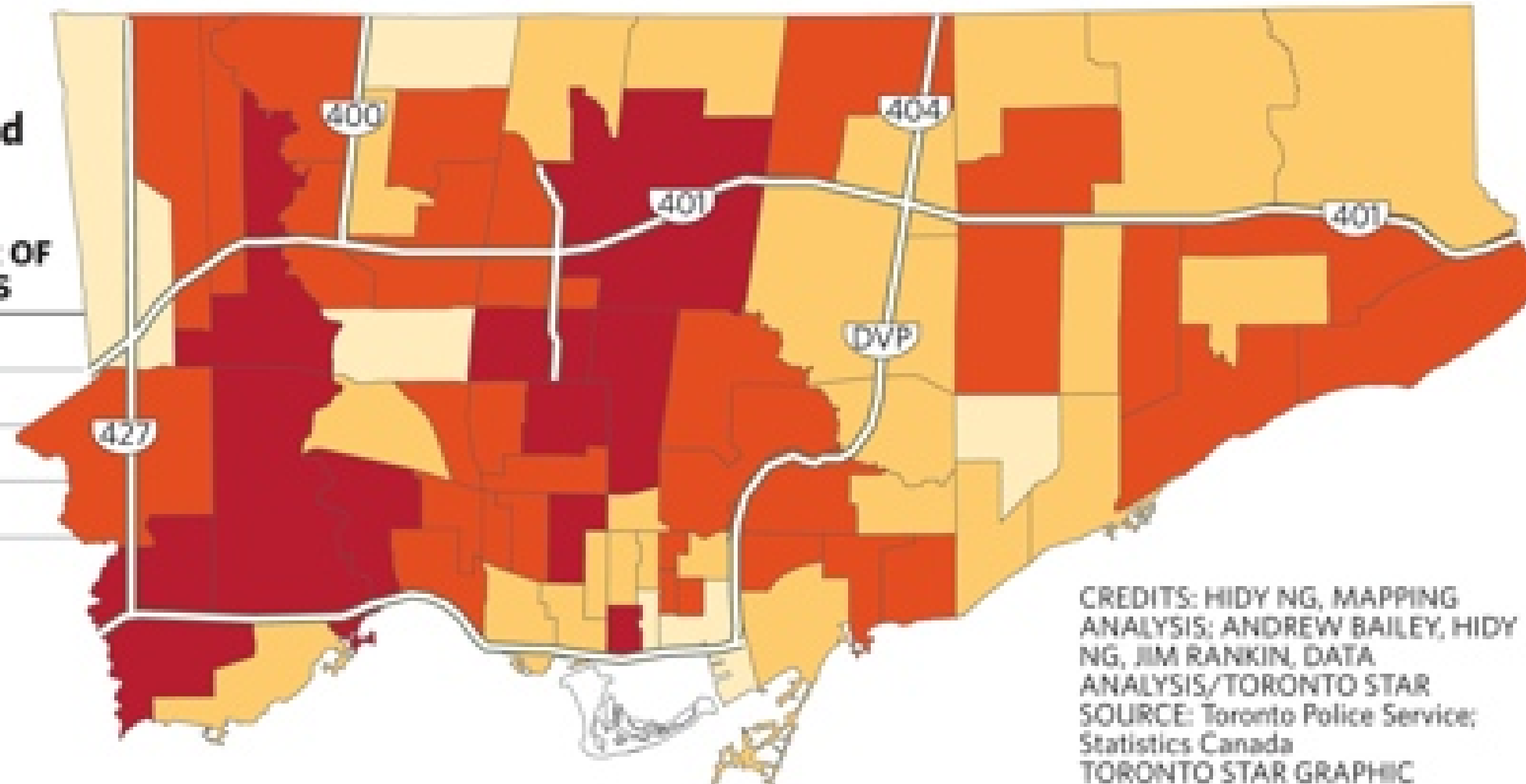
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TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

Police board chair Alok Mukherjee.

at mitigates any potential risk or damage that's caused by it," says Blair. "We're the word balance around here a lot trying to strike that all-important balance between the work that we have to do in enforcement or in crime prevention or through this felt presence — and at the same time, I don't want young people to feel that they're being unfairly targeted."

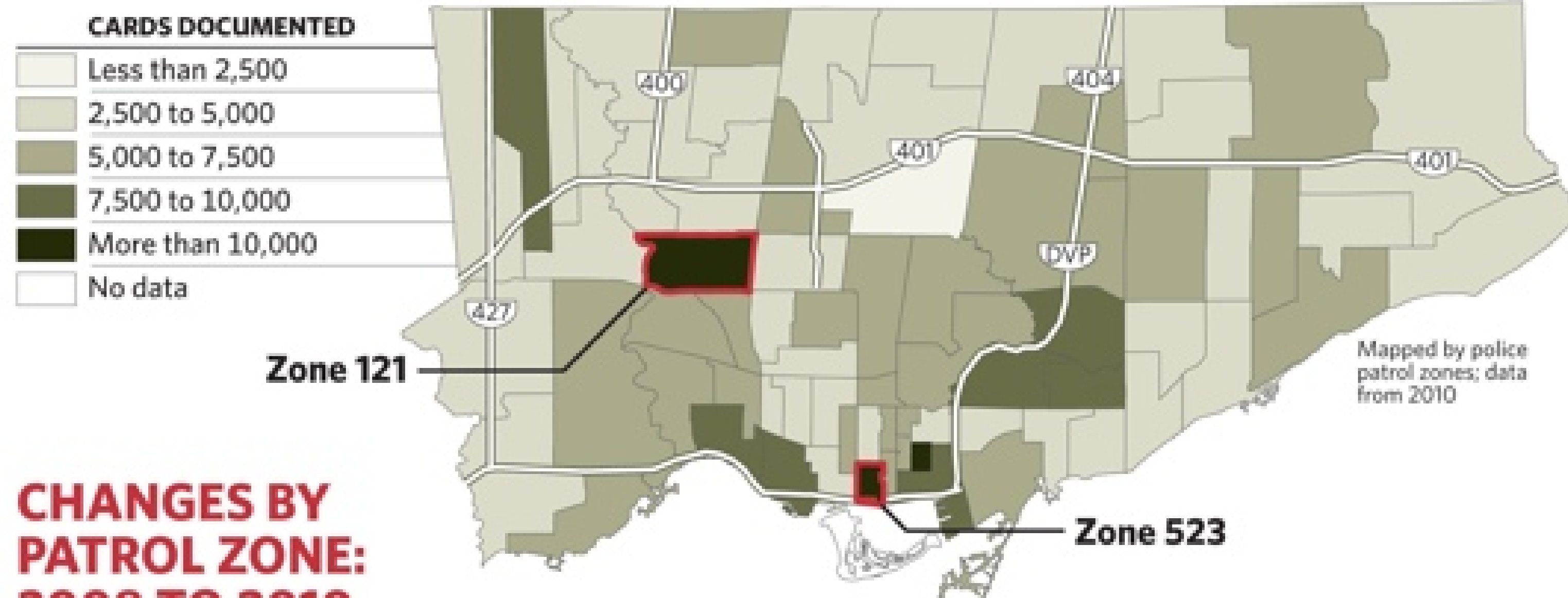
Blair created a specialized policing tactic called Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS) in response to a spike in homicides in 2005, the so-called "Year of the Gun." The strategy involves targeting violent areas with officers who stop, question and document at a higher rate than regular officers.

# Carding on the rise

After peaking in 2007 and declining in 2008, the number of contact cards filled out by Toronto police in mostly non-criminal encounters with citizens has steadily increased, adding more personal details to a massive police database that has no purging requirements. Areas with high levels of violent crime are more heavily policed in this way. These areas, typically, are neighbourhoods where there are lower incomes, fewer opportunities, more single-parent families — and more visible minorities.

## MOST CARDED AREAS: 2010

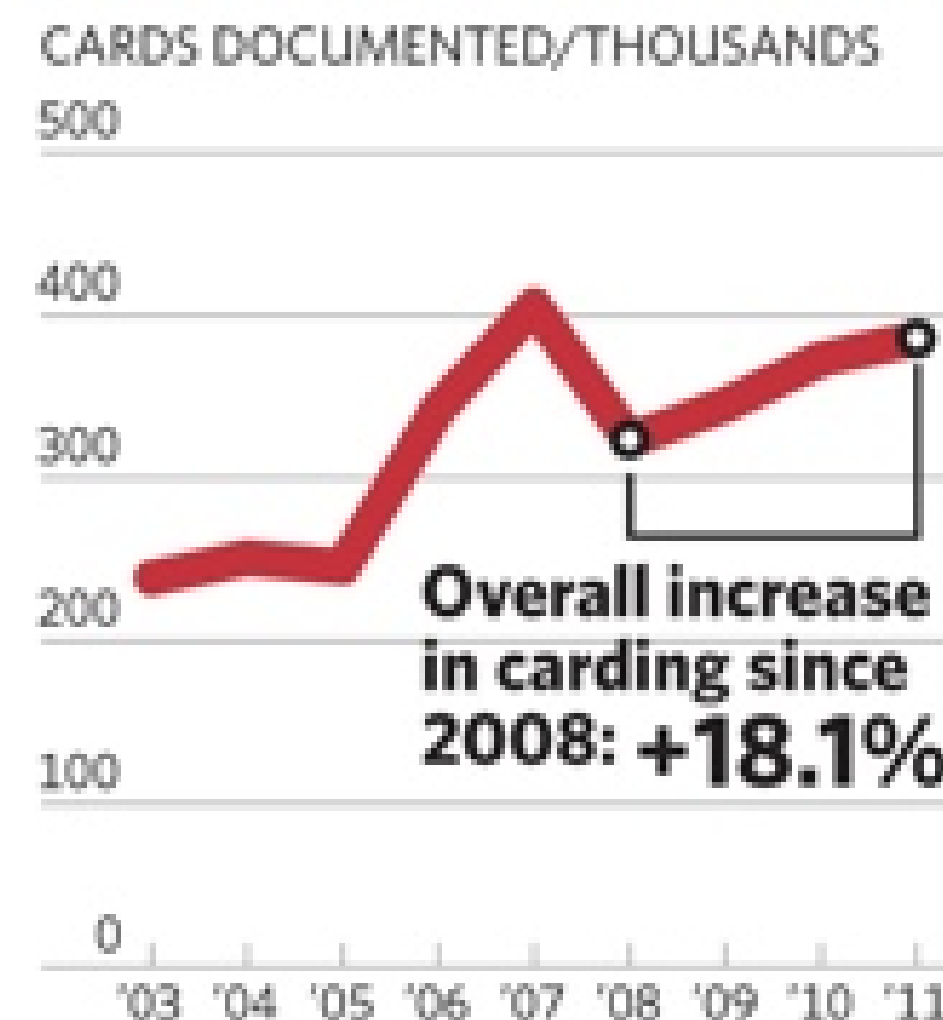
Patrol zone 121, which includes the neighbourhood of Weston-Mt. Dennis, has seen a spate of homicides in the past few years and, unsurprisingly, is where police have filled out the most contact cards. The downtown patrol zone 523, which includes the Entertainment District, is also a place where police document many citizens.



## CHANGES BY PATROL ZONE: 2008 TO 2010

Carding increased in 51 of the city's 72 patrol zones between 2008 and 2010. Areas in mid Toronto and the west end saw the largest increases, while the northeast part of the city saw the largest decreases.

## CARDS BY THE YEAR



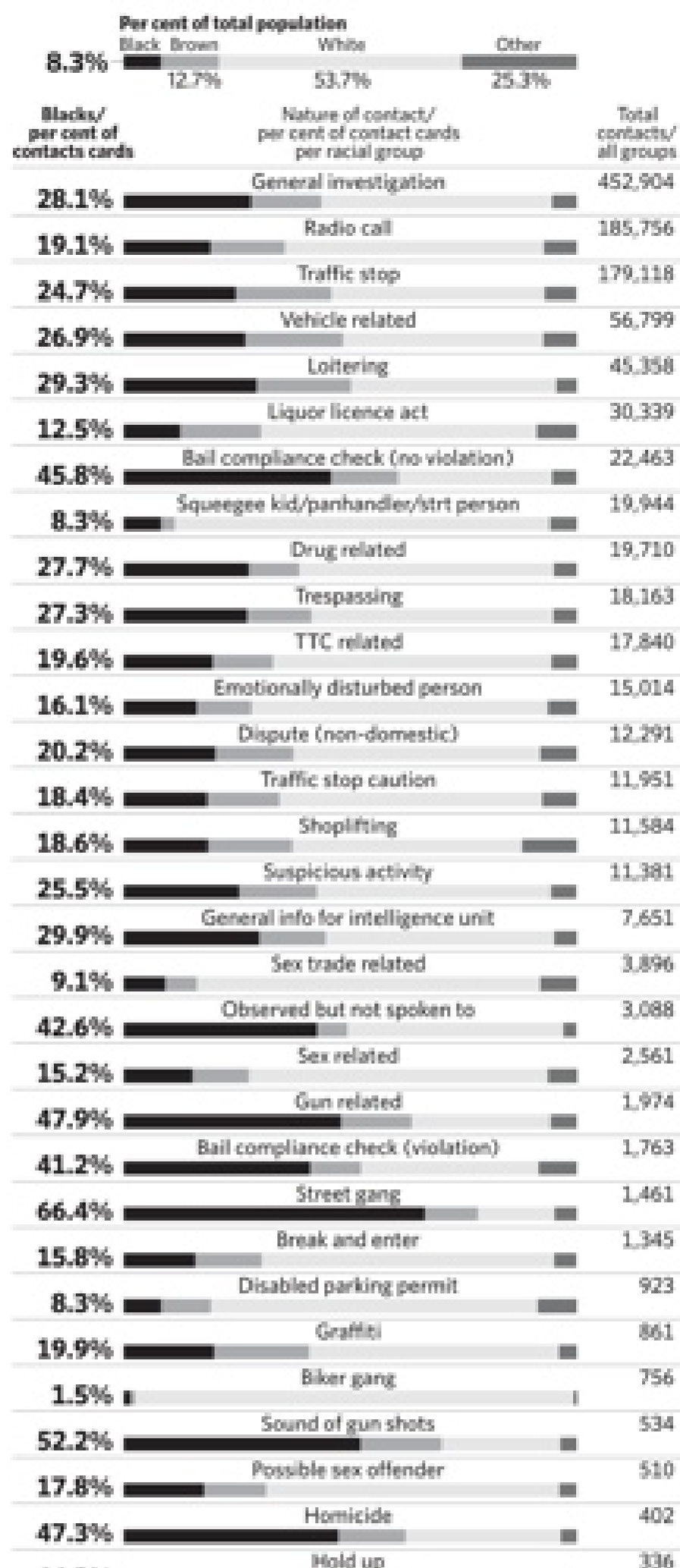


» INSIGHT

# ‘These stops contribute to black males’ alienation from Canadian society’

## Race cards?

Blacks account for 8.3 per cent of Toronto's population. Yet, of the 1.25 million contact cards filled out by Toronto police officers when they stopped and questioned people between 2008 and mid-2011, 23.4 per cent were for people identified as black. This table shows who police stopped by four skin colour categories, for what reason and the per cent who were black.



Continued from previous page

There were 381,873 cards filled out in 2011, 20,000 fewer than 2007 but up 18 per cent from 2008.

In an interview with the *Star* two years ago, Blair attributed the drop in 2008 to the possibility that police had gotten to “know” many people, and there was less need to document them. This time around, Blair says the subsequent increases are the result of intelligence-led policing in violent crime hot spots.

Yet police fill out these cards in every area of the city, and it is considered good police work. In fact, most police services collect data from non-criminal encounters they have with the public.

“When I have two cops walking down the street, I don’t want them just talking to each other,” Blair says. “I want them to talk to the people . . . the shop owners, the people who live there, that are working there, playing there, kids going to school.

“It’s that felt presence. You want them to engage with people. And one of the things we require — not every interaction with the public — is that they record a certain amount of information about those transactions. It’s a measure of them doing that.”

Youth interviewed by the *Star* for past stories and for this series speak of encounters with police that begin badly, such as being interrupted during a basketball game on an outdoor court and asked to produce identification.

Many feel “criminalized” by the experience and that they have no choice but to answer police questions, even if they are not required to do so.

To go silent or, worse yet, walk or run away, invites more trouble.

Aside from a few youth workers who have had their own experiences being stopped by Toronto police, the young people the *Star* interviewed for this story did not want to be identified, but they share similar stories.

“One thing I learned is that if you’re not involved in that stuff, then you don’t have any problems,” says one thoughtful black man of 28 living in a priority neighbour-



Federal funding for Weston youth workers Arnold Jeyabalan and Zola Jeffers and their Prevention Intervention ends this month.

hood, referring to street crime and police.

“But I always feel that, because I live in the neighbourhood and because I fit the profile of young black male, I guess I’m always going to be targeted.”

Like this experience he had two years ago with TAVIS officers: “We were at the basketball court and they roll up on us and say, ‘Wow, don’t move. Don’t move.’

“They searched one of them and they say, ‘Wow, what do you have in your pocket? ‘Nothing.’ ‘Don’t lie to me. Where is the stuff?’

There was no “stuff.”

“It feels more like another system of oppression where the police use that power just to let you know that they have that right to come any time and your

home is not your home.”

University of Windsor law professor David Tanovich has described the growing police database of people stopped and documented in these mostly non-criminal encounters as a “no-walk list” for “racialized youth.”

In a ruling in 2004, Justice Harry LaForme, now on the Ontario Court of Appeal, wondered if the practice of documenting citizens was a possible tool for racial profiling.

“This kind of daily tracking of the whereabouts of persons — including many innocent law-abiding persons — has an aspect to it that reminds me of former government regimes that I am certain all of us would prefer not to replicate,” wrote LaForme.

Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto’s Centre of Criminology and co-author of a 2011 paper called “The usual suspects: police stop and search practices in Canada,” believes the patterns revealed in his research and in certain Toronto neighbourhoods in the *Star* analysis are “reminiscent of apartheid South Africa.”

Owusu-Bempah, who sits on the Toronto police Black Community Consultative Committee, said in an interview that Toronto police are working hard to improve relations with communities strained by violence and credits Chief Blair for hiring “racialized police officers.”

But then there is the reality of what is

bourhoods other than their own who are stopped by the police and essentially told, you know, ‘If you don’t have any legitimate business here, especially at night, you shouldn’t be in the area, and to move along.’”

The *Star* analysis of the police stop data shows blacks are more likely than whites to be documented in areas where fewer black people live.

However, the overall level of carding of citizens is highest in areas where more visible minorities live.

Owusu-Bempah says data suggesting that in some areas police may have documented every young black or brown male “speaks exactly to this being reminiscent of apartheid South Africa and the pass laws which were used there to control the movement of blacks in the country.”

Chief Blair and police board chair Mukherjee reject the apartheid comparison. “Apartheid in South Africa was state-sanctioned and -backed practice,” Mukherjee says in an email. “Not so in Toronto, and that is a significant point of departure. . .

“Having said that, I would worry very much with the youth workers that even the belief that this is what is happening will undo the effect of all the positive work that has been attempted to be done.”

**THE BELIEF IS** there in Weston-Mt. Dennis.

“I don’t think you’re getting to know

“There are bad apples in every area, but this whole community’s getting targeted.”

**ARNOLD JEYABALAN**  
YOUTH WORKER,  
PREVENTION  
INTERVENTION  
TORONTO

## Police documentation by skin colour

Is it possible that in certain areas of Toronto, police over the past several years have documented every young man of colour? Overall in Toronto, the number of young black and brown males documented by police is greater than the number of young males of those skin colours who live in the city. Of course, people move about and not everybody documented will be from the city. But it does allow for the question to be asked.



### ALL AGES AND GENDER

DOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS FROM 2008 TO MID-2011

**BLACK:** Enough black people documented to equal **74%** of the city’s black population

**BROWN:** Enough brown people documented to equal **39%** of the city’s brown population

**WHITE:** Enough white people documented to equal **30%** of the city’s white population

**OTHER:** Enough other people documented to equal **9%** of the city’s other population

### YOUNG MEN, AGED 15 TO 24

DOCUMENTED INDIVIDUALS FROM 2008 TO MID-2011

**BLACK YOUTH:** Enough black youth documented to equal **340%** of the city’s young black population

**BROWN YOUTH:** Enough brown youth documented to equal **183%** of the city’s young brown population

**WHITE YOUTH:** Enough white youth documented to equal **99%** of the city’s young white population

**OTHER YOUTH:** Enough other youth documented to equal **33%** of the city’s other youth

SOURCE: Toronto Police Service, Statistics Canada CREDITS: ANDREW BAILEY, HEY NG, JIM RANKIN, DATA ANALYSIS/TORONTO STAR TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC

one few wish to broach publicly — is who is responsible for street crimes.

In the same freedom-of-information request, the *Star* obtained Toronto police arrest and charge data that shows blacks represent 30 per cent of charges for violent offences yet comprise 8.3 per cent of the population.

This remains unchanged from past *Star* analyses, in 2002 and 2010.

University of Toronto criminology professor Scot Wortley believes police are using the same kind of “actuarial reasoning” with young black men that insurers often use when looking at young male drivers.

In other words, just as all young males pay higher car insurance premiums regardless of their driving record, young black males are paying a higher “policing premium” because of the criminal actions of a few.

The “higher rate of offending may be the result of family issues, racism, poverty, unemployment and other social factors,” says Wortley, who studies youth crime and policing and co-wrote the Usual Suspects article with Owusu-Bempah.

“The other side of the equation, however, is that the vast majority of young black males in Toronto are not in any way engaged in serious criminal activity.

“These law-abiding black males, unfortunately, become guilty by association. . . The police may think that it is rational and perhaps cost-efficient to stop and

stops contribute to black males’ alienation from Canadian society.”

Since becoming chief in 2005, Blair has been quick to acknowledge that racial bias is a reality in policing, as it is with any other segment of society that hires from the human race.

But he has also stressed that his strategy with TAVIS is to heavily police in areas of high victimization. These areas happen to be poorer and home to more visible minorities.

“The most important statistic so far?” Blair says, nearing the end of the interview.

“I think that all of those young people are safer today than they were five years ago. And I think it’s far more likely that young people can be successful and live in their neighbourhoods without being fearful.

“That’s ultimately why we’re doing this . . . It’s safer for those young people.”

Police are certainly aware of the negative perceptions.

They have consulted youth over how to improve interactions they have with young people and have tailored the TAVIS program to do maintenance and follow-up programs in areas they target.

But youth worker Jeyabalan says there is much more work to be done in at-risk areas, and it is all about the approach.

“There are bad apples in every area, but this whole community’s getting targeted,” he says. “That’s why you have people who

## Violent crime 2009-2010

Blacks are charged with a disproportionate number of violent crimes.

**8.3%**  
of Toronto’s population is black, but...

**30%**  
of violent crime charges between 2009 and 2010 were laid against blacks.

CREDITS: ANDREW BAILEY, HEY NG, JIM RANKIN, DATA ANALYSIS/TORONTO STAR SOURCE: Toronto Police Service, Statistics Canada

## TOMORROW, PART 2: PATROL ZONE 121

### KNOWN TO POLICE

Detailed interactive maps, an animated movie





A heavy police presence is a defining feature of life in Weston-Mt. Dennis. The body count is down, but tensions are high between youth and police

Patrol Zone



121



JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

PATTY WINSA  
AND JIM RANKIN  
STAFF REPORTERS

A flickering television illuminates the young faces in a darkened room at 121 Humber Blvd., a community housing apartment building in a neighbourhood labelled one of Toronto's most troubled. The boys and girls and youth workers of the Boys and Girls

In this episode from the first season, drug dealer Avon doubles a bounty on the heads of rival Omar, a likeable yet deadly dealer, and his crew. It's street retribution for a rip-off that will, naturally, go unreported to the authorities. The boys and girls in the room, most in their early teens, see a reflection of what

But this is a place where single families struggle, unemployment is high and there is a general lack of opportunity. This is what kids see out their windows: on Aug. 25, 2010, four men were shot in a housing complex next to 121 Humber, including a 19-year-old with a bullet in his chest, a 17-year-old with two bullets

Building No. 9, the last structure standing of the former Kodak plant, is still an icon — for lost jobs and neighbourhood decline. The old CCM bicycle plant is gone too. The high-crime Weston-Mt. Dennis area is one of the city's 13 "priority" or at-risk neighbourhoods.





Chris Blackwood, left, and Rayon Brown of the Boys and Girls Clubs. Police "automatically assume we're drug dealers and killers," says Brown.



Former I2 Division unit commander, Staff Superintendent Tom Russell, left, and his replacement, Superintendent Mark Saunders, outside the station at the corner of Tretheway and Black Creek Drives.



Shadya Yasin of the York Youth Coalition challenges area politicians at a community meeting last month that focused on youth programming and funding.



Arnold Jeyabalan and Zola Jeffers will be out of work at month's end, federal funding having expired for their Prevention Intervention youth program.

# 'It's not all a doom-and-gloom story here'

Continued from previous page

"There were a lot of young people who felt there was an abuse of power from the police towards them in terms of the questioning," says Shadya Yasin of the York Youth Coalition, a group of 18 agencies that work together to provide service co-ordination for youth programs in Mt. Dennis.

"Until today, there are still a lot of young people who feel questioned."

Two youth workers interviewed by the *Star* recalled a day last year when they were walking along Jane St. and saw that TAVIS officers had pulled over four different motorists in a span of two blocks.

"Unfortunately they were all young and black," says one of the workers. "That was a shocking experience for me because I've never seen four different people in cars — not even two blocks apart — pulled over."

**ABOUT 65 GRADUATES** of Prevention Intervention Toronto (PIT), a nine-month, federally funded gang prevention program run by the non-profit agency JVS Toronto, sit waiting to receive their diplomas in the brightly lit gym of the Baile Hebrew Day School on Bathurst St. south of Lawrence Ave. W.

Since July, the youth — who are from some of the city's most at-risk communities, including Weston-Mt. Dennis — have received intensive mentoring from case workers who have taught them about anger management, life skills, leadership training, even food literacy.

All of them were chosen because they were involved in gangs or lived in a neighbourhood where there were strong odds they might join one.

But "it's not like the Crips and Blood gangs sensationalized in the U.S.," says Zola Jeffers, a hard-nosed case worker who mentored youth in the Weston-Mt. Dennis branch of the program. "Here it's about survival and poverty. It's about putting food on the table."

The gym is decorated with tables covered in black cloths and dotted with black, gold and white balloons. High up on the walls are the bright blue-and-white championship banners of the Hebrew school's sports teams.

But for the youth sitting five rows deep, watching a gritty theatrical performance on mental health and teen sex before the ceremony, success will be judged in far less tangible terms.

"If I can get a young man to stop referring to women as 'bitches,' that's success."



Looking east along Eglinton Ave. W., left, where construction is underway on a cross-town subway line. Above, Weston Rd. street lights bear reminders of another neighbourhood icon, the long-gone CCM bicycle plant.

PHOTOS BY JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

VIDEO

## KNOWN TO POLICE

Detailed interactive maps, an animated movie and Part 1 of the series are available online.

[thestar.com/knowntopolice](http://thestar.com/knowntopolice)

He says he often hears from teenagers who say, "Oh I can't stand the police. I can't stand this. There are no jobs for me." But Asante says he encourages the conversations and hopes it will keep the kids coming through the door.

"When they come back the second time it's more positive," says Asante. "And that's what I'm always trying to get out of them. That you can be in a terrible position but there's always something to be

"It's not like the Crips and Blood gangs sensationalized in the U.S. Here it's about survival. It's about putting food on the table."

**ZOLA JEFFERS**  
YOUTH WORKER

bigger," says Asante. But it's law enforcement resources that have been on the rise.

the area.

About 20 community agency workers, including two from the June St. hub, as well as city employees fill the small second-floor boardrooms of an old City of York building on Keele St.

YYC coordinator Shadya Yasin has brought everyone together with the goal of creating a "clear and open conversation between the three levels of government and the coalition members when it comes

modelled on the June St. hub.

"I think that's what we need to look at as a community," says Nurzida. "We should be looking at partnerships and amalgamating them all into one space, providing even more services than you are because there will be more resources given to that."

Already, many of the agencies in the room dominate local Archbishop Romero high school, where they run programs

young person who is on the verge of going to the other side of the law, instead of arresting them, listen.

"And say, 'Go talk to Jim, go talk to Amanda. Make sure you're in that program for this amount of time and I'll at least do a follow-up.'"

The police presence, for youth in the area, is constant. There are police in their buildings and in their high schools. On her way to the meeting, Yasin says she was waiting for a bus when police pulled up and called out to a young male beside her.

"They, come here. Where's your ID? Where are you going? Do you live here?" she says the police asked.

"It's pretty sad to see what's happening here. There are a lot of people who are working to change things but this is something that is still continuing."

**BACK AT THE** Boys and Girls Club at 123 Humber Blvd., the television set goes dark. Usually, the youth workers have the kids discuss what they've just watched on *The Wire*. On this night, they talk with reporters about their neighbourhood and relations with police.

The latter is a tough topic, given that the youth workers have had negative personal experiences with police. The kids in the club are young but they, too, have negative views of police, based on what they've seen and what older siblings have experienced.

A young boy in the room, on the cusp of puberty, says he hasn't personally had a bad experience with police. It will come, says Chris Blackwood, 30, a program co-ordinator for the club, who grew up in the June and Finch neighbourhood.

"They'll catch him at the basketball court. See what he's up to. See what he has. I think it happens to all young black males, in regards to police. We're in a priority neighbourhood. We're always in the wrong place."

"I think they're very unaware of the impacts that they may have, coming into these neighbourhoods, where you have normal people and normal children," says Hilba Wais, 26, a youth worker with the club and a youth and tenant representative in her home neighbourhood of Junction Town.

Officers come in "cocky, arrogant," continues Wais.

"Like it doesn't matter. There are other people who live within the neighbourhood that are not criminals. The majority of them that work in TAVIS, I would say, the ones that work in these high priority

"We're in a priority neighbourhood. We're always in the wrong place."

**CHRIS BLACKWOOD**  
PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR,  
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS

them. You teach them how to fish, they fish for life."

Back in the TV room, a young girl who had been silent says she has something to say.

"I don't think police are doing a good job," she says, clutching a pillow to her chest. "Because my brother died four years ago and..."

She pauses, and all chatter in the room stops.

"They never found his killer yet. His killer is still on the road. He's probably still like enjoying his life right now, and that's all I wanted to say."

And then she cries.

**MARK SAUNDERS**, Acting Superintendent and Unit Commander of I2 Division, is new to the job, having just been moved from his position as head of the homicide squad, where he worked for 10 years and was the first black officer to lead it.

Saunders and his predecessor, Tom Russell, who ran I2 Division for a year before being promoted late last year, recognize there is always room for improvement but say much is being done to improve relationships with youth.

"I get it when you're talking about toxic," says Saunders. "But I'm getting phone calls from people who are very excited. They're going, 'Great, when are you coming out into the community?'"

The two senior officers seemed shocked to hear what youth and youth workers interviewed by the *Star* were saying about their perceptions of police and relationship, and don't believe it speaks for the majority. But they were concerned.

"Any viewpoint with youth that is negative towards police is concerning, no matter where you work within the city of Toronto," says Russell. "So, we're always looking for opportunities to work with youth, to listen to youth..."

To that end, the division is developing a youth liaison committee. And I2 Division officers have initiated — on their own — a number of recreation programs, including cooking, camera clubs and sporting activities.

"I can show you hundreds of youth involved in programs that police have been



Known to police

2013







> STAR INVESTIGATION

# 'Devastating. Unacceptable'

Toronto police board chair  
appalled by Star findings  
that show a stubborn rise  
in the number of citizens  
stopped and documented  
by our police officers  
— with black males  
heavily overrepresented

**JIM RANKIN AND PATTY WINSA**  
STAFF REPORTERS

**ANDREW BAILEY AND HIDY NG**  
DATA ANALYSTS

Despite years of growing criticism, Toronto police continue to disproportionately stop, question and document blacks — and to a lesser extent, people with "brown" skin — adding their personal details into a controversial database.

Proportionally, a new Star analysis of Toronto police data from 2008 to 2012 shows blacks here were stopped and documented to a higher degree than blacks who were stopped and frisked by New York City police under a policy there that has led to outrage, lawsuits and settlements.

The overall number of people of all colours documented by Toronto police also steadily rose in those five years, according to a Star analysis of contact card data.

Looking solely at young black male Toronto residents, aged 15 to 24, the Star found the number "carded" at least once between 2008 and 2012 — in the police



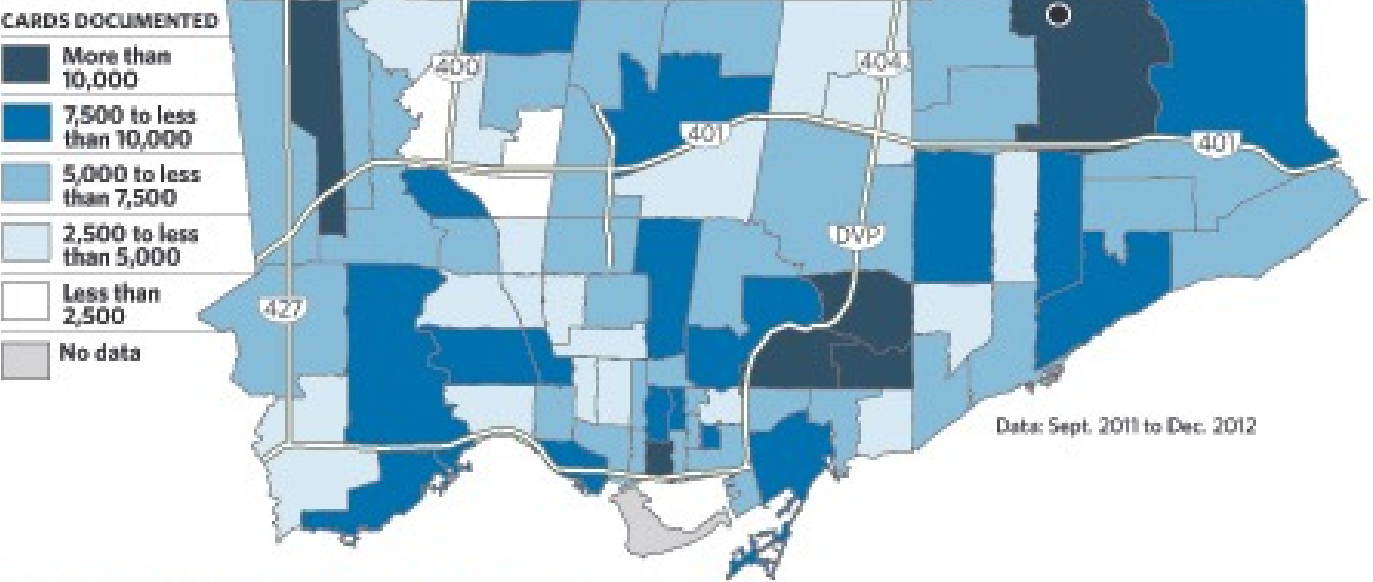


# Carding on the rise again

Toronto police filled out almost 400,000 contact cards in 2012, a 23-per-cent increase since 2008. The cards are filled out by officers who stop and document individuals in what are usually non-criminal encounters. Areas of the city with high levels of violent crime are more heavily policed in this way. These areas, typically, are neighborhoods where there are lower incomes, fewer opportunities, more single-parent families — and more visible minorities.

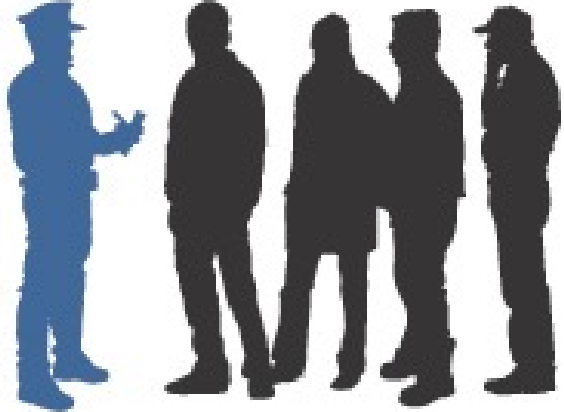
## MOST CARDED AREA

Officers in patrol zone 423 filled out 14,661 contact cards in a period from Sept. 2011 — when the Toronto Police Service made changes in the city's patrol zone boundaries — to Dec. 2012. The high number may not be surprising since the zone, which runs from Brimley Rd. east to Neilson and from Steeles Ave. south to Sheppard, is one of the city's most populated. But an analysis of new police data shows officers in 42 Division card at high rates.



## YOUNG, MALE AND CARDED

From 2008 to 2012, the number of young black males, aged 15 to 24, who were documented at least once in the police patrol zone where they live exceeded the young black male population for all of Toronto. That same analysis shows lower counts for young brown and white men. For each group, each year, of course, a new number of people enter this demographic, as 14-year-olds become 15, and, if carded, they contribute to a higher count, and this would make it entirely possible that the number exceeds the snapshot census population estimates. But as police continue to stop, question and document hundreds of thousands of people annually, it becomes increasingly possible that all youth of colour, in certain parts of the city, could become part of a police contact card database.



### Young males (15-24)

Per cent of young males by skin colour carded by police in the patrol zone where they live\*.

Black: **123%**

Brown: **56%**

Other: **11%**

White: **30%**

### All males

Per cent of all males by skin colour carded by police in the patrol zone where they live\*

Black: **40%**

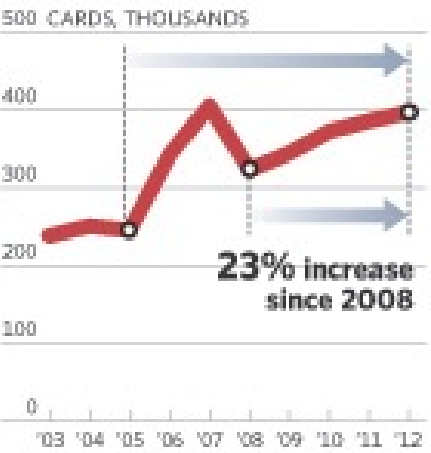
Brown: **20%**

Other: **5%**

White: **14%**

## CARDS BY THE YEAR

**62% increase since Summer of the Gun in 2005, the year Bill Blair became police chief**

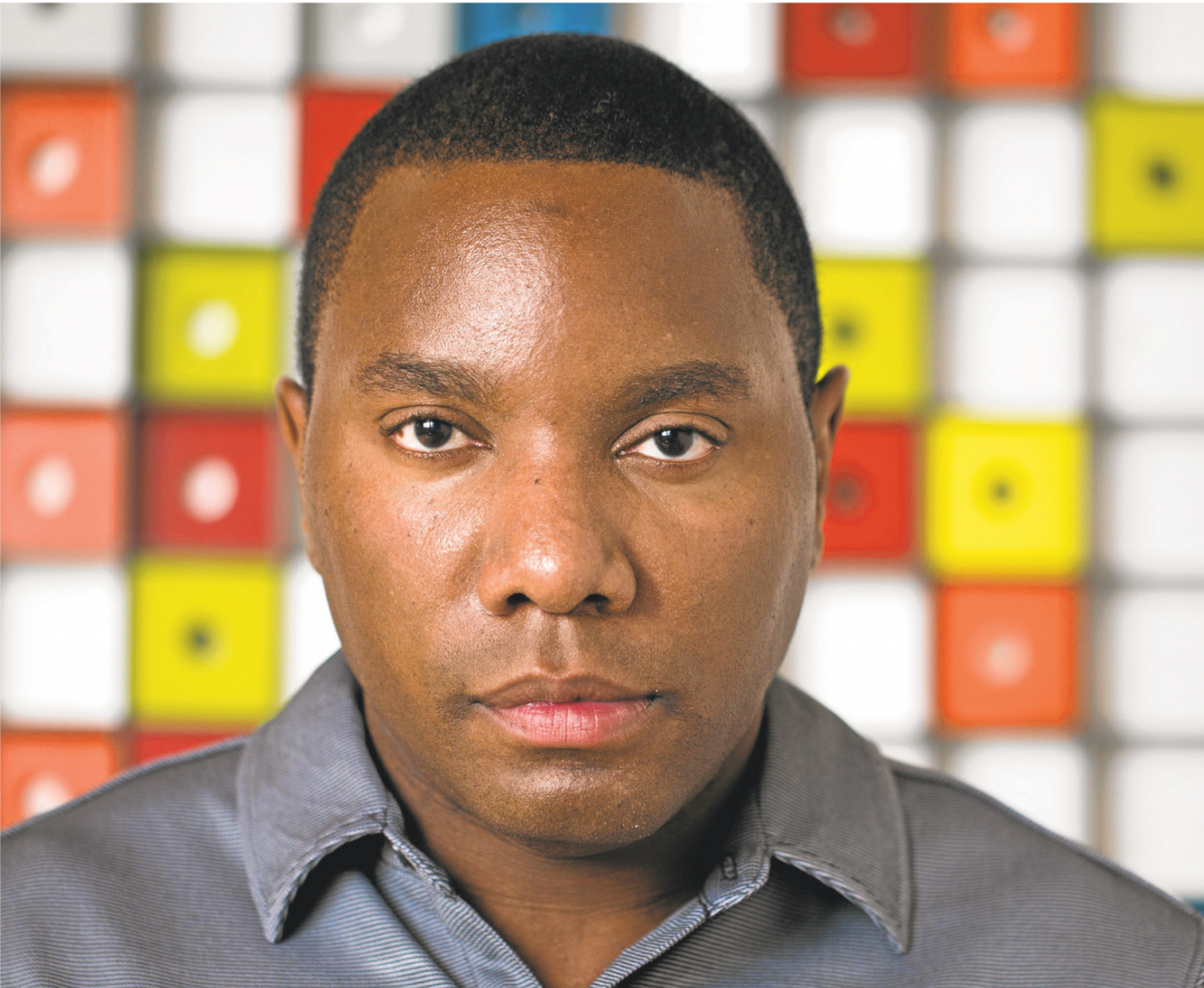






RANDY RISLING/TORONTO STAR

Knia Singh, a law student and mentor to youth in at-risk areas of the city, filed a freedom-of-information request for access to Toronto police contact cards that involve him.



RANDY RISLING/TORONTO STAR

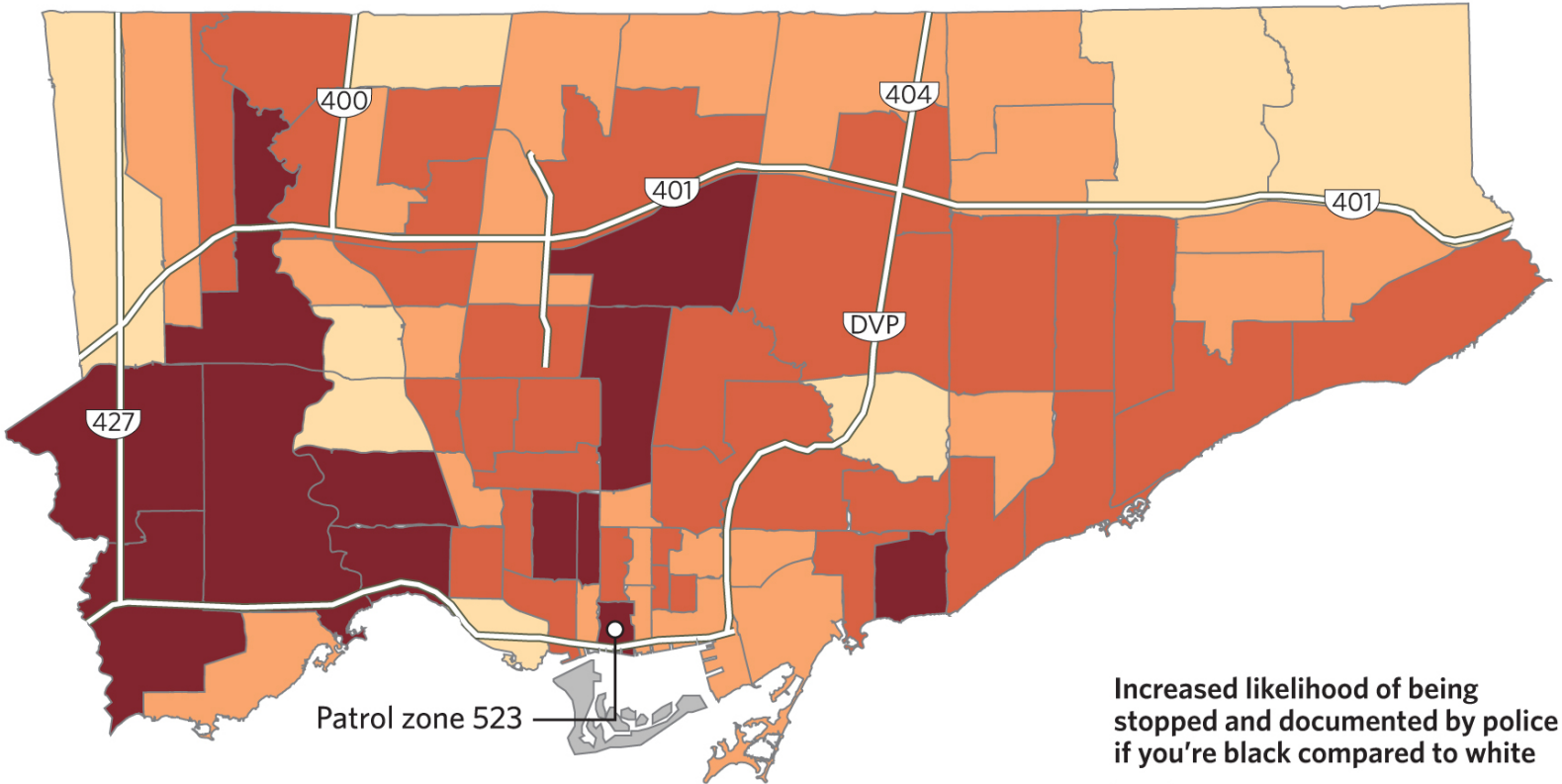
Chris Williams, an academic and community activist, received information about one incident where he felt police had no grounds to stop him.

# ‘It really infringes upon my safety’

CARDED from IN1

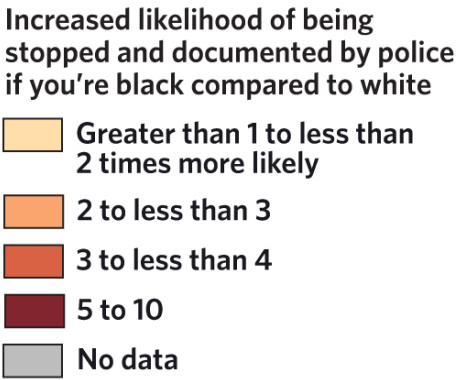
And after numerous times of being stopped for no reason you start to feel an infringement upon your rights, me living in a country that’s supposed to be free, democratic. I have the Charter of Rights, I’m supposed to be a free person. You’re supposed to be enjoying liberties over other countries that hold people in detention, yet I can’t drive a car peacefully without the police pulling me over just because he feels like checking me out and to see if I have a criminal record, or if I’m breaching a probation or anything. We call that racial profiling, and whenever I say this to the cops I get rebutted. *Singh was running for the Green party in the 2011 federal election in the Scarborough-Rouge River riding when he was stopped while driving a friend’s car.*

I was trailed by police, the police officer zigzagged behind me for a while and toyed with me as I drove. Then I made a left turn and after I made the turn the lights came on and I was pulled over. And, immediately, I was very upset. I’d been working very hard for the community. I hadn’t broken any rules or done anything



## Carding likelihood: Black skin vs. white skin

Police are likelier to stop and document people with black skin than with white skin in every patrol zone across Toronto. The chances are highest in the Entertainment District, where the likelihood is 10 times higher.



DATA: From September, 2011 to December, 2012 CREDITS: HIDY NG, MAPPING ANALYSIS; ANDREW BAILEY, DATA ANALYSIS/TORONTO STAR SOURCE: Toronto Police Service; Statistics Canada TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC

*complied, though he knew he didn’t have to.* Given the nature of the situation, given that I wasn’t in a position to leave, I surrendered that information. When I look at this information, I’m kind of amused when I reflect upon the statements that are commonly issued by police officials like (Toronto Police Chief) Bill Blair. He’s suggesting that there’s some sort of inexorable link between contact carding and public safety. My response to Bill Blair is, I would ask him, what’s the connection between entering me in a database as being “clean shaven” on the one hand, and the enhancement of public safety, on the other hand? It’s laughable to suggest that knowing I’m clean shaven is somehow going to enhance public safety, that making an erroneous assessment of my weight is somehow going to enhance public safety. I’m listed as 165 pounds. I’m actually 180. Perhaps I should be flattered. And also there’s a notification about clothing, which of course is intrinsically transitory . . . So what’s the value of noting that I was wearing blue jeans and a black coat on that particular day?



> KNOWN TO POLICE

# Ex officer's candid view of carding

Toronto police say stopping, questioning and documenting citizens is an invaluable investigative tool, but one disagrees

*What follows is the frank perspective of a former Toronto police officer, who asked not to be identified out of concern of being seen as anti-police and how it might affect employment. The Star asked the former officer about the practice of stopping, questioning and documenting citizens in what are mostly non-criminal encounters. These are called street checks, 208s or contact cards.*

---

“We’ll actually go out in the parks and whatever  
and we’ll look for guys who fit a certain  
description, who may not be wearing fancy  
clothes, and we’ll harass them, like literally. And  
**we call it shakedown.**

“You have to, because at the end of the day  
**it’s numbers.”**



# One cop, five years, 6,600 cards

Is an individual officer's high rate of street checks of blacks a reason for police to be concerned?

**JIM RANKIN AND PATTY WINSA**  
STAFF REPORTERS

**ANDREW BAILEY AND HIDY NG**  
DATA ANALYSTS

During Officer #81499756's time with the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy unit, the first-class constable would, on a typical shift, stop, question and document about a dozen people in encounters that typically involved no arrest or charge.

As every other police officer in Toronto is expected to do, this officer filled out contact cards on the people he — and usually one or more partners — stopped.

Name, date of birth, location, physical description, the reason for the stop, which was most often “general investi-



The Star's new analysis of police carding practices began Saturday.





While there is no official work-to-rule campaign underway regarding carding, McCormack says "there's definitely a sense out there amongst my members that they don't want to be the one that's, quite frankly, on the cover of the Star."

Toronto Police Association president Mike McCormack, on dramatic drop in carding and criminal cases in Toronto, Toronto Star, March 8, 2014

CAUGHT ON VIDEO

# How a police stop of four black youth shook a community

The teens thought they were exercising their rights. Then it all went very wrong

**JIM RANKIN**

STAFF REPORTER

Four teenaged men — three with braces in place to straighten smiles — drape their sprouting frames over chairs in a stuffy second-floor room overlooking a common area in the Neptune Dr. public housing complex, where a police encounter they had went dangerously wrong.

No, they agree, they will never again try to exercise their rights when confronted by police.

On Nov. 21, 2011, the teens — twin brothers, then 15, and two friends, aged 15 and 16 — were walking in the common area, on their way to an after-dinner Pathways to Education mentoring session.

The much-lauded program helps keep kids in at-risk neighbourhoods in school. The Neptune Dr. housing complex sits within the Lawrence Heights area, one of the city's 13 designated priority neighbourhoods.

In an event that would quickly escalate to punches, a drawn gun, five backup cruisers and first-time arrests, an





> STAR INVESTIGATION

Police board clears new carding rules

Officers must now have public safety reason to stop and question people on the street

JIM RANKIN AND PATTY WINSA  
STAFF REPORTERS

Toronto police, for the first time, have clear civilian direction from their board on how to carry out interactions with the public after the board passed its first carding policy Thursday night.

“We hope to reestablish the trust with communities,” said board member

Marie Molinar.

Officers will now only be able to stop and document — “card” — an individual when there is a public safety purpose that includes investigating or preventing a specific offence, or series of occurrences, according to the tough new policy passed by the board.

Carding for “unspecified future investi-

gations or because of an “unsupported suspicion” is banned and the interaction can’t be prolonged in the “hope of acquiring the reasonable suspicion to detain.”

The controversial practice can also no longer be used to meet performance quotas or raise an awareness of the police presence in the community.

“This policy is not carved in stone,” said board member Mike Del Grande, who said the board will come back in three months to assess how it’s working.

CARDING continued on A12

TORONTO STAR

‘Devastating. Unacceptable’

Toronto police board chair appalled by Star findings that show a stubborn rise in the number of citizens stopped and documented by our police officers — with black males heavily overrepresented

JIM RANKIN AND PATTY WINSA  
STAFF REPORTERS  
ANDREW BAILEY AND HEDY NG  
DATA ANALYSTS

Despite years of growing criticism, Toronto police continue to disproportionately stop, question and document black — and to a lesser extent, people with “brown” skin — adding their personal details into a controversial database.

Proportionally a new Star analysis of Toronto police data from 2008 to 2013 shows black males were stopped and documented to a higher degree than black males who were stopped and frisked by New York City police under a policy there that had led to outrage, lawsuits and settlements.

The overall number of people of all colours documented by Toronto police also actually rose in those five years, according to a Star analysis of contact card data.

Looking solely at young black male Toronto residents, aged 15 to 24, the Star found the number “carded” at least once between 2008 and 2013 — in the police patrol zone where they live — actually increased by a small margin: the number of black males 15 to 24 who live in Toronto “devastating” and “unacceptable” was how Aksh Madhavan, chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, described the lack of change in the Toronto contact card data and the comparison to the New



An Star investigation has revealed police are stopping and documenting those with black and brown skin at much higher rates.

Known to police

2014



# Carding reaches historic low, data shows

Toronto police stopping  
fewer people but ‘disturbing’  
racial pattern continues

**JIM RANKIN AND PATTY WINSA**

STAFF REPORTERS

**ANDREW BAILEY AND HIDY NG**

DATA ANALYSTS

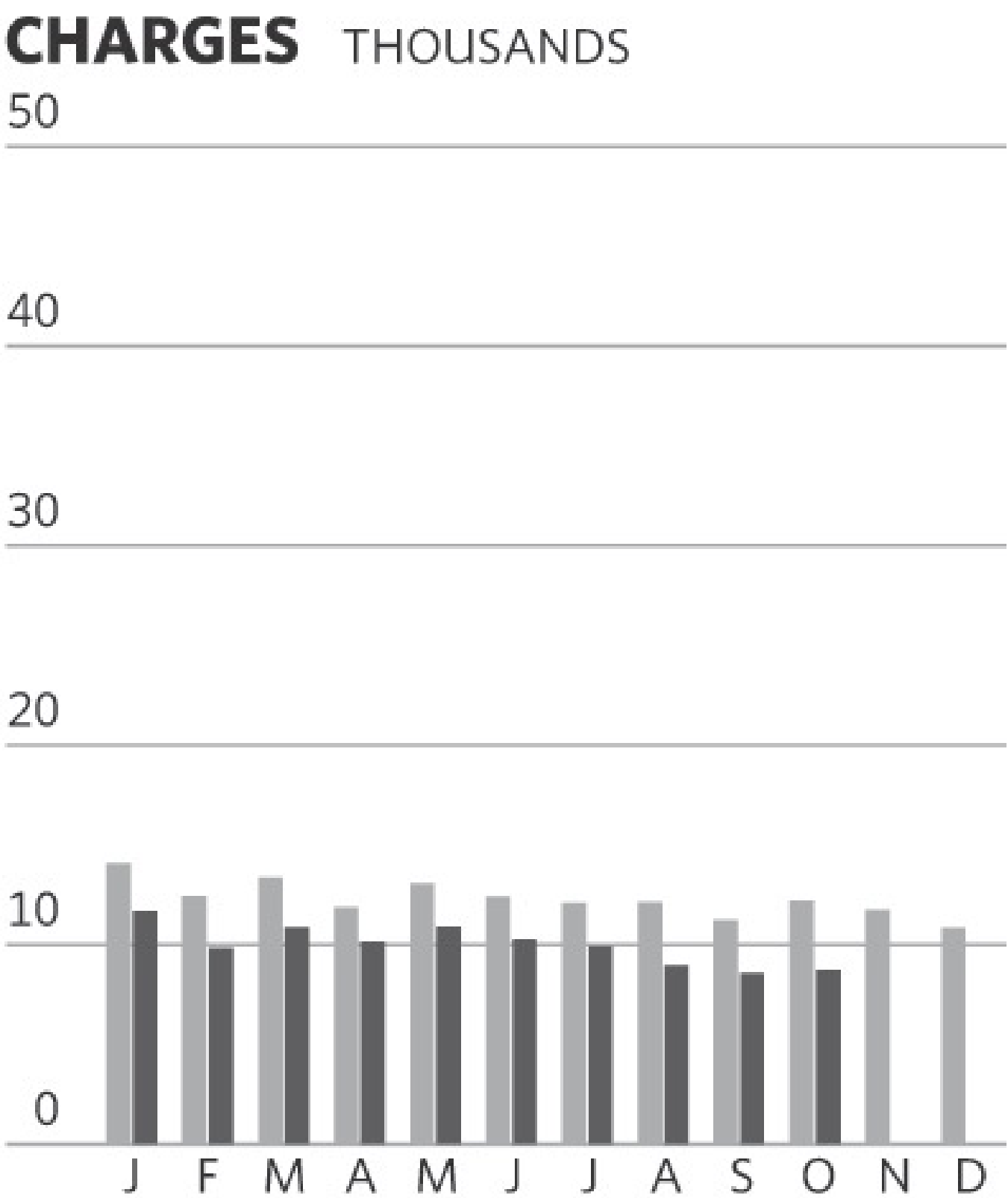
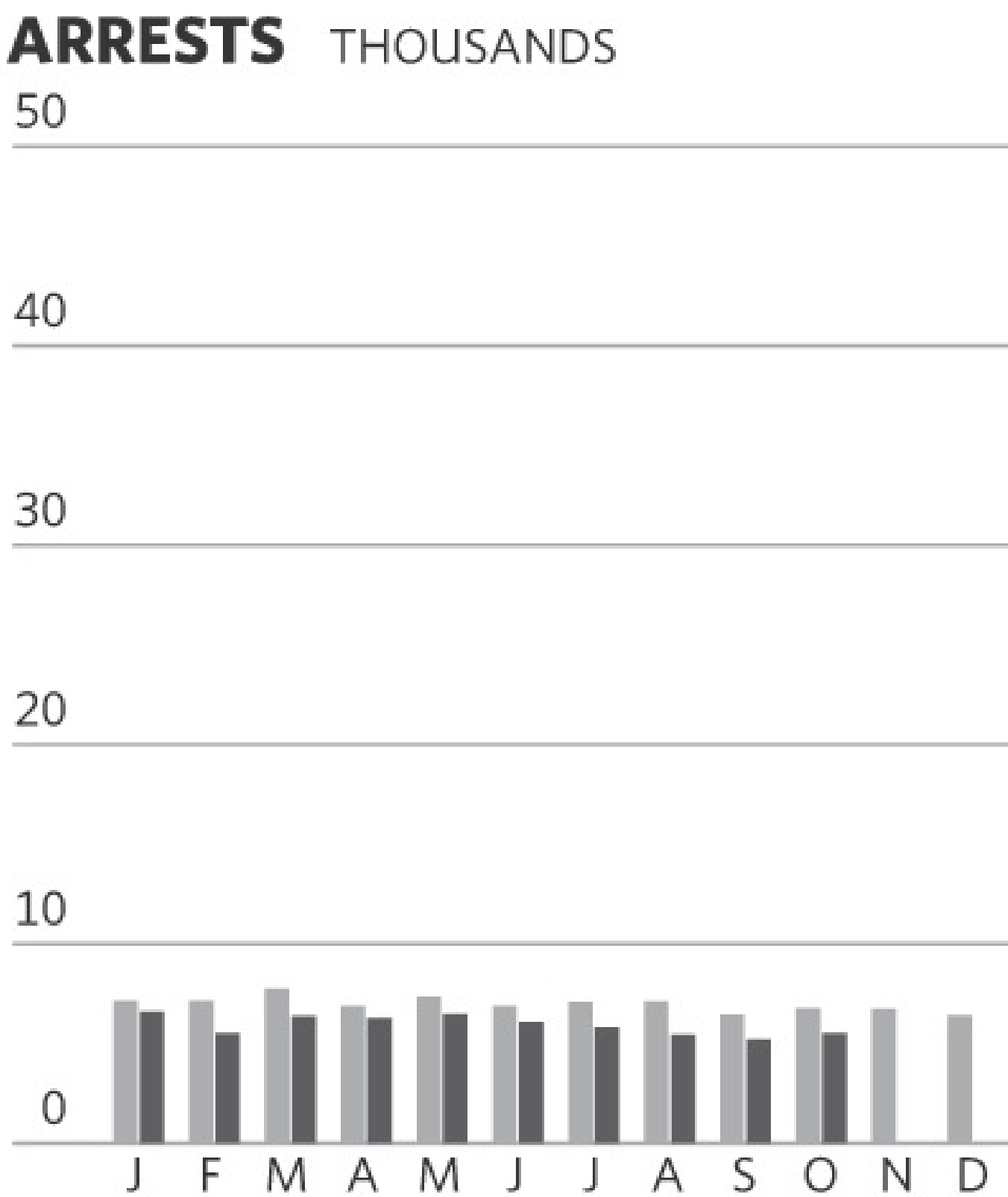
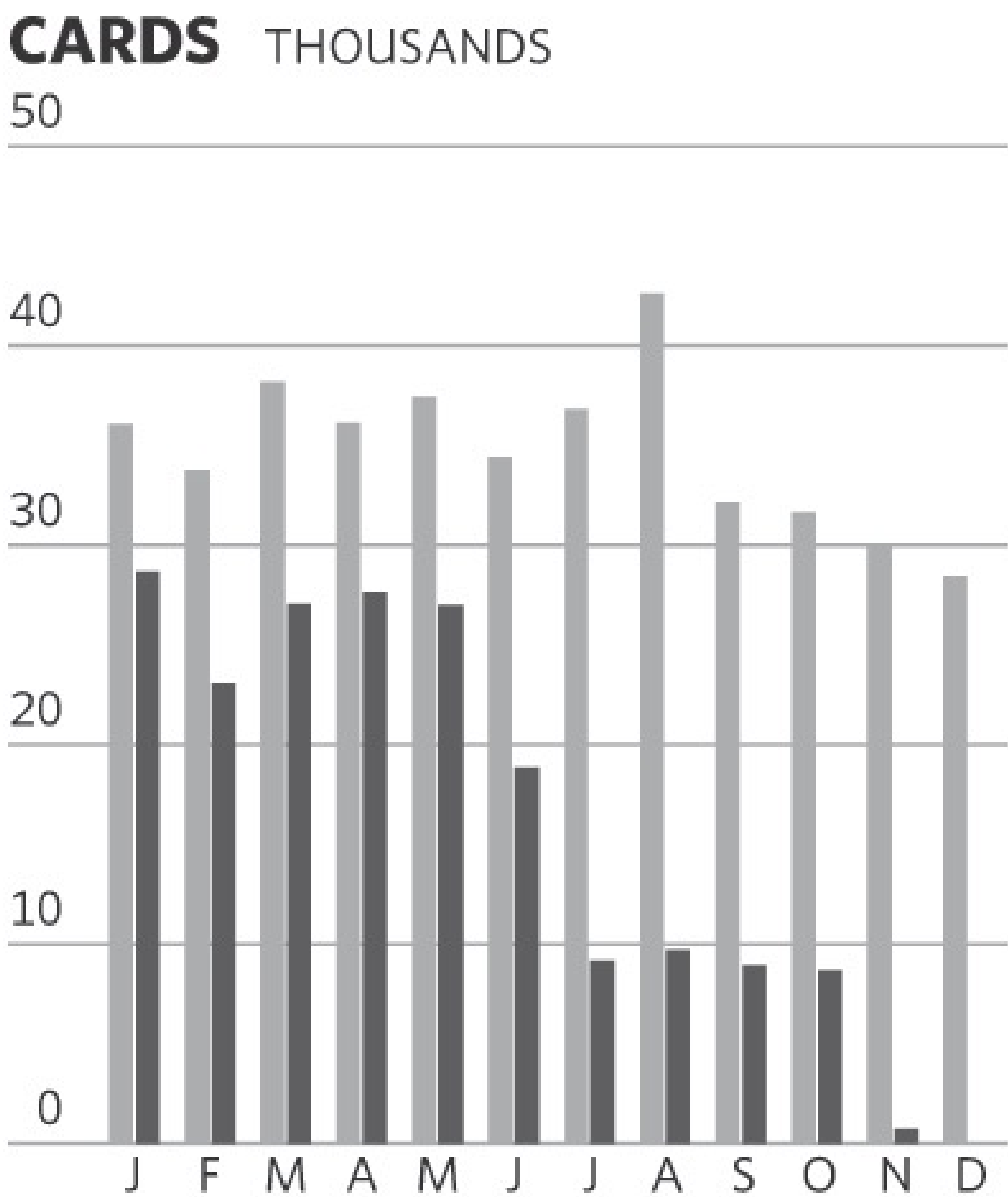
Far fewer people were stopped, questioned and documented by Toronto police last year, but the proportion of those with black and brown skin increased, according to a Star analysis of contact card data.

It’s a pattern some police watchers describe as “disturbing,” and some of “systemic discrimination.”

# Carding plummets

A Star analysis of Toronto police data shows carding dropped dramatically in July 2013, when the police board began requiring officers to hand out receipts to people who were carded. Arrests and charges were also down that year, the continuation of a decades-long decline in crime.

2012 2013\*

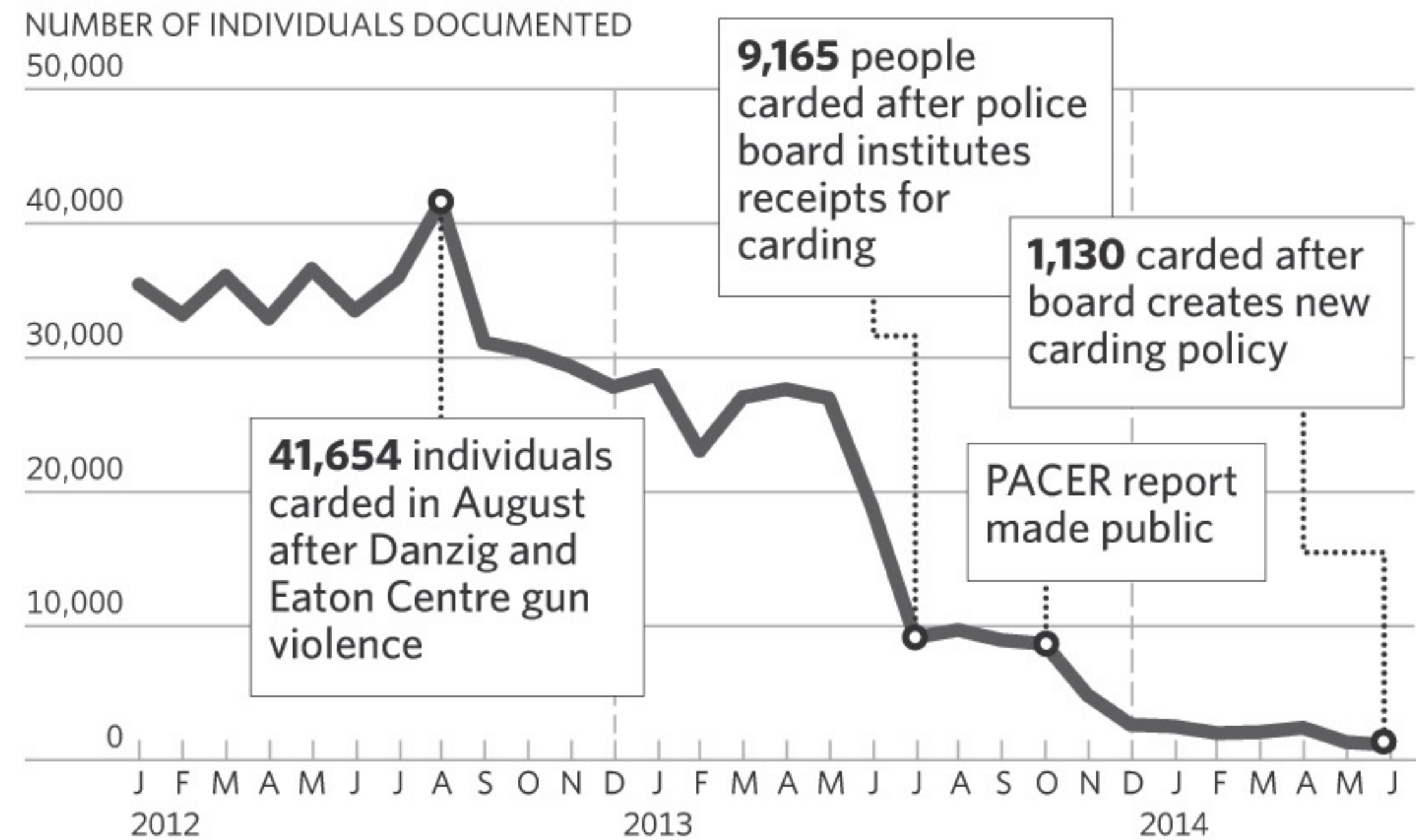


SOURCE: Toronto Police Service

\*No data past early November

## Month by month

New data released by police this month show carding hit historic lows in June of this year when 1,130 people were carded.



SOURCE: Toronto Police Service

TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC



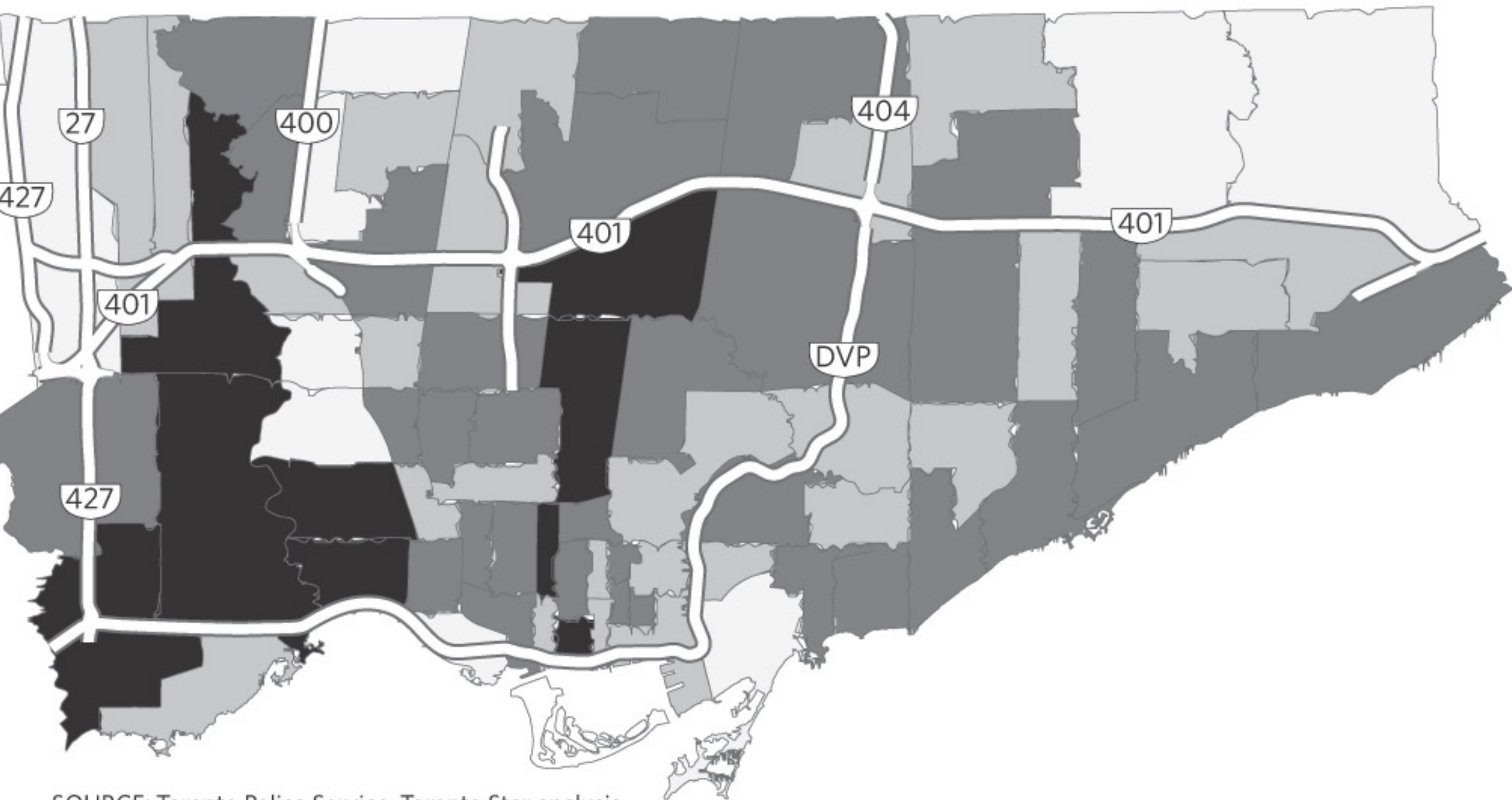
# Likelihood of being stopped if you're black increased halfway through 2013

GREATER LIKELIHOOD FOR BLACKS OF BEING STOPPED:

More than 1 to less than 2 times    Two to less than 3 times greater    3 to less than 5 times greater    More than 5    No data

The likelihood of being carded by police was higher for black people than white people across the city from **January to June of 2013**. In one area, the chances were 11 times greater. These figures are the result of a Star analysis using police and census data.

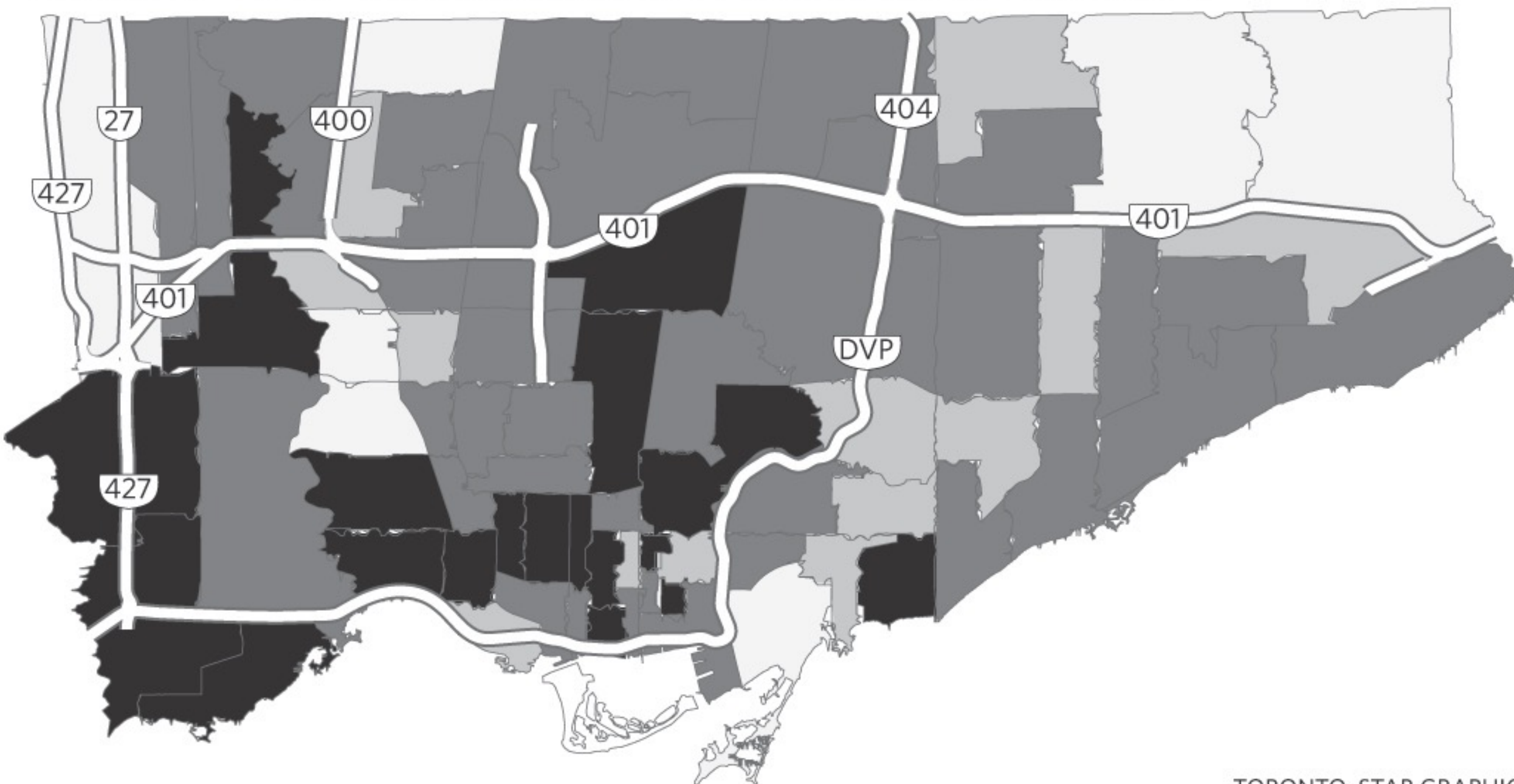
BLACKS UP TO 11 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE STOPPED IN SOME AREAS



SOURCE: Toronto Police Service, Toronto Star analysis

From **July through October**, carding plummeted, but the likelihood of black people getting stopped compared to white people actually increased and was 17.3 times more likely in one area.

BLACKS UP TO 17.3 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE STOPPED IN SOME AREAS



TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC



> STAR INVESTIGATION

Amid growing pressure, a dozen years after the Star began to probe racial bias in policing and exposed the disproportionate documentation of black males, Toronto's police chief has ordered the practice halted — for now



Some of the Star's investigative reporting on race and crime, including the above story from 2002.

PATTY WINSA AND JIM RANKIN  
STAFF REPORTERS

Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair has suspended the controversial practice of

on the issue until he has had an opportunity to discuss it with the board at the next meeting," wrote Gray.

The move comes after a December po-

Feb. 19 that are in line with the board's new community contacts policy — which passed in April and emphasizes citizen rights, including the right of an individual

"I think the writing was on the wall."

attention to the number of speakers at the December meeting who asked that the practice be stopped.

"And obviously, and I say this genuinely,



> STAR EXCLUSIVE

## New chief denied racial bias in cops' secret carding report

Analysis in 2012 led by Mark Saunders reveals internal conflicts around controversial practice

**JIM RANKIN AND PATTY WINSA**  
STAFF REPORTERS

Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders was the lead author on a secret internal 2012 analysis of carding data that found no evidence to support "notions or activities of racially biased" policing.

The report, part of a review of how officers interact with citizens, was never made public, and the civilian board that oversees police and chose Saunders as chief did not see it.

Since becoming chief, Saunders has defended carding as a valuable tool that helps reduce and solve violent crimes. Critics continue to question him and demand proof.

Saunders, then a superintendent, took on new roles following the completion of the report. Deputy Chief Peter Sloly assumed control of phase two of the review, and that phase became known as the Police and Community Engagement Review (PACER).

Sloly, according to internal correspondence obtained by the Star, took issue with the section in Saunders's report involving a police analysis of "whether or not" police racially profile, based on its own carding data. In an email to Saunders, dated Nov. 13, 2012, Sloly says he sees a need for "significant" revisions. In explaining the context, police in a statement to the Star said Sloly saw the analysis as "superficial" and requiring "a more thorough consideration for the issue of racial profiling."

**CARDING** continued on A10

Time to take a stand against carding, **A13**



Then Supt. Mark Saunders was the lead author of a 2012 report on carding never released to the public or police board.

## 'Angry' teachers ordered back to job

Wynne's legislation to end strikes will increase tensions, union says

**KRISTIN RUSHOWY  
AND ROBERT BENZIE**  
STAFF REPORTERS

Forcing secondary teachers off the picket lines and back to their classrooms will only inflame the tense labour situation, unions warned as the provincial government introduced legislation to end strikes in three Ontario boards.

The move comes as talk of work-to-rule escalated and is expected to hit more high schools across the province in the coming







> STAR GETS ACTION

# TORY CALLS FOR END TO ‘TOXIC’ CARDING

‘The issue . . . has eroded public trust to a level that is clearly unacceptable,’ mayor says of controversial police practice



STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

JENNIFER PAGLIARO, PATTY WINSA, JIM RANKIN AND DAVID RIDER  
STAFF REPORTERS

— I think in terms of the reaction that’s taken place in the community at large,

were to issue a business-card receipt to anyone whose information was taken.

John Tory says his



The Star began its investigative series on police and carding in 2012.

> STAR EXCLUSIVE

## Legislature security to carry weapons

Queen’s Park makes changes in wake of Parliament Hill attack

RICHARD J. BRENNAN  
QUEEN’S PARK BUREAU

The security force at the Ontario legislature is taking initial steps toward arming some officers for the first time, the Star has learned.

To begin with, up to 14 security personnel — including Sergeant-at-Arms Dennis Clark — are headed to the Atlantic Police Academy in Prince Edward Island this month to receive weeklong training in the use of pistols.

The decision to establish an armed response unit was made by Speaker Dave Levac in March in consultation with MPPs from all three parties.

That followed the attack on Parliament Hill last October by lone gunman Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, who was killed in a hail of bullets in the Great Hall.

“We looked at this after the incident in Ottawa and it was determined that this is the route we would go,” said Clark, a retired RCMP inspector with specialized security training who is responsible for the 70-person security force at Queen’s Park.

Not since the late 1990s, when the OPP detachment at Queen’s Park closed and Legislative Security took over, have armed officers been assigned to the legislature. Clark said the goal is to have a unit of plainclothes and uniformed special constables as well trained as police forces while balancing the need to keep the legislative building a public place.

Although there is a sense of urgency to arm some officers, Clark said it is more important to get it right.

“It’s pretty obvious we take this extremely seriously . . . we are not rushing into this,” he said.

Since last fall’s attack, RCMP in Ottawa have been assigned responsibility for overseeing security inside and outside Parliament, replacing a patchwork of House of Common and Senate security forces — some of whom are armed.

SECURITY continued on A8



# Peel chief refuses to suspend carding

Defies recommendation from police board, says street checks are vital for fighting crime

**SAN GREWAL**  
URBAN AFFAIRS REPORTER

Peel police Chief Jennifer Evans has refused to suspend carding, ignoring her police board's instruction to halt the controversial practice until further review.

"Street checks will continue in Peel," Evans told the board moments after its members voted 4-3 to suspend the practice.

The board was advised that due to Po-

lice Act restrictions on its involvement with operational functions of the police, it could not force Evans to suspend street checks, also known as carding.

Instead, they "recommended" Evans suspend the practice. She promptly said no, stating that carding is an important tool to help solve and prevent crimes.

"Our directives are legally sound," Evans told the board, while presenting a report on street checks and outlining

changes the force is making to better educate officers and collect accurate data on carding. She said that the force's street checks do not violate Charter of Rights protections against unfair detention and search and seizure.

But a half-dozen delegates to the board disagreed, describing how street checks in Mississauga and Peel are "deeply damaging black youth," according to one speaker.

Anyone being carded can legally walk away from police.

**CARDING** continued on A20

It's déjà vu all over again in Peel. **James, GT1**



**'STREET CHECKS WILL CONTINUE'**

Peel police Chief Jennifer Evans, left, is rejecting calls from her police board, which includes Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, to suspend the controversial practice.

**TORONTO STAR**

> STAR EXCLUSIVE

## Blacks heavily carded by Peel police

Mississauga mayor wants practice suspended after learning of wildly disproportionate stats

SAN GREWAL  
URBAN AFFAIRS REPORTER  
Black people in Brampton and Mississauga

The race-based data pertains to street checks, known as carding, conducted in the two cities between 2009 and 2014.

to from 2010, 9 per cent of Brampton's and Mississauga's combined population was black. Whites made up 41 per cent of the population and accounted for 20 per cent of the street checks.

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie says she will now call for the suspension of street checks by Peel police, after learning

Black people made up 9% of Brampton's and Mississauga's population, but accounted for

the force's street-check practices. "During the next meeting of the Peel Police Services Board, which will take place Friday Sept. 25, I will call for a suspension of street checks to best ensure we have a thorough review and analysis of the practice, and have a better understanding of its scope and scale."



> 'HISTORIC DAY'

# END OF THE ROAD FOR RANDOM STREET CHECKS

'Monumental shift' celebrated as Liberals vow  
'discriminatory' stops will soon become illegal



A 2012 Star investigative series, Known to Police, showed people of colour were more likely to be stopped and carded than white people.

**SAN GREWAL, JIM RANKIN  
AND PATTY WINSA**  
STAFF REPORTERS

Random and arbitrary carding by police forces across Ontario will be illegal by the end of fall.

Yasir Naqvi, minister of community safety and correctional services, made the announcement during a debate Thursday where MPPs from across the province spoke out against carding.

At the time they were considering a private member's motion from a New Democrat MPP to ban random and arbitrary carding, also known as street checks.

"It's a historic day," said Margaret Parsons, executive director of the African-Canadian Legal Clinic, who watched the debate in the legislature.

"This is a monumental shift in our province," said Parsons, who has worked to end carding.

She repeatedly paused to compose herself when talking to the Star outside the legislature.

"We have been around for 21 years. We have been fighting on this issue since the day our doors opened in July 1994."

Earlier in the legislature, Naqvi moved quickly during the debate to address the motion from New Democrat MPP and deputy party leader Jagmeet Singh.

"We as a government stand opposed, Speaker, to any arbitrary, random stops by the police simply to collect information when there are no grounds or reason to do so," Naqvi said.

"We have heard from the community that street checks, by definition, are arbitrary as well as discriminatory and therefore cannot be regulated; they must simply be ended. The province agrees that these types of stops must end."

Asked later, outside the legislature, if Premier Kathleen Wynne, who was not at Thursday's debate on the issue, supports the ban on carding and random street checks, Naqvi emphatically said, "What we're doing is our government's position under the leadership of (the premier)."

"It's a historic day. We have been fighting on this issue since the day our doors opened . . . in 1994."

**MARGARET PARSONS**  
AFRICAN-CANADIAN LEGAL CLINIC



"The motion was absolutely necessary given the fact that police services, even when asked to suspend carding until the province passes its regulation, are refusing to do so."

**HOWARD MORTON**  
LAW UNION OF ONTARIO



"We as a government stand opposed . . . to any arbitrary, random stops by the police simply to collect information when there are no grounds or reason to do so."

**YASIR NAQVI**  
MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY  
AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES



"That's amazing news and couldn't come at a better time."

**KNIA SINGH**  
TORONTO RESIDENT WHO HAS BROUGHT  
A CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE AGAINST  
RIGHT OF POLICE TO STORE CARDING DATA





# RANDOM CARDING THE END

*Within months, police won't be able to stop people for no reason and demand their information*

**WENDY GILLIS, JIM RANKIN  
AND PATTY WINSA**  
STAFF REPORTERS

You will be told you have the right to walk away. You will be told the interaction is voluntary. You will be told that you do not have to give any information, and why you are being stopped and asked for it to begin with.

You will be provided with a written record of your interaction, given information about the officer, and informed about the police complaints system.

In a move hailed as historic — and overdue — the Ontario government is proposing a strict set of regulations banning all random and arbitrary police stops, and setting limits on how and when police can question and document citizens.

“The regulation makes it very clear that police officers cannot stop you to collect your personal information simply based on the way you look or the neighbourhood you live in,” Yasir Naqvi, Ontario’s minister of community safety and correctional services, announced at Queen’s Park on Wednesday.

“This is the first rights-based framework surrounding these police interactions in our history.”

Once passed, the regulations would ban random and arbitrary stops in early 2016. After that, Ontario police could stop, question and document members of the public only if they have a valid policing purpose, defined as “detecting or preventing illegal activities.”



## You can't legislate police decency



Desmond  
Cole

Toronto’s police just can’t help themselves. They know we are paying unprecedented attention to their interactions with residents, but many police continue to bully rather than serve us. On Wednesday, the province released a set of regulations meant to restrict carding, the police practice of stopping civilians who are not suspected of a crime and documenting their information.

The Wynne government is finally acknowledging that residents’ stories of intimidation and surveillance are credible, and deserve a response. It’s a welcome, if long overdue, development. But new rules cannot, on their own, reverse a police culture of aggression and hostility



> STAR INVESTIGATION

## The man Toronto police won't stop stopping

Dale James has had dozens of encounters with officers, but despite an agreement to leave him alone, he's 'still suffering the harassment'

**JIM RANKIN**  
STAFF REPORTER

**ANDREW BAILEY**  
DATA ANALYST

Dale James talks “slow and low” and, because of a childhood accident, he is partially blind in his left eye, which is milky white. On a hot day in June, he arrives late at his lawyer's office and wears a Raptors cap and Tupac Shakur T-shirt, which hangs off his thin frame. He's lost weight, and has cut down on his

trips to see a therapist for treatment of depression, even though it's getting worse, he says. It is a rare outing, he tells his lawyer, Osborne Barnwell.

After 16 years of being regularly stopped by police, for the past two months, James, 33, started staying home most days in a cramped apartment he shares with his mother, on Wilson Ave., near Bathurst St.

“Either they're going to get me in trouble,” he says of the police, “or they're going to kill me. I'm just trying to avoid

them. I can't take it anymore.”

In his latest legal battle, James and his brother are suing Toronto police. In a statement of claim filed late last year, they seek \$2.2 million in damages, alleging an assault on James, racial profiling, arbitrary detention and search of James outside their apartment. They further allege that police are “terrorizing” the entire family and have caused them mental distress.

**JAMES** continued on A8



JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

Dale James, who has been stopped regularly by Toronto police for 16 years, is partially blind in one eye as a result of a childhood injury. He says police describe him as having a “stink eye” and make fun of the way he speaks.



# Data shows blacks carded disproportionately

JAMES from A1

In a statement of defence, the two named officers and the police service deny all allegations, including the allegation of racial profiling.

There has already been one “substantial” settlement by Toronto police with James, the details of which can’t be disclosed, Barnwell says. The settlement was the result of a 2013 lawsuit and a human rights complaint.

Despite the settlement, Barnwell says a message for police to leave his client alone doesn’t seem to be getting through.

Last year, he and James visited a high-ranking officer in 31 Division. It’s the division in northwest Toronto where many of the stops have happened. It was agreed, Barnwell says, that James’s name would be flagged so officers would know the history.

“But he’s still suffering the harassment,” Barnwell said.

Police spokeswoman Meaghan Gray told the Star a “mediated compromise” that involved no admission of wrongdoing resulted in a confidential resolution. This included the meeting with police that was “intended to develop a more positive relationship” with officers at 31 Division and also provided James with resources to “seek vocational and counselling assistance,” Gray said in an email.

“Unfortunately, given the latest statement of claim filed by Mr. James, our efforts seem to have been for naught,” Gray said.

James is indeed a police magnet. He provided the Star with details of 43 encounters with Toronto police from April 2006 to November 2015. They were gleaned from multiple Freedom-of-Information requests he made. He believes there are many more and says he is appealing to Ontario’s Information and Privacy Commissioner.

A Star analysis of contact card data from 2008 to 2012 shows James is correct, finding 32 encounters that appear to involve him — 15 more than what he obtained in his personal requests for that period. Of the 32 encounters, 16 were for vehicle stops or were vehicle related. Eleven were for “general investigation.”

Police say “all responsive records” would have been provided to Dale but the service was unable to confirm the exact number of encounters, since FOI requests and responses are purged after two years. However, the service does not dispute there may have been more contacts, Gray said.

Repeated Star analyses of Toronto police contact card data have shown black people are more likely than white people to be documented in each of the city’s 70-plus patrol zones.

Carding — the capturing of personal details from non-criminal stops in a massive police database — was suspended in January 2015 by then chief Bill Blair. Community groups and the



JIM RANKIN/TORONTO STAR

Dale James alleges he and his brother were racially profiled and accused of “loitering” at the rear door of their Wilson Ave. apartment.



STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

Const. Irwin Correa, pictured in 2013. A Star analysis of Toronto police contact card data indicates an officer the Star believes to be Correa received credit on 6,600 contact cards from 2008 to 2012.

Caribbean nation where James was born.

hand over ID, said nothing and was pulled off the apartment steps and handcuffed by one officer while the

stopped several times this year and has lost friends over all the police contact.

“No friends want to be around me because they just don’t want to get harassed.”

## Carded by ‘the Terminator’

Of the many officers to stop and card Dale James, Const. Irwin Correa stands out.

A 2013 Star analysis of Toronto police contact card data obtained in a Freedom-of-Information request indicates an officer the Star believes to be Correa got credit on 6,600 contact cards from 2008 to 2012. Only one officer had a higher count.

Because he was with the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy unit, created after the gun violence of 2005, Correa and fellow TAVIS officers had many more contacts with citizens than regular patrol officers.

The Star identified the officer it believes to be Correa in carding data using court and other records that mentioned times of contact cards tied to Correa. The Star contacted Correa in 2013. The Toronto Police Association said he could not be

copy sent to him of 6,600 contact card details were from cards that involved him.

Speaking on Correa’s behalf, police association president McCormack said in 2013 that Correa had recently “received a standard lateral transfer” out of TAVIS.

Correa was a “respected member of the TAVIS team and seized at least nine firearms and a number of pellet guns, replica guns, ammunition and drugs” while with the unit, which is deployed to areas experiencing violent crime.

One of his contact cards, McCormack said, was instrumental in solving a string of armed robberies.

McCormack said he stands by those comments today. The Star again sought comment from Correa and received no response.

Correa has made headlines before.

In January 2013, a judge found he and two TAVIS partners were involved in an unlawful 2010 stop of a man riding a bicycle in the west end. Ontario Superior Court Justice Brian O’Marra found that Correa pulled down Ohene Darteh’s shorts and und



# Carding rules, rhetoric don't match: groups

Coalition against controversial practice urges province to rewrite regulations and 'get it right'

**WENDY GILLIS AND JIM RANKIN**  
STAFF REPORTERS

Rights groups and influential Torontonians have banded together to urge the Ontario government to make what they say are crucial changes to new carding regulations unveiled this fall.

In a lengthy statement signed by two dozen groups and individuals — including the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Ontario Human Rights Commission and the African Canadian Legal Clinic — the coalition says it applauds the sentiment behind the Ontario government's draft carding rules, but calls for significant revisions.

When it comes to truly eliminating random and discriminatory police stops, the groups say, the regulations — currently under a 45-day public review — allow for too many exceptions, where police will not have to abide by strict rules intended to ensure officers stop, question and document members of the public only when they have legitimate reasons.

**CARDING** continued on **A6**



The province unveiled draft rules on carding, or street checks, in October.

**"You don't write this kind of regulation every day."**

**ALOK MUKHERJEE**  
FORMER CHAIR,  
TORONTO  
POLICE SERVICES  
BOARD

# CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

## Search or seizure

**8.** Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.

## Detention or imprisonment

**9.** Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.

# When new carding rules apply

**New rules** **apply** if an officer asks you to identify yourself when they are:

- looking into suspicious activities
- gathering intelligence
- investigating general criminal activity in the community

New rules for street checks **do not apply** if the officer is:

- talking to a driver during a traffic stop
- arresting or detaining you
- executing a warrant
- investigating a specific crime



## The rules and what they mean for you

As of January 1, 2017, if a police officer **asks you for ID in a situation when the rules apply**, they must:

- **have a reason**, which cannot be:
  - based on race
  - arbitrary (not meaningful)
  - only because you are in a high-crime area
  - because you refused to answer a question or walked away
- **tell you why** they want your identifying information
- **tell you that you can refuse** to give identifying information
- **offer you a receipt** – even if you refuse to share information – that includes:
  - the officer's name
  - the officer's badge number
  - how to contact the [Office of the Independent Police Review Director](#), which handles complaints about police in Ontario
  - who to contact to access personal information about you that the police service has on file
- **keep detailed records** of their interaction with you – even if you refuse to share information

If a police officer does not follow these rules, it is a [Code of Conduct](#) violation under the *Police Services Act* and they may be disciplined.

## Exceptions

In rare cases, if following the rules above could negatively affect an investigation, threaten public safety or force officers to reveal confidential information, police officers may not have to:

- tell you why they are asking for information – for example, the reason involves a tip from a confidential informant
- tell you that you have the right to refuse giving ID – for example, the officer suspects a car passenger may be a victim of human trafficking
- give you a receipt from the interaction – for example, the officer receives an urgent call for service and must quickly end the interaction

In these cases the officer must record their reason for not following the rule.

# Is the regulation, as written, “absurd”?

1. (1) This Regulation applies with respect to an attempt by a police officer to collect identifying information about an individual from the individual, if that attempt is done for the purpose of,

(a) inquiring into **offences that have been or might be committed**; ...

(2) Despite subsection (1), this Regulation **does not apply** with respect to an attempted collection made by a police officer for the **purpose of investigating an offence the officer reasonably suspects has been or will be committed**.

*Reading these two sections together seems to say that the Regulation **only applies to investigating offences that the officer does not reasonably suspect have been or will be committed**. Don't the officers have enough to do investigating offences the officer reasonably suspects have been or will be committed?*



A ‘disturbing’ analysis of never-before-seen police statistics shows Black people are **victims of force** at disproportionately greater rates



RICK MADONIK TORONTO STAR

Sam Tecle, a community leader, says “this reality has long been documented. These are not, in fact, new times.”

# FRACTURED TRUST

**WENDY GILLIS**  
CRIME REPORTER

**JIM RANKIN**  
STAFF REPORTER

A detailed analysis of never-before-seen police watchdog data has found Black people are “grossly overrepresented” in cases in which Toronto police have used force, especially when it comes to fatal shootings.

But while members of the city’s Black communities welcomed the extensive data analysis, released Monday by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC), many said the

findings told a well-known story.

“This reality has long been documented. These are not, in fact, new times,” said Sam Tecle, a community leader with the youth organization Success Beyond Limits, in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood. “The reality is that young people, their parents, their elders and residents face an increased amount of policing, and what many in the community would call over-policing.”

“This is an everyday experience. This is not new,” said Valerie Steele, a community activist and member of the Black Action Defence Committee.

In an interim report released on Human Rights Day, the OHRC revealed the initial findings of its inquiry into racial profiling and discrimination within the Toronto Police Service.

**POLICE** continued on A14

**8.8%**  
Portion of Black people in Toronto population (2016)

**25.4%**  
Black people involved in cases probed by SIU (2013-2017)

**36%**  
Black victims of police shootings

**70%**  
Black victims of fatal police shootings

**“This is an everyday experience. This is not new.”**

**VALERIE STEELE**  
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST



JUDGE'S REVIEW CONCLUDES:

## It's time to end carding in Ontario

'Random, unfocused' police checks have little value in fighting crime, report finds

JACQUES GALLANT  
AND MAY WARREN  
STAFF REPORTERS

Random street checks, or carding, should be banned as there is little evidence to show the practice is useful in reducing crime, while it disproportionately affects racialized individuals, according to the results of an independent review released Monday.

The report was prepared by Court of Appeal Justice Michael Tulloch, who was tapped by the former Liberal government in 2017 to conduct a review of its new provincial regulation on carding — the stopping and documenting of citizens not suspected of a crime.

The regulation was aimed at prohibiting arbitrary stops — which Tulloch recommends should be explicitly stated in the regulation — and outlined the scenarios in which officers could stop an individual and request their information. The regulation also included new rules to govern those interactions, including a requirement that the officer tell the individual they don't have to provide identifying information.

Aside from reviewing the regulation, Tulloch also focused on whether purely random stops — traditionally known as carding — to gather information should ever be allowed. He found that they should not, while also noting that some



Previous Star investigations have found Black people were more likely than white people to be stopped, questioned and documented by police across the city. In 2015, amid growing controversy, Toronto police suspended the practice known as carding.

critics have blamed recent spikes in gun violence on the new regulation and the restrictions placed on carding — a claim he said was not supported by the facts.

Many other jurisdictions, Tulloch said, have not reported an increase in criminal activity following a drop in carding practices. "There is little to no evidence that a random, unfocused collection of identifying information has benefits that outweigh the social cost of the practice," he said.

"The data indicates that the better use of police resources is a more focused approach," Tulloch wrote in his report.

"A widespread program of random street checks involves considerable time and effort for a police service, with little to no verifiable results on the level of crime or even arrests," he said.

CARDING continued on A4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2019

## 'A hunch' can't be reason for police stops

Justice who wrote 300-page review of carding, street checks points to 'the state we're in'

JIM RANKIN  
STAFF REPORTER

Five days after the New Year's Eve ball drop of a 300-plus page review of carding and police street checks in Ontario, Justice Michael Tulloch and his team met with reporters and the public Friday to talk about its results and recommendations at a downtown Toronto hotel that is a brisk 10-minute walk away from the politics of Queen's Park.

Unsaid by Tulloch himself, but noted by others, is that the report is now in the hands of the province, and what comes of it depends on political will and the Progressive Conservative government led by Premier Doug Ford.

"We have every confidence that they are going to move forward in good faith, but ultimately it's up to them to decide"



**“... the total cost in reporters, editors,  
photographers and lawyers was several  
million dollars. Was it worth it? You bet!”**

***— John Honderich, Chair of Torstar***



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