

Knowledge Mobilization with Black and Racialized Communities on the Topic of Use of Force in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area

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10th December 2025

Background

- Racial disparity in policing is not new (Epp, Maynard-Moody & Haider-Markel, 2014; Ontario Human Rights Commission, 2017; Maynard, 2025).
- Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities have histories with policing.
 - Examples (Black: fugitive slave act of 1850; Indigenous: 60s Scoop, residential schools, Oka crisis, Wet'suwet'en).
- In Ontario: SIU - Lester Donaldson (1988), Maxwell Thomas Post (1988), Michael Wade Lawson (1998) and Raymond Lawrence (1992).
- Extreme UOF cases: George Floyd, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, Chevranna Abdi, Erixson Kabera.
- How does the state respond to these racial disparities?

State Response

- Usually people have to protest, delegate at police boards, write op-eds, community organizations engage in advocacy.
 - Most often these acts are dismissed but most recently in Ontario, through the Anti-Racism Act of 2018, police services were mandated to collect race-based data.
 - This requirement started in 2020.
 - While some saw this as a start for accountability or addressing racial disparities in policing, the collection of data was based on the polices' perceived understanding of the person's race.
 - In the early years of collecting, some the of issues were: multiple police showing up at a UOF incident, are you collecting 1 report or multiple reports from each officer?
 - While changes have been made to the collection of this data and the uniformity and standardization we still have issues with this type of race based data collection.

Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard of Nova Scotia followed the debate over street checks in Halifax closely. While she sees the benefit from making the data public, she said a cautious approach is needed.

"It's not just about collecting race-based data in policing, it's really about what happens with that data," Bernard said.



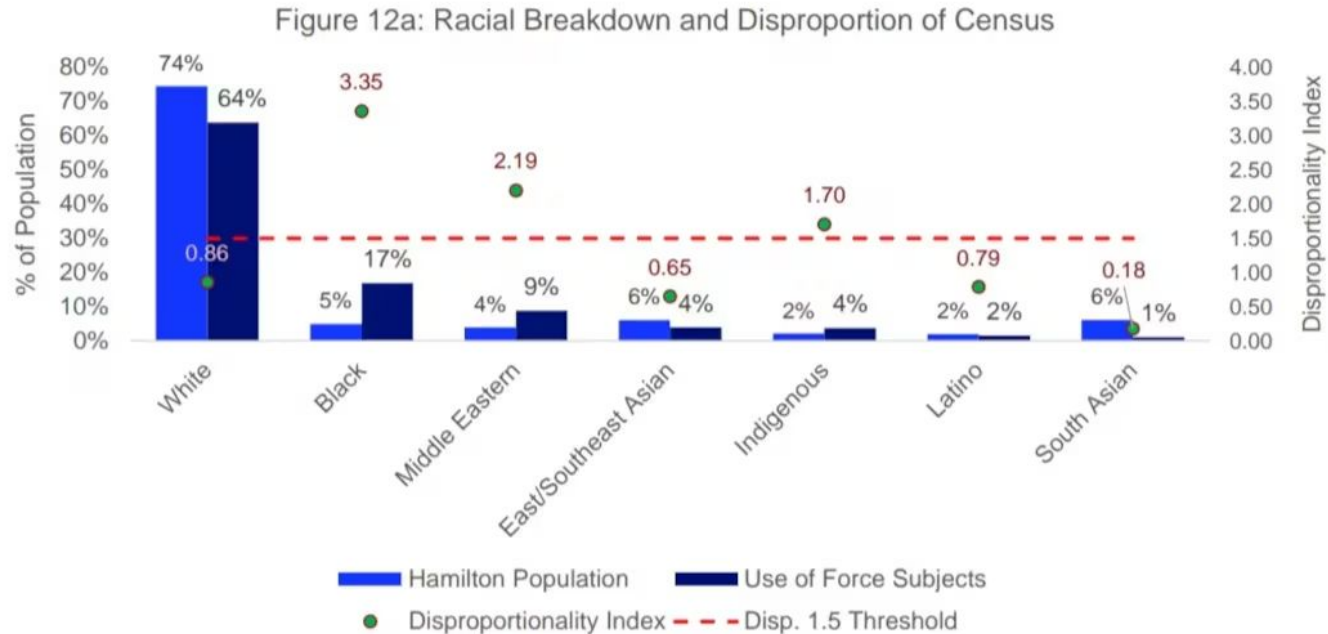
People across the country have joined Black Lives Matter rallies. Race-based data in policing could play a part in the debate. (Nathan Denette/The Canadian Press)

(CBC, 2020)

Police Response

- Police services are defensive of the claim that there is systemic racism in policing.
- In Hamilton, many scholars community organizations, community members have worked to address systemic racism in HPS there is pushback from the Hamilton police board and other police leaders within the institution.
- In the last 5 years, police leadership has had to respond. For example, the Chief of police in toronto had to apologize for systemic racism in policing. The OHRC has also intervened to talk about racial profiling in Toronto.
- Hamilton police service UOF reports have shown the racial disparities.

2023 UOF Cases (Hamilton)



(CBC, 2024)

UOF Toronto

Black, indigenous and other racialized communities have faced disproportionate use-of-force and strip searches by Toronto police, chief James Ramer said on Wednesday, as he apologized and promised to address systemic racism in the department.

“As an organization we have not done enough to ensure that every person in our city receives fair and unbiased policing and for this, as chief of police and on behalf of the service, I am sorry and I apologize unreservedly,” Ramer said.

Black people are 2.2 times more likely to have an interaction with police officers and are 1.6 times more likely to have force used on them during the interaction, according to analysis of racial data compiled by Toronto police.

People from Black, Middle-Eastern, Latino and Asian communities were also overrepresented in reported use-of-force incidents, police said.

Public sectors in Ontario are required to collect race-based data by law, and the findings released on Wednesday are from data police collected in 2020.

(The Guardian, 2022)

This Research Project

- In Ontario, UOF is primarily viewed as a discussion based in each city and their respective police service.
- This research project analyzes UOF data from police services across the GTHA to validate the longstanding concerns of Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities when talking about racial disparities in policing interactions.
- Our aim is to create findings that anyone in the public can use to bring attention to the pervasive nature of racial disparities in policing in Ontario.
- WHO IS IMPACTED? YOUTH & RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES

London

Use of force is up with London police. Here's why they say that's the case

Police plan to continue expanding Taser rollout, calling them an effective de-escalation tool

CBC News - Posted: Jul 17, 2025 7:03 AM EDT | Last Updated: July 17



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Estimated 5 minutes



London police officers at the scene of a disturbance on Clarence Street, between King and Dundas streets, on April 7. (Alessio Donnini/CBC News)

(CBC, 2025)

Methods

- All of the data used in this project came from the Solicitor General's website [<https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/police-use-of-force-race-based-data>]

Date range: January 1 - December 31, 2024

CSV

Police Use of Force – Main Records, 2024

English

[2.4 MiB]

data valid

Last Updated: August 29, 2025

This dataset is one of the four datasets that comprise the Police Use of...

CSV

Police Use of Force – Weapon Records, 2024

English

[341.2 KiB]

data valid

Last Updated: August 29, 2025

This dataset is one of the four datasets that comprise the Use of Force...

CSV

Police Use of Force – Individual Records, 2024

English

[2.6 MiB]

data valid

Last Updated: August 29, 2025

This dataset is one of the four datasets that comprise the Use of Force...

CSV

Police Use of Force – Cycle/Probe Records, 2024

English

[35.9 KiB]

data valid

Last Updated: August 29, 2025

This dataset is one of the four datasets that comprise the Police Use of...

This document is a highly degraded scan of a technical drawing, likely a blueprint or a set of architectural plans. The image is characterized by extreme contrast, with most of the content appearing as a solid black field. Faint, illegible lines and shapes are visible, suggesting the presence of technical details, text, and possibly a title block. The overall quality is poor, making it impossible to discern specific information or identify the drawing's subject matter.

Individual Records

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	BatchFileName	Indiv_	Race	DifficultyPerceiving	AgeCategory	Gender
2	515919063	1	White	No	55 - 64	Male
3	941439365	1	Middle Eastern	Yes	35 - 44	Male
4	121167138	1	South Asian	No	25 - 34	Male
5	372759291	1	White	No	25 - 34	Male
6	372759291	2	White	No	25 - 34	Male
7	727260561	1	White	No	35 - 44	Male
8	727260561	2	White	No	35 - 44	Male
9	478162124	1	White	No	25 - 34	Male
10	478162124	2	White	No	25 - 34	Male
11	478162124	3	White	No	35 - 44	Female
12	270290960	1	South Asian	No	25 - 34	Male
13	270290960	2	White	No	25 - 34	Female
14	235447107	1	White	No	25 - 34	Male
15	243672164	1	White	No	25 - 34	Male
16	542665943	1	White	No	35 - 44	Male
17	257542202	1	White	No	25 - 34	Male
18	220855640	1	Black	No	25 - 34	Male
19	220855640	2	Black	No	25 - 34	Male
20	556816336	1	Black	No	35 - 44	Male
21	139841900	1	White	No	55 - 64	Male
22	354597999	1	South Asian	No	25 - 34	Male
23	564795325	1	White	No	35 - 44	Male
24	657039669	1	White	No	55 - 64	Male
25	996583631	1	White	No	25 - 34	Male
26	970573661	1	White	No	25 - 34	Male
27	652985613	1	Black	No	25 - 34	Male

Main Records

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	IncidentYear	BatchFileName	PoliceServiceTyp	PoliceServ	OPP_PoliceSer	IncidentNumb	Date
2	2023	888694809	Municipal Police Waterloo Regional			WA-823286	2023-01-02
3	2023	191402586	Municipal Police Waterloo Regional			WA-653866	2023-01-02
4	2023	896808943	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-566941	2023-02-28
5	2023	773624219	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-590533	2023-02-10
6	2023	804254265	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-512352	2023-01-07
7	2023	864222985	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-512352	2023-01-07
8	2023	683518288	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-580014	2023-01-08
9	2023	771583656	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-905766	2023-01-15
10	2023	430441565	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-905766	2023-01-15
11	2023	238912488	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-905766	2023-01-15
12	2023	909360372	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-713655	2023-01-15
13	2023	253666199	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-341062	2023-01-25
14	2023	490815041	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-347373	2023-01-28
15	2023	918021606	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-783178	2023-01-31
16	2023	113081541	Municipal Police Guelph			GU-863480	2023-11-07
17	2023	295035619	Municipal Police Stratford			SR-679393	2023-01-25
18	2023	859572587	Municipal Police London			LO-501760	2023-02-16
19	2023	747974818	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-909464	2023-02-01
20	2023	494584367	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-909464	2023-02-01
21	2023	466238338	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-925725	2023-02-01
22	2023	101436915	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-175761	2023-02-05
23	2023	692491374	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-175761	2023-02-05
24	2023	457208359	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-286438	2023-02-06
25	2023	920271517	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-823278	2023-02-17
26	2023	368084646	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-129755	2023-02-18
27	2023	948748291	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-908377	2023-02-20
28	2023	286859234	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-981313	2023-02-24
29	2023	351118431	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-365368	2023-03-04
30	2023	772737306	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-365368	2023-03-04
31	2023	882141750	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-112465	2023-03-09
32	2023	231610456	Municipal Police Peel Regional			PR-112465	2023-03-09
33	2023	732308109	Municipal Police Sault Ste Marie			SM-448492	2023-03-07

Ontario UOF Incidents by Gender, Age, and Race (2023)

Gender	Age	White	Black	Latino	South Asian	Indigenous	East/South east Asian	Middle Eastern
Male	<17	306	253	14	11	51	33	173
	18-24	673	760	50	121	120	184	288
	25-34	1790	1010	93	170	225	258	235
	35-44	1542	309	72	66	188	109	92
	45-54	652	102	18	28	44	50	31
	55-64	356	51	4	7	21	21	22
	65+	65	9	2	1	5	15	7
Female	<17	84	67	1	3	10	5	4
	18-24	169	88	7	18	34	25	21
	25-34	435	124	15	8	94	47	26
	35-44	312	46	7	2	46	13	13
	45-54	138	22	3	3	15	16	8
	55-64	74	12	2	3	6	5	6
	65+	8	7	0	3	0	6	0
Trans/Non-Binary/Other	<17	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
	18-24	7	0	0	0	0	1	1
	25-34	7	4	0	0	0	1	1
	35-44	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
	45-54	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	55-64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	65+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2023

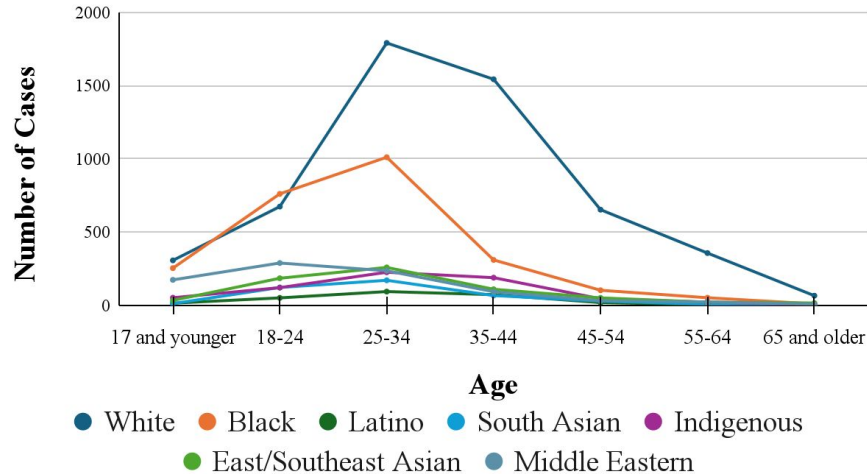
Use-of-Force Ontario

Demographic Trends

Force was used against 12805 people overall

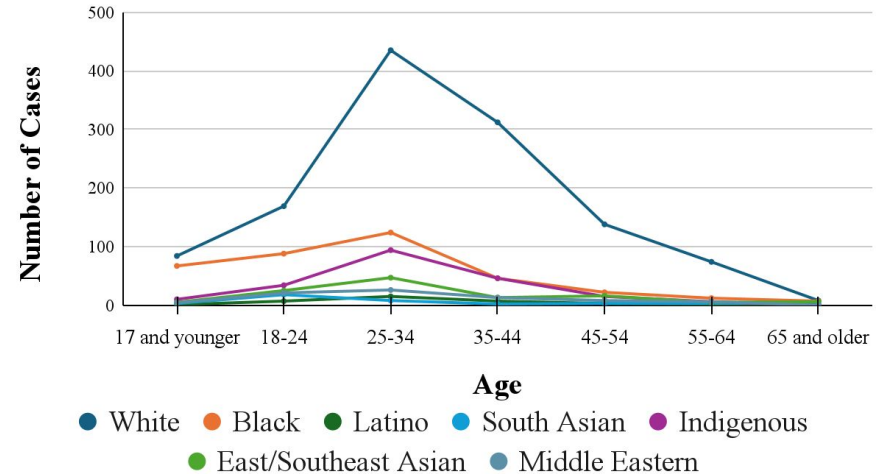
Ontario UOF Cases 2023 (Male)

10707 male cases



Ontario UOF Cases 2023 (Female)

2061 female cases



2024

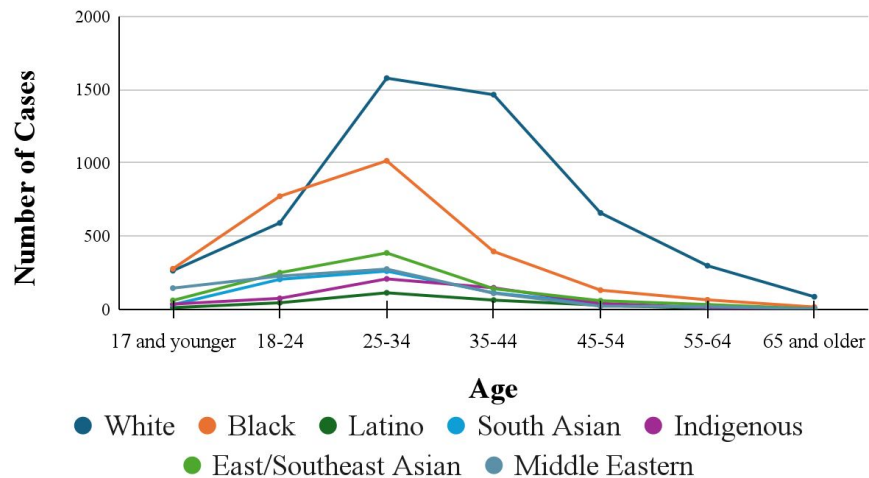
Use-of-Force Ontario

Demographic Trends

Force was used against 12921 people overall

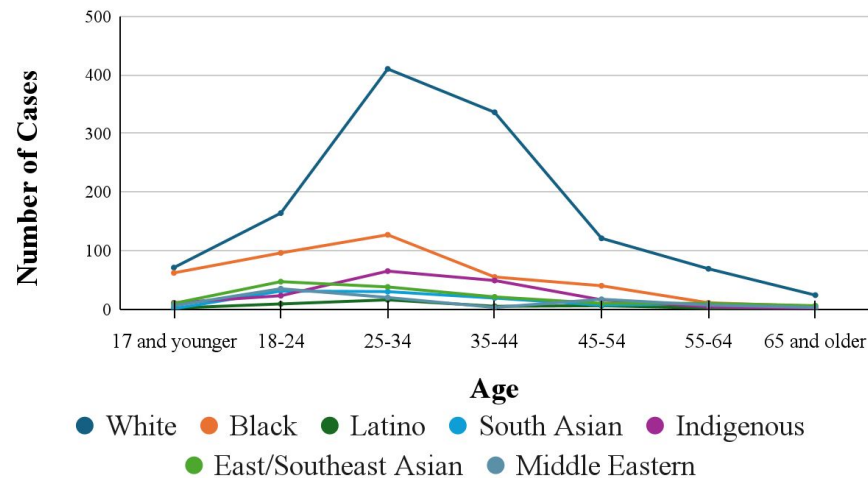
Ontario UOF Cases 2024 (Male)

10752 male cases



Ontario UOF Cases 2024 (Female)

2137 female cases



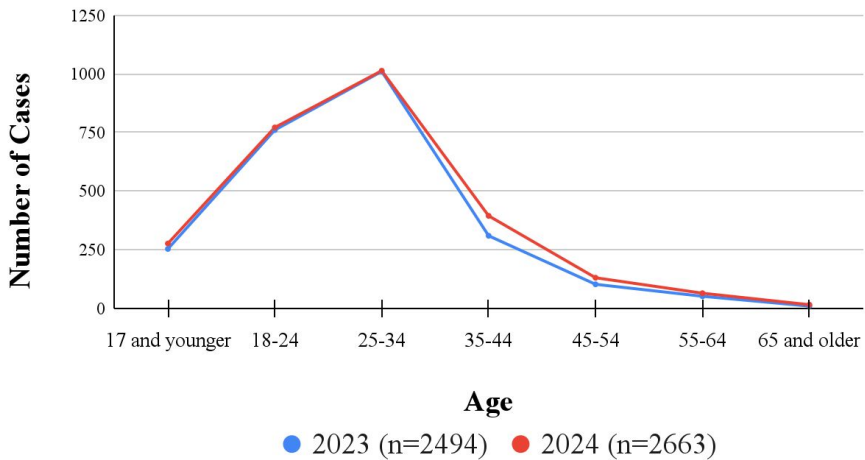
2023

2024

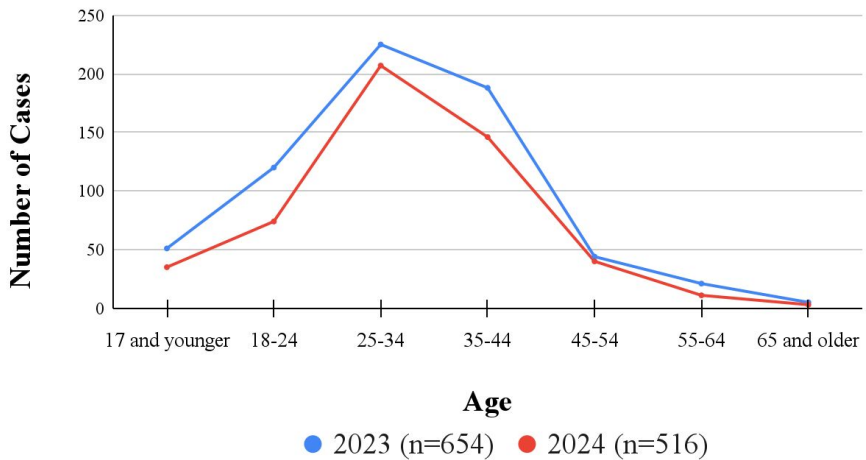
Use-of-Force Ontario

Year-Over- Year Trends

Ontario UOF Cases 2023/24 (Black Male)



Ontario UOF Cases 2023/24 (Indigenous Male)



Regions of Interest

Toronto, Peel Region, Thunder Bay

The reasons we chose to present these regions are:

1. Large number of cases (Toronto, Peel Region);
2. Gross overrepresentation of Black people in the Toronto and Peel Regional data, and Indigenous peoples in the Thunder Bay* data;
3. Disconnect between the presence of systemic issues and who is held accountable.

*Missing and murdered 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and dysfunction within the Thunder Bay Police Service

2023

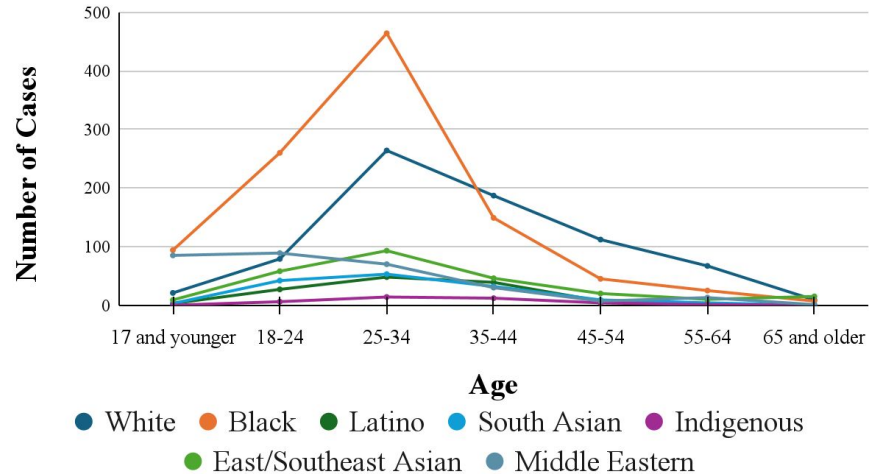
Use-of-Force Toronto

Demographic Trends

Force was used against 3137 people overall

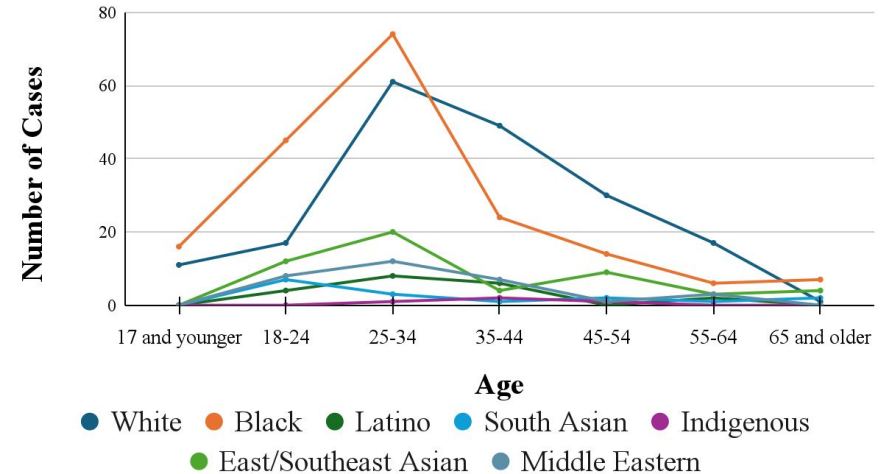
Toronto UOF Cases 2023 (Male)

2635 male cases



Toronto UOF Cases 2023 (Female)

495 female cases



2024

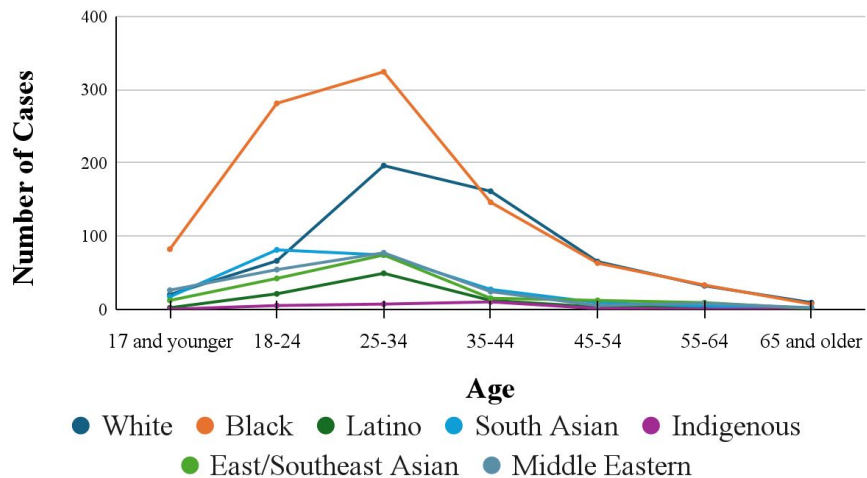
Use-of-Force Toronto

Demographic Trends

Force was used against 2677 people overall

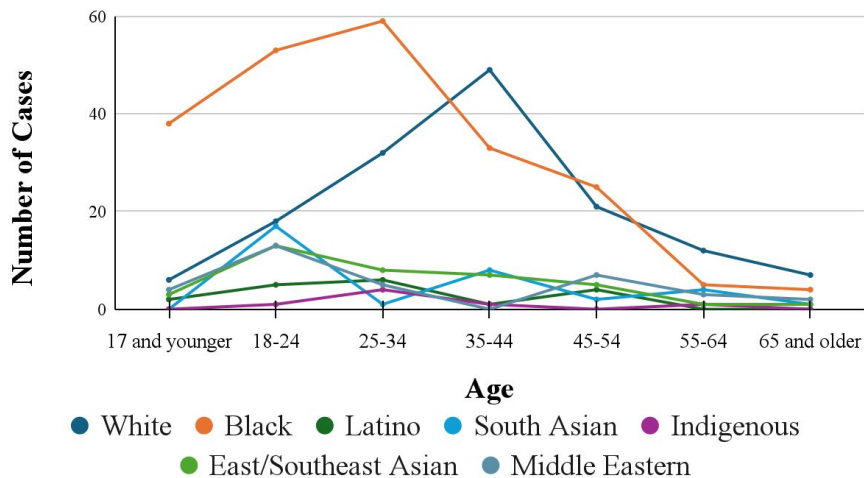
Toronto UOF Cases 2024 (Male)

2173 male cases



Toronto UOF Cases 2024 (Female)

493 female cases



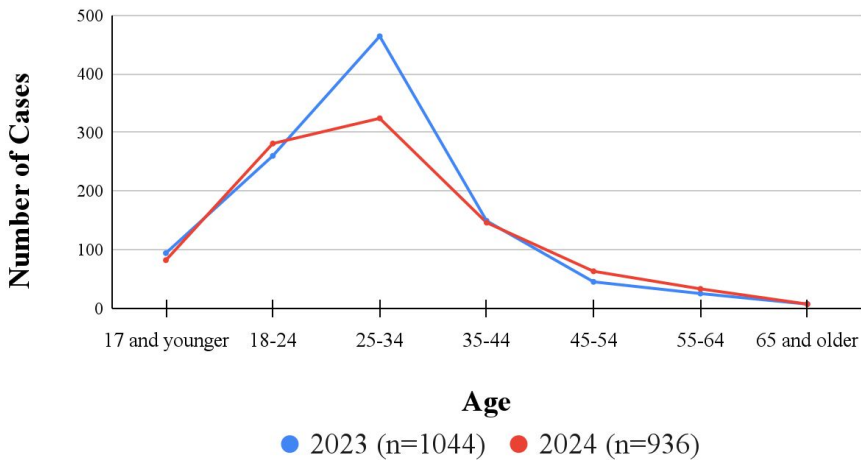
2023

2024

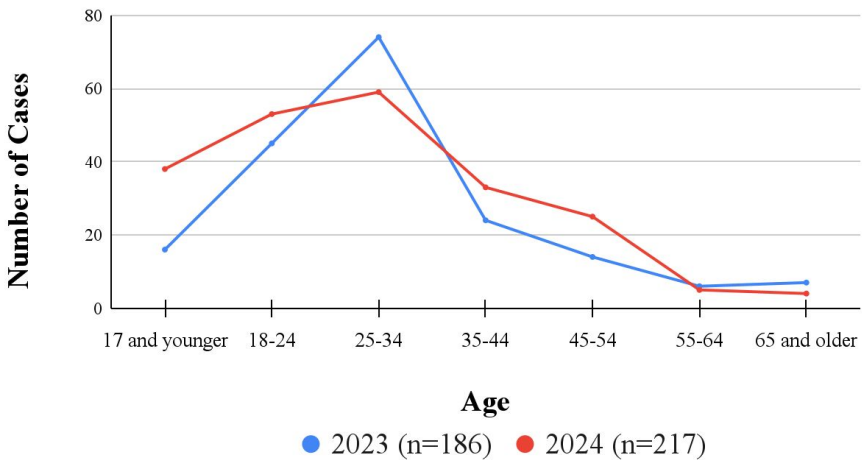
Use-of-Force Toronto

Year-Over- Year Trends

Toronto UOF Cases 2023/24 (Black Male)



Toronto UOF Cases 2023/24 (Black Female)



Toronto police chief apologizes to people of color over disproportionate use of force

Black people are 2.2 times more likely to have a police interaction and 1.6 times more likely to have force used on them, police statistics show



📷 Toronto police chief James Ramer speaks during a press conference releasing race-based data, at police headquarters in Toronto on Wednesday. Photograph: Canadian Press/REX/Shutterstock

(The Guardian, 2022)

Toronto

'We do not accept your apology,' activist tells Toronto's police chief after race-based data released

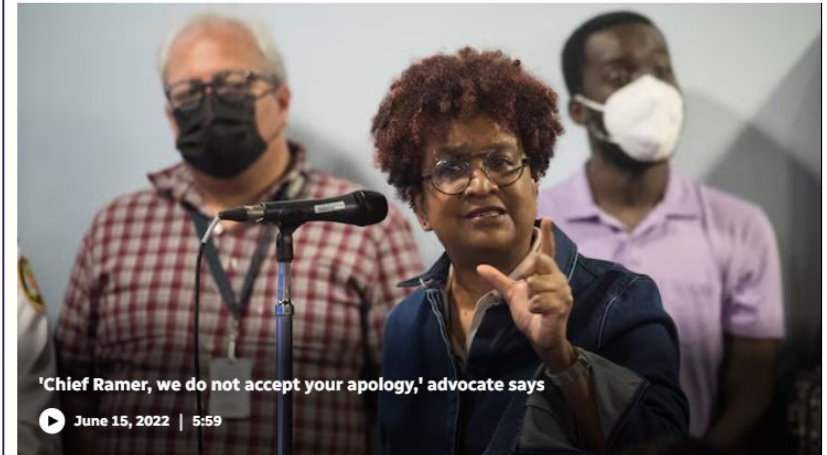
Toronto police use more force against Black people with little explanation, data shows

CBC News · Posted: Jun 15, 2022 8:16 AM EDT | Last Updated: June 16, 2022



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Estimated 9 minutes



'Chief Ramer, we do not accept your apology,' advocate says

📅 June 15, 2022 | 5:59

Beverly Bain of the No Pride In Policing Coalition addressed Toronto Police Chief James Ramer at a press conference about race-based data Wednesday.

(CBC, 2022)

2023

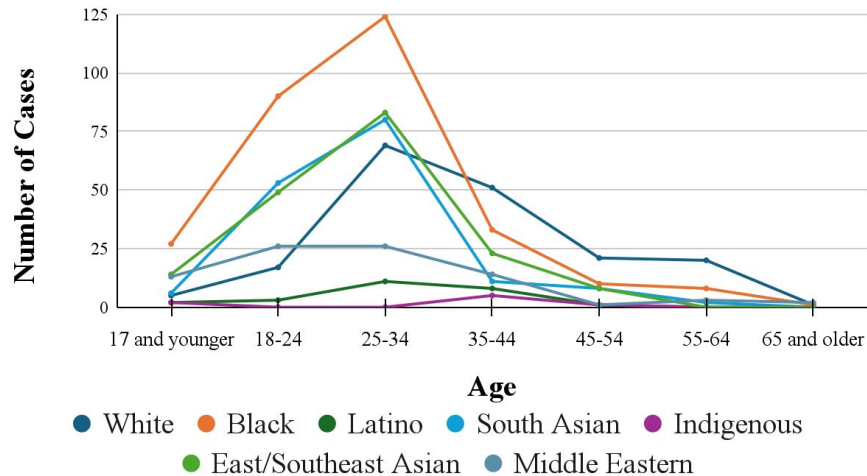
Use-of-Force Peel Regional

Demographic Trends

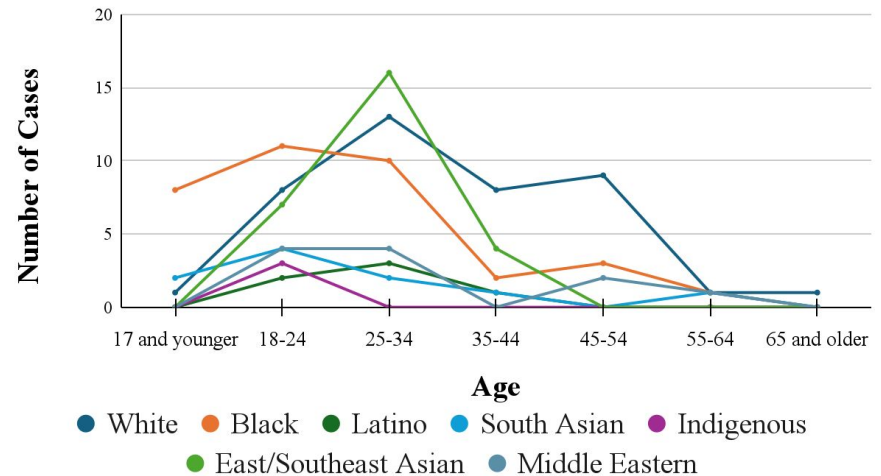
Force was used against 1065 people overall

Peel Regional UOF Cases 2023 (Male)

932 male cases



Peel Regional UOF Cases 2023 (Female) *133 female cases*



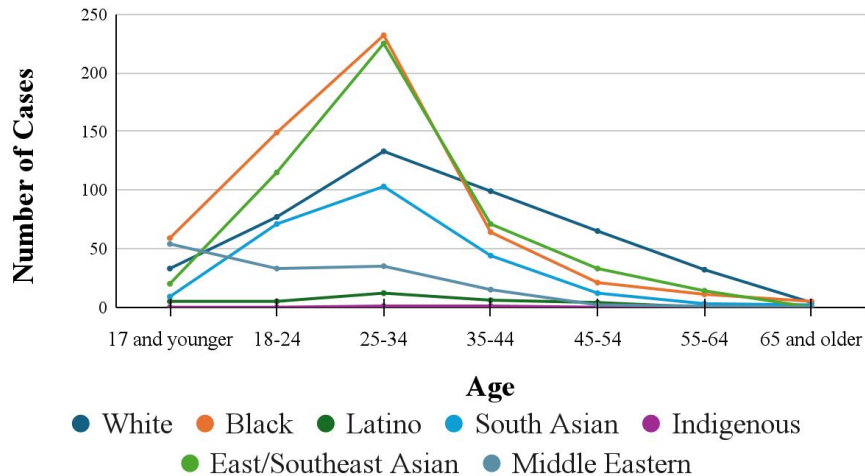
2024

Use-of-Force Peel Regional

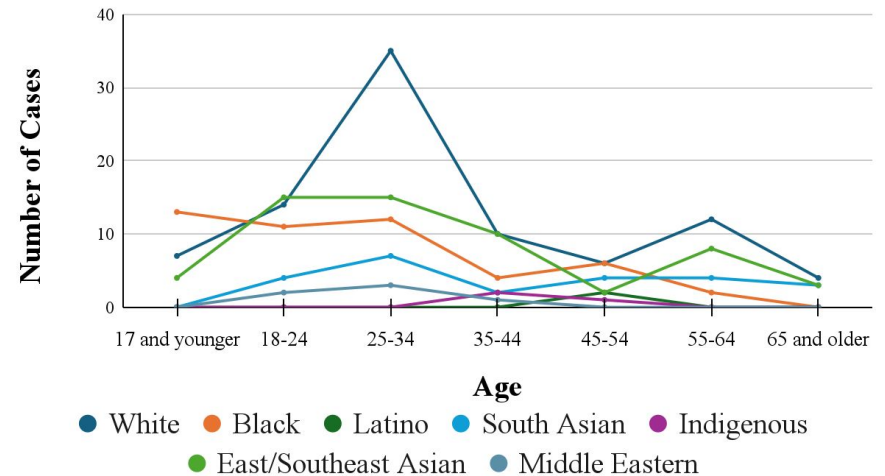
Demographic Trends

Force was used against 2108 people overall

Peel Regional UOF Cases 2024 (Male) *1880 male cases*



Peel Regional UOF Cases 2024 (Female) *228 female cases*



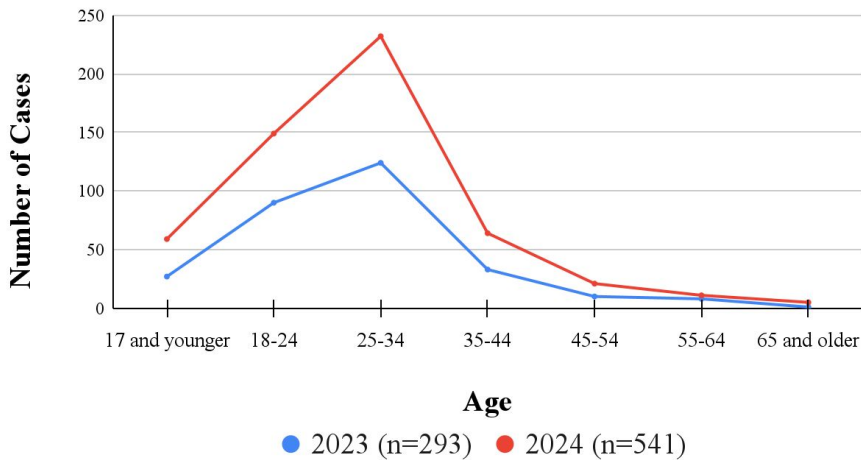
2023

2024

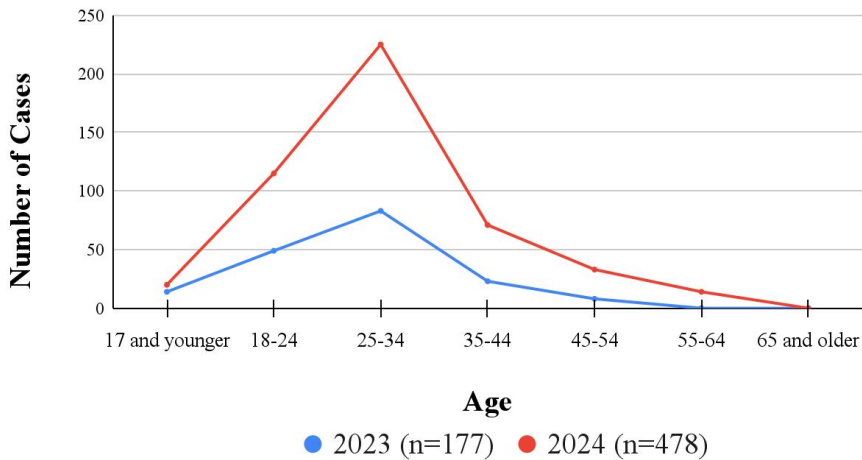
Use-of-Force Peel Regional

Year-Over- Year Trends

Peel Region UOF Cases 2023/24 (Black Male)



Peel Region UOF Cases 2023/24 (East/Southeast Asian Male)



Toronto

Race was a factor in handcuffing of 6-year-old black girl in Mississauga school, tribunal says

Girl was cuffed at her wrists and ankles for 28 minutes

CBC News · Posted: Mar 03, 2020 12:07 PM EST | Last Updated: March 3, 2020



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Estimated 4 minutes



The Ontario Human Rights Tribunal has ruled that two Peel police officers racially discriminated against a six-year-old black girl when they cuffed her at the wrists and feet and kept her restrained for 28 minutes. (Peel Regional Police)

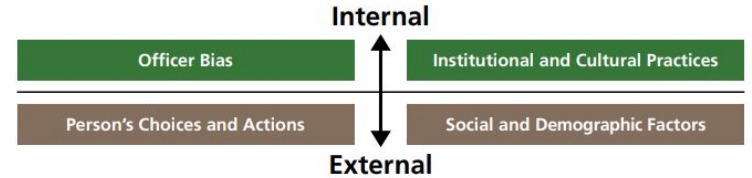
(CBC, 2020)



Peel Police's 2024 Use of Force Report Links Disparities to Crime Severity and Social Determinants of Justice

More

Internal and External Drivers of Disparity



- Youth (under 30) and male
- Unstable home life
- Addictions and mental health
- Basic need challenges
- Prior police arrests
- Nature of crime – gun, gangs, drugs and/or organized crime

(Human Rights Project Team, 2025)

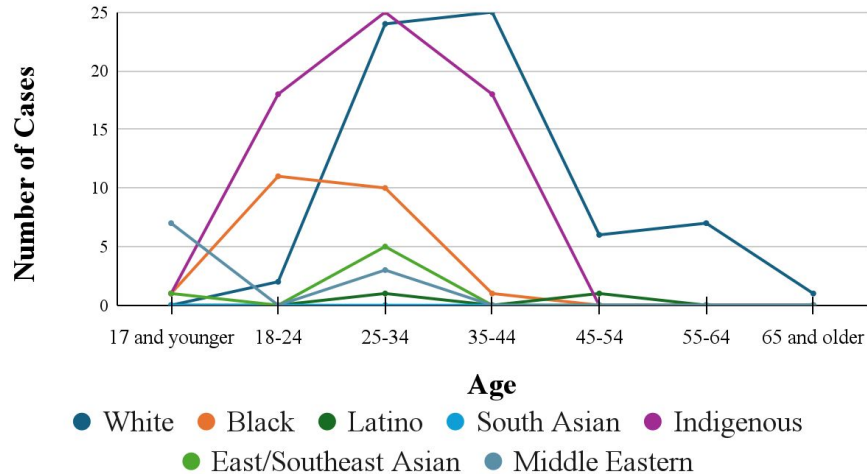
2023 Use-of-Force Thunder Bay

Demographic Trends

Force was used against 232 people overall

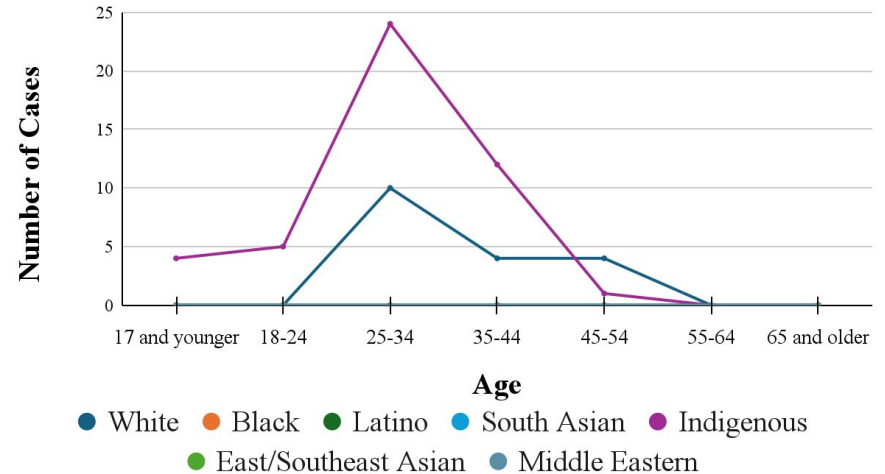
Thunder Bay UOF Cases 2023 (Male)

168 male cases



Thunder Bay UOF Cases 2023 (Female)

64 female cases



2024

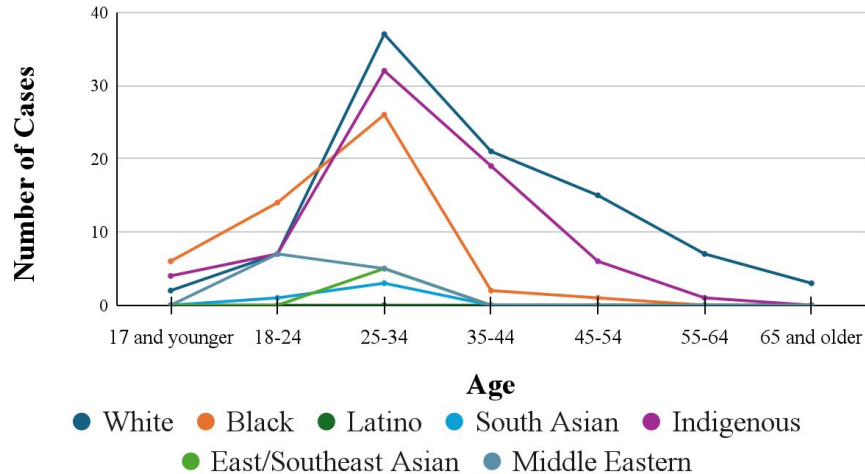
Use-of-Force Thunder Bay

Demographic Trends

Force was used against 320 people overall

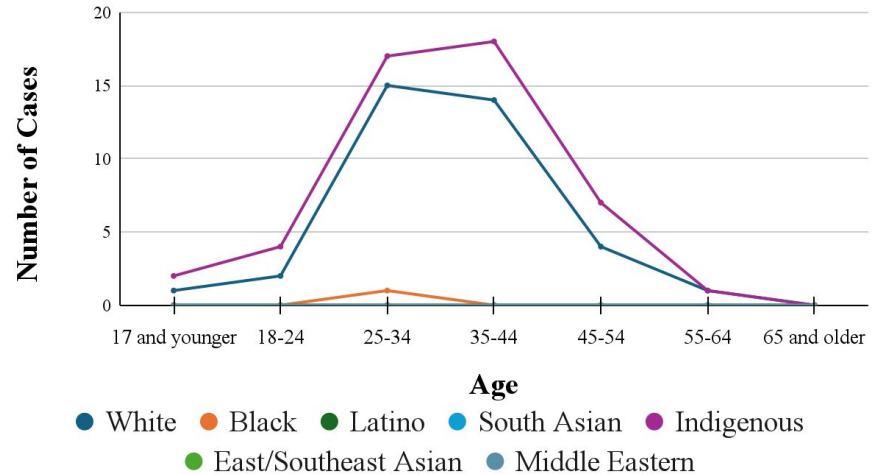
Thunder Bay UOF Cases 2024 (Male)

231 male cases



Thunder Bay UOF Cases 2024 (Female)

87 female cases



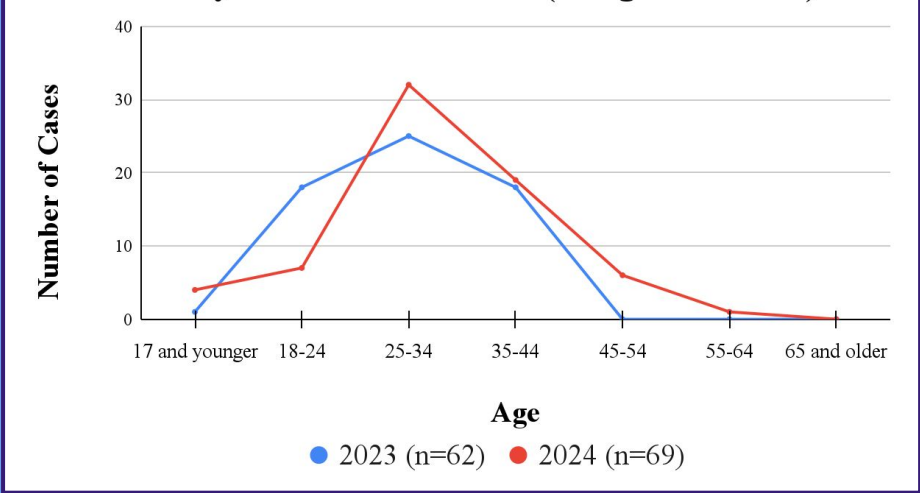
2023
2024

Use-of-Force

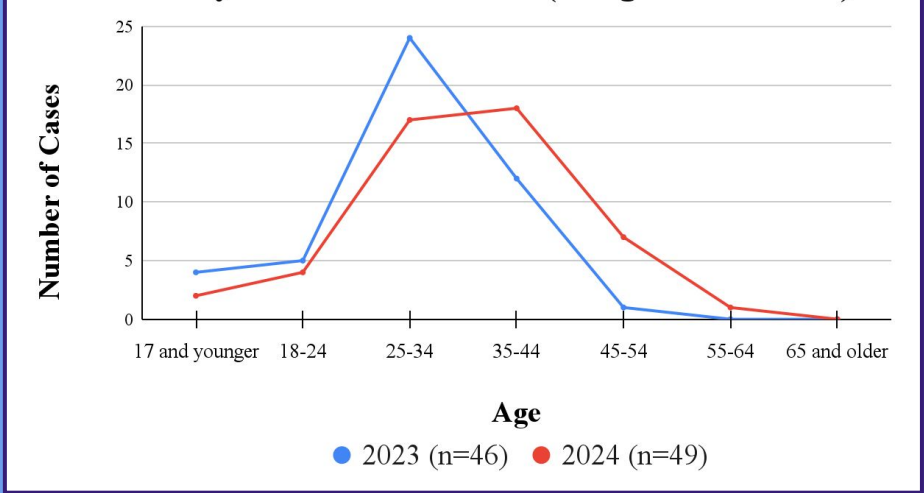
Thunder Bay

Year-Over- Year Trends

Thunder Bay UOF Cases 2023/24 (Indigenous Male)



Thunder Bay UOF Cases 2023/24 (Indigenous Female)



Thunder Bay

Indigenous people detail violent encounters with Thunder Bay police in human rights complaints

Police say officers complete annual use of force training mandated by province



Logan Turner · CBC News · Posted: Apr 28, 2023 4:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: April 28, 2023



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Estimated 10 minutes



John Semerling, 61, a Metis man said he wants to see a Thunder Bay police officer fired after the officer was charged with assaulting him. (Logan Turner/CBC)

(Turner, 2023)

UPDATED: First Nation leaders renew call to disband Thunder Bay Police Service

Family members of three Indigenous people who died in the city of Thunder Bay say there is a lack of communication from the Thunder Bay Police Service on the investigations and join calls by First Nation leaders to disband the police service and board.



Doug Diaczuk

Apr 22, 2024 1:47 PM



The families of Mackenzie Moonias, Jenna Ostberg, and Corey Belesky joined NAN leaders and MPP Sol Mamakwa at Queen's Park to call for the Thunder Bay Police Service to be disbanded.

(Diaczuk, 2024)

Conclusions

- Racial disparities in policing are not new.
- While Black and Indigenous communities are overrepresented, different populations within these communities are also impacted differently specifically young people 34 and younger.
- The lack of uniformity between data collected by Statistics Canada and police services limits conclusions.
- What are we collecting this data for? Is it to say that systemic racism exists, or is it to change the institution that is perpetuating the systemic racism?

Recommendations

- Collection of data should not just be about collecting data.
 - We need action, be it from the Solicitor General and police services.
- Uniformity of collection of data across police services and between provincial and federal institutions.
- Boards of police institutions need to go beyond the reports they receive from their respective police services because they don't go into granular detail about which communities are impacted.
 - Police services' UOF reports are more focused on the number of cases and substantiating why the number of cases is high or low and what outside factors affect the disproportionality that we continue to see year-over-year.

References

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