**2018 NSHRC SURVEY:**

**Street Checks and Attitudes Towards the Police**

In 2017 the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission (NSHRC) launched an investigation into the practice of police street checks. This investigation is investigating the role of street checks within modern law enforcement. We are also investigating allegations of racial profiling and how street checks may impact public confidence in police organizations.

As part of our inquiry, we are conducting an internet survey to try to capture the experiences and opinions of Halifax area residents who were not able to participate in our public forms or feel that they would like the opportunity to express their concerns.

It should be stressed that this survey is open to all Halifax area residents – regardless of racial background, social class, education, gender, age or sexual orientation. The more people we here from the more valuable the survey results.

At this time, we want to stress that your participation in this survey is completely confidential. We do not want you to provide your name or other personal information and we will not analyze data in a manner that could identify specific individuals.

Please answer the questions below as truthfully as possible. Please complete the survey on only one occasion.

**SECTION A: Perceptions of the Police**

**A1. We want to start by asking you a few questions about the police in Halifax and the Halifax region. This would include both the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and the local RCMP. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each statement.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **Strongly**  **Disagree** | **Disagree** | **Not**  **Sure** | **Agree** | **Strongly**  **Agree** |
| 1. I trust the police. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. I am confident that the police are doing their best to serve my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. If I had a problem I would go to the police for help. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. The police often abuse their power. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. The police do a good job keeping my community safe. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. The police treat wealthy people better than poor people. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. The police treat people fairly. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. The police treat people with respect. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. I feel safe when the police are around. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Some people unfairly criticize or complain about the police. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**A2. In your opinion, do you think the police treat Black people better, worse or the same as White people?**

1. Much worse
2. Worse
3. The same
4. Better
5. Much better
6. Depends
7. Don’t know

**A3. In your opinion, do you think the police treat Black people better, worse or the same as people from other racial minority groups?**

1. Much worse
2. Worse
3. The same
4. Better
5. Much better
6. Depends
7. Don’t know

**A4. Please think back over the past five years. Over the past five years have you ever been stopped by the police while riding in a vehicle, walking or hanging out in a public space?**

1. NEVER – *GO TO A6*
2. Once
3. Twice
4. More than Twice
5. Refused – *GO TO A6*

**A5. When you have been stopped by the police, have you ever been concerned:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Were you ever concerned*:** | **Very**  **Concerned** | **Concerned** | **Not**  **Concerned** |
| 1. That the stop was an invasion of your privacy? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. That the stop was an unnecessary inconvenience or a waste of your time? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. That the stop made you feel anxious or afraid? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. That the police treated you unfairly? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. That the police were rude or disrespectful? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. That the stop could escalate into a serious conflict between you and the police? | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. That the stop was caused by racism or racial bias? | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**A6. To the best of your knowledge, how many of your close friends and family members have been stopped and questioned by the police in the past five years?**

1. None of them
2. A few of them
3. More than a few but less than half
4. About half of them
5. Most of them
6. All of them
7. Don’t know/not sure

**A7. How many of your close friends or relatives have stated that they have been treated unfairly by the police over the past five years? Would you say:**

1. None of them
2. A few of them
3. More than a few but less than half
4. About half of them
5. Most of them
6. All of them
7. Don’t know/not sure

**A8. In your opinion, is racial profiling by the police a problem in the Halifax region? Would you say it is:**

1. Not a problem at all
2. Only a small problem
3. A problem
4. A big problem
5. A very big problem
6. Don’t know

**A9. In your opinion, have you ever been a victim of racial profiling by the police?**

1. Never
2. A few times
3. Several times
4. Many times
5. Don’t know

**A10. Have any of your close friends or family members been the victim of racial profiling by the police in the Halifax region?**

1. None of them
2. A few of them
3. More than a few but less than half
4. About half of them
5. Most of them
6. All of them
7. Don’t know/not sure

**SECTION B: Types of Police Stop**

**We now want to ask you a few questions about the different types of contact people might have with the police while they are out in public spaces.**

**B1. Over the past five years, have you been stopped and questioned by the police, in the Halifax region, while you were walking or standing outside on the street or just hanging out in some other public space?**

1. Never
2. Once
3. Twice
4. 3 to 5 times
5. 6 to 9 times
6. 10 to 20 times
7. More than 20 times

**B2. Over the past five years, have you been stopped and questioned by the police, in the Halifax region, when you were THE DRIVER of a car, truck, motorcycle or other motor vehicle?**

1. Never
2. Once
3. Twice
4. 3 to 5 times
5. 6 to 9 times
6. 10 to 20 times
7. More than 20 times

**B3. Over the past five years, have you been stopped and questioned by the police, in the Halifax region, when you were a PASSENGER in a car, truck, motorcycle or other motor vehicle?**

1. Never
2. Once
3. Twice
4. 3 to 5 times
5. 6 to 9 times
6. 10 to 20 times
7. More than 20 times

**B4. Please think about all the times you have been stopped by the police in the past five years. Now think about the police stop that you remember most or the stop that had the biggest impact on you. When did this stop take place?**

1. I HAVE NOT BEEN STOPPED BY THE POLICE – *GO TO QUESTION B29*
2. Within the last year
3. Within the last two years
4. Within the last five years
5. More than five years ago
6. Can’t remember

**B5. The last time you were stopped by the police, were you….:**

1. I was driving a car, truck or other motor vehicle.
2. I was a passenger in a car or motor vehicle.
3. I was on public transit (a bus, ferry, etc.).
4. I was riding a bike.
5. I was a pedestrian – I was just walking.
6. I was just sitting, standing or hanging out on the street or another public place
7. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

**B6. Please think about the last time you were stopped by the police. Where did this stop take place?**

1. On a highway
2. On a busy street
3. On a quiet residential street
4. In a parking lot
5. In front of a house or apartment building
6. At or near a school
7. In a park
8. In a shopping mall or shopping area
9. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**B7. Were you stopped:**

1. In your own neighbourhood or community
2. In another part of the Halifax region;
3. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;
4. Can’t remember/Don’t know.

**B8. Were you alone or with other people when the police stopped you?**

1. Alone – *go to B10*
2. With friends
3. With partner (spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend)
4. With other family members
5. Other (specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**B9. How many people were you with when the police stopped you?**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**B10. What police service did the officer work for?**

1) The Halifax Regional Police

2) The RCMP

3) I can’t remember

**B11. Did the police tell you why they stopped you? If yes – what reason did they give you? Please check all that apply.**

1. NO – they did not provide a reason or explanation for the stop
2. Speeding
3. Another traffic violation
4. Suspected alcohol or drug use (drunk driving, etc.)
5. Random or routine stop
6. Jaywalking
7. Checking for trespassing or bylaw infractions
8. Fit description of a crime suspect
9. Checking for citizenship/immigration status
10. Checking for witnesses – thought we might have seen a crime
11. Suspicious activity
12. Checking for drug/alcohol use
13. Checking for parole or probation conditions
14. Checking for gang activity
15. Checking for weapons
16. Investigating noise complaint
17. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;

**B12. Did you believe the police explanation?**

1. YES – *go to B14*
2. NO – *go to B13*
3. Not sure/Don’t know – *go to B13*
4. Refused – *go to B14*

**B13. Why do you think the police really stopped you? Do you think there were other reasons that they stopped you besides the reason they gave you?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**B14. What type of questions did the police officer ask you during this stop? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

* Did they ask you for your driver’s licence?
* Did they ask you for your ID or another form of identification?
* Did they ask you for proof of insurance or vehicle registration papers?
* Did they ask you for your phone number?
* Did they ask you how you knew the other people you were with?
* Did they ask you where you were going or what you were doing?
* Did they ask you where you live?
* Did they ask you where you come from?
* Did they ask anything about your citizenship or immigration status?
* Did they ask you if you had a job or if you went to school?
* Did they ask you if you had ever been arrested before -- or if you had ever been in trouble with the police?
* Did they ask you if you were out on probation or parole or if you had bail conditions?
* Did they ask you if you had been drinking or using drugs?
* Did they ask you if you had any weapons?
* Did they ask you if you had any drugs on you?
* Did they ask you if you had any alcohol on you?
* Did they ask you if you knew anything about a crime that had taken place?
* Did they ask you your age?

**B15. During the stop did the police ask you any other types of question? What types of questions did they ask you?**

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| --- |
|  |

**B16. During the stop did the police officer ever tell you that you did not have to answer their questions?**

1. YES – they told me I did not have to answer questions if I did not want to
2. NO – they never told me that I did not have to answer their questions
3. Don’t know/Can’t Remember
4. Refused

**B17. During the stop did the police ever warn you that you could get into trouble if you did not answer their questions?**

1. YES – they warned me that I had to answer their questions
2. No – they did not warn me
3. Don’t know/Can’t Remember
4. Refused

**B18. During the stop did the police ever tell you that you were under investigation for a specific crime?**

1. YES
2. NO
3. Don’t know/Can’t Remember
4. Refused

**B19. During the stop, did the officer take your identification from you? Did they take anything else from you?**

1. YES – they took my ID from me.
2. YES – they took something else from me (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. NO – they did not take anything from me
4. Don’t know/Can’t remember
5. Refused

**B20. Did the police officer search you or pat you down during the stop?**

1. YES
2. NO
3. Don’t know/Can’t remember
4. Refused

**B21. During the stop did the police ask you to empty your pockets or look inside your bag or knapsack?**

1. YES
2. NO
3. Don’t know
4. Refused

**B22. During the stop did the officer ever ask you to exit the car or vehicle?**

1. YES
2. NO
3. NO – I WAS NOT IN A CAR OR OTHER VEHICLE
4. Don’t know/Can’t remember
5. Refused

**B23. During the stop did the officer ever ask you to pop the trunk or did they search your vehicle in any way?**

1. YES
2. NO
3. NO – I WAS NOT IN A CAR OR OTHER VEHICLE
4. Don’t know/Can’t remember
5. Refused

**B24. Did any of the following happen during the stop. Were you… CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

* I was given a ticket (i.e., for speeding, jaywalking, trespassing, etc.)
* I was given a warning
* I was arrested or charged with a crime (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;
* Nothing happened – the police officer just left
* Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;
* Don’t know/Can’t remember
* Refused

**B25. During the stop, did the police officer(s) treat you with respect? Would you say that the police were:**

1. Very respectful
2. Respectful
3. Neither respectful or disrespectful
4. Disrespectful
5. Very disrespectful
6. Don’t know
7. Refused

**B26. Do you think the police treated you fairly or unfairly during this stop? Would you say they treated you:**

1. Very fairly
2. Somewhat fairly
3. Neither fairly or unfairly
4. Somewhat unfairly
5. Very unfairly
6. Don’t know
7. Refused

**B27. How upset were you after this police stop? Were you:**

1. Not upset at all
2. A little upset
3. Very upset
4. Don’t know
5. Refused

**B28. Approximately what time of day did the stop take place?**

1. Morning (5:00 am to Noon)
2. Afternoon (Noon to 6:00 pm)
3. Early Evening (6:00 pm to 9:00 pm)
4. Late Evening (9:00 pm to Midnight)
5. After midnight (Midnight to 5:00 am)
6. Don’t know/Can’t Remember
7. Refused

**B29. Have you ever had a bad or negative experience with the police? Can you describe some of these bad or negative experiences?**

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| --- |
|  |

**B30. Have you ever had a good or positive experience with the police? Can you describe some of these good or positive experiences?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**B31. In your opinion, what can be done to improve the police in Halifax? What can be done to improve the relationship the police have with your community?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**SECTION C: Demographic Questions**

**We conclude this survey by asking you a few questions about your personal background. We need this information to see if different types of people have different types of opinions or experiences.**

**C1. What is your gender or gender identity?**

1. Female
2. Male
3. Transgendered
4. Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**C2. To what age group do you belong? Would you say:**

1. 12-14 years
2. 15-19 years
3. 20-24 years
4. 25-29 years
5. 30-39 years
6. 40-49 years
7. 50-59 years
8. 60-69 years
9. 70-79 years
10. 80 years of age or older
11. Refused

**C3. Were you born in Canada or another country?**

1) I was born in Canada *– go to question D6*

2) I was born outside of Canada (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

**C4. How long have you lived in Canada?**

1. Less than a year
2. 1 to 2 years
3. 2 to 5 years
4. 5 to 10 years
5. 10 to 20 years
6. More than 20 years

**C5. What is your current status in Canada? For example, are you a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant, a refugee claimant or something else?**

1. Canadian citizen
2. Landed immigrant
3. Refugee claimant
4. Student visa
5. Work visa
6. Other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
7. Don’t know
8. Refused

**C6. In contemporary society, people are often identified by their race or racial background. What racial group or racial groups do you feel that you belong to: CIRCLE ALL THAT ARE IDENTIFIED**

1) Black (African, Caribbean)

2) Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, etc.)

3) South-East Asian (Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, etc.)

4) South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Tamil, Sri-Lankan, etc.)

6) Hispanic or Latin American

7) Indigenous Peoples (First Nations/ Inuit/Métis)

8) West Asian (Persian, Arab or Middle-Eastern)

9) White (European-Canadian)

10) Biracial or mixed race (specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11) Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12) Don’t know/Not sure

13) Refused

**C7. What is your level of education? What is the highest level of schooling or training that you have you received?**

1. No formal education
2. Less than primary school
3. Completed primary school
4. Some high school
5. Completed high school
6. Some community college
7. Completed college
8. Some university
9. Completed BA
10. Completed MA
11. Completed PhD
12. Completed Professional Degree (i.e., law school, medical school, MBA, etc.)
13. Other training or education (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
14. Don’t know
15. Refused

**C8. What were you doing for most of the past year? For example, were you working full-time, working part-time, unemployed, going to school, on social assistance, retired or some combination of these things? INTERVIEWER: CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY:**

1) Working full-time 2) Working part-time

3) Unemployed – looking for work 4) Not working – not looking for work

5) Student (full-time) 6) Student (part-time)

7) Homemaker (watching kids) 8) Retired

9) Disabled – unable to work 10) Hustling

11) Student and Working (fulltime) 12) Student and Working (part-time)

13) Incarcerated (closed custody) 14) Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

99) Refused

**C9. Could you please tell me your total household income before taxes for the year ending in 2017? Be sure to include income FROM ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS AND ALL SOURCES OF INCOME TO THE NEAREST THOUSAND DOLLARS. What was your TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME?**

1. Less than $10,000
2. Between $10,000 and $29,999
3. Between $30,000 and $49,999
4. Between $50,000 and $69,999
5. Between $70,000 and $99,999
6. Between $100,000 and $149,999
7. Between $150,000 and $199,999
8. More than $200,000
9. Refused/Don’t know

**C10. What is your religion? What religious group do you belong to? CIRCLE ALL THAT ARE IDENTIFIED**

1) I don’t have a religion

2) Islam/Muslim

3) Hindu

4) Buddhist

5) Christian

6) Jewish

7) Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8) Refused

**C11. Now I’m going to read you a few statements about the community or neighbourhood that you live in. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these statements about your community.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **Strongly**  **Disagree** | **Disagree** | **Not**  **Sure** | **Agree** | **Strongly**  **Agree** |
| 1. There are a lot of poor people in my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. There is lot of drug use in my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. There is a lot of crime in my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. New people are always moving in and out of my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. People in my community always help one another. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. There are lots of sports and recreational opportunities in my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. There are a lot of young people in my community who have nothing to do. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. There are lots of homeless people in my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. My community is a good place to raise kids. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. There are lots of parks and green space in my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. There is always a lot of garbage lying around in my community. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**C12. Can you please tell me your postal code? Not your full address – just your postal code.**

**POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**