

RCMP-BODY-WORN CAMERA PROJECT

Research and Findings



PURPOSE _____

Implementing Body-Worn Cameras aims to improve the relationship between police officers and the public community, increasing police accountability and transparency

This response is due to the high-profile incidents of police brutality throughout Canada that target marginalized communities

History _____

- The United Kingdom and the United States adopted BWCs after federal courts found evidence of police brutality targeting minority groups from 2012 to 2014
- The project to implement BWCs in Canada was influenced by both nations (UK And USA) in 2014.
- The delay of the implementation from 2014 to 2024 was due to the high costs of BWCs

The Question of “Why Now” Comparing 2014 to 2024: The Call to Action

In 2014, a plan to implement BWCs continued to be delayed throughout the years due to the high costs. The costs for BWCs are estimated at around \$5.2 million (2.8% of the RCMP's annual budget).

Activist groups such as the Black Lives Movement (BLM) continued to fight for justice against the discrimination caused by police officers.

From 2014 to 2024, the law permitting citizens to record public interactions has contributed to increased justice. Video evidence is a powerful tool for holding police officers accountable, and allows citizens to have power in an injustice situation against the police.

Police officers have declined in public trust in fulfilling their duty; and their position to serve and protect the public.

The Question of “Why Now” Comparing 2014 to 2024: The Call to Action

In 2024, the implementation of BWCs raised privacy concerns, regarding how footage will be handled

- Bill C-27: A federal bill regulates AI in law enforcement, can ensure accountability in handling BWCs footage

This allows the implementation of BWCs to be established with the public understanding of their privacy concerns

- Toronto Police Service (TPS): ensures that documented recordings will be governed and prevent the breach of privacy by both internal and external actors (TPS, 2020).
- If police officers alter or remove recorded evidence they will be held accountable

Documenting recordings will encourage officers to discourage or think twice before discriminating.

Data on rates of Police Brutality in Canada

Body-worn cameras will create violence reduction and move towards police accountability. Throughout the years there have been continuing rates of deaths of police brutality in Canada. This demonstrates a call for change and this persistent problem is shown in Ontario, having the most deaths at 224 in 2022.

Police use of force-involved deaths -

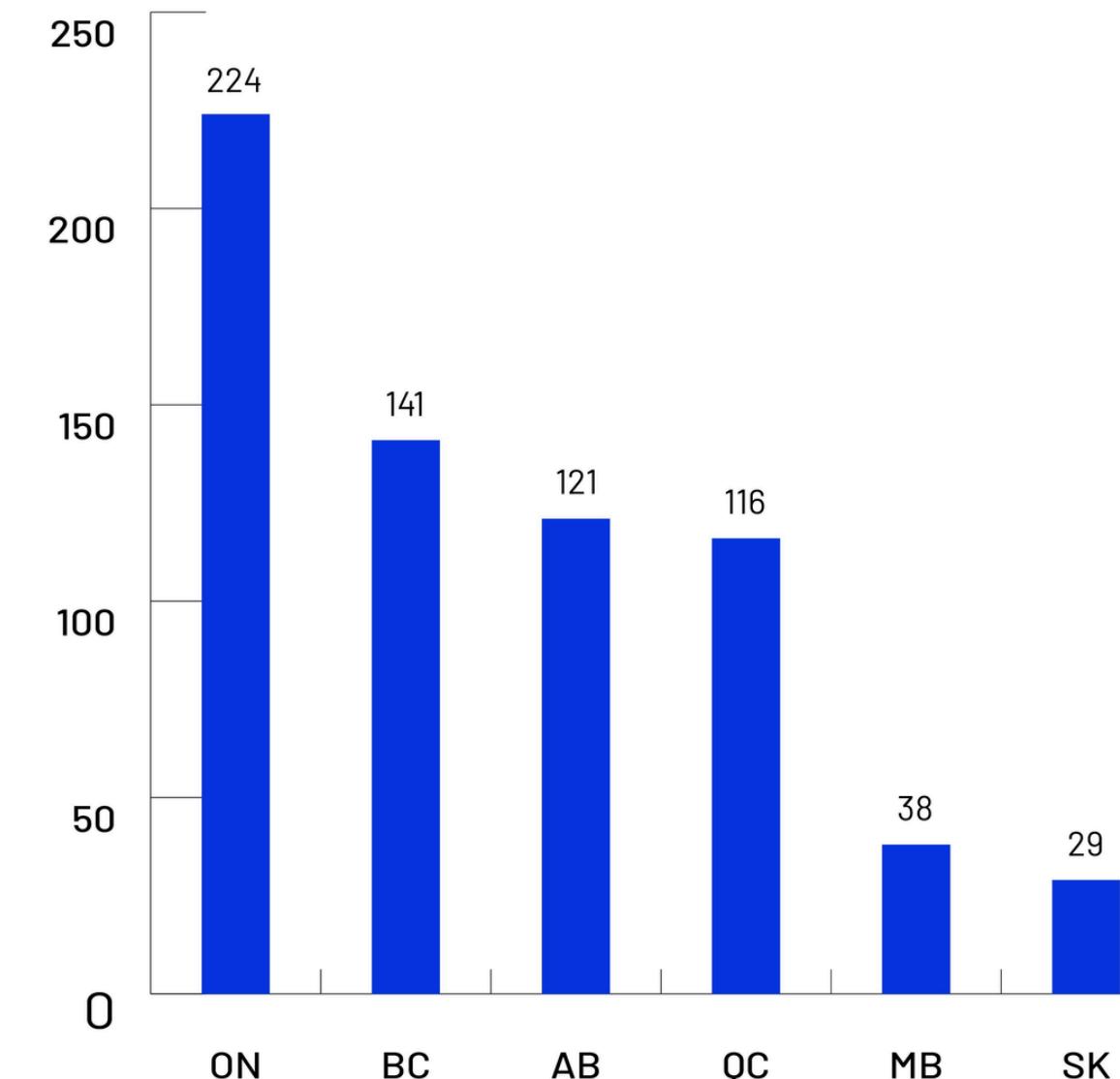
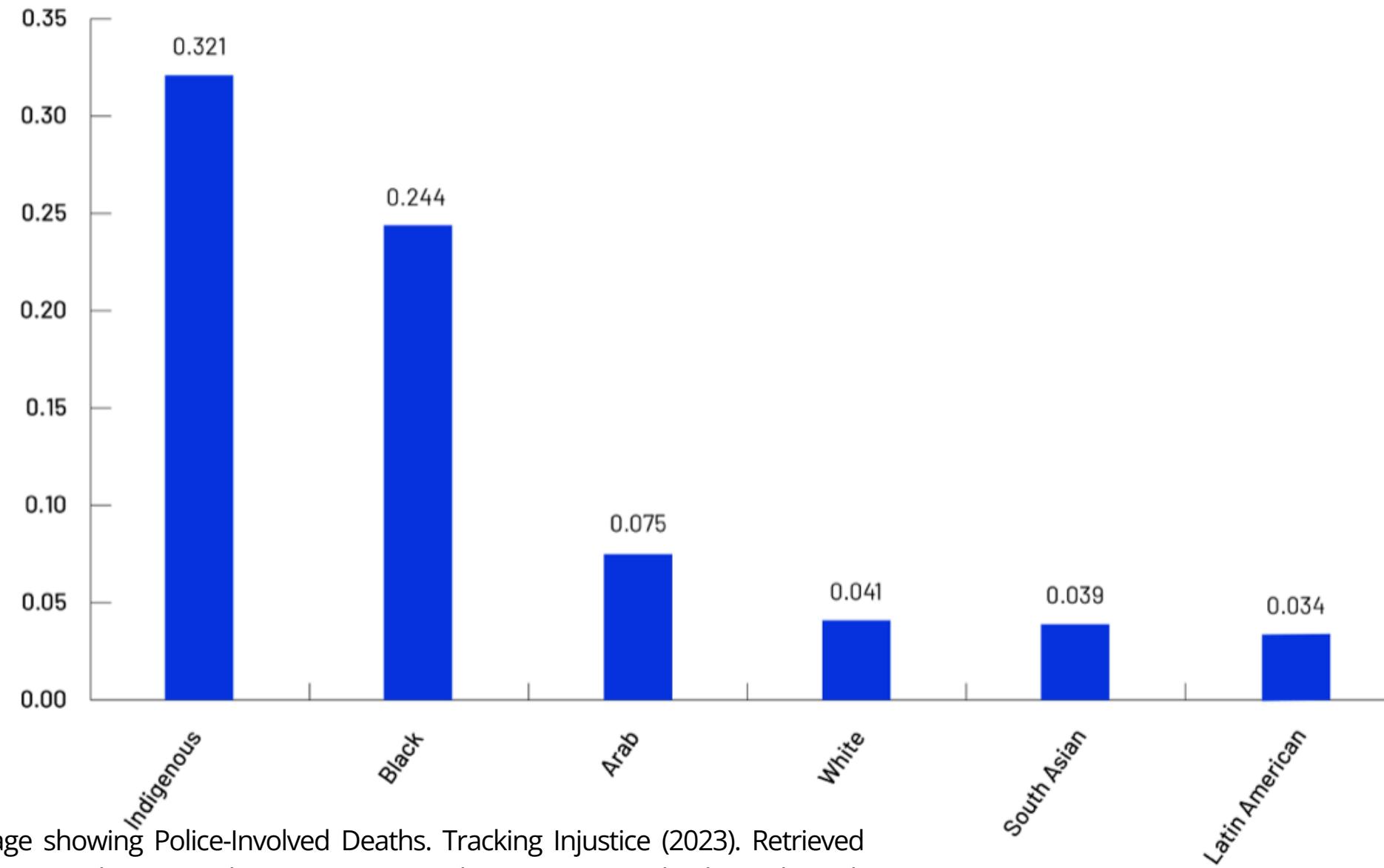


Image showing Police use of force-involved deaths. Tracking Injustice (2023).
Retrieved from: <https://trackinginjustice.ca/analysis-increase-in-deaths-and-racial-disparities/>

Data on rates of Police Brutality in Canada

Police-involved deaths when force used by race - rates per 100,000 people of racial group (2000-2021)



- This graph shows that from 2000-2021 the targeted groups are Black and Indigenous communities.
- Police brutality continues to rise, showing data that demonstrates police using their force against individuals
- Additional sources reveal there has been a 66.5% increase in deaths linked to police brutality from 2011 to 2022 (CCLA, 2023).
 - The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) are identified as responsible for the highest number of police brutality deaths

Image showing Police-Involved Deaths. Tracking Injustice (2023). Retrieved from: <https://trackinginjustice.ca/analysis-increase-in-deaths-and-racial-disparities/>

Addressing Police Misconduct: Building Trust Through Education

- Police officers who commit these crimes have certain attitudes, beliefs, and values that influence their behaviour on duty
- Police Officers are supposed to hold themselves to a high standard of protecting the public service

BWCs will hold an additional step to social justice and to continue, the Coalition for the Canadian Police Reform will create a police education project (CCPR, 2024). This will allow future police officers to gain skills to engage with diverse groups, understand cultural contexts, and address systemic racism to reduce instances of misconduct.

This program and the implementation of BWCs are two important tools to create a high priority on education and inclusivity to promote mutual trust and understanding of the communities affected.

The Pathway to Progress: Body-Worn Cameras

To conclude, Police Brutality against marginalized groups is a persistent problem and the data shows that it has only been increasing.

- BWCs hopes to create a revolutionary movement towards structural problems with police trust, accountability, and transparency.

To improve human rights protection towards all civilizations. Body-worn cameras are a moment to learn from systemic failures of the past and provide a safe environment for all communities involved and for future generations.



THANK YOU

References

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