

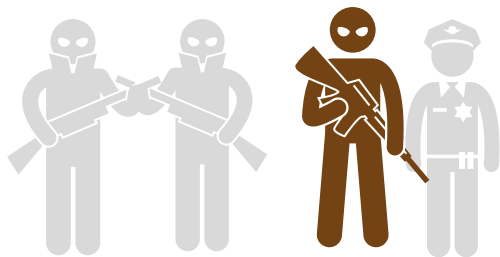
FACT SHEET # 7

RACIALIZED POVERTY IN JUSTICE & POLICING

How are racialized people disadvantaged in justice and policing?

- **Profiling:** From 2013 to 2015, Ottawa Police Services found that Black drivers were stopped 2.3 times more often than expected given their representation in the driving population; young Black men were stopped 8.3 times more; Middle Eastern drivers were stopped 3.3 times more; and young Middle Eastern men were stopped 12 times more.
- **Pre-Trial Detention:** A 2016 report on the bail system in Ontario observes that Indigenous Peoples and peoples of colour "who are subject to over-policing practices and racial profiling are more likely to find themselves in pre-trial detention."
- **Segregation:** In 2016, 40% of inmates in segregation at the Toronto South Detention Centre were Black, while being 7.5% of the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area..

Government reports on national security focus almost exclusively on Muslim individuals and organizations as a source of terrorism – ignoring the more real threat of the more than 100 extreme right-wing and White supremacist groups active across Canada.



- **Rates of Arrest:** As a result of higher levels of scrutiny "compared to white people, minorities are more likely to be arrested, convicted and punished", which has been identified as a significant contributing factor to the overrepresentation of Black males in the criminal justice system.

- **Incarceration:** In 2016, Black people comprise 3.5% of the general Canadian population, but made up 10% of the federally incarcerated population.

AN INDIGENOUS FOCUS

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) acknowledged in a 2014 report that there were nearly 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada between 1980 and 2012. Indigenous women's groups however document the number of missing and murdered at over 4,000.
- Indigenous women 15 years and older were 3.5 times more likely to experience violence than non-Indigenous women, according to the 2004 General Social Survey.
- In 2016 the homicide rate for Indigenous women was 5 times that of non-Indigenous women.
- 14% of people in segregation in Ontario jails are Indigenous. Over half of the Indigenous women and men admitted to segregation in 2016 had a suicide risk alert.
- According to the RCMP over 90% of trafficking victims are Canadian citizens; 92% of victims are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. The majority of trafficking victims in Canada are Indigenous, and most are young.
- In 2016, 25% of the total federally incarcerated population – and 35% of federally-sentenced women – were Indigenous, despite accounting for only around 4.3% of the total Canadian population.
- Between 2005 and 2015, the number of incarcerated Indigenous Peoples increased by more than 50%, while the number of incarcerated Indigenous women almost doubled.

- **Risk:** Racialized communities are over-represented among the low income population and face heightened risk of homelessness, incarceration, and human rights violations. This increases their likelihood of being over-policed, while diminishing their access to justice and security,
- **Access:** Access to justice, and the fair representation of racialized individuals before courts, administrative tribunals, and access to legal aid is made that much more difficult because of their race and immigration status on the one hand, and the lack of culturally and linguistically responsive and safe services in the justice system on the other.
- **Criminalization:** The Canadian bail system is one that “disproportionately penalizes – and criminalizes – poverty, addiction and mental illness” - exacerbating the colour-coded inequity.

Quick Notes

- When we refer to peoples of colour we speak of Canadians of non-European background or heritage - both people of colour who are Canadian-born as well as those who are born elsewhere.
- When we refer to Indigenous Peoples, we speak of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons.
- In Toronto, 62% of all persons living in poverty are from racialized groups.
- 52% of Canada’s racialized people living in poverty reside in Ontario.
- Households that fall below Canada’s low income cut-off (LICO) or low income measure (LIM), spend a much larger percent of their income on basic necessities like food and shelter than the average family; this is how we measure poverty.
- Systemic racism is often caused by hidden institutional biases in policies, practices and processes that privilege or disadvantage certain groups of people. It can be the result of doing things the way they have always been done without considering how they affect particular groups differently.

In Canada, 2014, there were 611 crimes motivated by hatred against a particular racial group (primarily anti-Black racism: 238), and 429 motivated by hatred against a particular religious group (primarily Jewish: 213, and Muslim: 99). Hate crimes against Muslims doubled between 2014 and 2016. However, these statistics are incomplete because only a small proportion of hateful acts are reported, systematically recorded and tracked.

In 2013, section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which had made communication of hateful messages legal grounds for complaint, was repealed by the Conservative government. This has reduced the avenues available in Canada for addressing hate through the human rights system.

As of 2015, Thunder Bay, Ontario, experienced the highest number of reported hate crimes in Canada (nearly half targeting Indigenous People).



WHAT'S BEING DONE?

Aboriginal Legal Services specializes in legal representation of Indigenous People from across Ontario and houses one of Canada’s largest Indigenous diversion programs.
www.aboriginallegal.ca / info@aboriginallegal.ca

Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) works to create a culture of human rights compliance and accountability by exposing, challenging and ending entrenched and widespread structures and systems of discrimination through education, policy development, public inquiries and litigation.
www.ohrc.on.ca / info@ohrc.on.ca

National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) advocates on behalf of those who have experienced anti-Muslim discrimination, hate or bias, and documents anti-Muslim discrimination, harassment, or hate crime.
www.nccm.ca / info@nccm.ca