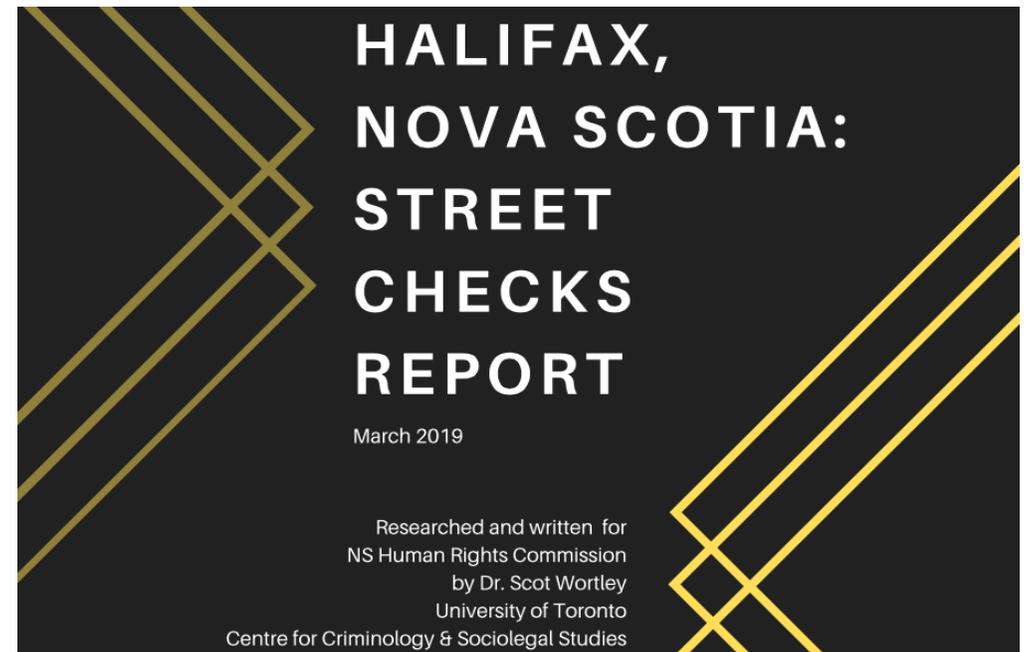


Wortley Recommendations about Data

- **Recommendation 2.21:** Research findings...demonstrate that African Nova Scotians are grossly over-represented in historical street check statistics. The evidence strongly suggests that a significant proportion of this disparity is due to some combination of explicit, implicit or systemic bias. Since historical street checks have had such a disproportionate impact on the Black community, it is recommended that all ***personal information within the historical street check dataset be destroyed within one year of the implementation of the new street check regulation...*** [italics mine]





Wortley Recommendations about Data

- **Recommendation 2.22:** For ongoing research and evaluation purposes, all historical, preregulation **street check data should be de-identified and retained**. De-identification should involve the **removal of names, addresses, birth dates or any other information that could be used to identify specific individuals**. However, information on general demographic characteristics -- including race, age and gender – should be retained for aggregate-level analyses. The retention of an anonymized historical street check dataset will further assist researchers in their examination of the relationship between race, gender, age and police surveillance activities...The loss of the historical data would prevent such evaluation efforts.

A Brief Timeline

- June 17, 2019: Global News reports the HRP are “finally ready to purge.” “The original files and metadata will be scrapped from the system in December 2020, according to a [draft policy](https://globalnews.ca/news/5399785/street-checks-records-purge/) introduced at the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners meeting on Monday.” <https://globalnews.ca/news/5399785/street-checks-records-purge/>
- November 29, 2019: ANSDPAD press release about the apology by Chief Dan Kinsella “maintains our grave concern about the retention of our data.” <https://nsadvocate.org/2019/11/29/press-release-dpad-expresses-concerns-about-the-proposed-halifax-regional-police-street-check-apology/>
- June 3, 2020: ANSDPAD letter to the Premier expresses need “To encourage people to request their personal street check data – and to not have it destroyed by police until people can do so.” <https://www.ansdpad.ca/event/Letter-To-The-Premier/>



A Brief Timeline

- December 1, 2021: Minister's Directive, Street Check Ban.
<https://novascotia.ca/just/publications/docs/Minister-Directive-Street-Checks-Ban.pdf>
- September 16, 2021: In the Two-Year Wortley Report Summary, ANSDPAD continues to express concern: "The collection of street check data was a breach in privacy to all Nova Scotians. The Police Commission Board, Halifax Regional Police, and the government of Nova Scotia should work together to notify and send data to all persons in Nova Scotia who have been street checked their data instead of placing the onus on the community to request their data (same that is done when there are data breaches)" (Attachment 6, p.53)
https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/210920bopc1011_0.pdf



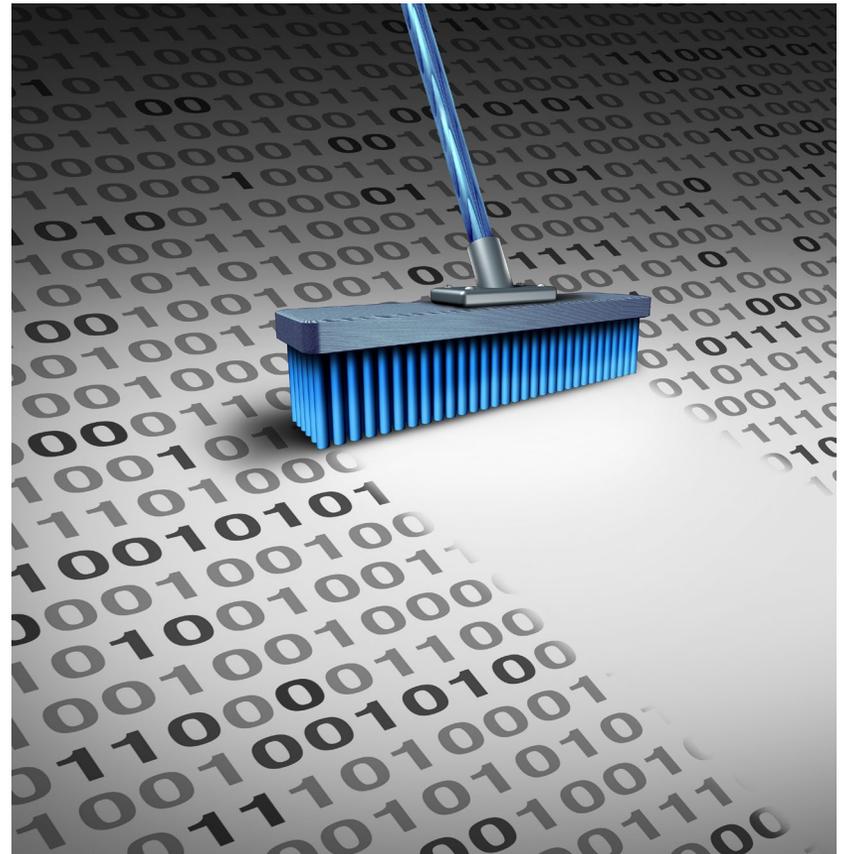
A Brief Timeline

- September 1, 2022: Bryan Recommendations on Collection of Race-Based Police Data in Nova Scotia. “For the purpose of the race-based data collection system, a police stop that results in a record being produced must align with the Minister’s Directive – Street Checks Ban, effective December 1st, 2021.”
- The Justice Department committed to reviewing data collection systems used by police agencies across the province and working “with community and police to identify critical next steps to advance development of the standardized race-based data collection model.”



Data Purge?

- December, 2022: A Chronicle Herald Report (Andrew Rankin) reveals that:
- “The Halifax force says it’s committed to retaining the data in its original form until the end of this month **pending further discussion with and direction from the city’s police commission.**”
- “The Nova Scotia RCMP says it will purge all street check data in its record management systems in accordance with the Privacy Act by the end of this month.”
- “Supervisors, investigators and crime analysts can access... historical records.”
<https://www.saltwire.com/halifax/news/will-record-of-halifax-police-racial-profiling-be-purged-100804643/>



Consequences of Data Purge

- According to Vanessa Fells, ANSDPAD director of operations, a purge “erases history and hides undeniable evidence of police discrimination against the Black community. But it also gets rid of a tool to hold police accountable and evaluate whether anti-bias efforts are working.”
- According to Scot Wortley, “The retention of an anonymized historical street check dataset will further assist researchers in their examination of the relationship between race, gender, age and police surveillance activities.”
- Individuals, academics, human rights organizations, legal advocates, etc. will lose access to data preventing personal investigation, research, or legal action around street checks.



Alternative Recommendations

- Appointment of an independent third party to facilitate review of data by impacted citizens.
- Bryan recommendations:
 - 1.5 Prior to the implementation of the race-based data collection system, a **detailed evaluation plan** that examines the specific data collection methods that have been implemented, compliance, data analysis, public release of data, community reception and the availability of resources to maintain and enhance race-based data collection, should be established in order to ensure the initiative is conducted effectively and meets its stated purpose.
 - 2.5 Measures should be devised to ensure compliance with race-based data collection policy and relevant procedure(s). In doing so, **the Department of Justice along with each law enforcement agency** should establish a clear organizational structure that identifies levels of responsibility for maintaining the policy and ensuring it is effectively implemented.
 - 3.1 The **Department of Justice, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders**, should devise a province wide communication strategy that utilizes a broad range of communication methods, to inform the public about the purposes and desired outcomes of the race-based data collection system.
 - 4.1 **A framework for law enforcement agencies** to analyze and publicly report race-based data on an annual basis in a consistent manner should be developed and implemented. In developing these procedure(s), the Department of Justice and law enforcement agencies should draw on subject matter experts in the collection, analysis and reporting of racebased data, and involve community perspectives to ensure accurate and contextual understanding of data.
 - 5.1 The **Department of Justice, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders**, must develop and implement a **detailed plan** for evaluating all aspects of the race-based data collection system.

Why it Matters

- Bryan's recommendations make clear the importance of a robust plan for all facets of data.
- These safeguards and rigours must also be applied to historical street check data.
- Moving forward with purging street check data without any guidelines around data management is dangerous.
- Furthermore, the confusion around the street check data is a red flag for future data gathering and management. The Board and other stakeholders must (urgently) create and communicate appropriate plans for data before we have more data to contend with.
- Communities must be able to trust that data gathered is held safely, protects privacy, and that it will be appropriately evaluated.

