Racialization of Carding and Street Checks

A “street check” or “carding” is when police officers randomly stop and question someone and collect information about those people. The details about each person— their name, age, perceived skin colour, estimated height and weight, and often, the names of their friends—are recorded and entered into a database.

Toronto
Between 2008 and 2013, Toronto police filled out at least 2.1 million contact cards involving 1.2 million people.

- Population: 23.4% Other
- Carding: 14.3% Middle Eastern or Asian

Ottawa
Between 2011 and 2014, the Ottawa police recorded 23,402 street checks involving 45,802 people.

- Population: <6% Black, <4% Middle Eastern
- Carding: 24.1% Black

London
In 2014, London police conducted about 8,400 street checks (far more than officers in other cities and at a rate triple that of Hamilton and Ottawa). That included recording data of about 14,000 people.

- Population: 2.5% Black, 1.9% Aboriginal
- Carding: 7.7% Black

Hamilton
Between May 2010 and 2013, the Hamilton police conducted over 18,500 street checks.

- Population: 15% Visible Minorities
- Carding: 20-25% Visible Minorities

Sources:
- Ottawa Citizen. “Street checks data show racialized men confronting civil liberties issues.” July 26, 2015.

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