

NEWS RELEASE



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TORONTO

May 6th, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 6-in-10 oppose the practice of “carding” (60%).
- Just 3-in-10 voters find Chief of Police Mark Saunders’ view that ending carding will lead to increased crime is credible (31%).
- One half of Toronto voters say carding is ineffective at preventing crime (52%).
- Just more voters agree blacks are disproportionately responsible for crime in the city (39%) than disagree this is the case (34%).
- Just more voters agree blacks are disproportionately responsible for crime in the city (39%) than disagree this is the case (34%).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Large majority opposed to carding

Few find Chief Saunders credible on the issue

TORONTO, MAY 6th, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 822 Toronto voters, 6-in-10 oppose the practice of “carding” (60%), and just fewer than half this proportion support it (29%). One tenth have no opinion (11%). Approval of carding is common to Gen X (45 to 54 - 41%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 42%), supporters of both Doug Ford (39%) and Mayor Tory (36%) in the last election, but not Olivia Chow voters (14%), in North York (36%) and among voters with a non-British European background (38%). Opposition to the practice is characteristic of the youngest (77%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 73%), Olivia Chow voters (79%), in the downtown (76%), South Asians (72% - caution: small base size) and black voters (81% - caution: small base size).

Few find Chief Saunders credible on carding

Just 3-in-10 voters find Chief of Police Mark Saunders’ view that ending carding will lead to increased crime is credible (31%), where more than 4-in-10 find it not credible (43%). One quarter have no opinion on this (26%).

One half think carding ineffective at preventing crime

One half of Toronto voters say carding is ineffective at preventing crime (52%), and just one quarter think it effective for this purpose (27%). Those who think carding is effective tend to be the same group that favours the practice.

Plurality agrees blacks get carded more

Slightly more voters agree black Torontonians are the focus of too much police enforcement (41%), while just more than one third disagree with this (36%). As many as a quarter don’t share an opinion (24%). Among black voters, three quarters agree (74% - caution: small base size).

Even split on whether blacks disproportionately responsible for crime

Just more voters agree blacks are disproportionately responsible for crime in the city (39%) than disagree this is the case (34%). One quarter don’t express an opinion (27%). Among black voters, fewer than one quarter agree (22% - caution: small base size) while one half disagree (51% - caution: small base size).

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two thirds of voters agree there is a lack of trust between the Toronto police and the black community in the city (64%).
- "It's clear Torontonians don't like the idea of carding and they don't think it works and they don't believe their new police chief when he says it's necessary. More serious though, is the overall lack of trust perceived between the black community and the police force. When the entire population, not the aggrieved group only, sees sensitivity training and better communication as necessary to improve relations, you know there's a problem. And carding is not just a problem for the black community only, when we have nearly a quarter of Torontonians claiming to have experienced it," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Two thirds see lack of trust between police and black community

Two thirds of voters agree there is a lack of trust between the Toronto police and the black community in the city (64%), while just 1-in-7 disagrees (14%). One quarter don't have an opinion (22%). Those who agree are most likely to be the oldest (72%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 79%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 70%), downtown (80%), among Chow voters (76%), among those who identify their ethnic background as Canadian or British (72% each) or black (77% - caution: small base size).

Better communications seen to be answer to lack of trust

When asked to select from a list of possible solutions to the lack of trust between Toronto police and the black community, those who see this as a problem are most apt to choose "better communications with community" (24%), followed by "sensitivity training for all officers" (22%) and "more foot patrols in at-risk areas" (21%). Other solutions less likely to be selected include ending carding (11%), hiring more black officers (8%) or assigning officers to protect at-risk buildings (4%). Among black voters, preferred solutions are the same.

One quarter claim to have been carded by Toronto police

Just fewer than one quarter of Toronto voters claim they have been stopped by Toronto police and asked for their personal information even though they were not committing an offence (22%), and this is especially the case among the youngest and males (27% each), the least wealthy (less than \$20K - 28%, \$20K to \$40K - 35%), in Scarborough (28%) and among Doug Ford voters (33%), among those who disapprove of John Tory (28%), black voters (49% - caution: small base size) and, surprisingly, those who support carding (30%), but not those who oppose it (21%).

"It's clear Torontonians don't like the idea of carding and they don't think it works and they don't believe their new police chief when he says it's necessary. More serious though, is the overall lack of trust perceived between the black community and the police force. When the entire population, not the aggrieved group only, sees sensitivity training and better communication as necessary to improve relations, you know there's a problem. And carding is not just a problem for the black community only, when we have nearly a quarter of Torontonians claiming to have experienced it," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 822 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on May 1-5th, 2015.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Carding Support

‘Carding is when the police randomly stop citizens and ask for their personal information. Do you support or oppose carding?’

[All respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	822	180	136	170	148	188	442	380
Support	29	18	31	41	33	33	31	28
Oppose	60	77	58	46	53	52	60	60
Don't know	11	4	12	13	14	15	9	12

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	822	345	165	160	152
Support	29	21	36	28	34
Oppose	60	71	52	60	54
Don't know	11	8	12	12	11

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	822	82	98	117	93	90	172
Support	29	22	35	28	23	42	27
Oppose	60	64	52	59	73	54	64
Don't know	11	14	13	13	5	5	9

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	822	428	67	113	65	47	42	13	47
Support	29	30	31	38	23	24	12	61	25
Oppose	60	61	57	51	54	72	81	39	59
Don't know	11	9	13	12	23	4	7	0	16

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End of Carding to Lead to Increased Crime: Statement Credibility

‘Chief of Police Mark Saunders has said putting an end to carding will lead to increased crime. Is this a credible statement or not a credible statement?’

[All respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	822	180	136	170	148	188	442	380
Credible statement	31	26	29	37	36	32	33	29
Not a credible statement	43	51	44	40	35	34	44	42
Don't know	26	23	27	23	29	34	23	29

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	822	345	165	160	152
Credible statement	31	21	37	30	39
Not a credible statement	43	53	33	44	38
Don't know	26	25	30	27	23

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	822	82	98	117	93	90	172
Credible statement	31	23	33	39	20	32	33
Not a credible statement	43	37	36	40	57	48	47
Don't know	26	40	32	22	23	20	20

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	822	428	67	113	65	47	42	13	47
Credible statement	31	35	34	35	19	31	23	17	22
Not a credible statement	43	41	35	47	36	48	54	33	47
Don't know	26	24	31	18	45	22	23	50	31

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Carding: Effective or Not Effective at Preventing Crime

‘Do you think carding is effective or not effective at preventing crime?’

[All respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	822	180	136	170	148	188	442	380
Effective	27	17	27	36	31	30	31	23
Not Effective	52	68	52	38	45	43	49	54
Don't know	21	15	21	26	24	26	20	23

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	822	345	165	160	152
Effective	27	21	30	27	30
Not Effective	52	65	43	52	43
Don't know	21	14	26	20	26

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	822	82	98	117	93	90	172
Effective	27	20	31	29	17	33	25
Not Effective	52	56	47	46	67	53	54
Don't know	21	24	22	24	16	14	21

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	822	428	67	113	65	47	42	13	47
Effective	27	25	32	40	26	27	6	42	26
Not Effective	52	54	50	43	38	66	71	21	51
Don't know	21	21	18	17	36	7	23	37	23

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TPS Focus Too Much on Black Males

‘Do you agree or disagree that Toronto Police focus too much enforcement attention on black males in this city?’

[All respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	822	180	136	170	148	188	442	380
Agree	41	52	30	39	38	37	36	44
Disagree	36	30	37	41	38	34	41	30
Don't know	24	17	33	19	24	29	22	25

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	822	345	165	160	152
Agree	41	51	36	39	34
Disagree	36	25	38	39	43
Don't know	24	24	27	22	22

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	822	82	98	117	93	90	172
Agree	41	48	40	36	47	40	42
Disagree	36	30	37	39	31	38	36
Don't know	24	22	23	25	22	22	22

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	822	428	67	113	65	47	42	13	47
Agree	41	43	38	29	26	32	74	33	47
Disagree	36	35	34	42	42	29	21	57	35
Don't know	24	22	28	29	31	38	5	11	18

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Black Males are Disproportionally Responsible for Crime

‘Do you agree or disagree black males are disproportionately responsible for crime in this city?’

[All respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	822	180	136	170	148	188	442	380
Agree	39	36	25	45	48	48	42	36
Disagree	34	42	44	27	26	19	30	38
Don't know	27	22	31	27	26	32	28	26

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	822	345	165	160	152
Agree	39	34	39	41	43
Disagree	34	43	29	30	33
Don't know	27	23	32	29	24

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	822	82	98	117	93	90	172
Agree	39	35	43	34	39	33	45
Disagree	34	38	31	41	42	41	31
Don't know	27	27	26	26	19	26	25

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	822	428	67	113	65	47	42	13	47
Agree	39	38	46	41	40	41	22	48	45
Disagree	34	38	24	26	26	37	51	33	23
Don't know	27	24	30	33	34	23	27	19	32

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Lack of Trust Between TPS and the Black Community

‘Do you agree or disagree there is a lack of trust between Toronto police and the black community?’

[All respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	822	180	136	170	148	188	442	380
Agree	64	69	56	60	63	72	61	67
Disagree	14	15	16	15	16	7	19	10
Don't know	22	16	28	24	21	20	21	23

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	822	345	165	160	152
Agree	64	74	60	63	58
Disagree	14	9	12	12	25
Don't know	22	17	28	25	17

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	822	82	98	117	93	90	172
Agree	64	60	53	56	79	68	70
Disagree	14	12	21	22	9	14	12
Don't know	22	28	25	22	11	18	18

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	822	428	67	113	65	47	42	13	47
Agree	64	72	72	57	43	46	77	33	59
Disagree	14	9	12	18	23	24	17	13	20
Don't know	22	19	15	24	34	30	6	55	21

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Best Way to Bridge Lack of Trust Between TPS and the Black Community

‘What is the best way to bridge this lack of trust?’

[Agree there is a lack of trust between Toronto police and the black community]

TORONTO
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Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	542	124	82	104	95	137	280	262
Put an end to carding	11	14	16	9	6	6	15	7
Better communication with community	24	16	20	27	33	33	20	27
More foot patrols in at-risk areas	21	15	28	26	18	22	20	22
More black police officers	8	12	5	7	5	6	9	7
Sensitivity training for all officers	22	30	14	15	24	21	21	23
Assign officers to protect at-risk buildings	4	4	3	4	8	3	4	4
Something else	6	6	7	7	3	7	7	5
Don't know	4	4	7	6	2	3	5	4

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	542	252	102	97	91
Put an end to carding	11	11	7	13	14
Better communication with community	24	23	27	24	21
More foot patrols in at-risk areas	21	18	25	21	22
More black police officers	8	11	3	10	6
Sensitivity training for all officers	22	21	30	11	27
Assign officers to protect at-risk buildings	4	3	5	3	6
Something else	6	8	2	10	2
Don't know	4	5	2	7	3

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Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20- \$40K	\$40- \$60K	\$60- \$80K	\$80- \$100K	\$100- \$250K
Sample	542	47	53	71	72	61	123
Put an end to carding	11	7	9	13	12	20	10
Better communication with community	24	22	38	22	18	17	27
More foot patrols in at-risk areas	21	18	5	21	29	23	21
More black police officers	8	1	6	9	12	7	9
Sensitivity training for all officers	22	41	30	23	11	20	20
Assign officers to protect at-risk buildings	4	4	8	4	4	1	2
Something else	6	8	1	7	7	3	5
Don't know	4	0	3	1	6	8	6

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	542	302	53	69	31	22	30	5	30
Put an end to carding	11	8	12	11	15	28	17	0	9
Better communication with community	24	25	21	18	33	5	27	64	20
More foot patrols in at-risk areas	21	25	12	21	18	14	20	27	9
More black police officers	8	9	12	7	4	4	6	0	8
Sensitivity training for all officers	22	20	26	19	21	42	24	8	19
Assign officers to protect at-risk buildings	4	3	8	9	3	3	0	0	11
Something else	6	7	5	5	3	0	0	0	18
Don't know	4	3	4	11	2	2	6	0	6

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Asked for ID by TPS Even of Not Committing an Offence

'Have you ever been stopped by Toronto police and asked for your personal information even though you weren't committing an offence?'

[All respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	822	180	136	170	148	188	442	380
Yes	22	27	24	22	19	14	27	18
No	78	73	76	78	81	86	73	82

Region

%	Total	Toronto or East York	North York	Etobicoke or York	Scarborough
Sample	822	345	165	160	152
Yes	22	20	20	23	28
No	78	80	80	77	72

Household Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	822	82	98	117	93	90	172
Yes	22	28	35	24	23	21	14
No	78	72	65	76	77	79	86

Ethnicity

%	Total	Canadian	British Isles	Other European	Asian	South Asian	Black	Latin American	Something else
Sample	822	428	67	113	65	47	42	13	47
Yes	22	21	21	22	16	22	49	3	24
No	78	79	79	78	84	78	51	97	76

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