



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

OPAT COMMISSION
December 14, 2023
PUBLIC REPORT

In accordance with the City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter 12-16.4, the OPAT Commission provides the following public report on OPAT activities for the quarter (FY24 Quarter 1 covering July 2023, August 2023, and September 2023), without disclosing personally identifiable information.

1) OPAT Promotion of Function, Availability, and Processes to the Public:

- a) The OPAT Youth Advisory Council (YAC) held elections for Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Parliament and have been working on a set of recommendations regarding police reform and public safety to present to the OPAT Commission.

In order to ensure that all interested youth have a voice, OPAT is still accepting applications from interested Boston residents between the ages of 14 and 19. Youth can find more information and the application form on OPAT's website: boston.gov/opat.

- b) In October, OPAT Staff attended a Union Capital Boston Resource Fair at the Bruce C. Bolling Building. Residents were able to stop by the OPAT table to ask questions about the role of OPAT in the community, what services OPAT provides, and upcoming events. OPAT Staff were also able to distribute COVID rapid tests and unloaded MBTA Charlie Cards.
- c) Throughout the month of November, OPAT Staff has also been visiting youth-serving organizations in Boston, including Mothers for Justice and Equality and Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA), to present to youth participants about the work that OPAT does. Presentations



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include information about the purpose of OPAT, information about the complaints process, youth-focused field interactions, observations, and encounters (FIOEs) and arrest data, as well as opportunities for youth to become involved in OPAT's work. Youth-serving organizations that are interested in hosting OPAT for similar presentations can reach out to our office.

- d) In November, OPAT sent out its first monthly newsletter. The newsletter will be sent out each month with information on OPAT's activities, information on upcoming community events, filing a complaint, and more. Members of the public who are interested in signing up to join the newsletter can email opatboards@boston.gov or sign up on OPAT's website at boston.gov/opat.

2) OPAT Case Activities for FY24 Quarter 1 (July-September 2023*):

** Please note that case data is updated monthly and is available on OPAT's Website; data for October 2023 and November 2023 can be found on OPAT's website and will be reported out in the OPAT Commission Public Report for FY24 Quarter 2 (October-December 2023)¹*

- a) Disposition of cases referred by OPAT to the CRB:
- i) On September 12, 2023, the CRB voted on 8 cases
 - Not Sustained: 3
 - Sustained: 2
 - Unfounded: 1
 - Insufficient Evidence: 1
 - Exonerated: 1

 - b) Disposition of CRB cases referred to the Police Commissioner, what discipline was recommended by the CRB, and what discipline was

¹ The complaint data reported here does not include any appeals that may later be heard by the IAOP due to confidentiality requirements.



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implemented by the Police Commissioner:

- i) On September 12, 2023, the CRB voted to sustain 2 cases and referred the matters to the Police Commissioner.
- ii) Per the BPD Draft Discipline Matrix, the mitigating penalty for a violation of BPD Rule 113 Canon 8 and Rule 102 §3 is: oral reprimand to 1 day. The recommended discipline for Case #175 was as follows: **Oral Reprimand**.
- iii) Per the BPD Draft Discipline Matrix, the mitigating penalty for a violation of Rule 102 §9 is: oral reprimand to 5 days with training. The recommended discipline for Case #190 was as follows: **Oral Reprimand**.
- iv) In the matter of Case #175, the Boston Police Commissioner informed OPAT that he would not implement the Civilian Review Board's finding and recommended discipline.

In the matter of Case #190, the Boston Police Commissioner informed OPAT that he would implement the Civilian Review Board's finding and recommended discipline of an oral reprimand, to be issued by the officer's commanding officer.

Both responses from the Commissioner can be found on OPAT's website.

- c) Disposition of cases referred by OPAT to IAOP:
 - i) On October 12, 2023 the IAOP voted 3-0 on six (6) cases to Agree with the Internal Affairs Findings.
- d) Number of complaints received, type of misconduct alleged, and the



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investigatory status of those complaints:²

- i) OPAT received 26 cases from July 2023 to August 2023. The types of misconduct alleged in these cases are: disrespectful treatment, neglect of duty, abuse of power, falsified police report, excessive use of force, unlawful arrest, illegal search of a vehicle, and unlawful arrest. The investigatory status of the complaints are as follows: 1 complaint was unfounded and 25 complaints are pending.

- e) Race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and age of complainants:
 - i) Gender of Complainants:
 - Male: 12
 - Female: 12
 - Decline to Answer: 1
 - Trans Female: 1
 - ii) Age of Complainants:
 - 18-24: 1
 - 25-29: 3
 - 30-39: 7
 - 40-49: 8
 - 50-59: 3
 - 60-69: 1
 - Decline to Answer: 3
 - iii) Sexual Orientation of Complainants:
 - Straight/Heterosexual: 18
 - Decline to Answer: 5
 - Gay/Lesbian/Same Gender Loving: 2
 - Bisexual: 1
 - iv) Race and Ethnicity of Complainants:
 - Black and Black/African: 1

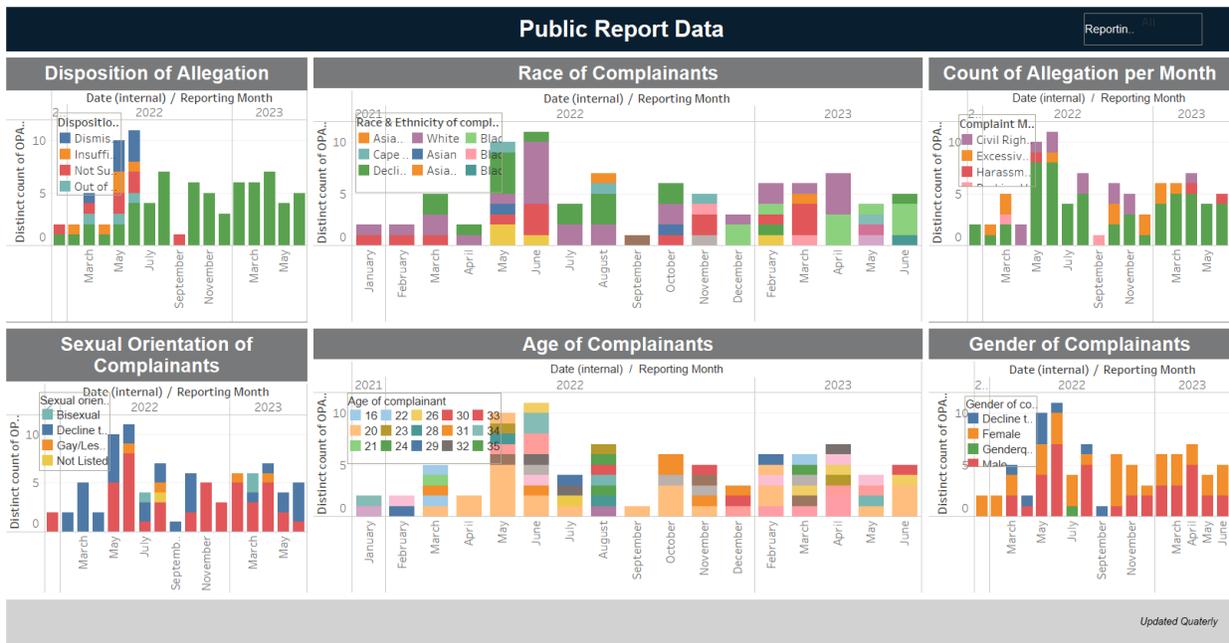
² Per Section 12-16.7 b. in the ordinance establishing OPAT, OPAT Staff review and may classify certain complaints as dismissed at intake prior to reaching the investigative step in our office. Cases that receive this designation include those whose allegations are out of scope of what our office investigates (such as allegations regarding other police departments), as well as those that have insufficient evidence to establish an allegation of police misconduct.



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- Black: 3
- White: 8
- Black/African American: 7
- Puerto Rican: 1
- Black/Hispanic: 1
- Latino: 1
- Decline to Answer: 2
- Hispanic: 1
- Black/Latino: 1

3) OPAT Complaints Data FY24 Quarter 1 (July-September 2023*):



OPAT FY24 Q1 Field Interaction / Observation / Encounter (“FIOE”) Data:

a) FIOE Definitions:³

i) Sec. 3.1 Encounter: Is an agreed upon interaction with an individual

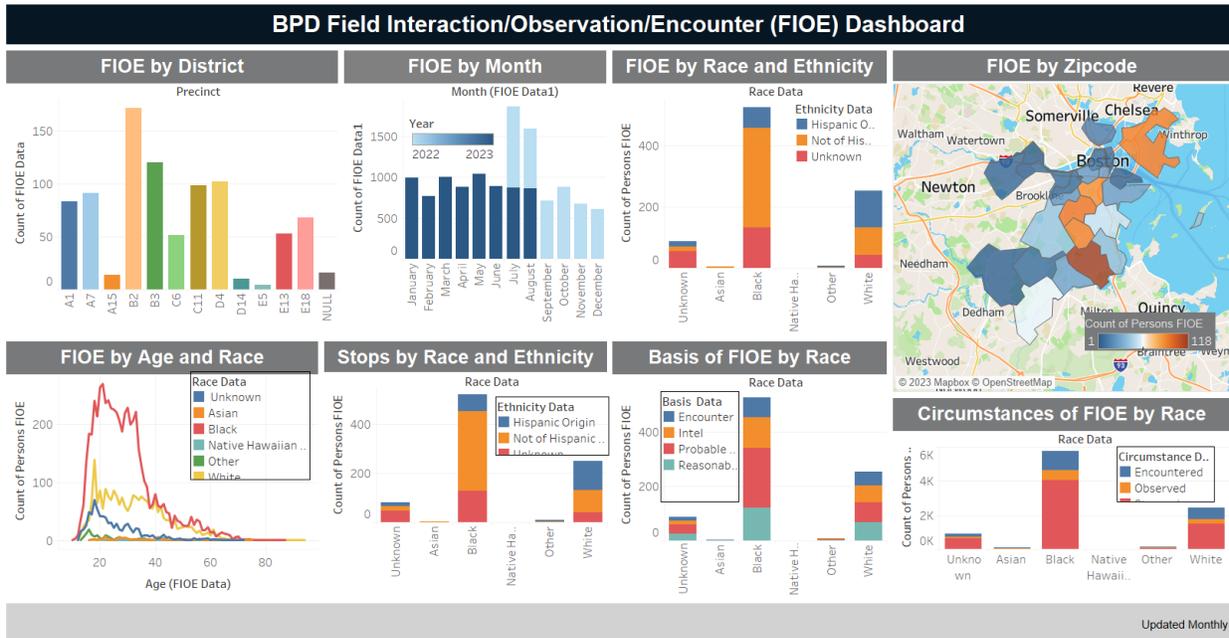
³ <https://www.boston.gov/departments/police-accountability-and-transparency#dashboards>



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that is not an official stop and/or frisk. If a police officer talks to a person to gather information they must record the interaction.

- ii) Sec. 3.5 Observation: Is direct viewing of a person by an officer that does not include physical contact with the person. The officer must have a good reason when watching a person and they have to explain why they are watching that person through a report.
- iii) Sec. 3.2 Field Interaction/Stop: Is keeping a person in custody, whether on foot or in a vehicle, based on reasonable suspicion. This is to determine the individual's identity and settle the officer's suspicions.



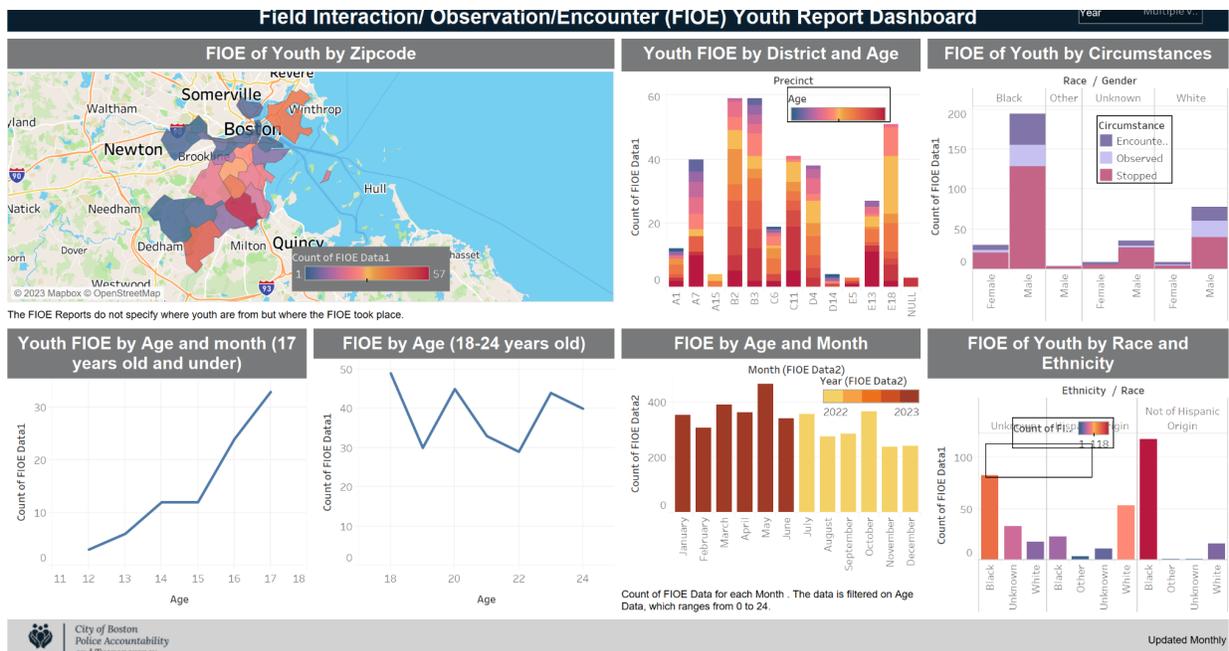
- In FY24 Quarter 1 (July-September 2023), there were 2,433 instances of a FIOE. With 15% of the total cases, District B2 (Roxbury) had the most instances of a FIOE, followed by District B3 (Mattapan) and District D4 (South End). Black individuals were stopped more than any other demographic, with



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63% of the total instances, followed by White individuals. Black non-Hispanic individuals were three (3) times more likely to be stopped than their White counterparts.

OPAT FY24 Q1 Youth Field Interaction / Observation / Encounter (“FIOE”) Data⁴



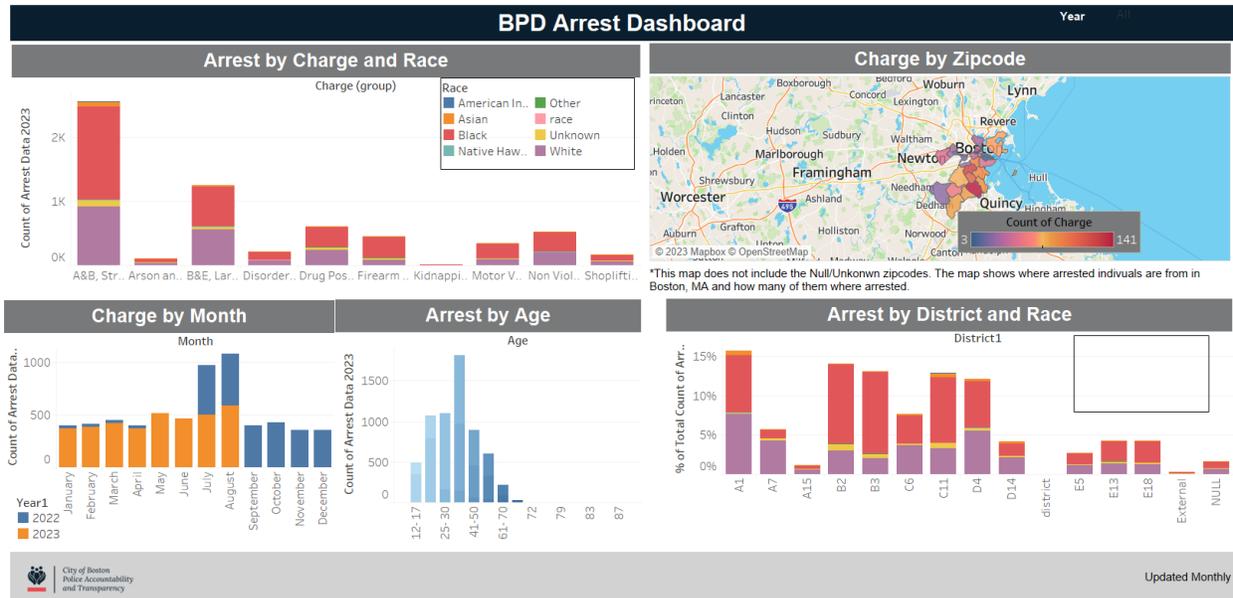
1. In the FY24 Quarter 1 (July–September 2023), there were 905 instances of a FIOE of youth between ages 12–24. Black youth were stopped more than any other race, with 70% of the total stops. Black non-Hispanic males were targeted more than any other race/ethnicity, or gender. With 20% of the total cases, District B3 (Mattapan) reported the highest number of instances, followed by District C11 (Dorchester), and District B2 (Roxbury). 18 year olds were the most common targets of a FIOE, and the youngest age to be subjected to a FIOE was 9 years old.

⁴ The entire Youth FIOE Dashboard is available on our OPAT website at [Police Accountability and Transparency | Boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov/police-accountability-and-transparency)



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OPAT FY24 Q1 Arrest Data⁵



1. In FY24 Quarter 1 (July-September 2023), there were 1,513 arrests. District A1 (Downtown) had the most cases at 36%, followed by District B2 (Roxbury) with 21%, and District B3 (Mattapan) with 20%. Within these districts, Black individuals were 24% more likely to be arrested than their White counterparts. 42% of the total arrests fell under the violent crime category, making this the most common category of arrest in Boston.

⁵ The entire Youth FIOE Dashboard is provided on our OPAT website at [Police Accountability and Transparency | Boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov/police-accountability-and-transparency)