

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



Trust ▪ Collaboration
Courage ▪ Excellence
Professionalism



INDEPENDENT
Investigations Office of BC

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF CIVILIAN DIRECTOR



I am pleased to present the twelfth annual report of the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) of British Columbia for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024.

As I retire on May 8, 2024, this will be the last annual report of my tenure as Chief Civilian Director (CCD). On a personal note, it has been my absolute pleasure to have served the province of British Columbia in this capacity for the last six and a half years. I am tremendously proud of the challenges we have overcome, and the resilience demonstrated by all IIO employees during simultaneous record high cases and record low staffing. This work is demanding under the best of circumstances, and even more so when challenges arise.

While the province continues the search for the next Chief Civilian Director, at the time of writing, Sandra Hentzen, the IIO's Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed as interim CCD. I have every confidence that she will ensure the IIO continues to be well-positioned for success through this transition period and will assist in getting the new permanent CCD onboard in the coming months.

One of our biggest successes this year was making changes to the compensation model for IIO investigators. After several years of working with government, a one-time salary adjustment was approved to better align current investigator compensation with other roles in the law enforcement field. The IIO has been plagued by an inability to successfully recruit and retain investigators for years, and this was in no small part due to competing with police and other law enforcement agencies who can offer higher compensation to their investigators than the IIO could. Given the cost of living in BC's lower mainland, we needed to do better, and this adjustment has given the IIO the tools needed to do so at this time.

However, while the one-time salary adjustment relieved some pressure, broader changes to the IIO's compensation model are still needed. The IIO continues to work with government to develop a new compensation model that better matches compensation with the work that IIO investigators do, which is unlike any other role in the BC public service.

One of the challenges I will be leaving to my successor is how we can improve the charge approval rate of files referred to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges. While there is always room for improvement, the IIO conducts excellent investigations and identifies strong evidence that supports a reasonable belief that an officer may have committed an offence if a matter is referred. The BC Prosecution Service's standard to approve charges is different than the IIO's standard of referral, but closing the gap between the two as much as is possible decreases stress for involved parties, including Affected Persons and families, and police officers, and best serves the public interest.

As I head into my retirement, I have a few sentiments I'd like to share about the difficult human impact of IIO investigations, and how challenging this work is for those who are courageous enough to undertake it.

It goes without saying, but every time a person is injured or killed in a police-involved incident is regrettable. Affected Persons may have come in contact with police due to misconduct or other more serious types of criminality, but they are all people who have family and friends affected by their injury or death and are deserving of the due process an independent oversight investigation brings. While in the majority of incidents subject to IIO investigation, the actions of police were necessary, proportionate, and reasonable under the circumstances, the harm or death of an Affected Person is lamentable. A decision from the IIO that there are no reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed does not diminish the sorrow experienced by those impacted by an incident, but justice is also not served by charging an officer who was doing their job to the best of their ability.

It is a fact that simply because someone suffered serious harm or died, it doesn't mean an offence was committed. However, society should expect that in any such case that the incident will be examined thoroughly and objectively by an independent body. This is why oversight exists. Continued improvements to police policy and training can and do work to reduce the number of injuries and deaths, and the IIO plays a role in this work in addition to determining if there are grounds for an offence. Indeed, officers who provide information to IIO investigations assist in this essential work and brings us a step closer to a world where someday, the IIO will hopefully have fewer investigations. Societally, we can, do, will, and should always be striving to keep these numbers as low as possible, and mental health, addictions, and poverty-reducing supports are integral components to achieve this.

As I've said since beginning my career in oversight, many police officers are doing the best they can to protect and serve their communities and would agree with my sentiment that injuries and deaths are regrettable. When the evidence supports that an offence may have been committed, it is the IIO's duty and responsibility to the people of BC to make all efforts to ensure those officers are held accountable for their actions where appropriate. I have every confidence that the next CCD will walk this difficult path with the fairness and grace required of the role.

This report that follows summarizes many of our successes and challenges over the past year, and I encourage you to take the time to read about the work we do on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ronald J. MacDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" and last name "MacDonald" clearly legible.

Ronald J. MacDonald, KC
Chief Civilian Director
Independent Investigations Office



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IIO investigates all police-involved incidents in BC that result in serious harm or death to determine if there are reasonable grounds to believe that any officer may have committed an offence. This report covers fiscal year 2023-2024 (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) and includes updates regarding investigation caseloads, trends, and detailed statistics.

Highlights from this report include:

- Commenced 169 new investigations (see [open Investigations](#));
- Concluded 45 investigations by releasing a public report (see [public reporting](#));
- Concluded 31 investigations by issuing a concluding media release (see [public reporting](#));
- Referred seven investigations to Crown Counsel (BC

Prosecution Service) for consideration of charges (see [referrals to Crown Counsel](#)); and

- Conducted significant outreach with important partners (see [community outreach](#)).

Notable trends this year include a decrease in new investigations, an increase in advice files, and decrease in the number of police-involved shooting incidents compared to last year, but one that remains significantly higher than the previous average.

Other updates of note include a continued overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in IIO investigations, which is consistent with previous years, as are the average age and gender of Affected Persons overall. The [community outreach](#) section below details the IIO's ongoing commitment to building and maintaining relationships with community and advocacy groups, police agencies and associations, and the broader public.



WHO WE ARE

The Independent Investigations Office of BC is the police oversight body responsible for conducting investigations into police related incidents of death or serious harm within the province of BC. Since its inception in 2012, the IIO has been responsible for conducting objective, evidence-based investigations that are as transparent as is practically possible. The IIO receives its authority from the BC *Police Act*. The IIO is a civilian-led agency and therefore the Chief Civilian Director (CCD) cannot have any past policing experience.

Founded on the recommendations of Justices [Davies](#) and [Braidwood](#), the creation of the IIO was a direct response to the public's call for increased transparency and police accountability. The Davies Commission examined the death of Frank Paul in 1998. Frank Paul was an Indigenous man who was released from Vancouver cells and left in an alleyway, where he died of hypothermia. The Braidwood Commission assessed the actions of police who used a Taser on Robert Dziekanski, a Polish citizen, in the Vancouver International Airport. Robert Dziekanski died due to the Taser usage. Built on the findings of these Commissions, the IIO was formed to enhance the public's faith in police accountability in BC.

The IIO's jurisdiction includes all police agencies operating in the province, including, municipal agencies, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Metro Vancouver Transit Police (MVTP), and the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service. The IIO's mandate extends to on-duty and off-duty officers. The IIO does not have authority over correctional officers at this time.

Per the *Police Act*, police agencies are required to notify the IIO when an incident of death or serious harm occurs that may meet the IIO's mandate. Serious harm is described in the *Police Act* as, "an injury that may result in death, serious disfigurement, or may cause substantial loss or impairment of mobility of the body as a whole or of the function of a limb or organ." The IIO conducts investigations to a criminal standard and uses a two-part test to determine whether an incident meets the mandate. For the IIO mandate to be met, there needs to be death or serious harm, and a likelihood of connection between the death or serious harm and the actions or inaction of the police. There does not need to be any allegation of wrongdoing for the IIO to begin an investigation.

At the end of many investigations, a file review is held, and the investigative team goes through the file outlining the facts and evidence that was collected. The CCD is then responsible for determining whether there are reasonable grounds to suggest that an officer may have committed an offence. If the CCD determines that an officer may have committed an offence, the CCD has the authority to refer the file to BC Prosecution Service for the consideration of charges. Alternatively, if the CCD determines that there are no grounds to believe that an officer committed an offence, the CCD may decide to issue a public report, media release or, may conclude a file without a public report.

More information regarding the IIO's public reporting practices and referrals to Crown Counsel can be found on pages [14](#) and [16](#) below.

THE IIO'S GUIDING VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM: Each member of the IIO implements a fair, effective, and compassionate approach when interacting with the community, Affected Persons, police and colleagues. IIO employees demonstrate integrity and aptitude while following the organizational guiding values. Regardless of an individual's role at the IIO, each employee strives to continually develop and improve the IIO's service to BC.

TRUST: Critical to developing and upholding public faith in police accountability is trust, which is earned through conducting unbiased, fulsome, and independent investigations. The public, Affected Person(s) their families and communities, and the police should have complete confidence in the IIO's processes and procedures. Consistent with the IIO's 'start from zero' approach, an IIO investigation begins with no pre-conceived notions about its outcome, but instead seeks to find the truth based on the available evidence. The IIO is committed to maintaining transparency and accountability to the public.

EXCELLENCE: The IIO is dedicated to the constant improvement of investigative practices and techniques to continually improve the standard of our operations and to ensure consistency. The IIO team routinely participates in industry-leading training to expand their knowledge and skillsets to reflect and respond to societal concerns. The IIO is committed to enhancing the public faith in the organization's transparency and accountability.

COURAGE: The IIO is committed to maintaining the public's trust in civilian oversight, and so the IIO must approach every investigation as professionals determined to follow best practices even when it is challenging. The IIO team conducts their work with confidence in their abilities, especially during times of adversity, to ensure that British Columbians can rely on the IIO to act with integrity. Additionally, the IIO must review areas within the organization that require growth, and, when necessary, take accountability if there has been a mistake.

COLLABORATION: Dedicated to interacting with the public in a proactive, considerate, and supportive way, the IIO is committed to creating spaces where rights holders, stakeholders and communities can engage in open dialogue to further the IIO's understanding of current events and concerns present within society. Internally, the IIO team demonstrates skills in respectful communication and a commitment to advancing organizational growth.



DEVELOPMENTS 2023-2024

INVESTIGATIONS

The IIO investigates police-involved incidents in BC that result in serious harm or death to determine if there are reasonable grounds to believe that any officer may have committed an offence.

The *Police Act* also requires that all police agencies notify the IIO whenever an incident that may be subject to IIO investigation occurs. Police agencies report incidents to the on-call IIO Team Director (TD) who, as a delegate of the CCD, will decide based on available information, if there is a connection to police actions or inaction, and if the injury sustained by the Affected Person (AP) meets the definition of serious harm, as defined by the *Police Act*. If there is both a connection and serious harm, or if more information is needed to decide, the TD will assign investigative resources to commence an investigation.

In some cases, there is clear, objective evidence that the injuries did not meet the threshold of serious harm established by the *Police Act*, or there is no connection to police actions or inactions. These investigations are typically concluded relatively quickly through a process called 'addendum'. This is where the investigative team submits a short report to the CCD that details the evidence so that the CCD can make an informed decision. These are cases where the evidence is relatively straightforward and therefore does not require the more extensive reporting and discussion that a file review involves. In fiscal year 2023-2024, about 70% of investigations were concluded through the addendum process.

In the other 30% of cases that were concluded this fiscal year, they went through the IIO's file review process. A file review provides the investigative team an opportunity to present all of the evidence to the CCD who, in consultation with the IIO's general and legal counsel, will apply legal principles and determine if an officer may have committed an offence. The file review process is used to conclude complex incidents, or those where there is a judgement to be made (i.e., the available evidence is more subjective than objective), and the analysis required for more subjective evidence takes significantly longer. This typically includes seeking reports or opinions from resources outside of the IIO, such as ballistics, collision analysis, toxicology, autopsy and more.

No matter how an IIO investigation is concluded (either by addendum or file review), the CCD will have made a decision on whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offence may have been committed.

If the CCD determines there are reasonable grounds, they may refer the investigation to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges. If reasonable grounds do not exist, the IIO will conclude the investigation in the most appropriate manner while balancing the public interest with the privacy interests of the involved parties.

More information on the IIO's [public reporting](#) and [referrals to Crown Counsel](#) can be found in later sections of this report.

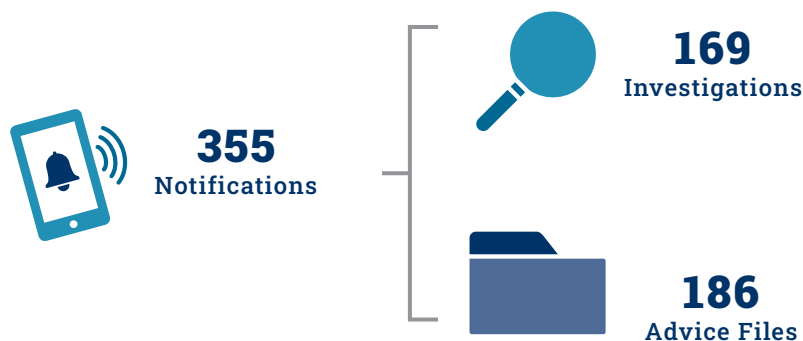
ADVICE FILES

The IIO creates an advice file when a police agency or third party contacts the IIO to discuss an incident and whether it may be subject to IIO investigation, but it is clear to the on-call TD receiving the call that the injuries do not meet the threshold established in the *Police Act* or that police actions or inaction didn't play a role. In these cases, the TD is providing advice to the parties regarding the IIO mandate; thus, the name, advice file.

Advice files are assigned a file number for tracking purposes only, and very little, if any, investigative steps are undertaken. In fiscal year 2023-2024, 186 advice files were logged. Advice files are excluded from IIO statistics as they did not meet the IIO's mandate to investigate.

FILE NUMBERS

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the IIO received 355 notifications of incidents that may be subject to IIO investigation. Of the 355 notifications, 169 investigations were undertaken, while the remaining 186 were classified as advice files.



OPEN INVESTIGATIONS

On March 31, 2024 (the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year), 70 incidents remained under investigation. Of these, 27%, or 19 investigations, were commenced more than 12 months ago. The remaining 73%, or 51 investigations, were opened during the 2023-2024 fiscal year and remain underway.

CONCLUDED INVESTIGATIONS

The IIO concluded 218 investigations during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.¹ Basic information, including incident date, involved agency, location, serious harm or death classification, and status, are provided on the [IIO website's cases page](#). More detailed information regarding concluded investigations was made public in many cases, including:

- Concluding media releases published: 31
- Public reports published: 45
- Referrals to Crown Counsel (BC Prosecution Service): 7

For more information regarding the IIO's public reporting (including media releases and public reports), please see the below section on [public reporting](#). For more information regarding referrals to Crown Counsel, please see the section on [referrals](#) below.

¹ The 218 concluded investigations may have been opened in fiscal year 2023-2024 or any year prior.

NOTIFICATION TIME

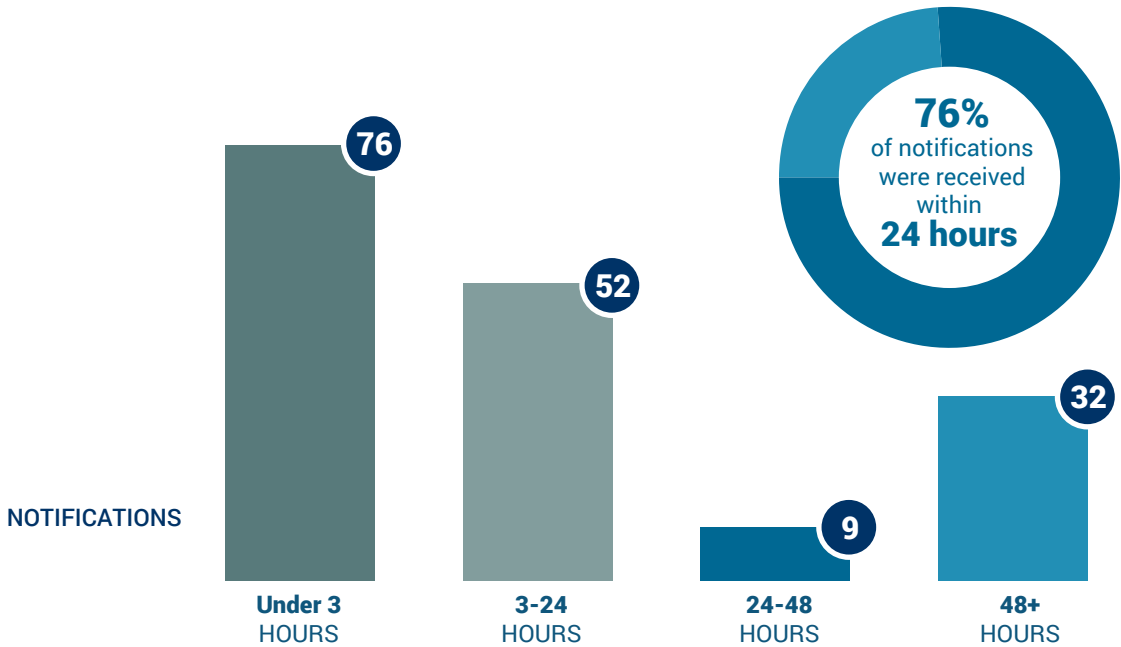
Of the 169 investigations commenced in fiscal 2023-2024, the IIO was notified within 24 hours of an incident occurring in 76% of cases.

The IIO was notified of 76 (45%) of incidents within three hours, 52 (31%) between three and 24 hours after they occurred. The IIO was notified of an additional nine incidents between 24 and 48 hours after they occurred.

In 32 (19%) of incidents, the IIO was notified more than 48 hours after the incident. In all cases where the IIO was notified two days or more after the incident, this was due to the police agency being unaware of

the seriousness of the Affected Person’s injury at the time it occurred, and the matter was reported directly to the IIO by the Affected Person, or a member of their family or support network. The IIO may also be notified by other oversight agencies, such as the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner, in cases where they begin a conduct investigation and find evidence that may meet the IIO’s definition of serious harm, as defined by the *Police Act*. Other notifications may come from the BC Coroners Service if they note police contact prior to a death that the police agency may not be aware of.² These are all reasonable explanations for a police agency to not have notified the IIO at the time of an incident.

TIME BETWEEN WHEN AN INCIDENT OCCURRED AND IIO NOTIFICATION



² Police in BC do not automatically attend every death, and therefore may not be aware that someone they had contact with had died shortly after their attendance.

FILES BY REGION

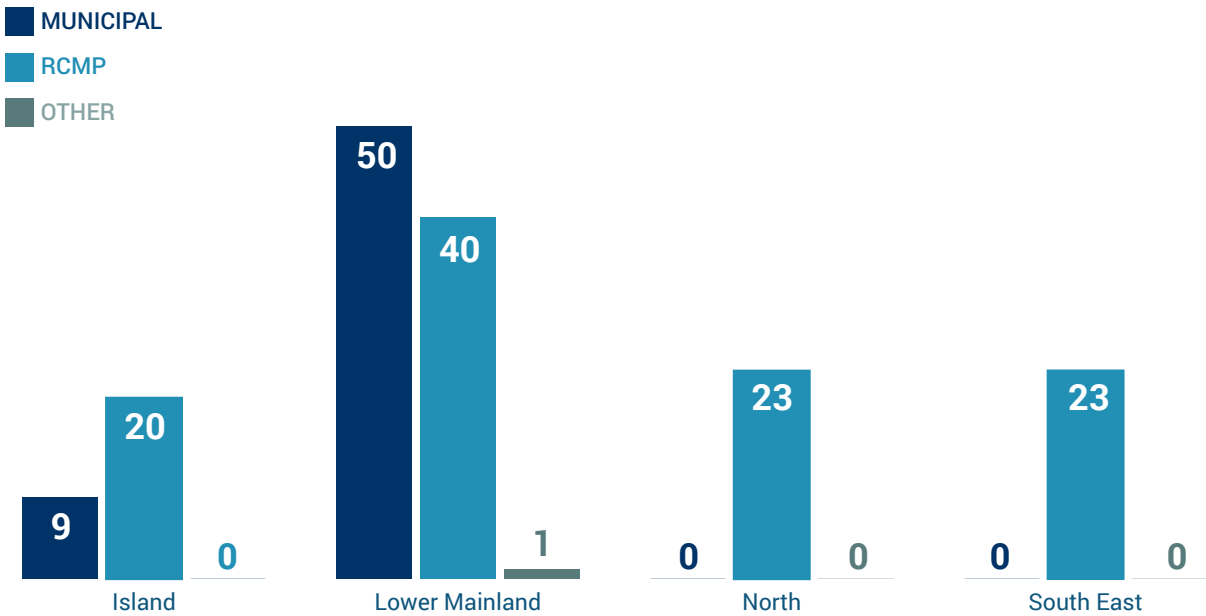
Based on its population and geography, BC can be divided into four regions: Lower Mainland, Island, Southeast, and North. By separating BC into different regions, the IIO can compare the number of IIO investigations with the population in a given region which provides a clearer picture than the number of investigations alone.

Each IIO investigation has at least one involved police agency. The involved agency is defined as the home detachment(s) of the subject officer(s), and the subject officer is the officer(s) whose actions or inaction are the subject of the IIO investigation. If there is more than one subject officer involved in an incident, there may also be more than one involved agency, and so the number of involved agencies may be greater than the number of IIO investigations.

In addition to the many RCMP detachments and 12 municipal police services³ in BC, the involved agency in one investigation was classified as other.⁴



DISTRIBUTION BY DISTRICT, BY AGENCY TYPE

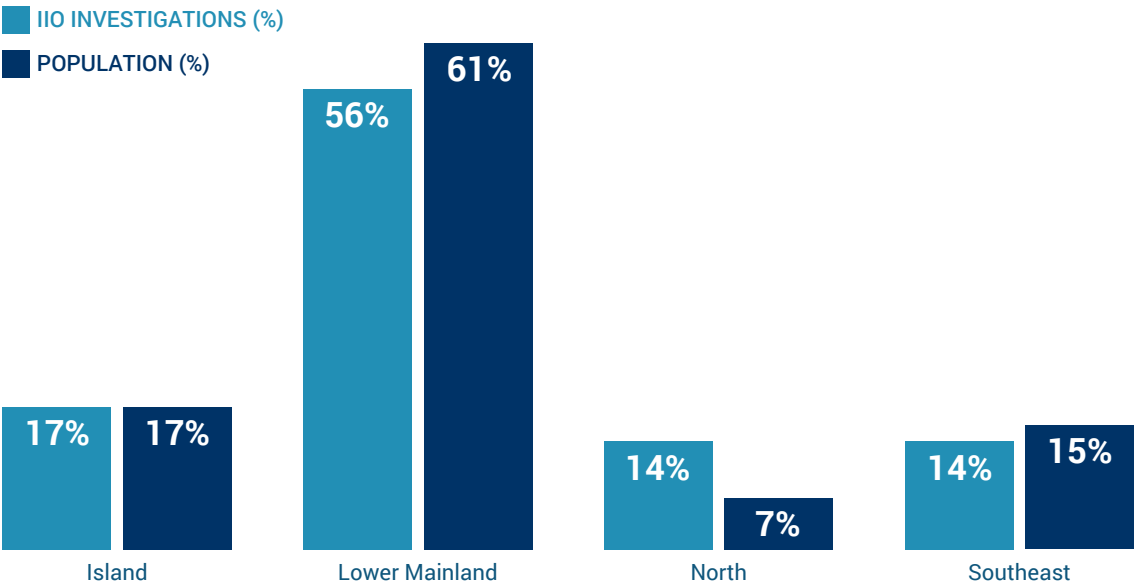


3 The 12 municipal police agencies in BC are: Abbotsford, Central Saanich, Delta, Nelson, New Westminister, Oak Bay, Port Moody, Saanich, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria, and West Vancouver.

4 The one investigation classified as neither RCMP nor municipal involved the Metro Vancouver Transit Police.

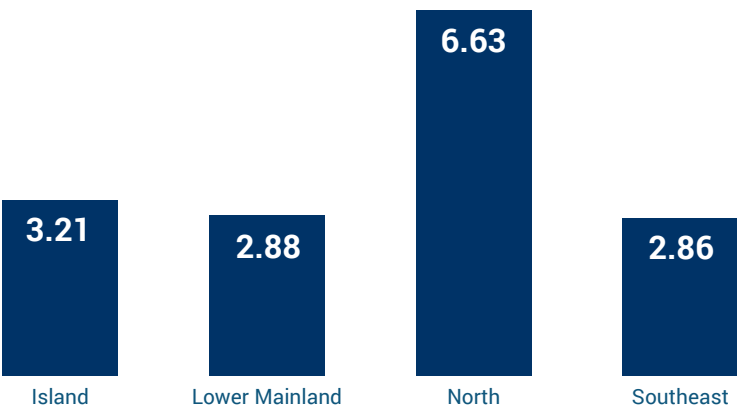
In fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO began 169 new investigations, and the chart below shows the number of investigations undertaken by district. As the majority of BC’s population lives in the Lower Mainland region, it is unsurprising that this region had the highest number of new IIO investigations this fiscal year.

PERCENTAGE OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS COMPARED TO PERCENTAGE OF BC POPULATION, BY REGION



Looking at the percentage of IIO investigations by region compared to the percentage of BC’s population that lives in each region, IIO investigations are well aligned with the population in both the island and southeast regions as shown in the graph below. The lower mainland has fewer IIO investigations compared to the large percentage of BC’s population that lives there, but the percentage of IIO investigations relative to the percentage of the population living in the north region is higher than expected. The second graph below, which shows the number of IIO investigations per 100,000 people in each region, also reflects that there are more incidents subject to IIO investigation in the north region than would otherwise be expected, based on the smaller number of people living in the region.

NUMBER OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS PER 100,000 PEOPLE, BY REGION



FILES BY CLASSIFICATION

IIO investigations are classified into eight categories:

-  Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW, or Taser)
-  Firearm
-  Medical
-  Motor Vehicle Incident (MVI)
-  Other
-  Police Service Dog (PSD)
-  Self-Inflicted
-  Use of Force

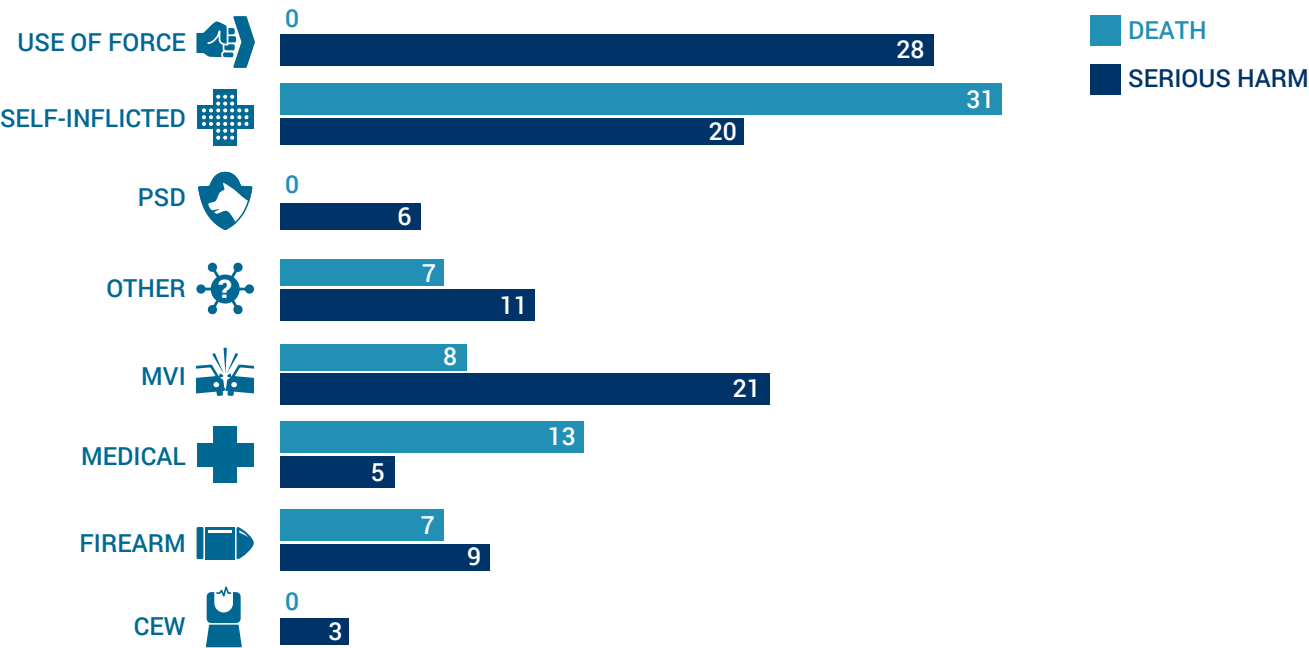
The IIO sorts investigations into the category that best describes the mechanism of injury or death. For example, if a person is arrested after being shot by police and having sustained bite injuries from a police service dog, but the only injury that caused serious harm was a dog bite, this would be categorized as a police service dog file.

The “other” classification includes circumstances that do not align with any other category, or if the cause of the Affected Person’s injuries or death could have been caused by more than one thing. In the above example, if the evidence didn’t confirm whether the firearm or police service dog caused the most serious injury to the Affected Person, the investigation would be classified as “other.”

The “self-inflicted” classification includes any serious harm or death that is most appropriately attributable to the decisions made and/or actions taken by the Affected Person.

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the “self-inflicted” classification again represents the greatest overall number of incidents at 30% of total investigations and was also the largest category of death investigations (47%). The most common cause of serious harm was “use of force” incidents at 17% of all IIO investigations.

INVESTIGATIONS BY CLASSIFICATION





FIREARM FILES

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO began investigations into 16 firearm incidents. This represents a decrease of 38% from last fiscal year but is still higher than the previous average of seven incidents per year. The reason for this increase remains unknown.

Seven of these incidents resulted in death; the other nine resulted in serious injuries.

At the end of the fiscal year on March 31, 2024, 12 firearm investigations remained open and in progress. The remaining four have been concluded. A concluding media release was published regarding two investigations, and a public report has been published regarding the remaining two.

For information regarding the ethnicity of Affected Persons, please see [page 26](#). For more information on the files in the firearms classification, please refer to [Appendix B](#) of this report.

IIO POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING INVESTIGATIONS





PUBLIC REPORTING

Equally as important as ensuring the integrity of an IIO investigation is protected is being as transparent as possible without negatively affecting that integrity. Transparency is essential to earn and maintain the trust of the public, and the IIO is committed to continual review of our transparency policies. These policies require the IIO to balance the needs of the public, the privacy interests of the involved parties, and the needs of the investigation to provide the most information to the public as is practicable during an investigation.

All IIO investigations are uploaded to the cases page on the IIO website⁵, and the information provided on that page includes the file number, incident date, involved agency, location, serious harm/death classification, and the current status of the investigation.

When and what information is provided to the public is assessed on a case-by-case basis. Where it is in the public interest to do so, the IIO will publish a media release when an investigation starts that includes basic information, such as the date and time, approximate location, a brief description of the incident, and what the next investigative steps may look like.

It is important to note that when an incident has recently occurred, IIO Investigators have not had the opportunity to independently verify any details as to what occurred during the incident. As such, the IIO takes great care to use neutral language and limits detail to prevent releasing potentially inaccurate information.

When an investigation has just started, it is especially important to avoid releasing any information which may impact the memory of witnesses who saw what happened during a police incident. In many cases, the IIO is publishing a media release before IIO Investigators have had the opportunity to interview witnesses. Unduly influencing witnesses, either for or against the Affected Person(s) or police officer(s) involved, could result in a miscarriage of justice, and as a truth-seeking agency, the IIO will take all necessary steps to prevent that outcome, even if the lack of information may be frustrating to some. All Canadians, including police officers, have a 'presumption of innocence' under Canadian law, and therefore are assumed to be innocent of any crimes unless the IIO investigation reveals evidence which supports there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence may have been committed by a police officer.⁶

⁵ <https://iiobc.ca/cases/>

⁶ The IIO does not investigate Affected Persons to determine if they may have committed any offence.

Investigations Concluded	218
Concluded with Public Report	45
Concluded with Media Release	31

At the conclusion of an IIO investigation, a file review may take place. A file review is a process that reviews all the investigative steps undertaken and ensures all evidentiary opportunities have been checked, and the investigative team presents this information to the CCD. An in-depth discussion of legal principles that are relevant to the case will follow, and based on that discussion, the CCD will determine if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offence may have been committed.

If there are no reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed, the IIO investigation will be concluded. This can be done by issuing a public report, a concluding media release, or without further information being provided to the public. As with initial media releases, several factors are considered when deciding how much information will be made public, such as public and privacy interests.

The IIO will issue a detailed public report which includes a narrative of the incident, the available evidence, and the legal principles applied to determine there were no reasonable grounds to believe an offence was committed where the CCD determines that the public interest requires such a release.

However, in some circumstances, the privacy interests of the involved parties are elevated - such as when an incident involves domestic violence or suicide. If there are heightened privacy interests, the CCD may determine it is more appropriate to publish a concluding media release instead of a public report. Concluding media releases contain a shorter summary of the incident and evidence and are more

discreet than a detailed public report. In other cases, the circumstances may be such that the privacy interests outweigh the public interest altogether, and in these cases the IIO will conclude the investigation without making any further information public.

The involved parties – particularly the Affected Person(s) or their family, and the involved officer(s) and police agency – will always be notified of the outcome of an investigation.⁷ If requested, the CCD or a delegate will meet with the Affected Person, their family, the involved officers, community representatives or members of the media to answer any remaining questions.

In the event the CCD determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence may have been committed during the file review, the investigation may be referred to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges. When that happens, the IIO will publish a media release briefly describing the incident and what aspect(s) of the incident the CCD considers there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence may have been committed, such as driving offences or in relation to the use of force.

All information the IIO has made public about any investigation can be found on the IIO website.⁸

For a year-over-year comparison of the IIO's public reporting, please see [page 18](#).

⁷ Unless they have requested not to be, or their contact information has changed and the IIO is unable to connect with them.

⁸ <https://iiobc.ca/>



REFERRALS TO CROWN COUNSEL

At the end of an IIO investigation, the CCD may determine that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offence may have been committed. If so, they may refer the matter to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges.

When an investigation is referred to the BC Prosecution Service, Crown Counsel will review the investigation materials and apply a two-part test to determine if charges will be approved. To approve charges, Crown Counsel must be satisfied that:

- there is a substantial likelihood of conviction based on the evidence, and
- that a prosecution is required in the public interest.

If the BC Prosecution Service doesn't approve charges, they will publish a clear statement. Clear statements are similar to IIO public reports, and provide a detailed narrative of the incident, available evidence, and legal principles applied in coming to their decision.

In the event charges are approved, the BC Prosecution Service will publish a media release that briefly summarizes the incident, provides the name of the officer and details what charges have been laid against them. The matter will then proceed through an appropriate court process.

Seven investigations were referred to Crown Counsel for consideration of charges in fiscal year 2023-2024.⁹

For a year-over-year comparison of files referred to Crown Counsel, please see [page 18](#). For information regarding the ethnicity of Affected Persons involved in investigations that were referred to Crown Counsel this fiscal year, please see [page 26](#). For more information on the specific files that were referred, please refer to [Appendix B](#) of this report.



7
Cases referred to
Crown Counsel

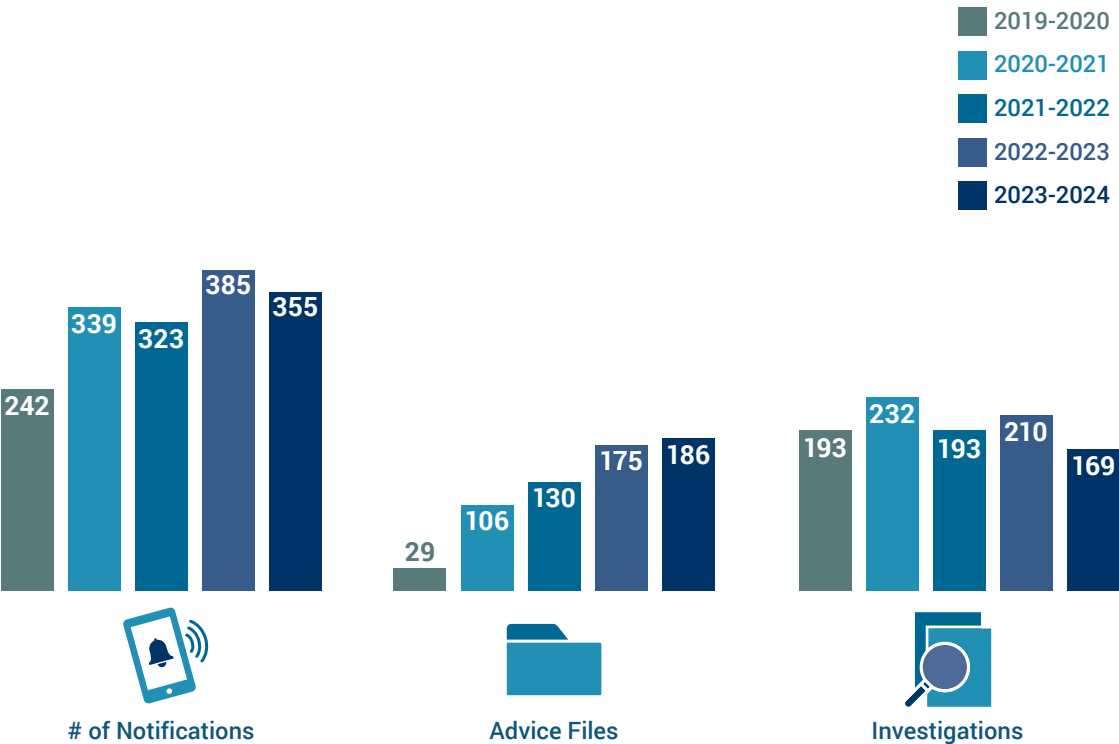
⁹ The seven investigations referred may have been opened during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, or any prior year.

YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISONS

OVERALL IIO CASELOAD

The chart below shows the number of notifications, advice files, and investigations commenced over the last five fiscal years. This year, the number of notifications decreased by 9% from last fiscal, and the number of new investigations decreased by 20%. This is the first year that more than 50% of notifications were [advice files](#). There are many possible reasons for this, including implementation of a 2022 policy that clarified the definition of an advice file, or over-reporting from police agencies or other parties, such as Affected Persons or other oversight agencies.¹⁰ When a file is considered an advice file by a team director, no investigation takes place. The 2022 policy has been reviewed with a view to err more on the side of conducting at least preliminary investigations into the matter. It is expected this will result in fewer advice files in the next fiscal year.

YEAR-OVER-YEAR CASELOAD COMPARISON

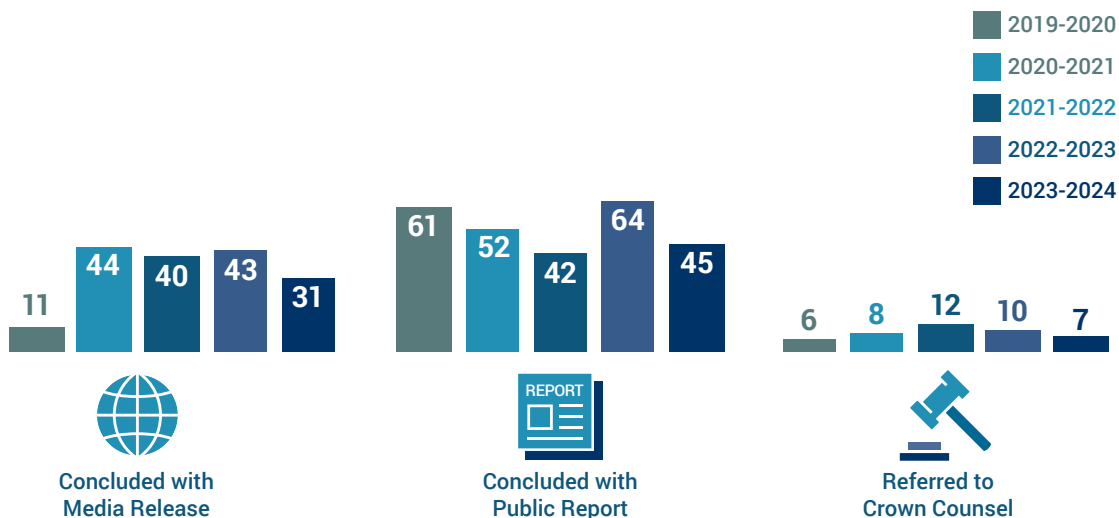


¹⁰ The 2022 policy is available on the IIO’s website: https://iiohc.ca/app/uploads/sites/472/2022/03/5170-Concluding-Investigations-by-Addendum-in-particular-Suicide_Self-inflicted-Harm-Notifications.pdf

PUBLIC REPORTING

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO closed 83 investigations with some form of public reporting, including public reports, concluding media releases, and referrals to Crown Counsel. The graph below shows a year-over-year comparison of each category. Fewer concluding media releases and public reports were issued during this fiscal year compared to last year, and there are many potential reasons for this, such as higher privacy interests in the cases that were closed, and fewer investigations being opened this fiscal year when compared to last year.

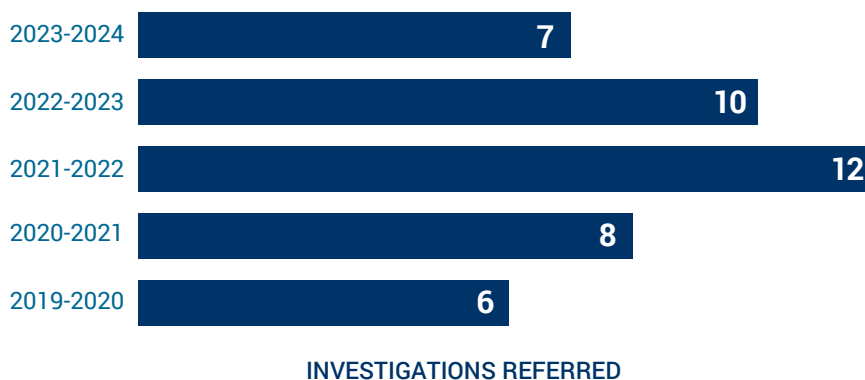
YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON OF FILES CONCLUDED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR



REFERRALS TO CROWN COUNSEL

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO referred seven investigations to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges.¹¹ The chart below shows the number of referrals the IIO has submitted over the last five fiscal years.¹²

IIO REFERRALS TO CROWN COUNSEL



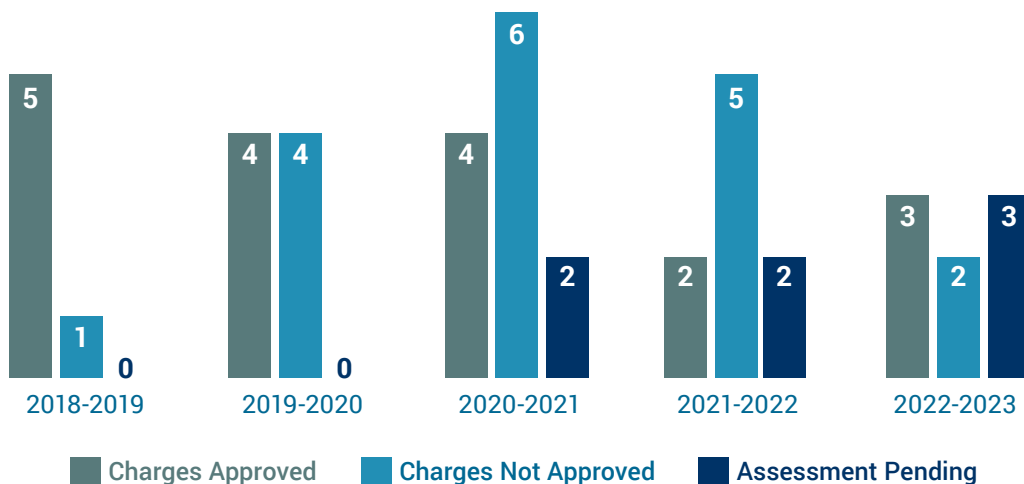
¹¹ The seven investigations that were referred may have been opened in fiscal year 2023-2024 or any prior year.

¹² For fiscal year 2023-2024, an eighth investigation is included in this chart (2021-179) which was announced as a referral to Crown Counsel in 2022-2023 but was not submitted to the BC Prosecution Service until 2023-2024.

The graph below shows that for the last two fiscal years (2021-2022 and 2022-2023), 36% and 28% of files where a charge assessment has been completed had charges approved. This is lower than the previous two years when 83% and 50% of files had charges approved in fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, respectively. The reason for this trend is unclear.

At the end of March 2024, charges have been approved in three investigations, not approved in two, and three charge assessment decisions are pending.

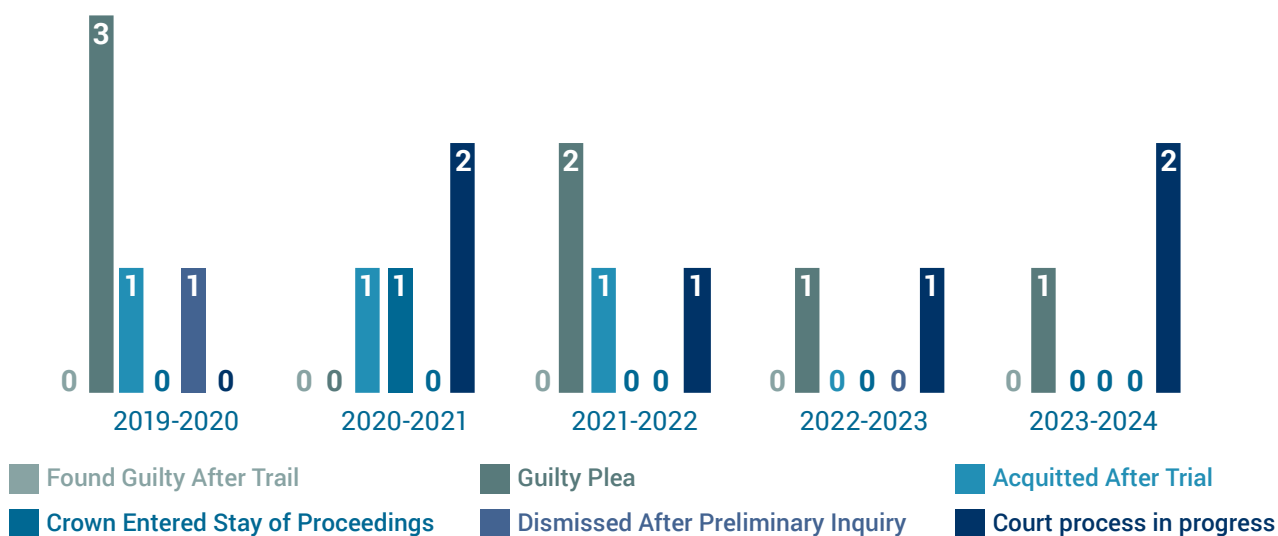
CHARGE ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING REFERRAL OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS TO BC PROSECUTION SERVICE



The chart below shows the outcome of IIO investigations where charges were approved, and the status of those proceedings as of March 31, 2024. As noted last fiscal, a guilty plea is the most common outcome.

More detailed information regarding IIO investigations that were referred to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this report.

OUTCOME OF COURT PROCESS IN CASES WHERE CHARGES WERE APPROVED

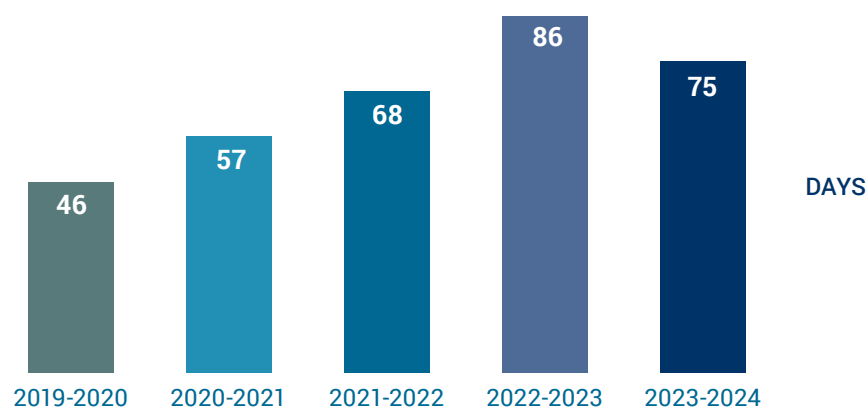




TIMELINESS

The IIO measures timeliness as the average number of days to finish an IIO investigation. All parties, including Affected Persons and families, community groups, police agencies and officers, and the broader public, are best served by thorough and timely oversight investigations. Improving timeliness is therefore a strategic goal of the IIO, as outlined in the IIO Strategic Plan.¹³ The chart below reflects the average number of days to conclude an investigation for the last five fiscal years, corrected to March 31 of each year.¹⁴

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS TO CONCLUSION, CORRECTED TO MARCH 31 OF EACH YEAR



While the average number of days to complete an IIO investigation increased in each of the four previous fiscal years, this year saw a 13% decrease. While there is more work to be done to improve timeliness, this is an encouraging trend that can be attributed to several factors, such as fewer new investigations being opened this year and improved investigator staffing levels.

¹³ https://iiohc.ca/app/uploads/sites/472/2022/10/IIO-Strategic-Plan_2022.pdf

¹⁴ To correct the data to March 31st, every file that remained open at the end of each fiscal year was considered concluded on March 31st for statistical purposes.

NOTIFICATIONS

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO received 355 notifications which is 8% lower than last fiscal year.

Of the 355 notifications, investigations were started in 169, or about 48% of notifications. This is the first time that the IIO has had more [advice files](#) than investigations in a fiscal year, and possible reasons for this include clarifications to the definition of an advice file, over-reporting of incidents that do not meet the IIO's mandate to investigate, high levels of public interest in police-involved incidents, and more.¹⁵

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED PER MONTH OVER SIX FISCAL YEARS



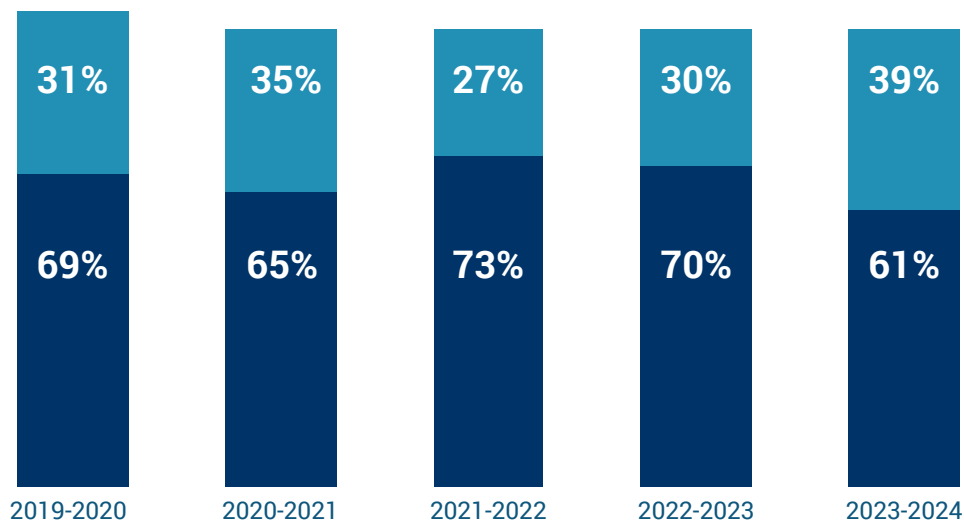
¹⁵ The clarification to the advice file definition can be found in IIO policy 5170 on the IIO's website: https://iiobc.ca/app/uploads/sites/472/2022/03/5170-Concluding-Investigations-by-Addendum-in-particular-Suicide_Self-inflicted-Harm-Notifications.pdf

SERIOUS HARM & DEATH INVESTIGATION COMPARISON

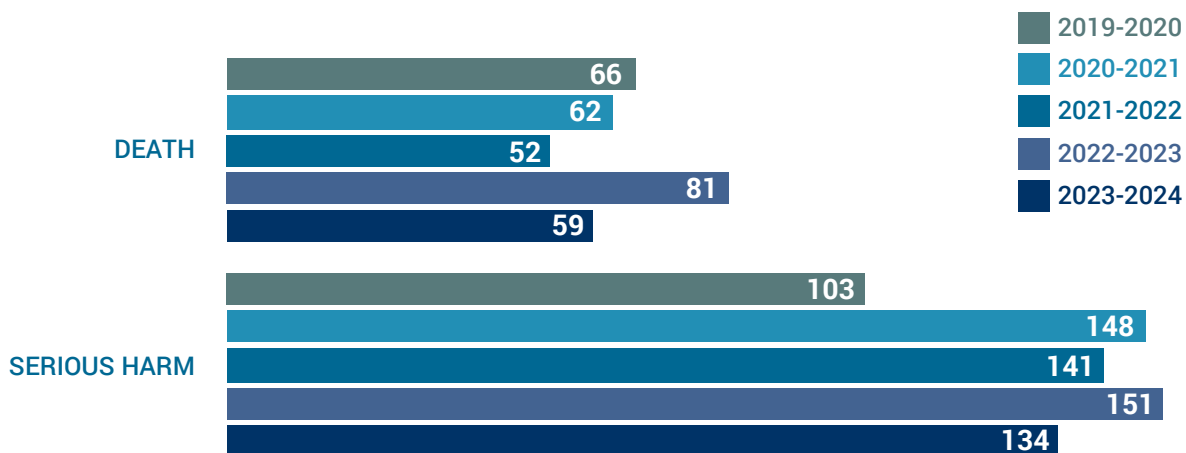
The percentage of incidents involving death that resulted in IIO investigation this year is the highest it has been in the last five fiscal years, as shown by the chart below. The reasons for this are unknown.

PERCENTAGE OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS CLASSIFIED BY SERIOUS HARM OR DEATH, BY FISCAL YEAR

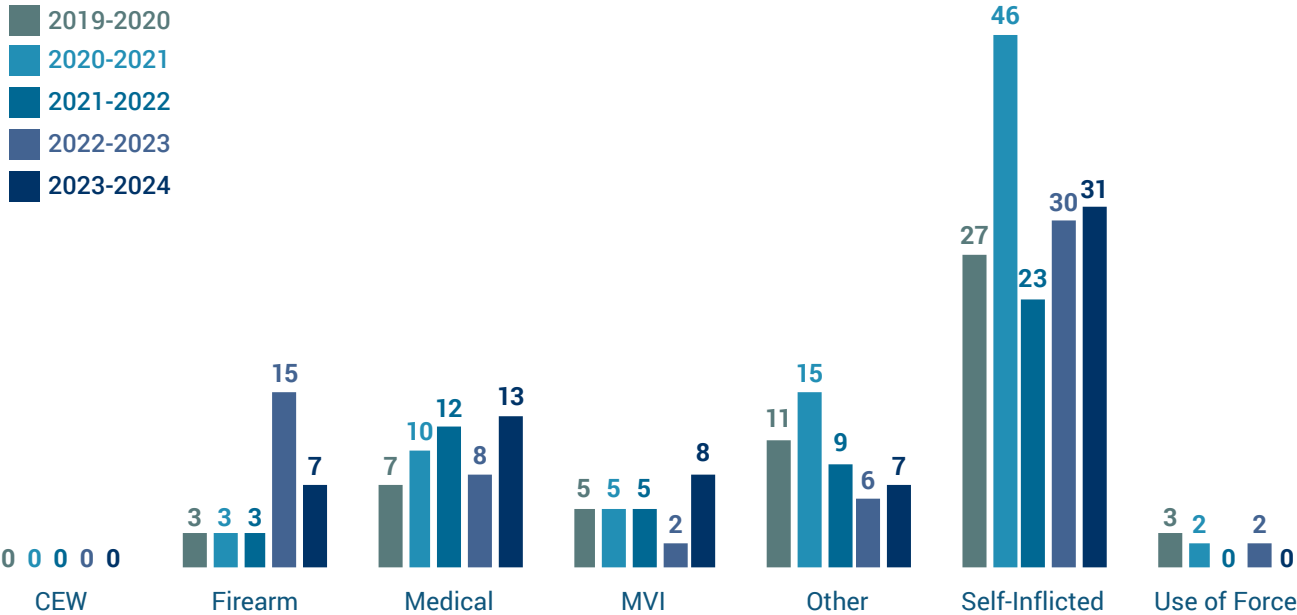
■ SERIOUS HARM
■ DEATH



NUMBER OF IIO INVESTIGATIONS CLASSIFIED AS SERIOUS HARM OR DEATH, BY FISCAL YEAR



DEATH FILE CLASSIFICATIONS, YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON



As in previous years, “self-inflicted” continues to be the largest classification of deaths. For statistical purposes, the IIO defines “self-inflicted” deaths as those related to the actions or decisions of the Affected Person, such as suicide. This fiscal, the second largest category is “medical,” meaning that the Affected Person’s death was the result of a medical event. This is in contrast to last fiscal year where the second-largest category of deaths was “firearm.” The decrease in death investigations related to firearms is related to the lower number of overall firearm investigations this year.

For more information on firearm files, please refer to the [firearm](#) section.



AFFECTED PERSONS

In an IIO investigation, an Affected Person is the person who was seriously harmed or died in a police-involved incident. The IIO collects gender data from Affected Persons directly or from associated medical and other records. As previously mentioned, there can be more than one person involved in a police incident, so the number of Affected Persons is not necessarily equal to the number of new IIO investigations.

The IIO has two full-time Affected Persons Liaisons (APL) who are the main points of contact for Affected Persons and their family, and they are available to explain the IIO's mandate and investigative process. The APLs also work with the IIO's investigative team to answer questions from Affected Persons and families when the information requested can be provided. APLs also provide referrals to community-based services for Affected Persons and families, which may include services such as housing support, addictions, counselling and more.

In fiscal year 2023-2024, 171 Affected Persons were involved in the 169 investigations started. The age, gender, and ethnicity of one Affected Person was not available, and so they have been excluded from analysis that follows.¹⁶ The sections below are based on the data available for 170 Affected Persons.

AGE & GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The table below depicts the age and gender of the 170 Affected Persons with available information this fiscal year. In summary, 26 Affected Persons identified as female, 144 as male, and none identified as gender diverse.

In fiscal year 2023-2024, Affected Persons were 85% males and 15% females and were an average of 40 and 38 years old, respectively. The ages of males ranged from 12 to 84 years old, while females ranged from less than one to 62 years old.

Age	Female	Male	Gender Diverse	Total
0-4	1	0	0	1
5-9	0	0	0	0
10-14	1	1	0	2
15-19	0	5	0	5
20-24	2	13	0	15
25-29	5	15	0	20
30-34	2	25	0	27
35-39	5	17	0	22
40-44	2	22	0	24
45-49	0	14	0	14
50-54	1	10	0	11
55-59	1	13	0	14
60-64	5	2	0	7
65-69	0	2	0	2
70-74	0	2	0	2
75-79	0	0	0	0
80-84	0	3	0	3
Unknown	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	26	144	0	170

¹⁶ If at least one datapoint (age, gender, or ethnicity) is known, the Affected Person is included in the dataset.

PERSONS IN CRISIS

In fiscal year 2023-2024, 43 of the 171 Affected Persons this year have been found to be persons in crisis (PIC). This reflects about 25% of Affected Persons.

The IIO uses the definition provided by retired Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci in his 2014 review, “Police Encounters with People in Crisis,” to assess if someone is a person in crisis.¹⁷

If the person was in crisis immediately prior to or during the interaction with police, one or more of the following must be observed:

- Their behaviour brought them into contact with police because of a need for urgent care within the mental health system;
- Police were contacted to protect the Affected Person or those around them because the Affected Person was in a mental or emotional crisis;
- They displayed erratic, threatening, or dangerous behaviour;
- They were, or appeared to be, mentally ill; or
- The Affected Person was described as emotionally disturbed by police and/or other witnesses.

This year marks the third year the IIO has reported on PIC data. In fiscal year 2022-2023, the IIO found that 41 Affected Persons were PICs, and so 43 persons in crisis this fiscal reflects a very small increase.

According to the RCMP, 35.4% of those involved in incidents requiring police intervention options in BC can be considered emotionally disturbed persons.¹⁸ While RCMP and IIO statistics are more closely aligned this year than in years prior, there are several possible explanations for the differences

between them. For example, the RCMP definition of an emotionally disturbed person differs in important ways from the IIO’s criteria for a person in crisis. In addition, 70 IIO investigations remained in progress at the end of the fiscal year, and in cases where a matter will proceed to file review, the determination of whether someone is a PIC is made at that review and therefore is not included in this year’s statistics.

ETHNICITY

Of the 170 Affected Persons in fiscal year 2023-2024, ethnicity data is available for 138 as shown in the table below.¹⁹ The three largest ethnic groups were White (51%), Indigenous (14%), and South Asian (8%). These were the same largest groups as last fiscal year. This is the fourth annual report the IIO has reported ethnicity data.

Ethnicity	
Asian	4
Black	3
Latin - Central & South America	5
Indigenous	23
Middle Eastern	4
South Asian	13
White	86
Unknown	32
Total	170

Indigenous Peoples are about 6% of BC’s population according to the most recent census data.²⁰ However, as noted above, about 14% of Affected Persons are Indigenous, which implies that Indigenous People continue to be overrepresented in police-involved incidents resulting in serious harm or death, compared to their percentage of the population. If we exclude those with unknown ethnicity, this increases

17 https://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/reports/police_encounters_with_people_in_crisis_2014.pdf

18 <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/transparenc/police-info-policieres/intervention/2021/index-eng.htm#a6>

19 Data is self-reported or from other official sources such as medical records.

20 <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=British%20Columbia&DGUIDlist=2021A000259&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&HEADERlist=0>

to 17% of Affected Persons are Indigenous of the 138 Affected Persons with known ethnicity.

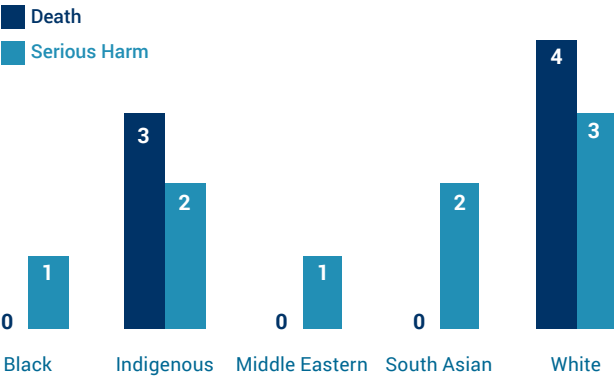
Ethnicity of Affected Persons in Firearm Files

In fiscal year 2023-2024, 16 firearm incidents were reported to the IIO involving 16 Affected Persons. All 16 were male.

Of the 16, seven were White, five were Indigenous, two were South Asian, one was Black, and one was Middle Eastern.

The graph below shows how many Affected Persons of each ethnicity represented sustained serious harm or died. Indigenous Peoples represented 43% of deaths, and 31% of all Affected Persons involved in firearm incidents subject to IIO investigation. As noted in the previous section, Indigenous Peoples make up about 6% of BC’s population.²¹ Given this, not only are Indigenous Peoples overrepresented in incidents resulting in serious harm or death, but they are also overrepresented in police-involved shooting investigations.

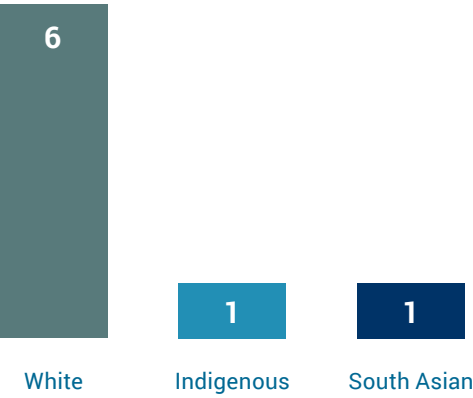
ETHNICITY OF AFFECTED PERSONS IN IIO FIREARM INVESTIGATIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



Ethnicity of Affected Persons in IIO Investigations Referred to Crown Counsel

In fiscal year 2023-2024, seven investigations were referred to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service for consideration of charges. These incidents involved eight Affected Persons – six were White, one was Indigenous, and one was South Asian.

ETHNICITY OF AFFECTED PERSONS IN FILES REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL IN FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



²¹ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=British%20Columbia&DGUIDlist=2021A000259&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1,4&HEADERlist=0>

SUBJECT OFFICERS

The IIO investigates the actions or inaction of police officers to determine if they may have committed an offence. Those officer(s) are called subject officers and are designated as such by an IIO investigator.

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO designated 54 officers as subject officers.

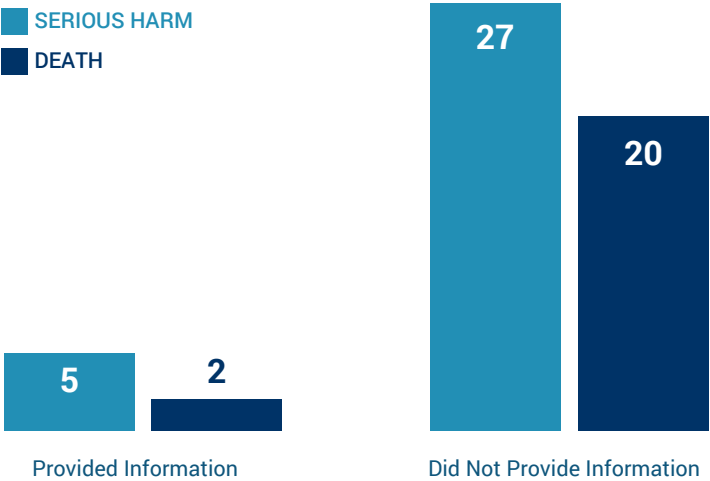
The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (Charter) protects Canadians, including police officers, who may be guilty of an offence from having to make statements that may be self-incriminating. Under this justice principle, subject officers are not compelled to submit any information to IIO investigations. While this is not to suggest that subject officer statements would be incriminating, due to those Charter rights, the IIO does not compel subject officers to provide any written information or require a statement without their consent.

Of the 54 designated subject officers, seven (13%) provided some form of information to the IIO investigation, such as allowing access to their notes, providing a statement (written or verbal), or permitting access to their Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) report. This is a decrease from last year, when 15 subject officers (19% of subject officers that year) provided information. This would seem to reflect a general trend where subject officers are more likely to exercise their option not to provide information.

The remaining 47 (87%) did not provide any information to the IIO investigation.

The chart below shows the number of designated subject officers who provided information to an IIO investigation by serious harm/death classification.

SUBJECT OFFICERS WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION TO AN IIO INVESTIGATIONS



OPERATING BUDGET

Expenditure Type	2022-2023		2023-2024	
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals
Salary and Benefits	7,140,000	7,397,889	9,131,000	9,622,666 ²²
Travel Expenses	154,000	150,223	154,000	223,082 ²³
Contracts	284,000	131,620	284,000	218,312 ²⁴
Information Technology	816,000	1,109,464	915,000	1,322,856 ²⁵
Office/Business Expenses	317,000	229,129	317,000	319,150
Operating Expenses	164,000	137,308	96,000	171,140 ²⁶
Amortization	158,000	71,733	459,000	95,203 ²⁷
Building Occupancy Charges	43,000	405,604	123,000	445,529 ²⁸
Other	20,000	11,472	88,000	62,546 ²⁹
Recoveries	(3,000)	(202,567)	(3,000)	0.00
Total	9,093,000	9,441,875	11,564,000	12,480,484

22 Variance due to increased staffing, BC Government Employees' Union and Management salary and benefit increases.

23 Variance due to increased investigator travel outside of the lower mainland (deployments/follow-up on files), and travel for remote investigators to participate in mandatory training.

24 Variance due to deferral of contracted training.

25 Variance due to increased data storage costs, case management software costs, and Operational Records Classification System retention project.

26 Variance due to increased repair and maintenance costs of aging vehicles.

27 Variance due to deferral of vehicle purchases; some funds used to offset building occupancy charges.

28 Variance due to facilities' costs – forensics facility and head office.

29 Variance due to government innovation projects.

PROGRAM AREAS

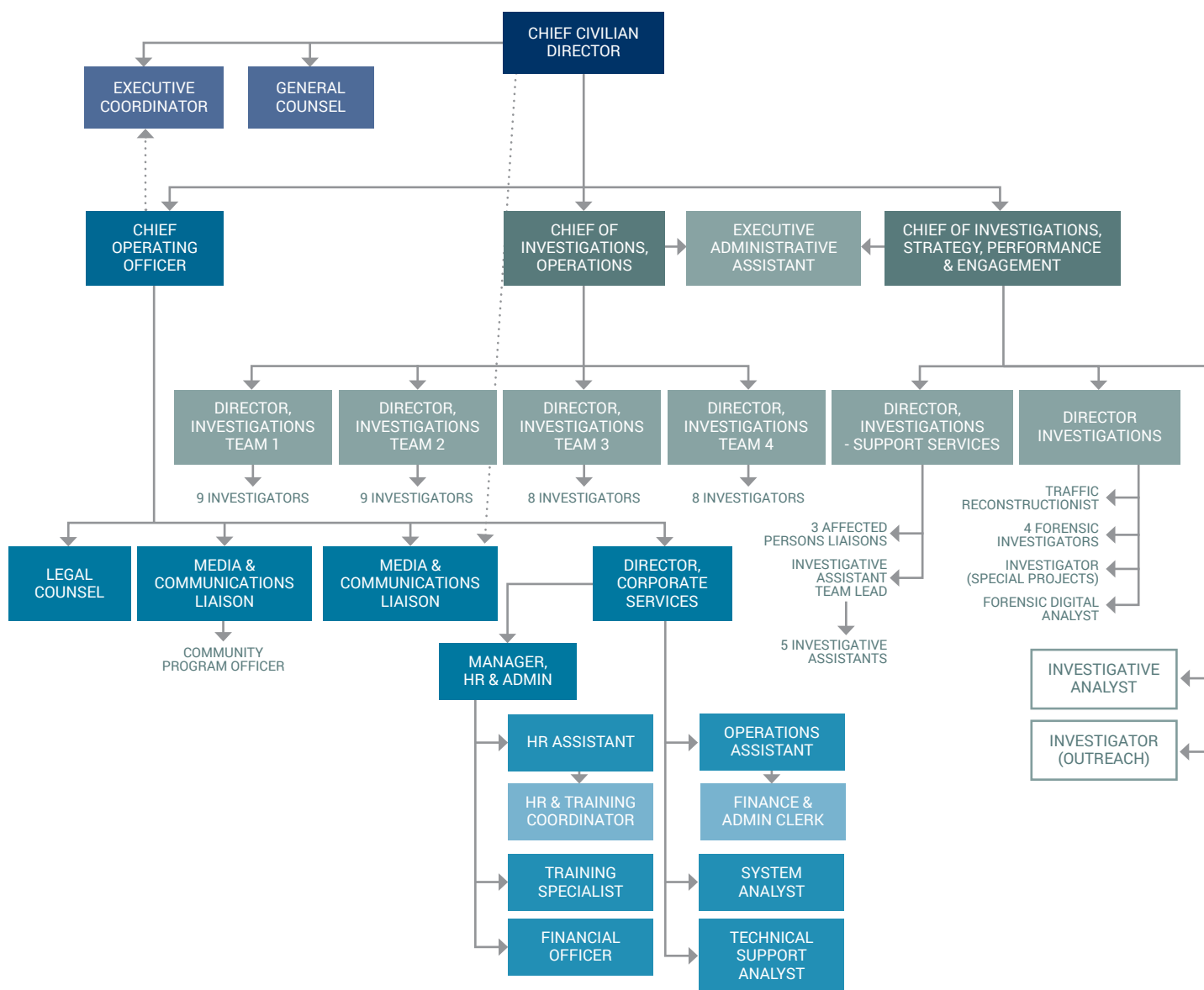
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The IIO has two program areas: investigations and operations.

The organizational chart below reflects the positions the IIO is funded for. At the end of fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO had 73 employees. Fifty-four of these employees form the investigations unit, and 16 form the operations unit. Three employees are not

classified as either investigations or operations: the Chief Civilian Director (CCD), General Counsel, and Executive Coordinator.

The IIO's executive team is composed of the CCD; Chief Operating Officer (COO); Chief of Investigations, Operations (COI, Ops); and Chief of Investigations, Strategy, Performance, & Engagement (COI, SPE).



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Investigations Unit is led by two Chief of Investigations (COI) and includes:

- One Executive Administrative Assistant;
- Six Team Directors (TD):
 - Four lead the four investigative teams consisting of frontline Investigators;
 - One leads the Investigations Support Services Team, which consists of Affected Persons Liaisons and Investigative Assistants, and is also responsible for file audits; and
 - One leads the team of Forensic Investigators and is also responsible for Investigator training.
- Four frontline investigative teams, totalling 29 Investigators;
- One specialized investigator team consisting of four forensic investigators;
- One Outreach Investigator;
- Two part-time Investigators working on special projects and audits; and
- One Investigative Analyst.

As of end of fiscal year 2023-2024, vacancies within the Investigations unit include five frontline Investigators, one Affected Person Liaison, one Forensic Digital Analyst, and one Traffic Reconstructionist.

The CCD, both Chiefs of Investigations, Team Directors, all Investigators, and Affected Persons Liaisons are Peace Officers.

The IIO recruits Investigators from varied backgrounds in investigative fields, including fraud and investigations, intelligence services, BC Coroners Office, as well as legal and law enforcement. Among 35 full-time frontline investigators, 57% bring civilian-based investigative experiences, while the remaining 43% have law enforcement backgrounds.

Highlights for the Investigations unit in the 2023-2024 fiscal year include:

- The Crown Referral Review Team (CRRT) reviewed all investigations being referred to Crown Counsel (BC Prosecution Service), improving the report and disclosure process while advancing the timeframe of Crown decisions.
- Moved to a four-team rotation, which allows investigators to be on call once every four weeks instead of once every three weeks. This has enabled investigators to follow up on their caseload more quickly as new files are being added less frequently and improves employee wellness.
- Increased outreach efforts to enhance investigational excellence through developing relationships with Social Services, First Nations, Police, and Academic Institutions.
- Additional training opportunities for Investigative Teams being explored.
- Appointed civilian monitors to review the IIO's investigation into the death of a man in Williams Lake (IIO 2022-258) in partnership with the T̓silhqot'in National Government.

OPERATIONS

Led by the Chief Operating Officer, the Operations Unit is responsible for all non-investigative functions at the IIO. These include:

- Corporate services (finance, information technology, human resources, facilities, training, and administration);
- Media and communications;
- Legal services;
- Policy; and
- Privacy and records management.

Highlights in the Operations Unit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year include:

- Secured office space in Nanaimo for an IIO regional office, effectively improving deployment response time. The IIO continues to work with government to secure a lease for a regional office in Kelowna.
- Secured additional funding from government for a one-time adjustment to investigator salaries which allowed the IIO to better compete for qualified investigators and assisted with employee retention.
- Began work to fill 13 positions approved at the end of fiscal year 2022-2023 and funded for fiscal year 2023-2024, including six investigators, one team director, one affected persons liaison, one forensics digital analyst, one media & communications liaison, one privacy and records management specialist, one manager, HR and operations, one technical support analyst,

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

On April 28, 2022, the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* published its report and recommendations. The final report, “Transforming Policing and Community Safety in British Columbia,”³⁰ provides 11 recommendations to improve and strengthen policing and civilian oversight of police in BC.

Shortly after the end of fiscal year 2023-2024 on April 5, 2024, Bill 1731 was introduced to make changes to the *Police Act* to improve governance and oversight of policing in BC in response to the special committee’s recommendations. Among other changes, such as allowing local governments to choose who their representative on the police board will be and boards having elected chairs, Bill 17 increases the IIO’s jurisdiction to extend to jail guards.

Jail guards in BC are typically civilian employees and are not police officers or special provincial constables, so historically they have not been subject to independent investigation.³² As employees who are also responsible for the care and welfare of those in police custody, this addition makes sense and gives the IIO authority to compel statements from jail guards as witnesses. Additionally, if evidence gathered during an IIO investigation provides reasonable belief that a jail guard may have committed an offence, these changes give the CCD the ability to refer the matter to Crown Counsel with the BC Prosecution Service to consider charges against guards.

The IIO looks forward to future legislative changes in response to the Committee’s other recommendations.



³⁰ https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/rpa/SC-RPA-Report_42-3_2022-04-28.pdf

³¹ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024PSSG0024-000478#:~:text=The%20legislation%20will%20also%20strengthen,reviews%20and%20investigations%20into%20the>

³² Conduct or potential criminality of jail guards was investigated by police agencies prior to this change.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In fiscal year 2023-2024, the IIO increased its outreach efforts by redesigning the outreach program and initiatives. One of the IIO’s guiding visions is maintaining the public’s confidence in policing. With this in mind, the IIO is committed to improving awareness of its role in police oversight with the public, social services, police, Indigenous Peoples, and community. In addition to strengthening preexisting relationships, the IIO made efforts to foster new relationships with groups that have not had previous outreach interaction. The IIO prioritizes proactive engagement with community to strengthen relationships and increase accessibility.

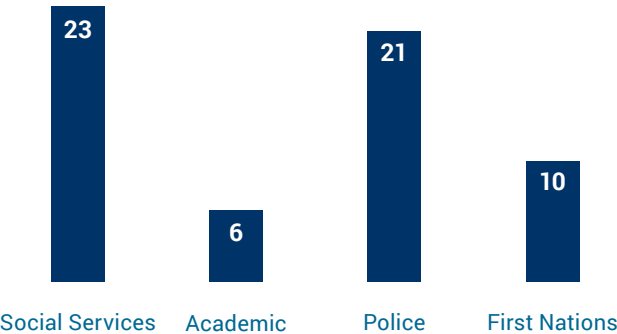
Further, the IIO adopted a people-centered approach to its engagement direction and initiatives. By implementing this approach, the IIO offers more opportunity to meet with stakeholders and communities to engage in meaningful conversations, while also providing the IIO with a more fulsome understanding of the diverse interests and concerns that community may have. The Outreach Team developed an outreach tracking system to manage feedback suggested during these engagements to review and see how the IIO can better serve BC.

One recommendation, from the community, resulted in the creation of the IIO poster. The recommendation was for the IIO to develop a visual and more accessible method of communicating the IIO’s mandate. The IIO presented these posters to community and resource centers around BC and, as of the end of fiscal 2023-2024, these posters have been distributed around the province. The objective is to have these posters displayed in areas where they could aid in encouraging potential witnesses

or Affected Person(s) to contact the IIO. The poster includes a brief overview of the IIO’s scope, responsibilities, and how to get in contact with the IIO.

In addition to personalizing outreach efforts, the IIO committed to tailoring presentations to each stakeholder and community group to assist in increasing understanding of police oversight investigations and what role, if any, they may have. The IIO focused on creating space for open dialogue between the IIO, stakeholders, and communities to continue building trust and understanding. This fiscal, the IIO continued to prioritize meeting with organizations that provide resources to Indigenous Peoples and other equity-owned groups. The IIO acknowledges the importance of collaborating with Indigenous Peoples and is committed to improving current IIO engagement practices to strengthen the trust Indigenous communities have in the IIO. One example of the IIO’s work in this area was the appointment of civilian monitors, in partnership with the T̓silhqot’in National Government, to review the IIO’s investigation into the death of a man in Williams Lake.

ENGAGEMENTS BY OUTREACH GROUP



APPENDIX A: TERMINOLOGY

ADVICE FILES

Advice files are assigned file numbers for administrative purposes in cases where it is evident that there is no connection between the action or inaction of a police officer and the death or injury of a person, or if the injury does not meet the threshold for serious harm as defined in the *Police Act*. In these instances, the file is concluded immediately and is assigned a number without undertaking further investigation.

AFFECTED PERSON

An Affected Person (AP) in an IIO investigation refers to the individual who may have suffered serious harm or died in a police-involved incident. If an AP dies, the families are also considered APs. The IIO uses the term “Affected Person” instead of labels such as “victim” or “suspect” to maintain neutrality that is appropriate and consistent with the IIO mandate to conduct fair and impartial investigations.

AFFECTED PERSONS LIAISON

The IIO has two full-time Affected Persons Liaisons (APL) to ensure frequent and ongoing contact between the Investigators and the Affected Persons or their family if the Affected Person is deceased.

The APLs work one-on-one with the Affected Person and/or their family to ensure they receive regular and accurate information and are updated on the progress of the investigation. Additionally, the APLs can refer Affected Persons and/or their family with resources in their community, based on individual needs and preferences.

CHIEF CIVILIAN DIRECTOR (CCD)

The IIO is led by a Chief Civilian Director (CCD) who must not have ever served as a police officer. The CCD’s responsibility is to provide oversight to each investigation and make the final decision on the conclusion of the file with consideration of the evidence presented and of the input of the Investigators and General Counsel. The CCD is eligible to be appointed to serve a maximum of two five-year terms by Order in Council.

CONCLUDING AN INVESTIGATION

Upon conclusion of each investigation, the CCD considers, based on the facts, if an officer’s actions or inactions are lawful or if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a police officer may have committed an offence. If reasonable grounds exist, the CCD may refer the matter to Crown Counsel (BC Prosecution Service) for consideration of charges. It is the responsibility of Crown Counsel to decide if charges will be laid.

If the CCD determines the facts do not support a referral to Crown Counsel, a public report may be issued which presents the chronology of the events, facts gathered and the rationale for the decision. In some circumstances, when it may not be in the public interest to issue a public report the IIO will close a file with a brief concluding media release, or without making additional information public.

CONCURRENT INVESTIGATIONS

IIO investigations are often conducted concurrently with other agencies' investigations including the BC Coroners Service in the case of a fatality, or a police agency when the Affected Person is facing criminal charges related to the same incident.

CROWN COUNSEL

Crown Counsel are prosecutors who work for the BC Prosecution Service under the Ministry of Attorney General. The BC Prosecution Service operates independently of Government and within the BC justice system. They also operate independently of the IIO.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE (IIO)

The Independent Investigations Office (IIO) of British Columbia is a civilian-led police oversight agency responsible for conducting investigations into incidents of death or serious harm that may have been the result of police actions or inactions, whether they are on-or-off duty. The IIO's jurisdiction extends over all police agencies throughout British Columbia. Investigators travel across the province to conduct investigations as required.

INVESTIGATIVE STEPS

The IIO's investigative steps include, as required: ensuring that the scene is secured, preserving and obtaining evidence, identifying Affected Persons, locating witnesses, conducting interviews, confirming the nature of the involvement of a police officer(s), designating subject and witness officers, conducting neighbourhood canvasses, analyzing evidence and seeking forensic assistance.

INVESTIGATORS

IIO Investigators consist of both non-police and police-trained civilians. Approximately half of IIO Investigators have a policing background. Investigators without policing backgrounds hold significant experience in a range of investigative, legal, regulatory, and enforcement agencies. The IIO

also has a specialized forensics team who perform scene examinations, along with monitoring and reviewing the work of police forensic personnel to ensure that scene processing and evidence collection is conducted to best practices.

MANDATE

The IIO is mandated to conduct investigations into police-related incidents of death or serious harm. The IIO's jurisdiction extends to all police agencies throughout the province, whether they were on-or-off duty at the time of incident. Per the *Police Act*, police agencies are required to notify the IIO of an incident that may fall within its jurisdiction.

NOTIFICATION & INITIAL INVESTIGATION

When there is an incident involving a police officer or an agency member, the police agency is required to notify the IIO.

Upon notification of an incident by police, the IIO immediately has jurisdiction. The primary focus of all IIO investigations is to establish if the incident falls within the IIO's mandate. It must meet a two-part test:

- 1) Is there serious harm or death as defined by the *Police Act*?
- 2) Is there a connection between the death or serious harm and any actions or inactions of a police officer(s)?

If an initial investigation determines that the incident does not meet the IIO's mandate, the IIO will usually conclude the file. When the IIO continues an investigation, the investigation will determine whether or not the actions/inactions of a police officer(s) were reasonable and proportionate, given the circumstances. The investigation will also determine whether the police action was lawful or if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the subject officer(s) may have committed an offence.

POLICE AGENCY

A police agency is an organization consisting of law enforcement officers. In British Columbia, police officers include municipal police forces, such as the Vancouver Police Department, all BC RCMP detachments, Metro Vancouver Transit Police, and the Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police.

SERIOUS HARM

Serious harm is defined as per the *Police Act* as an injury that may result in death, may cause serious disfigurement, or may cause substantial loss or impairment of mobility of the body as a whole or of the function of a limb or organ.

SPECIAL PROVINCIAL CONSTABLES

The IIO's jurisdiction includes any officer who operates in British Columbia. Examples of Special Provincial Constables include officers from outside of BC who are in the province conducting an investigation and enforcement officers within various branches of government, such as the Gaming and Enforcement Branch.

SUBJECT OFFICERS

Subject Officers are defined in a memorandum of understanding between police agencies and the IIO as police officers whose presence, action, or decision is reasonably believed to have been a contributing factor in the death or serious harm of any person, and has been designated as a Subject Officer by IIO Investigators. Subject Officers have the same rights as any other Canadian who may have committed an offence, including the choice to stay silent and refrain from providing notes, documents, or statements to the IIO.

WITNESS OFFICERS

Witness Officers refer to police officers who were involved or present during the incident but are not believed to have caused the serious harm or death. Witness officers are compelled to cooperate in an IIO investigation, which may include being interviewed and/or submitting notes and documents.



APPENDIX B: STATISTICAL DATA

IIO INVESTIGATIONS - FIREARM CLASSIFICATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Agency	Status ³³
2023-097	April 5, 2023	Death	Surrey RCMP	Closed with public report
2023-112	April 26, 2023	Serious Harm	Prince George RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-116	April 28, 2023	Serious Harm	Saanich Police Department	Closed with public report
2023-124	May 12, 2023	Serious Harm	North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP	Closed without public report
2023-168	June 26, 2023	Serious Harm	West Vancouver Police Department	Closed without public report
2023-174	June 28, 2023	Death	Hope RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-235	August 5, 2023	Death	Vancouver Police Department	Open – investigation in progress
2023-243	August 13, 2023	Serious Harm	Grand Forks RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-262	August 27, 2023	Death	Revelstoke RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-289	September 22, 2023	Serious Harm	Coquitlam & Ridge Meadows RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-311	October 18, 2023	Serious Harm	West Kelowna RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-338	November 19, 2023	Death	Dawson Creek RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-345	November 30, 2023	Death	Abbotsford Police Department	Open – investigation in progress
2023-354	December 11, 2023	Serious Harm	Kitimat RCMP	Open – investigation in progress
2023-359	December 17, 2023	Death	Abbotsford Police Department	Open – investigation in progress
2024-063	March 17, 2024	Serious Harm	Surrey Police Service	Open – investigation in progress

³³ Status as at March 31, 2024. For the most recent status, please refer to the IIO's [cases page](#), or click the link provided for each file.

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES BY FISCAL YEAR

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to BC Prosecution Service	Date of BC Prosecution Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2018-056	May 10, 2018	Serious Harm	Grand Forks RCMP	September 23, 2019	November 24, 2022	No charges approved	Not applicable
2018-075	June 29, 2018	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	May 2, 2019	June 28, 2019	MVA 144(1) (b) Driving without reasonable consideration	Dismissed
2018-087	July 29, 2018	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	April 17, 2019	July 25, 2019	MVA 144(1) (a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea
2018-112	September 12, 2018	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	April 3, 2019	September 12, 2019	MVA 144(1) (a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea
2018-148	December 8, 2018	Serious Harm	Kamloops RCMP	November 4, 2019	June 17, 2020	CCC 249(1) (a) Dangerous driving	Not guilty
2019-078	May 18, 2018	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	May 9, 2019	May 17, 2019	CCC 249(3) Dangerous driving causing bodily harm	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1) (a) driving without due care and attention

CCC – Canadian Criminal Code

MVA – *Motor Vehicle Act*

Unless otherwise noted, one officer was charged in cases where charges were approved.

The status of investigations referred to the BC Prosecution Service is as at March 31, 2024. For files where a charge assessment decision is pending or a court process in progress, click the provided link to access the IIO website cases page to see if an update is available.

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to BC Prosecution Service	Date of BC Prosecution Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2017-083	July 19, 2017	Death	Prince George RCMP	May 27, 2020	February 1, 2023 Note: 5 officers charged	2 officers charged with: • CCC 236(b) Manslaughter	Court process in progress
						3 officers charged with: • CCC 139(2) Attempting to obstruct justice	Court process in progress
2019-013	December 2, 2018	Serious Harm	Nanaimo RCMP	April 20, 2020	October 8, 2020	CCC 267(b) Assault causing bodily harm	Acquitted
2019-112	June 9, 2019	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	December 15, 2020	May 19, 2022	CCC 266 Assault	Court process in progress
2019-116	July 1, 2019	Serious Harm	Langley RCMP	April 1, 2020	July 31, 2020	No charges approved	Not applicable
2019-197	October 16, 2019	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	December 14, 2020	January 17, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2019-231	December 22, 2019	Serious Harm	Kelowna RCMP	September 30, 2020	July 14, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-002	January 7, 2020	Serious Harm	Surrey RCMP	July 16, 2020	February 23, 2021	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-164	July 12, 2020	Serious Harm	Abbotsford Police Department	February 19, 2021	October 20, 2022	CCC 267 Assault causing bodily harm	Court process in progress

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to BC Prosecution Service	Date of BC Prosecution Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2019-201	October 28, 2019	Death	RCMP – Salmon Arm & Sicamous	December 10, 2021	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2020-042	February 26, 2020	Serious Harm	Municipal – Abbotsford Police Department	April 15, 2021	June 23, 2022	CCC 267(a) Assault with a weapon CCC 267(b) Assault causing bodily harm	Acquittal
2020-045	March 2, 2020	Serious Harm	Municipal – Abbotsford Police Department	April 22, 2021	January 5, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-046	March 3, 2020	Serious Harm	Municipal – Vancouver Police Department	June 15, 2021	March 1, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-067	April 12, 2020	Death	RCMP – Prince George	March 28, 2022	October 12, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-068	April 14, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Sicamous	October 22, 2021	September 29, 2022	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-110	May 31, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Williams Lake	April 8, 2021	July 27, 2023	CCC 267(a) Assault with a weapon CCC 267(b) Assault causing bodily harm CCC 221 Criminal negligence causing bodily harm CCC 320.13(2) Dangerous driving causing bodily harm	Court process in progress
2020-138	June 23, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Kamloops	October 13, 2021	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable

2020-183	July 30, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Prince George	February 23, 2021	October 27, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-285	October 25, 2020	Serious Harm	RCMP – Williams Lake	October 14, 2021	July 11, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2020-302	November 4, 2020	Serious Harm	Other – Metro Vancouver Transit Police	September 28, 2021	May 18, 2022	CCC 320.13(2) Dangerous driving causing bodily harm	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1)(c) Excessive speeding relative to conditions
2021-157	June 19, 2021	Serious Harm	RCMP – Langley	December 6, 2021	June 7, 2022	MVA 144(1)(a) Driving without due care and attention MVA 181(a) Failure to use due care to avoid a pedestrian	Guilty plea to MVA 181(a) Failure to use due care to avoid a pedestrian



IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to BC Prosecution Service	Date of BC Prosecution Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2020-232	September 20, 2020	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	June 24, 2022	February 10, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-012	January 12, 2021	Serious Harm	Chilliwack RCMP	June 9, 2022	November 3, 2022	CCC 244(1) Discharging a firearm with intent to wound/disfigure CCC 268(1) Aggravated assault CCC 86(1) Careless use or storage of a firearm	Court process in progress
2021-089	March 6, 2021	Serious Harm	Abbotsford Police Department	April 13, 2022	July 31, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-097	April 17, 2021	Serious Harm	Nanaimo RCMP	August 3, 2022	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2021-179	July 8, 2021	Death	Campbell River RCMP	October 27, 2023	April 23, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-198	July 22, 2021	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	January 25, 2023	September 12, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-258	September 15, 2021	Serious Harm	Port Moody Police Department	April 7, 2022	August 22, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-295	October 27, 2021	Serious Harm	BC Highway Patrol	June 15, 2022	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2021-332	December 3, 2021	Serious Harm	Kamloops RCMP	January 16, 2023	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2022-093	April 29, 2022	Serious Harm	Prince George RCMP	July 7, 2022	August 11, 2022	MVA 144(1) (a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea to MVA 144(1)(c) Excessive speed relative to conditions

IIO INVESTIGATIONS REFERRED TO CROWN COUNSEL FOR CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES IN FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Case Number	Incident Date	Incident Classification	Involved Agency	Date Referred to BC Prosecution Service	Date of BC Prosecution Charge Assessment Decision	Charges	Outcome
2021-100	April 19, 2021	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	March 7, 2024	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2021-169	May 29, 2021	Serious Harm	Delta Police Department	July 4, 2023	November 22, 2023	No charges approved	Not applicable
2021-256	September 12, 2021	Death	Victoria Police Department	November 30, 2023	Charge assessment pending	Not applicable	Not applicable
2022-129	May 31, 2022	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	November 14, 2023	March 21, 2024	No charges approved	Not applicable
2022-168	July 10, 2022	Serious Harm	BC Highway Patrol	April 18, 2023	June 22, 2023	MVA 186 Failing to stop at a stop sign MVA 144(1) (a) Driving without due care and attention	Guilty plea to MVA 186 Failing to stop at a stop sign
2022-251	September 20, 2022	Serious Harm	Vancouver Police Department	July 24, 2023	September 8, 2023	MVA 144(1) (a) Driving without due care and attention MVA 181(a) Failing to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian MVA 146(3) Speeding	Court process in progress
2022-266	October 8, 2022	Serious Harm	Ridge Meadows RCMP	October 5, 2023	October 6, 2023	MVA 144(1) (a) Driving without due care and attention	Court process in progress

DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTIGATIONS BY AGENCY (EXCLUDING ADVICE FILES)

Note: As officers from more than one agency may be involved in an incident subject to IIO investigation, the number of agencies does not necessarily add up to the number of IIO investigations.

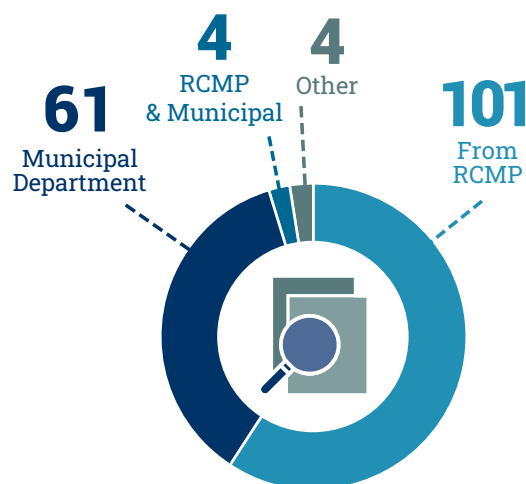
RCMP	District	Freq
Boston Bar Detachment	Lower Mainland	1
Burnaby Detachment	Lower Mainland	3
Campbell River Detachment	Island	3
Chase Detachment	Southeast	1
Chilliwack Detachment	Lower Mainland	3
Comox Valley Detachment	Island	1
Coquitlam Detachment	Lower Mainland	3
Cranbrook Detachment	Southeast	1
Dawson Creek Detachment	North	1
Fort St John Detachment	North	5
Gibsons Detachment	Lower Mainland	1
Golden Detachment	Southeast	1
Grand Forks Detachment	Southeast	2
Hope Detachment	Lower Mainland	2
Kamloops Detachment	Southeast	4
Kelowna Detachment	Southeast	4
Kitimat Detachment	North	2
Langley Detachment	Lower Mainland	6
Lumby Detachment	Southeast	1
Mackenzie Detachment	North	1
Merritt Detachment	Southeast	1
Mission Detachment	Lower Mainland	1
Nanaimo Detachment	Island	5
Nelson Detachment	Southeast	1
New Hazelton Detachment	North	1
North Cowichan/Duncan Detachment	Island	3
North Vancouver Detachment	Lower Mainland	1
Oceanside Detachment	Island	3
Osoyoos Detachment	Southeast	1
Penticton Detachment	Southeast	2
Port Alberni Detachment	Island	1
Prince George Detachment	North	2
Prince Rupert Detachment	North	1
Revelstoke Detachment	Lower Mainland	2
Richmond Detachment	Lower Mainland	2
Ridge Meadows Detachment	Lower Mainland	6
Salmon Arm Detachment	Southeast	1
Sidney/North Saanich Detachment	Island	1
Smithers Detachment	North	1
Sooke Detachment	Island	1
Surrey Detachment	Lower Mainland	7
Terrace Detachment	North	2
Tsay Keh Dene Detachment	North	1
Vanderhoof Detachment	North	2
Vernon Detachment	Southeast	1
West Shore Detachment	Island	1
Whistler Detachment	Lower Mainland	1
Williams Lake Detachment	North	3

TOTAL 101

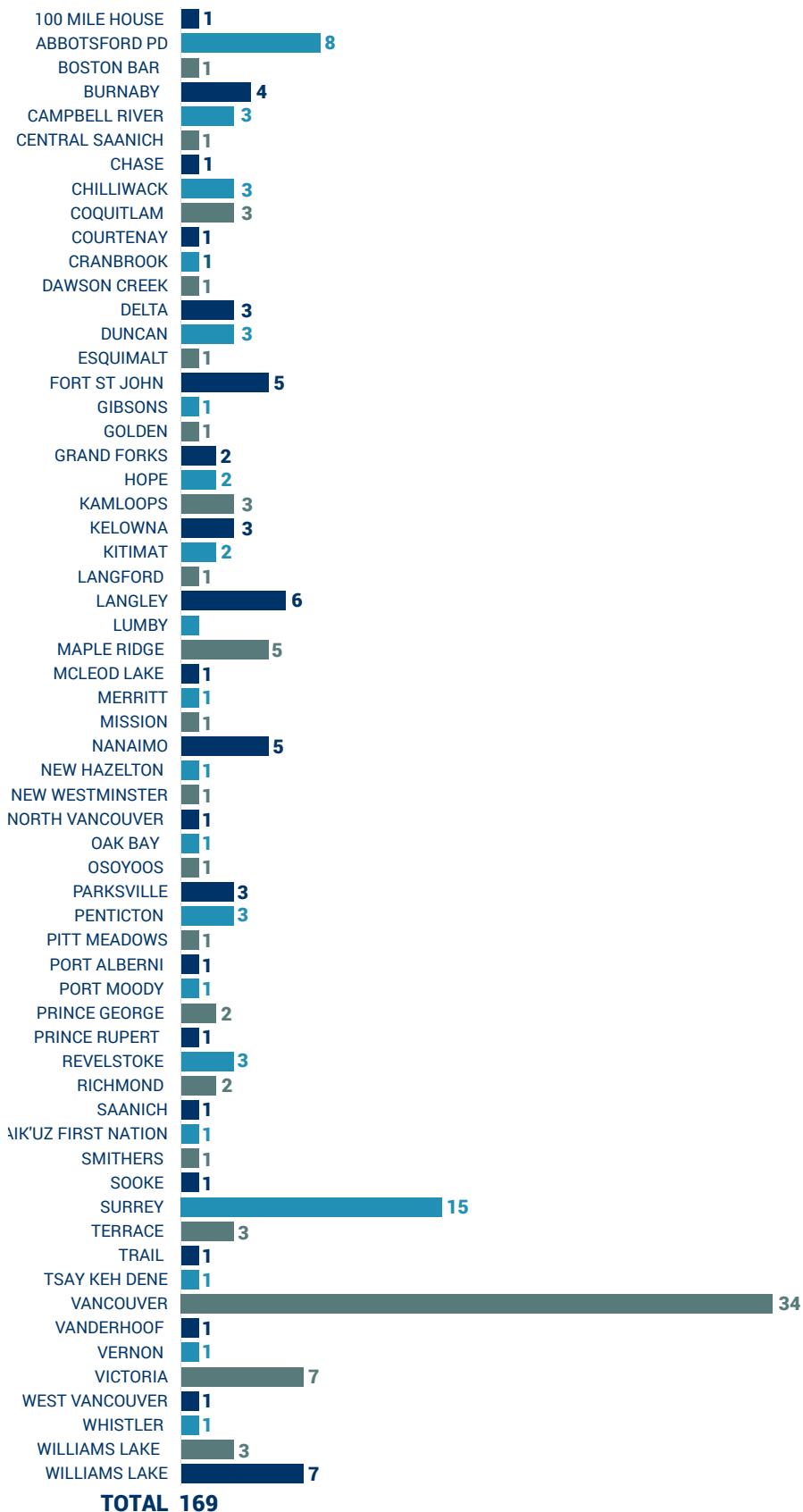
Municipal	District	Freq
Abbotsford Police Department	Lower Mainland	8
Delta Police Department	Lower Mainland	3
New Westminster Police Department	Lower Mainland	2
Port Moody Police Department	Lower Mainland	1
Saanich Police Department	Island	3
Surrey Police Service	Lower Mainland	2
Vancouver Police Department	Lower Mainland	34
Victoria Police Department	Island	7
West Vancouver Police Department	Lower Mainland	1
TOTAL		61

RCMP & Municipal	District	Freq
Surrey RCMP	Lower Mainland	4
Surrey Police Service		
TOTAL		4

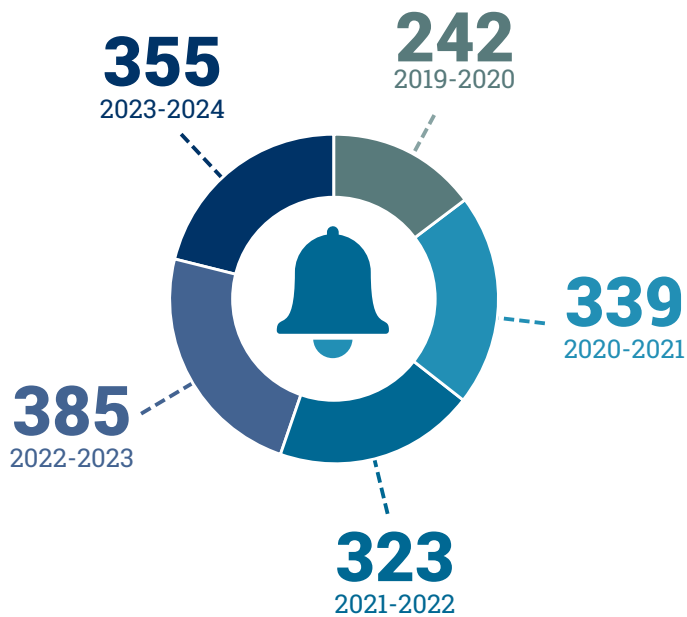
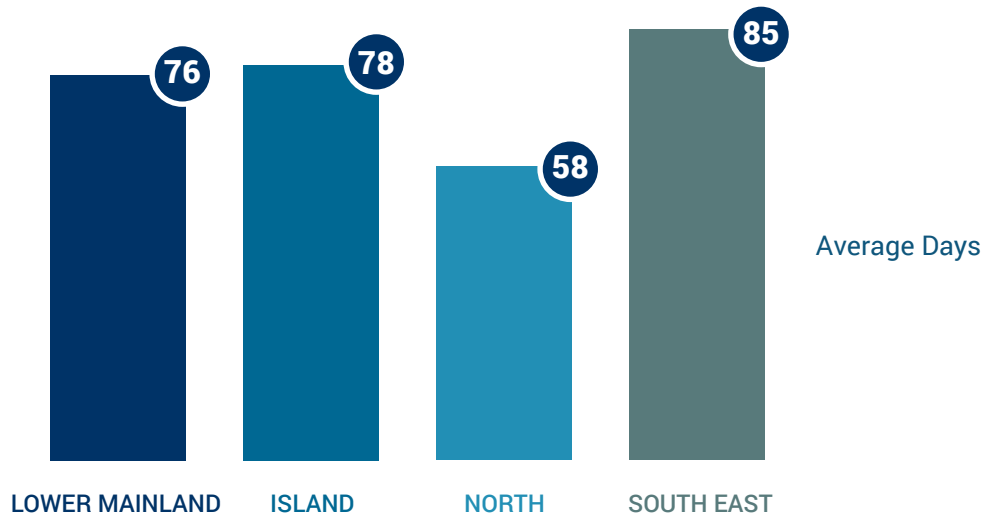
Other	District	Freq
BC Highway Patrol	Lower Mainland	2
Metro Vancouver Transit Police	Lower Mainland	2
TOTAL		4



DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTIGATIONS BY LOCATION



TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS BY YEAR

AVERAGE DAYS TO CONCLUDE AN INVESTIGATION IN FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, BY REGION³⁴

³⁴ This data has been corrected to March 31, 2024 (all investigations that were still open on that date were marked concluded for statistical purposes to portray the most accurate data possible). As those investigations are concluded, the number of days to conclude an investigation will increase.



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