

# THE BLACK EXPERIENCE PROJECT

York Region Report  
August 2018

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Black Experience Project (BEP), led by Environics Institute for Survey Research, aimed to answer the question “What does it mean to be Black in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)?”. In their 2017 GTA Overview Report, the analysis of demographic data and survey responses provided a better understanding of the lives of Black individuals – including 175 York Region residents – living in the GTA.

York Region prides itself on being inclusive and welcoming; a place where people coming from all over the world can thrive. Between 1996 and 2016, the population of individuals in York Region who self-identify as Black grew by 102 per cent. By examining publicly available data on the York Region portion of the GTA BEP study, this report provides insights into key areas like how individuals within this growing population define their Black identity, interact with public institutions and the extent to which they feel connected to the broader community.

## Key Findings

Compared to the GTA, results from the BEP study specific to York Region are positive in many areas:

- A lower proportion of York Region respondents reported negative experiences with institutions compared to those from the GTA
- A smaller share of student respondents from York Region than from the GTA felt being Black has challenges not faced by other students
- A higher proportion of York Region respondents in comparison with GTA respondents rated their health and mental health as excellent, very good or good
- Challenges in finding meaningful employment resulting from racism, bias or discrimination was mentioned by four per cent of York Region respondents compared to 19 per cent of GTA respondents
- More York Region respondents reported having positive interactions with police than GTA respondents
- York Region respondents did, however, report a weaker sense of belonging to their local community than GTA respondents

The results of the York Region BEP project will provide the Regional Municipality of York and York Regional Police with guidance and insight when working on policies and initiatives to foster the health and vibrancy of the Black community within York Region.

For more information, please read the full report: [The Black Experience Project York Region Report](#)

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