



**City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Mayor Michelle Wu**



**Office of Police Accountability and Transparency  
Evandro C. Carvalho, Executive Director**

## **SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT FY2026**

**May 15, 2026**

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### OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT FY2026

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## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### Evandro C. Carvalho Executive Director Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

Reflecting on my first couple of years as Executive Director of the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT), one word comes to mind: **resolve**. Our work so far has been defined by our determination to rebuild OPAT's foundation, restore transparency, and strengthen trust between the people of Boston and the systems responsible for policing oversight. For a detailed account of OPAT's activities under my leadership, please see our

[FY2025 Annual Report](#).

I am proud to release this Semi-Annual Report. Unlike the Annual Report, the Semi-Annual Report will only cover the first two quarters of FY2026, from July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. As required by our Ordinance, this report will substantively include data and analysis of (a) the complaints reviewed and voted on by OPAT's boards, and (b) statistics we receive from the Boston Police Department (BPD). Later this year we will release the Annual Report for FY2026, which will be a more comprehensive and thorough account of OPAT's full operation.

### Our Work in FY26 Q1 and Q2

- **Enforcing accountability:** The Civilian Review Board (CRB) heard 10 cases, sustaining 11 allegations of misconduct—representing 58% of its all-time annual high of 19 in FY25—and issued meaningful commensurate disciplinary recommendations. The Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) reviewed 4 cases, agreeing with BPD Internal Affairs in 3 and disagreeing once.

### What the FY26 Q1 and Q2 Data Shows

The data we collected remind us why our work remains urgent:

- Black Bostonians accounted for 55% of complaints despite making up only 21.5% of the city.
- Black Bostonians represented 49% of FIOEs (field contacts including stops), 45% of arrests and 52% of reported use-of-force incidents, while white Bostonians were significantly underrepresented in these categories.
- Hispanic Bostonians represented 27% of FIOEs and 24% of arrests while being just 19% of the city's population.
- Dorchester, Roxbury, the South End, and Downtown are the neighborhoods with the highest enforcement activity.

Addressing these disparities requires continued transparency and accountability-driven action to ensure our findings translate into meaningful policy changes.

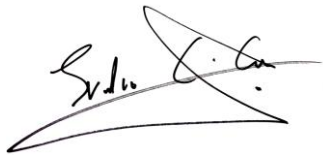


Our achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of our dedicated OPAT staff and board members. I thank each member of our team for their service and dedication to the mission of our office.

This report fulfills OPAT's mandate to provide a semi-annual update on our work and to keep the public informed about our progress.

Thank you for your interest and your continued partnership in this vital work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evandro C. Carvalho". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Evandro C. Carvalho  
Executive Director



## KEY FY2026 Q1 & Q2 DATA AT A GLANCE

**73**

Total complaints received by OPAT

**11**

Sustained findings of misconduct

(58% of OPAT's all-time annual high of 19)

**55%**

Share of complaints filed by Black Bostonians

**45%**

of all Bostonians arrested were Black

**52%**

of Bostonians on whom force was used were Black



*The OPAT Team at its annual Holiday Potluck.*



## OVERSIGHT IN ACTION

**In the first 6 months of FY2026, OPAT's oversight boards advanced the office's mandate to hold the BPD accountable and provide real transparency. Through the work of the Civilian Review Board (CRB) and the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP) the office strengthened its capacity, resolved cases, and engaged BPD and the broader community in essential dialogue about public safety and police reform.**

### Civilian Review Board (CRB)

In Q1 and Q2 of FY2026, the Civilian Review Board (CRB) carried out the following:

- Held 5 public meetings (2 full board and 3 policy subcommittee)
- Heard 10 cases
- Sent a [letter to the BPD Commissioner](#) addressing concerns of BPD non-cooperation and responsiveness

Findings of the 10 cases heard:

- 3 sustained cases, including 11 sustained allegations\*
- 3 not sustained cases
- 1 unfounded case
- 1 case with insufficient evidence to make a finding
- 2 information inquiries
- Recommended 1 day suspensions plus training for 4 officers; oral reprimands for 7

On December 4, 2025, OPAT received a [response from Michael Cox](#), Police Commissioner, to the CRB's September 11 letter. He indicated he had referred the two sustained cases from their September 11 meeting to BPD's Internal Affairs Division "to ensure that any sustained finding and resulting discipline are based on a complete, legally compliant investigative record."

*\* Some complaints include multiple allegations of misconduct, which is why the number of findings exceeds the total number of cases.*



## Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP)

In Q1 and Q2 of FY2026, the IAOP:

- Held 2 meetings
- Sent a [letter to BPD Commissioner Cox](#) requesting the Department begin automatically referring to them the categories of cases defined in ordinance section 12-16.15
- Reviewed 4 cases, which included\*:
  - 3 agreements with the BPD's Internal Affairs Division, involving 5 allegations
  - 1 disagreement with the Internal Affairs Division

*\* Cases may include multiple allegations of misconduct.*



# APPENDIX I

## Boston Police Department Statistics: Stops (FIOEs), Arrests, and Use of Force Incidents

Chapter 12, Section 12-16.16 requires OPAT to publish semi-annual reports on its website, which must include, among other elements, “OPAT’s findings of its reviews and analyses of FIO data and BPD statistics.” This Appendix fulfills that requirement for Quarters 1 and 2 of FY2026.

### Key Findings

- Black Bostonians were vastly overrepresented in arrests, FIOEs (see p. 8 for full definitions), and use-of-force incidents.
- Hispanic Bostonians were disproportionately represented in arrests and FIOEs.
- White Bostonians were significantly underrepresented across these same measures.
- The neighborhoods with the highest levels of BPD activity (arrests and FIOEs) were Dorchester, Roxbury, the South End, Downtown, Jamaica Plain, and Mattapan.

In Q1 and Q2 of FY2026, Black Bostonians:

- Accounted for **45% of arrests**—more than double their share of the population (21.5%).
  - By contrast, White Bostonians accounted for **29% of arrests**, about 40% below their 48% share of the population.
- Represented **35% of FIOEs**, 63% higher than their share of the population.
  - White Bostonians accounted for **15% of FIOEs**, less than one third their share of the population.
- Were the subject of **52% of reported use-of-force incidents**, over 140% of their population share.
  - White Bostonians accounted for **28% of use-of-force incidents**, 58% their population share.

A more detailed breakdown of BPD arrests, FIOEs, and use-of-force incidents for Q1 and Q2 of FY2026 can be found in the sections below.

### I. Field Interactions (Stops) / Observations / Encounters (FIOEs)

According to [BPD Rule 323, Section 2](#), FIOEs are: A mechanism to allow the Department to document and accumulate up-to-date information concerning known criminals and their associates, the clothing they may be wearing, the vehicles they use, the places they frequent, and persons suspected of unlawful design. For all field interactions (stops) and/or frisks, the FIOE Report must state the basis for the stop, including supporting information used to establish



reasonable suspicion (see definition below). The FIOE Report for observations and/or encounters must state the intelligence purpose for the action. An individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation/identity, socio-economic status, religion, and/or age shall never serve as the basis for a field interaction/stop, frisk, observation or encounter.

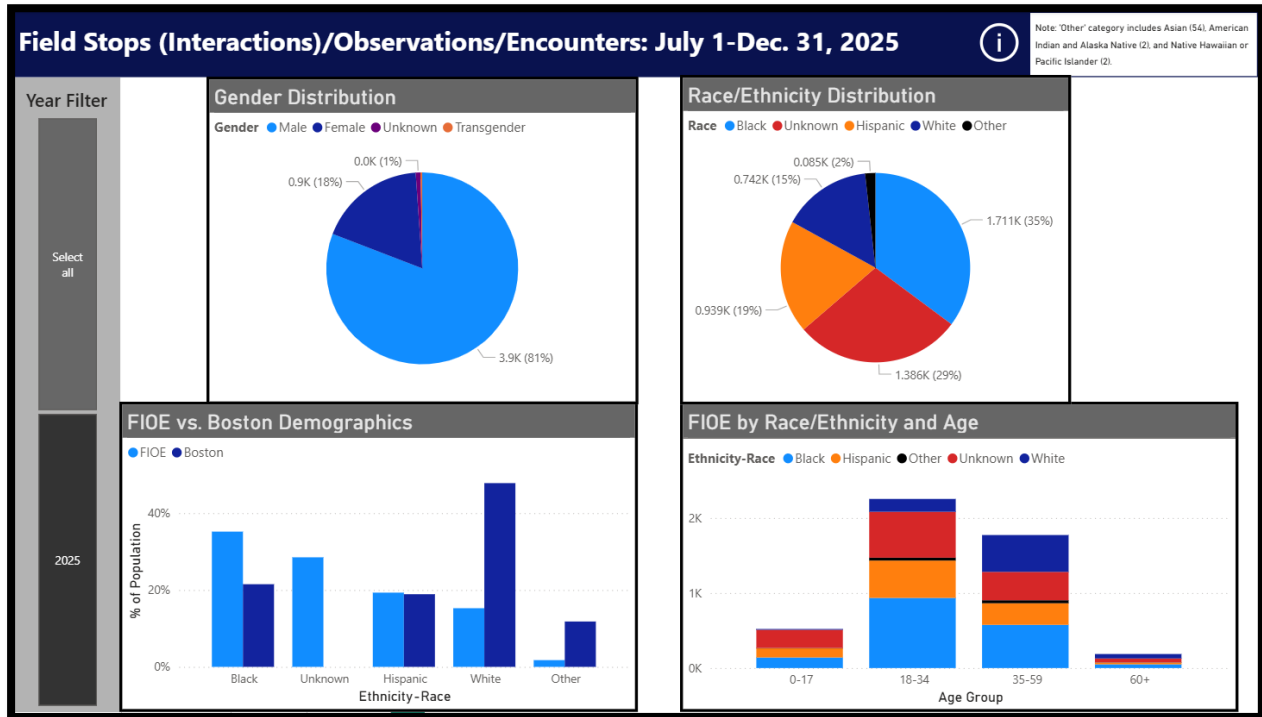
### Key Definitions (BPD Rule 323)

- **Encounter (Sec. 3.1):** Encounter is defined as a consensual interaction with an individual that does not escalate into a formal stop and/or frisk. If you encounter an individual with the purpose of gathering intelligence, you must document the interaction.
- **Reasonable Suspicion (Sec. 3.7):** Reasonable Suspicion exists when an officer, based on specific and articulable facts, and the rational inference from those facts, believes that an individual has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a criminal offense.
- **Field Interaction/Stop (Sec. 3.2):** Field Interaction/Stop is defined as the brief detainment of an individual, whether on foot or in a vehicle, based on reasonable suspicion for the purposes of determining the individual's identity and resolving the officer's suspicions.
- **Intelligence (Sec. 3.4):** Intelligence consists of stored information on activities, associations of individuals, organizations, businesses, and/or groups who are either (1) suspected of actual or attempted planning, organizing, financing, or commission of criminal acts or are (2) suspected of being associated with criminal activity with known or suspected criminals.
- **Observation (Sec. 3.5):** Observation is defined as a direct viewing of an individual by an officer that does not include actual contact with the individual. Reasonable suspicion is not required to conduct an observation of an individual; however, the purpose of documenting the observation must be to gather intelligence in order to justify documenting the observation.



## FY2026 Q1 and Q2 FIOEs

From July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, the BPD conducted **4,863 FIOEs**. [Disparities observed in prior years](#) persisted. The below data includes the 1,386 FIOEs (29% of the total) for which the individual's race/ethnicity was not recorded.



- **Black Bostonians** accounted for **35% of all FIOEs**, despite comprising only 21.5% of the city's population—**63% above their population share**.
- **White Bostonians** accounted for **15% of FIOEs**, despite comprising nearly half (48%) of the population—**less than one third their population share**.



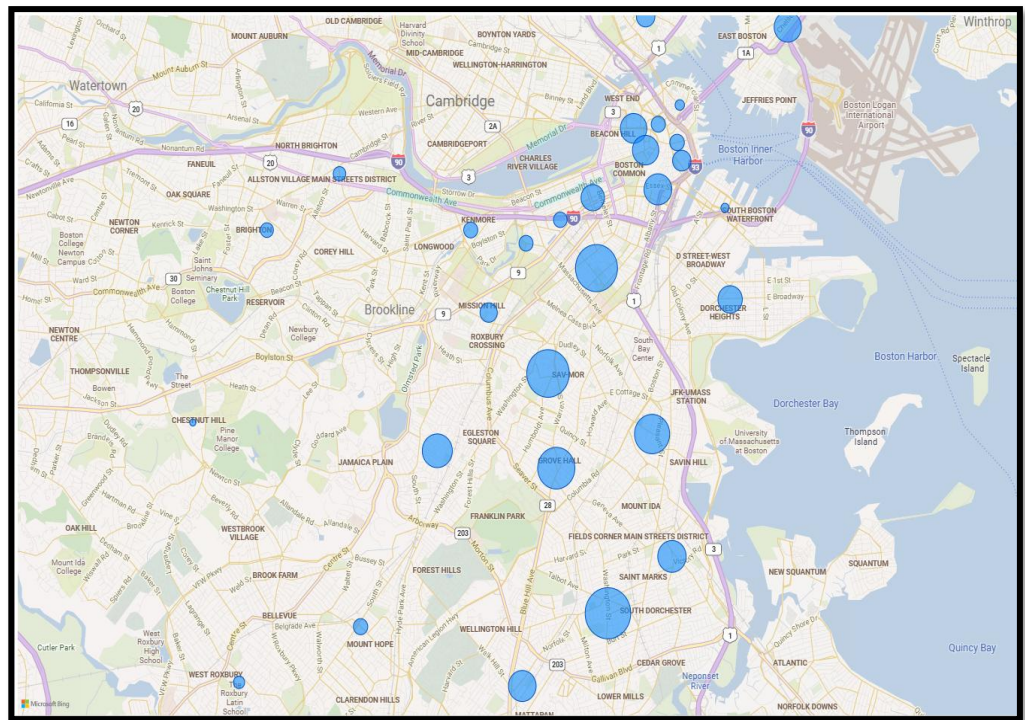
## Geography of FIOEs

In Q1 and Q2 of FY2026, consistent with [historical trends](#), Bostonians were stopped, observed, and engaged most frequently in specific neighborhoods, as shown in the map and numbers below.

### Geographic Distribution

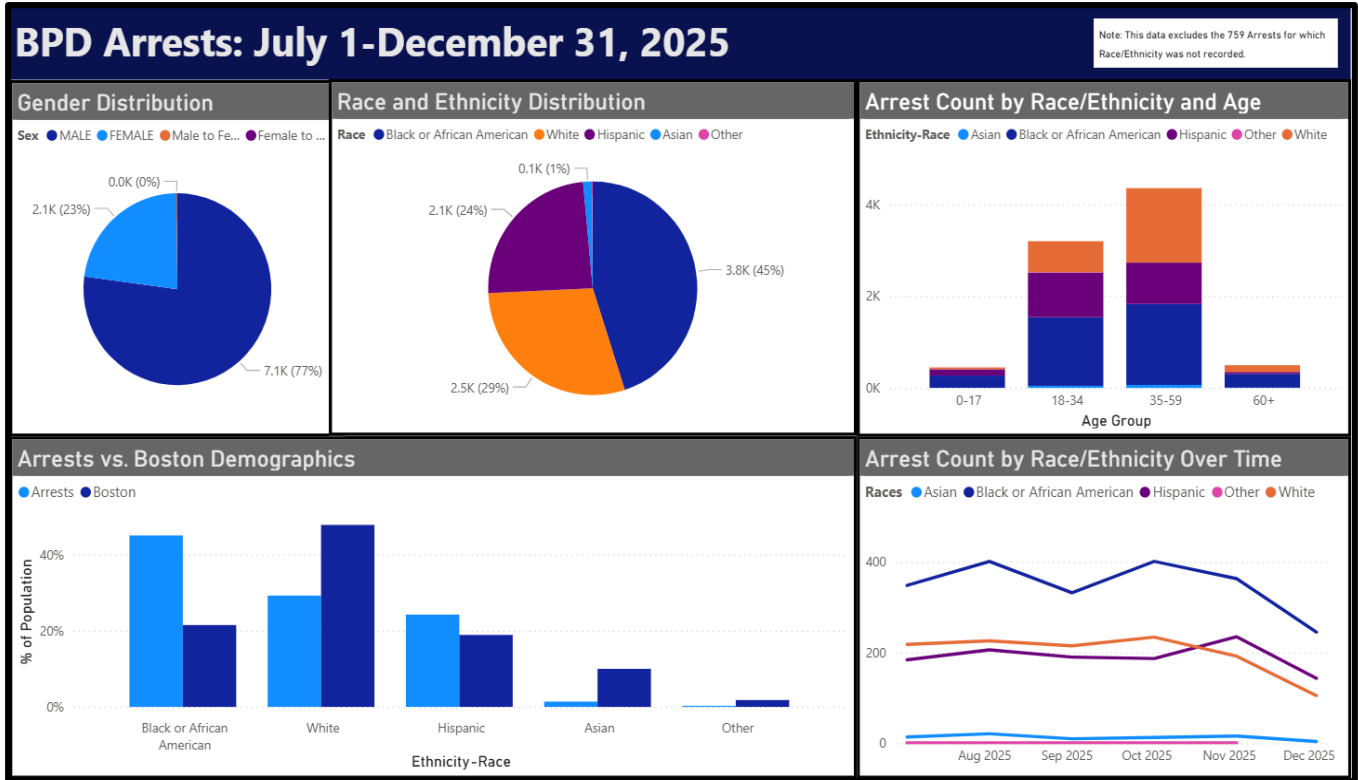
Of the 4,800+ FIOEs conducted in the first half of FY2026, the zip codes with the highest activity were:

1. **02124 - Dorchester:** 656 FIOEs
2. **02119 - Roxbury:** 560 FIOEs
3. **02118 - South End:** 547 FIOEs
4. **02121 - Dorchester:** 414 FIOEs
5. **02125 - Dorchester:** 364 FIOEs
6. **02130 - Jamaica Plain:** 253 FIOEs



## II. Arrests

From July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, the BPD reported **9,255 arrests**. [Historical disparities in arrest patterns](#) persisted. This data excludes arrests where race/ethnicity was not recorded.



### Arrest Trends – FY2026 Q1 and Q2

- **Black Bostonians** accounted for **45% of FY2025 arrests**, more than double their share of the city's population (21.5%).
- **White Bostonians** accounted for **29% of arrests**, roughly 60% of their 48% share of the population.
- **Hispanic Bostonians** accounted for **24% of arrests**, 26% higher than their 19% share of the population.

The neighborhoods with the highest number of arrests were:

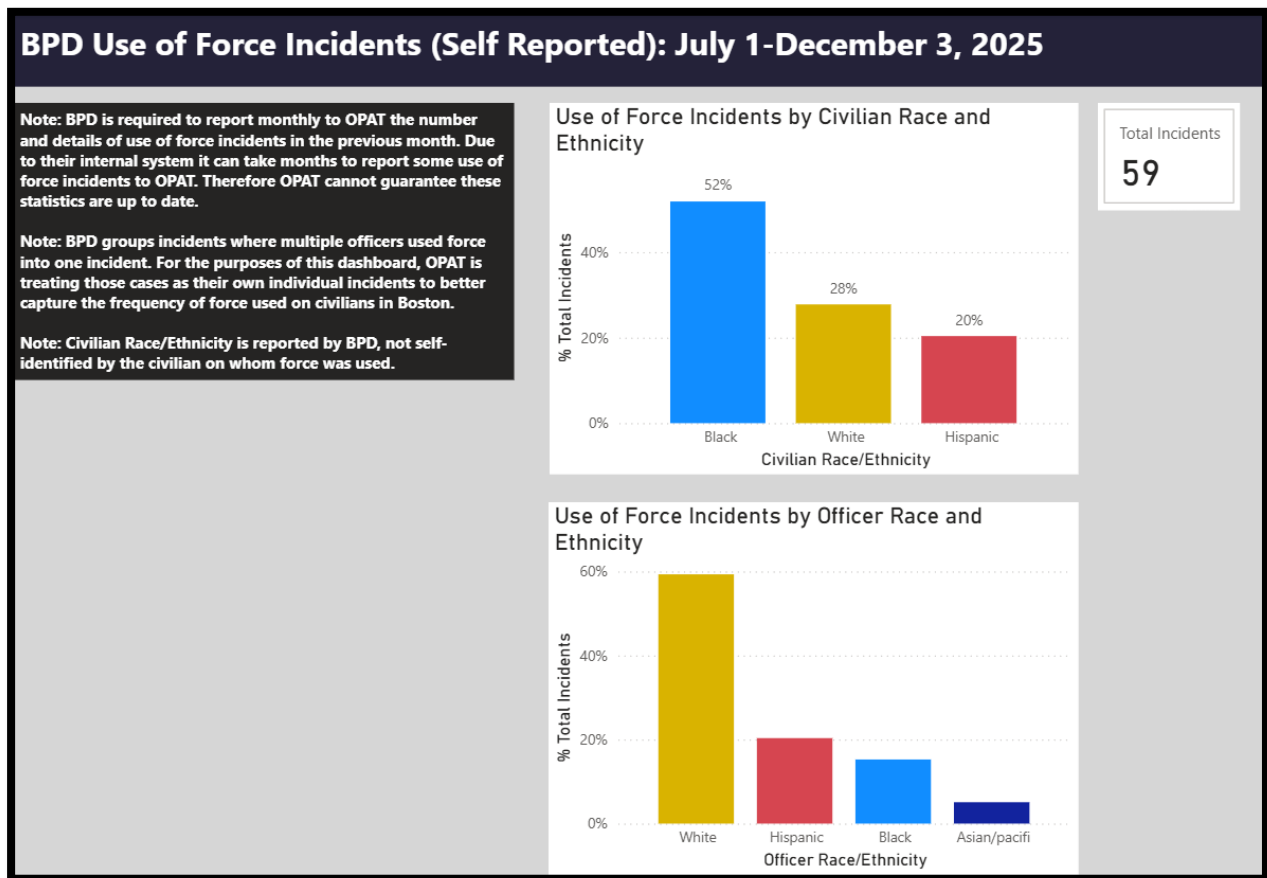
1. **Dorchester:** 1,254
2. **Downtown:** 762
3. **Roxbury:** 699
4. **Mattapan:** 201
5. **South Boston:** 198



### III. Use of Force

From July 1, 2025, to December 3, 2025, BPD self-reported **59 incidents\*** in which officers used force on civilians. Consistent with the [trends we have historically seen](#):

- **Black Bostonians** accounted for **52% of use-of-force incidents**, nearly 155% of their population share (21.5%).
- **White Bostonians** accounted for **23% of use-of-force incidents**, less than half of their 48% population share.



*\* BPD is required to report monthly to OPAT the number and details of use of force incidents in the previous month. Due to their internal system it can take months to report some use of force incidents to OPAT. Therefore, OPAT cannot guarantee these statistics are up to date.*

