

# Independent Police Review

## Annual Report 2015



**Mary Hull Caballero**

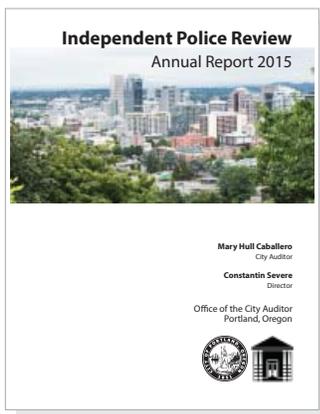
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# Independent Police Review

## Highlights from 2015:

### City makes progress on accountability requirements in legal agreement

The City Auditor's Independent Police Review (IPR) has undergone considerable change in the past five years. In 2010, City Council increased its authority by enabling IPR to open investigations on its own initiative, challenge the findings and disciplinary recommendations by Police Bureau managers, and monitor investigations into police shootings and deaths of people in custody. Subsequent code

changes in 2013 combined with additional investigation resources allowed IPR to begin realizing its potential for meaningful civilian oversight.

The City of Portland's settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice continued to define the evolution of the police accountability system in 2015. The agreement, combined with the prior code amendments, changed the oversight model from one in which IPR took complaints and monitored their investigation by the Police Bureau's Internal Affairs to one in which IPR conducts more of its own investigations. The agreement also required that misconduct investigations be completed within six months after a complaint is filed. In response, IPR streamlined operations, and the Auditor sought

budget resources in 2015 to hire more staff to increase IPR's capacity for quicker and more comprehensive investigations. The effect of these changes should become apparent in 2016.

	2015 Result	Trend from 2014
Misconduct complaints from community members	<b>388</b>	↗
Misconduct complaints from Police Bureau employees	<b>28</b>	↘
Incidents in which officers fired their weapons	<b>6</b>	↗
Appeals heard by the Citizen Review Committee	<b>4</b>	→
Days to complete intake and investigation (median)	<b>145</b>	↘

IPR made progress in 2015 by launching 11 independent investigations, the most in its history. IPR also reduced the percentage of complaints it dismissed after a preliminary assessment, from 76 percent in 2014 to 67 percent. IPR expects continued improvement for both of these indicators with the addition of two investigators in 2016.

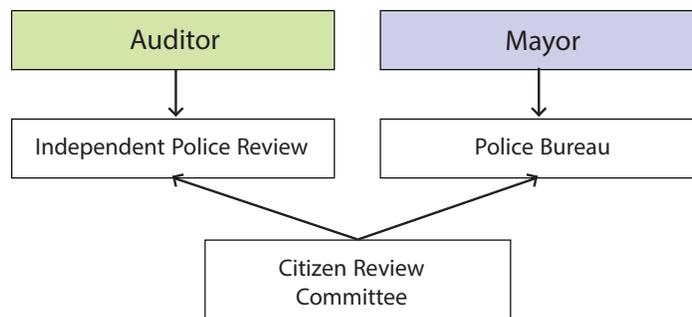
Community outreach continued to be a highlight in 2015. It has been an important part of IPR since it moved into the Auditor's Office in 2001. Staff emphasized raising awareness of IPR's role as the intake point for police misconduct complaints and commendations, focusing on youth, immigrant and communities of color, and those new to Portland. IPR sponsored or participated in several events last year.

This report provides an overview of the people and processes involved in Portland's police accountability system, data trends, and selected summaries to illustrate the types of complaints received in 2015.

**Several entities play roles in Portland's police accountability system**

With a few exceptions, the accountability system is set in motion when a community member or Police Bureau employee files a complaint alleging misconduct by an officer. Portland's complaint investigation model divides various duties between the City Auditor, who as an elected official is independent from the Police Bureau, and the Police Commissioner, a role commonly filled by the Mayor.

**Figure 1 Elected officials are responsible for separate functions within the system**



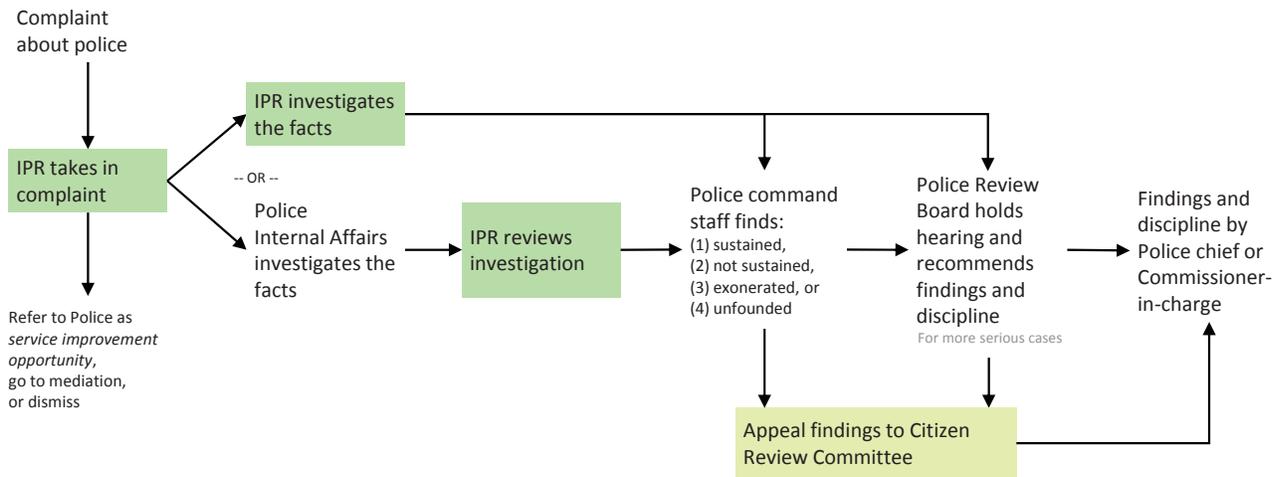
The City Auditor oversees Independent Police Review (IPR), which acts as the central intake point for complaints, investigates some of them, and monitors those investigated internally by the Police Bureau. Once an investigation is complete, the case file is submitted

to the officer's supervisor, who often carries the rank of commander. It is the job of the officer's commander or other high-ranking supervisor to decide if the evidence gathered during an investigation supports the allegations in the complaint. Commanders must document their conclusions as findings.

Once commanders have issued their written findings, the process may move in two directions. If the evidence supports the allegation and the discipline faced by the officer includes the potential for loss of pay, the commander's findings are reviewed by the Police Review Board. While internal to the Police Bureau, the Review Board is made up of police personnel, community members, and an IPR manager. Its role is to assess the validity of a commander's findings, and, if warranted, recommend the appropriate level of discipline to the Chief of Police.

The other direction a case can go is to the Citizen Review Committee, an 11-member volunteer body that hears appeals of the commander's findings if the community member who filed the complaint or the police officer disagree with them. The Committee considers the quality of the investigation and assesses the reasonableness of the commander's

**Figure 2: A misconduct complaint moves through several stages of review**



Several entities have responsibilities for police oversight in Portland  
**Legend:**

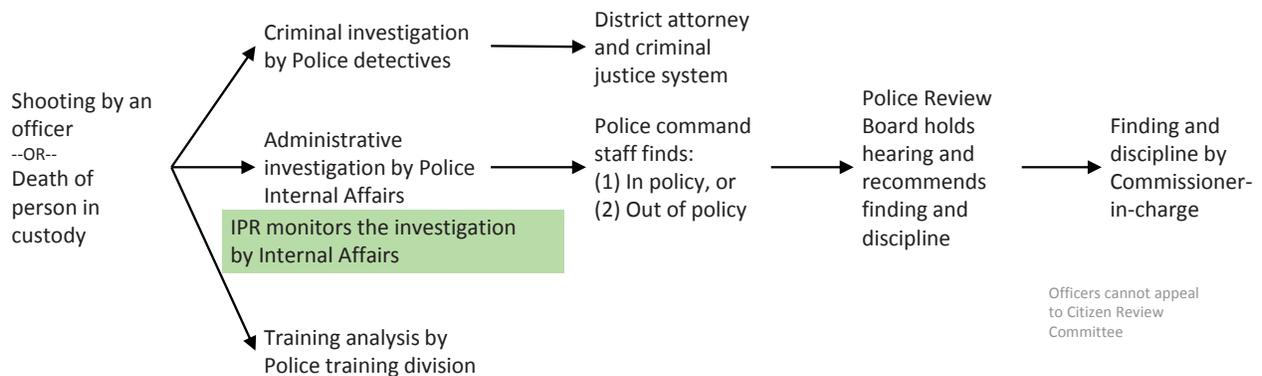
Independent Police Review (IPR)	Portland Police Bureau (PPB)
Citizen Review Committee (CRC)	Police Review Board (PRB)
↳ 11 community volunteers appointed by the City Council; administrative support by IPR	↳ a body of police employees, community members, 1 IPR manager, and 1 CRC member, acting as advisory body to the Police Chief

findings. It communicates its conclusions to the Chief of Police to be considered in his final decision whether to uphold the commander's findings. Unlike the Police Review Board, the all-civilian Citizen Review Committee does not make recommendations to the Chief about discipline. The Chief's final decision must be approved by the Commissioner-in-Charge of the Police Bureau.

Exceptions to the process in Figure 2 are cases in which a person dies in police custody or when officers fire their weapons, also known as officer-involved shootings. These cases undergo both criminal and administrative investigations by divisions internal to the Police Bureau. An analysis by the Training Division is also conducted. IPR monitors the administrative investigations conducted by Internal Affairs. The Citizen Review Committee is not authorized to hear appeals related to findings in these types of incidents.

There were six officer-involved shootings in 2015. Figure 3 describes the process for these types of cases.

**Figure 3: Shootings by officers and deaths in police custody follow a different process**

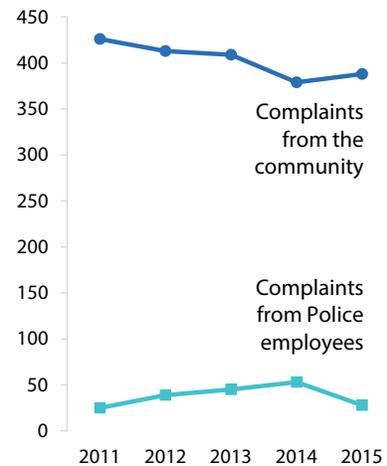


## By the numbers

### Complaints filed by Police Bureau employees fell while those from community members increased

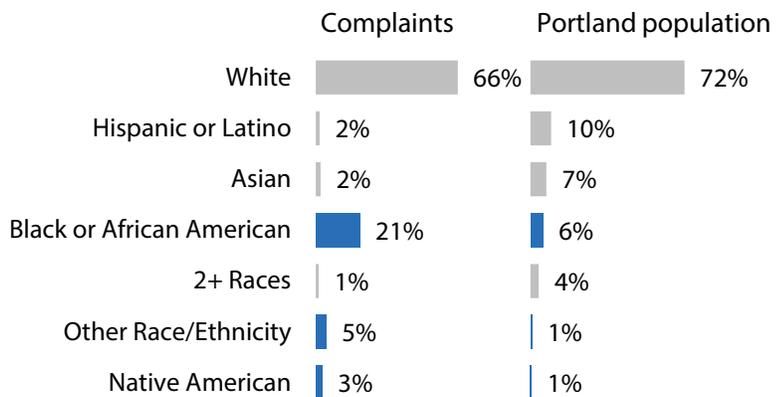
Community members and Portland Police Bureau employees filed 416 reports of officer misconduct in 2015.

Community members filed 388 reports. The five-year average between 2011 and 2015 was 403. Police Bureau employees filed 28 complaints of misconduct against officers, lower than the five-year average of 38.



African Americans filed 21 percent of community complaints, while only comprising 6 percent of Portland's population. Those who identify as another race or ethnicity and Native Americans also had a higher proportion of complaints than their percentage of the population. Whites, Hispanics, and Asians filed complaints at a rate lower than their presence in the general population. This has been a consistent pattern.

**Figure 4 African Americans filed more complaints than their proportion to the Portland population would indicate**

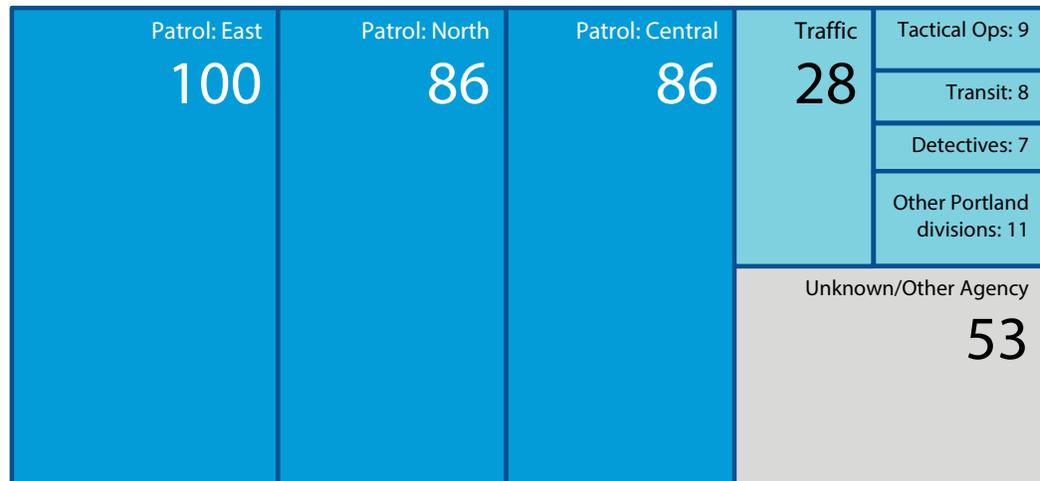


More men than women filed complaints in 2015, which is consistent with historical data.

**53%**  
of complainants were  
**men**

Most complaints filed by community members stemmed from encounters with officers assigned to one of the Police Bureau’s three patrol precincts (70 percent). The Traffic Division was the source of the most complaints (7 percent) not associated with a particular precinct.

**Figure 4 Most complaints were about patrol and traffic officers**

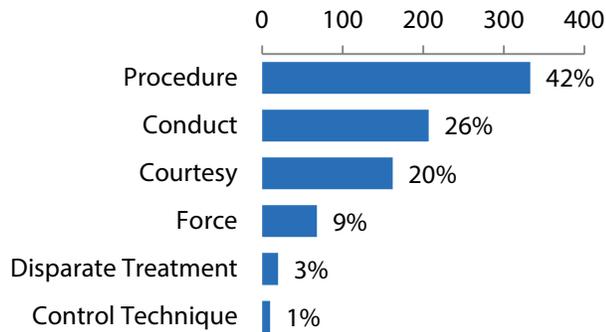


A complaint can involve more than one allegation of misconduct. The 388 community member complaints contained 800 allegations. Figure 5 defines the types of allegations that are filed. Figure 6 shows the percentages for each complaint type received in 2015.

**Figure 5 Allegation categories defined**

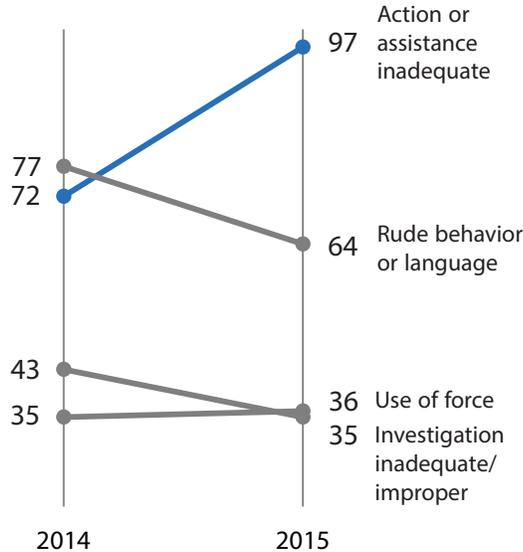
Procedure	Conduct	Courtesy	Use of force	Disparate Treatment	Control Technique
Failure to follow an administrative or procedural requirement	Unjustified, unprofessional, or inappropriate actions, or unsatisfactory performance	Discourteous or rude statements or conduct	Inappropriate use of physical force or pointing a firearm at a person	Inappropriate action or statement based on a characteristic of a person such as race, sex, age, or disability	Inappropriate use of a hold or other technique to control a person's movement

**Figure 6 Most allegations from community members involve procedural violations**



In the procedure category, Figure 7 shows a sharp increase in the number of allegations that officers took inadequate action or failed to provide assistance. In other categories, there were fewer rudeness and use-of-force allegations.

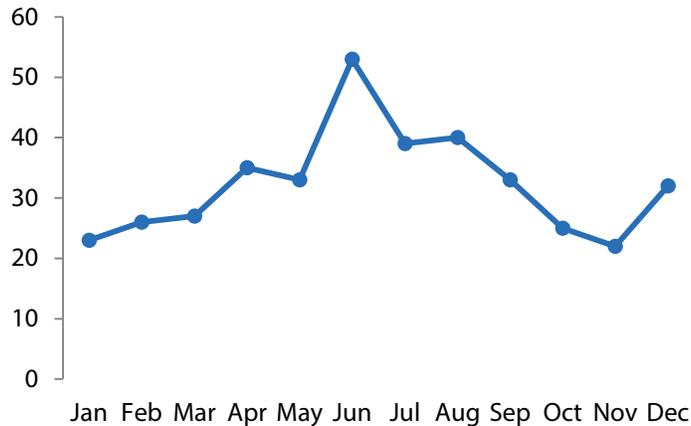
**Figure 7 Allegations of inadequate action or assistance jumped**



As with the community complaints, police employees' most common allegations involved procedural violations. More than half (52 percent) of the 28 complaints involved allegations of procedural violations and 40 percent involved conduct issues, such as using demeaning or defamatory language.

Historically, the number of complaints peaked in the summer months and fell during the winter months. In 2015, complaints followed this pattern but also ticked up in December.

**Figure 8 Complaints peaked in June and ticked up in December**



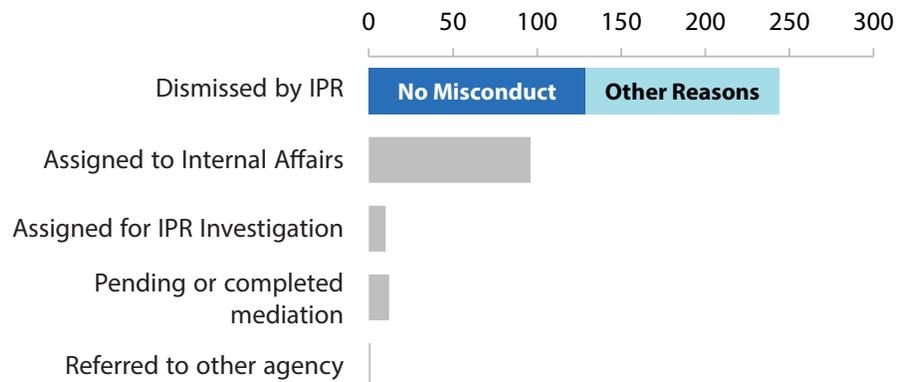
**IPR investigates more cases and has a lower dismissal rate**

The settlement agreement between the City and the U.S. Department of Justice requires IPR to have the ability to conduct more investigations of its own. Prior to 2013, IPR had not conducted an independent investigation, primarily because with 2.5 investigators, it did not have the staff capacity to do so while meeting its responsibilities to process complaints at the intake stage. The City has provided additional budget resources, which will enable IPR to increase the number of investigators on its staff to seven in 2016.

In 2015, IPR retained 11 cases for its investigation, the most in its history. Ten of those cases involved complaints by community members.

IPR is the central intake point for police misconduct complaints. IPR completed intake assessments of 363 community complaints in 2015. Of those, IPR decided 244 (67 percent) of them were not eligible for further investigation, a lower dismissal rate than in 2014 (76 percent). Seventy-five of the complaints that IPR decided did not warrant a formal investigation were subsequently brought to the attention of precinct commanders for follow-up. Figure 9 shows how cases were distributed by IPR.

**Figure 9 IPR dismissed many cases because the conduct alleged did not violate Police Bureau policy**



More than half of IPR’s dismissals (53 percent) occurred because the conduct as alleged did not violate Police Bureau policy. Other dismissal reasons included: unable to identify the officer based on the information provided by the complainant, the complainant withdrew or was unavailable for follow-up, or a significant time lapse between the incident as alleged and the filing of the complaint.

IPR referred 26 percent of community member complaints (96) to Internal Affairs, a higher rate than the past two years. In four cases, IPR requested Internal Affairs to conduct an investigation after Internal Affairs had initially declined to do so. IPR monitors all Internal Affairs investigations and approves the investigative report when it is satisfied that it was conducted appropriately. IPR’s approval is required before a case is forwarded on to the disciplinary phase.

**Police Bureau supervisors sustain fewer allegations made by community members than those made by police employees**

Police Bureau supervisors can reach one of four conclusions when considering if the evidence gathered by IPR or Internal Affairs supports an allegation. They can:

- Sustain the allegation as a violation of Bureau policy or procedure;
- Not sustain the allegation, because the evidence was insufficient to prove it;
- Exonerate the officer’s actions, because they were lawful and within Bureau policy;

- Find the allegation to be unfounded, because it was false or without a credible basis as a possible violation of Bureau policy or procedures.

IPR and Internal Affairs completed 62 full administrative investigations into community member complaints in 2015, double the number in each of the previous two years. Based on those investigations, Police Bureau supervisors sustained one or more allegations in only 11 cases (18 percent). That is the lowest proportion of complaints without a sustained allegation since IPR began tracking such data in 2002. Police Bureau supervisors sustained at least one allegation in 66 percent of community member complaints in 2014.

**18%** of **community** complainants had a sustained finding

**Figure 10 Most investigations do not lead to sustained findings**



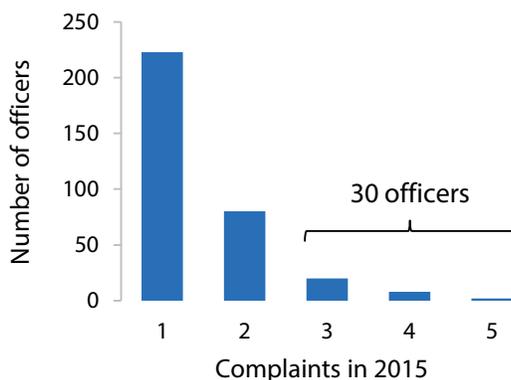
IPR and Internal Affairs completed 22 investigations of Police Bureau employee complaints against their co-workers in 2015. Most (68 percent) had one or more allegations that were sustained, which is lower than in recent years. The investigations into complaints filed by Police Bureau employees contained 48 allegations, 56 percent of which were sustained.

**68%** of **police** employee complaints had a sustained finding

### Thirty officers named in three or more complaints

IPR and the Police Bureau track complaints against individual officers. Multiple reported incidents may cause supervisors to intervene with officers whether or not allegations are sustained. Most officers who were the subject of complaints received one. Some officers were the subject of more than one complaint during the year. Two officers received five complaints in 2015. Figure 11 shows the number of officers by the frequency of complaints.

**Figure 11** Thirty officers were named in three or more complaints



### Police Review Board sustains 79 percent of complaints

Cases that involve moderate-to-serious discipline, officer-involved shootings, deaths of people in police custody, or use-of-force that causes serious injury are presented to the Police Review Board before they advance to the Police Chief for his review. The Review Board, which is internal to the Police Bureau, is made up of police personnel, an IPR manager, and community volunteers, including a member of the Citizen Review Committee in use of force cases.

The Review Board considered 19 complaints last year, 79 percent of which had one or more allegations that were sustained. Of the six deadly force incidents reviewed, all were found to be within policy. IPR can dispute a Police Bureau supervisor's findings and cause the case to be heard by the Review Board. IPR referred five cases for review when it disagreed with supervisors who did not sustain allegations. For more information about cases considered by the Police Review Board, reports are available at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/55365>.

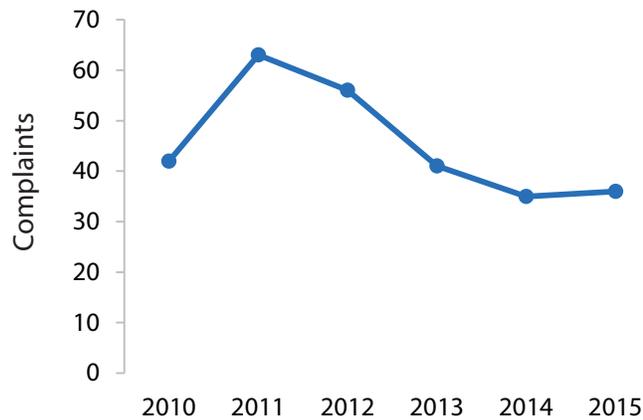
**Complaints of inappropriate force decreased over time, but more are investigated**

The City’s settlement agreement with the U. S. Department of Justice, which went into effect in August 2014, called for the Police Bureau to improve its policies, data collection, and investigations into encounters that involve physical force by officers. Figure 12 shows that complaints about force have decreased since 2011.

Before the settlement agreement, cases involving physical force by an officer could be dismissed by IPR or declined for investigation by Internal Affairs. Since the agreement, cases involving force can only be dismissed by IPR if there is “clear and convincing” evidence that no Police Bureau policies were violated. This change is reflected in the case-handling data.

There were 22 force complaints reported between January 1, 2014, and August 5, 2014, the month the settlement agreement went into effect. Almost all (90 percent) were dismissed by IPR or declined by Internal Affairs during that period. For the remainder of 2014 and all of 2015, only eight of 49 force complaints (16 percent) reported were dismissed or declined for further investigation.

**Figure 12 Complaints about physical force have decreased since 2011**



**Citizen Review Committee challenges Bureau findings**

Once a decision has been made within the Police Bureau whether an officer’s conduct violated policy, either the officer or the community member who filed the complaint may appeal the finding to the 11-member volunteer Citizen Review Committee. The Committee does not have jurisdiction over some types of cases. It does not hear

appeals of decisions stemming from complaints filed by Police Bureau members, officer-involved shootings, or deaths of people while in police custody. The Committee heard four appeals in 2015. It challenged findings in three cases and sent a fourth case back for additional investigation.

**Some officers lost pay or their job for their misconduct**

Twenty-eight police officers were disciplined last year, down from 41 in 2014. The mildest types of discipline include counseling by a commander or a letter of reprimand. More serious types include a demotion or termination of employment. Some officers resign while an allegation of misconduct is being investigated.

**Figure 13 Twenty-eight police officers were disciplined in 2015**

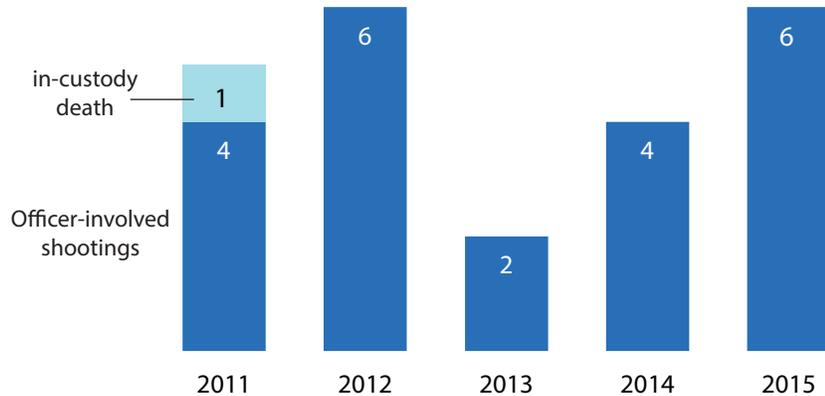


**IPR monitors investigations of officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths**

Cases involving shootings by officers or in-custody deaths are subject to mandatory review by Internal Affairs, the Detective Division, and the Training Division. IPR's role in these cases is to monitor the investigations by responding to the scene of an incident, participating in briefings, and sitting in on interviews of officers and witnesses. Neither officers nor community members have the option to appeal recommended findings or discipline in these types of cases to the Citizen Review Committee.

Six officers fired their weapons at people in 2015, resulting in three fatalities. All of the six people fired at were white. Since 2011, 17 of 22 people fired at by Portland officers were white, three were African-American, and two were Hispanic. The only death in police custody since 2011 involved an African-American man.

**Figure 14 Six officers fired their weapons at people in 2015**



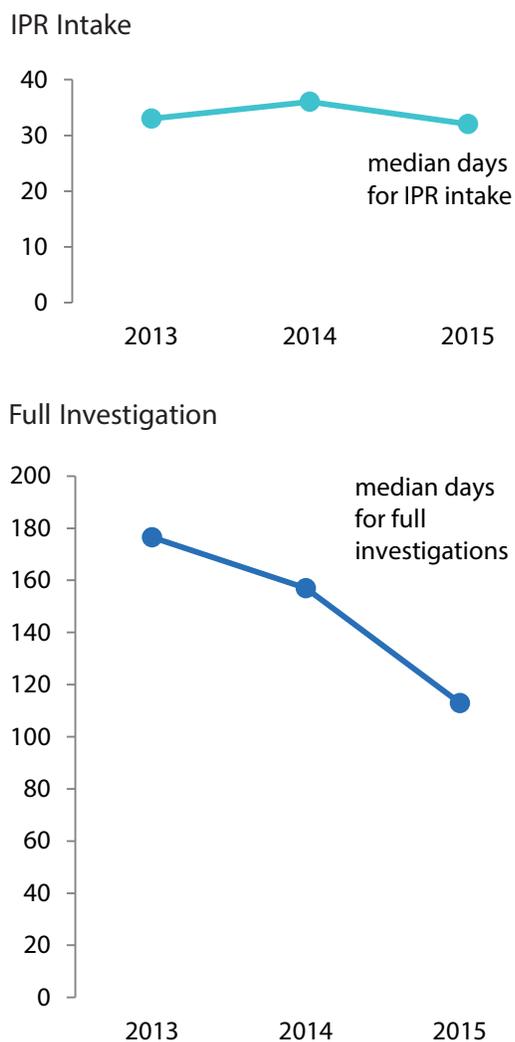
In at least 11 of the shootings since 2011, the individuals fired at were thought to be experiencing mental illness. In recent years, the Police Bureau has made revisions to its use-of-force policy and related training to try to defuse crisis situations with the least amount of force necessary. Additionally, the Police Bureau expanded resources available to individuals experiencing mental illness, such as the creation of the Behavioral Health Resource Unit.

More information about police shootings in Portland can be found in reports produced by outside experts on contract to the Auditor’s Office: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/ipr/54263>

**Progress made toward shorter timelines**

IPR uses two indicators to monitor timeline trends: 1) the median number of days from the date a complaint is filed until an IPR manager makes an initial case handling decision, and 2) the median number of days the investigative process takes from when a case is sent from IPR to Internal Affairs to the day IPR receives the notice from Internal Affairs that the investigation is completed with findings attached.

**Figure 15 Investigations and IPR intake are faster**



The median number of days it takes to complete an intake decreased from 36 days in 2014 to 32 days in 2015. IPR’s goal is to conduct an intake in 21 days. In order to better meet its intake performance measure, IPR has moved to simplify its intake process with a goal of using the time savings so more cases are subject to administrative investigation and service improvement opportunities. In a step that will help facilitate quicker intakes in the future, City Council approved IPR’s request for two additional investigators in 2016.

The median number of days for how long it took the investigative process from when a case was referred to Internal Affairs for investigation until IPR received completed findings decreased from more

than 175 in 2013 to less than 115 two years later. There has been an improvement in the time that it takes Police Bureau supervisors to complete written findings, going from a median 17.5 days in 2014 to 10 days in 2015. Additionally, Police Review Boards are being scheduled and held in a more timely manner compared to recent years, going from a median of 66 days in 2013 to 42 days in 2015.

**Distinguishing IPR's  
police oversight role  
through targeted  
outreach**

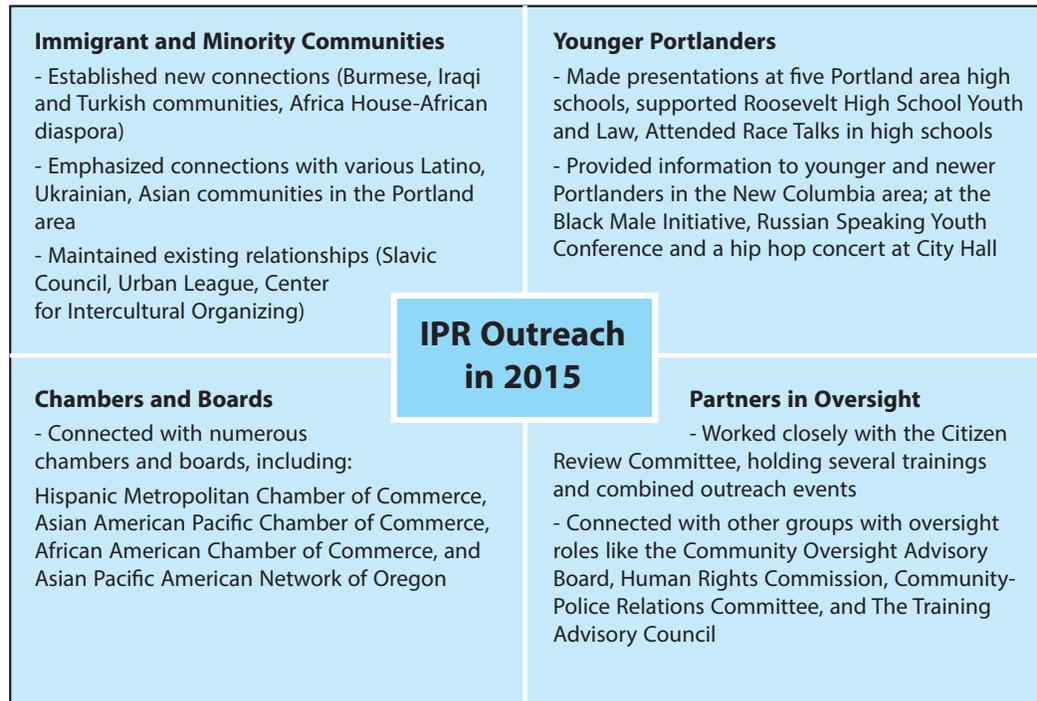
IPR's connection to the community continues to grow by building partnerships with many community organizations. To distinguish IPR from other organizations engaged in police oversight, IPR held four information sessions in various locations around the city, including Asian Family Services, Charles Jordan Community Center, the Q Center, and downtown at the Portland Building. The IPR Community Outreach Coordinator connected with the many advisory boards and commissions to help them understand the commendation and complaint process, how IPR differs from other groups engaged in police oversight, and where there are similarities and opportunities for partnerships.

To provide transit riders with information about the commendation and complaint process, IPR ran ads inside TriMet buses and MAX trains. The ads were in three languages: English, Russian, and Spanish. They were intended to reach a diverse audience with an emphasis on youth. IPR published brochures in six new languages: Ukrainian, Romanian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Japanese, and Somali. It now distributes brochures in 11 languages at 19 Multnomah County locations where communities gather.

Two interns from Portland State University worked at IPR in 2015. Much of their work centered on outreach to local high schools to raise awareness of IPR and learn from students about their experiences with police. Many students shared their stories, engaged in surveys, and informed IPR on more effective ways to reach their peers. IPR participated in a Roosevelt High School youth dialogue and edited a law book, attended a hip hop concert at City Hall, and participated in youth conferences.

IPR continued making connections with advocates working with houseless communities. IPR staff made presentations, attended fairs, and developed and maintained relationships with community leaders. IPR staff attended chambers of commerce meetings and met with leaders of new immigrants from Burma and Iraq. Through more than six years of regular connections with immigrant, youth, and community members living with mental health issues, IPR has established some trust, but much outreach is still needed.

**Figure 16 Community Engagement**





# Selected Case Summaries

## (from 2015)

**Investigated cases** Cases can be investigated by either IPR or Internal Affairs. A total of 84 complaints resulted in full investigations in 2015.

**Retaliation or  
Education?  
(2015-C-0026)**

A woman told IPR that an officer retaliated against her during a traffic stop by issuing a citation after she requested his badge number. IPR investigated the driver's complaint, including interviews with the officer and the complainant. The officer said he stopped the complainant because she failed to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

The officer's unit commander found that the officer likely provided his business card to the complainant when asked. The commander also determined the officer issued the citation because the infraction was serious rather than in retaliation for being asked for his badge number. Neither allegation was sustained, but the commander discussed with the officer how the interaction was perceived by the driver.

**Trip to detox and drunk  
driving charge prompts  
complaint  
(2015-C-0045)**

A woman reported that an officer wrongfully arrested her for drunk driving, failed to provide her Miranda rights, used excessive force, and applied handcuffs too tightly to her wrists. IPR referred the complaint to Internal Affairs for investigation. Evidence showed that a resident called 911 to report that an intoxicated former tenant was pounding loudly on her front door and circling the block in a vehicle.

Officers arrived to find the complainant near a parked vehicle. They determined the woman to be intoxicated and transported her to the Hooper Detoxification Center. Based on witness testimony, an officer cited her for driving-under-the-influence and reckless driving. The officer denied that he had used any force.

The officer stated in his interview that he did not give the complainant her Miranda rights as he did not interview or try to get a statement from her. The officer's supervisor found the evidence did not support the woman's allegations and did not sustain her complaint.

**Officer's response  
during bomb threat  
results in mixed  
findings  
(2015-C-0154)**

A woman reported to IPR an interaction she had with an officer who was responding to a bomb threat on the Steel Bridge. The woman said she asked the officer for the best alternative route given that she could not cross the bridge. The complainant stated the officer did not provide adequate information and pushed her away. The officer also did not provide a badge number.

The woman did not respond to IPR's requests for information related to her complaint. Because the complaint alleged that physical force had been used against her, IPR referred the case to Internal Affairs for an investigation. Force complaints must be investigated unless there is "clear and convincing" evidence that the incident did not occur. The officer's supervisor determined the evidence supported the allegation that the officer had not identified himself. The supervisor also found that the officer behaved appropriately by moving the complainant and her bike away from an active bomb threat. The supervisor discussed the incident with the officer and advised him how to perform better in such situations.

**Service Improvement  
Opportunities**

For cases in which IPR's preliminary investigation finds support for allegations of poor service or minor rules violations, IPR refers complaints to the officers' supervisors for follow up. These types of cases are called Service Improvement Opportunities.

**Getting the citation  
correct  
(2015-C-0083)**

An officer erred in filling out a traffic citation warning by entering an incorrect driver license number into a computer system. The number linked the warning to a different driver in the system. The recipient of the warning told IPR she feared it would be communicated to her insurance company or that negative information associated with the other person in the system could be linked to her. The Police Bureau corrected the information and contacted the woman to address her concerns.

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**Different perspectives  
on a traffic encounter  
(2015-C-0150)**

A woman reported that an officer placed her in danger by causing her to stop her car in the middle of an intersection. The officer, who was on foot, signaled to the car in front of the woman to stop, leaving her in the intersection. She honked her horn, but the officer did not respond. She said she pulled up beside the officer and told him he had endangered her. She said the officer responded by speaking to her in an aggressive manner. The officer then directed her to make a U-turn because the street was closed.

A preliminary investigation determined that the incident occurred during the Junior Rose Festival Parade, and the officer was part of a detail assigned to the event. A Police supervisor discussed the complaint with the officer, who said the woman nearly caused a collision, spoke to him aggressively, and threatened to continue driving on the street even though it was closed. The supervisor spoke to the woman as well. The supervisor advised the officer he could have de-escalated the incident with better communication with the driver.

**Cases that were  
dismissed**

Cases can be dismissed after a preliminary review for a number of reasons. Common reasons include the City's lack of authority to investigate officers who work for other jurisdictions, the complaint as alleged is not a violation of City policy, or when officers have discretion whether to enforce a violation.

**Officer used discretion  
in deciding not to  
respond to minor,  
civil issues  
(2015-C-0187)**

A man involved in a number of disputes with his neighbors called police 26 times over 30 months. The last time he called, a sergeant told him police would no longer respond to non-emergency calls from his address. The man considered the sergeant rude and accused him of inappropriately directing officers not to respond when he called.

A preliminary investigation showed that officers responded to calls for assistance at the man's home 22 times. None of the incidents involved criminal matters. They included a neighbor's cat trespassing, a neighbor watering plants along their fence, and a neighbor shining a bright light at a surveillance camera the man

had installed. A review of these calls found the man often called police again after officers left to express dissatisfaction with their initial response. IPR dismissed the complaint because officers are not required to respond to civil matters.

**Wheelchair incident likely was accidental, not criminal (2015-C-0253)**

A woman who lives in an assisted-living center and uses a wheelchair reported that an officer mishandled an accusation she made against another resident. The woman said the other resident, who also relies on a wheelchair, deliberately ran over her foot in the elevator.

A preliminary investigation showed that the officer had spoken to both parties. The woman described the incident as an assault. The other resident said it was an accident. The officer concluded no crime had occurred and considered the dispute to be a civil matter.

The woman asked IPR to reconsider its decision to dismiss her complaint. An IPR supervisor, who previously had not been involved in the complaint, reviewed the case, including new information that the retirement center had video footage of the incident. IPR maintained its decision to dismiss the case, but notified the officer's supervisor of the video evidence.

**Surprised by release of contact information (2015-C-0235)**

A man who witnessed a traffic collision called IPR to complain that the officer who took his contact information gave it to the other drivers involved in the accident. The officer did not tell the man that he was going to share his contact information.

There is no policy that prohibits officers from sharing contact information for witnesses after a traffic accident. Although IPR dismissed this complaint, it brought the issue to the Police Bureau's attention to determine if a policy change was warranted.

**Good Samaritan displeased with officer's brusque reception (2015-C-0315)**

A man who said he worked as a delivery driver found a bank card lying in the street. He drove past Central Precinct to turn the card over to the police. He saw two officers standing near a patrol car in front of the precinct and attempted to give them the card. He said one of the officers responded abruptly and directed him to enter the precinct building.

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IPR reviewed arrest records filed around the time the man said the incident occurred and identified the officers. They were in the process of booking a man they had arrested on a gun possession charge. IPR referred the complaint to the officers' supervisor for follow up.

**Officer did not have enough evidence to issue a citation (2015-C-0240)**

A person reported that an officer failed to conduct an adequate investigation into a report that a work crew was blocking the complainant's driveway and causing damage to the complainant's property. The complainant thought the officer should have issued a citation to the work crew. IPR dismissed the complaint because officers have discretion whether to issue a citation. The officer in this case did not witness the offense or have probable cause that a crime or traffic violation had been committed

**IPR shares complainant's concern, but lacks jurisdiction (2015-C-0067)**

A mother reported that while her son was on a field trip in downtown Portland, a police officer ordered him to leave the area where his group was standing. Her son, who has an autism spectrum disorder, followed the officer's order. The mother was concerned that the officer ordered her son to leave without inquiring why he was there or contacting the teacher supervising the field trip. Although her son returned to the group later, he has difficulty communicating and is prone to getting lost.

IPR identified the officer as an employee of Portland Patrol, Inc., and spoke with management of the private firm about the mother's concern. IPR gave the mother the contact information for the private firm's officer and his supervisor. IPR dismissed the complaint because it does not have legal jurisdiction over employees of Portland Patrol, Inc.

## **About Independent Police Review**

The Independent Police Review (IPR) is an impartial oversight agency under the authority of the independently elected City Auditor. IPR was created to improve police accountability, promote higher standards of police services, and increase public confidence. IPR has five primary responsibilities:

**1. COMPLAINTS AND COMMENDATIONS**

Receive community members' complaints and commendations about Portland Police Bureau officers.

**2. ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

Conduct, oversee, and/or participate in administrative investigations regarding the conduct of Police Bureau officers.

**3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Issue periodic reports about complaints and investigations and recommend policy changes to reduce complaints and misconduct.

**4. SHOOTINGS AND DEATHS**

Respond to incident scenes and participate in the policy reviews of officer-involved shootings and non-shooting, in-custody deaths. Hire experts to study closed reviews and report on policy and quality of investigation issues.

**5. APPEALS**

Coordinate appeals filed by community members and officers who are dissatisfied with the outcome of administrative investigations.

Additionally, IPR conducts outreach to hear community concerns and build community trust; provides administrative and technical staff support to the Citizen Review Committee, an advisory body appointed by Portland City Council; and coordinates mediations between community members and officers.

## **About the Citizen Review Committee**

The Citizen Review Committee was created to help improve police accountability, promote higher standards of police services, and increase public confidence. These volunteers serve as an advisory body to the Police Bureau, Auditor, and IPR. In early 2014, City Council voted to expand the Committee from 9 to 11 members. Committee members are appointed by Council to perform the following primary functions:

- gather community concerns about police services;
- develop policy recommendations to address patterns of problems with police services and conduct;
- review and advise IPR and the Police Bureau's Internal Affairs on the complaint handling process; and
- hear appeals from community members and officers, and publicly report their findings.

General information and other reports produced by IPR and the Committee are available at:  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr).





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