



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2018

Contact:

Interim IPR Director Amanda Lamb at (503) 823-0146 or Analyst KC Jones at (503) 823-0914

Insufficient data hobbles Police Bureau's ability to analyze its interactions with people experiencing homelessness

The City Auditor's [Independent Police Review](#) (IPR) found in a policy review that the Portland Police Bureau has not collected sufficient data to effectively analyze its officers' interactions with people experiencing homelessness.

Following media reports, which estimated that over half of all arrests made by the Portland Police Bureau involve people experiencing homelessness, the Police Commissioner and Police Chief requested that IPR review the Bureau's interactions with people experiencing homelessness.

To better understand police contacts that result in arrest, IPR reviewed more than 700 arrest reports and found police contacts were initiated by officers or resulted from calls to 9-1-1. More than half of the arrests resulted from a warrant, but the criminal justice system needs better mechanisms for resolving those warrants so that people experiencing homelessness could avoid follow-up arrests. IPR also found that changes to enforcement tactics related to homelessness has caused confusion for police officers about their role.

We recommend that the Bureau identify its role in addressing homelessness, implement consistent direction for officers, improve data collection, and work with criminal justice partners to minimize follow-up arrests.

The [report](#) can be found on the IPR website. IPR also has developed an interactive dashboard to enable readers to review the data used in the report. The dashboard can be found on IPR's website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/ipr/data>

The Independent Police Review was created in 2001 as the City of Portland's civilian oversight agency of the Portland Police Bureau. IPR is the division in the [City Auditor's Office](#) that takes community member complaints or commendations about Portland police officers and conducts policy reviews of the Bureau.

