



Anti-Racism Data Legislation

**Summary results from the SenseMaker public consultation
September 9, 2021 to January 31, 2022**

For BC Ministry of Attorney General
By OXD Consulting Ltd.
Date March 2022



Acknowledgement

The authors of this report acknowledge the online survey on anti-racism data collection has taken place on the many territories of the First Nations people of BC and our work was done on the traditional and unceded territories of the Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh (Squamish Nation), Səlílwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh First Nation), and x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band) peoples and the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa, the Syilx, Sinixt and the Secwépemc peoples.

We acknowledge and are grateful to all those who contributed their lived experiences to this engagement and the courage it took to share those stories. We express our gratitude for racialized individuals and community members who took the time to engage in this process. We look ahead to continued work with and for communities that lead to more equitable government legislation, policies, and services.



At a glance

From September 9, 2021 to January 31, 2022 the Government of British Columbia ran an online survey to understand individuals' lived experiences of using government services and providing information about identity and ethnicity. A total of 2,916 responses were collected. Responses were from a diversity of identities, ages, and places across BC.

The main findings of the summary data include:

- 46 percent of respondents suggested ways to improve categories for race and ethnic identity.
- Respondents felt it is important to collect information on Race, Culture and Heritage, and Gender. Collecting information related to Faith or Beliefs and Sexual Orientation was seen overall less important.
- Experiences of sharing data with different government services yielded positive, negative, and neutral sentiments
- Stereotyping people was the biggest concern with how government might use race data
- Creating a BC for everyone and being treated equitably were the most important outcomes for how government should use respondents' data.
- People overall felt that when collecting new data it is important that government equally ensures fairness in use and application, community involvement, and people's safety.



What is the anti-racism data legislation public engagement?

In November of 2020, BC introduced a key mandate initiative to tackle systemic racism, hate and discrimination and to make the province more equitable, inclusive and welcoming for everyone regardless of race, skin colour or faith. Anti-racism data legislation aims to modernize sectors such as policing, health care and education.

Data that can be explored from multiple perspectives will shed more light on the experience of Indigenous, Black and People of Colour using government services in BC and will help to ensure that services are delivered equitably and allow communities to better advocate for themselves.

Anti-racism data legislation is about better identifying where gaps and barriers exist, so we can provide better services for communities.

Anti-racism data legislation online survey

This summary report presents data from the online survey that ran from September 9, 2021 to January 31, 2022. Available in multiple languages, the survey was designed to understand individuals' lived experiences of using government services and providing information about identity and ethnicity.

The report does not interpret the meaning of the experiences or analyze why participants responded in a particular way based on their identity. This critical work cannot be done without the involvement of the individuals and communities who contributed to this survey.

For more information on anti-racism initiatives and ongoing work in progress, visit:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism/>

What did this engagement ask?

Racial categories

Which category best describes your racial identity, what categories were not listed that should be, and how can categories be improved? What aspects of identity are important/not important or should not be shared with government?

Concerns about collecting data

What concerns do you have about government collecting this type of data and information?

Experiences disclosing identity

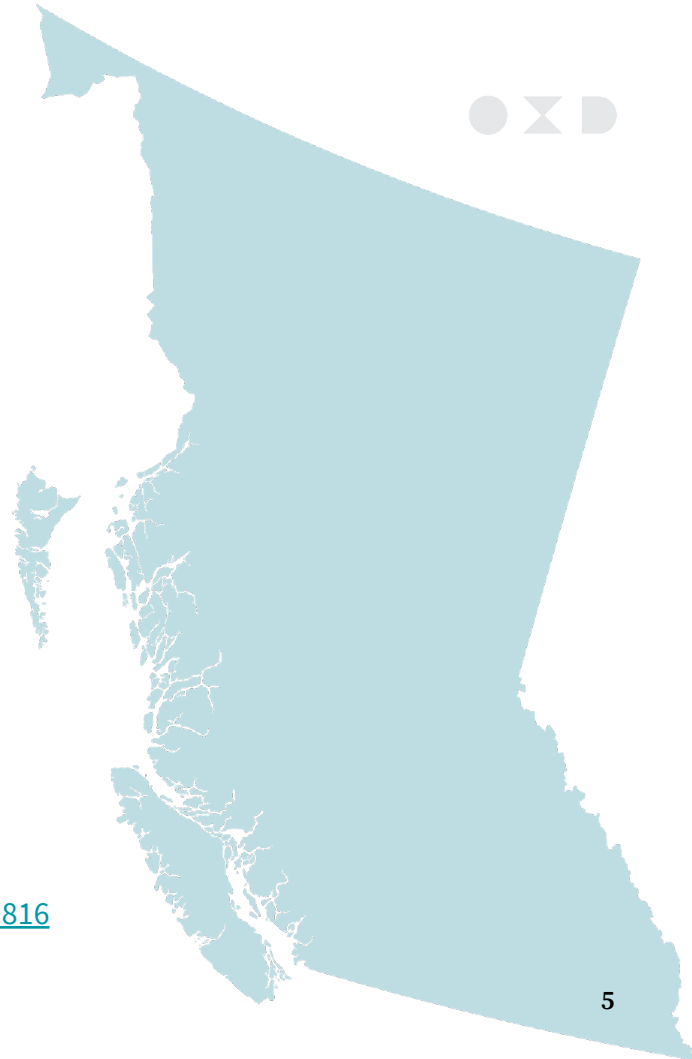
Share an experience where you shared information about race, ethnicity, faith or similar identity factor with a government service, program, or organization. Which sector was it? How did that experience feel?

How collecting data may be beneficial

How can people benefit from government collecting this data? Has being in possession of data been useful for you and/or your community?

View the online survey results dashboard and explore the data:

<https://platform.sensemaker-suite.com/r/d/8dd0588b-c375-43c4-be14-e01d4c78d816>

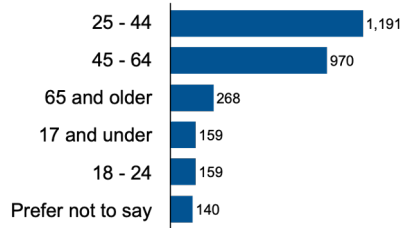




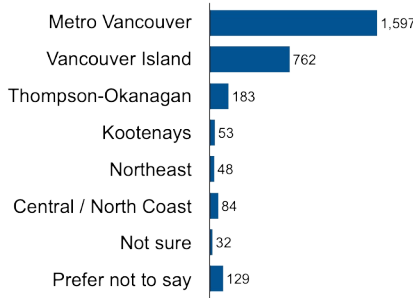
How many responses were received?

2,916 responses

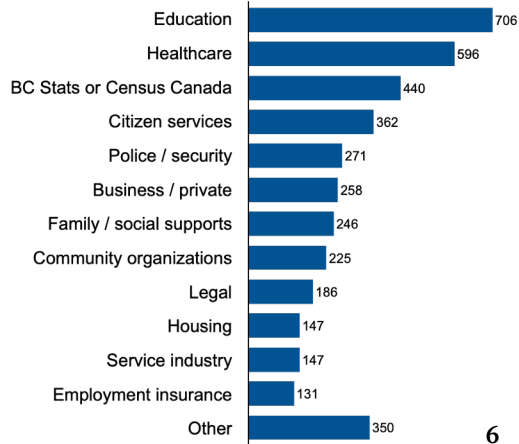
Responses were shared predominantly from people aged 25 and older



Experiences were shared by people from across the province



Experiences landed across many different public service agencies and sectors



How did respondents prefer to identify?

The first questions asked people to self-identify across racial categories. They were then asked how categories can be improved.

The self-identify question (Q3 shown to the right) used race categories from [Ontario's Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism*](#) as starting point, as B.C. does not yet have official categories.

The data has a diversity of perspectives from several ethnicities and cultural identities.

- 279 responses (approximately 10% of total responses) identified with *Another category* not listed. These responses included keywords like “Punjabi”, “Sikh”, “Jewish”, “mixed”, “multi-ethnic” and some offer explanations about how people identify beyond the suggested categories.
- 1,340 responses (46% of total responses) described how to improve the categories for race and ethnic identities.

The Province intends to explore the detailed results of the race identity questions in collaborative workshops with community. This report presents an overview of the results and reserves the details to be interpreted with community members across all racial and ethno-cultural identities.

1. Do you identify as First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

2. If you answered yes above, which do you identify with? Skip this question if it does not apply.

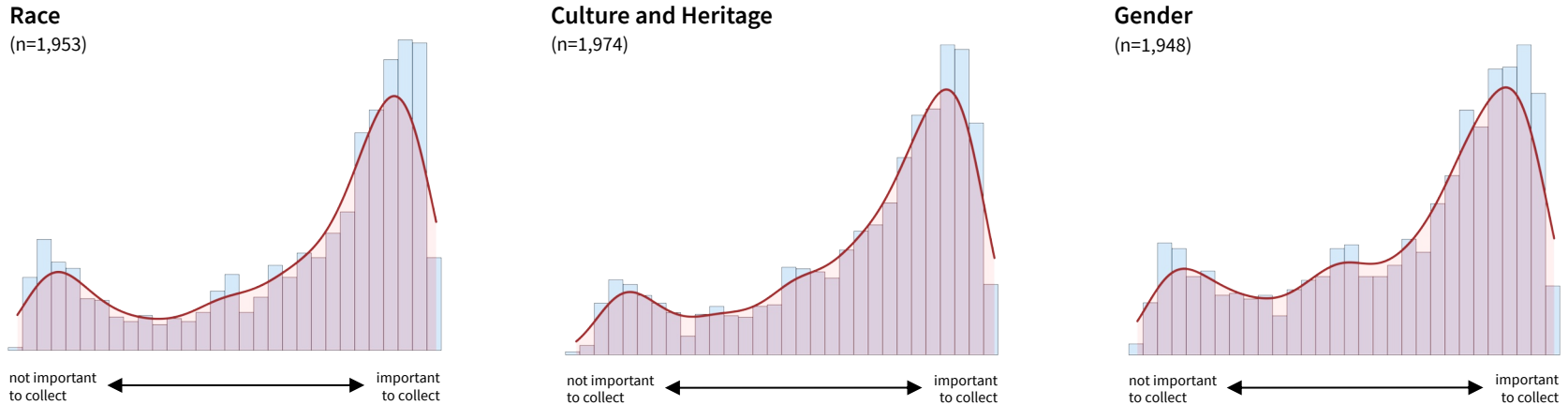
- First Nations
- Métis
- Inuit
- Another identity

3. Which category best describes your racial or ethno-cultural identity? Select ALL that apply.

- Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian, African-American descent)
- East Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese descent)
- Southeast Asian (Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian, other Southeast Asian descent)
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit descent)
- Latino (Latin American, Hispanic descent)
- Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, West Asian descent)
- South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Caribbean, etc.)
- White (European descent)
- Another category
- Prefer not to say

How does the importance of sharing information differ by information type?

Overall, respondents felt that it's more important to collect information on *Race* than not to collect. This pattern was generally the same for collecting *Culture and Heritage* and *Gender* data (Q11).

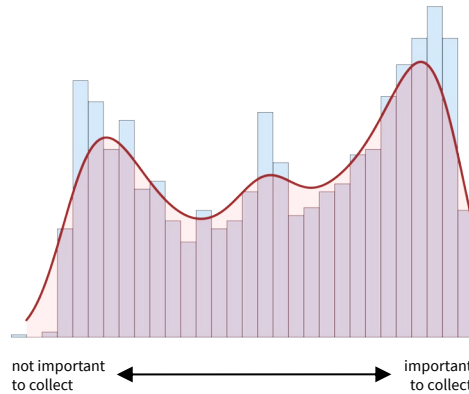


Higher vertical bars show where more people responded. Responses to the right indicate that for the information being considered it is *important to collect*. Responses to the left on each chart indicate the information is *not important to collect*. A middle response suggests people were uncertain.

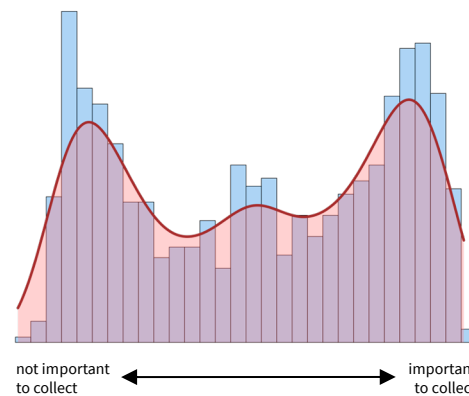
How does the importance of sharing information differ by information type?

For *Faith or Belief* and *Sexual Orientation*, opinions on the importance of collecting information were mixed. Some felt it was important to collect information while others felt it is not important to collect (Q11). There were also a larger number of responses that were uncertain and in the middle.

Faith or Belief
(n=1,858)



Sexual Orientation
(n=1,750)



Responses for *Faith or Belief* and *Sexual Orientation* were more equally divided between *important* and *not important* to collect. There is little to no agreement on the importance of collecting this type of information based on the responses.

How do respondents experience sharing information about their identity?

Q14 asked people to recall an experience they had sharing information with a government agency or public institution (Q16) that included race, ethnicity, faith, or similar identity factors. The six questions that followed asked them for further information to better understand this experience.

- The majority of experiences related to information sharing with *Education* (24%) and *Healthcare* (20%) agencies, as well as *BC Stats or Census Canada* (15%) and *Citizen services* (12%).
- The majority were described as *Neutral* (30%) in tone. Experiences with *Police/Security* and *Housing* had the highest proportion that were negative.
- Experiences related to *Police/Security*, *Housing*, and *Family/Social supports* are described as having made people feel most *nervous and anxious*. Experiences with *BC Stats or Census Canada* were described by respondents to be most *comfortable and okay*.

14. Please think of one experience, you had or observed, about sharing information about race, ethnicity, faith or a similar identity factor with a government program or agency.

15. This experience made me feel...

nervous and anxious comfortable and okay

N/A

16. Which service, agency or business does your experience relate to?

- Education (schools, school district, teachers)
- Healthcare (hospitals, clinics, healthcare providers)
- Legal (legal aid, courts)
- Citizen services (ID, drivers licence, permits, Service BC)
- Employment insurance
- Family and social supports (Youth and family, family benefits, Childcare BC, Fostering, Disabilities services, Income assistance)
- Police / security
- Business / private sector
- Community organizations, not-for-profits, societies
- BC Stats or Census Canada
- Housing
- Service industry
- Other



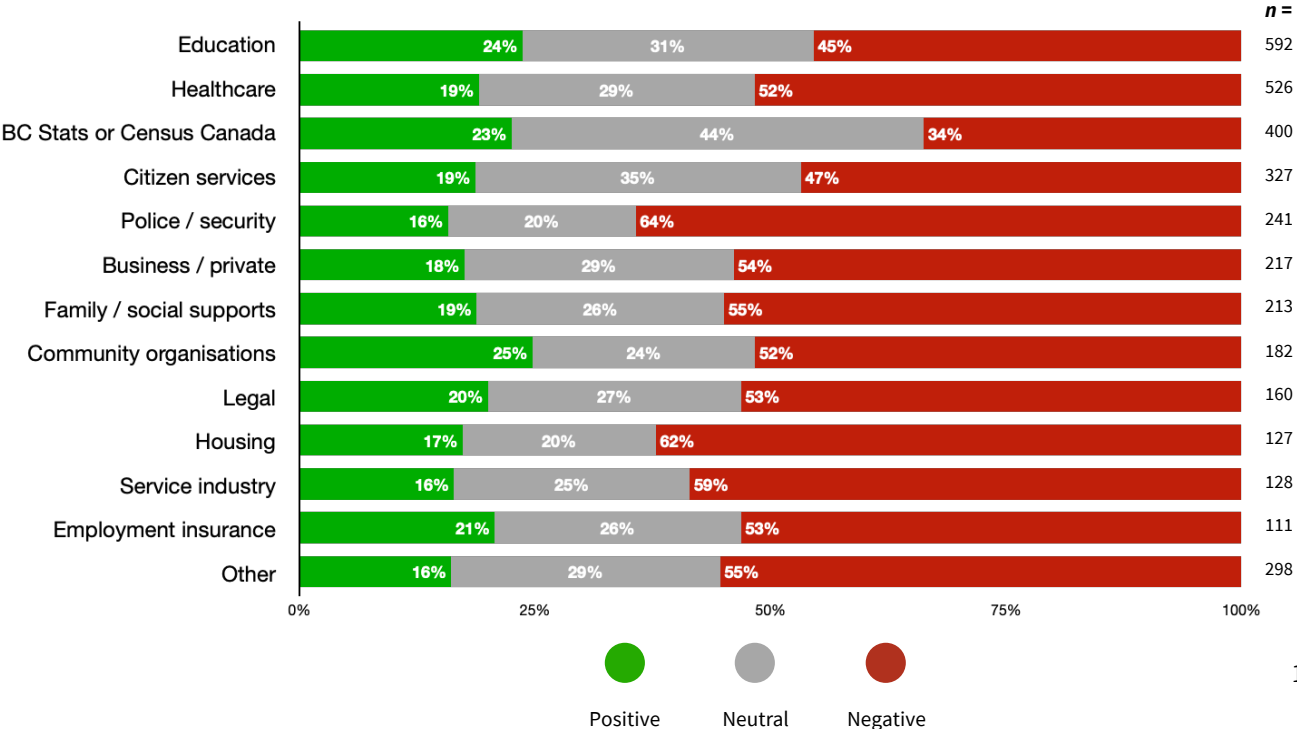
How do data sharing experiences differ by service type?

This graph shows Q16 (service type) combined with Q20 (positive to negative).

Data-sharing experiences were overall more negative than positive.

Data-sharing experiences with *Police / security* and *Housing* were most negative.

Experiences with *Community organizations*, *Education*, and *BC Stats or Census Canada* were most positive.

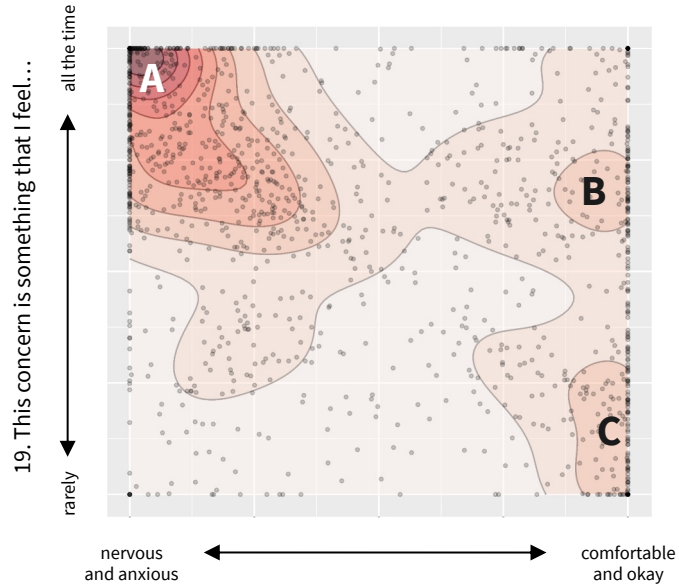




Which data sharing feelings are most common?

This graph shows how respondents felt when sharing information about race, ethnicity, faith or a similar identity factor with a government program or agency. Pattern A shows that overall most information sharing experiences made people feel *nervous and anxious* and reflect a concern they feel *all the time*.

Understanding the experiences shared in pattern A may help improve identity data gathering approaches and policies.



15. This experience made me feel...

Information sharing experiences associated with pattern B are ones where people felt *comfortable and okay* but had concerns that are felt somewhat frequently. Similar to B, pattern C reflects experiences where information sharing was *comfortable and ok* with only very rare feelings of concern.

Improving data sharing experiences requires more people feeling *comfortable and ok* (patterns B and C) with fewer people having frequent concerns and feeling *nervous and anxious* (pattern A).

Understanding triad questions

Questions that followed Q14, experiences with sharing information with government, asked people to provide additional context about their experience. Triad questions (like Q17 shown to the right) asked people to move and position a hexagonal marker in a triangle indicating the importance or relevance of 3 factors. The closer the marker is to one of the three corners, the stronger that factor is in response to the question. This example shows Q17 asking:

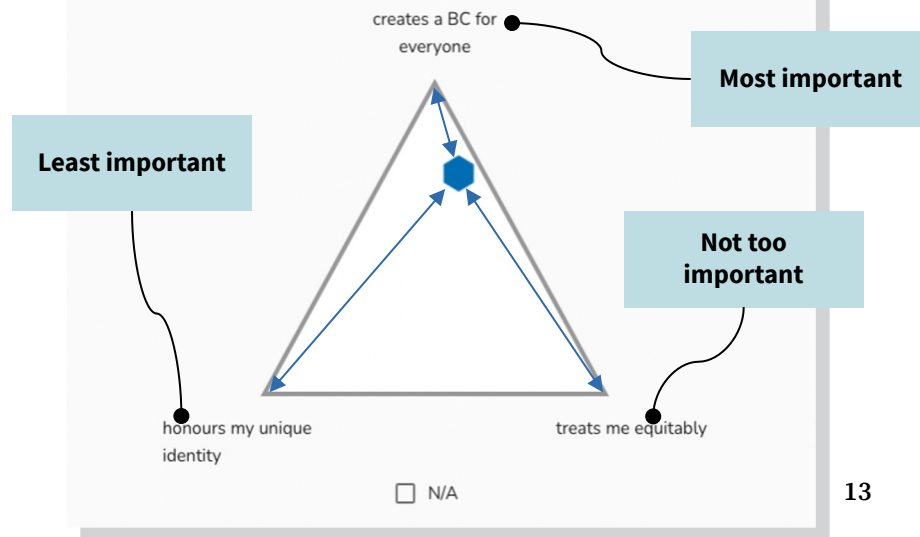
“In this experience it was important that I can trust government to use this data in a manner that...

- Creates a BC for everyone
- Treats me equitably
- Honours my unique identity”

The example placement suggests that for the experience shared, *creates a BC for everyone* is more important than *honours my unique identity* and *treats me equitably*. However, *treats me equitably* is slightly more important than *honours my unique identity*.

14. Please think of one experience, you had or observed, about sharing information about race, ethnicity, faith or a similar identity factor with a government program or agency.

17. In this experience, it was important that I can trust government to use this data in a manner that...

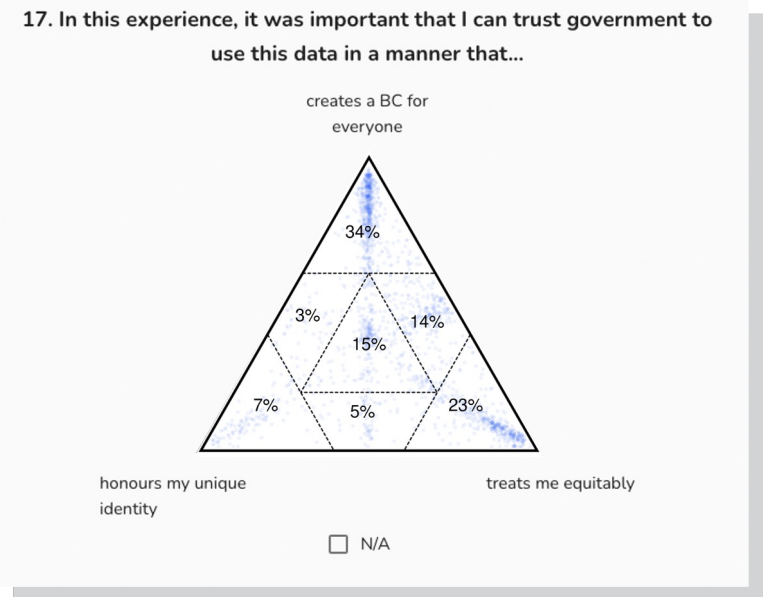




Seeing triad response patterns

Showing each response to the triad question as a dot (where the respondent placed the marker), patterns emerge across hundreds or thousands of responses. Below are 1,896 responses.

Looking at the percentages of responses across 7 zones helps with seeing patterns. Below we see that *creates a BC for everyone* is seen most important followed by *treats me equitably*.



What should sharing data with government result in?

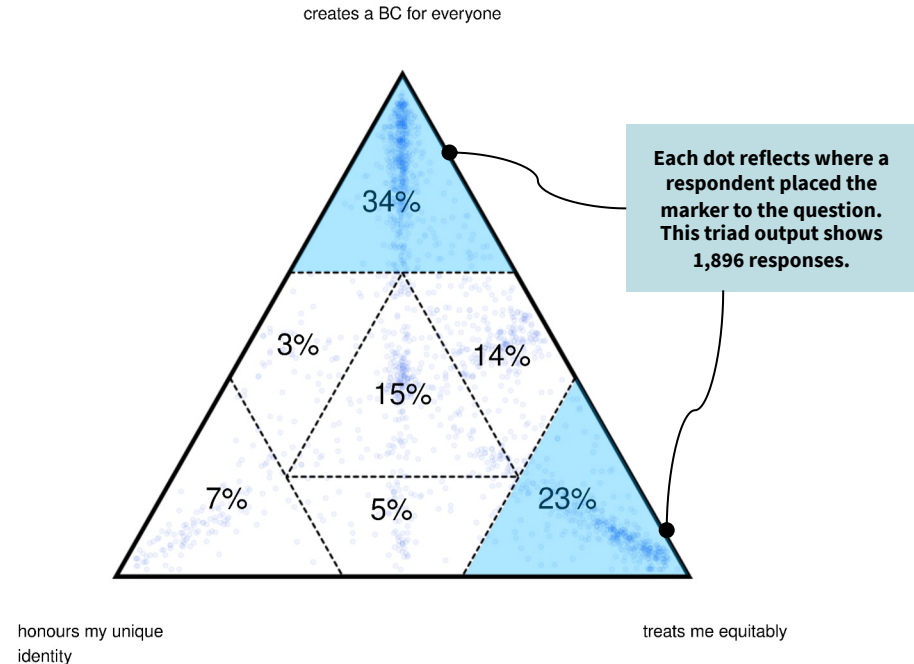
Respondents felt that it was most important for government to use their data to *create a BC for everyone* (34%) and in a way that *treats me equitably* (23%). *Honours my unique identity* was comparatively less important (7%).

35 percent of the total responses skipped this question or selected N/A (not applicable).

Where people described their experiences as *Negative* or *Strongly Negative* (Q20), the percentage of *treats me equitably* increased in Q17.

Where people shared experiences with *Education*, the importance of *honours my unique identity* increased compared to other agency experiences (from 7% to 10%).

17. In this experience, it was important that I can trust government to use this data in a manner that...



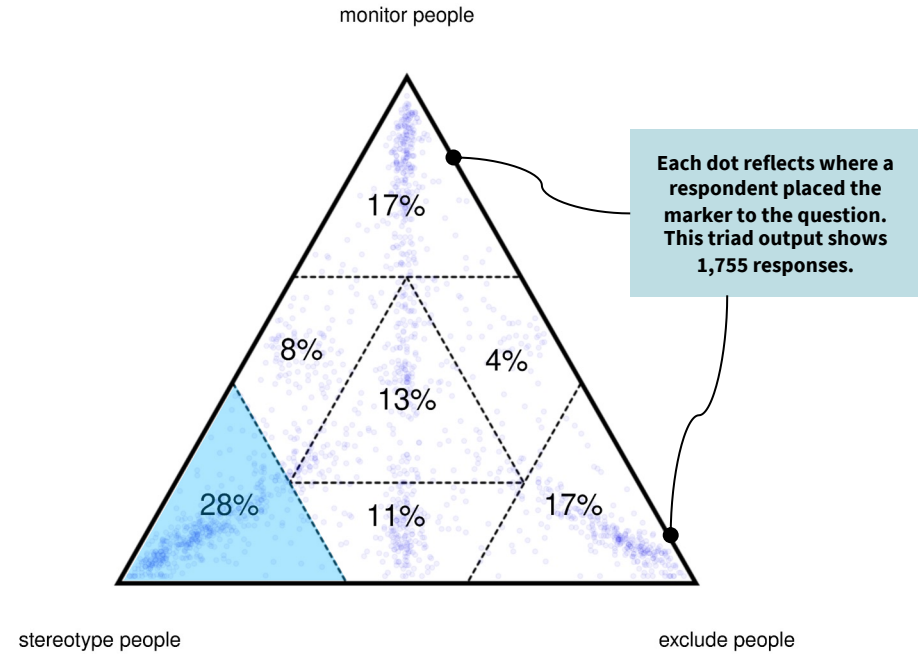
What concerns do people have with how government might use data?

60 percent of all respondents with experiences sharing data expressed concern about how the BC Government might use the data (Q18). 40 percent of responses did not include a response to this question, either skipping it or selecting N/A (not applicable).

Of those respondents who did submit a concern in Q18, *stereotype people* (28%) was greater compared with *monitor people* (17%) or *exclude people* (17%). The concern over data being used to *exclude people* is most pronounced in negative-toned experiences (Q20), as well as experiences that involve *Legal Aid* (23%), the *Service industry* (23%) and *Employment Insurance* (31%).

Where people shared experiences with *Housing agencies*, Q18 displays a strong pattern that indicates a concern of data being used to *monitor people* (30% compared to 17% for all agencies).

18. I am concerned with how the government might use the data I shared in this experience to...



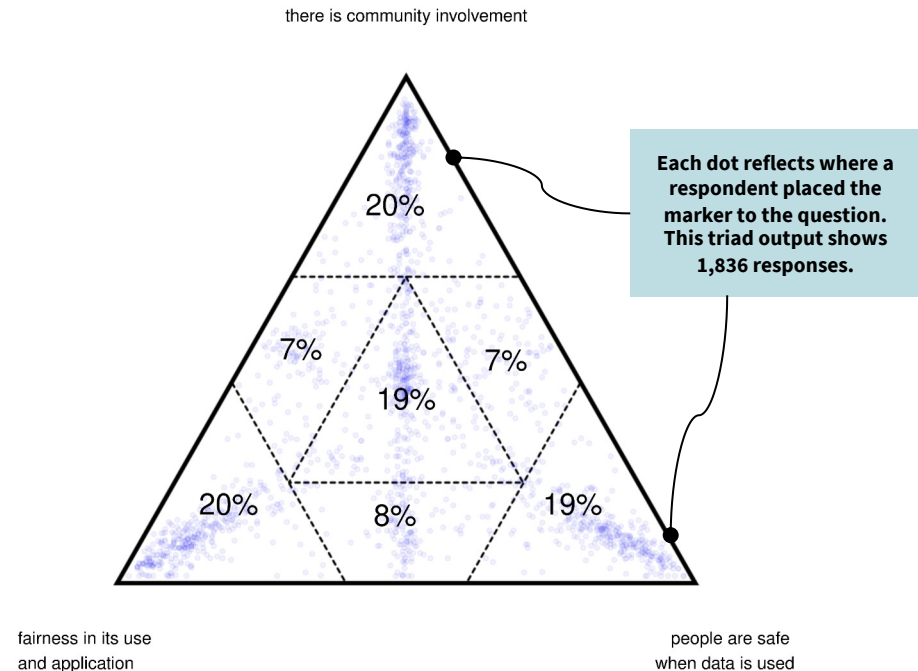
How should government help people benefit from new data collected?

In this section, we asked participants two questions (Q21, Q22) to describe their perspective on how they believe the government can ensure that any new data collected can be used in a manner that benefits people.

People's views were balanced across 1,836 responses to Q22. When new data is collected by government, people felt that it is important to ensure...

- fairness in its use and application (20%)
- there is community involvement (20%)
- people are safe when data is used (19%), and
- all three are considered [middle triangle] (19%)

22. To make sure people benefit from new data collected by government, ensure...





Recommended next steps

This report summarizes a small amount of the total data submitted through the online survey, providing an introduction to how people in British Columbia experience disclosing identity data, their concerns about sharing data, and their opinion on how sharing data can be helpful.

Analysis as to why people answered these questions in the manner they did and how that relates to how they chose to self identify remains critical work to be done. This work must be done with community and those who contributed experiences, and cannot be done in isolation.

OXD recommends government engage respectfully with communities, provide communities with financial support for their participation, and build capacity to further explore the meaning of the data to guide legislation, policy, and service reform decisions.

Explore the data

Elements of the data gathered through this engagement can be explored further through a public results dashboard:

<https://platform.sensemaker-suite.com/r/d/8dd0588b-c375-43c4-be14-e01d4c78d816?days=478>