

The College Station Police Department Annual Traffic Contact Report (2008)



**DEL CARMEN
CONSULTING, LLC**

(I) Introduction

Opening Statement

January 25, 2009

College Station City Council
1011 Texas Avenue South
College Station, Texas 77842

Dear Distinguished Members of the City Council,

Racial profiling is considered to be one of the most pressing themes currently affecting law enforcement agencies in the United States. In 2001, the Texas legislature, in an attempt to address the issue of racial profiling in policing, enacted the Texas Racial Profiling Law. Since 2001, the College Station Police Department, in accordance with the law, has collected and reported traffic-related contact data for the purpose of identifying and addressing (if necessary) areas of concern regarding racial profiling practices.

In this particular report, you will find three sections that contain information on traffic-related contact data. In addition, when appropriate, documentation is also a component of this report, aiming at demonstrating the manner in which the College Station Police Department has complied with the Texas Racial Profiling Law. In section 1, you will find the table of contents in addition to the Texas Senate Bill (SB1074) which later became the Texas Racial Profiling Law. Also, in this section, a list of requirements relevant to the Racial Profiling Law as established by TCLEOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education) is included. In addition, you will find, in sections 2 and 3, documentation which demonstrates compliance by the College Station Police Department relevant to the requirements as established in the Texas Racial Profiling Law. That is, documents relevant to the implementation of an institutional policy banning racial profiling, the incorporation of a racial profiling complaint process (which has been disclosed to the public), and the training administered to all law enforcement personnel, are included.

The last component of this report provides statistical data relevant to contacts, made during the course of traffic stops, between 1/1/08 and 12/31/08. This information has been analyzed and compared to data derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's Fair Roads Standard and to traffic-based contact data collected between 2002 and 2007. The final analysis and recommendations are also included in this report.

I am hopeful that the findings presented in this report serve as evidence of the College Station Police Department's commitment to comply with the Texas Racial Profiling Law.

Sincerely,

Alex del Carmen, Ph.D.
Del Carmen Consulting, LLC

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TCLEOSE GUIDELINES

Guidelines for Compiling and Reporting Data under Senate Bill 1074

Background

Senate Bill 1074 of the 77th Legislature established requirements in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (TCCP) for law enforcement agencies. The Commission developed this document to assist agencies in complying with the statutory requirements.

The guidelines are written in the form of standards using a style developed from accreditation organizations including the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The standards provide a description of *what* must be accomplished by an agency but allows wide latitude in determining *how* the agency will achieve compliance with each applicable standard.

Each standard is composed of two parts: the standard statement and the commentary. The *standard statement* is a declarative sentence that places a clear-cut requirement, or multiple requirements, on an agency. The commentary supports the standard statement but is not binding. The commentary can serve as a prompt, as guidance to clarify the intent of the standard, or as an example of one possible way to comply with the standard.

Standard 1

Each law enforcement agency has a detailed written directive that:

- clearly defines acts that constitute racial profiling;
- strictly prohibits peace officers employed by the agency from engaging in racial profiling;
- implements a process by which an individual may file a complaint with the agency if the individual believes a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling with respect to the individual filing the complaint;
- provides for public education relating to the complaint process;
- requires appropriate corrective action to be taken against a peace officer employed by the agency who, after investigation, is shown to have engaged in racial profiling in violation of the agency's written racial profiling policy; and
- requires the collection of certain types of data for subsequent reporting.

Commentary

Article 2.131 of the TCCP prohibits officers from engaging in racial profiling, and article 2.132 of the TCCP now requires a written policy that contains the elements listed in this standard. The article also specifically defines a law enforcement agency as it applies to this statute as an “agency of the state, or of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, that employs peace officers who make traffic stops in the routine performance of the officers’ official duties.”

The article further defines race or ethnicity as being of “a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American.” The statute does not limit the required policies to just these ethnic groups.

This written policy is to be adopted and implemented no later than January 1, 2002.

Standard 2

Each peace officer who stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of a law or ordinance regulating traffic, or who stops a pedestrian for any suspected offense reports to the employing law enforcement agency information relating to the stop, to include:

- a physical description of each person detained, including gender and the person's race or ethnicity, as stated by the person, or, if the person does not state a race or ethnicity, as determined by the officer's best judgment;
- the traffic law or ordinance alleged to have been violated or the suspected offense;
- whether the officer conducted a search as a result of the stop and, if so, whether the person stopped consented to the search;
- whether any contraband was discovered in the course of the search, and the type of contraband discovered;
- whether probable cause to search existed, and the facts supporting the existence of that probable cause;
- whether the officer made an arrest as a result of the stop or the search, including a statement of the offense charged;
- the street address or approximate location of the stop; and
- whether the officer issued a warning or citation as a result of the stop, including a description of the warning or a statement of the violation charged.

Commentary

The information required by 2.133 TCCP is used to complete the agency reporting requirements found in Article 2.134. A peace officer and an agency may be exempted from this requirement under Article 2.135 TCCP Exemption for Agencies Using Video and Audio Equipment. An agency may be exempt from this reporting requirement by applying for the funds from the Department of Public Safety for video and audio equipment and the State does not supply those funds. Section 2.135 (a)(2) states, "the governing body of the county or municipality served by the law enforcement agency, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency, certifies to the Department of Public Safety, not later than the date specified by rule by the department, that the law enforcement agency needs funds or video and audio equipment for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Subsection (a) (1) (A) and the agency does not receive from the state funds for video and audio equipment sufficient, as determined by the department, for the agency to accomplish that purpose."

Standard 3

The agency compiles the information collected under 2.132 and 2.133 and analyzes the information identified in 2.133.

Commentary

Senate Bill 1074 from the 77th Session of the Texas Legislature created requirements for law enforcement agencies to gather specific information and to report it to each county or municipality served. New sections of law were added to the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding the reporting of traffic and pedestrian stops. Detained is defined as when a person stopped is not free to leave.

Article 2.134 TCCP requires the agency to compile and provide and analysis of the information collected by peace officer employed by the agency. The report is provided to the governing body of the municipality or county no later than March 1 of each year and covers the previous calendar year.

There is data collection and reporting required based on Article 2.132 CCP (tier one) and Article 2.133 CCP (tier two).

The minimum requirements for “tier one” data for traffic stops in which a citation results are:

- 1) the race or ethnicity of individual detained (race and ethnicity as defined by the bill means of “a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”);
- 2) whether a search was conducted, and if there was a search, whether it was a consent search or a probable cause search; and
- 3) whether there was a custody arrest.

The minimum requirements for reporting on “tier two” reports include traffic and pedestrian stops. Tier two data include:

- 1) the detained person’s gender and race or ethnicity;
- 2) the type of law violation suspected, e.g., hazardous traffic, non-hazardous traffic, or other criminal investigation (the Texas Department of Public Safety publishes a categorization of traffic offenses into hazardous or non-hazardous);
- 3) whether a search was conducted, and if so whether it was based on consent or probable cause;
- 4) facts supporting probable cause;
- 5) the type, if any, of contraband that was collected;
- 6) disposition of the stop, e.g., arrest, ticket, warning, or release;
- 7) location of stop; and
- 8) statement of the charge, e.g., felony, misdemeanor, or traffic.

Tier one reports are made to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency an annual report of information if the agency is an agency of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state. Tier one and two reports are reported to the county or municipality not later than March 1 for the previous calendar year beginning March 1, 2003. Tier two reports include a comparative analysis between the race and ethnicity of persons detained to see if a differential pattern of treatment can be discerned based on the disposition of stops including searches resulting from the stops. The reports also include information relating to each complaint filed with the agency alleging that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling. An agency may be exempt from the tier two reporting requirement by applying for the funds from the Department of Public Safety for video and audio equipment and the State does not supply those funds [See 2.135 (a)(2) TCCP].

Reports should include both raw numbers and percentages for each group. Caution should be exercised in interpreting the data involving percentages because of statistical distortions caused by very small numbers in any particular category, for example, if only one American Indian is stopped and searched, that stop would not provide an accurate comparison with 200 stops among Caucasians with 100 searches. In the first case, a 100% search rate would be skewed data when compared to a 50% rate for Caucasians.

Standard 4

If a law enforcement agency has video and audio capabilities in motor vehicles regularly used for traffic stops, or audio capabilities on motorcycles regularly used to make traffic stops, the agency:

- adopts standards for reviewing and retaining audio and video documentation; and
- promptly provides a copy of the recording to a peace officer who is the subject of a complaint on written request by the officer.

Commentary

The agency should have a specific review and retention policy. Article 2.132 TCCP specifically requires that the peace officer be promptly provided with a copy of the audio or video recordings if the officer is the subject of a complaint and the officer makes a written request.

Standard 5

Agencies that do not currently have video or audio equipment must examine the feasibility of installing such equipment.

Commentary

None

Standard 6

Agencies that have video and audio recording capabilities are exempt from the reporting requirements of Article 2.134 TCCP and officers are exempt from the reporting requirements of Article 2.133 TCCP provided that:

- the equipment was in place and used during the proceeding calendar year; and
- video and audio documentation is retained for at least 90 days.

Commentary

The audio and video equipment and policy must have been in place during the previous calendar year. Audio and video documentation must be kept for at least 90 days or longer if a complaint has been filed. The documentation must be retained until the complaint is resolved. Peace officers are not exempt from the requirements under Article 2.132 TCCP.

Standard 7

Agencies have citation forms or other electronic media that comply with Section 543.202 of the Transportation Code.

Commentary

Senate Bill 1074 changed Section 543.202 of the Transportation Code requiring citations to include:

- race or ethnicity, and
- whether a search of the vehicle was conducted and whether consent for the search was obtained.

The Texas Law on Racial Profiling

AN ACT

relating to the prevention of racial profiling by certain peace officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Articles 2.131 through 2.138 to read as follows:

Art. 2.131. RACIAL PROFILING PROHIBITED. A peace officer may not engage in racial profiling.

Art. 2.132. LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY ON RACIAL PROFILING. (a) In this article:

(1) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state, or of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state, that employs peace officers who make traffic stops in the routine performance of the officers' official duties.

(2) "Race or ethnicity" means of a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American descent.

(b) Each law enforcement agency in this state shall adopt a detailed written policy on racial profiling. The policy must:

(1) clearly define acts constituting racial profiling;

(2) strictly prohibit peace officers employed by the agency from engaging in racial profiling;

(3) implement a process by which an individual may file a complaint with the agency if the individual believes that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling with respect to the individual;

(4) provide public education relating to the agency's complaint process;

(5) require appropriate corrective action to be taken against a peace officer employed by the agency who, after an investigation, is shown to have engaged in racial profiling in violation of the agency's policy adopted under this article;

(6) require collection of information relating to traffic stops in which a citation is issued and to arrests resulting from those traffic stops, including information relating to:

(A) the race or ethnicity of the individual detained; and

(B) whether a search was conducted and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search; and

(7) require the agency to submit to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency an annual report of the information collected under Subdivision (6) if the agency is an agency of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state.

(c) The data collected as a result of the reporting requirements of this article shall not constitute prima facie evidence of racial profiling.

(d) On adoption of a policy under Subsection (b), a law enforcement agency shall examine the feasibility of installing video camera and transmitter-activated equipment in each agency law enforcement motor vehicle regularly used to make traffic stops and transmitter-activated equipment in each agency law enforcement motorcycle regularly used to make traffic stops. If a law enforcement agency installs video or audio equipment as provided by this subsection, the policy

adopted by the agency under Subsection (b) must include standards for reviewing video and audio documentation.

(e) A report required under Subsection (b)(7) may not include identifying information about a peace officer who makes a traffic stop or about an individual who is stopped or arrested by a peace officer. This subsection does not affect the collection of information as required by a policy under Subsection (b)(6).

(f) On the commencement of an investigation by a law enforcement agency of a complaint described by Subsection (b)(3) in which a video or audio recording of the occurrence on which the complaint is based was made, the agency shall promptly provide a copy of the recording to the peace officer who is the subject of the complaint on written request by the officer.

Art. 2.133. REPORTS REQUIRED FOR TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN STOPS. (a) In this article:

(1) "Race or ethnicity" has the meaning assigned by Article 2.132(a).

(2) "Pedestrian stop" means an interaction between a peace officer and an individual who is being detained for the purpose of a criminal investigation in which the individual is not under arrest.

(b) A peace officer who stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of a law or ordinance regulating traffic or who stops a pedestrian for any suspected offense shall report to the law enforcement agency that employs the officer information relating to the stop, including:

(1) a physical description of each person detained as a result of the stop, including:

(A) the person's gender; and

(B) the person's race or ethnicity, as stated by the person or, if the person does not state the person's race or ethnicity, as determined by the officer to the best of the officer's ability;

(2) the traffic law or ordinance alleged to have been violated or the suspected offense;

(3) whether the officer conducted a search as a result of the stop and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search;

(4) whether any contraband was discovered in the course of the search and the type of contraband discovered;

(5) whether probable cause to search existed and the facts supporting the existence of that probable cause;

(6) whether the officer made an arrest as a result of the stop or the search, including a statement of the offense charged;

(7) the street address or approximate location of the stop; and

(8) whether the officer issued a warning or a citation as a result of the stop, including a description of the warning or a statement of the violation charged.

Art. 2.134. COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION COLLECTED. (a) In this article, "pedestrian stop" means an interaction between a peace officer and an individual who is being detained for the purpose of a criminal investigation in which the individual is not under arrest.

(b) A law enforcement agency shall compile and analyze the information contained in each report received by the agency under Article 2.133. Not later than March 1 of each year, each local law enforcement agency shall submit a report containing the information compiled during the previous calendar year to the governing

body of each county or municipality served by the agency in a manner approved by the agency.

(c) A report required under Subsection (b) must include:

(1) a comparative analysis of the information compiled under Article 2.133 to:

(A) determine the prevalence of racial profiling by peace officers employed by the agency; and

(B) examine the disposition of traffic and pedestrian stops made by officers employed by the agency, including searches resulting from the stops; and

(2) information relating to each complaint filed with the agency alleging that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling.

(d) A report required under Subsection (b) may not include identifying information about a peace officer who makes a traffic or pedestrian stop or about an individual who is stopped or arrested by a peace officer. This subsection does not affect the reporting of information required under Article 2.133(b)(1).

(e) The Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education shall develop guidelines for compiling and reporting information as required by this article.

(f) The data collected as a result of the reporting requirements of this article shall not constitute prima facie evidence of racial profiling.

Art. 2.135. EXEMPTION FOR AGENCIES USING VIDEO AND AUDIO EQUIPMENT. (a) A peace officer is exempt from the reporting requirement under Article 2.133 and a law enforcement agency is exempt from the compilation, analysis, and reporting requirements under Article 2.134 if:

(1) during the calendar year preceding the date that a report under Article 2.134 is required to be submitted:

(A) each law enforcement motor vehicle regularly used by an officer employed by the agency to make traffic and pedestrian stops is equipped with video camera and transmitter-activated equipment and each law enforcement motorcycle regularly used to make traffic and pedestrian stops is equipped with transmitter-activated equipment; and

(B) each traffic and pedestrian stop made by an officer employed by the agency that is capable of being recorded by video and audio or audio equipment, as appropriate, is recorded by using the equipment; or

(2) the governing body of the county or municipality served by the law enforcement agency, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency, certifies to the Department of Public Safety, not later than the date specified by rule by the department, that the law enforcement agency needs funds or video and audio equipment for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Subsection (a)(1)(A) and the agency does not receive from the state funds or video and audio equipment sufficient, as determined by the department, for the agency to accomplish that purpose.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a law enforcement agency that is exempt from the requirements under Article 2.134 shall retain the video and audio or audio documentation of each traffic and pedestrian stop for at least 90 days after the date of the stop. If a complaint is filed with the law enforcement agency alleging that a peace officer employed by the agency has engaged in racial profiling with respect to a traffic or pedestrian stop, the agency shall retain the video and audio or audio record of the stop until final disposition of the complaint.

(c) This article does not affect the collection or reporting requirements under Article 2.132.

Art. 2.136. LIABILITY. A peace officer is not liable for damages arising from an act relating to the collection or reporting of information as required by Article 2.133 or under a policy adopted under Article 2.132.

Art. 2.137. PROVISION OF FUNDING OR EQUIPMENT.

(a) The Department of Public Safety shall adopt rules for providing funds or video and audio equipment to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A), including specifying criteria to prioritize funding or equipment provided to law enforcement agencies. The criteria may include consideration of tax effort, financial hardship, available revenue, and budget surpluses. The criteria must give priority to:

(1) law enforcement agencies that employ peace officers whose primary duty is traffic enforcement;

(2) smaller jurisdictions; and

(3) municipal and county law enforcement agencies.

(b) The Department of Public Safety shall collaborate with an institution of higher education to identify law enforcement agencies that need funds or video and audio equipment for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A). The collaboration may include the use of a survey to assist in developing criteria to prioritize funding or equipment provided to law enforcement agencies.

(c) To receive funds or video and audio equipment from the state for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A), the governing body of a county or municipality, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency serving the county or municipality, shall certify to the

Department of Public Safety that the law enforcement agency needs funds or video and audio equipment for that purpose.

(d) On receipt of funds or video and audio equipment from the state for the purpose of installing video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A), the governing body of a county or municipality, in conjunction with the law enforcement agency serving the county or municipality, shall certify to the Department of Public Safety that the law enforcement agency has installed video and audio equipment as described by Article 2.135(a)(1)(A) and is using the equipment as required by Article 2.135(a)(1).

Art. 2.138. RULES. The Department of Public Safety may adopt rules to implement Articles 2.131-2.137.

SECTION 2. Chapter 3, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 3.05 to read as follows:

Art. 3.05. RACIAL PROFILING. In this code, "racial profiling" means a law enforcement-initiated action based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than on the individual's behavior or on information identifying the individual as having engaged in criminal activity.

SECTION 3. Section 96.641, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

(j) As part of the initial training and continuing education for police chiefs required under this section, the institute shall establish a program on racial profiling. The program must include an examination of the best practices for:

(1) monitoring peace officers' compliance with laws and internal agency policies relating to racial profiling;

(2) implementing laws and internal agency policies relating to preventing racial profiling; and

(3) analyzing and reporting collected information.

SECTION 4. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and training program on racial profiling for officers licensed under this chapter. An officer shall complete a program established under this subsection not later than the second anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under this chapter or the date the officer applies for an intermediate proficiency certificate, whichever date is earlier.

SECTION 5. Section 1701.402, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) As a requirement for an intermediate proficiency certificate, an officer must complete an education and training program on racial profiling established by the commission under Section 1701.253(e).

SECTION 6. Section 543.202, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 543.202. FORM OF RECORD. (a) In this section, "race or ethnicity" means of a particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American descent.

(b) The record must be made on a form or by a data processing method acceptable to the department and must include:

- (1) the name, address, physical description, including race or ethnicity, date of birth, and driver's license number of the person charged;
- (2) the registration number of the vehicle involved;
- (3) whether the vehicle was a commercial motor vehicle as defined by Chapter 522 or was involved in transporting hazardous materials;

(4) the person's social security number, if the person was operating a commercial motor vehicle or was the holder of a commercial driver's license or commercial driver learner's permit;

(5) the date and nature of the offense, including whether the offense was a serious traffic violation as defined by Chapter 522;

(6) whether a search of the vehicle was conducted and whether consent for the search was obtained;

(7) the plea, the judgment, and whether bail was forfeited;

(8) [~~7~~] the date of conviction; and

(9) [~~8~~] the amount of the fine or forfeiture.

SECTION 7. Not later than January 1, 2002, a law enforcement agency shall adopt and implement a policy and begin collecting information under the policy as required by Article 2.132, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act. A local law enforcement agency shall first submit information to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency as required by Article 2.132, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act, on March 1, 2003. The first submission of information shall consist of information compiled by the agency during the period beginning January 1, 2002, and ending December 31, 2002.

SECTION 8. A local law enforcement agency shall first submit information to the governing body of each county or municipality served by the agency as required by Article 2.134, Code of Criminal Procedure, as added by this Act, on March 1, 2004. The first submission of information shall consist of information compiled by the agency during the period beginning January 1, 2003, and ending December 31, 2003.

SECTION 9. Not later than January 1, 2002:

(1) the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education shall establish an education and training program on racial profiling as required by Subsection (e), Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, as added by this Act; and

(2) the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas shall establish a program on racial profiling as required by Subsection (j), Section 96.641, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 10. A person who on the effective date of this Act holds an intermediate proficiency certificate issued by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education or has held a peace officer license issued by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education for at least two years shall complete an education and training program on racial profiling established under Subsection (e), Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2003.

SECTION 11. An individual appointed or elected as a police chief before the effective date of this Act shall complete a program on racial profiling established under Subsection (j), Section 96.641, Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2003.

SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2001.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1074 passed the Senate on April 4, 2001, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 2; May 21, 2001, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 22, 2001, House granted request of the Senate; May 24, 2001, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1074 passed the House, with amendments, on May 15, 2001, by a non-record vote; May 22, 2001, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 24, 2001, House adopted Conference Committee Report by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor

(II) Responding to the Law

Institutional Policy on Racial Profiling

Chapter 65 BIASED BASED PROFILING

The practice of bias based policing by law enforcement personnel undermines legitimate law enforcement efforts and may lead to claims of civil rights violations. It often alienates citizens and may foster distrust of law enforcement within the community.

This directive reaffirms the department's commitment to unbiased policing by identifying specific acts that would be considered bias based policing and outlining procedures to address requirements of Article 2.131-137 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

This directive does not prohibit police personnel from stopping or detaining individuals if a specific report exists in which an individual's race, national origin, citizenship, religion, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation is an identifying factor in determining the existence of probable cause for taking police action.

POLICY:

Members of the College Station Police Department will not engage in any activities that are discriminatory or indicative of the practice of bias based policing. Personnel will focus on the behavior of an individual and/or specific suspect information in taking police action. Individuals will not be targeted for enforcement action, detention, field contacts, asset seizure and forfeiture, or interdiction solely on the basis of race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group or any other identifiable group. Appropriate corrective action will be taken, after investigation, against any employee who engages in bias based policing. Such an investigation may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. [1.2.9\(a\)\(c\)](#)

DEFINITIONS:

1. Bias Based Profiling - The targeting of an individual for enforcement action, detention or interdiction based solely on a trait common to a group of people. This includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group or any other identifiable group. For purpose of this directive the term "racial profiling" is a part of Biased Based Profiling.
2. Race or Ethnicity - heritage of a particular descent, including Caucasian {W}, African {B}, Hispanic {H}, Asian {A}, Native American {NA}, or Other {O} descent.
3. Seizure - any taking of property from an individual without the individual's consent or any restriction of an individual's liberty without the individual's consent. A detention will be considered a seizure, as will an arrest. Seizure also includes any filing of documents with the District Attorney for the purpose of asset forfeiture.

PROCEDURE:

1. Reporting Requirements

- a. Traffic Stops
- (1) Article 2.132 of the Code of Criminal Procedure requires specific information must be recorded for each traffic stop in which a citation is issued or an arrest results from the traffic stop. The required information includes:
 - (a) The race or ethnicity of the individual detained; and
 - (b) Whether a search was conducted and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search.
 - (2) Required fields have been incorporated into the citation and arrest forms to accommodate this data collection requirement.
- b. Reports Required for Traffic and Pedestrian Stops
- (1) Article 2.133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure requires the following information be recorded each time a peace officer who stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of a law or ordinance regulating traffic or who stops a pedestrian for any suspected offense:
 - (a) A physical description of each person detained as a result of the stop to include the person's gender and the person's race or ethnicity as stated by the person, or if not stated, as determined by the officer to the best of the officer's ability. The abbreviations to be use for the following race or ethnicity's are:

(i) Caucasian	W
(ii) African	B
(iii) Hispanic	H
(iv) Asian	A
(v) Native American	NA
(vi) Other	O
 - (b) The traffic law or ordinance alleged to have been violated or the suspected offense;
 - (c) Whether the officer conducted a search as a result of the stop and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search;
 - (d) Whether any contraband was discovered in the course of the search and the type of contraband discovered;
 - (e) Whether probable cause to search existed and the facts supporting the existence of that probable cause;
 - (f) The street address or approximate location of the stop; and
 - (g) Whether the officer made an arrest as a result of the stop or the search, including a description of the warning or a statement of the violation charged.
 - (2) This reporting requirement only applies to those police vehicles and police motorcycles routinely used to make traffic stops. Members of the department are exempt from the reporting requirements of article 2.133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as outlined in 1 b. (1) above, provided each traffic and pedestrian stop is recorded by mobile video/audio recording equipment as directed by Chapter 62 of this manual entitled *Mobile Video/Audio Recording*.
 - (3) The law also requires the collection of data for pedestrian stops, defined in the law as "an interaction between a peace officer and an individual who is being detained for the purpose of a criminal investigation in which the individual is not under arrest". It is important for officers to recognize that pedestrian stops will now require a different thought process in order to meet the state law requirements. A "pedestrian stop" in this new law in practice is:
 - (a) a pedestrian stop self-initiated (on-view) by the officer based only upon reasonable suspicion, and
 - (b) in which no offense is clearly evident at the time of the stop.

- (4) Pedestrian stop does not apply to:
 - (a) citizens stopped during dispatched calls, or
 - (b) citizen stops initiated by offenses committed in the officer's presence (fights, indecent exposure, etc.).
- c. While not totally inclusive, the following examples are provided to assist officers in understanding when documentation of a pedestrian is required and when it is not:
 - (1) Officer responding to a "burglary in progress" call stops a pedestrian leaving the scene. This is part of the open burglary call and is not considered a "pedestrian stop".
 - (2) One day after a robbery, officers stop a pedestrian in the area matching the suspect description. This is not an open call and is considered a "pedestrian stop".
 - (3) Officer observes a person throwing a rock through a window. Officer stops and arrests the subject. There was an offense clearly evident at the time the officer decided to make the stop. Officer initiates a criminal mischief call and clears as he does currently. This is not a "pedestrian stop".
 - (4) Officer observes two persons walking behind a closed business. No offense is clearly evident. The officer stops the subjects and one subject is arrested for a warrant. The second subject is released at the scene. The officer initiates a call, for warrant arrest. The warrant service call is cleared as currently done. Both subjects are considered "pedestrian stops".
- d. The law does not specifically address passengers in vehicles. The law does include the specific terms "pedestrians" and "pedestrian stop". Therefore, the law does not apply to passengers in vehicles.
- e. Warning, Citation, Arrest, and FIR forms have been modified to comply with new data collection requirements for use by officers to record traffic and pedestrian stops made in the absence of functional mobile video/audio recording equipment.
 - (1) Designated fields will be completed any time mobile video/audio recording equipment is inoperable or unavailable.
 - (2) Records personnel will ensure additional information from these forms is entered into the computer.
- f. A copy of all seizures related to asset forfeiture filed with the District Attorney will be provided to the person that oversees the Asset Forfeiture records and fund.

2. Responsibilities

- a. Patrol Officers
 - (1) Are responsible for ensuring mobile video/audio recording equipment is fully operational throughout their tour of duty. Any equipment failures or repairs needed should be immediately reported to the on duty shift supervisor as soon as possible.
 - (2) Conduct traffic stops in a professional manner as outlined in the chapter of this manual entitled *Traffic Safety*.
 - (3) Are responsible for ensuring all required fields on associated paperwork are completed including those fields required for those occasions when the mobile video/audio recording equipment is not operational or is unavailable.
 - (4) Ensure that all paperwork is turned into their supervisors at the end of their tour of duty.

- b. Patrol Supervisors
 - (1) Traffic enforcement will be accompanied by consistent, ongoing supervisory oversight to ensure officers do not go beyond the parameters of reasonableness in conducting such activities.
 - (2) First line supervisors shall randomly review the mobile video/audio recording tapes of each of their subordinates with the intent to determine compliance with this and other applicable directives. At a minimum, one review per officer per month will be conducted.
 - (3) Summary reports on these reviews will be completed on a quarterly basis and submitted to the Chief through the chain of command. The Chief will then file this report with the Internal Affairs Administrator who will use this report for annual reporting requirements.
- c. Recruiting & Training Lieutenant
 - (1) Will ensure all affected department personnel are trained on racial profiling issues as determined appropriate by the Texas Commission on Officer Standards and Education. [1.2.9\(b\)](#)
- d. Internal Affairs Supervisor
 - (1) The Internal Affairs Administrator is responsible for investigating any complaints of bias based profiling filed against any member of the College Station Police Department as outlined in Chapter 26 Internal Affairs.
 - (2) If a video or audio recording was made of an incident, which is the basis of a complaint, the Internal Affairs Administrator or his designee will provide a copy of the recording to the officer who is the subject of the complaint upon the officer's written request. The request is to be made in memo form, routed through the chain of command to the Chief of Police.
 - (3) Perform a comparative analysis of the data collected for traffic stops and traffic stop arrests (tier 1 reporting) and a separate comparative analysis for any data collected on traffic and pedestrian stops due to non-operational or unavailable audio/video equipment (tier 2 reporting). [1.2.9\(d\)](#)
 - (a) Analysis for each report will be based on a calendar year.
 - (b) Summary reports of the analysis must be submitted to the office of the Chief of Police and the City Council before March 1st of each year.
 - (c) The reports must include:
 - [1] A determination of the prevalence of racial profiling
 - [2] An examination of the disposition of traffic and pedestrian stops, including searches resulting from the stops
 - [3] An examination of quarterly supervisor review summary reports; and
 - [4] Information relating to each complaint filed within the department alleging racial profiling.
 - [5] The report may not include identifying information about an officer or about the person stopped. [1.2.9\(d\)](#)
 - (4) Will annually review and update department brochures, which serve to educate the public about the internal affairs complaint process.
 - (4) May make recommendations to the department training committee, or the recruiting and training division based on findings of summary reports.
- e. Public Information Officer

The Public Information Officer will annually post a statement in the local newspaper outlining the Department's internal affairs complaint process. The statement will specifically include the process by which a member of the public may file a complaint if the individual believes an employee of our department has engaged in bias based profiling with respect to the individual.

- f. Department Web page Master

The Department's web page master will maintain a statement on the website outlining the Department's internal affairs complaint process. The statement will specifically include the process by which a member of the public may file a complaint if the individual believes an employee of our department has engaged in racial profiling with respect to the individual.

3. Training Requirements

- a. Officers are responsible for adherence of all Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) training and the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) requirements as mandated by law.

4. Complaint Investigation

- a. Any and all complaints alleging Biased Based Policing will be readily accepted in accordance to the chapter of this manual, entitled *Complaints/Internal Affairs*.
- b. If practical, any video and/or audiotapes associated with a biased-based policing complaint shall be forwarded through the chain of command with the complaint.

5. Public Education

- a. This department will inform the public of its policy against biased based policing and the complaint process. Methods that may be utilized to inform the public include but are not limited to television, radio, service or civic presentations, brochures, the Internet, as well as governing board meetings.
- b. Additionally, information will be made available as appropriate in languages other than English.

Complaint Process: Informing the Public and Addressing Allegations of Racial Profiling Practices

Informing the Public on the Process of Filing a Racial Profiling Complaint with the College Station Police Department

One of the requirements of the Texas Racial Profiling Law is that police agencies provide information to the public regarding the manner in which to file a racial profiling complaint. In an effort to comply with this particular component, the College Station Police Department launched an educational campaign aimed at informing the public on issues relevant to the racial profiling complaint process.

The police department made available, in the lobby area, information relevant to filing a complaint on a racial profiling violation by a College Station Police officer. It is believed that through these efforts, the community has been properly informed of the new policies and the complaint processes relevant to racial profiling.

Racial Profiling Training

Racial Profiling Training

Since 2002, all College Station Police officers have been instructed, as specified in the Texas Racial Profiling Law, to adhere to all Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) training and the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) requirements. To date, all sworn officers of the College Station Police Department have completed the TCLEOSE basic training on racial profiling. The main outline used to train the officers of College Station has been included in this report.

It is important to recognize that the Chief of the College Station Police Department has also met the training requirements, as specified by the Texas Racial Profiling Law, in the completion of the LEMIT program on racial profiling. The satisfactory completion of the racial profiling training by the sworn personnel of the College Station Police Department fulfills the training requirement as specified in the Education Code (96.641) of the Texas Racial Profiling Law.

**Racial Profiling
Course Number 3256
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
September 2001**

Racial Profiling 3256

Instructor's Note:

You may wish to teach this course in conjunction with Asset Forfeiture 3255 because of the related subject matter and applicability of the courses. If this course is taught in conjunction with Asset Forfeiture, you may report it under Combined Profiling and Forfeiture 3257 to reduce data entry.

Abstract

This instructor guide is designed to meet the educational requirement for racial profiling established by legislative mandate: 77R-SB1074.

Target Population: Licensed law enforcement personnel in Texas

Prerequisites: Experience as a law enforcement officer

Length of Course: A suggested instructional time of 4 hours

Material Requirements: Overhead projector, chalkboard and/or flip charts, video tape player, handouts, practical exercises, and demonstrations

Instructor Qualifications: Instructors should be very knowledgeable about traffic stop procedures and law enforcement issues

Evaluation Process and Procedures

An examination should be given. The instructor may decide upon the nature and content of the examination. It must, however, sufficiently demonstrate the mastery of the subject content by the student.

Reference Materials

Reference materials are located at the end of the course. An electronic copy of this instructor guide may be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.tcleose.state.tx.us>.

Racial Profiling 3256

1.0 RACIAL PROFILING AND THE LAW

1.1 UNIT GOAL: The student will be able to identify the legal aspects of racial profiling.

1.1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVE: The student will be able to identify the legislative requirements placed upon peace officers and law enforcement agencies regarding racial profiling.

Racial Profiling Requirements:

Racial profiling CCP 3.05

Racial profiling prohibited CCP 2.131

Law enforcement policy on racial profiling CCP 2.132

Reports required for traffic and pedestrian stops CCP 2.133

Liability CCP 2.136

Racial profiling education for police chiefs Education Code 96.641

Training program Occupations Code 1701.253

Training required for intermediate certificate Occupations Code 1701.402

Definition of "race or ethnicity" for form Transportation Code 543.202

A. Written departmental policies

1. Definition of what constitutes racial profiling
2. Prohibition of racial profiling
3. Complaint process
4. Public education
5. Corrective action
6. Collection of traffic-stop statistics
7. Annual reports

B. Not prima facie evidence

C. Feasibility of use of video equipment

D. Data does not identify officer

E. Copy of complaint-related video evidence to officer in question

F. Vehicle stop report

1. Physical description of detainees: gender, race or ethnicity
2. Alleged violation
3. Consent to search
4. Contraband
5. Facts supporting probable cause
6. Arrest
7. Warning or citation issued

G. Compilation and analysis of data

H. Exemption from reporting – audio/video equipment

I. Officer non-liability

J. Funding

K. Required training in racial profiling

1. Police chiefs

2. All holders of intermediate certificates and/or two-year-old licenses as of 09/01/2001 (training to be completed no later than 09/01/2003) – see legislation 77R-SB1074

1.1.2 LEARNING OBJECTIVE: The student will become familiar with Supreme Court decisions and other court decisions involving appropriate actions in traffic stops.

A. Whren v. United States, 517 U.S. 806, 116 S.Ct. 1769 (1996)

1. Motor vehicle search exemption

2. Traffic violation acceptable as pretext for further investigation

3. Selective enforcement can be challenged

B. Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1, 88 S.Ct. 1868 (1968)

1. Stop & Frisk doctrine

2. Stopping and briefly detaining a person

3. Frisk and pat down

C. Other cases

1. Pennsylvania v. Mimms, 434 U.S. 106, 98 S.Ct. 330 (1977)

2. Maryland v. Wilson, 117 S.Ct. 882 (1997)

3. Graham v. State, 119 MdApp 444, 705 A.2d 82 (1998)

4. Pryor v. State, 122 Md.App. 671 (1997) cert. denied 352 Md. 312, 721 A.2d 990 (1998)

5. Ferris v. State, 355 Md. 356, 735 A.2d 491 (1999)

6. New York v. Belton, 453 U.S. 454 (1981)

2.0 RACIAL PROFILING AND THE COMMUNITY

2.1 UNIT GOAL: The student will be able to identify logical and social arguments against racial profiling.

2.1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVE: The student will be able to identify logical and social arguments against racial profiling.

A. There are appropriate reasons for unusual traffic stops (suspicious behavior, the officer's intuition, MOs, etc.), but police work must stop short of cultural stereotyping and racism

B. Racial profiling would result in criminal arrests, but only because it would target all members of a race randomly – the minor benefits would be far outweighed by the distrust and anger towards law enforcement by minorities and the public as a whole

C. Racial profiling is self-fulfilling bad logic: if you believed that minorities committed more crimes, then you might look for more minority criminals, and find them in disproportionate numbers

D. Inappropriate traffic stops generate suspicion and antagonism towards officers and make future stops more volatile – a racially-based stop today can throw suspicion on tomorrow's legitimate stop

E. By focusing on race, you would not only be harassing innocent citizens, but overlooking criminals of all races and backgrounds – it is a waste of law enforcement resources

3.0 RACIAL PROFILING VERSUS REASONABLE SUSPICION

3.1 UNIT GOAL: The student will be able to identify the elements of both inappropriate and appropriate traffic stops.

3.1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVE: The student will be able to identify elements of a racially motivated traffic stop.

A. Most race-based complaints come from vehicle stops, often since race is used as an inappropriate substitute for drug courier profile elements

B. "DWB" – "Driving While Black" – a nickname for the public perception that a Black person may be stopped solely because of their race (especially with the suspicion that they are a drug courier), often extended to other minority groups or activities as well ("Driving While Brown," "Flying While Black," etc.)

C. A typical traffic stop resulting from racial profiling

1. The vehicle is stopped on the basis of a minor or contrived traffic violation which is used as a pretext for closer inspection of the vehicle, driver, and passengers

2. The driver and passengers are questioned about things that do not relate to the traffic violation

3. The driver and passengers are ordered out of the vehicle
4. The officers visually check all observable parts of the vehicle
5. The officers proceed on the assumption that drug courier work is involved by detaining the driver and passengers by the roadside
6. The driver is asked to consent to a vehicle search – if the driver refuses, the officers use other procedures (waiting on a canine unit, criminal record checks, license-plate checks, etc.), and intimidate the driver (with the threat of detaining him/her, obtaining a warrant, etc.)

3.1.2 LEARNING OBJECTIVE: The student will be able to identify elements of a traffic stop which would constitute reasonable suspicion of drug courier activity.

- A. Drug courier profile (adapted from a profile developed by the DEA)
1. Driver is nervous or anxious beyond the ordinary anxiety and cultural communication styles
 2. Signs of long-term driving (driver is unshaven, has empty food containers, etc.)
 3. Vehicle is rented
 4. Driver is a young male, 20-35
 5. No visible luggage, even though driver is traveling
 6. Driver was over-reckless or over-cautious in driving and responding to signals
 7. Use of air fresheners
- B. Drug courier activity indicators by themselves are usually not sufficient to justify a stop

3.1.3 LEARNING OBJECTIVE: The student will be able to identify elements of a traffic stop which could constitute reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.

- A. Thinking about the totality of circumstances in a vehicle stop
- B. Vehicle exterior
1. Non-standard repainting (esp. on a new vehicle)
 2. Signs of hidden cargo (heavy weight in trunk, windows do not roll down, etc.)
 3. Unusual license plate suggesting a switch (dirty plate, bugs on back plate, etc.)
 4. Unusual circumstances (pulling a camper at night, kids' bikes with no kids, etc.)
- C. Pre-stop indicators
1. Not consistent with traffic flow
 2. Driver is overly cautious, or driver/passengers repeatedly look at police car
 3. Driver begins using a car- or cell-phone when signaled to stop
 4. Unusual pull-over behavior (ignores signals, hesitates, pulls onto new street, moves objects in car, etc.)

D. Vehicle interior

1. Rear seat or interior panels have been opened, there are tools or spare tire, etc.
2. Inconsistent items (anti-theft club with a rental, unexpected luggage, etc.)

Resources

Proactive Field Stops Training Unit – Instructor's Guide, Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, 2001. (See Appendix A.)

Web address for legislation 77R-SB1074:

<http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/tlo/77r/billtext/SB01074F.htm>

Report on Complaints

Report on Complaints

The following table contains data regarding officers that have been the subject of a complaint, during the time period of 1/1/08---12/31/08, based on allegations outlining possible violations related to the Texas Racial Profiling Law. The final disposition of the case is also included.

A check above indicates that the College Station Police Department has not received any complaints, on any members of its police force, for having violated the Texas Racial Profiling Law during the time period of 1/1/08 ---- 12/31/08.

Complaints Filed for Possible Violations of The Texas Racial Profiling Law

Complaint No.	Alleged Violation			Disposition of the Case
IA 2008-09	Racial Profiling			Exonerated

Additional Comments:

Tables Illustrating Traffic Contact

Tier 1 Data

(I) Tier 1 Data

Traffic-Related Contact Information (1/1/08—12/31/08)

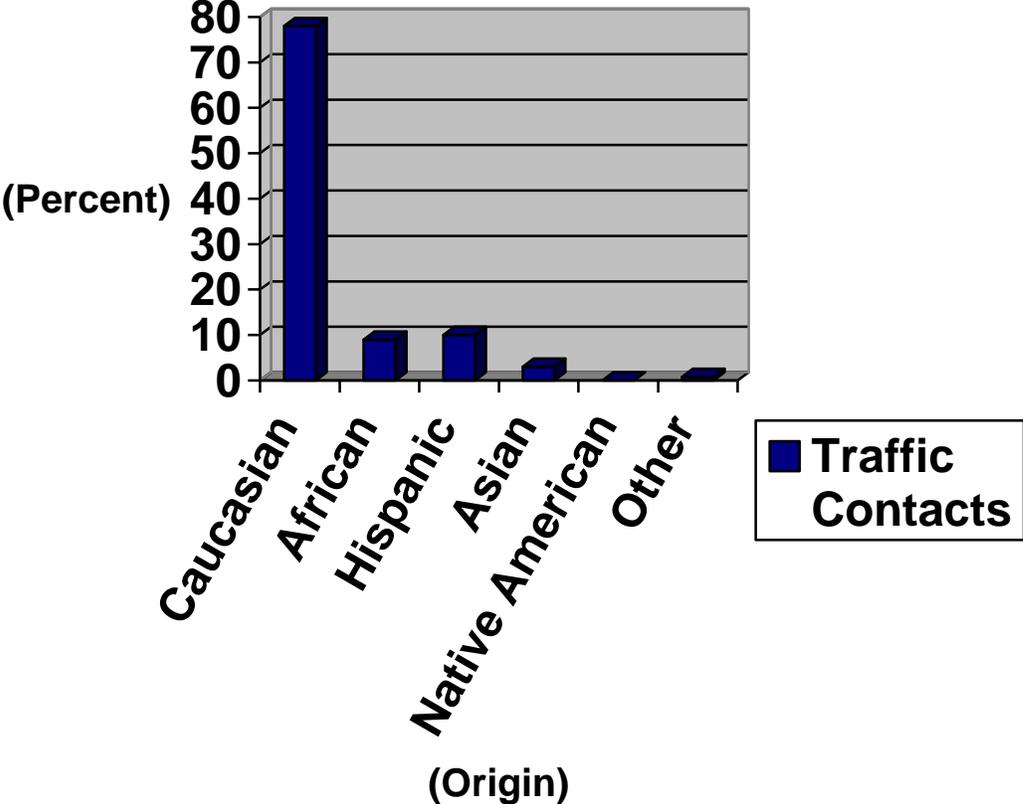
Race/Ethnicity*	Contacts		Searches		Consensual Searches		PC Searches		Custody Arrests	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	12126	78	223	63	75	71	81	70	204	52
African	1427	9	72	20	10	10	19	16	112	28
Hispanic	1521	10	54	15	20	19	14	12	78	20
Asian	447	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.3
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	124	.8	4	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
Total	15645	100	353	100	105	100	116	100	395	100

"N" represents "number" of traffic-related contacts

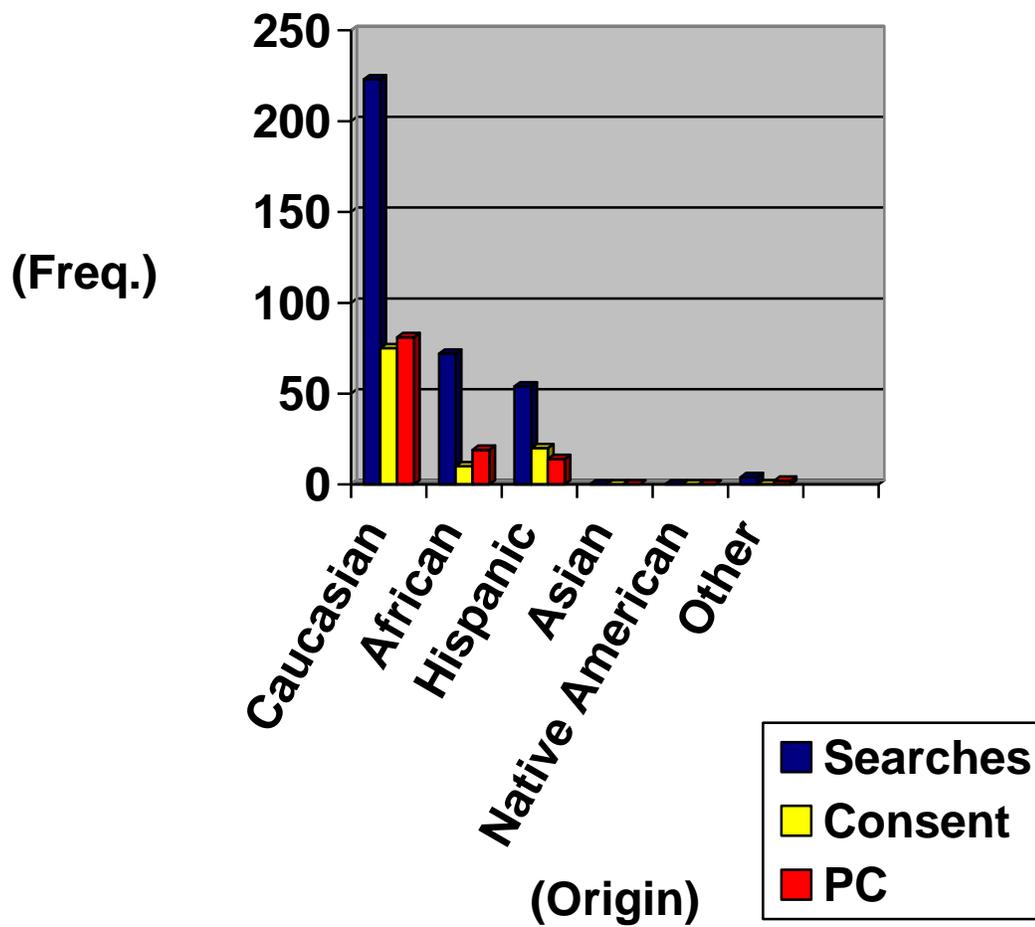
* Race/Ethnicity is defined by Senate Bill 1074 as being of a "particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American".

**Figure has been rounded

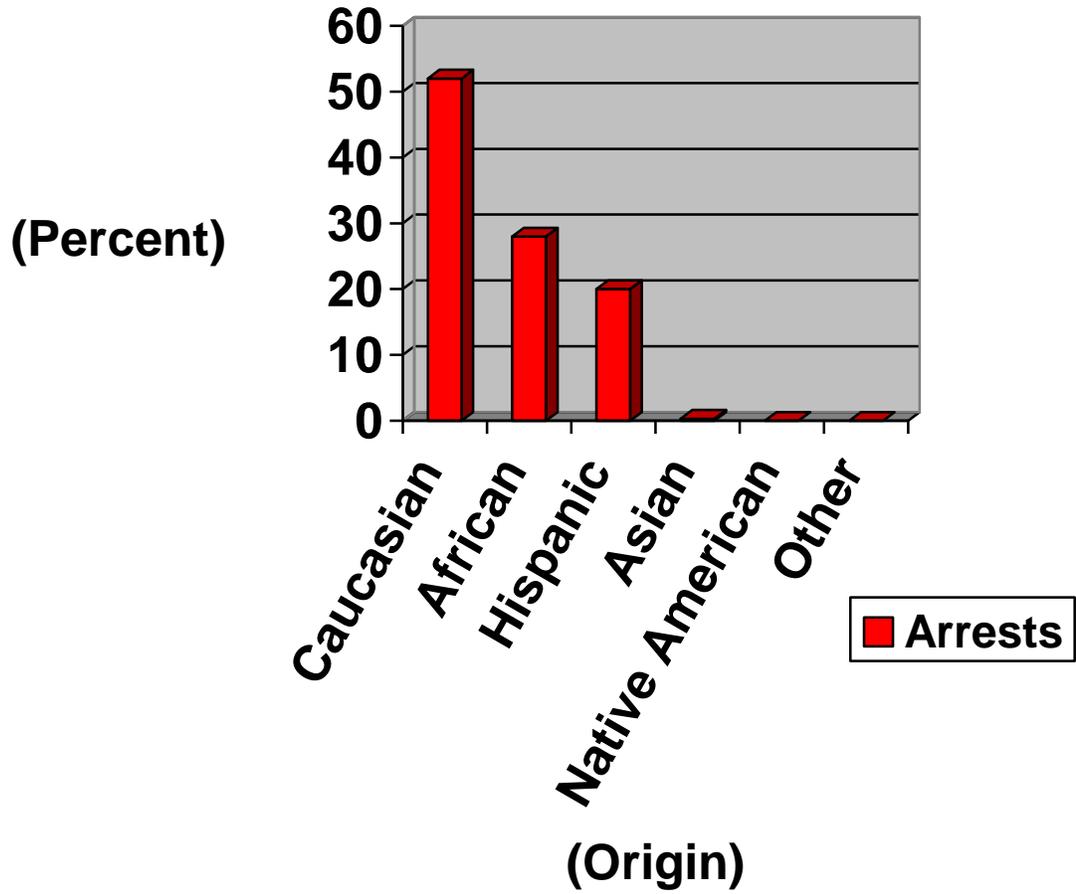
Tier 1 Data (Traffic Contacts)



Tier 1 Data (Searches)



Tier 1 Data (Arrests)



**Tier 1 Baseline Comparison
(Fair Roads Standard)**

(II) Traffic-Contacts and Fair Roads Standard Comparison

Comparison of traffic-related contacts with households in College Station that have vehicle access (in percentages). (1/1/08—12/31/08)

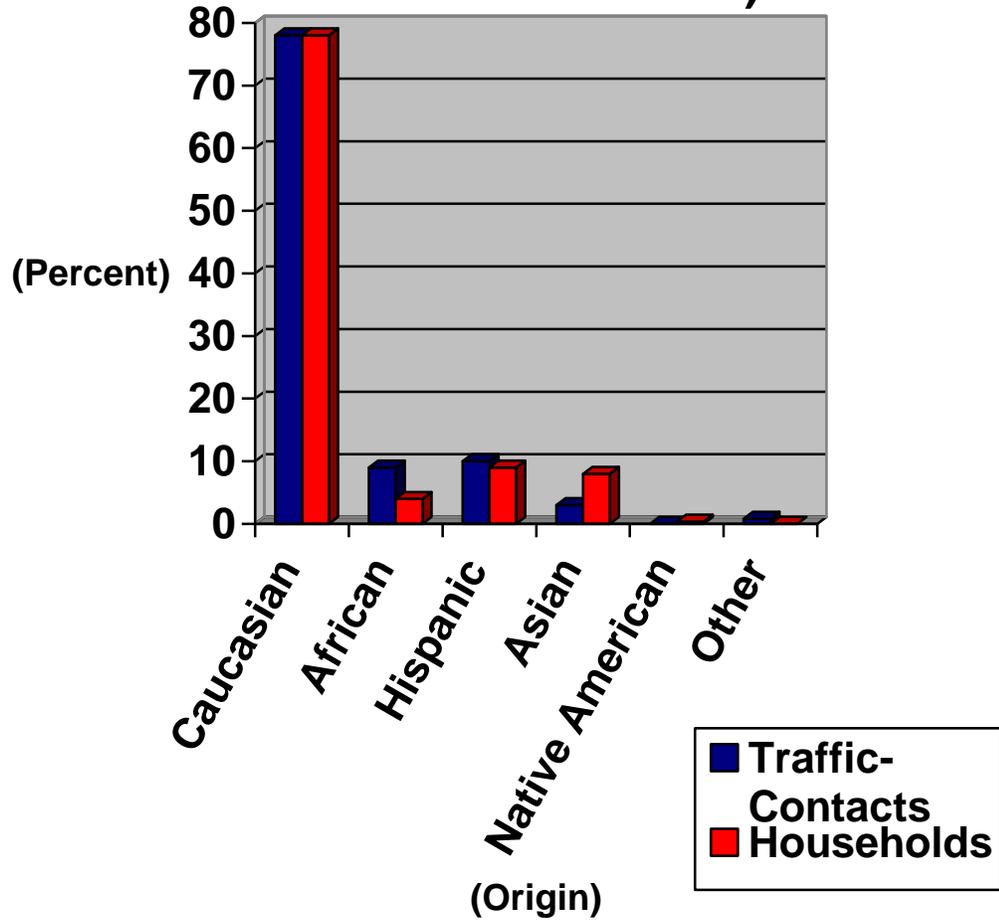
Race/Ethnicity*	Traffic-Contacts (in percentages)	Households with Vehicle Access (in percentages)
Caucasian	78	78
African	9	4
Hispanic	10	9
Asian	3	8
Native American	0	.34
Other	.8	N/A
Total	100	99.3***

* Race/Ethnicity are defined by Senate Bill 1074 as being of a "particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American".

**Represents rounded figure

***Amount does not total 100% since Census data does provide value of "other" category.

Tier 1 (Traffic-Contacts and Households/08)



Tier 1 Data
(Seven-Year Comparative Analysis)
(2002—2008)

(III) Seven-Year Tier 1 Data Comparison

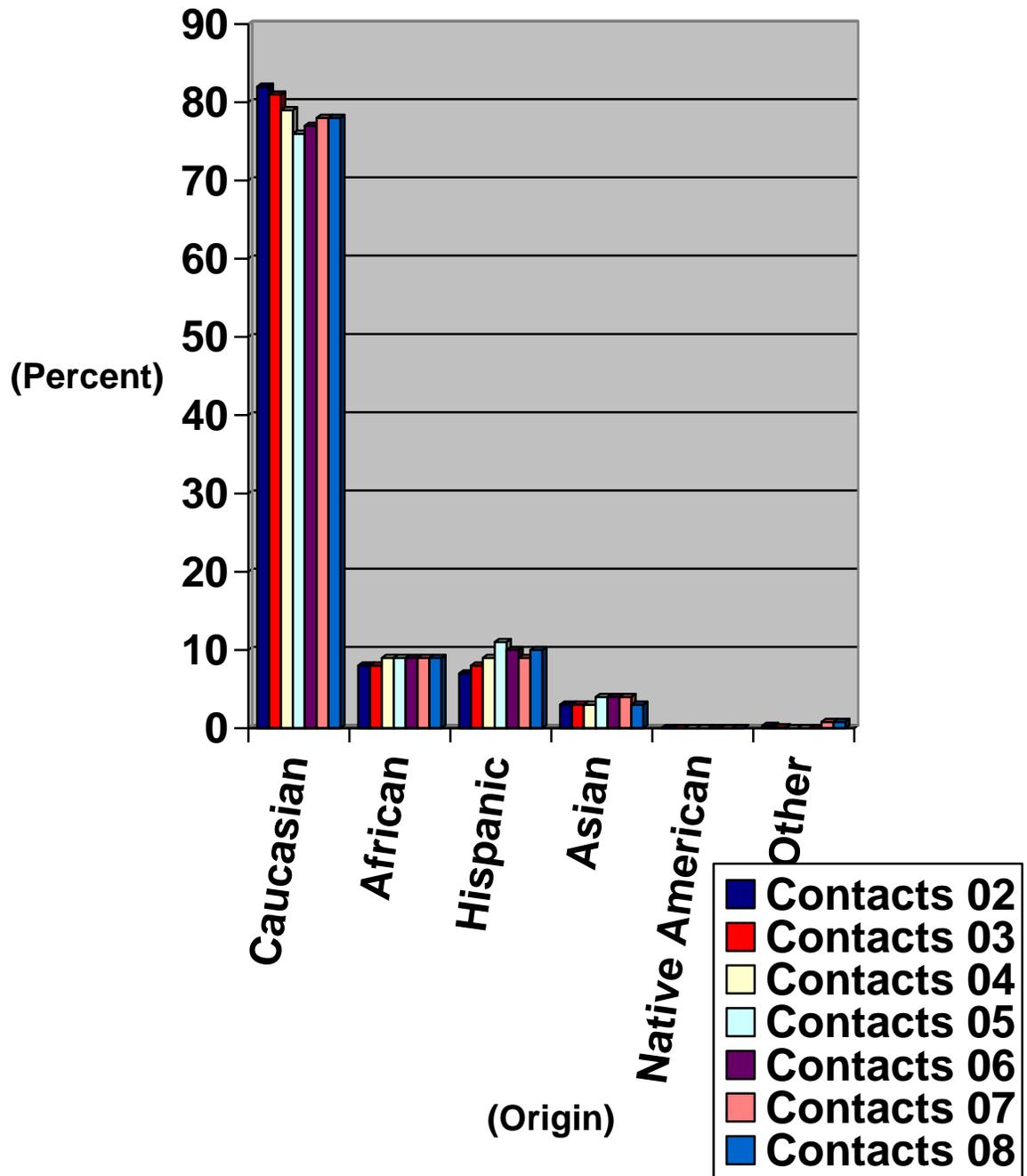
Comparison of Seven-Year Traffic-Related Contact Information (1/1/02---12/31/08)

Race/Ethnicity*	Traffic-Related Contacts (in percentages)						
	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)
Caucasian	82	81	79	76	77	78	78
African	8	8	9	9	9	9	9
Hispanic	7	8	9	11	10	9	10
Asian	3	3	3	4	4	4	3
Native American	.005	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	.3	.1	0	0	0	.8	.8
Total	100**	100**	100**	100**	100	100**	100

* Race/Ethnicity is defined by Texas Senate Bill 1074 as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”.

** Figure has been rounded.

Tier 1 Data (Traffic-Contacts 02-08)



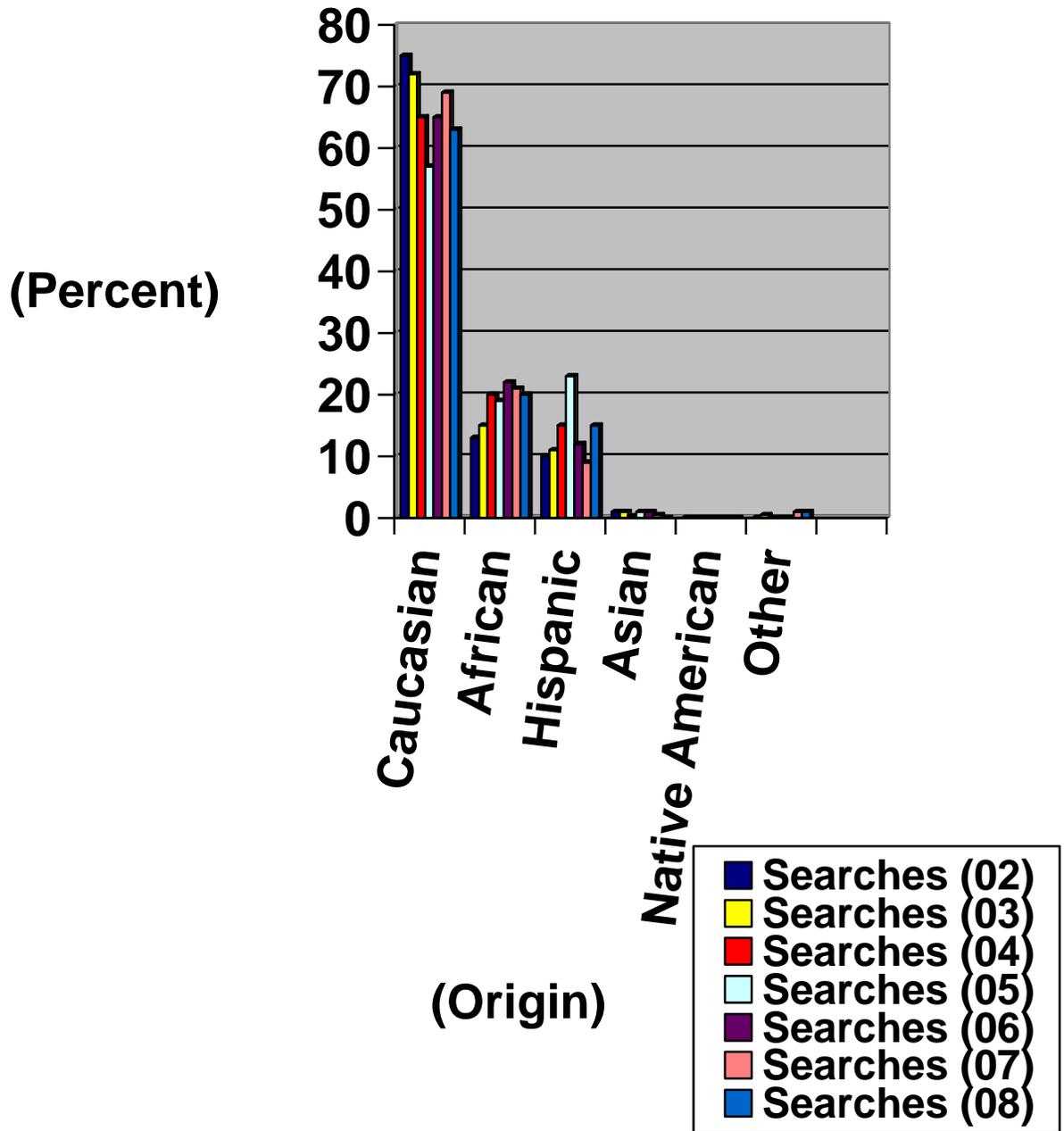
**Comparison of Seven-Year Traffic-Related Search Information
(1/1/02---12/31/08)**

Race/Ethnicity*	Traffic-Related Searches (in percentages)						
	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)
Caucasian	75	72	65	57	65	69	63
African	13	15	20	19	22	21	20
Hispanic	10	11	15	23	12	9	15
Asian	1	1	.3	1	1	.5	0
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	.5	0	0	0	1	1
Total	100**	100**	100**	100	100	100**	100

* Race/Ethnicity is defined by Texas Senate Bill 1074 as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”.

** Figure has been rounded.

Tier 1 Data (Searches 02-08)



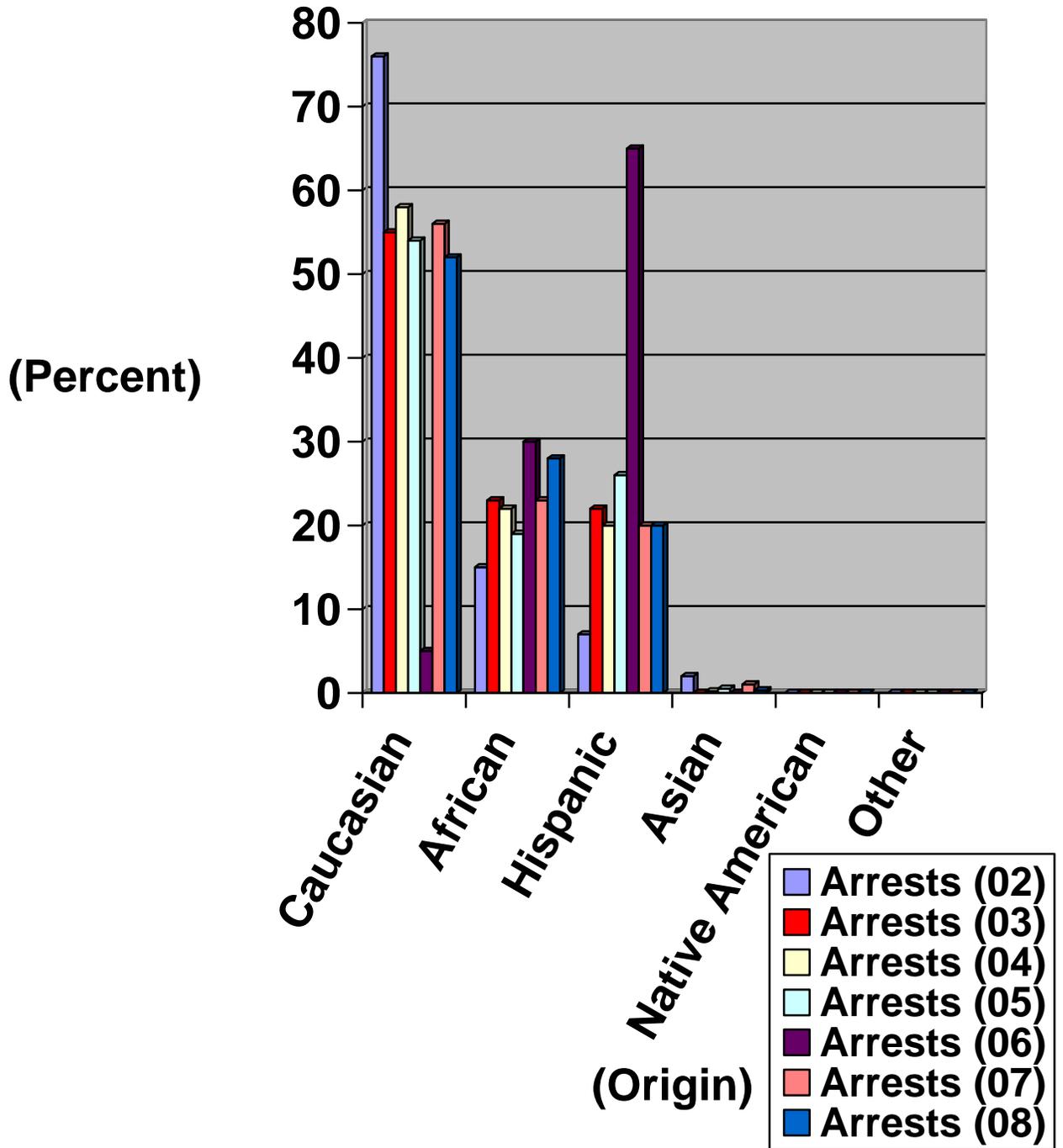
**Comparison of Seven-Year Traffic-Related Arrest Information
(1/1/02---12/31/08)**

Race/Ethnicity*	Traffic-Related Arrests (in percentages)						
	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)
Caucasian	76	55	58	54	5	56	52
African	15	23	22	19	30	23	28
Hispanic	7	22	20	26	65	20	20
Asian	2	0	.2	.5	0	1	.3
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100**	100**	100**	100**	100

* Race/Ethnicity is defined by Texas Senate Bill 1074 as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”.

** Figure has been rounded.

Tier 1 Data (Arrests 02-08)



Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Analysis

In 2001, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1074 which later became the Texas Racial Profiling Law. The law came into effect on January 1, 2002 and requires that all police departments in Texas collect traffic-related data and report this information to their local governing authority by March 1st of each year. The purpose in collecting and presenting this information is to determine if police officers in a particular municipality are engaging in the practice of profiling minority motorists.

The Texas Racial Profiling Law also requires police departments to interpret traffic-related data. Although most researchers would probably agree with the fact that it is within the confines of good practice for police departments to be accountable to the citizenry while carrying a transparent image before the community, it is very difficult to determine if police departments are engaging in racial profiling, from a review or analysis of aggregate data. In other words, it is challenging for a reputable researcher to identify specific “individual” racist behavior from aggregate-level “institutional” data on traffic-related contacts.

The College Station Police Department, in an effort to comply with The Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. 1074), commissioned the analysis of its 2008 traffic contact data. Thus, three different types of data analyses were performed. The first of these involved a careful evaluation of the 2008 traffic stop data. This particular analysis measured, as required by the law, the number and percentage of Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and individuals belonging to the “other” category, that came in contact with the police in the course of a traffic-related stop, and were either issued a citation or arrested. Further, the analysis included information relevant to the number and percentage of searches (table 1) while indicating the type of search performed (i.e., consensual or probable cause). Also, the data analysis included the number and percentage of individuals who, after they came in contact with the police for a traffic-related reason, were arrested.

The additional data analysis performed was based on a comparison of the 2008 traffic-contact data with a specific baseline. When reviewing this particular analysis, it should be noted that there is disagreement, in the literature, regarding the appropriate baseline to be used when analyzing traffic-related contact information. Of the baseline measures available, the College Station Police Department opted to adopt, as a baseline measure, the Fair Roads Standard. This particular baseline is based on data obtained through the U.S. Census Bureau (2000) relevant to the number of households that have access to vehicles while controlling for the race and ethnicity of the heads of households.

It is clear that census data presents challenges to any effort made at establishing a fair and accurate racial profiling analysis. That is, census data contains information on all residents of a particular community, regardless of the fact they may or may not be among the driving population. Further, census data, when used as a baseline of comparison, presents the challenge that it captures information related to city residents only. Thus, excluding individuals who may have come in contact with the College Station Police

Department in 2008 but live outside city limits. In some cases, the percentage of the population that comes in contact with the police but lives outside city limits represents a substantial volume of all traffic-related contacts made in a given year.

In previous years, several civil rights groups in Texas have expressed their desire and made recommendations to the effect that all police departments should rely, in their data analysis, on the Fair Roads Standard. This source contains census data specific to the number of “households” that have access to vehicles. Thus, proposing to compare “households” (which may have multiple residents and only a few vehicles) with “contacts” (an individual-based count). This, in essence, constitutes a comparison that may result in ecological fallacy. Despite this, the College Station Police Department made a decision that it would use this form of comparison (i.e., census data relevant to households with vehicles) in an attempt to demonstrate its “good will” and “transparency” before the community. Thus, the Fair Roads Standard data obtained and used in this study is specifically relevant to College Station.

The final analysis was conducted while using the 2002--2008 traffic contact data. Specifically, all traffic-related contacts made in 2008 were compared to similar figures reported in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. Although some researchers may not support the notion that in seven years, a “significant” and “permanent” trend can take effect, when considering this analysis, it was determined that comparing seven years of traffic contact data may highlight possible areas of consistency with regards to traffic-related contacts. That is, the seven-year comparison has the potential of revealing indicators that a possible trend of traffic-based contacts with regards to members of a specific minority group, may in fact, develop.

Tier 1 (2008) Traffic-Related Contact Analysis

When analyzing the Tier 1 data collected in 2008, it was evident that most traffic-related contacts were made with Caucasian drivers. This was followed by Hispanic and African American drivers. With respect to searches, most of them were performed on Caucasian drivers. This was also followed by African Americans and Hispanics. It is important to note that the arrest data revealed that Caucasian drivers were arrested the most in traffic-related contacts; this was followed by African Americans and Hispanics, in that order. In addition, no arrests were made, in traffic related incidents, of Native American drivers or those belonging to the “other” category.

Fair Roads Standard Analysis

The data analysis of traffic contacts to the census data relevant to the number of “households” in College Station who indicated, in the 2000 census, that they had access to vehicles, produced interesting findings. Specifically, the percentage of individuals of Caucasian, Asian and Native American descent that came in contact with the police was the same or lower than the percentage of Caucasian, Asian and Native American households in College Station that claimed, in the 2000 census, to have access to vehicles. With respect to African American and Hispanic drivers, a higher percentage of

contacts were detected. That is, the percentage of African American and Hispanic drivers that came in contact with the police in 2008 was higher than the percentage of African American and Hispanic households in College Station with access to vehicles. It should be noted that the percentage difference among Hispanic contacts was of less than 3%; thus, deemed by some as being statistically insignificant.

Seven-Year Comparison

The seven-year comparison (02-08) of traffic-contact data showed some similarities. As illustrated in table 3, the percentage of drivers (from different racial/ethnic groups) that came in contact with the College Station Police in 2008 was similar to the percentage of drivers, from the same racial/ethnic groups that came in contact with the College Station Police Department in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002. However, a few differences were noted. When comparing 2008 to the previous years, there was an increase in percentage of contacts among Hispanics while a decrease in percentage of contacts was detected among Asian drivers.

It is clear that commonalities in the data existed, when analyzing the search-related contacts for all seven years. An increase in percentage was detected among Hispanics while a percentage decrease was noted among Caucasians, African Americans and Asians. When considering the arrests made, the data revealed that the percentage of arrests increased among African Americans while a decrease in percentage was evident among Caucasians and Asians.

Summary of Findings

The comparison of traffic contacts showed that the College Station Police Department came in contact (in traffic-related incidents) with the same or smaller percentage of Caucasian, Asian and Native American drivers than the percentage that resided in College Station and had access to vehicles. Further, the data suggested that the percentage of African American and Hispanic drivers that came in contact with the police in 2008 was higher than the percentage of African American and Hispanic College Station households with access to vehicles.

A careful examination of the seven-year traffic-related contact data suggested that the College Station Police Department has been, for the most part, consistent in the racial/ethnic composition of motorists it comes in contact with during a given year. The consistency of contacts for the past 7 years is in place despite the fact the city demographics may have changed, thus, increasing the number of subjects likely to come in contact with the police.

While considering the findings made in this analysis, it is recommended that the College Station Police Department should continue to collect and evaluate additional information on traffic-contact data (i.e., reason for probable cause searches, contraband detected) which may prove to be useful when determining the nature of the traffic-related contacts police officers are making with all individuals; particularly with African

Americans and Hispanics. Although this additional data may not be required by state law, it is likely to provide insights regarding the nature and outcome of all traffic contacts made with the public. As part of this effort, the College Station Police Department is also encouraged to:

- 1) Perform an independent search analysis on the search data collected in 2008.
- 2) Commission data audits in order to assess data integrity; that is, to ensure that the data collected is consistent with the data being reported

The information and analysis provided in this report serves as evidence that the College Station Police Department has, once again, complied with the Texas Racial Profiling Law.

(III) Summary

Checklist

Checklist

The following requirements **were** met by the College Station Police Department in accordance with The Texas Racial Profiling Law:

- Clearly defined act or actions that constitute racial profiling
- Statement indicating prohibition of any peace officer employed by the College Station Police Department from engaging in racial profiling
- Implement a process by which an individual may file a complaint regarding racial profiling violations
- Provide public education related to the complaint process
- Implement disciplinary guidelines for officer found in violation of the Texas Racial Profiling Law
- Collect data (Tier 1) that includes information on
 - a) Race and ethnicity of individual detained
 - b) Whether a search was conducted
 - c) If there was a search, whether it was a consent search or a probable cause search
 - d) Whether a custody arrest took place
- Produce an annual report on police contacts (Tier 1) and present this to local governing body by March 1, 2009.
- Adopt a policy, if video/audio equipment is installed, on standards for reviewing video and audio documentation

Contact Information

Contact Information

For additional questions regarding the information presented in this report, please contact:

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