

Report on Traffic Stop Data



Background:

Prior to January 2021, the only means to identify reasons for a car stop was to review a traffic citation and/or read an arrest or crime report narrative. Now with the RIPA database, the department is able to analyze reasons for the stop. It is important to recognize RIPA requirements continue to evolve and today's requirements will likely differ beginning 2022.

Source:

Car stop data (reason for the stop and result of the stop) was collected from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, which resulted in the identification of 9,785 car stops.

Information on car stops is found in several data sources:

- CAD is a dispatch system and provides incident types, dispositions, and unit types.
- RIPA data provides information on the reason a stop was initiated and the result of the stop.
- Crossroads e-citation provides information on when stops occurred and if a citation was issued.
- RMS data contains arrest, crime, FI, citation, and impound information.

Methodology:

RIPA is the only data source that identifies the reason for the stop. In many cases, there may be several reasons for a car stop (i.e., traffic violation, probation, suspicious behavior, etc.) and there may be several outcomes (i.e., citation, warning, education, arrest, etc.) resulting from it. In the cases of CAD, RIPA, and RMS data, there are multiple pieces of information that must be ranked in order to identify the most significant reason or result of a stop.

- For stop reasons, subjects known to have wants/warrants are given the highest score followed by persons on probation/parole, traffic violations, truants, suspicious behavior, and consensual encounters.
- For stop results, arrests are given the highest position followed by citations, field interview documentation, crime reports, warnings, etc.

Motor officers' stops are not consistently recorded in CAD due to it being a dispatch system. Motor officers conduct proactive traffic enforcement and due to the volume of stops, the officer may not communicate their stop. Therefore, citations were only tied to CAD incidents, when possible. If the citation included a case number, the case number was used to link CAD and citation data. If not, links were established when the citing officer was on the CAD call and the CAD call occurred within five (5) minutes of the violation time of the citation. Citations that could not be associated to CAD incidents were included as additional stops and tallied with a stop reason of Traffic Violation and a result of Cited.

Conclusion:

Of the 9,785 car stops, a traffic violation was the reason for the stop 73% of the time. Suspicious behavior, parole, probation, and consensual encounters were also identified as reasons. The leading car stop result was the issuance of a citation at 39% followed by a combined 37% of warnings and education/no action taken. A physical arrest occurred 7% of the time while a police report and/or field interview documentation was completed 1.6% of the time.

August 10, 2021

Car Stop Data

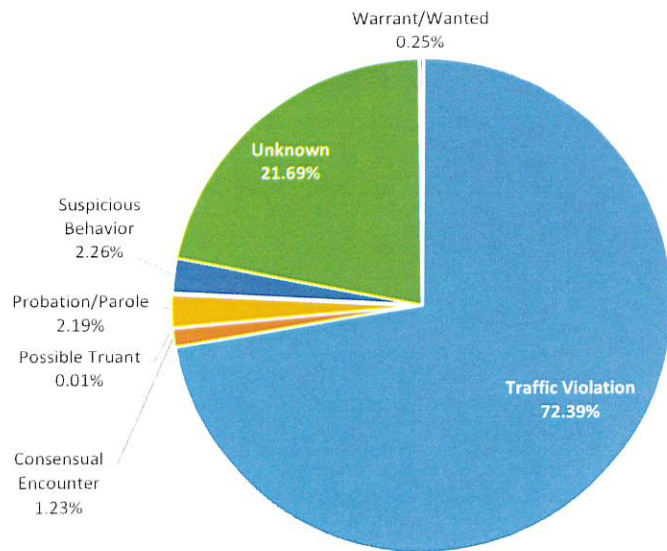
RIPA Reason	Stops	Stop%
Traffic Violation	7,083	72.4%
Unknown	2,122	21.7%
Suspicious Behavior	221	2.3%
Probation/Parole	214	2.2%
Consensual Encounter	120	1.2%
Warrant/Wanted	24	0.2%
Possible Truant	1	0.0%
Total	9,785	100%

Result	Stops	Stop%
Citation	3,822	39.1%
No Action	1,937	19.8%
Warning	1,632	16.7%
Unknown	1,596	16.3%
Arrest	675	6.9%
Report	63	0.6%
Field Interview	60	0.6%
Total	9,785	100%

RIPA Disposition	Stops	Stop%
Cited	3,519	36.0%
Unknown	2,122	21.7%
No Action	1,991	20.3%
Warning	1,636	16.7%
Cited and Released	219	2.2%
Arrest	199	2.0%
Warrant Arrest	79	0.8%
FI	20	0.2%
Total	9,785	100%

CAD Disposition	Stops	Stop%
No Report	4,500	46.0%
Action Taken	2,072	21.2%
Cite Mover	1,316	13.4%
(blank)	840	8.6%
Obs Arrest	472	4.8%
Cite Non-Mover	169	1.7%
Assist	98	1.0%
Parties Advised Will Comply	80	0.8%
Reassignment	60	0.6%
Call Report	48	0.5%
Field Interview	41	0.4%
Call Arrest	35	0.4%
Obs Report	27	0.3%
Unable to Locate	9	0.1%
Cancelled	8	0.1%
Crime Scene Investigation	4	0.0%
Cancelled Enroute	3	0.0%
Gone On Arrival	2	0.0%
Community Policing Problem	1	0.0%
Total	9,785	100%

Stop Reasons



Stop Results

