

LMPD Statement Regarding Traffic Stop Data Analysis

The Louisville Metro Police Department welcomes public discussion surrounding data and analysis on 2025 traffic stops because transparency and continuous improvement are essential to maintaining public trust.

The information referenced by the Office of Inspector General was commissioned by LMPD as part of our commitment to critically evaluate our practices, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions based on data.

These traffic stop data identify disparities in discretionary search rates as well as contraband hit rates among different racial groups and deserve careful review. At the same time, it is important that the public understands what these data do and do not conclude. Officers frequently make discretionary decisions based on rapidly evolving circumstances and information unavailable in administrative datasets.

The analysis identifies statistical disparities after controlling for several variables, but it does not conclude that officers engaged in intentional racial discrimination, nor does it establish that any individual officer violated department policy or constitutional standards. Statistical disparities are important indicators that warrant further examination, but they are not, by themselves, evidence of unlawful bias or misconduct.

Traffic stops occur within the broader context of policing. Crime patterns, victimization trends, calls for service, proactive deployments, neighborhood conditions, and community requests for enforcement are not distributed evenly across Louisville. As a result, policing activity is likewise not evenly distributed. Understanding disparities requires evaluating all these factors, not simply stop outcomes in isolation.

LMPD remains committed to ensuring every stop is lawful, constitutional, and professional. Every officer receives training on constitutional policing, procedural justice, fair and impartial policing, and supervisory accountability. In recent years, the department has implemented significant reforms, including revised stop documentation, enhanced supervisory review, updated policies, expanded data collection, and ongoing review through the Community Commitment process.

We also recognize that our work is never complete. LMPD has been reviewing these data to determine what changes are necessary. Where data identify opportunities to improve effectiveness, reduce unnecessary enforcement, or strengthen community trust, we will act.

Importantly, this information exists because LMPD voluntarily sought an independent statistical analysis of its own data. We believe agencies improve by measuring themselves honestly, sharing difficult findings, and continuously evaluating their practices, not by avoiding scrutiny.

We understand that stops are not going to be evenly distributed geographically or demographically because crime is not evenly distributed. We have a responsibility to focus our strategies on the areas that are disproportionately plagued by crime. In the past few years, we have seen success in driving down crime, particularly violent crime, that disproportionately affects Black people. Proactive enforcement is an effective strategy in combatting violent crime, and we will continue to engage with our community.

Our mission remains unchanged: to protect constitutional rights while keeping Louisville safe. Those two responsibilities are inseparable. We will continue to use data, research, community input, and officer experience to ensure our policing is both effective and fair.