Racial Disparities in Searches During Police Stops:
ANALYSIS OF 2023 RACIAL IDENTITY AND PROFILING ACT DATA

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Introduction

Traffic stops are one tool police use to prevent and respond to traffic violations and other crimes. However, excessive civilian contact with police during stops can be harmful, carry risks that routine interactions escalate, and may diminish trust in law enforcement among some communities. Concerned with racially disparate patterns of police stops, the California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 953, the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) of 2015, to mitigate racial and identity profiling by law enforcement. Among other provisions, RIPA requires state and local law enforcement agencies to report annual data on all vehicle and pedestrian stops. Each year, the Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board publishes the underlying data and a summary report pertaining to the most recent year of data.

This report builds on the Advisory Board's release covering the 4.7 million stops conducted by 539 law enforcement agencies in 2023 and focuses on racial and ethnic disparities in searches. Specifically, we describe the chain of events that unfold following a police stop, including the rate at which people are searched, whether the search uncovers anything unlawful, and whether the search results in an arrest. All findings in this brief are based on officer-reported perceptions of race and ethnicity, which may not align with how individuals self-identify.

Key Findings

- **Three-quarters of police stops resulted in no further action.** In the 23% of stops that involved further action, the most common action was a search of the person and/or their property (55%).

- **The share of police stops that are of Black people is nearly 2.3 times the share of the state population that is Black.** Despite making up only 5% of California's population, Black people accounted for 12% of all law enforcement stops in 2023.

- **Native American people had the highest search rates, followed by Black and Hispanic people.** More than one in five stops of Native American people resulted in a search, the highest of any group. Searches occurred in 19% of stops of Black people, and 14% of stops of Hispanic people.

- **Fewer than one in three searches resulted in the discovery of contraband or evidence.** The discovery rate for searches was 27%, meaning in 73% of searches, no contraband or evidence was found. Discovery rates were highest for White individuals (30%), and lowest for Middle Eastern/South Asian (23%) and Hispanic (25%) individuals.

- **Following a search, Native American individuals were arrested at the highest rate, while Black individuals were arrested at the lowest rate.** Excluding searches that were the result of an initial arrest, 17% of all searches led to a custodial arrest. For Native American people, 25% of searches led to a custodial arrest. In contrast, 15% of searches of Black individuals resulted in a custodial arrest.

This analysis provides facts about how Californians across the state experience traffic stops and searches, and how those experiences vary by race and ethnicity.

Vehicle and Pedestrian Stops

Stops of Black people occurred at a rate 2.3 times their share of California's population.[1] While making up only 5% of California's population, Black people made up 12% of all law enforcement stops in 2023 (Table 1). Similarly, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern/South Asian, and Hispanic people were stopped 70%, 22%, and 9% more often than their population shares, respectively. In contrast, White, Asian, Native American, and Multiracial people were stopped less often than their population share (see Appendix Figure A1 for graphical representation).

TABLE 1. Race/ethnicity composition of people stopped by law enforcement compared to their share of the California population

RACE/ETHNICITY	% CA POPULATION	% ALL STOPS	% DIFFERENCE
Asian	12.3	5.7	-53.4
Black	5.4	12.1	126.6
Hispanic	39.7	43.1	8.6
Middle Eastern/South Asian	4.1	5.0	22.3
Native American	0.3	0.3	-1.2
Pacific Islander	0.3	0.6	70.3
White	33.6	32.0	-4.9
Multiracial	4.0	1.2	-69.2

Note: Stop data is from 2023 and population data is from 2022.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023) and American Community Survey 5-Year data (2022).

Officers did not take further action in 77% of stops. There are 26 possible actions that can be reported during a stop, including ordering an individual to get out of their vehicle, detention of an individual in the squad car, or no action at all. "No action taken" rates were lowest among Native American people (66%) and highest for Middle Eastern/South Asian people (91%) (Table 2). The most common action was a search of person, occurring in 12% of all stops and 50% of stops involving an action (see Appendix Table A1 for racial/ethnic distribution of most common actions during stops).

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1 Demographic information in RIPA data is based on officer perception, not self-identification.

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN SEARCHES DURING POLICE STOPS: 2023 DATA

RACE/ETHNICITY	NO ACTION (%)	PERSON SEARCH (%)	HANDCUFFED (%)	CURB DETENTION (%)	PATROL CAR DETENTION (%)	PROPERTY SEARCH (%)
All	77.1	11.6	10.2	7.8	6.4	6.0
Middle Eastern/South Asian	91.1	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.4	1.7
Asian	89.2	4.5	4.2	3.1	3.1	2.2
Pacific Islander	79.9	9.9	8.9	6.1	5.7	5.3
White	78.9	10.4	9.1	7.8	5.5	5.4
Multiracial	77.0	11.6	10.2	7.9	7.8	6.1
Hispanic	75.0	12.6	10.8	8.3	6.9	6.5
Black	68.1	17.5	16.4	10.4	10.0	9.6
Native American	65.5	20.1	18.7	9.1	10.3	8.8

Note: Stops can include more than one action. During stops in which at least one action was taken, the mean number of actions recorded was 2.7, with a median of 2 actions. The minimum was 1, and the maximum was 13.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Search Rates

Hispanic people accounted for almost half of all searches. Hispanic individuals accounted for 47% of all stops involving a search, White people accounted for 29%, and Black individuals accounted for 19% of all searches (Table 3).

Native American individuals experienced the highest search rate, with over one in five stops resulting in a search. Officers reported searching a person and/or property in 13% of all stops, but the rate at which different racial/ethnic groups were searched varied. Native American people experienced the highest search rates (22%), followed by Black individuals (19%), and Hispanic individuals (14%), who also experienced search rates higher than the overall rate. Middle Eastern/South Asian individuals (4%) and Asian individuals (5%) experienced the lowest search rates.

TABLE 3. Search rates and distribution by race/ethnicity (2023)

RACE/ETHNICITY	STOPS WITH SEARCHES	GROUP % OF ALL STOPS INVOLVING A SEARCH	% OF GROUP SEARCHED AFTER STOP
Asian	13,340	2.2	4.9
Black	110,530	18.5	19.3
Hispanic	280,701	47.1	13.8
Middle Eastern/South Asian	9,014	1.5	3.8
Native American	2,858	0.5	21.6
Pacific Islander	2,931	0.5	10.8
White	169,763	28.5	11.3
Multiracial	7,305	1.2	12.7
All	**596,442**	**100.0**	**12.6**

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Across California's largest law enforcement agencies, disparities in search rates were common, regardless of how frequently a department conducts searches overall. Among the agencies with the greatest number of stops, search rates ranged from a high of 33% for the Sacramento Police Department to a low of 3% for the California Highway Patrol. In the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) more than 350,000 stops, for example, Black (38%) and Hispanic (31%) people were searched at higher rates than any other racial group (Table 4). Of the ten departments with the most stops, only Riverside County Sheriff's Office searched Black people at a rate lower than the overall search rate.

TABLE 4. Race/ethnicity of searches conducted by California law enforcement agencies with highest total number of stops (2023)

AGENCY	TOTAL STOPS IN 2023	ALL (%)	WHITE (%)	BLACK (%)	HISPANIC (%)	ASIAN (%)	NATIVE AMERICAN (%)	PACIFIC ISLANDER (%)	MIDDLE EASTERN/ SOUTH ASIAN (%)	MULTIRACIAL (%)
California Highway Patrol	1,913,428	2.9	2.3	3.3	3.7	1.4	7.0	3.1	1.0	2.3
Los Angeles Police Department	350,131	28.5	17.0	38.3	30.6	10.2	18.2	17.3	10.9	17.9
LA County Sheriff's Department	248,525	25.2	18.5	31.4	27.6	9.5	57.3	25.8	9.2	27.9
San Diego Police Department	102,304	21.3	17.9	29.7	23.0	12.7	29.0	19.2	11.0	18.8
Riverside County Sheriff's Office	65,346	6.2	6.9	5.9	6.3	2.6	5.0	1.8	1.8	11.0
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office	50,403	23.9	27.1	26.7	23.4	8.5	27.9	16.2	8.5	16.3
Orange County Sheriff's Office	49,663	18.0	15.8	24.6	24.5	10.1	16.7	11.3	5.1	8.0
Ventura County Sheriff's Office	37,809	13.4	9.8	14.4	18.4	4.5	16.0	6.1	4.0	6.3
Sacramento Police Department	37,597	32.7	29.6	38.9	29.9	23.5	48.1	40.9	18.8	42.2
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department	34,245	28.0	25.3	33.9	29.8	24.0	29.9	26.2	13.7	23.8

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Reasons for Conducting Searches

Searches that are conducted for officer safety, and where the officer indicates that consent was given, account for the majority of search types. Officers can indicate up to 13 reasons, or "bases," for a search, and a search warrant was the least common. The most frequently cited reasons were search incident to an arrest (47%), which occurs as part of a lawful arrest; to ensure officer safety or safety of others (26%); consent given (26%), meaning the person voluntarily gave permission to be searched; and because a person's parole or probation status authorizes searches (16%).

The primary basis often varied with the type of search. For instance, consent was the most common basis for property-only searches (36%), while an arrest was the most common basis for person-only searches (57%), or when both a person and their property (40%) were searched. However, within racial/ethnic groups, the search reasons varied (Table 5).

TABLE 5. Basis for search distribution by search type in searches conducted by California law enforcement (2023)
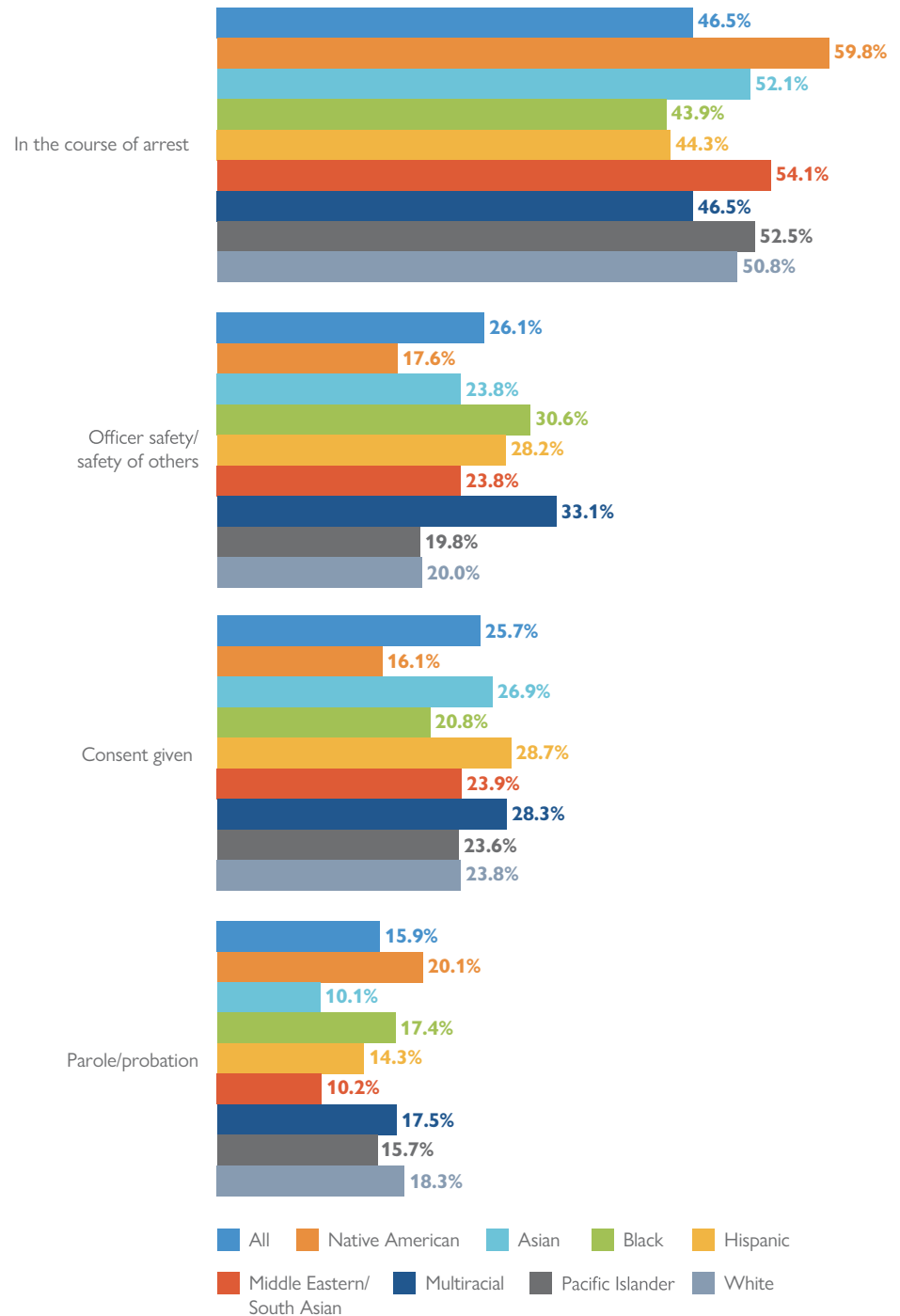
REASON FOR SEARCH	% OF ALL STOPS WITH ANY SEARCH	% OF PERSON-ONLY SEARCHES	% OF PROPERTY-ONLY SEARCHES	% WITH BOTH PERSON AND PROPERTY SEARCHES
During an arrest	46.5	56.9	15.2	39.4
Officer safety/safety of others	26.1	30.8	11.4	23.0
Consent given	25.7	19.6	35.6	31.7
Parole/probation/PRCS/ mandatory supervision	15.9	9.0	15.7	25.3
Suspected weapons	7.4	7.2	5.1	8.0
Visible contraband	6.4	2.5	13.3	10.1
Evidence of crime	5.8	3.5	7.0	8.6
Vehicle inventory	4.9	0.0	15.7	9.1
Odor of contraband	2.5	1.0	5.1	3.9
Search warrant	1.2	0.6	2.0	1.8

Note: Sample sizes are as follows: person only (n =312,609), property only (n= 50,402), and person and property (n = 233,431). Because each stop with a search can include multiple reasons for search, columns will sum to more than 100. Exigent circumstances, canine detection, and suspected violation of school policy as bases for search are excluded from the table, as each makes up less than 1% of all stops with searches. Twelve stops in which a search was conducted did not have any bases for search indicated. "Parole/Probation/ Postrelease Community Supervision (PRCS)/mandatory supervision" captures all searches that were conducted because a person was on one of these forms of post-conviction supervision.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Black and Hispanic people were the least likely to be searched due to an arrest. During searches of Black, Hispanic, and Multiracial people, officer safety/ safety of others was a documented basis for search more often than it was for other groups (Figure 1). Parole/probation was a more common basis for search among Native American people compared to other groups.

FIGURE 1. Distribution of basis for search, by racial /ethnic group of individuals stopped by California law enforcement, 2023

In the course of arrest
- All: 46.5%
- Native American: 59.8%
- Asian: 52.1%
- Black: 43.9%
- Hispanic: 44.3%
- Middle Eastern/South Asian: 54.1%
- Multiracial: 46.5%
- Pacific Islander: 52.5%
- White: 50.8%

Officer safety/safety of others
- All: 26.1%
- Native American: 17.6%
- Asian: 23.8%
- Black: 30.6%
- Hispanic: 28.2%
- Middle Eastern/South Asian: 23.8%
- Multiracial: 33.1%
- Pacific Islander: 19.8%
- White: 20.0%

Consent given
- All: 25.7%
- Native American: 16.1%
- Asian: 26.9%
- Black: 20.8%
- Hispanic: 28.7%
- Middle Eastern/South Asian: 23.9%
- Multiracial: 28.3%
- Pacific Islander: 23.6%
- White: 23.8%

Parole/probation
- All: 15.9%
- Native American: 20.1%
- Asian: 10.1%
- Black: 17.4%
- Hispanic: 14.3%
- Middle Eastern/South Asian: 10.2%
- Multiracial: 17.5%
- Pacific Islander: 15.7%
- White: 18.3%

Legend: All · Native American · Asian · Black · Hispanic · Middle Eastern/South Asian · Multiracial · Pacific Islander · White

Note: Figure includes any type of search (person-only, property-only, and person and property searches). Only the four most common bases for search are included. Officers can indicate multiple bases for search in a single stop. The mean number of bases was 1.43, and the median was 1, as was the minimum. The maximum number indicated in a single stop was 9, reported following one stop. Twelve stops in which a search occurred did not have any bases for search indicated.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

The basis for a search varied by the racial/ethnic group of the individual being stopped. While Black individuals comprised 19% of all people searched, they made up 40% of those searched due to the odor of contraband (Table 6). Comparatively, White people made up 29% of all people searched, but only 11% of those searched due to the odor of contraband. Hispanic people made up 47% of all stops with searches but 55% of searches with "vehicle inventory" listed as a basis for search and 52% of searches due to a "suspected weapon." Searches based on parole or probation status, however, disproportionately involved White individuals who made up 33% of this search reason, compared to their 29% share of searches overall.

While officers could indicate up to thirteen reasons for search, 69% of stops with searches had only one reason for search indicated. Differences in the racial/ethnicity distribution by reason for search can also be observed in searches with a single search reason (Appendix Table A2).

TABLE 6. Race/ethnicity distribution of bases for search in searches conducted by California law enforcement, 2023

REASON FOR SEARCH	STOPS WITH SEARCHES CONDUCTED	% OF ALL STOPS WITH SEARCHES	ASIAN (%)	BLACK (%)	HISPANIC (%)	MIDDLE EASTERN/ SOUTH ASIAN (%)	NATIVE AMERICAN (%)	PACIFIC ISLANDER (%)	WHITE (%)	MULTIRACIAL (%)
All	596,442	100.0	2.2	18.5	47.1	1.5	0.5	0.5	28.5	1.2
During an arrest	277,423	46.5	2.5	17.5	44.8	1.8	0.6	0.6	31.1	1.2
Officer safety	155,805	26.1	2.0	21.7	50.8	1.4	0.3	0.4	21.8	1.6
Consent given	153,081	25.7	2.3	15.1	52.7	1.4	0.3	0.5	26.3	1.3
Parole/ probation/ PRCS/ mandatory supervision	94,933	15.9	1.4	20.3	42.1	1.0	0.6	0.5	32.7	1.3
Suspected weapon	43,959	7.4	1.5	28.1	52.0	1.2	0.2	0.4	15.5	1.2
Visible contraband	38,187	6.4	1.5	25.4	44.8	1.1	0.3	0.3	25.5	1.2
Evidence of crime	34,515	5.8	2.2	21.7	44.7	1.3	0.3	0.4	27.8	1.5
Vehicle inventory	29,196	4.9	2.3	14.9	54.5	2.0	0.3	0.6	23.9	1.4
Odor of contraband	14,754	2.5	1.6	39.5	45.3	1.2	0.2	0.4	10.5	1.3
Search warrant	7,135	1.2	5.8	17.4	49.6	2.3	0.5	1.0	22.4	1.1

Note: Each stop with a search can include more than one basis for search. Bases for search that accounted for at least one percent of all stops with searches are included. Twelve stops in which a search was conducted did not have any bases for search indicated. The sum of race/ethnicity group percentages in each row may be more or less than 100 due to rounding. "Parole/Probation/Postrelease Community Supervision (PRCS)/mandatory supervision" capture all searches that were conducted because a person was on one of these forms of post-conviction supervision.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Contraband Discovery

Twenty-seven percent of all searches resulted in discovery of contraband or evidence.[2] The most common contraband or evidence discovered was drugs and/or drug paraphernalia, which together accounted for 17% of all stops with searches (Table 7). Firearms, ammunition, and/or other weapons were discovered in 5% of stops with searches.

Among all bases for search that accounted for at least 1% of stops with searches, the contraband discovery rate was highest for visible contraband (78%), with drugs/drug paraphernalia discovered in 60% of stops with this basis for search. The contraband discovery rate was lowest for officer safety (25%), though drugs and drug paraphernalia were still the most common contraband types discovered during searches justified by officer safety (13%). Searches justified by a suspected weapon were the only searches in which drugs/drug paraphernalia were not the most common contraband type discovered. The contraband discovery rate during stops with only one basis for search was lower (22%) than all stops with search (27%) (Appendix Table A3).

TABLE 7. Discovery rates in searches conducted by California law enforcement by basis for search, 2023

BASIS FOR SEARCH	% OF ALL STOPS WITH SEARCH	ANY CONTRABAND (%)	DRUGS/DRUG PARAPHERNALIA (%)	FIREARM/ WEAPON/ AMMUNITION (%)	ALL OTHER CONTRABAND/ EVIDENCE (%)
All	100.0	27.0	17.1	5.2	8.8
During an arrest	46.5	27.0	15.7	5.6	10.5
Officer safety	26.1	24.6	12.9	7.8	8.5
Consent given	25.7	25.3	17.3	3.7	7.2
Parole/probation	15.9	29.0	21.9	4.8	7.6
Suspected weapon	7.4	39.4	15.4	23.2	11.3
Visible contraband	6.4	78.0	59.9	10.2	23.4
Evidence of crime	5.8	71.7	41.5	14.3	32.9
Vehicle inventory	4.9	31.8	17.5	8.0	15.7
Odor of contraband	2.5	59.3	47.1	7.8	19.0
Search warrant	1.2	62.5	32.3	24.8	35.3

Note: Each stop with a search can include more than one basis for search. Bases for search that accounted for at least one percent of all stops with searches are included. The 'all other contraband' category includes alcohol, money, electronic devices, stolen property, and other contraband. Twelve stops in which a search was conducted did not have any bases for search indicated.
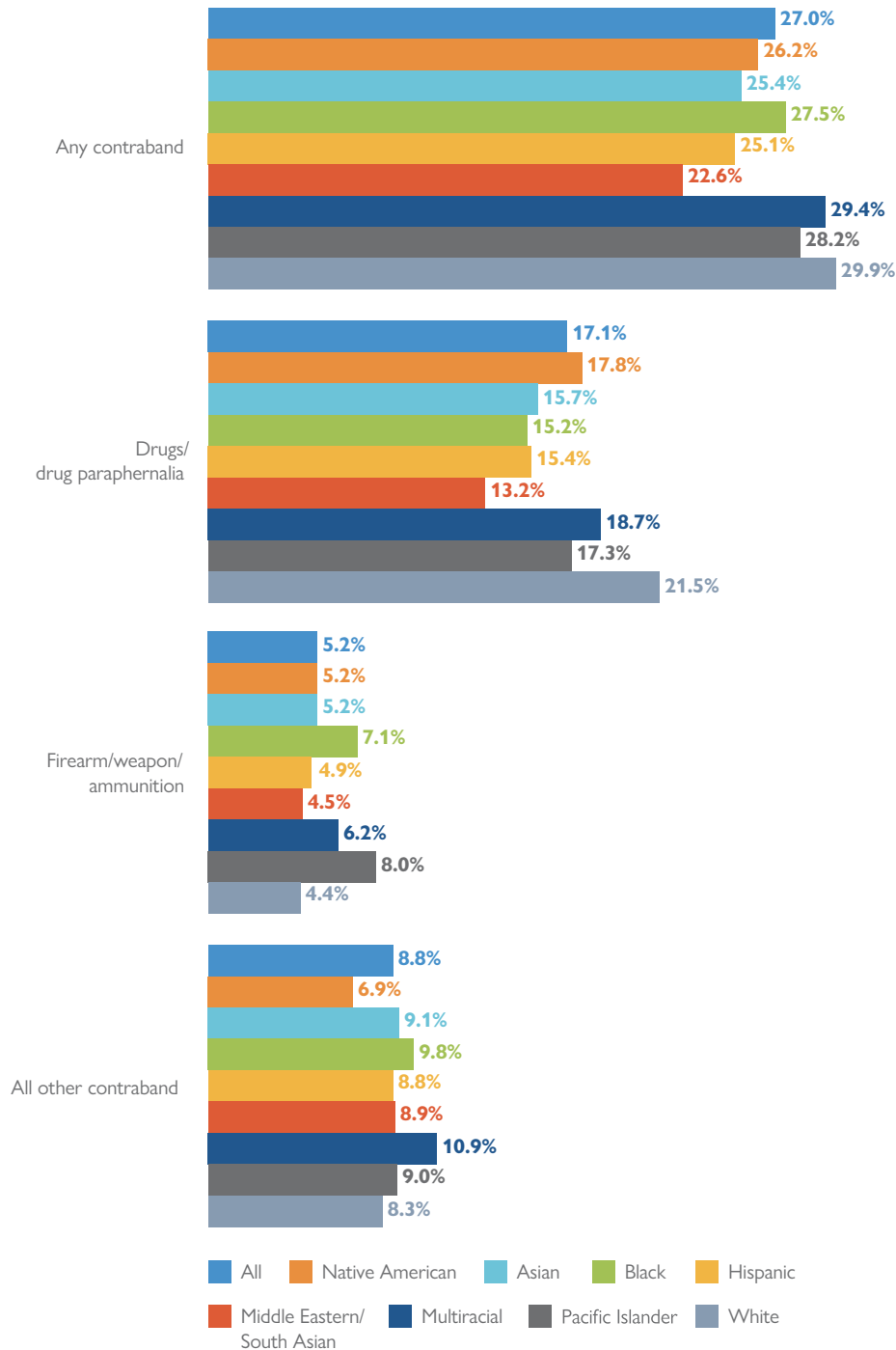
Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Discovery rates varied by race, but drugs and drug paraphernalia were the most common contraband discovered across all groups. Contraband or evidence discovery rates were the highest among stops and searches of White people (30%) and lowest among stops and searches of Middle Eastern/South Asian people (23%) (Figure 2).

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2 Officers conduct searches during every arrest. However, the data do not indicate whether contraband was discovered because of the search conducted during the arrest or if another basis for search led to the discovery of contraband, justifying an arrest. Therefore, discovery rate calculation using all instances of discovery among all searches may overestimate the discovery rate for searches conducted prior to arrest.

Drugs/drug paraphernalia was the most common type of contraband discovered for all groups, found in 13% to 22% of searches. This is also true when disaggregated by basis for search, except in the case of suspected weapon as a basis for search (Appendix Table A4).

FIGURE 2. Contraband or evidence discovery rates, by racial/ethnic group of individuals searched by California law enforcement, 2023

Note: The "All Other Contraband" category includes alcohol, money, electronic devices, stolen property, and other contraband.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Discovery rates also differed by agency. The 10 agencies with the most searches in 2023 had discovery rates ranging from 10% to 31% (Table 8). With the exception of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Oakland Police Department, agencies' discovery rates for Hispanic people were lower than their overall discovery rates. With the exception of the Oakland Police Department, the discovery rates for Middle Eastern/South Asian people were lower than the overall discovery rates.

TABLE 8. California law enforcement agency discovery rates by race/ethnicity for the 10 agencies with the most searches, 2023

AGENCY	TOTAL SEARCHES	TOTAL DISCOVERY RATE (%)	WHITE (%)	BLACK (%)	HISPANIC (%)	ASIAN (%)	NATIVE AMERICAN (%)	PACIFIC ISLANDER (%)	MIDDLE EASTERN/ SOUTH ASIAN (%)	MULTI-RACIAL (%)
Los Angeles Police Department	99,681	26.4	27.5	27.9	25.5	23.3	17.9	30.6	24.1	22.8
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department	62,632	24.6	27.9	21.8	25.1	20.9	12.2	21.8	21.0	23.7
California Highway Patrol	54,628	9.7	12.6	10.8	8.1	7.4	11.6	10.7	9.2	16.9
San Diego Police Department	21,778	25.5	24.5	27.7	25.1	22.4	28.9	25.8	19.9	29.0
Sacramento Police Department	12,279	31.2	30.9	32.2	29.4	34.0	24.0	44.7	23.9	29.3
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office	12,062	18.0	19.3	13.6	17.8	41.1	24.1	33.3	10.3	15.6
Sacramento County Sheriff's Department	9,591	21.1	20.7	23.1	18.5	20.6	5.0	9.4	14.3	26.3
Orange County Sheriff's Office	8,943	30.7	35.9	26.3	27.0	35.4	57.1	43.3	19.7	24.0
San Jose Police Department	8,292	25.6	29.1	34.1	23.6	24.1	36.4	24.2	19.0	37.5
Oakland Police Department	7,041	28.1	23.7	28.7	28.6	22.6	37.5	44.8	29.0	26.3

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Results of Stops

Sixty percent of all stops resulted in some form of punitive action. Among all stops, 50% resulted in a citation, while 9% ended in a custodial arrest (Table 9). Among stops in which a search was conducted, the custodial arrest rate was over five times higher than the rate in all stops, at 51%. Excluding all stops in which the officer conducted a search in the course of an arrest, the custodial arrest rate was 17%.

TABLE 9. Result of all California law enforcement stops, stops with searches, and stops with searches excluding searches conducted during an arrest, 2023
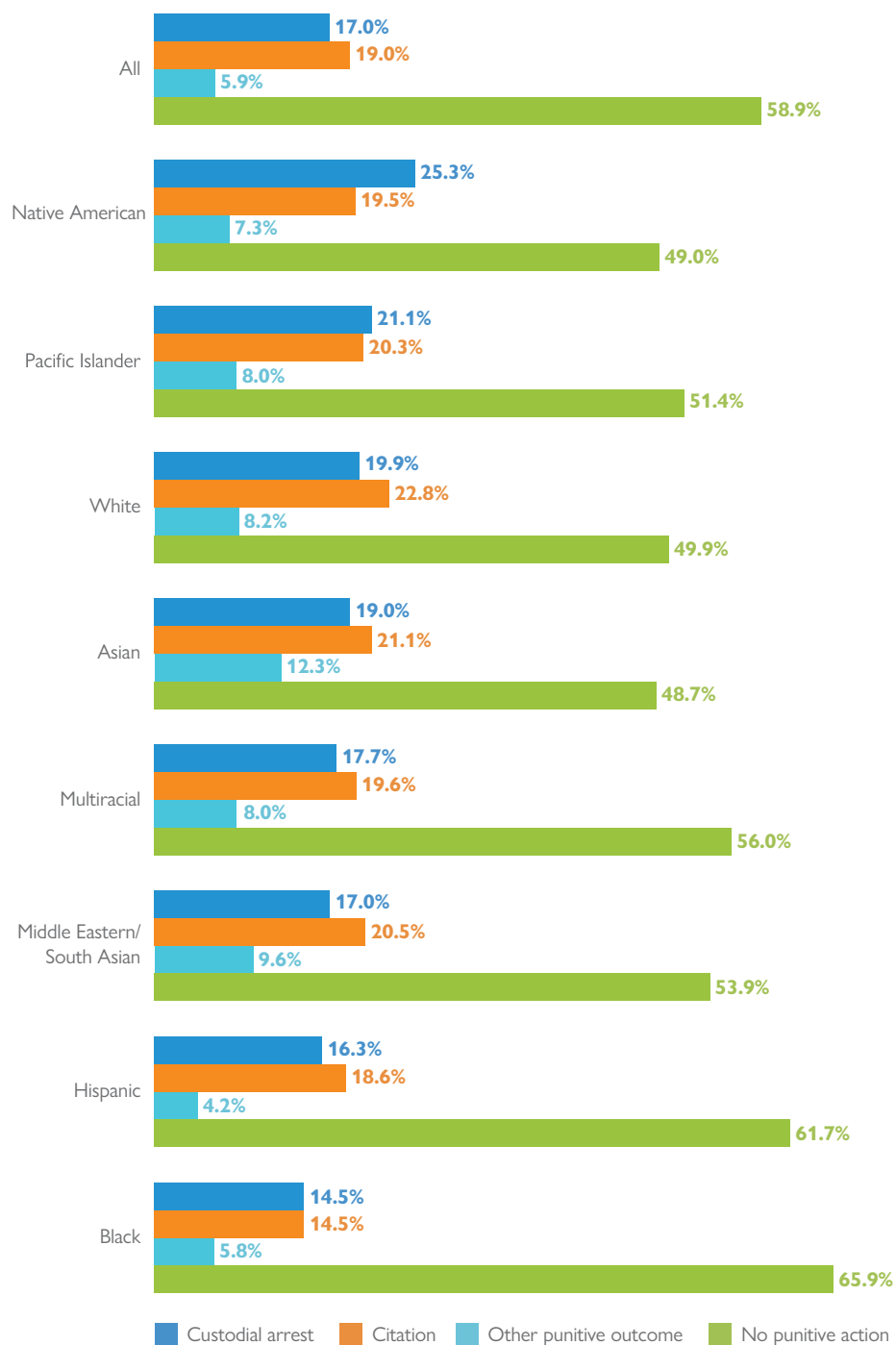
STOP TYPE	TOTAL STOPS	PUNITIVE ACTION (%)	CITATION (%)	CUSTODIAL ARREST (%)	OTHER PUNITIVE OUTCOME (%)
All Stops	4,721,135	59.6	49.8	9.1	1.1
Stops with search	596,442	67.9	14.2	50.9	4.5
Stops with searches excluding those with search during arrest indicated	319,019	41.1	19.0	17.0	5.9

Note: Multiple punitive results could be indicated in a stop, though this occurred in less than 1% of all stops. Four stops did not have any results of stop indicated. 'Other Punitive Outcome' includes noncriminal transport, psychiatric hold, contacting legal guardian, and referrals to school administration, school counselor, and/or the Department of Homeland Security.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Following a search, Native American individuals had the highest arrest rate (25%), while Black people had the lowest (15%). In the 319,019 stops with searches that did not occur as a result of an arrest, 41% resulted in at least one punitive outcome (Figure 3). Overall, 17% of these searches resulted in a custodial arrest, while 19% led to a citation. The majority of these stops (59%) concluded with no punitive action at all. When looking at all punitive outcomes combined, rates were lowest for Black people (34%) and highest for Asian and Native American people (51%).

FIGURE 3. Result of California law enforcement stops with searches, excluding stops in which a search was conducted because of an arrest, by race/ethnicity

Note: More than one punitive outcome can be indicated per stop. One stop in which a search was conducted did not have any results of stop indicated.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

Conclusion

In 2023, 539 California law enforcement agencies reported a total of 4.7 million stops. While officers took no action in three-quarters of stops, a search was the most common action taken when one did occur.

The RIPA data show disparities in who is stopped, who is searched, the justifications provided for those searches, and the ultimate outcomes. From the initial stop, where Black individuals were stopped at a disproportionately high rate, to the final outcome, where Native American individuals faced the highest arrest rates post-search, these findings document racial/ethnic differences throughout these encounters.
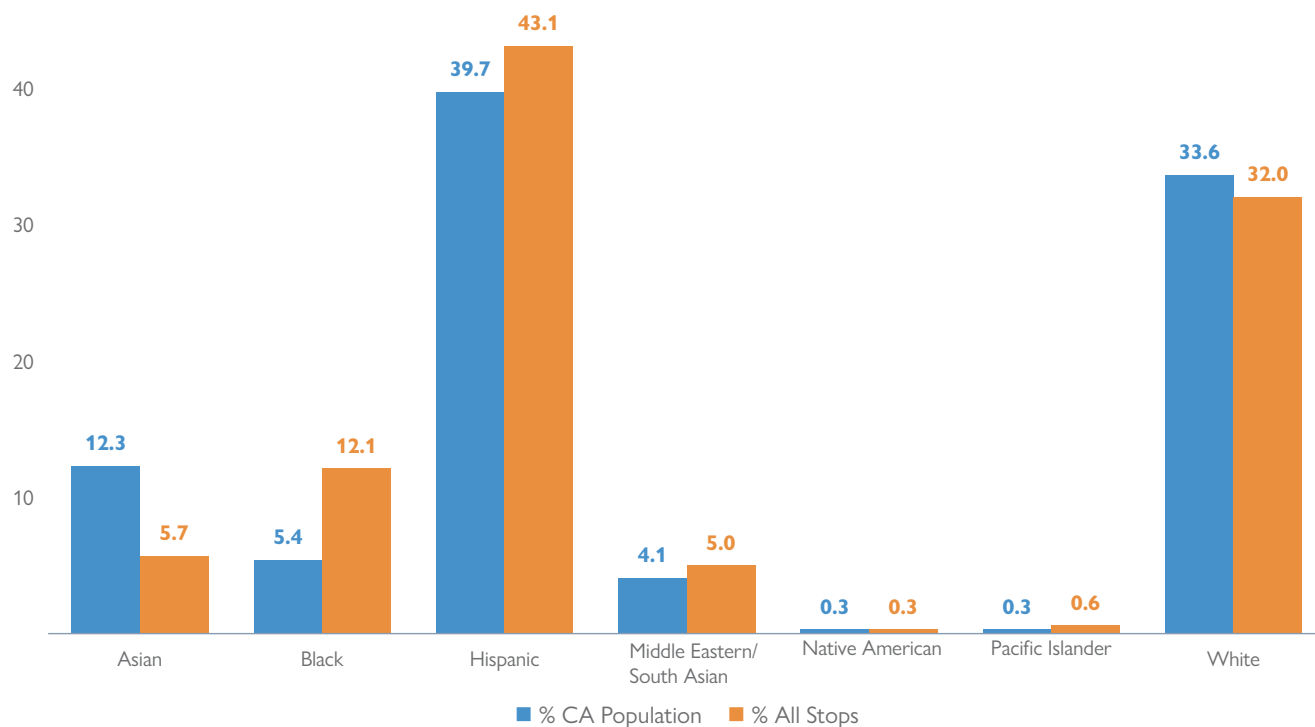
About this research

Appendix

Race/ethnicity demographics of California in 2022 vs. race/ethnicity demographics of people stopped by California law enforcement in 2023

Note: Population demographics were calculated using the 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year data. Population demographics were calculated using the 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year data. Race, ethnicity, and ancestry are self-reported. Because the ACS does not have a comparable Middle Eastern/ South Asian category, the research team created one, using the values of the ancestry variables, in conjunction with the values of the race variables. Assignment into the Hispanic category is based on the Hispanic variable in the ACS. People of any or multiple race categories with values equivalent to Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Hispanic for the Hispanic variable in the ACS are categorized as Hispanic in this brief. ACS data is from IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org. For consistency, this figure uses the same racial / ethnic categories as what is reported in the RIPA data. Because the ACS data categorizes some racial and ethnic groups differently, the percentages might differ slightly, as compared to if the RIPA and ACS data used the exact same categories.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023) and American Community Survey 5-Year data (2022).

TABLE A1. Racial/ethnic group distribution of actions taken during stop by California law enforcement, 2023

RACE/ETHNICITY	HISPANIC (%)	WHITE (%)	BLACK (%)	ASIAN (%)	NATIVE AMERICAN (%)	PACIFIC ISLANDER (%)	MIDDLE EASTERN/ SOUTH ASIAN (%)	MULTIRACIAL (%)
All stops	43.1	32.0	12.1	5.7	0.3	0.6	5.0	1.2
No action taken	41.9	32.7	10.7	6.6	0.2	0.6	5.9	1.2
Person search	46.9	28.8	18.4	2.2	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.2
Handcuffed/flex cuffed	45.7	28.5	19.5	2.4	0.5	0.5	1.7	1.2
Patrol car detention	46.5	27.3	19.0	2.8	0.5	0.5	1.9	1.5
Curb detention	46.0	31.8	16.3	2.3	0.3	0.5	1.7	1.2
Property search	46.2	28.6	19.4	2.1	0.4	0.5	1.4	1.2

TABLE A2. Race/ethnicity distribution of bases for search in stops with searches conducted by California law enforcement and a single basis for search, 2023

SINGLE BASIS FOR SEARCH	TOTAL STOPS WITH SEARCHES	% OF STOPS WITH SEARCHES	WHITE (%)	BLACK (%)	HISPANIC (%)	ASIAN (%)	NATIVE AMERICAN (%)	PACIFIC ISLANDER (%)	MIDDLE EASTERN/ SOUTH ASIAN (%)	MULTI-RACIAL (%)
All	410,933	100.0	30.4	17.5	46.1	2.3	0.5	0.5	1.6	1.1
During arrest	184,381	44.9	32.8	16.6	43.9	2.6	0.7	0.6	1.9	1.0
Consent given	76,708	18.7	27.1	13.8	53.3	2.5	0.3	0.5	1.5	1.0
Parole/probation	62,837	15.3	35.2	20.2	39.8	1.5	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.1
Officer safety/ safety of others	45,913	11.2	23.9	20.8	49.3	2.3	0.3	0.4	1.6	1.5
Visible contraband	11,518	2.8	32.3	19.2	44.4	1.4	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.9
Vehicle inventory	7,527	1.8	23.1	13.6	56.4	2.4	0.3	0.5	2.2	1.4
Evidence of crime	7,245	1.8	31.1	20.8	43.1	2.1	0.3	0.4	1.3	0.9
Suspected weapons	7,192	1.8	15.2	27.9	53.7	1.0	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.7
Search warrant	4,015	1.0	24.1	15.5	49.0	6.9	0.7	0.9	2.0	0.8

Note: While each stop with a search can include more than one basis for search, this table only includes the subset of stops with searches and a single basis for stop indicated. Bases for stops that accounted for at least one percent of all stops with searches are included. Twelve stops in which a search was conducted did not have any bases for search indicated.

TABLE A3. Contraband discovery rate by basis for search in stops with searches by California law enforcement and a single basis for search, 2023

BASIS FOR SEARCH	% OF ALL STOPS WITH SEARCHES AND SINGLE BASIS FOR SEARCH	ANY CONTRABAND (%)	DRUGS/ DRUG PARAPHERNALIA (%)	WEAPON/ FIREARM/ AMMUNITION (%)	ALL OTHER CONTRABAND (%)
All	100.0	21.7	14.4	3.3	6.5
During an arrest	44.9	18.5	11.2	2.7	6.8
Consent given	18.7	18.5	13.4	2.0	4.3
Parole/probation	15.3	25.3	19.6	3.5	5.7
Officer safety/safety of others	11.2	10.1	4.4	3.3	3.0
Visible contraband	2.8	77.1	60.9	5.2	18.1
Vehicle inventory	1.8	11.1	6.3	2.3	4.0
Evidence of crime	1.8	64.6	42.6	4.9	23.4
Suspected weapon	1.8	25.5	6.6	17.2	4.2
Search warrant	1.0	63.0	35.6	23.3	34.4

Note: While each stop with a search can include more than one basis for search, this table only includes the subset of stops with searches and a single basis for stop indicated. Bases for stop that accounted for at least one percent of all stops with searches are included. The "all other contraband" category includes alcohol, money, electronic devices, stolen property, and other contraband. Twelve stops in which a search was conducted did not have any bases for search indicated.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).

TABLE A4. California law enforcement contraband discovery rate by race/ethnicity and basis for search (5 most common bases for search only), 2023

RACE	TOTAL SEARCHES	DISCOVERY (%)	DRUGS/ DRUG PARAPHERNALIA (%)	WEAPON/ FIREARM/ AMMUNITION (%)	ALL OTHER CONTRABAND (%)
During an arrest					
All	277,423	27.0	15.7	5.6	10.5
White	86,157	27.9	18.6	4.3	9.6
Black	48,481	29.8	14.2	8.6	12.9
Hispanic	124,312	25.7	14.6	5.4	10.3
Asian	6,951	22.7	12.3	4.8	9.6
Native American	1,710	22.3	13.7	4.6	7.4
Pacific Islander	1,539	25.1	13.7	7.6	10.0
Middle Eastern/South Asian	4,879	20.8	10.9	4.0	9.7
Multiracial	3,394	32.1	19.2	6.6	13.8
Officer safety					
All	155,805	24.6	12.9	7.8	8.5
White	34,013	24.9	14.8	7.4	7.3
Black	33,816	25.9	12.4	9.7	9.0
Hispanic	79,156	24.1	12.5	7.1	8.9
Asian	3,175	21.5	10.6	8.2	7.4
Native American	502	24.7	14.3	7.2	7.4
Pacific Islander	581	28.9	13.4	13.4	10.3
Middle Eastern/ South Asian	2,146	19.5	9.6	6.7	7.6
Multiracial	2,416	25.1	13.7	8.4	8.6
Consent given					
All	153,081	25.3	17.3	3.7	7.2
White	40,318	29.8	22.3	3.9	7.0
Black	23,103	23.1	13.6	4.6	7.9
Hispanic	80,695	23.6	15.9	3.3	7.1
Asian	3,592	26.7	18.1	4.3	7.5
Native American	459	27.2	19.2	4.6	6.8
Pacific Islander	693	26.1	18.3	6.5	4.6
Middle Eastern/ South Asian	2,156	23.2	15.0	4.1	8.1
Multiracial	2,065	26.5	16.9	4.4	8.8

RACE	TOTAL SEARCHES	DISCOVERY (%)	DRUGS/ DRUG PARAPHERNALIA (%)	WEAPON/ FIREARM/ AMMUNITION (%)	ALL OTHER CONTRABAND (%)
Parole/probation					
All	94,933	29.0	21.9	4.8	7.6
White	31,076	34.5	28.1	4.3	7.7
Black	19,270	25.0	16.9	5.4	7.9
Hispanic	40,011	26.3	18.9	4.9	7.2
Asian	1,346	34.6	27.1	4.9	9.5
Native American	574	34.0	26.0	5.7	7.1
Pacific Islander	461	34.5	26.7	5.9	10.6
Middle Eastern/ South Asian	919	30.7	25.1	4.7	8.9
Multiracial	1,276	31.4	24.5	5.3	10.0
Suspected weapon					
All	43,959	39.4	15.4	23.2	11.3
White	6,801	44.3	18.8	28.4	10.3
Black	12,357	40.0	14.5	23.9	11.3
Hispanic	22,858	37.1	14.6	20.7	11.4
Asian	650	45.8	18.2	30.8	10.9
Native American	90	51.1	23.3	37.8	8.9
Pacific Islander	165	55.8	21.8	38.8	16.4
Middle Eastern/ South Asian	532	38.2	12.6	23.5	9.8
Multiracial	506	48.4	20.0	29.4	14.6

Note: Each stop can include more than one basis for search. Only the most common bases for search are included. The 'all other contraband' category includes alcohol, money, electronic devices, stolen property, and other contraband.

Source: California Open Justice RIPA Stop Data (2023).