

# Assessing Disparities in Traffic Stops

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# Project Overview

This report looked into three related questions:

1. What is the nature of any observed disparities in traffic stops by the MVPD?
2. Are any observed disparities indicative of potential bias in the MVPD?
3. What stop-related information should be collected going forward by the MVPD?

# Evaluating Potential Disparities

The project looked at disparities that might exist at the officer-motorist level.

- ▶ Evaluated at the stop decision (Veil of Darkness Test)
- ▶ Evaluated at the search decision (Outcome Tests)

## Review of Findings

- ▶ No clear evidence from the veil of darkness tests that MVPD stop decisions are discriminatory in the window of time for which the test works
- ▶ Mixed evidence of disparities in outcome tests depending on the year and relevant group comparison
  - ▶ Overall hit rate fluctuates
  - ▶ Small number of total searches likely contributes to noisy findings

## Where do Traffic Stops Occur in Mountain View

Year	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 3	Beat 4
2014	1930	896	1300	1515
2015	2359	1241	1311	1919
2016	2945	1473	1940	2181
2017	2245	1365	1357	1535
2018	2255	1189	1032	1194
2019	2491	1478	1148	1122
2020	1003	621	496	588

## Recommendations for Next Steps

- ▶ Evaluate and review data generated from RIPA stops
- ▶ Explore ways to make MVPD data open and available to the public
- ▶ Advise MVPD on ways to partner with the community to determine additional data sharing that may be useful in the future.

## Appendix: Visualizing Traffic Stops in Mountain View (2014-2020)

