

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020 Annual Racial Profiling Report



RACIAL PROFILING

The Houston Police Department (HPD) prohibits the practice of racial profiling and has established policies, provided training to its officers, and instituted a process to monitor traffic stops.

STATISTICS SUMMARY

HPD conducted 217,288 traffic stops in 2020, 32.5% fewer stops than the previous year. Traffic stops were most often a result of moving traffic violations (161,387) and searches (18,229) were conducted in 8.4% of all stops. Contraband (536) was found 33.7% of the time. In all, HPD effected 11,197 arrests, issued 120,389 tickets, and 89,713 warnings as a result of traffic stops in 2020. Eight (8) racial profiling complaints were filed against HPD during the reporting period. Of the complaints, five (5) were unfounded, two (2) were exonerated and one (1) is still pending investigation.

FILING COMPLAINTS

Discrimination in any form, including racial profiling, is strictly prohibited and the department will take immediate and appropriate action to investigate allegations of discrimination. Any person who believes he or she has been stopped, searched, or inappropriately ticketed or arrested based on racial, ethnic or national origin profiling should file a complaint.

HOUSTON DEMOGRAPHICS COMPARISON

	Houston*	2020 Racial Profiling
Population	2,295,982	217,288
Asian/Pacific Islander	7%	4%
Black	22%	38%
Hispanic	45%	31%
White	25%	25%
Unknown/Other	1%	2%
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	100%	100%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

TRAFFIC STOPS BY RACE & GENDER

	Female	Male	Total	% of Total
Alaskan/Native American	127	404	531	0.24%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,480	6,301	8,781	4.04%
Black	26,027	55,890	81,917	37.70%
Hispanic	16,878	51,109	67,987	31.29%
White	16,892	37,051	53,943	24.83%
Unknown/Other	1,312	2,817	4,129	1.90%
TOTAL	63,716	153,572	217,288	100.00%

2019 COMPARISON

Total	% Change
855	-37.89%
14,365	-38.87%
115,254	-28.92%
81,090	-16.16%
104,810	-48.53%
5,639	-26.78%
322,013	-32.52%

REASON FOR TRAFFIC STOP

	Moving Traffic Violation	Pre-Existing Knowledge	Vehicle Traffic Violation	Violation of Law (non-traffic)	Total	% of Total
Alaskan/Native American	430	9	89	3	531	0.24%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7,716	50	966	49	8,781	4.04%
Black	56,678	1,659	22,048	1,532	81,917	37.70%
Hispanic	49,255	1,356	15,646	1,730	67,987	31.29%
White	43,215	679	9,472	577	53,943	24.83%
Unknown/Other	4,093	0	34	2	4,129	1.90%
TOTAL	161,387	3,753	48,255	3,893	217,288	100.00%

REASON FOR SEARCH

	Probable Cause	Incident to Arrest	Consent	Inventory	Contraband in Plain View	Total
Alaskan/Native American	7	8	9	2	4	30
Asian/Pacific Islander	59	69	49	20	34	231
Black	4,662	2,149	3,127	485	235	10,658
Hispanic	1,200	976	1,043	308	126	3,653
White	1,161	984	1,093	282	114	3,634
Unknown/Other	0	0	0	0	23	23
TOTAL	7,089	4,186	5,321	1,097	536	18,229

RESULT OF TRAFFIC STOP

	Alaskan/Native American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	White	Unknown/Other	Total	% of Total
Verbal Warning	195	2,817	41,248	23,718	21,624	111	89,713	41.29%
Citation	310	5,721	35,318	41,570	29,444	4,018	116,381	53.56%
Violation of Traffic Law	296	5,679	34,615	41,074	28,904	4,015	114,583	
Violation of City Ordinance	14	42	703	496	540	3	1,798	
Arrested	21	107	3,716	1,697	1,645	0	7,186	3.31%
Violation of Penal Code	13	94	2,664	1,315	1,280	0	5,366	
Violation of Traffic Law	5	4	126	99	72	0	306	
Violation of City Ordinance	0	1	46	30	28	0	105	
Outstanding Warrant	3	8	880	253	265	0	1,409	
Citation and Arrest	5	136	1,635	1,002	1,230	0	4,008	1.84%
Violation of Penal Code	0	13	491	165	226	0	895	
Violation of Traffic Law	3	63	810	518	698	0	2,092	
Violation of City Ordinance	2	59	213	295	284	0	853	
Outstanding Warrant	0	1	121	24	22	0	168	
TOTAL	531	8,781	81,917	67,987	53,943	4,129	217,288	100.00%

HIGHLIGHTS

2.1%

Stops in which race or ethnicity was known prior to stop

33.7%

Stops in which contraband was located during a search

0.8%

Stops in which physical force resulted in bodily injury