

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 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 203,671 traffic stops in 2021, 6.27% fewer stops than the previous year. Traffic stops were most often a result of moving traffic violations (146,894) and searches (16,951) were conducted in 8.3% of all stops. Contraband (6,167) was found 36.4% of the time. In all, HPD effected 11,095 arrests, issued 108,889 tickets, and 86,886 warnings as a result of traffic stops in 2021. Ten (10) racial profiling complaints were filed against HPD during the reporting period. Of the complaints, nine (9) were unfounded 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	2,304,580	203,671
Asian/Pacific Islander	7%	4%
Black	22%	36%
Hispanic	44%	32%
White	24%	25%
Unknown/Other	3%	2%
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	100%	100%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

TRAFFIC STOPS BY RACE & GENDER

	Female	Male	Total	% of Total
Alaskan/Native American	128	489	617	0.30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,350	5,518	7,868	3.86%
Black	23,331	50,401	73,732	36.20%
Hispanic	15,491	50,113	65,604	32.21%
White	16,173	35,501	51,674	25.37%
Unknown/Other	1,364	2,812	4,176	2.05%
TOTAL	58,837	144,834	203,671	100.00%

2020 COMPARISON

Total	% Change
531	16.20%
8,781	-10.40%
81,917	-9.99%
67,987	-3.51%
53,943	-4.21%
4,129	1.14%
217,288	-6.27%

REASON FOR TRAFFIC STOP

	Moving Traffic Violation	Pre-Existing Knowledge	Vehicle Traffic Violation	Violation of Law (non-traffic)	Total	% of Total
Alaskan/Native American	484	6	121	6	617	0.30%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6,930	43	810	85	7,868	3.86%
Black	50,859	1,474	19,932	1,467	73,732	36.20%
Hispanic	43,372	1,632	18,484	2,116	65,604	32.21%
White	41,141	757	9,026	750	51,674	25.37%
Unknown/Other	4,108	0	68	0	4,176	2.05%
TOTAL	146,894	3,912	48,441	3,893	203,671	100.00%

REASON FOR SEARCH

	Probable Cause	Incident to Arrest	Consent	Inventory	Contraband in Plain View	Total
Alaskan/Native American	12	5	9	1	1	28
Asian/Pacific Islander	54	69	37	18	1	179
Black	4,027	2,273	2,904	574	146	9,924
Hispanic	927	1,127	765	288	52	3,158
White	1,090	1,092	1,053	377	45	3,657
Unknown/Other	3	1	0	1	0	5
TOTAL	6,113	4,567	4,767	1,097	245	16,951

RESULT OF TRAFFIC STOP

	Alaskan/Native American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	White	Unknown/Other	Total	% of Total
Verbal Warning	240	2,592	37,249	25,595	21,210	0	86,886	42.66%
Citation	360	5,079	30,863	37,518	27,695	4,175	105,690	51.89%
Violation of Traffic Law	351	5,049	30,207	37,096	27,325	4,175	104,203	
Violation of City Ordinance	9	30	656	422	370	0	1,487	
Arrested	8	98	4,228	1,651	1,911	0	7,896	3.88%
Violation of Penal Code	6	75	2,928	1,239	1,502	0	5,750	
Violation of Traffic Law	2	10	107	85	79	0	283	
Violation of City Ordinance	0	0	51	28	18	0	97	
Outstanding Warrant	0	13	1,142	299	312	0	1,766	
Citation and Arrest	9	99	1,392	840	858	1	3,199	1.57%
Violation of Penal Code	2	10	534	203	202	0	895	
Violation of Traffic Law	4	59	514	416	461	1	2,092	
Violation of City Ordinance	3	28	204	162	157	0	853	
Outstanding Warrant	0	2	140	59	38	0	168	
TOTAL	617	7,868	73,732	65,604	51,674	4,176	203,671	100.00%

HIGHLIGHTS

2.4%

Stops in which race or ethnicity was known prior to stop

36.4%

Stops in which contraband was located during a search

1.1%

Stops in which physical force resulted in bodily injury