



RIPA AD HOC REPORT

March 5, 2025

Community Advisory Council Meeting

Ad Hoc History and Goal

- ▶ The Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) ad Hoc began in April 2023
- ▶ Purpose: to utilize available data submitted by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to understand ways traffic and pedestrian stops are conducted
- ▶ Envisioned providing possible solutions to help address any issues identified through the data collection

Work Conducted by the Ad Hoc

- Met various times in 2023 to work on understanding how data is submitted
- Conducted an analysis of the available data (started with 2021 data)
- Worked on understanding the accuracy of the data and how corrections on data are made
- SCSO CAC Liaison Sean Jones assisted with providing information and connected us to RIPA Administrator Lt. Kelly Burris

Work Conducted by the Ad Hoc

- ▶ May 2024 Worked with Rania Adwan
- ▶ June 2024, Lt. Burris provided the CAC and public a presentation of the RIPA data collection process
- ▶ Investigative research began by contacting:
 - ▶ NACOLE Director of Training and Education
 - ▶ Police Chief of Santa Rosa Police Department
 - ▶ Sonoma County Public Safety Consortium
 - ▶ Bakersfield Police Department
- ▶ Agencies helped by providing insights, experiences, and best practices

Data Analysis

- ▶ Prior ad hoc member Darnell Bowen initiated work on diving into the RIPA data
- ▶ Ad Hoc had more questions than answers
- ▶ In Summer 2024, the ad hoc was introduced to data scientist Dr. Jon Maskaly to help analyze the RIPA data
- ▶ Maskaly tackled data and authored the analysis

Ad Hoc Report Findings

- ▶ Disparities in stops
- ▶ Search rate variations
- ▶ Contraband findings
- ▶ Disparity and relative disparity indexes
- ▶ Data and reporting gaps

Disparities in Stops

- ▶ Most individuals stopped by the SCSO were perceived as White (52.6%) followed by Hispanic/Latino (37.2%) and Black/African American (5.7%)
- ▶ White individuals made up largest share of stops
- ▶ Significant disparities for Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American individuals
- ▶ Traffic violations accounted for most stops (71.5%)
 - ▶ disproportionately impacting Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American individuals
- ▶ White individuals more frequently stopped for reasonable suspicion or other non-traffic-related reasons

Search Rates

- ▶ White individuals searched at slightly higher rates
- ▶ Hispanic/Latino individuals searched less frequently
- ▶ No significant differences in the rate of searches among racial and ethnic groups nor the rate of consent being requested or granted
 - ▶ *Suggests that disparities in search rates reflect broader patterns in stop practices rather than targeted bias in search decisions*

Contraband Findings

- ▶ Contraband discovered in approximately 9.6% of all stops
- ▶ No significant racial or ethnic differences in contraband hit rates
 - ▶ *indicating that the likelihood of finding contraband consistent across groups*
- ▶ Contraband discovery rates significantly higher when deputies requested and obtained consent to search,
 - ▶ *suggesting that discretionary searches may rely on contextual factors that enhance their effectiveness*

Disparity and Relative Disparity Indexes

- ▶ Significant racial disparities
- ▶ Black/African American individuals disproportionately stopped compared to their population share
- ▶ Hispanic/Latino individuals overrepresented in traffic stops

Data and Reporting Gaps

- ▶ Analysis identified significant challenges in consistency and completeness of RIPA data collection
- ▶ Concern that discrepancy between number of stops reported and number of arrests
- ▶ potential gaps in recordkeeping
- ▶ Only small percentage of calls for service (CFS) resulted in RIPA records
- ▶ Concerns about underreporting and the accuracy of the data

Data and Reporting Gaps Cont.

- ▶ Research highlighted inconsistencies across jurisdictions in how RIPA data is collected, stored, shared, reviewed, analyzed, and used.
 - ▶ variations in data collection methods
 - ▶ differences in how data is submitted
 - ▶ variations in agency policies governing data practices
 - ▶ flexibility allowed under DOJ requirements

Recommendations

1. Develop and enforce a RIPA-Specific data collection policy
2. Strengthen reporting and broaden data analysis
3. Enhance transparency and commit to data-driven decision-making

Develop and enforce a RIPA-Specific data collection policy

- ▶ Work with the CAC to implement a comprehensive policy focused on RIPA data collection and reporting.
- ▶ Include training and accountability mechanisms to ensure accuracy, consistency, and compliance with state requirements.

Strengthen reporting and broaden data analysis

- ▶ Conduct routine audits and cross-reference RIPA records with other applicable data sources (e.g., calls for service, arrest data, Body-Worn Camera [BWC] footage, and police reports) to ensure timely and accurate submission of stop data.
- ▶ Broaden the scope of analysis to include all relevant data sources, enriching efforts to identify and address biased policing.
- ▶ Address discrepancies through improved processes, training, and inter-departmental collaboration.

Enhance transparency and commit to data-driven decision-making

- ▶ Take ownership of reviewing and correcting errors in collected data. Invest in tools for real-time access and analysis of RIPA and other relevant data to improve quality control and operational transparency.
- ▶ Share insights with the community to foster trust and accountability.
- ▶ Use findings to inform equitable policy reforms and strengthen community trust.

Ask of the CAC tonight

- ▶ Vote to submit the RIPA Ad Hoc Final Report as an official recommendation of the CAC to the SCSO

Acknowledgements

We thank Maskaly Analytics and Research Group for their invaluable contributions to this report. We are particularly grateful to Jon Maskaly, Ph.D., whose expertise and dedication were instrumental in authoring much of the content and conducting the analysis. Dr. Maskaly's work has significantly enhanced the depth and quality of this report, and we appreciate his commitment to advancing equitable and data-informed policing practices.

We also thank the police agencies and public safety groups who engaged with us throughout this process. Their willingness to share insights, experiences, and best practices provided invaluable context and guidance for this report. Their contributions were essential in shaping a comprehensive understanding of current practices and opportunities for improvement.

Acknowledgments Not in Report

We thank Rania Adwan for her guidance, patience and persistence in helping us with our planning, scheduling, organizing, work development and for reminding us of our commitment to the community through our service on the CAC. Without Rania, it is likely we would not have reached this point.

Thank you to John Alden and Lizett Camacho for supporting our work and helping us acquire and use whatever tools, or experts, we needed to get our goal completed.

Thank you.