

Traffic Stop Annual Report #16: Contracted Jurisdictions and County Communities MCSO Response

The Office has considered internal and external recommendations to address findings of from the 16th Traffic Stop Quarterly Report (Q4 2024). The IRG addressed the recommendations for follow-up after the publication of this report which concluded results from this research were consistent with findings from the TSAR 9 and TSQR 14. These research results indicated that MCSO's jurisdictions are performing traffic patrol functions in an evenly applied manner within each jurisdiction. It is often challenging to identify new operational measures designed to reduce disparities that may be impactful on top of the already significant efforts that MCSO has been implementing with its continual policy evaluation, training, inspections, and TSMR interventions. However, MCSO generated several recommendations for follow up in the report and through the IRG process.

Recommendation 1: Examine Stop Length Disparity in Gila Bend.

Action Item 1: Review Stop Length body worn camera footage of stops of Hispanic Drivers exceeding 20 minutes without and ETSI Selected (N=10). (Completed) Determined that ETSI indicators were not selected when they could have been (Other Delay and Driving Documentation).

Recommendation 2: Examine Stop Length Disparity in all Other Stops.

Action Item 1: Review Stop Length Disparity in "All Other MCSO Stops". (Completed) Reviewed 140 stop exceeding 20 minutes without ETSI's selected when they could have been used to document MI suspended plate seizures, warrant arrests (waiting on pick up from other agency) and taking extra time to explain criminal speed and suspended license violations with drivers.

Recommendation 3: Examine Citation rate of minority drivers in Anthem/Desert Hills.

Action Item 1: Compared Citation Rates for Minority and White drivers across individual ARS codes. (Completed) Found no statistical differences in citation rates across any ARS codes.

Action Item 2: Compare Citation Rates across driver speeds for speeding violations. (Completed) Found no difference in citation rates controlling for speed.

Recommendation 4: Examine Citation Rate of Hispanic, Minority and White drivers in the "All Other MCSO Stops" category.

Action Item 1: Compare Citation Rates for Hispanic and White drivers and Minority and White drivers across individual ARS codes. (Completed) Found only one ARS Code with statistical differences in citation rates, ARS 28-2153A (Vehicle Registration) which was true for both Hispanic and Minority drivers as whole. Further investigation identified the difference that occurred as a result of multiple violations being present when this ARS code was cited.

Action Item 2: Compare Citation Rates across driver speeds for speeding violations. (Completed) Found no difference in citation rates controlling for speed.

Recommendation 5: Examine the Arrest Rate for Minority drivers in Gila Bend.

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MCSO Response**

Action Item 1: Compare Arrest Rate for Minority drivers in Gila Bend. (Completed) There were only 2 arrests made, one of a Hispanic driver and one of Black driver they were for a warrant and driving on a suspended license.

Recommendation 6: Examine the Arrest Rate for Hispanic drivers in Guadalupe.

Action Item 1: Review arrest reasons of Hispanic and White drivers in Guadalupe. (Completed) There were 24 arrests (6 White, 18 Hispanic). Identified differential arrest rates for DUI, Suspended Licenses, reckless driving.

Recommendation 7: Examine Arrest Rate for Black Drivers in the “All other MCSO Stops Category”.

Action Item 1: Review arrest reasons for Black and White Drivers in “All other MCSO Stops Category”. (Completed) Found differential arrest rates for Black (N=94) and White (355) drivers for Drug Offenses, suspended licenses, and warrants.

Recommendation 8: Conduct Internal Town Halls across all districts and shifts on the findings of TSQR 16.

Action Item 1: TSAU sergeants and research staff will conduct Town Halls in every district and shift to brief on the findings of TSQR 15 and TSQR 16, provide updates on the Melendres Order activities and discuss ongoing “Hot Topics”, providing hands on, group and one-one-mentorship across the office. (Completed) Between February 26th and March 6th, 2025, 185 personnel from the Patrol Bureaus, across all ranks, participated in a Town Hall.