

# **COLLEGE STATION POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Contact Data**

**Annual Report**

**(2003)**

## Analysis

The Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. 1074) requires that all police departments in the state collect traffic-related data and report this information to their local governing authority. The purpose in collecting and presenting this information is to determine if a police officer is engaging in the practice of profiling minority motorists. Despite the fact most agree that it is a good idea for police departments to be accountable to their citizens and carry a transparent image before the community, it is very difficult to derive from aggregate figures indicators that suggest whether or not a particular officer is racially profiling. That is, it is very difficult to detect specific “individual” behavior with “aggregate-level” data.

Notwithstanding the data-related challenges cited earlier, the College Station Police Department, in an effort to comply with The Texas Racial Profiling Law (S.B. 1074), commissioned the analysis of its 2003 traffic contact data. Thus, three different types of analyses were conducted. The first of these involved a careful evaluation of the 2003 traffic stop data. This particular analysis measured, as required by S.B. 1074, the number and percentage of Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and individuals belonging to the “other” category, that came in contact with the police and were issued a traffic-related citation in 2003. In addition, the analysis included information relevant to the number and percentage of searches (see table 1) while indicating the type of search (i.e., consensual or probable cause) conducted. Finally, it identified the number and percentage of individuals who, after they were issued a citation, were arrested.

The second type of analysis was based on a comparison of the 2003 traffic contact data with a particular baseline. It should be noted that there is also a great deal of disagreement in the academic literature over the type/form of baseline to be used when analyzing traffic-related contact information. Of all the baseline measures available, the College Station Police Department decided to adopt, as a baseline measure, the Fair Roads Standard.

The Fair Roads Standard is based on data obtained through the U.S. Census Bureau (2000) relevant to the number of households that have access to vehicles while controlling for race and ethnicity. According to experts, census data presents challenges to any effort made at establishing a fair and accurate racial profiling analysis. That is, census data contains information on all residents of a particular community, regardless of the fact they may or may not be among the driving population. Further, census data, when used as a baseline of comparison, presents the challenge that it captures information related to city residents only. Thus, excluding individuals who may have come in contact with the College Station Police Department in 2003 but reside outside city limits.

Despite this, several civil rights organizations in Texas have expressed their desire that all police departments use, in their analysis, the Fair Roads Standard. This contains census data specific to the number of “households” that have access to vehicles. Thus, proposing to compare “households” (which may have multiple residents and several

vehicles) with “contacts” (an individual-based count). This, in essence, constitutes a comparison that may result in ecological fallacy. Despite these concerns, the College Station Police Department made a decision that it would use this form of comparison (i.e., census data relevant to households with vehicles) in an attempt to demonstrate its “good will” and “transparency” before the community.

Finally, a third type of analysis was conducted while using the 2002 traffic contact data. Specifically, all traffic-related contacts made in 2003 were compared to similar figures reported in 2002. It should be noted that the College Station Police Department became aware of the fact that the original 2002 traffic contact data collected did not reflect accurately the contacts police officers made in the course of that year. Thus, they immediately corrected this and submitted the corrected version of the data set to all interested parties (see table 4).

Despite the fact most researchers do not support the notion that in two years, a “trend” can be developed, when considering this analysis, it was determined that comparing the data from these two years may highlight possible areas of consistency with regards to traffic-related contacts. That is, the two year comparison has the potential of revealing early indicators that a possible trend of police-initiated contacts with members of a specific minority group, is developing.

#### Tier 1 (2003) Traffic-Related Contact Analysis

The Tier 1 data collected in 2003 showed that most traffic-related contacts were made with Caucasian drivers. This was followed by African American and Hispanic drivers. With respect to searches, most of them were performed on Caucasians drivers. This was followed by African Americans and Hispanics. It is important to note that the arrest data revealed that Caucasian and African American drivers were arrested the most in traffic-related contacts. This was followed by Hispanic drivers. In addition, no arrests were made, in traffic related incidents, of drivers of “Asian” and “Native American” descent or those belonging to the “other” category.

#### Fair Roads Standard Analysis

When compared to the census data relevant to the number of “households” in College Station who indicated, in the 2000 census, that they had access to vehicles, the analysis produced interesting findings. That is, the percentage of individuals of “Hispanic” and “Asian” descent that came in contact with the police in traffic related incidents was lower than the percentage of Hispanic and Asian households in College Station that claimed, in the 2000 census, to have access to vehicles. The same was true of Native Americans.

With respect to Caucasians and African Americans, the data suggested that the percentage of individuals of “Caucasian” and “African” descent that came in contact with the police in 2003 was higher than the percentage of Caucasian and African American College Station households with access to vehicles.

## Two-Year Comparison

The two-year comparison (02-03) showed remarkable similarities with respect to the traffic-related contacts. As evident in table 3, the percentage of drivers (from different racial/ethnic groups) that came in contact with the College Station Police in 2002 was almost identical to the percentage of drivers, from the same racial/ethnic groups that came in contact with the College Station Police Department in 2003. It should be noted that a slightly higher percentage of Hispanics came in contact with the police in 2003, when compared with 2002.

The search figures for both years showed similar patterns. It is worth mentioning that the percentage of African American and Hispanic searches in 2003 was slightly higher than in 2002. The opposite was true of Caucasian searches. That is, a smaller percentage of Caucasians were searched in 2003, when compared to 2002. When considering the arrests made, it was interesting to find that a greater percentage of African American and Hispanic drivers were arrested in 2003; however, the same comparison revealed that a smaller percentage of Caucasian and Asian drivers were arrested in 2003 when compared to the previous year.

## Summary

Despite the fact the data suggests that the majority of drivers that came in contact with the College Station Police Department in 2003 were Caucasians, some may question the finding made with respect to African American contacts. That is, questions may be raised regarding the Tier 1 finding with respect to African American contacts as these are higher than the number of African American households in College Station with access to vehicles. It is believed that the differences mentioned could be due to several reasons including, but not limited to, the fact that there could be more vehicles in African American households in College Station that are not included in the census data (which only counts one household at a time despite the number of drivers or vehicles that may be present). The underlying assumption here is that these vehicles would come in contact with the police in a traffic related incident despite the fact some of them were not counted in the 2000 census. Further, the City of College Station is home to the Texas A&M University. This is a significant factor to take into consideration as this particular university draws individuals from different regions of the world. Thus, importing a population of students that may come in contact with the police in a given year, but is not necessarily captured in the U.S. Census.

With respect to the two-year analysis, the findings suggest that the College Station Police Department has been consistent in the racial/ethnic composition of motorists it comes in contact with during a given year. Having said that, it is recommended that the College Station Police Department continue to devote some attention to the contacts the police department is making with all individuals particularly with African American drivers. Doing so, and perhaps collecting more information on the nature of these contacts, may reveal more useful information in next year's analysis.

The College Station Police Department continues to address the issue of racial profiling in a serious manner. It is clear, from its approach to the collection and analysis of traffic-related data, that it is committed at identifying and addressing (if necessary) areas of concern with respect to the profiling of minority motorists. As it is evident in this report, the College Station Police Department has, once again, complied with the Texas Racial Profiling Law (SB1074).

## **(I) Tier 1 Data**

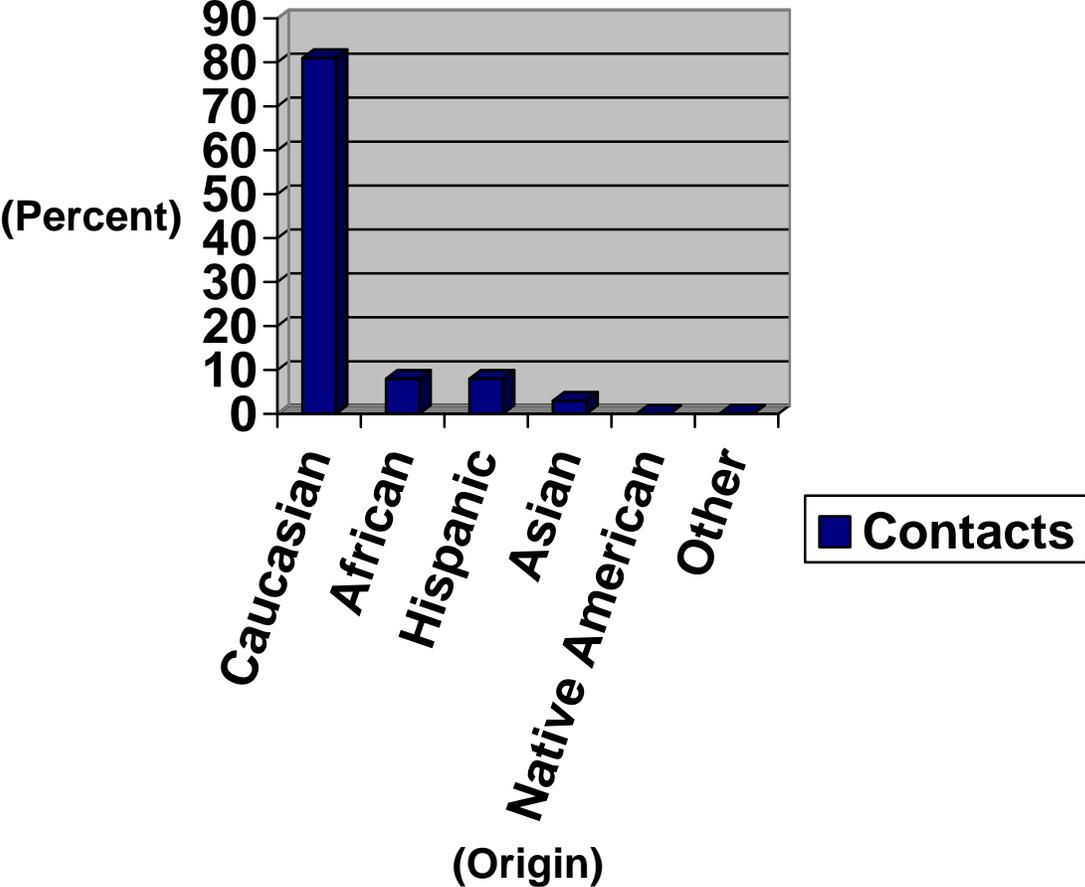
### Traffic-Related Contact Information (1/1/03—12/31/03)

Race/Ethnicity *	Contacts		Searches		Consensual Searches		PC Searches		Custody Arrests	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caucasian	20586	81	142	72	67	71	75	74	236	55
African	1960	8	29	15	17	18	12	12	99	23
Hispanic	2097	8	22	11	8	9	14	14	93	22
Asian	675	3	2	1	1	1	1	.9	0	0
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	29	.1	1	.5	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25347</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>100</b>

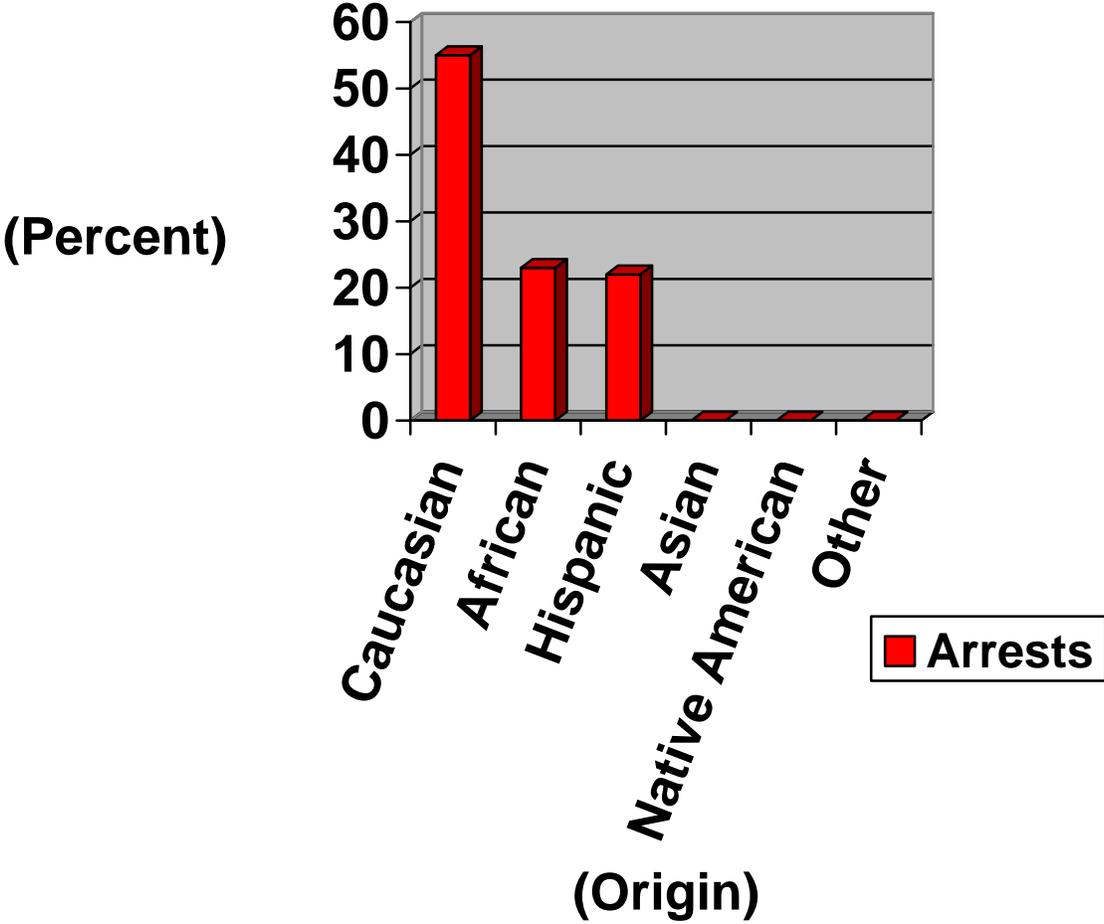
\* Race/Ethnicity are defined by Senate Bill 1074 as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”.

\*\* Figure has been rounded.

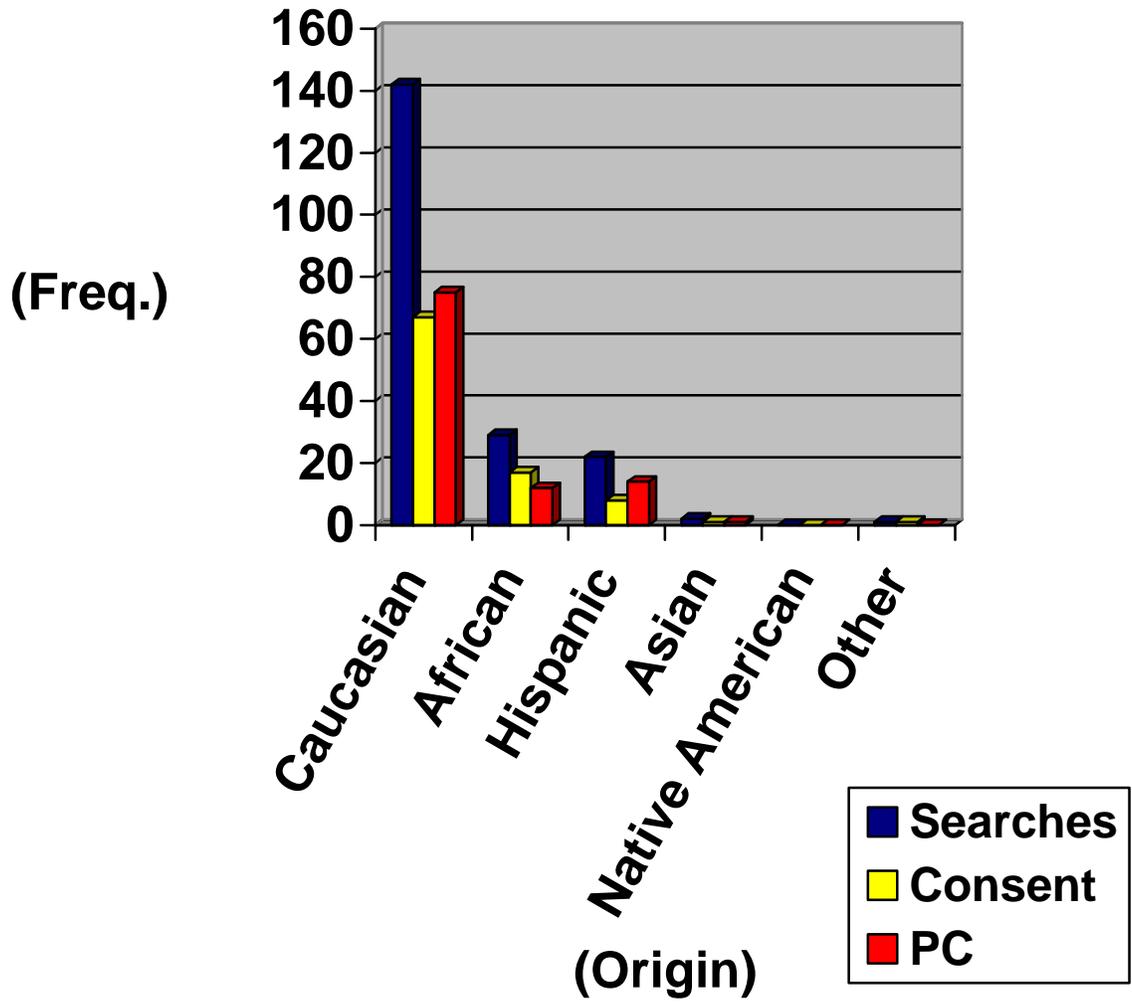
# Tier 1 Data (Contacts)



# Tier 1 Data (Arrests)



# Tier 1 Data (Searches)



## **(II) Traffic-Contact and Fair Roads Standard Comparison**

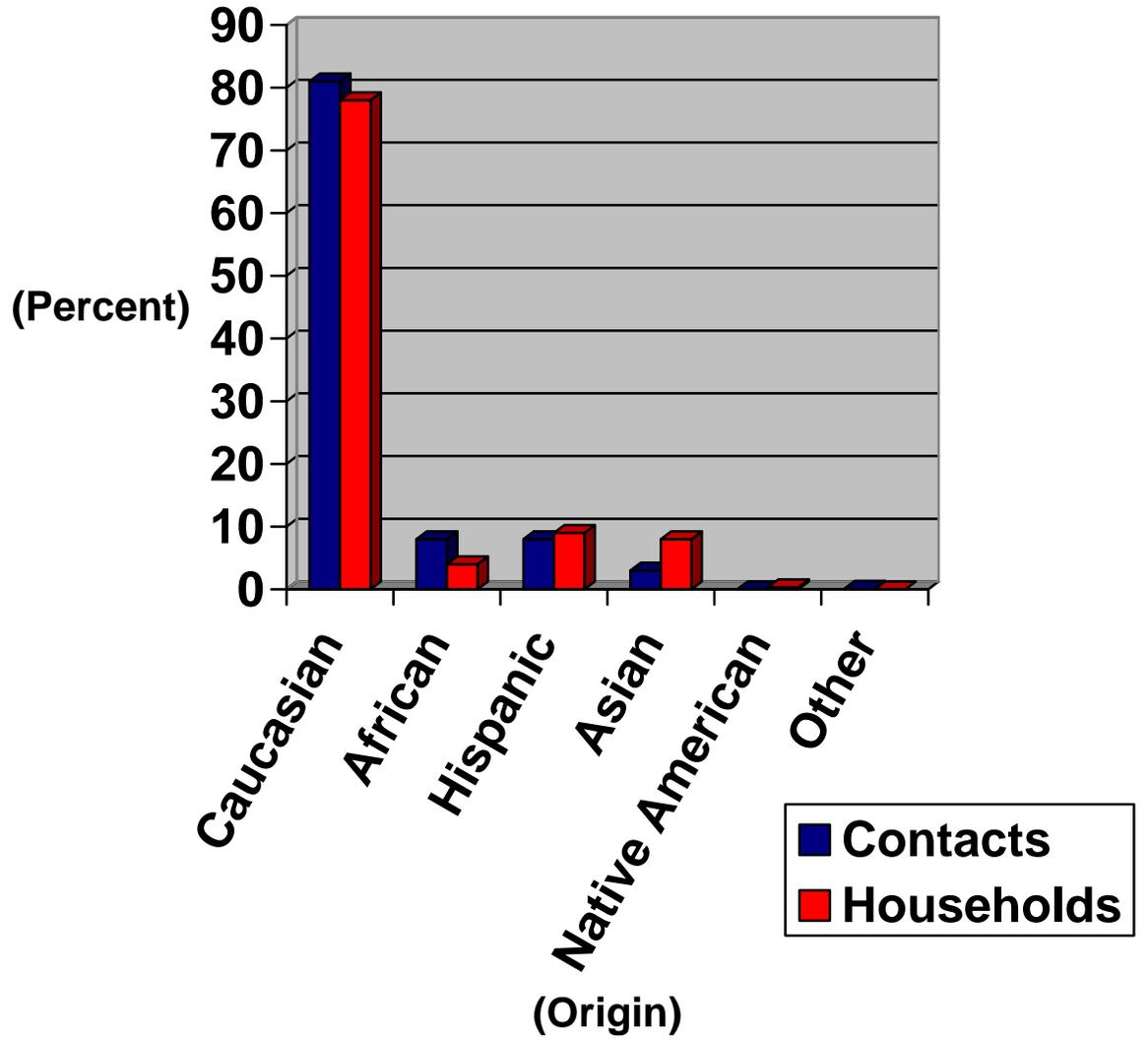
Comparison of traffic contacts with households in College Station that have vehicle access (in percentages). (1/1/03—12/31/03)

<b>Race/Ethnicity*</b>	<b>Contacts (in percentages)</b>	<b>Households with vehicle access (in percentages)</b>
Caucasian	81	78
African	8	4
Hispanic	8	9
Asian	3	8
Native American	0	.34
Other	.1	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>99.3***</b>

\* Race/Ethnicity are defined by Senate Bill 1074 as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”.

\*\*Represents rounded figure

# Tier 1 (Contacts and Households/03)



### (III) Two-Year Tier 1 Data Comparison

Comparison of Two Year Traffic-Related Contact Information (1/1/02---12/31/03)

Race/Ethnicity*	Contacts (02)	Contacts (03)	Searches (02)	Searches (03)	Arrests (02)	Arrests (03)
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Caucasian	82	81	75	72	76	55
African	8	8	13	15	15	23
Hispanic	7	8	10	11	7	22
Asian	3	3	1	1	2	0
Native American	.005	0	0	0	0	0
Other	.3	.1	0	.5	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>100**</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Race/Ethnicity are defined by Senate Bill 1074 as being of a “particular descent, including Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American”.

\*\* Figure has been rounded.

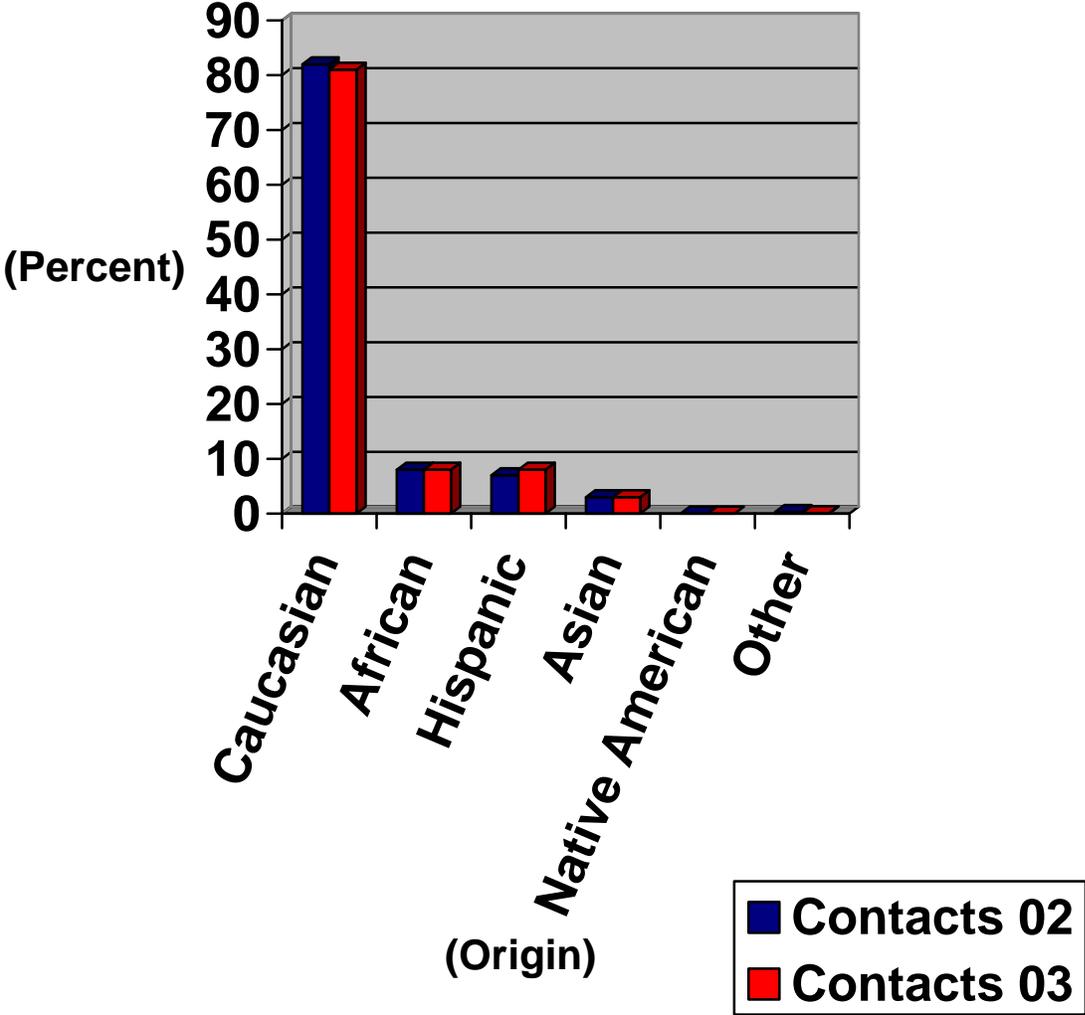
#### ERRONEOUS STATISTICS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED IN 2002

	Contacts	% of total	Total searches	% of total	Consensual searches	% of total	PC Searches	% of total	Arrests	% of total
Caucasian	16767	82.2%	46	59.7%	20	58.8%	26	60.5%	1920	65.1%
African	1572	7.7%	17	22.1%	8	23.5%	9	20.9%	661	22.4%
Hispanic	1295	6.4%	14	18.2%	6	17.6%	8	18.6%	337	11.4%
Asian	505	2.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	18	0.6%
Native American	22	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Other	230	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20391</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2948</b>	<b>100%</b>

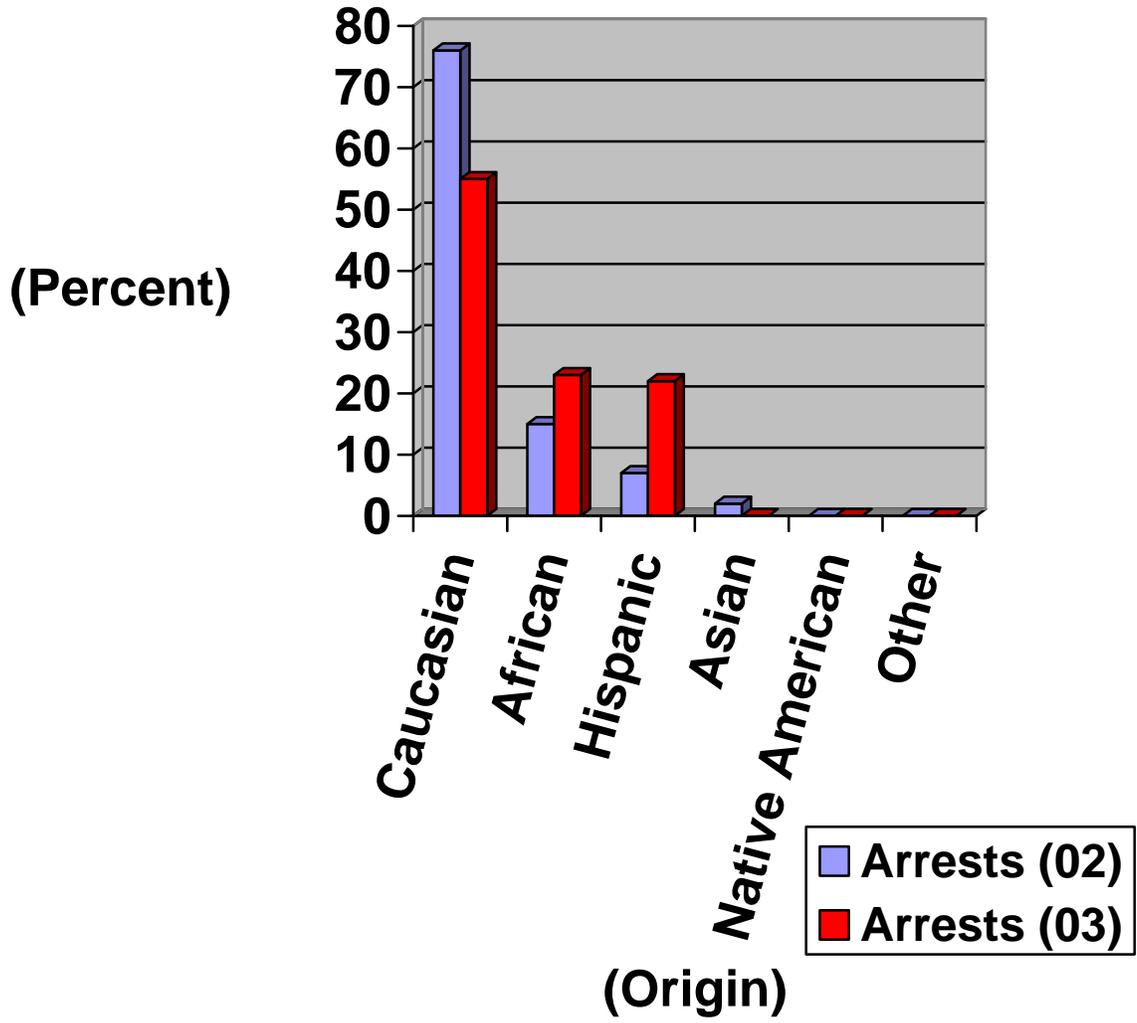
#### CORRECTED STATISTICS FOR 2002

	Contacts	% of total	Total searches	% of total	Consensual searches	% of total	PC Searches	% of total	Arrests	% of total
Caucasian	15339	81.6%	248	75.4%	118	75.2%	130	75.6%	136	66.3%
African	1450	7.7%	43	13.1%	17	10.8%	26	15.1%	33	16.1%
Hispanic	1373	7.3%	34	10.3%	22	14.0%	12	7.0%	35	17.1%
Asian	590	3.1%	4	1.2%	0	0.0%	4	2.3%	1	0.5%
Native American	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	52	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18805</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100%</b>

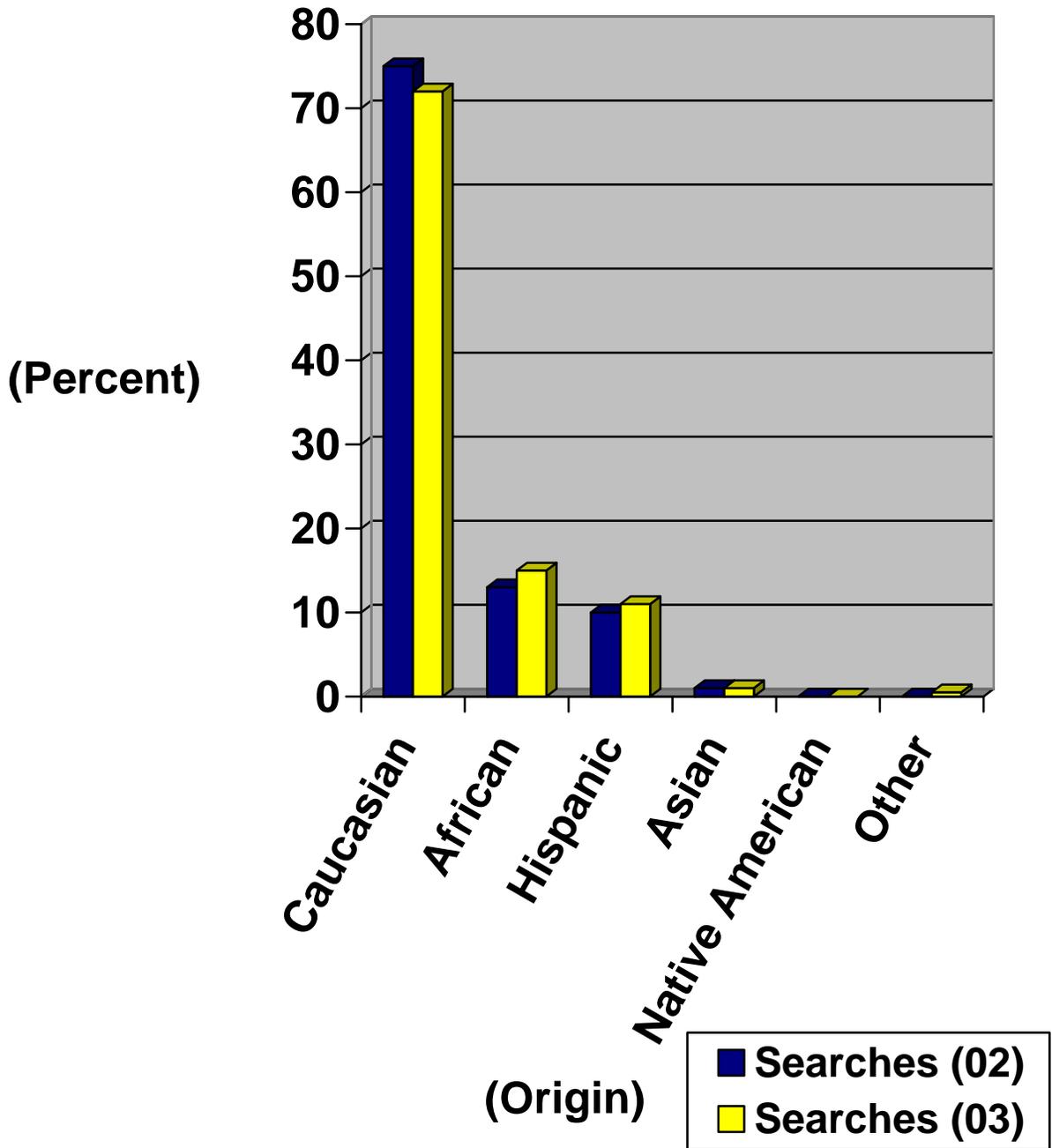
# Tier 1 Data (Contacts 02/03)



### Tier 1 Data (Arrests 02/03)



### Tier 1 Data (Searches 02/03)



## Checklist

(I) The following requirements were met by the College Station Police Department in accordance with Senate Bill 1074:

- Clearly defined act of actions that constitute racial profiling
- Statement indicating prohibition of any peace officer employed by the College Station Police Department from engaging in racial profiling
- Implement a process by which an individual may file a complaint regarding racial profiling violations
- Provide public education related to the complaint process
- Implement disciplinary guidelines for officer found in violation of the Texas Racial Profiling Law
- Collect data (Tier 1) that includes information on
  - a) Race and ethnicity of individual detained
  - b) Whether a search was conducted
  - c) If there was a search, whether it was a consent search or a probable cause search
  - d) Whether a custody arrest took place
- Produce an annual report on police contacts (Tier 1) and present this to local governing body by March 1, 2004.
- Adopt a policy, if video/audio equipment is installed, on standards for reviewing video and audio documentation

## Contact Information

For additional questions regarding the information presented in this report, please contact:

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