Connecticut
RACIAL PROFILING
PROHIBITION PROJECT

Draft Minutes

Thursday, November 5, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Zoom

Present: William Dyson (Chair), Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Jim Fazzalaro, Chief Neil Dryfe, Rashad Glass, Tamara Lanier, Andy Friedland, Chief Louis Fusaro, Michael Gailor, Tanya Hughes, Marc Pelka, Brian Foley, Werner Oyanadel, Kathryn Overturf, Francisco Gomez

I.   Welcome & Introductions
   a. *Chair Dyson convened the meeting at 10:03am. Members introduced themselves.*

II. Approval of the October 8, 2020 meeting minutes
   a. *A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved via voice vote.*

III. Presentation: Preliminary Findings for the 2019 Traffic Stop report

   a. *Ken Barone and Jim Fazzalaro presented the preliminary findings from the 2019 Traffic Stop Data Analysis report. This report analyzed approximately 512,000 traffic stops during the 2019 calendar year. The report included both a one-year and three-year aggregate analysis. The research team anticipates incorporating a rolling three-year analysis into all future reports to increase the sample size for smaller departments.*

      The Veil of Darkness statewide analysis suggests that police in Connecticut are no more likely to stop a minority motorist in daylight relative to darkness. In general, the analysis indicates that the disparity in the decision to stop a minority motorist has remained relatively stables in terms of magnitude and statistical precision over the last three years. The 2019 sample identified CSP Troop L with a disparity for Hispanic motorists. The 2017-19 sample identified CSP Troop C, Old Saybrook, and Ridgefield with a statistically significant disparity.

The Synthetic Control test findings for the 2019 sample identified 22 municipal police departments with statistically significant disparities. The 2017-19 sample identified 25 municipal police departments with statistically significant disparities. 66 municipal police departments were identified in the descriptive analysis with benchmark disparities in at least one possible measure among the three benchmarks. However, only 11 of those departments exceeded the disparity thresholds in at least 2 of the three benchmark areas.

Finally, the analysis focused on post-stop behavior including a stop disposition test and search analysis. The Stop Disposition test found strong evidence suggesting that minority motorists are treated differently than their Caucasian non-Hispanic counterparts even when they are stopped for the same reason. The analysis suggested that minority motorists are more likely to receive a warning even after conditioning on the motivating reason for the stop. In total, four municipal police department were identified with s statistically significant disparity in the distribution of stop outcomes for minority motorists, but they didn't survive additional robustness checks.

A statewide search analysis found a significantly lower hit-rate for minority motorists when searched. This suggests the potential presence of a preference on the part of police for searching minority motorists. CSP Troop G, Hartford, Vernon, West Hartford, and West Haven were identified in the three-year aggregate analysis and only Hartford was identified in the 2019 sample.

Ken Barone and Jim Fazzalaro presented a proposal to modify the criteria for identifying departments for further follow-up analysis. They recommended discontinuing to use the synthetic control method and descriptive statistics in the weighting of departments until the census information is updated next year. They recommended that both methods continue to be provided in the report for continued context. Members briefly discussed this potential modification. Chair Dyson requested that members review the proposal and the board discuss in greater detail at our next meeting.

IV. Policy Work Group Update

a. *The Policy Work Group continues to meet to discuss the merits and feasibility of a primary and secondary traffic law system. The group has meeting scheduled through the end of the year and a report will be shared in the new year.*

V. General Discussion

   a. *There was no discussion and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.*