



Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality Subcommittee Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Zoom

Attendance: Stacey Manware, Lt. Col. Mark Davison, James McGennis, Kevin Neary

Staff: Ken Barone, Erica Escobar

I. Welcome & Introductions

Stacey Manware called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. Approval of the January 14, 2025 minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from January 14, 2025. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

The board had previously endorsed the recommendation to combine the 2023 and 2024 analyses into one report. The 2024 data was downloaded two weeks ago, though data from November and December is missing for a few departments. A list of missing data has been sent to all RMS vendors for resolution. If necessary, outreach will be made to individual departments next week to obtain the missing data.

It is expected that the total number of stops for 2024 will likely exceed 400,000, with the current total at 388,000. The final count is anticipated to be between 400,000 and 410,000 stops, an increase of approximately 50,000 stops from 2023 and 153,000 from 2020. However, the total will still be about 100,000 stops fewer than in 2019. The trend shows an annual increase of roughly 50,000 more stops each year.

IV. New Business

a. Clarification of traffic stop definition

The group discussed the clarification of the traffic stop definition as part of the ongoing work on the police reporting training manual. The Lieutenant Colonel's team provided helpful feedback on the draft, which is still in progress. Their recommended changes aim to clarify the definition, including removing the "and/or vehicle" wording, which was deemed redundant, and broadening the language surrounding traffic citations arising from traffic crashes to "contacts arising from a traffic crash."

The team also suggested clarifying that stops related to specific incidents, such as a vehicle linked to a robbery, should not be considered traffic stops for reporting purposes. The committee reviewed these suggestions, and there were no objections. A recommendation will be made to the board to adopt the updated definition.

b. Clarification on the recording of data for fleeing vehicle

A recent discussion with a municipal department highlighted the need for clarification on reporting fleeing vehicles in traffic stops. Two scenarios were presented: one where a vehicle flees before a stop can be made, and another where a stop is initiated but the vehicle flees shortly after. The concern was that officers may not be able to gather the required demographic information when the vehicle flees.

It was suggested that these cases should be exempt from reporting as traffic stops, as accurate demographic data cannot be obtained. The group agreed that a simple solution would be to update the training manual to exempt such situations from traffic stop reporting.

The committee agreed that clear language in the training manual would help agencies navigate these situations, ensuring accurate and streamlined reporting. It was noted that while the issue is not overwhelming, it is becoming more common, and clear guidance would prevent confusion.

The group also acknowledged that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and IACP classify police pursuits separately from traffic stops for statistical purposes but agreed the exemption should focus on traffic stop reporting.

C. Ethnicity Data Collection Review

The group discussed issues with the "Middle Eastern or East Indian" ethnicity designation used in traffic stop data collection. Introduced in 2012 to address concerns over religious profiling, it has been unreliable since its inception. Data errors occurred due to vendor issues, and even since 2020, the category remains unreliable.

The group suggested removing the "Middle Eastern" category and simplifying ethnicity to "Hispanic" and "Non-Hispanic," as these are more consistent with traditional data collection practices. They also considered using "Other," as seen in other states, but emphasized the need for clear guidelines to avoid misuse.

Further research will be conducted on how other jurisdictions handle ethnicity categories in police documentation. This will inform the next meeting, with the goal of streamlining ethnicity data collection and improving its accuracy. The group also acknowledged the need to align with federal systems and upcoming legislation, including gender-neutral categories like "X" for nonbinary individuals.

V. General Discussion

a. Automated data reports

A presentation was received from Benchmark, a company contracted to help automate data cleaning processes. They proposed a series of automated data reports that could be generated as frequently as needed. Some aspects of their work were effective, while others required adjustments. Benchmark will revise their approach, and they will present their automated solutions at the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.