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STATISTICAL TRANSPARENCY OF POLICING (STOP) NEVADA DATA COLLECTION PROJECT

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Nevada Department of
Public Safety
Office of Traffic Safety

PROJECT GOALS

Develop and implement a Statistical Transparency of Policing (STOP) program in the State of Nevada that aligns with Nevada SB 236 (passed in 2021) regarding traffic-related stops

NEVADA SENATE BILL NO. 236 [SB 236 (2021)]

- **Law Enforcement Officers** must record and report traffic stop data:
 - For all traffic stops that result in citations issued through the electronic citation system in 2022-2025 (Sec. 17)
 - For a traffic stop for which they issue "a written citation or warning" in 2024-2025 (Sec. 17.5)
- **Law Enforcement Agencies** that receive traffic stop information must report such information to the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS)

NEVADA SENATE BILL NO. 236 [SB 236 (2021)]

DPS :

- Must develop a standardized method to record traffic stop information in an electronic traffic citation system.
- May contract with a **third party** to:
 - Analyze traffic stop data for “identifying patterns or practices of profiling.”
 - Report regularly the results of the analysis to the Governor, the Department and the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Judiciary.

SB 236 IMPLEMENTATION

Includes

- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Reporting results

SB 236 IMPLEMENTATION (Continued)

1. Data Collection

- OTS oversees SB 236 data collection
- Tyler Technology is the citation system administrator
- Leveraged existing traffic citation software used by law enforcement statewide to capture citations
- Current software system was modified and expanded to collect additional SB 236 traffic stop data

SB 236 IMPLEMENTATION (Continued)

2. Data Analysis

Third party award: Multidisciplinary team

- Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV
- UNLV School of Public Health
- UNLV Greenspun College of Urban Affairs - Department of Criminal Justice

SB 236 IMPLEMENTATION (Continued)

3. Reporting Results

- UNLV conducted descriptive analysis of NV 2022 traffic stop data
- UNLV generated the first report - descriptive report
- UNLV delivered the descriptive report to the Governor, the Department and the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Judiciary

LEARNING FROM OTHER STATES

- Best Practices
 - Team meetings with other states: CT, OR, CA
 - Recommendations: Multiple years of data needed to conduct comprehensive data analysis to identify disparities in traffic enforcement
- Council of State Governments and University of Connecticut
 - Received a grant to provide technical assistance to several states
 - NV chosen as one of the states

2022 DATA CLEANING, ANALYSIS, AND DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

- Examined data collected through the citation system administered by Tyler Technology, and available to the STOP team
- Purpose: Provide descriptive analyses of NV 2022 traffic stop data
- Note: limitations of data prohibit conclusions or inferences about disparities in traffic stops

DATA ELEMENTS

List of Data Elements as Specified by SB 236

Data to be collected per SB 236 and available to research team	Data availability to research team
Date of the traffic stop	Available
Time of the traffic stop	Available
Race and ethnicity of the driver, based on the observations of the law enforcement officer reporting the stop	Available
Disposition of the traffic stop – if a warning was issued	Available
Disposition of the traffic stop - if a citation or summons was issued	Available

DATA ELEMENTS (CONTINUED)

List of Data Elements as Specified by SB 236

Data to be collected per SB 236	Data availability to research team
Disposition of the stop - if the stop led to an arrest	Limited*
Disposition of the stop - if a search was performed (and if so, the type of search and whether anything was found as a result of the search)	Limited*
Age and sex of the driver based on the observations of the law enforcement officer reporting the stop	Limited* - From driver license
Location of the stop	Limited* - Cross streets, mile marker
Nature of, and the statutory citation for, the alleged violation that caused the stop to be made	Not available in 2022 data - Will be added (rollout date TBD)

* **Limited** = Incomplete data or not consistent with SB 236

METHODOLOGY

Data acquisition

- Our team received monthly traffic stop data from OTS
- Data from 41 law enforcement agencies (N = 271,765 traffic stop records)

Data validation and storage

- Dataset underwent rigorous validation protocols
- Data was reformatted, stored, and optimized in a data warehouse
- Developed a detailed and comprehensive data dictionary in collaboration with OTS and input from Tyler Technology

METHODOLOGY (CONTINUED)

Data wrangling

- Cleaned data
- Structured and re-coded data

Analytical procedures

- Univariate analyses were conducted to explore the data
- Used frequencies and proportions to describe the categorical data
- Used bar and line graphs to visualize the data

FINDINGS - REPORTED OUTCOMES

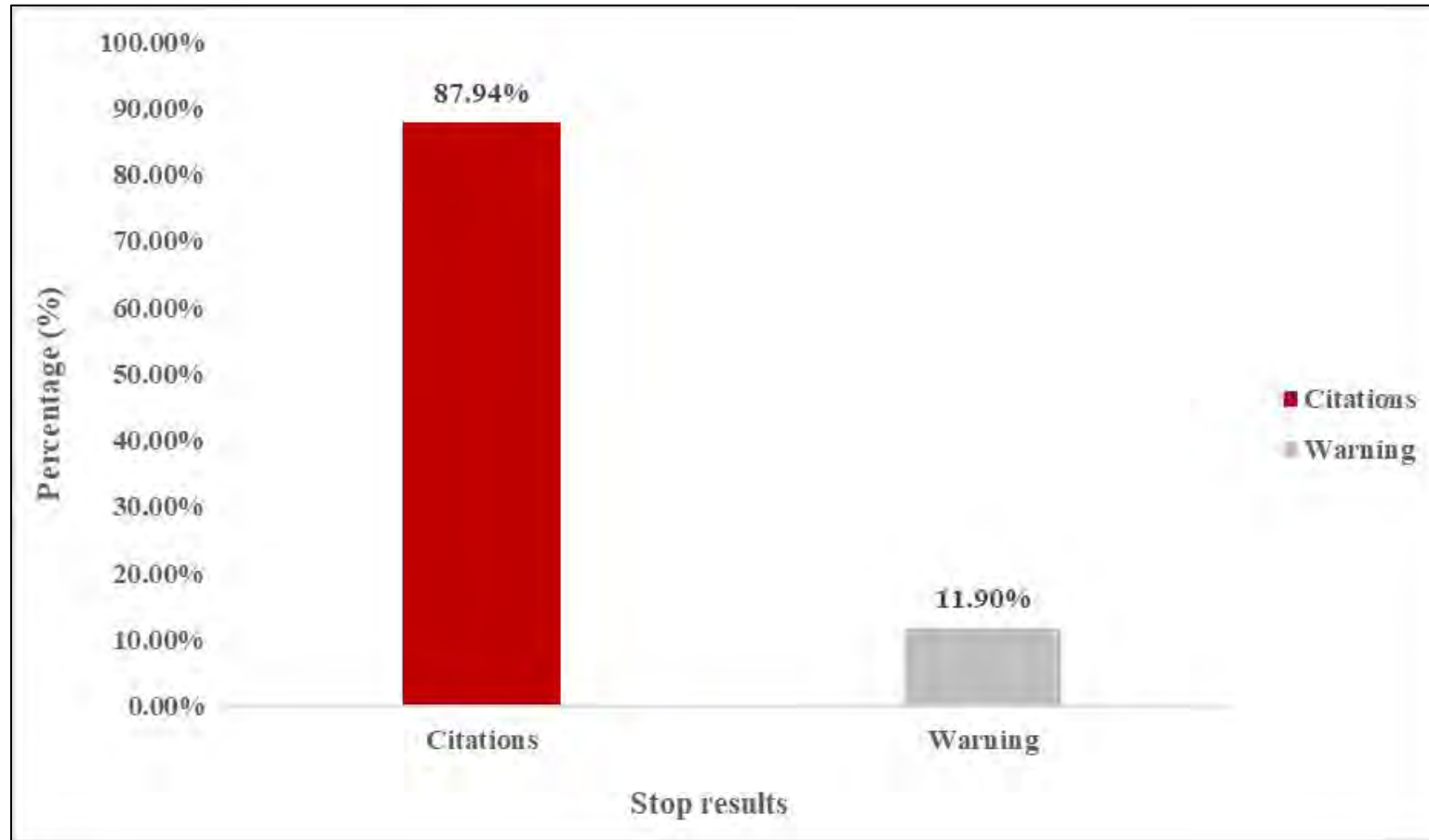


Figure 1. Percentages of stops that resulted in citations or warnings reported through an electronic citation system (2022)
N = 271,765 Traffic Stops

Please note that the percentages do not equal 100% because some traffic stops (0.16%) resulted in arrests.

FINDINGS – OFFICER PERCEIVED RACE OF THE DRIVER

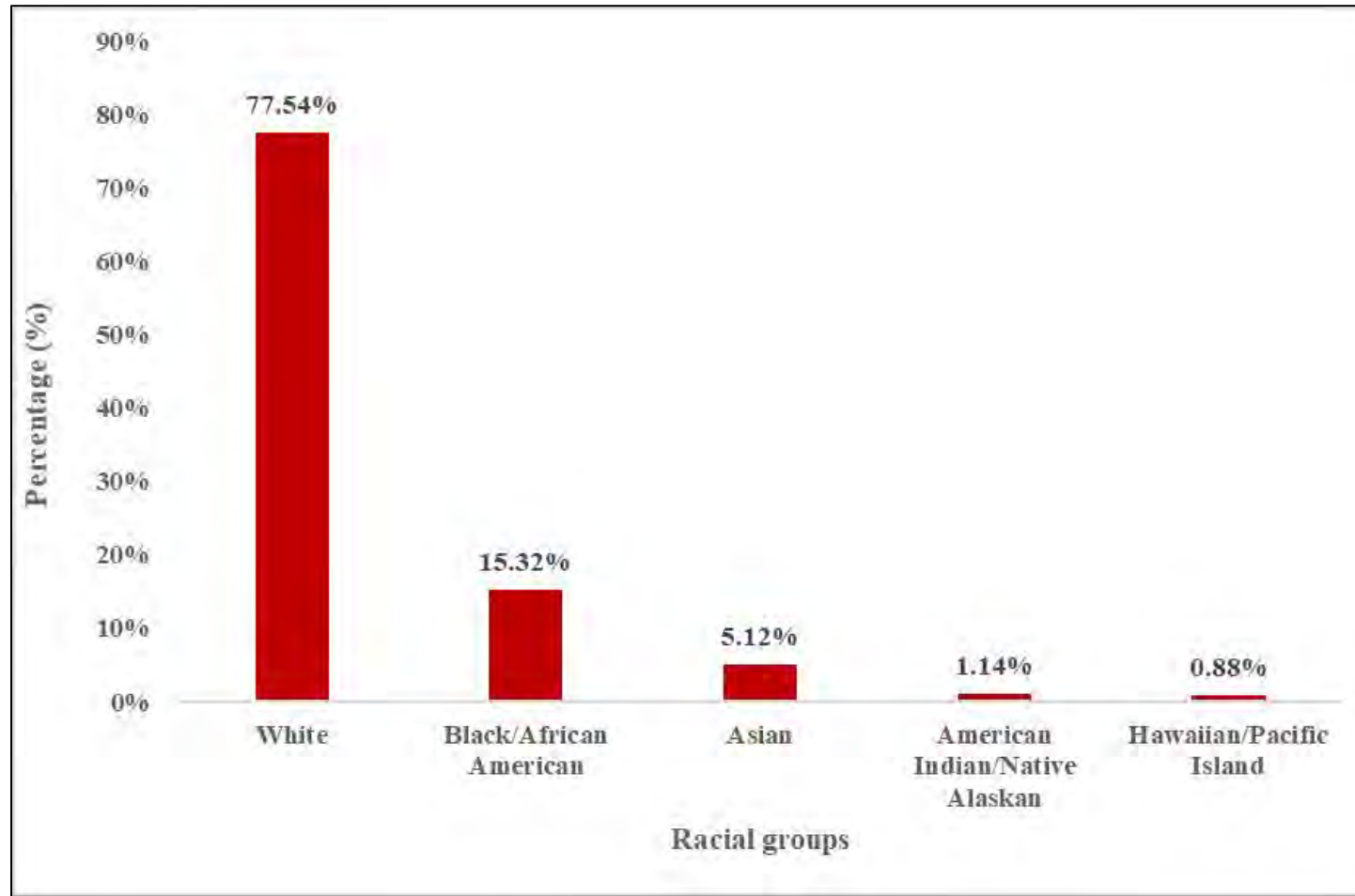


Figure 2. Percentages of traffic stops with actions reported through the electronic citation system by racial groups of drivers (2022)
N = 271,765 Traffic Stops

FINDINGS – OFFICER PERCEIVED ETHNICITY OF THE DRIVER

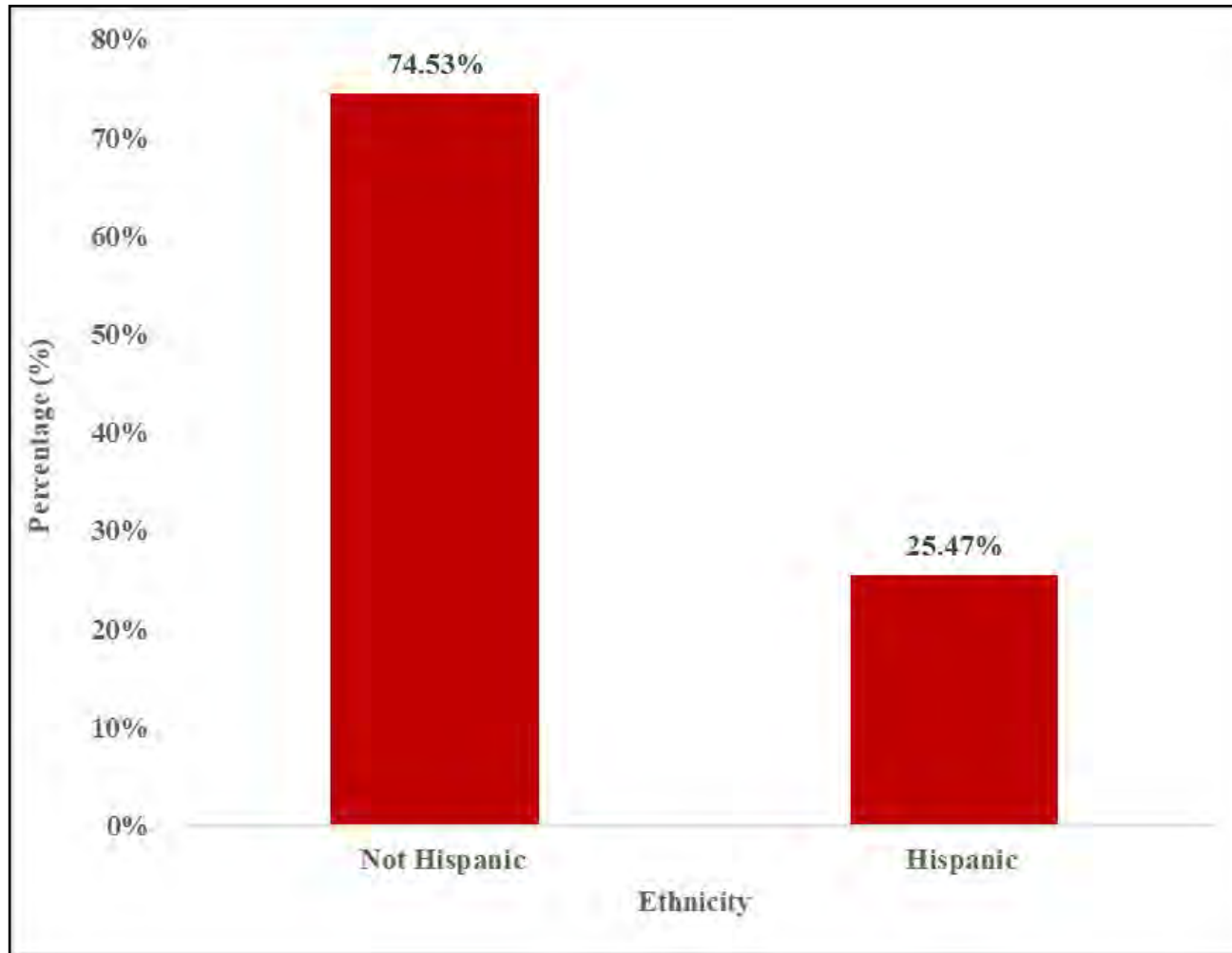


Figure 3. Percentages of traffic stops with actions reported through the electronic citation system by ethnicity of drivers (2022)
N = 271,765 Traffic Stops

FINDINGS - SEX OF THE DRIVER (DRIVERS LICENSE)

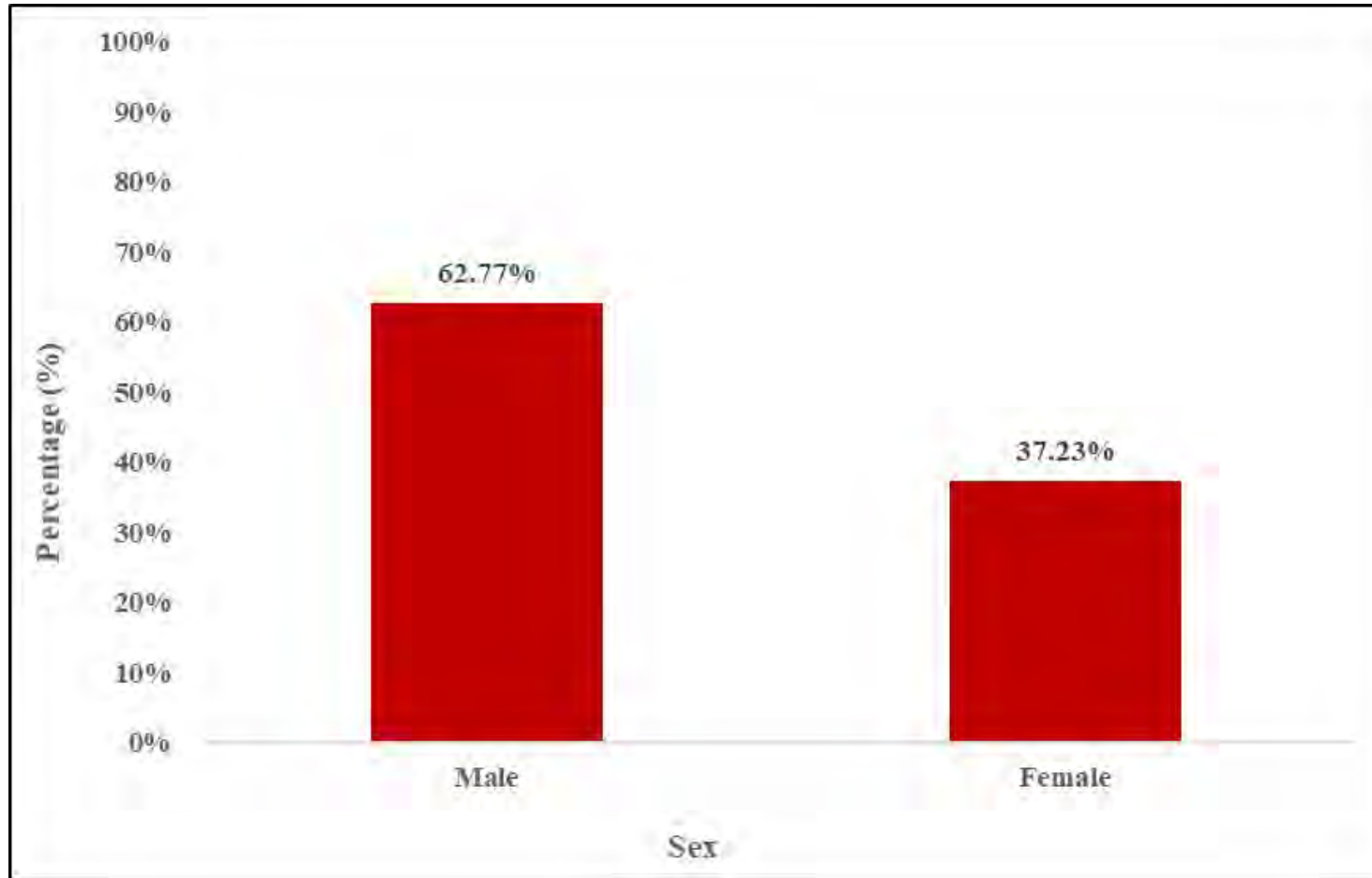
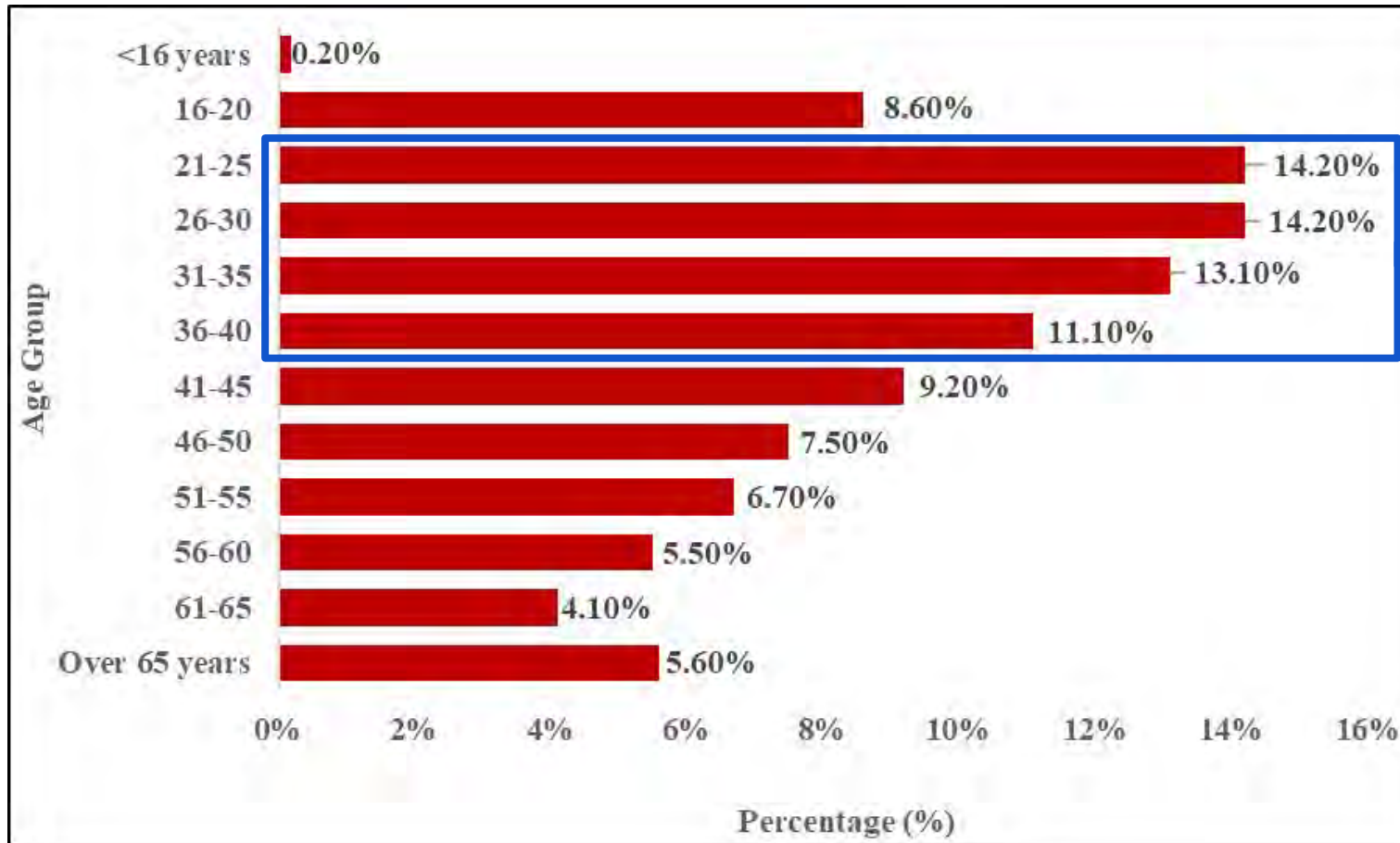


Figure 4. Percentages of traffic stops with actions reported through the electronic citation system by the sex of drivers (2022)

N = 271,765 Traffic Stops

FINDINGS – AGE OF THE DRIVER (DRIVERS LICENSE)



> 50% drivers aged 21-40 years

Figure 5. Percentages of traffic stops with actions reported through the electronic citation system by age group of drivers (2022)
N = 271,765 Traffic Stops

FINDINGS - AGENCY

Counts and percentages of traffic stops with actions reported through the electronic citation system by agency (2022) N = 271,765 Traffic Stops (Table 3 in report)

Agencies/Agency Group	Count	Percent
Nevada Highway Patrol	103,163	37.96
Las Vegas Metro PD	73,737	27.13
Henderson PD	19,721	7.26
North Las Vegas PD	12,691	4.67
Reno PD	10,213	3.76
Clark County SD PD	8,385	3.09
Carson City SO	6,026	2.22
Washoe County SO	5,878	2.16
Nye County SO	5,630	2.07
Sparks PD	5,006	1.84
Douglas County SO	2,807	1.03
Other Agencies	18,508	6.81
Total (N)	271,765	100.0

Most traffic stops reported by Nevada Highway Patrol followed by Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

SO-Sheriff's Office; PD-Police Department; SD-School District. Thirty agencies, each reporting less than one percent of all reported traffic stops, were aggregated into the category "Other Agencies."

LIMITATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

LIMITATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Not able to assess potential disparities in traffic enforcement
 - Depth, breadth, and completeness of the data
 - Multi-year and complete dataset recommended to fully assess potential disparities in traffic stops
 - The following slides provide further details on data limitations, considerations and recommendations

DATA LIMITATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

Limitations of data received and recommendations to align data collection with SB 236 and best practices

Limitations of available data	Impact of data limitations	Considerations/ Recommendations
Age and Sex data from driver license	May confound analysis to identify potential disparities in stops based on perceived Age and Sex	Different from the language in SB 236

DATA LIMITATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

Limitations of data received and recommendations to align data collection with SB 236 and best practices

Limitations of available data	Impact of data limitations	Considerations/ Recommendations
Nature of, and statutory citation for, the alleged violation that caused the stop to be made - Currently not collected and not available in NV	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data not examined in this report• Could not assess disparities in reason for stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPS/ OTS & Tyler Technology considering collecting this element• Roll out Date: TBD

DATA LIMITATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

Limitations of data received and recommendations to align data collection with SB 236 and best practices

Limitations of available data	Impact of data limitations	Considerations/ Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Warnings reported through the electronic citation system may not be complete● Reporting warnings was not required in 2022 (required starting 1/2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● This limits the ability to identify potential disparities in stops that resulted in warnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Require consistent collection of data about warnings● Consider collecting<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Warning issued (yes/no)- Type of warning (verbal or written)

DATA LIMITATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

Limitations of data received and recommendations to align data collection with SB 236 and best practices

Limitations of available data	Impact of data limitations	Considerations/ Recommendations
Data on arrests were incomplete	Limits ability to identify potential disparities in arrests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explore possibility of linkages between citation systems and other systems that contain search and arrest data● Consider adding whether an arrest was made (yes/no)● Consider adding contraband found (yes/no)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Data on person and vehicle searches were incomplete● Many searches linked to arrests	Limits the ability to identify potential disparities in searches and the results of searches	

SUMMARY - OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

Data Collection

- Data collection only goes through 2025
 - Require legislative action in order to continue
- Add the reason for the stop to the data collection system
- Explore possibility of linkages between citation systems and other systems that contain search and arrest data
- Consider collecting
 - Warning issued (yes/no) Type of warning (verbal or written)
 - Arrests (yes/no)
 - Contraband found (yes/no)
 - Nevada resident (Yes/No)

SUMMARY - OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding

- Continuous and adequate funding is necessary
- STOP project funding source is federal 1906 funds:
 - Amount depends on the number of states that apply

FUTURE GOALS

- Advanced statistical analysis (2022 and 2023) and report of findings
- Beta version of traffic stop data dashboard



THANK YOU
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