



TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Law Enforcement Agencies

From: Cullen Grissom, Licensing and Education Services

Regarding: **Motor Vehicle Stop Data Reporting (Racial Profiling Reports)**

Date: August 21, 2026

In November of 2025, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement formed an Advisory Committee on Motor Vehicle Stop Data under the authority of Texas Occupations Code § 1701.165. The committee was charged with recommending improvements in the collection and reporting of motor vehicle stop data, also known as racial profiling reports. The intent was to establish better quality data standards to produce more usable data for analysis. The committee completed its work and reported its recommendations to the Commission at its June 25, 2026 meeting. The Commission accepted the recommendations of the committee.

The committee's primary accomplishment is the development of a revised Motor Vehicle Stop Data Dictionary. The data dictionary standardizes required reporting elements, establishes clear definitions, and introduces consistent reporting logic to reduce ambiguity and variation among agencies. It is structured around the lifecycle of a motor vehicle stop, including stop initiation, driver demographics, searches, contraband determinations, enforcement outcomes, use of force resulting in bodily injury, and racial profiling complaint reporting.

Key Improvements

- Driver-only reporting for searches, contraband, arrests, and use of force
- Consolidated primary reason-for-stop categories to improve comparability
- Reporting of only the initial legal basis for searches of the driver or vehicle
- Clarified contraband definitions, including drugs and currency
- Use-of-force reporting limited to force resulting in bodily injury to the driver
- Logic-based validation rules requiring internal reconciliation of totals and conditional fields

Statutory Alignment

The data dictionary better aligns with Texas Occupations Code § 1701.164, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 2B.0051–2B.0059, and Texas Penal Code § 1.07. Legal definitions are embedded directly within the dictionary to support uniform interpretation. The revised Motor Vehicle Stop Data Dictionary is a practical, legally grounded tool to improve the quality,

consistency, and usefulness of racial profiling data in Texas.

Use of the new data dictionary for the collection of motor vehicle stop data must be adopted by Texas law enforcement agencies starting on January 1, 2027, for the 2027 Calendar Year reporting cycle. Any question about reporting of Motor Vehicle Stop Data may be directed to TCOLE Special Services 512.936.7700 or racialprofiling@tcole.texas.gov.

(See the attached data dictionary)

#	Field Name	Data Type	Field Description
Reporting Agency Details			
	Racial Profiling Analysis Report	String	Title of the report
	Agency Name	String	Reporting agency name
	Report Submission Date	Date	Date the report was compiled
Traffic Stop & Driver Details			
1	Total Traffic Stops	Integer	The total number of motor vehicle stops conducted during the reporting period. Include all driver initiated stops for alleged violations of law or ordinance (e.g., speeding, seat belt violation, dispatch BOLO detention). Exclude traffic collision investigations and pedestrian contacts.
2	Location of Stop	Category	Report the roadway or property type where the violation was first observed, not where the vehicle eventually stopped. For example, if the violation occurred on a state highway but the driver pulled onto a side street, classify the stop as occurring on the state highway. If a roadway is known by more than one road type, use the most locally specific road type applicable.
	City Street	Integer	Count of traffic stops on city streets.
	US Highway	Integer	Count of traffic stops on US highways.
	County Road	Integer	Count of traffic stops on county roads.
	State Highway	Integer	Count of traffic stops on state highways.
	Private Property or Other	Integer	Count of traffic stops on private property or other locations.
3	Was race known prior to making the decision to initiate the traffic stop?	Boolean (Y/N)	Indicate whether the officer knew the driver's race before deciding to initiate the stop. "Yes" when race is known via description or prior knowledge; "No" when driver not visible (e.g., tinted windows, nighttime).
	NO (Race known prior to Stop)	Integer	Count of stops where race/ethnicity was not known prior to the stop.
	YES (Race known prior to Stop)	Integer	Count of stops where race/ethnicity was known prior to the stop.
4	Race or Ethnicity	Category	Record the driver's race as stated by the driver, or if not stated, as observed by the officer. Categories: Alaska / Native American / Indian; Asian / Pacific Islander; Black; White; Hispanic. If an individual identifies as White and ethnicity "H" (Hispanic), report under the Hispanic category. Do not record 'Unknown' or leave blank. All subsequent references to "race category" indicate one of these race values.
	Alaska/ Native American/ Indian	Integer	Count of stops involving Alaska/Native American/Indian drivers.
	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Integer	Count of stops involving Asian/Pacific Islander drivers.
	Black	Integer	Count of stops involving Black drivers.
	White	Integer	Count of stops involving White drivers.
	Hispanic/ Latino	Integer	Count of stops involving Hispanic/Latino drivers.
5	Gender	Boolean (M/F)	Driver's gender classification as stated by the individual; when not stated, as observed by the officer. Categories: Male, Female. Gender values should sum to the total counts for all race categories captured in #4. Exclude passenger gender.
	Female	Integer	Count of stops involving female drivers, values by race category.
	Male	Integer	Count of stops involving male drivers, values by race category.
Traffic Stop Context, Search and Contraband			
6	Primary Reason for Stop	Category	The primary reason for initiating the traffic stop. Categories: Violation of Law (Non-Traffic) (e.g., driver observed committing a criminal offense such as possessing an open container of alcohol, displaying a firearm in a threatening manner); Pre Existing Knowledge (e.g., active warrant or known suspect vehicle); Moving Violation (e.g., speeding, lane change infraction); Equipment / Non Moving Violation (e.g., expired registration, broken taillight). Exclude contacts arising from traffic collisions.
	Violation of Law	Integer	Count of stops initiated due to violation of law (non-traffic) (e.g., driver observed committing a criminal offense such as possessing an open container of alcohol, displaying a firearm in a threatening manner), values by race category.
	Pre-Existing Knowledge	Integer	Count of stops based on prior knowledge (e.g., active warrant or known suspect vehicle), values by race category.
	Moving Traffic Violation	Integer	Count of stops due to moving violations (e.g., speeding, lane change infraction), values by race category.
	Vehicle Traffic Violation (Equipment / Non-Moving)	Integer	Count of stops due to vehicle equipment / non-moving violation (e.g., expired registration, broken taillight), values by race category.
7	Was a Search Conducted?	Boolean (Y/N)	Indicate whether a search was performed on the driver and/or the vehicle during the stop. Exclude searches of passengers or passenger property only.
	NO (Search Conducted)	Integer	Count of stops where no search was conducted, values by race category.
	YES (Search Conducted)	Integer	Count of stops where a search was conducted, values by race category.
8	Initial Reason for Search	Category	Identify the initial legal basis for any search conducted. Categories: Consent (e.g., verbal driver consent); Plain View (e.g., contraband plainly visible); Probable Cause (e.g. odor or visible evidence of illegal substance); Inventory (e.g. vehicle impound inventory); Incident to Arrest (e.g., search after arrest). Exclude passenger only searches.
	Consent	Integer	Count of searches conducted by consent, values by race category.
	Contraband in Plain View	Integer	Count of searches due to contraband visible in plain sight, values by race category.
	Probable Cause	Integer	Count of searches based on probable cause, values by race category.
	Inventory	Integer	Count of searches conducted as part of inventory procedures, values by race category.
	Incident to Arrest	Integer	Count of searches conducted incident to arrest, values by race category.

9	Was Contraband Discovered?	Boolean (Y/N)	Indicate whether contraband was found on the driver or in the driver's vehicle. Include items located on the driver or within vehicle control. Exclude contraband found solely on a passenger or in passenger property.
	YES (Contraband Discovered)	Integer	Count of searches where contraband was discovered.
	YES - By Race Category	Integer	Count of searches where contraband was discovered, values by race category.
	Finding Resulted in Arrest - YES	Integer	Count of searches where contraband discovery resulted in arrest, values by race category.
	Finding Resulted in Arrest - NO	Integer	Count of searches where contraband discovery did not result in arrest, values by race category.
	NO (Contraband Discovered)	Integer	Count of searches where no contraband was discovered.
	NO - By Race Category	Integer	Count of searches where no contraband was discovered, values by race category.
10	Description of Contraband	Multi-Select	Specify all applicable categories of contraband discovered. Categories: Drugs (e.g., drug paraphernalia, precursors); Currency (e.g., cash, financial instruments, stolen financial docs); Weapons; Alcohol; Stolen Property (e.g., criminal instruments); Other. Include contraband items found on driver or within vehicle control. Exclude contraband found solely on a passenger or in passenger property.
	Drugs	Integer	Count of contraband discoveries categorized as drugs, values by race category.
	Currency	Integer	Count of contraband discoveries categorized as currency, values by race category.
	Weapons	Integer	Count of contraband discoveries categorized as weapons, values by race category.
	Alcohol	Integer	Count of contraband discoveries categorized as alcohol, values by race category.
	Stolen Property	Integer	Count of contraband discoveries categorized as stolen property, values by race category.
	Other	Integer	Count of contraband discoveries categorized as other (not captured by predefined types), values by race category.
Traffic Stop Outcome & Use of Force			
11	Result of Stop	Category	Record the enforcement outcome for the driver only. Categories: Verbal Warning Only, Written Warning Only, Citation Only, Written Warning & Arrest, Citation & Arrest, or Arrest Only. Include driver warning, citations and arrests only; exclude actions taken against passengers.
	Verbal Warning	Integer	Count of stops resulting in a verbal warning only, values by race category.
	Written Warning	Integer	Count of stops resulting in a written warning only, values by race category.
	Citation	Integer	Count of stops resulting in a citation only, values by race category.
	Written Warning and Arrest	Integer	Count of stops resulting in a written warning with arrest, values by race category.
	Citation and Arrest	Integer	Count of stops resulting in a citation with arrest, values by race category.
	Arrest	Integer	Count of stops resulting in an arrest only, values by race category.
12	Arrest Based On	Category	Identify the primary legal basis for the driver's arrest. Options: Violation of Criminal Law; Violation of Traffic Law; Violation of City Ordinance; Outstanding Warrant. Include only arrests of drivers. Exclude arrests of passengers or other individuals present during the stop.
	Violation of Penal Code (Criminal Law)	Integer	Arrest based on violation of Criminal Law (e.g., possession of a controlled substance, assault), values by race category.
	Violation of Traffic Law	Integer	Arrest based on violation of a traffic law (e.g., racing on a highway, reckless driving), values by race category.
	Violation of City Ordinance	Integer	Arrest based on violation of a city ordinance (e.g., city curfew violation, noise ordinance), values by race category.
	Outstanding Warrant	Integer	Arrest based on an outstanding warrant (e.g., confirmed active warrant for failure to appear or previous unpaid citation), values by race category.
13	Was Physical Force Resulting in Bodily Injury Used?	Boolean (Y/N)	Indicate whether physical force, resulting in bodily injury, was used against the driver during the stop. Exclude actions taken against passengers.
	NO (No Force Resulting in Bodily Injury)	Integer	Record the number of stops where no physical force resulting in bodily injury occurred, values by race category.
	YES (Force used Resulting in Bodily Injury)	Integer	Record the number of stops where use of force resulted in bodily injury to the driver. Include driver injuries only. Exclude officer or bystander injuries and injuries resulting from non-force encounter (e.g., sprained ankle from exiting vehicle).
14	Number of Racial Profiling Complaints Received	Integer	Record the number of written, signed complaints alleging racial profiling against a specific officer and received by the agency during the reporting period. Enter "0" if none received.
	Number of Sustained Complaints	Integer	Record the number of racial profiling complaints determined to be sustained after investigation.
	Number of Not-Sustained or Unfounded Complaints	Integer	Record the number of racial profiling complaints determined to be not-sustained or unfounded after investigation.
	Number of Complaints Still Under Review	Integer	Record the number of racial profiling complaints still under review or investigation.

Term	Definition	Legal Source
Motor Vehicle	"Motor vehicle" means a self propelled vehicle or a vehicle designed for self propulsion	Tex. Transp. Code § 541.201(11)
Motor Vehicle Stop	"Motor vehicle stop" means an occasion in which a peace officer stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of law or ordinance.	Tex. CCP Art. 2B.0051(2)
Bodily Injury	"Physical force" is measured by the definition of 'bodily injury' — physical pain, illness, or impairment of condition.	Tex. Pen. Code § 1.07(a)(8)

Subtotal Validations

Totals by Race: All race counts in Fields #2 – #13 must equal Field #4 (Race of Driver).

Row and column reconciliation: field totals = Total Traffic Stops (#1).

Conditional Logic

If Contraband = No → Field #10 blank.

If Force Used = No → Field #13 (a) blank.

Complaint math: 14 (a) + 14 (b) = 14 (total complaints).