Traffic Stops

About the data source

Data on traffic stops is collected by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) in accordance with NCGS §143B-903, which specifies the agencies that are required to report. The SBI transmits data on traffic stops to the Criminal Justice Analysis Center for use in the North Carolina Justice Data Portal. Click on the Agencies Reporting link on the dashboard for a list of agencies that are reporting by year.

About this dashboard

Data updates

This dashboard is updated every quarter (January, April, July, October). Data is released with a six-month lag.

Terms and definitions

Reason for Stop
- Speed Limit Violation
- Stop Light/Stop Sign Violation
- Suspected DWI
- Unsafe Movement
- Vehicle Equipment/Regulatory Violation
- Seat Belt Violation
- Other Violation
  - Investigation (recorded when an investigation is opened into a traffic stop that would not normally be submitted)
  - Checkpoint (recorded only when an enforcement action is taken at a checkpoint)
  - Other Motor Vehicle Violation

Result of Stop
- Arrest
- Citation
- Warning/No Action (includes both verbal and written warnings)

Search Conducted
    A single search is counted when one or more of the following is searched during a traffic stop: driver, passenger, vehicle, property.

Search Types
- Probable Cause – a search conducted without the consent of the individual whose person or property is being searched. A probable cause search requires that the facts and circumstances known to the officer at the time of the search would lead them to believe that a crime is being or has been committed.
- Consent Search – a search conducted by a law enforcement officer based on the voluntary consent of the individual whose person or property is being searched.
- Other
    - Search Warrant
    - Search Incident to Arrest
    - Protective Frisk

Race/Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity are collected as separate categories and are combined for analytical and display purposes using the ethnicity category as the primary determinant. For example, if a driver's race category is listed as Black and ethnicity category as Hispanic, that driver's combined Race/Ethnicity category is Hispanic.