Washington State Patrol

Traffic Stop Demographic 2022-2024

December 2025

ESSB 5161 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- Report covers the three most recent years of available traffic-stop data.
- Must include counts and per-capita rates by demographic group for:
  - Traffic stops
  - Verbal warnings
  - Written warnings
  - Citations
  - Arrests
  - Searches
- Purpose: Identify and address demographic disparities, including impacts on Indigenous motorists.

Race is recorded by the WSP based on the trooper's perception, meaning numbers may under or misrepresent some groups.

POPULATION

- Washington’s population grew from 6.47M in 2022 to 6.64M in 2024.
- All racial and ethnic groups showed modest growth.
- Largest increases were in the Hispanic, Asian, and Black populations.
- Data comes from OFM annual estimates using U.S. Census Bureau sources.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	4,285,399	251,585	72,736	657,293	50,799	788,891	360,572	6,467,275
2023	4,304,004	258,242	72,650	681,047	52,714	815,159	372,051	6,555,867
2024	4,323,142	264,685	72,624	703,999	54,682	842,120	383,608	6,644,860

TOTAL TRAFFIC CONTACTS INCREASED IN 2023 AND REMAINED ELEVATED IN 2024

- Traffic contacts rose by more than 80,000 from 2022 to 2023.
- 2024 totals remained higher than 2022, despite a slight decrease from 2023.
- Increases appeared across all recorded demographic groups.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	313,837	36,915	2,310	30,653	1,977	70,412	56,124	512,228
2023	369,833	40,433	2,401	36,793	1,750	82,561	61,579	595,050
2024	356,764	40,917	2,534	37,796	1,622	86,607	59,542	585,782

FELONY-RELATED TRAFFIC CONTACTS ROSE STEADILY ACROSS ALL THREE YEARS

- Felony contacts went up every year, growing from 15,802 to 20,441 over the three-year period.
- Growth occurred across all demographic categories.
- Per-capita rates rose from 2.4 to 3.1 per 1,000 residents.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	9,096	1,903	275	479	132	3,205	712	15,802
2023	9,979	2,088	271	585	111	4,089	929	18,052
2024	10,833	2,469	308	603	116	4,998	1,114	20,441

INFRACTIONS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR ALL GROUPS FROM 2022–2024

- Total infractions rose by more than 80,000 over the period.
- The largest annual increase occurred from 2022 → 2023.
- Per-capita infraction rates climbed from 30.5 to 42.2 per 1,000.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	126,123	14,450	723	12,039	707	30,254	12,794	197,090
2023	170,280	17,849	835	16,920	784	38,910	21,372	266,950
2024	173,754	18,897	930	18,814	775	42,864	24,114	280,148

WRITTEN WARNINGS REMAINED STABLE WITH ONLY MINOR FLUCTUATIONS

- Written warnings increased slightly in 2023.
- 2024 totals returned close to 2022 levels.
- Per-capita rates remained steady near 6 per 1,000 statewide.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	20,410	3,304	74	3,316	152	6,817	4,932	39,005
2023	21,341	3,461	73	3,549	132	7,035	5,681	41,272
2024	21,162	3,467	63	3,765	120	6,806	4,600	39,983

VERBAL WARNINGS INCREASED IN 2023 BUT DECLINED BACK TOWARD 2022 LEVELS

- 2023 saw the highest number of verbal warnings in the three-year period.
- 2024 levels decreased but stayed above 2022 totals.
- Per-capita rates rose from 32 to 35, then returned to 32 per 1,000.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	142,557	15,486	1,184	11,874	875	26,790	9,602	208,368
2023	155,324	15,665	1,180	12,729	661	29,857	13,543	228,959
2024	139,248	14,702	1,194	11,924	577	29,178	13,617	210,440

HIGH-DISCRETION SEARCHES INCREASED SLIGHTLY BUT REMAIN RARE STATEWIDE

- High-discretion searches rose from 246 → 320 over three years.
- These searches occur in fewer than 0.05 per 1,000 contacts.
- Slight increases appeared across several demographic groups.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	150	19	7	4	0	58	8	246
2023	189	13	14	5	0	61	6	288
2024	213	24	15	2	1	62	3	320

LOW-DISCRETION SEARCHES INCREASED STEADILY FROM 2022–2024

- Totals increased from 7,910 → 9,058 statewide.
- Growth reflects increases in arrests, warrant-based searches, and impounds.
- Per-capita rates rose from 1.2 to 1.4 per 1,000.

Year	White	Black	Native	Asian	Pacific	Hispanic	Other	Total
2022	4,472	969	127	277	87	1,689	289	7,910
2023	4,360	960	114	337	70	2,041	343	8,225
2024	4,770	1,070	142	344	71	2,277	384	9,058

TRAINING NEW, CURRENT TROOPERS

TRAINEES	STATE MANDATORY TRAINING*
New Cadets	Ethics (2 hours), Law Enforcement Training and Community Safety Act (LETCSA) Bias and Relations (4 hours), History of Race and Policing (4 hours), LETCSA Tribal Liaison (4 hours), LETCSA Emotional Intelligence (4 hours)
Commissioned Ongoing Training	LETCSA Requirements (~20 hours online courses, 24-hour Patrol Tactics Course), annual Crisis Intervention Training

**Above list does not include additional training opportunities provided by region, as well as training afforded to supervisor level employees.*

OVERSIGHT OF BIASED-BASED POLICING ALLEGATIONS

Office of Professional Standards (OPS) reviews and investigates all allegations of biased-based policing. Ensures corrective action is taken when an allegation is substantiated. Each investigation is reviewed by both the Appointing Authority and the OPS Commander.

WSP Regulations Reviewed

- **8.00.260 – Unbiased Policing**
  Addresses biased-based profiling during traffic stops and initial field contacts.
- **8.00.250 – Code of Ethics (Officers)**
  Covers biased-based policing that may occur after the stop or during ongoing contact.
- **8.00.240 – Code of Ethics (Employees)**
  Sets expectations for unbiased behavior in all field contacts.
- **Updated Approach:**
  All three regulations are now evaluated using the same standard for consistency.

TECHNOLOGY

Body-Worn Cameras – Capture high-quality audio/video of stops and searches, providing objective documentation and transparency.

In-Car Cameras – Record full traffic-stop context, including approach, driver interactions, and roadway conditions.

Axon Ecosystem – Integrates video, reports, evidence, and analytics into a unified platform for auditing and oversight.

Records Management System (Axon Records) – Centralizes incident reports, stop data, and search documentation with built-in validation for accuracy and consistency.

OFFICE OF CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY LIAISONS - The WSP employs community liaisons throughout the state, tied specifically to each district, to help navigate and create opportunities for the WSP to have **positive, meaningful interactions with the community** they serve.

BEFORE WE SERVE - The WSP's OCE leads a week-long course providing meaningful opportunities for our cadets to interact with our vulnerable community members prior to being sent out to work as a WSP trooper.

EL PROTECTOR PROGRAM

The program provides Hispanic/Latino community outreach focused on reducing serious collisions and strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the community. WSP has participated since the early 2000s and expanded the program from Yakima to Wenatchee and beyond.

TRIBAL LIAISONS

Established in 2019 under RCW 43.43.874, the Tribal Liaison Program addresses the MMIWP crisis and strengthens relationships between Tribal communities, law enforcement, and key stakeholders. Two liaisons serve Eastern and Western Washington to improve response efforts and reduce victimization.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Enforcement Trends

- Traffic contacts increased sharply in 2023 and remained elevated in 2024.
- Infractions and felony-related contacts rose consistently across all three years.
- Verbal and written warnings remained stable, with only minor year-to-year fluctuations.

Search Patterns

- Low-discretion searches increased steadily from 2022–2024.
- High-discretion searches remain rare statewide but show modest annual growth.

Equity, Oversight & Accountability

- Axon systems now provide real-time visibility into search patterns, stop locations, and justification data.
- OPS continues reviewing all biased-based policing allegations with a standardized approach.
- Community engagement initiatives — including El Protector and Tribal Liaison programs — support stronger relationships and more equitable outcomes.

CLOSING

Our Commitment

- The Washington State Patrol remains committed to fair, unbiased, and professional policing statewide.
- Data transparency and system improvements help us identify disparities early and strengthen accountability.

Moving Forward

- Continued monitoring of search patterns, enforcement trends, and demographic impacts.
- Ongoing collaboration with Tribal communities, Latino communities, and vulnerable populations.
- Continued use of Axon systems to guide coaching, policy evaluation, and training needs.

Thank You!

We value your partnership and welcome any questions.

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HELPFUL RESOURCE

WTSC_AIAN_TRAFFIC SAFETY REPORT