

# Traffic Stop Policy in Ramsey County, Minnesota

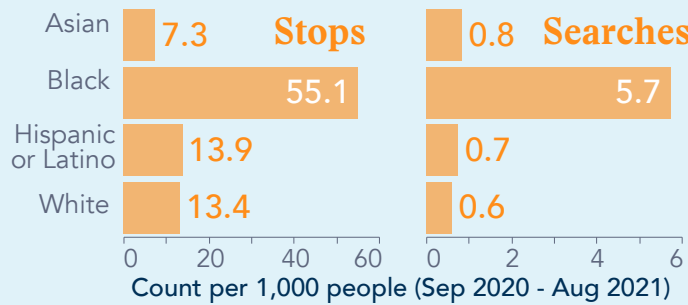


Justice Innovation Lab collaborated with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center, and the Saint Paul Police Department to assess the impact of policies and practices to reduce traffic stops unrelated to public safety.



## Issue

Black drivers have been **4 × more likely to be stopped** and **9 × more likely to be searched** than White drivers for minor, non-public-safety, vehicle violations.



## Policy Goals

In 2021, law enforcement leaders announced plans to decrease non-public-safety traffic stops to improve justice and safety by reducing racial inequities, increasing community trust, and focusing resources on public safety issues.

### Reduce traffic stops and searches for:

- Vehicle registration
- Window tint
- Muffler noise
- Windshield damage
- Windshield obstruction
- Nonfunctioning lights
- License plate illumination

## Results

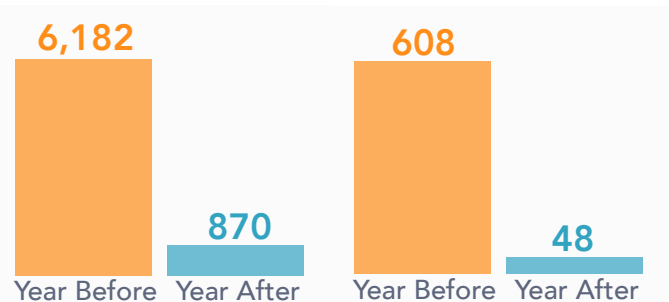
Changes to traffic stop policies and practices reduced minor, non-public-safety traffic stops and searches in Ramsey County, allowing officers to allocate more resources to the greatest public safety concerns.

The reduction in these stops and searches resulted in decreased racial disproportionalities, indicating more equitable enforcement of the law.

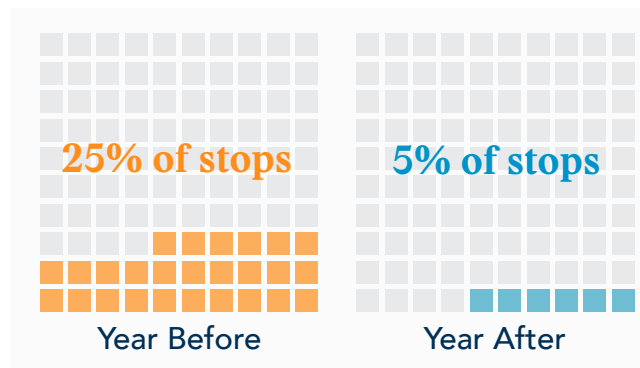
## Changes in Minor, Non-Public-Safety Traffic Stops

Non-public-safety traffic stops and searches **declined significantly** for policy-aligned police departments.

**Stops ↓86%**      **Searches ↓92%**



Non-public-safety traffic stops by policy-aligned departments **decreased from 25% to 5%** of all traffic stops.



## Impact on Racial Equity

Black drivers in Ramsey County experienced the largest decrease in non-public-safety traffic stops per capita, **down 66%** the year after the change.

